


RESTORICA

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.

August Lecture — Endless Night of Blanche Day

John Goodenberger, Coordinator

 On Wednesday, August 29th, the Lower Columbia Preservation Society will present a special lecture, "Endless Night of Blanche Day." Join local historian John Goodenberger at 7:00 PM in the Clatsop County Historical Society's Heritage Center, for a look into Astoria's dark side. Goodenberger will explore the historic context of our city's red light district and will focus on the death of a young prostitute, Blanche Day.

In January of 1907, Day left her home in Seattle and joined C. Roy Fox on a trip to Astoria. Here, she became an "inmate" of the Waldorf Hotel. Three days later, she was poisoned, beaten and dead. She was 17. Her death was labeled "suicide."

"One of the interesting things about Astoria's history," says Goodenberger, "is that it often times reads like a Mickey Spillane or Dashiell Hammett novel." The lecture will shed light on every level of Astoria's social structure—examining the lives of witnesses, jury members and the legal system. "It is difficult to find an upright citizen among them," Goodenberger adds.

The event will be held in the Virtue and Vice Gallery near a bar salvaged from The Louvre, one of the city's best-designed saloons and brothels. Audience members will see artifacts from Astoria's red light district including a guest registry from the Hotel Douglas, a brothel that functioned well into the 20th Century. The lecture is free and open to the public. Parental discretion is advised.



Wood Floor

Refinishing Workshop

Susan Bryant, Coordinator

If you've been thinking about refinishing your home's old wood floors but are unsure where to start, our next workshop is the place! LCPS "Wood Floor Refinishing Workshop" will be held on Saturday, September 15, from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. in the entry hall of the historic Peter Cherry house at 836 15th Street in Astoria. Presenter will be Jeff Newenhof from City Lumber, a family-owned hardware store and lumber yard in Astoria. Participants will view a demonstration of different floor sanding and finishing techniques. Bring your questions! This workshop is \$5.00 for members, and \$7.00 for non-members. For further information on this one, call 503-325-2290 or visit our website, www.lcpsweb.org for any updates.



Old House Forums Past and Future

An Old House Forum was held Wednesday, June 27th at 818 Grand Ave. in Astoria. The historic house was built in 1879 for Capt. George Flavel's son, George Conrad, upon his marriage to Winona Callender. The oldest of four Flavel family homes in Astoria, the house is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Current owners Bob Duehmig and Bill Griesar were on hand to discuss the restoration of this Vernacular style house. The two men told appreciative visitors about painting the exterior, leveling the structure and their efforts to make the home both livable and affordable.



Walter and Trish Bright, owners of the old Astoria National Bank at 1215 Duane in Astoria, will host an Old House Forum **Tuesday, August 21 at 7:00 PM.** The Brights have converted a former bank hall mezzanine into a luxurious hotel suite. The Dr. Harvey Award winning renovation is not to be missed. Among the many outstanding features are freshly painted murals and faux finishes. Please join us for a "Members Only" tour. Space is limited, so please RSVP with John Goodenberger by August 15. John may be reached at 503 325-0209.

Across The River Invitation

From Robert Freed



In a continuing effort to develop our evolving relationship with the Lower Columbia Preservation Society, the Oysterville Restoration Foundation (ORF) would like to invite LCPS members to attend a joint meeting at the Oysterville Church on **Saturday September 22nd at 10:00 a.m.** ORF members were extremely pleased with last year's meeting and the opportunity to meet our neighbors and make new friends in the Lower Columbia historic preservation community. After a short meeting about preservation issues of mutual interest, we again would like to invite you to a house tour and/or a tour of the Oysterville Historic District followed by a brown-bag picnic in the spectacular backyard of our gracious hosts, Nyel and Sydney Stevens, whose Tom Crellin House (1869) commands a sweeping view of Willapa Bay.

Note from the Editor: Last year we had glorious weather, picnicked with Nyel and Sydney, and learned so much about this historic small town! Don't miss this year's event—mark your calendar now! The next Restoria Newsletter will come out after the event.

LCPS's Accomplishments This Past Year: Expanded our boundaries. In Oysterville, LCPS and the Oysterville Restoration Foundation presented an outline of their organization's goals and strategies as well as a discussion of historic preservation issues. At the Ilwaco Heritage Museum, Victoria and Anthony Stoppiello presented a lecture on their restoration using energy efficient techniques of an 1895 home in Ilwaco. LCPS administered a Kinsman grant for the restoration of the 1910 Hamlet School and received \$500 for our efforts.

