



**The Lower Columbia Preservation Society seeks to preserve the history, sites, and culture of communities bordering the Columbia River in Clatsop, Pacific, and Wahkiakum Counties**

*The days are getting shorter and the rain is starting to fall...*

...it's about that time we put away the painting supplies and reach for family photo albums, old newspapers, and historic documents. 'Tis the season for reading and research! At the end of the summer, we began looking into Astoria neighborhoods and what defines and identifies them; then, in September, the lens zoomed in on how to uncover history of one's historic home. As the season progresses, we invite you to join us in digging deeper into this research by sharing your discoveries, volunteering for a project, or learning how to organize and archive the rewards you've already collected.



Have you been hearing phantom floor creaks, seeing mysterious shadows flit from wall to wall, or noticing things going bump in the night? Your historic home may have a haunted story to tell. For the October Topics in Preservation, we'll be putting on our paranormal investigator hats to see if we can reveal who may be visiting your home and why. Share your spooky experiences with us at

**[www.lcpsociety.org/haunted](http://www.lcpsociety.org/haunted)**

This summer, we assembled a free mobile app for users to learn about some of Astoria's notable architectural history. This app features multiple self-guided tours and in depth information about some of the city's notable architects who shaped the built landscape. Learn more about the app on *page 2*. Pair your app experience with Eric Wheeler's 'To name it is to know it' this quarter: the cornice (*page 6*). As you learn about architectural details like cornices, you may start seeing them everywhere you go! While you're out and about, be sure to check out the window work at the Charlene Larsen Center for the Performing Arts (Astoria, OR) and the Ilwaco Freight Depot at the Columbia Pacific Heritage Museum (Ilwaco, WA). These two LCPS grant recipients put the funding toward significant repairs to their historic buildings. Read about their work on *page 3*.

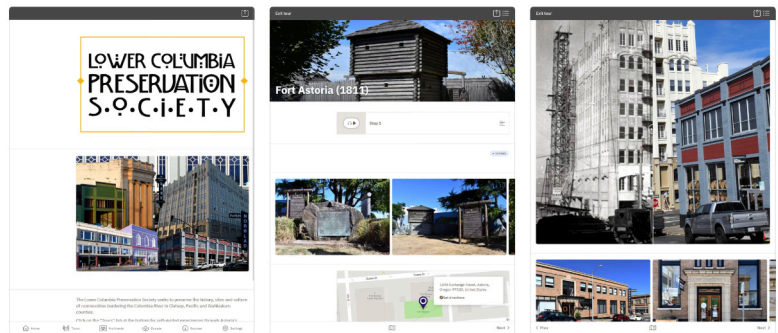


## New LCPS App: Astoria Architectural History

Visitors to Astoria now have a new way to interact with the past and explore historic preservation in action. Our new Astoria Architectural Heritage Tour app provides a guide to the city and the events that have shaped its past. A recreational activity and educational tool wrapped into one, this free app helps highlight the importance of historic preservation by leading visitors through historic neighborhoods and demonstrating how historic structures play an important role in today's vibrant city.

The main feature of the app is a self-guided walking tour featuring the "Gems of Downtown Astoria," a dozen historic buildings that help tell the story of the city's colorful past. For those who want to explore further, the app also includes two additional tours, one covering historic homes on the National Register of Historic Places and one that weaves through the exciting events of the Great 1922 Astoria Fire. Another section of the app provides an introduction to several prominent Astorian architects and showcases examples of their work. Audio, photos, and GPS navigation all play together to create a unique way for both locals and tourists to explore Astoria.

We were able to produce this walking tour app with the services of our Clatsop Works summer intern. This internship position provided a local college student an opportunity to hone their skills while providing a valuable resource for our organization. Creation of the app involved architectural photography, audio production, graphic design, and historic research. The culmination of this project is a new way for us to interact with the public and spread our organizational messages for years to come.



