



RESTORIA

The LCPS mission is to preserve, protect, and promote the historic architecture in the Lower Columbia region. These structures are important assets that contribute to the area's history, culture, identity, and livability.



HISTORIC DESIGNATION: THE LANGUAGE AND MEANING OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAMS

Mark your calendars for our April 30th lecture on Historic Designation. This informative lecture will cover the language and meaning of local, state, and national historic preservation programs. What's the difference between a Neighborhood Historic Inventory Area and a National Register Historic District? What are the differences between the Tax Credit Program and the Special Assessment Program? Whom do you contact to apply for the 15-year property tax freeze for historic properties, and what are the design review impacts of participating in the various historic property programs? Don't miss this comprehensive lecture on Historic Designation with guest lecturers from the State Historic Preservation Program and the City of Astoria Historic Preservation Office. The lecture will be at 7:00 pm, April 30, 2003, at the Heritage Museum, 1618 Exchange in Astoria. Bring your questions to the lecture, or email them in advance to lcps_restoria@hotmail.com.



HISTORIC WALKING TOURS

Hike with historian John Goodenberger up and down the hills of Astoria while viewing houses, learning about architectural styles, and hearing local history. The 90-minute-plus tour will wind through central Astoria's neighborhoods past high-style Victorians, Craftsman Bungalows, and the city's oldest house. Along the way, study and compare historic photos to the present streetscape.

Two tours will be offered on Saturday, June 7, 2003. The first tour is from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon. It will be a walking tour only. The second tour is from 1:00 pm to 3:30 pm. It will include both the walking tour and the opportunity to sketch. Bring your own pencils, pens, and sketch pads, and wear appropriate clothing for sitting in the grass while drawing.

Space is limited to 15 persons per tour. Call John Goodenberger at (503) 325-0209 to reserve your place. The tours are free for LCPS members; a \$5 fee will be charged for nonmembers.

LCPS GARDEN TOUR

HELP! Spring is here. The garden tour will be here before you know it—July 12. It is an important fundraising event and we need your help to make it as successful as last year, or even better. Don't be shy. If you would like your garden to be considered for the tour or know of someone else's garden, let us know. We will also need volunteers for various projects, such as selling raffle tickets, greeting guests at the gardens, etc. Let us hear from you. Call Melissa Yowell at (503) 325-1892.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Time for another workshop on restoring wood sash windows? What are the ways to ensure a quality exterior or interior paint job? We want to hear from you, our membership, on what topics for lectures and workshops you would find valuable and educational. Our membership continues to grow and we all reach different phases of home maintenance and improvement at different times. The LCPS has sponsored over four years of lecture and workshop topics on a wide range of topics, with very few repeats. Even if you think "LCPS already did that topic last year," please feel welcome to pass on your ideas for interesting or useful lecture and workshop topics to any board member, or simply send an email to lcps_restoria@hotmail.com.



CLATSOP COUNTY HISTORICAL
SOCIETY NEWS

by Lisa Studts

Just when you thought things couldn't get any more exciting at the Historical Society, we are happy to announce the arrival of a new director. The new director will be starting the first week of April and comes to us from the East Coast. Another thrilling event happening at the Heritage Museum is the opening of our new Research Room. It will be completed by the first part of March. It will have more work areas to do research and more bookshelves to house our vast collection of books and other resource materials. Finally, we were just awarded a \$10,000 grant from Lewis and Clark Bicentennial in Oregon for work on our new exhibit about the Clatsop/Nehalem Tribes. We are very excited and are looking forward to these new changes with great anticipation.

JANUARY MEETING RECAP

At the January LCPS meeting, John Goodenberger and Lisa Studts spoke to a crowd of about 40 people about "Astoria Architectural Styles and Furnishings." Despite some technical difficulties with equipment, they gave an informative talk on the different styles of architecture and furniture that were popular from about 1850 to the 1920s. Designs of both architecture and furniture found in Astoria followed similar trends and influences that were present nationwide. In some cases the popular styles just took a little longer to reach here, but that didn't deter the Astorians from following the trends and adapting them to whatever was affordable and looked good.

KUDOS

To Patrick and K.C. McGee, for the fine paint design on their house at 697 34th Street, Astoria.

To Ralph and Suzie Overbay, for lifting and making level the historic Conrad Boelling house at 765 Exchange in Astoria.

To Dave Pollard and Linda Oldenkamp, 1676 Jerome, Astoria, for replacing the huge 5' x 10' plate glass window in their living room with three wood windows (replicas of the originals), and for replacing the three aluminum slider windows on the garage with the appropriate style wood windows. They have also replaced the three Victorian garage lights with three "Arroyo" Craftsman lights.