Moved to Downtown Astoria. LCPS had a grand opening to celebrate our move from the Rio Restaurant building to 1170 Commercial in the heart of downtown Astoria. Our new location gives LCPS more visibility and more room. The office is open from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. every Monday except holidays.

A Restoration Guide. Jewel Benford compiled a list of contractors and others who provide services for historic restoration projects.

Garden and Holiday Tours. The Garden Tour held in July was a visual delight. This past December the Holiday Tour was expanded from LCPS membership to include the public.

Lectures/Workshops. Christine Curran, an architectural historian and the National Register Nominations Coordinator for the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), gave a slide presentation on the historic districts and national landmarks in Oregon. Informative workshops on dry rot and earth movement provided the physical aspects of historic preservation.

LCPS Seat B-4, Liberty Theater. LCPS raised \$1,119 for the "Take A Seat" Liberty Theater fundraising. A plaque on seat B-4 is inscribed with LCPS. Thank you everyone! *Pamela Alegria, LCPS President*



2007 Annual Meeting

recap by LaRee Johnson, Coordinator

Our 9th Annual Meeting was opened by our new president, Pam Alegria, April 25th, 2007. We met in the renovated County Health Building, now the Judge Boyington Building, on the corner of Commercial and 9th Street.

Pam outlined the accomplishments of the past year for LCPS and gave credit to each of our outgoing Board Members for their dedication and hard work on behalf of the organization. Jewel Benford, our trusty treasurer, will be leaving the area for Savannah, Georgia in May and we all wish him well in that lovely historic city. Susan Bryant has been a loyal office volunteer in addition to her role as webmistress for LCPS (we are grateful she will continue in that capacity!). Ann Gyde, who prints our materials, in particular the beautiful layout and design of Restoria, will continue to do the printing for LCPS and keep the membership roster updated. Although John Goodenberger is leaving after 2 terms as President of LCPS, we have not lost him or his vast knowledge of all things historical. John is here to stay in Astoria and will always be a valuable resource for our organization.

We are pleased to welcome two new Board Members! **Nelson Yapple**, who managed engineering programs in the high-tech field for over 25 years, has been awarded nine patents over a 10-year period, owns a 1910 historic home in Astoria that he and his wife are restoring, and brings wonderful people management skills to our organization. We are also pleased to welcome **Sharon Sattler** from Oysterville, WA. Sharon is a certified Master Gardener, has volunteered for many community organizations including our own LCPS Garden Tour. We are happy to have representation from the WA side of the River.

Our guest speaker, Cathy Galbraith, gave us an inspiring talk on the history of the Bosco-Milligan Architectural Heritage Museum in Portland. She has been the Executive Director of the Bosco-Milligan Foundation, a nonprofit historic preservation education organization, since January 1993. Cathy was also the Executor of the estate of Ben Milligan and Jerry Bosco, who founded the organization and gathered architectural pieces from many buildings being torn down, saving these treasures from the land fill.

The membership of AHC is now over 900 members, with 272 volunteers and upwards of 5,000 volunteer hours to

put on almost 50 programs a year. Impressive figures! She talked about the opportunity we each have to invite new members to our organization, and how she sees Astoria at a critical turning point in our development, preserving the special historic aspect that attracts so many people. She also said that of the three richest historic communities—Oregon City, Albany and Astoria—it is Astoria that has the most to offer with our depth and variety of historic homes. She stressed that it is not just historic homeowners we want as members but also others who live here and appreciate the historic ambience that is Astoria. This is a call to all members: come by our office and take a few LCPS brochures to share the opportunity with your neighbors!



National Historic Preservation Month Lecture

recap by John Goodenberger, Coordinator

The Lower Columbia Preservation Society celebrated National Historic Preservation Month with a lecture by one of Portland's foremost preservation architects, William J. Hawkins, III. Hawkins spoke on his book, "Classic Houses of Portland, Oregon 1850 - 1950." His compelling lecture focused on how Portland both lost and saved some of its best residential architecture.

Portland retains hundreds of classic houses varying in style from the Greek Revival to the regional Northwest Style. Each structure contains a rich history. Hawkins brought to life stories of original owners, architects and distinctive architectural details associated with the buildings. He revealed national and international stylistic influences, trends and tastes present at the time of their construction.