**Download your free 'Astoria Architectural History' app for your Android or Apple device!**

## Volunteer Opportunities

**We are ramping up for a next year's goal setting and strategic planning and we would love to add a couple of new (or returning) faces to the board in 2024! Maybe you've consider joining in the past but are unsure about what the commitment would mean for your schedule. We'd be happy to discuss board service with you and see if LCPS would be a good fit. Along with board positions, we also have several committees that LCPS members are invited to join. Let us know your interests and we will help you get involved in meaningful community projects.**

**Contact LCPS executive director, Rachel Jensen: [info@lcpssociety.org](mailto:info@lcpssociety.org)**



## Congratulations to our LCPS Grant Recipients!

Earlier this year, the Columbia Pacific Heritage Museum applied for an LCPS grant to restore and paint a window on the depot ensuring that the building can remain weather tight and secure for years to come.

The Ilwaco Freight Depot was used in the early 1900s as Ilwaco's transportation hub. It was moved from its original location a few blocks away and became a permanent exhibit at the museum early in the museum's history.

You can visit the museum and depot Wednesdays through Saturdays from 10 to 4  
115 SE Lake Street in Ilwaco, Washington  
[columbiapacificheritagemuseum.org](http://columbiapacificheritagemuseum.org)



Partners for the PAC Executive Director, Bereniece Jones-Centeno examines the completed window work

The Charlene Larsen Center for the Performing Arts building got some stained glass TLC! The 1932 historic church building (formerly Trinity Lutheran Church) had a comprehensive assessment conducted by Willett-Hauser Architectural Glass firm to analyze what work needed to be done to the building's stained glass windows and what it would cost to repair and protect them.

The nonprofit, Partners for the PAC who use and maintain the Larsen Center applied for an LCPS grant to fund the organization's 16<sup>th</sup> Street window project. In the late summer, professional stained glass artisans from Willett-Hauser first removed all the broken plexiglass that had been covering the window and was damaged from a 2019 storm. They then resealed the caning and installed a covering to protect the window from Oregon coast wind and rain. This new covering makes no obstruction to the skillfully crafted glass at all and will protect the building from future water incursion.

With the assessment in hand, the Partners for the PAC are making plans to complete work on all of its decorative windows and may be seeking future funding through an adopt-a-window program.

Check out the beautiful stained glass work at the Larsen Center at 588 16<sup>th</sup> Street in Astoria, Oregon. Learn more about the building and the nonprofits involved in its care by visiting [partnersforthePAC.org](http://partnersforthePAC.org)  
Read more about Willett-Hauser here: [stained-glass-window.us](http://stained-glass-window.us)

### Know a nonprofit that needs money for a preservation project?

Check out the LCPS grant program!



Projects in any of the following categories will be considered:

- Documentation of historic architecture and sites
- Preservation, restoration, or rehabilitation of historic resources
- Education of community members

Learn more at  
[www.lcpsociety.org/grants](http://www.lcpsociety.org/grants)

# LCPS Events

[www.lcpsociety.org/events](http://www.lcpsociety.org/events)

	<p><i>Topics in Preservation</i></p> <p>every 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday 6 to 8pm          LCPS Office 389 12<sup>th</sup> Street          Downtown Astoria</p> <p><b><u>October 18<sup>th</sup></u></b>  <i>Haunted Homes</i></p> <p><b><u>November 15<sup>th</sup></u></b>  <i>Archiving Historic Materials</i></p> <p><b><u>December 20<sup>th</sup></u></b>  <i>End of Year Recap &amp; Cookie Potluck</i></p>	
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## **Recap of September's Topics in Preservation event: Researching the History of your Historic Home**

On the evening of September 20th, presenter Lauri Serafin took us on a journey through her experience researching the history of the Forsstrom House at Grand and 7th Street in Astoria. While acknowledging that LCPS's research guide (available online and at our office) is a great place to start, she focused on the "second tier" of research. Lauri displayed the wonderful goodies she has collected by reaching out to family members of past residents. Tenacious, she was rewarded with new friendships and a bounty of photos and artifacts, which she now proudly displays in her home. The takeaway from her talk was that family members are often happy to discuss their relatives and are often keen to share information (many even come for a visit).

Tip: contacting people through genealogy websites is usually hit or miss. Obituaries provide the names and locations of descendants, and sending them letters has paid off. Be respectful, but don't be shy: they can choose to respond or, if uninterested, can ignore the inquiry.