OLD HOUSE FORUM
THE DESTRUCTION OF PENN CENTRAL
STATION: TRAGEDY OR CATALYST?

The third Old House Forum was held December 5, 2002, at the house of LaRee Johnson and was well attended by LCPS members. LaRee, in a vintage flapper outfit, graciously gave us a tour of her English cottage. Members appreciated seeing the untouched original details in her home. The holiday decorations made the perfect backdrop to loosely organized discussions concerning topics of interest to LCPS members.

We viewed a thought-provoking video chronicling the wanton destruction of Penn Central Station in New York, from its demolition to the construction in its place of what is now known as Madison Square Garden. On the surface, this film was the depressing story of the loss of a building that was truly a national treasure. Yet in another sense, this was the story of the birth of the preservation movement in America. Although the ruin of Penn Central Station was a tragedy, it served as a primary catalyst in the formation of the preservation movement. Over 1,000 other historic properties have been saved because of public outcry over the loss of this one historic building. In the end, this sad story raised the consciousness of the American people and showed the value of preserving significant historic structures.

LaRee had great snacks, too. We are all looking forward to the next Old House Forum.

To local contractor Dennis Hale, for the excellent work installing the wood windows on the Pollard/Oldenkamp project, and to Versatile Sash of Portland, for milling the windows.

To us, the LCPS membership, for (1) contributing an LCPS membership to KMUN and contributing LCPS memberships as premiums to the last KMUN membership drive, (2) donating \$75 to the Clatsop County Historical Society for a small newel post for the Flavel House fence, and (3) giving \$30 to the Friends of the Astor Library for a year's subscription to *Preservation*, the official publication of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.



RECAP: SPIRIT OF PLACE LECTURE

We waited a long time to hear Robert Melnick, Dean of the School of Architecture and Allied Arts at the University of Oregon. The wait was worth it. In November, to an audience of over 70 LCPS and community members, Professor Melnick provided us with an overview of historic preservation concepts. If you missed him, his speech will soon be available on the LCPS web page (www.lcpsweb.org). Perhaps the best way to recap his lecture is to simply quote him.

From Professor Melnick:

"For me, preservation is about recognizing, supporting and protecting a set of community values—sometimes personal, sometimes public—but always in a way that adds to our quality of life.... Preservation is about helping us to understand where we are in place and time—what has come before us, and how those events, and places, and people have helped us to be where we are today."

Some of Professor Melnick's beliefs about preservation:

"Preservation is about values, not about regulation."
"Historic and cultural resources are an integral part of our society and our communities." "Preservation...is not about stopping change. It is about directing or managing that change."

Some of the challenges to preservation:

"Historic and cultural resources are faced with two types of external pressures: the pressure of development and the pressure of neglect.... We must learn that appreciation of our historic resources, and their preservation, is not a sometimes event. It should be an everyday event, an idea and a value that always impacts what we do." "Historic preservation is often associated with stopping change.... We need to stand up and say that preservation is a part of progress; it is a part of moving forward in our communities." "An important and necessary function of historic preservation rests in the educational process. We help our children and their children to appreciate their past so that they can envision a better future."

And his concluding thoughts:

"We should not forget the underlying reasons for what we do. These are places of heritage that tie us to our past, that tie you to your past. They help fulfill that essential human inclination and need to place ourselves in time and space." "We all have a responsibility to be true to these places, ...but also, of course, to be true to the standards and criteria developed over many years and by many people." "But what are the dangers? I believe there is a need to close with a warning.... Historic preservation is really about people and their daily lives—past, present and future. If, in the interest of preservation, we lose that connection, then we will have lost a great deal."

RESTORE AMERICA

In October, Astoria hosted television crews from "Restore America," a preservation series on Home and Garden Television (HGTV). Film crews visited the Liberty Theater and John and Shirley Dahlsten's house at 1567 Jerome Avenue. Producer Stephan Boatin interviewed Steve Forrester, Robert Lovell, Skip Stanaway, John Goodenberger, the Dahlstens, and others.

Boatin reports that the Liberty Theater segment has been completed and the theater looks "great." The Liberty Theater will kick off the "Restore America: A Salute to Preservation" series in July. In addition to the longer segment, the theater will be seen throughout the year in one-minute vignettes promoting the virtues of preservation. The Dahlsten's house segment is nearly complete and will air in late July or early August as a part of the regular series.

All involved in the project were impressed with our area. The Tennessee-based group could not believe the West Coast contained such a beautiful, historic city. They hope to return some day, perhaps featuring an entire segment on Astoria.