Hawkins' lecture was particularly relevant for the Lower Columbia region. Many historic houses have been lost to natural disaster and demolition. Those which remain have taken on a new importance, exhibiting design values and construction qualities rarely found in modern houses. His book and lecture remind us of the importance of our mission: to protect, preserve and promote the history and architecture of our beautiful area.

The free lecture was held in conjunction with Clatsop Community College's Arts & Ideas series.



The Bells Are Ringing (For Me and My House)

By Kim Angelis

During our recent kitchen re-fashioning adventure, my husband, Josef, discovered low-voltage wires running behind the trim of the door that leads to the dining room. One wire led to another, and before he knew it, Josef was reviving our long-dead doorbells, front and back. A 16-volt, 15-watt transformer is needed to convert alternating house current to the low-voltage current used by doorbells.

After a lengthy search, Josef found that our transformer had once been located in the attic but had long since vanished. He installed a new transformer in the basement, which proved a more convenient location, and ran new "bell wire" (available at any building supply or hardware store) to both bells. We purchased a new Mission-style door chime, which was placed in the same location as the missing original chime, above the kitchen/dining room door. When all the wires were connected, we were thrilled to discover that our backdoor button still worked! Unfortunately, the larger button at the front door was completely worn out and had to be replaced with a reproduction ringer. The front bell peels out the classic "Ding-Dong," while the back bell sounds a simple "Ding!" We imagine that "Ding!" indicated that the milk, butter, or ice had been delivered, while "Ding-Dong" announced the presence of a guest. Thus, front and back bells became an artifact of a vanished culture, while the front bell is so commonplace that most people don't give it much thought. But of course, the doorbell was not always something to be taken for granted.

The history of the electric doorbell is not well documented. It is known that in 1900, a company called McGraw Electric was founded, specializing in wiring houses and connecting doorbells. These early electronic doorbells made an alarm-like clatter or an irritating buzzing sound. "Musical door chimes" did not appear on the scene until several decades later; there was a flurry of patent activity for musical chimes around 1930. Early advertising made the claim that these new "musical" chimes would soothe the jangled nerves of housewives annoyed by typical door buzzers. Musical chimes were pushed as "great gift ideas," and a doorbell niche was often built into a new home to give the chime a place of honor. (I could not find the information to confirm this, but it would seem for those of us with homes built before 1930, that if our

original "buzzer" systems were upgraded to chimes, the original doorbell button[s] and wiring, were often utilized.) Competition between four companies—Edwards, Telechime, Nutone, and Rittenhouse—resulted in a great variety of door chime packages, many of them beautifully and charmingly done. By the 1950s, Edwards and Telechime had disappeared, Rittenhouse was fading away, and Nutone was the remaining player in the field. By the mid-1960s, door chimes had devolved from trendy luxury items to trashy commodities. The final demise came in 1967, when the founders of Nutone cashed out.

Functioning historic doorbells are wonderful artifacts of architecture and culture, all too often overlooked. A great source for period reproduction chimes and buttons is Rejuvenation in Portland (www.rejuvenation.com - click the "hardware and houseparts" link). Knock Doorbells, based in Eureka, CA, offers chime restoration and occasionally has vintage chimes for sale (www.knockdoorbells.com). Ring those bells!

*References: Tim Wetzel, Knock Doorbells
Jane Powell, Bungalow Details: Exterior*



Planned Giving: Preserve and Protect Oregon For Future Generations

When you include Lower Columbia Preservation Society in your will, you leave a legacy of activism that will 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. Please consider including LCPS in your estate and major giving plans. For more information please check our website www.lcpsweb.org



2007 GARDEN TOUR

by *Gin Laughrey, Garden Tour Chair* • photos © *LaRee Johnson*



*Columbia Memorial Hospital
Healing Garden*

July 14th brought a flawless, blue-sky day much to the delight of over 220 ticket holders who viewed the seven exquisite private gardens featured on the LCPS 2007 Garden Tour. The longest-running garden tour event in the lower Columbia region offered inspired plant combinations and diversity of design. Each of the gardens on this year's tour was peaceful in its own way, with careful attention to detail.