Tip: It also helped that Lauri has a beautiful website and Instagram account documenting her home restoration journey. If you want to make headway in your research, it may be worth setting up a website or other media account to point your contacts to. They may feel more comfortable communicating with you if they can see your love for and dedication to their family home.



## **Recap of August's Topics in Preservation event: Defining Astoria's Neighborhoods**

LCPS had a full house on August 16th while we discussed defining Astoria's neighborhoods. We gathered data from participants, looked at maps, and conversed on topics such as:

- What defines a neighborhood? Is it about location, community, services, style, etc.?
- What do current residents call their specific neighborhood?
- Do people who grew up here remember other names that aren't used today?

We reviewed the City of Astoria's "Area Descriptions" from the Comprehensive Plan. We looked at plat maps and historic development patterns and heard childhood memories about neighborhood stores, schools, and industries. We even signed up a few new volunteers to help with our ongoing neighborhood project!

This discussion confirmed that it will take a lot of outreach, knowledge gathering, and research to identify distinct neighborhoods and collect and present accurate and compelling stories. The neighborhood committee is leaning heavily towards starting this more in-depth process in Astor Court, a relatively small district in Astoria's West End area. This neighborhood has a distinct initial period of development defined by a few key events:

- 1 The platting of Taylor's Astoria changed from right-angled blocks to curves in 1913.
- 2 The Alameda streetcar line extended to Hermosa Ave. (now West Lexington) in 1915.
- 3 Wartime shipbuilding increased housing needs while contributing to labor and supply shortages for house construction.
- 4 The completion of Astor Court School in 1918 and, later, Captain Robert Gray Junior High School in 1924.

Astor Court proper, an area near the street car terminus at Hermosa Ave., was initially developed by George M. Hyland and the architect E.N. Larry and was envisioned as a plan to protect each home's view and included restrictions on the style of architecture used. It is still being determined how many houses were actually built according to these specific plans. Still, a dozen homes in this vicinity were built during this period, and another dozen or so on nearby streets.

The Astor Court story leads to later periods of development in the West End, which include:

- 1 FHA developments
- 2 Expansion into what used to be part of a much larger Tapiola Park property
- 3 Opening up and development of the West Hills

Compiling these stories can provide residents and homeowners with a historical context for the who, what, where, and why of a relatively unique Astoria neighborhood.

As we continue to develop these stories, we will contact our members and the community for information, photos, comments, etc. We look forward to hosting at least one "community scanning day" to assist neighborhood residents (past and present) in researching and documenting their family history. Stay tuned for upcoming events!

## Upcoming Workshops: Historic Preservation and Restoration at Clatsop Community College

For BLD 120, 127, and 137, contact [rprochaska@clatsopcc.edu](mailto:rprochaska@clatsopcc.edu) for orientation information

### Log Cabin Constructions Skills (BLD 120)

Students gain knowledge and practical hands-on experience in materials and methods of stabilizing historic structures for the sake of "mothballing" two log structures. Both structures are superb examples of log construction. Students will have the opportunity to camp on-site over the weekends to work on the structures. This project is a proud partnership between the Oregon Parks and Recreation Dept and Clatsop Community College.

When: Oct 28 & 29 and Nov 4 & 5 (Sat & Sun) 9 am to 4 pm

Instructor: Ryan Prochaska [rprochaska@clatsopcc.edu](mailto:rprochaska@clatsopcc.edu)

Location: Tryon Cabins, Tryon Creek State Natural Area, Portland, OR

### Log Cabin Construction Skills (BLD 127)

Students gain knowledge and practical hands-on experience in materials and methods of construction for stairs. Work will be done on the Lindgren Cabin, which is a hand-hewn cedar building built in the 1920s on the Nehalem River and later moved to Cullaby Lake. The joinery of the log structure is some of the finest examples in the United States. This project is a proud partnership between the Finlandia Foundation Columbia-Pacific Chapter and Clatsop Community College.

When: Nov 18 & 19 (Sat & Sun) 9 am to 4 pm

Instructor: Ryan Prochaska [rprochaska@clatsopcc.edu](mailto:rprochaska@clatsopcc.edu)

Location: Lindgren Cabin, Cullaby Lake County Park, Astoria, OR

### Exterior Finishes Alderbrook Hall (BLD 137)

Students gain knowledge and practical hands-on experience in the application and properties of finishes on a historic structure. Alderbrook Hall was originally a Fire Station that now serves as a community center for Astoria. This project is a proud partnership between Astoria Parks + Rec and Clatsop Community College.