For more information about "Restore America," see www.hgtv.com.

RESTORATION SPOTLIGHT: ANOTHER SUCCESS STORY COMPLETED

by Stephen Nurdin

Renovation, preservation, historic restoration, or interpretive restoration. Most of us have some vague idea of what these terms mean, but we aren't exactly sure. When Paul Williamson bought a run-down 1905 Queen Anne cottage at 1691 Irving in Astoria, he didn't know the difference. He was just moving forward with a plan to buy the worst house in the best neighborhood, invest some sweat-equity, and conclude the project with a nice house that was completely paid for. Little did he know that 17 years later, his project would become an excellent example of *interpretive restoration*.

Renovation is making a structure sound and reusable, but without any special regard to the period architectural appearance. This is the typical fate of many old houses that are "remuddled" without consideration given to the original building style.

Preservation is when you keep an existing building in its current state by a program of maintenance and repair. Paul's Queen Anne was too far gone for this approach to make sense.

Historic restoration requires that the re-creation duplicate the original appearance precisely. This scholarly approach is appropriate for museum houses, but doesn't always result in a tolerable residence.

Interpretive restoration is what Paul has accomplished, probably without even knowing it. In an interpretive restoration, the house is restored in keeping with the original architectural style of the house, without attempting to precisely duplicate the original appearance of the exterior and interior down to the last detail. The end result of Paul's toils is the transformation of his once-dilapidated house into a modern functional home while keeping true to the important design elements of an Astoria Queen Anne, both inside and out.

Paul's Queen Anne house is a mirror opposite of the house next door. When originally built, the houses on this block of Irving were homes for upper middle class working people. At 800 square feet and two bedrooms, Paul's house may have been a little piece of heaven in 1905. However, by the end of the century, it was just



From Restoria, November 2001



Recent photo

Restoration Spotlight, continued

another run-down small house in need of serious love. Paul did not buy the house because he wanted to restore an historic home. A modern house would have worked, too. But here was a run-down house in a nice neighborhood, available for cheap.

Paul replaced all of the interior plaster walls, which had been damaged, and he removed, repaired, and re-installed the original interior trim. The original fir floors had experienced noteworthy injuries during the 20th century; the major wounds were seen as an opportunity, with replacement boards being accented with simple inlays. Paul sanded and refinished the floors himself, leaving the numerous minor flaws required in any floor of character.

One of the biggest deviations from the house's original design was the conversion of the basement from a typical uninhabitable space to a 600-square-foot bedroom, recreation room, bathroom, laundry room, and shop. This addition provided a real technical challenge: how to replace an interior stairway from the main floor to the basement with a stairway meeting modern codes. Paul got lots of advice, and most schemes would have intruded unacceptably into the living space. Paul settled on a configuration that met all applicable codes while taking up the least space. Keep in mind that all designs are compromises that have a few negative aspects. For Paul's stairway, he was able to turn these negative aspects into a positive result by fashioning a bench seat and a place for a loft style bed out of the stairway landing enclosure.

Another example of interpretive restoration was obtaining door trim for the basement addition that is an exact match to the original trim on the main floor. Also, the kitchen has all of the modern conveniences while retaining the look and feel of a Victorian home.

Remember, Paul Williamson did not set out to restore a Victorian. However, as he went further into

his project, he continued to learn, gather information, and seek advice. His appreciation for historic homes grew with his increased knowledge. The result is a beautiful example of interpretive restoration that did more than meet Paul's goal of a paid-for house. His house is now benefiting all of us by its contribution to preserving Astoria's sense of place. In addition, Paul's Queen Anne is an inspiration to other home owners who may shift away from a "remuddling" renovation to a more profitable *interpretive restoration*.



NATIONAL HISTORIC
PRESERVATION WEEK:
CITIES, SUBURBS AND COUNTRYSIDE

The National Trust created Preservation Week in 1971 to spotlight grassroots preservation efforts around the country. It has grown into an annual celebration observed from small towns to big cities, with events ranging from tours, reenactments, and rallies to black-tie balls and national competitions. Each Preservation Week highlights a different aspect of historic preservation. The theme for Preservation Week 2003, which takes place May 5 through May 11, will be "Cities, Suburbs and Countryside."

There are many ways to get involved in Preservation Week. Present awards to your community's leading preservationists, or teach students about their neighborhood's past. Meet with your state and local representatives to voice your concerns about preservation issues in your area, or work with your local preservation group to show others how preservation builds a community. Watch local listings for various historic preservation events in your hometown or wherever you may be visiting during the Week.