Ann Marie

The Columbia Memorial Hospital Healing Garden featured a winding path, benches, drifts of color from foliage and flowers and serene Nootka cedars. Ann Marie's garden was also meditative in nature with stands of bamboo, Japanese maples, a contorted filbert tree, and the sense that you were quietly entering

and leaving a series of carefully arranged rooms. Rose lovers happily viewed David and Pam Armstrong's manicured gardens at the Rose River Inn featuring over thirty varieties of roses, full of fragrance and color in small, intimate beds. Those on the tour were delighted when they arrived at the home of Elena and Steve Miller on Lewis and Clark Road. Elena's gardens spread over two acres, accessed by pathways made of various materials, often recycled and all created by Elena. Each small garden within the larger framework was full of well-tended vegetables, blueberries or vibrant, colorful perennials. The elegant, serene garden of Leroy Adolphson and David Drayfall on Alameda Avenue, totally hidden from the busy street was a delight for lovers of Japanese maples. The shaded paths led through a moon gate, past water features and planting combinations that were sublime. These gardens, all mature, were in contrast to the newly established gardens of Kim & Dan Supple which featured native plants, some handsome specimen conifers, and well-designed hardscape which enhances their new home. Kim & Dan share a steep bank with my husband Bill Lind and myself. Native salal, planted only months ago should stabilize the hillside and provide protective cover. Our's



Rose River Inn



Elena & Steve Miller



*Leroy Adolphson &
David Drayfall*

was the "blank canvas" of the tour with only two handsome Japanese maples in an otherwise bare front yard. Black concrete pavers and a retaining wall on the side yard offered ideas to others gardening on similar slopes.

This year's tour, in addition to amazing gardens, had over \$2,500. in donated raffle prizes. The grand prize - a night's lodging at The Banker's Suite - was won by Marianne and Lou Larson.

Wine and cheese on our deck overlooking the Columbia River was enjoyed by many as we drew tickets for wonderful prizes and compared notes on favorite gardens. All in all, it was a wonderful day. I would like to thank the members of the 2007 LCPS garden tour committee: Pam Alegria, Dian Kazlauskas, Linda Oldenkamp and Melissa Yowell. Their efforts were spectacular and deeply appreciated.



Kim & Dan Supple



*Gin Laughrey &
Bill Lind*

In January 1907, Blanche Day left
her home in Seattle for a trip to
Astoria. Three days later, she
was poisoned, beaten and dead.
Her death was labeled "suicide."

Thus began the

END LESS NIGHT *of* BLANCHE DAY

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

A MULTIMEDIA PRESENTATION
BY JOHN E. GOODENBERGER

7 PM • AUGUST 29 • FREE
HERITAGE CENTER MUSEUM • 1618 EXCHANGE

Dr. Harvey Awards

The Historic Landmarks Commission announces, with great pleasure, the 2007 Dr. Edward Harvey Award recipients. The Award is named for Dr. Edward Harvey, who was a pioneer in recognizing the importance of historic preservation in Astoria. His original efforts of placing plaques denoting the brief history of a building are still seen throughout the City. He lobbied the Clatsop County Commissioners to establish a Historic Advisory Committee, for which Dr. Harvey served as the chairman for many years.

The Award has been presented yearly since 1988 to owners of residential, commercial, or public buildings who have completed exterior painting, rehabilitation, restoration or beautification projects that have been sensitive to the historical attributes of the building and/or the architectural heritage of Astoria.

Residential

997 16th Street receives the 2007 award. Owners of this property removed the old vinyl siding and painted the exterior structure. This structure is located in the Shively-McClure National Register Historic District (c. 1920).

Commercial/Publicly Owned

The Commercial/Publicly-Owned Award will be presented to the Astoria Parks and Community Services Department for the restoration of the Doughboy Monument at 215 W. Marine Drive. Using grant funds, the Doughboy Monument was renovated allowing the community restrooms to reopen to the public after being closed for approximately ten years. Exterior renovation included re-pouring concrete steps, installing new footings, replacing flashing around doors, repairing and replacing historic skylights and damaged and missing exterior light globes, installing new railings, sealing flat roof, repairing roof tiles, and replacing window and door trim to match existing historic trim. A non-historic door was also replaced, and extensive interior renovation was completed. The Doughboy Monument is the only public restroom listed on the National Register of Historic Places (c. 1926).