When: Oct 7 & 8 and 14 & 15 (Sat & Sun) 9 am to 4 pm

Instructors: Ryan Prochaska [rprochaska@clatsopcc.edu](mailto:rprochaska@clatsopcc.edu)

Location: Alderbrook Hall, Astoria, OR

### Clatsop Community College Community Ed

CCC Campus: Alder Hall, 1651 Lexington Ave Astoria, OR

[communityed@clatsopcc.edu](mailto:communityed@clatsopcc.edu) 503-338-2408

#### Woodworking: Introduction to Hand Tools with Brian Pietrowski

Wednesday Oct 13<sup>th</sup> 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm

Learn how to use and sharpen various tools such as chisels, hand planes, and gouges. Bring your own tools to sharpen, or work on tools that will be provided.

#### Woodworking: Machine Tool Basics with Brian Pietrowski

Wednesday Nov 17<sup>th</sup> 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm

Learn common shop safety practices along with the use of various power saws, routers, a jointer, and a thickness planer.

## To name it is to know it: Cornice

By Eric Wheeler

There are dozens of exterior architectural elements that help define the age and style of a given building - most evolving out of the timeless Greco-Roman architectural tradition. The cornice is one of those popular Neo-Classical details that is both functional and decorative, and often seen on 19th and early 20th century commercial and civic buildings. A broad definition of the cornice is a uniform horizontal band that projects a short distance from the facade and is located along or just below the top of the exterior wall.

On buildings in downtown Astoria, the projecting cornice was often made of metal or the same material as the exterior wall: either brick, concrete, or glazed terra cotta. Whether or not a cornice is located on a wall with a lot of decorative detail, the cornice completes the design rhythm of a building giving it a "finished look" that most people find pleasing to the eye. The projecting cornice is also functional in that it provides some protection for the wall and windows immediately below the cornice.

Compare the Spexarth Building (1910) as it looked with an intact projecting cornice with how it appears today without the projecting cornice. Then compare the photo of the Odd Fellows Building (1923) soon after construction with the current appearance. What do you think looks better and/or more complete?



Spexarth Bldg with cornice  
Clatsop County Historical Society



Spexarth Bldg without cornice



Odd Fellows Bldg with cornice  
Clatsop County Historical Society



Odd Fellows Bldg without cornice



<p><b>Supporting Members</b></p> <p>Blair Henningsgaard          Bobby Thurman          Chris Connaway          Ed Overbay          James &amp; Amy Genereaux          Jan Faber &amp; Vicki Baker          Jessica Stewart          JoAnne Lumpkin Brown          Karen Parrott &amp; Randy Ralls          Kelly &amp; Charlie Shumar          Mike &amp; Laura Brosius          Richard Winn          Ronald &amp; Charlene Larsen          Sheila Nolan</p>	<p><b>Business Members</b></p> <p>Astoria Wood Windows          Gaetano's Market &amp; Deli          Pietrowski Wood Windows</p> <p><b>LCPS Board of Directors</b></p> <p>Karen Parrott, President          Kelly Shumar, Vice President          Richard Winn, Secretary          Wade Freitag, Treasurer          Astronemis Ray          Lucien Swerdloff          Eric Wheeler</p>
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# MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Register at [www.lcpsociety.org](http://www.lcpsociety.org)



Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

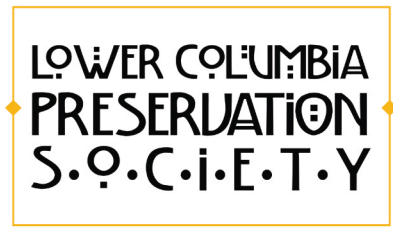
Email \_\_\_\_\_

## Level of Membership

- ☐ \$10 Student      ☐ \$35 Household  
☐ \$20 Individual      ☐ \$75 Business  
☐ \$100 Supporter

## Payable To

Lower Columbia Preservation Society  
 PO Box 1334 Astoria, OR 97103



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