OREGON CULTURAL TRUST

Good news! If you are an Oregon resident, your dues to LCPS qualify for an Oregon tax credit under the Oregon Cultural Trust program for tax year 2003. Here's how it works: add up all the contributions you make to qualified Oregon nonprofit cultural organizations* during the tax year, donate a matching amount to the Oregon Cultural Trust, and claim a tax credit (maximum of \$500 per person, \$1,000 per couple, or \$2,500 for corporations) when you file your Oregon taxes. Under the rules for this tax credit, you can contribute any amount to qualified nonprofit cultural organizations and any amount to the Oregon Cultural Trust during the tax year, but your tax credit will be limited to the lesser of the two amounts (up to the maximum amounts above). If you contribute only to the Oregon Cultural Trust, there is no tax credit.

For example, let's assume that in 2003 you pay LCPS dues of \$20, and you make \$80 in donations to other qualified Oregon cultural organizations, for a total contribution of \$100. You also donate a matching \$100 to the Oregon Cultural Trust. When you file your 2003 Oregon income tax, you can claim an Oregon Cultural Trust tax credit of \$100. You may also be able to deduct the contributions to the cultural organizations on your federal and state returns. (A *deduction* reduces your taxable income, and a *tax credit* gives a dollar for dollar reduction in the amount of tax due, so a tax credit reduces your taxes more than a deduction.)

In the example above, let's say that you donated \$100 to qualified Oregon cultural organizations (including LCPS), but you donated \$50 to the Oregon Cultural Trust. Your tax credit is then \$50 (the lesser amount). If instead you donated \$100 to the Oregon cultural organizations and \$150 to the Oregon Cultural Trust, the tax credit would be \$100 (again, the lesser amount).

You do not need to remit proof of contributions with your return, but you should retain receipts, as the Oregon Department of Revenue reserves the right to ask for proof. Contributions to the Oregon Cultural Trust must be made by December 31 (or, for corporations, by the end of the fiscal year).

For more information and a list of qualifying cultural organizations, go to www.culturaltrust.org or call (503) 986-1530.

* Under the statute that created the Oregon Cultural Trust, a "qualified nonprofit cultural organization" is one that: (1) is exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code; (2) is based in Oregon; and (3) is organized for the purpose of producing, promoting or presenting the arts, heritage and humanities to the public, or for identifying, documenting, interpreting and/or preserving cultural resources.

Note: Since the writing of this article, it is uncertain what the fate of this program will be.

HELPFUL HINTS

From the old farmhouse in Illinois: Wood things; to remove white rings and spots, wipe on mayonnaise, let stand for an hour and wipe off. For stubborn spots, rub gently with mayonnaise to which FINE wood ashes have been added....

Homeowners and Renters: As you are probably aware, there is a growing retail market for used and antique fixtures and other home appointments. Don't forget to take photographs of architectural details, fixtures, antiques, sporting equipment, and other valuables. Keep these photographs and other brand and design recordings and other pertinent identifying information in a safe place. Not only is this information valuable for insurance purposes (check with your insurance agent to be sure you have adequate coverage based on your valuables), but it is also crucial to successful recovery of items should you be the victim of theft.

The National Park Service has an excellent article about windows on their website: "Repair of Historic Wooden Windows," (Preservation Brief 9). The article has an introduction on the architectural and historical significance of windows, followed by sections on physical evaluation, maintenance, repairs, parts replacement, weatherization, and replacement of wooden windows. The article can be found at the following web address: www2.cr.nps.gov/tps/briefs/brief09.htm#Physical%20Evaluation

REQUEST FOR HELP ON FINNISH HISTORY AND ARCHITECTURE

I am hoping the membership of your organization can help me with my research. I am a graduate student in Historic Preservation at the University of Oregon. I am working on a master's thesis concerning the influence of Finnish immigrants on the vernacular architecture in the Lower Columbia area. I am trying to find buildings in the Astoria and Naselle area that were built by Finnish immigrants, and if the buildings are gone, I would like to find pictures of them. I would also like to speak with descendants of these immigrants and see any historic photographs they may have of the homes, barns, saunas, and other buildings of their ancestors. I am interested in stories about builders and methods of building.

My mother's grandfather, Abel Oja, emigrated from Finland to the Astoria area. My maternal great-grandmother is from Sweden and my father is from Norway. I am living in the Eugene now but make frequent trips to Astoria where my mother lives. I can be contacted in Eugene at (541) 517-6485, or leave a message locally at (503) 458-6321, or by email: rebeccan@darkwing.uoregon.edu, or at the postal addresses: 43905 Sylvandale Lane, Astoria, OR 97103 or 2229 1/2 Kincaid Ave., Eugene, OR 97405. Thanks for your help. Rebecca Nielsen

AGENDA

APRIL 30, 2003

7 - 9:00 pm

Heritage Museum

1618 Exchange, Astoria


Call to Order, Treasurer's Report,
Membership Report.