Commercial/Private Owned

The Banker's Suite - Day Spa at 1215 Duane Street receives the Commercial/Private-Owned award. This building has undergone extensive repair and renovation of both the interior and exterior including removing the old chimney from roof, repairing/replacing flashing on parapet cap, top coating roof, restoring glazing on exterior brick, replacing front

entry aluminum doors with wood, recessing the entry to its original location, repairing stucco on south elevation exterior walls, cleaning terra cotta and repointing the entire structure. This building is located in the Downtown National Register Historic District (c. 1923).

Outstanding Citizen, 2007

Rickenbach Construction has been selected for this year's Outstanding Citizen Award for their dedication to historic preservation in Astoria and the surrounding Lower Columbia area. Rickenbach Construction has worked on many commercial buildings in Astoria, most recently the Clatsop County Judge Boyington building at 889 Commercial, Doughboy Monument, Banker's Suite - Day Spa, Hotel Elliott, and Liberty Theater. Rickenbach Construction works very closely with City staff to ensure the historic integrity of the buildings is preserved.

The above awards were presented by Mayor Willis L. Van Dusen at the City Council meeting on June 18, 2007.



Knappton Cove News

By Nancy Anderson

A BIG THANKS to Bob Lockett, Astoria contractor and LCPS member, who volunteered to repair some damaged ceiling plaster in the Quarantine Hospital. He did a great job! And more good news for our historic preservation efforts at Knappton Cove: the Kinsman Foundation just awarded the Knappton Cove Heritage Center funding for a much needed roof replacement. The replacement will happen this summer—a huge step forward in saving the old building! Next we will be seeking funding for porch repairs and foundation stabilization.

We had a successful OPEN HOUSE May 19 to celebrate Preservation Month. About 60 people attended including two reporters: Tom Banse for NPR and Terry Richard, travel correspondent for the Oregonian. Two in-depth articles were published the week prior to the event, by Tom Palou of the Longview Daily News and Katherine Head, editor of the Seaside Signal. The media coverage is helping to raise awareness of this important Pacific Northwest heritage site.



Website Resources and Links

Compiled by LaRee Johnson

Have you found any wonderful websites for renovators and restoration? If so, please send your suggestions to Restoria@earthlink.net and we will share these in future newsletters.

If you are renovating and need some old stuff, check this out for vintage/reproduction hardware, doorknobs, cabinet pulls, and glass chandelier pendants. Items like solid brass hinges and drawer pulls have sold for as little as \$1.99. They usually have a sale feature with good prices. www.vandykes.com

Partnership with This Old House Magazine

Looking for "The Best Places to Buy an Old House": As part of the commitment to the preservation community, PreservationDirectory.com has teamed up with This Old House to promote an exciting new venture. An upcoming issue of This Old House will feature a first-ever list of "The Best Places to Buy an Old House."

The goal is simple: to spread the word to old-house-loving readers about neighborhoods and towns they may never have heard of, but that have dozens of beautiful, affordable, architecturally significant, or even, historic houses that might be appealing to preservation-minded buyers.

Of special interest are places where the momentum for preservation is just getting started thanks to pioneers who have begun moving in and rehabbing houses. Places are also featured where an established preservation nonprofit exists that can provide guidance and information on preservation resources, or financial and tax incentives for those willing to restore endangered or neglected areas. Check out This Old House Magazine and www.preservationdirectory.com for more information. Preservation is the keyword!

Submissions

LCPS members: submit your classifieds, tips, or info to Restoria@earthlink.net to be included in the next issue of Restoria.

LCPS Office:

1170 Commercial, Suite 210

Hours: Mondays 3:00 - 7:00 pm.

website: www.lcpsweb.org

*** SIGNPOSTED ***

Hooray! The Shively-McClure Historic Neighborhood sign has been placed. We are now official! Please check it out the next time you are driving down 15th from the Astor Column, posted at the top of the pigeon steps on Jerome and 15th. From this vantage point you can almost see the location of the original Post Office. It was decided to have larger signage with more history than several small signs with only the name of the neighborhood. This is one more way to educate the community about our wonderful and interesting history. You can also read the sign if you choose to walk up the steps from Irving and 15th, it is double sided and an attractive addition to the neighborhood. Thanks to Todd Scott who initiated this grant funded project!

Volunteer Opportunities Ahead....

