

THE REHAB

GOOD NEWS

Well, it appears there is enough interest in the community to initiate a club consisting of those interested retaining the authentic architecture of Astoria's homes and buildings. We would like to invite anyone interested in restoration, rehabilitation, or repairs to attend our meetings. Items may consist of research methods, construction techniques, materials used during the Victorian, Craftsman and other pre-fifties eras. If you want to learn and to share your experiences, we want you.

We are thinking about forming a non-profit club, with initial membership dues of \$10.00. We see this as a group that would support members' achievements; provide educational information; assist with business networking; and act as an historical advocacy forum.

Do you have different goals? Come to our next meeting and let us know what they are.



We will also be asking for names for our organization, so put on your thinking hats, and be ready to give us your suggestions.

Kevin Palo will provide an overview of the trials and tribulations of starting an organization. His insights stem from his experience with *The Sacramento Old City Association* during their formative years.

Refreshments will be served.

IT'S NOT SO HARD:

Got an old light fixture that you are considering trashing??? Think first about restoring it.

Light fixtures are easily restored. 1) Remove the shade, wiring and light socket(s). 2) Totally dismantle the fixture, unless the joints are soldered. 3) If the original finish of the base is intact, clean and polish it. 4) Apply clear shoe polish. 5) Replace any frayed wiring or broken light sockets. New mechanical components are available from a variety of sources, including local contractors.

If the original finish has been painted, boil the dismantled fixture in a solution

of TSP and apply metal polish. *Neverdull* or *Flite* are particularly effective polishes.

FACTS ABOUT OUR DOWNTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT RESTORATIONS:

Astoria's downtown was officially listed on the National Register of Historic Places in June. Listing as a Historic District seems natural to those who understand the character of the town. State officials who reviewed the application referred to it as a "slam dunk." After all, within the boundaries of the district is a National Landmark Site commemorating the beginning of United States history in northwest America. Here, John Jacob Astor established the trading post Astoria in 1811. Within the district's boundaries, Astor dreamt of creating the "Emporium of the West."

The city that grew from John Jacob Astor's dream remains, but on a less grandiose scale. It is an undeniably well preserved early twentieth century commercial district. Fourteen percent of the buildings survived the Great Fire of 1922. Fifty-four percent were built between the years 1923-1926. Eighty-nine percent are more than fifty years old.

The City of Astoria hopes that property owners will use the district status as a vision of what it could be, capitalizing on its historic roots. Successful business districts, like desirable neighborhoods, need to feel like "someplace." Tax incentives are available for qualified rehabilitation's and restorations.

Landlords are encouraged to use these tools to make projects feasible.

In spite of many positive aspects, some property owners are concerned that historic designation will strip them of their property rights. Others fear they will be held to stringent, "museum quality" standards for restoration and rehabilitation. It is true that once a building is listed as "historic," within a Historic District, the property owner may not remove that designation. However, existing review criteria, which has been in place for eight years, remains the same. The City, through the Historic Landmarks Commission, will continue to balance economics, historic integrity, and the Historic Ordinance with all proposed alterations. Astoria's downtown Historic District doesn't have to be a frightening thing. It can be one more tool to bring vitality to our area while protecting what we all enjoy and value.

--John Goodenberger

Call John at the City if you have questions or need additional assistance.

YOU CAN GET IT FROM THE CITY:

A free brochure entitled, *Rehabilitation and Incentives, Preserving Astoria's Past*.

MEETINGS PROVIDING HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Historic Landmarks Commission Meeting

(Check before attending - the meetings are sometimes cancelled if there are no items on the agenda) Tuesday, August 18, 1998
5:15 pm, Astoria City Council Chambers

Restoration/Rehab Group

Wednesday, August 19, 1998 7:00 p.m.;
City Council Chamber, 1095 Duane, 2nd
Floor, Astoria

Bosco-Milligan Foundation

This Foundation puts on workshops for numerous rehabilitation projects. They are now putting together their Fall line up. Call 503-231-7264 in Portland for more information.

THE TRADING CORNER

1920's 5' Round Corner Bath Tub with one fixture-hole at end, two skirted sides, refinished. 325-7092

Original Arts and Crafts, square four lantern chandelier with 3-foot hanging chain. Great for library, den, dining room. Similar to those shown in Rejuvenation Light & Fixture Co. ads. Excellent condition. Also, carriage lantern of the same type and age. 325-2124

NEED HELP???

About Face Remodeling: Sensitive remodeling; plaster, painting, roofing and more. Licensed/ bonded contractor: 325-4591

RiverCraft consists of a group of craftspeople and local residents that teach others the art and joy of working with their hands. 325-8609

I NEED HELP

Does anyone know who re-porcelains antique stoves or appliances? I have a 1920's range that needs some panels refinished.

Call Dave 325-8089

IF YOU KNOW OF SOMEONE WHO
WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE THIS NEWS-
LETTER

CUT & RETURN TO:

CITY OF Astoria

1095 DUANE

Astoria, OR 97103

ATTN. BARBARA ROBINSON

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____

ZIP _____