Historical Designation (see page 1)

Questions & Answers

For the Good of the Organization

SNIPPET(S)

 "When we lose historic elements of our communities, more than a building dies." Editor's Notebook, *The Daily Astorian*, November 11, 2002

"Grotesques...are different from gargoyles in that gargoyles are constructed to spout water." *The Walking Tour*, a self-guiding tour of the Reed College campus

CLASSIFIEDS

For sale: circa 1870 settee, new upholstery, beautifully hand carved, fine condition. \$950. Call Dave Fitch at (503) 325-8089 evenings.

Want to buy: two wood windows, one over one, approximately 2' x 4' (frame size). Call Dave Fitch at (503) 325-8089 evenings.

Historic Home Note Cards: Enjoy note cards with your historic home featured on the front in a warm sepia tone, and your personalized message or home history on the back. As charming as your home may be, so too is a hand-written invitation or thank-you note to friends. These personalized note cards also make thoughtful housewarming gifts or new neighbor gifts. There is a one time set-up charge of \$10, which includes creation of the photo (or if you prefer, your own photo can be scanned). They can be ordered by the dozen, or for a minimum order of 100, they can be printed in archival inks. To inquire about pricing, please call LoveLetters, (503) 325-4469 (LaRee Johnson, LCPS member).

FROM THE CHAIR

As we look forward to another year, we can also take pride in last year's accomplishments. The Lower Columbia Preservation Society reached out to the community in new ways and touched people in record numbers. We were recognized for our efforts by the Clatsop County Historical Society who presented us with the Community Preservation Award.

This year, we will offer new lectures and workshops including the **practical**—cutting losses to your house, the **technical**—concrete repair, the **aesthetic**—architectural landscaping, and the **academic**—a walking tour of historic houses. Of course, we will continue such favorites as the garden tour.

As always, we need your assistance to keep this organization moving forward. There are a variety of ways you can help: developing lectures and workshops, submitting articles to Restoria, or advocating in the community for preservation. If you are interested in serving in any capacity, please give me or one of the board members a call. We look forward to working with you.



ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME
 ADDRESS
 CITY STATE ZIP
 PHONE NUMBER () EMAIL

- ☐ Apply \$5 workshop fee
☐ \$10 Membership (Individual)
☐ \$20 Contributing (Two at same address)
☐ \$50 Supporting
☐ \$

Please indicate which areas you would be able to assist the organization as a volunteer:

- ☐ Planning meetings ☐ Membership
☐ Publicity
☐ Education
☐ Advocacy
☐ Newsletter
☐ Grant Writing
☐ Other

Please make checks payable to:
 Lower Columbia Preservation Society
 Post Office Box 1334
 Astoria, Oregon 97103



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LCPS JOINS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE: LCPS has joined the Astoria/Warrenton Area Chamber of Commerce to support our community. We are listed on their web site, www.oldoregon.com, under Chamber member - Organization/Nonprofit. Our mission is shown along with our email address and web site. As the hub of the community, the Chamber makes good things happen and promotes our unique history.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

as of March 5, 2003

New members: Area Properties, Lynn Campbell, Molly Cooley, Nancy Grimberg, Katherine E. Hellberg, Tom and Laura Lenhardt, Susan Planalp and Richard Weissman, Sam and Deanna Rascoe, Judy Richmond, and Linda Shaffer

Renewing members: Jan Audry, Kathryn Aya, Jewel Benford, Jane and Lloyd Bowler, John and Shirley Dahlsten, Gail and Michael Evans-Hatch, Margaret Frimoth and Sharyn Hedblom, William and Leslie Garvin, Carolyn Hammer, Daniel Hauer, Kathleen Hughes, Beth LaFleur, Cliff and Arline LaMear, Pam McGill and Rich Hedlund, Jerry and Annie Oliver, Dave Pearson, Madeleine Reed, Nancy Sells, Yvonne Starr, Lawrence Taylor, Deborah Thomsen, Fred and Marty White, and Ron and Michelle Zilli

LOWER COLUMBIA PRESERVATION S.O.C.I.E.T.Y

Current Board Of Directors:

John Goodenberger, Chair

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Dave Fitch

Brad Alstrom

Jewel Benford

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Kim Nurdin

Linda Oldenkamp

Carol Ray

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Restoria Editor: Marty White