If you are an engaged LCPS member but don't have time for a long term meeting commitment, you have an opportunity now to participate and help us with upcoming events! Please consider volunteering to help us staff our newly opened office, regular hours Mondays, 3-7. Additional Office hours: Sundays during the summer to coincide with Sunday Market, Art walk evenings: second Saturday each month, 5 - 8 PM

We are also looking for help with the Fall Social scheduled for Saturday, October 13th. We need menu planners, cookie bakers, set-up specialists, closing detail persons... please get in touch with any Board Member to take advantage of these volunteer opportunities—we need your help!

Letter From The LCPS Board

Change has happened at the Lower Columbia Preservation Society. Four extraordinary board members have completed their terms: John Goodenberger, who has been the Chair for years and is a co-founder of LCPS. John is a walking resource of historic preservation: an historic preservationist extraordinaire. Jewel Benford, treasurer, has moved to Savannah, Georgia: a treasure as treasurer. Susan Bryant, a dependable hard working Media Liaison, created and maintains our website, publicizes all our events and staffs our office every week. Susan will continue these tasks. Ann Gyde, Board Publisher/Producer has done everything from the layout of Restoria to the Garden Tour posters and anything else that needs to be done. Ann will continue as the publisher/producer of Restoria as well as the ongoing restoration of our new office. LCPS lauds their dedication and hard work. Thank you all for your work.

At the annual meeting held in April two new board members were elected. Nelson Yaple, who was the director of Software Engineering for 13 years, received three awards from Intel and has registered nine patents. Sharon Sattler has been a volunteer docent for the LCPS Garden Tour the Flavel House, KMUN, and Friends of the Library She is a certified Master Gardener. Welcome to LCPS!

Pamela Alegria

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME
ADDRESS
CITY STATE ZIP
PHONE NUMBER ()
EMAIL*

Membership Dues:

- ☐ \$15 Membership
☐ \$25 Family
☐ \$50 Business
☐ \$100 Supporter

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

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Planning meetings | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity | <input type="checkbox"/> Grant Writing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="text"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Advocacy | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter | |

* LCPS will not share or sell members' email addresses.

KUDOS

To Walter and Trish Bright, owners of the old Astoria National Bank at 1215 Duane in Astoria. The Brights have converted a former bank hall mezzanine into a luxurious hotel suite. And, with the help of Rickenbach Construction, they replicated a beautiful, neon marquee which graces the corner of their building.

Lower Columbia Preservation Society Current Board Of Directors:

Pamela Alegria, Chair
LaRee Johnson
Gin Laughery
Rosalie McCleary
Mitch Mitchum
Sharon Sattler
Nelson Yaple

LOWER COLUMBIA PRESERVATION SOCIETY

PO Box 1334
Astoria, OR 97103

Daily Astorian Headline: Old Home Law Suggested

This article is from The Daily Astorian of Astoria, Oregon. Reprinted with permission.

[Bruce Berney, former Astoria Librarian, found this Daily Astorian clipping dated April 16, 1977. That means that the historic preservation movement in Astoria is in its thirtieth year! Thanks, Bruce, for your years of preservation awareness and service to our community!!]

A group of Astoria citizens will ask the city council Monday for an ordinance creating a historical buildings and sites commission. A citizen committee developed the ordinance this week in the interest of preserving buildings and areas of importance to the city's history.

The commission's main activity, according to committee member Bruce Berney, would be to help owners of historic properties utilize federal and state agencies and private foundations that grant money for historical preservation.

The ordinance by the citizens does not give the commission any actual governmental powers. Berney said committee members don't want the commission to become a bureaucratic agency that tells owners what to do with their property. Instead, he added, the proposed ordinance organizes a group of citizens or property owners that might develop into the official source of knowledge on how to make the best use of Astoria's historical resources.

Fort Stevens State Park Historian Bob Sutton told committee members about a dozen Oregon cities have similar historic preservation ordinances and commissions. The commissions, among other activities, help nominate local sites to the National Register of Historic Sites. "I would like to see this become the beginning of a new era of appreciation of old houses in this city," Berney stated, "and I hope people who want to see this happen will call the city commissioners before Monday to lend their support to the idea." The council meets at 7:30 p.m. in the city council chambers at city hall. The informal citizens' group includes owners of old houses in the city, members of the Clatsop County Historical Society and others.

