AUGUST MEETING: PERIOD LIGHT FIXTURES

Are you “in the dark” about appropriate light fixtures for the style of your house? Have the original fixtures in your house all been removed? Do you have plans to replace the fixtures? Do you need to purchase light fixtures? Have you purchased an old light and are wondering about its age? Don’t despair, LCPS to the rescue!

Reserve Wednesday evening, August 29, 2001, to hear Monica Burke, Rejuvenation Lamp and Fixture Company, Portland, present a lecture and slide presentation on “Period Light Fixtures.” Her presentation will touch briefly on the history of lighting and will feature light fixtures found in different architectural styles. With a background in Art History and seven years’ experience at Rejuvenation, Monica possesses a wealth of information on this topic. You are encouraged to bring a light fixture and/or pictures of fixtures in your home for identification. If you have a light fixture to sell, feel free to bring it, too.

The lecture begins at 7:00 pm at the Heritage Museum at 1618 Exchange in Astoria. A short business meeting will follow the lecture.

SEPTEMBER WORKSHOP: KEEPING OUT THE COLD

The LCPS will present a weatherization workshop at the Flavel House Museum at 8th and Exchange Streets in Astoria on Saturday, September 15, 2001, from 10:00 am to noon. The presenter will be Jay Burco of Multnomah County’s Weatherization Program. Participants will walk through a comprehensive energy audit of the 8,000+ square-foot mansion built in 1886, from basement to attic, looking for ways to retrofit the structure with energy saving measures. Topics will include insulation, ventilation, and heating system issues in older houses. Jay Burco operates an insulation job training program in Multnomah County, and he has been involved with energy programs for more than 20 years. He has helped to weatherize hundreds, if not thousands, of older homes in the Portland area, and he has led numerous workshops throughout the state. See page 2 for information about the Homes Tour.

MORE PLANTS FOR YOUR GARDEN

The previous issue of Restoria had the April through June information from Park Commissioner August Hildebrandt’s 1912 list of recommended trees, shrubs, and flowers for every week in the year to beautify Astoria’s homes. Here is a continuation of the list:

July:
1st week: sweet peas, roses (Caroline Testout, Madam Alf. Carrier)
2nd week: daisy (Shasta), honeysuckle
3rd week: hollyhocks, sweet william
4th week: carnations, mountain ash (in blossom)
5th week: spirea or spirea, fox glove

August:
1st week: golden banded lily, hardy phlox, mignonette
2nd week: aster (City flower), snapdragon
3rd week: hydrangea (blue, County flower), Japanese iris, canterbury bells
4th week: gladiolus, hardy lilies

September:
1st week: dahlias, golden glow
2nd week: gaillardia, begonias, bachelor buttons
3rd week: hardy sun flowers, poppy
4th week: chrysanthemum (pompon), anemone
5th week: Clematis (Jacquemontii), common elder (red berries)
HISTORIC HOMES TOUR WEEKEND
SEPTEMBER 15-16, 2001

Celebrate the rich architectural heritage of Astoria by being a part of the Clatsop County Historical Society’s 2001 Historic Homes Tour Weekend. New this year, a Salvage Sale will be held on the lawn of the Captain George Flavel House at the corner of 8th and Exchange Streets in Astoria on Saturday, September 15th, from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm and again on Sunday morning, September 16th, from 9:00 am to noon. Sale items include historic building fabric, architectural elements, doors, windows, bathtubs, lighting and plumbing fixtures, hardware, and architectural trade books. Individuals interested in donating such items to be sold at the Salvage Sale by the Historical Society, please contact Michelle at (503) 325-2203. If you are currently restoring your home, you won’t want to miss this sale!

The Society’s Historic Homes Tour will be held on Saturday, September 15th, from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm. Five residential buildings will be showcased during the self-guided tour. Costs per person are $8.00 and include a tour booklet which gives historic information on each home and a map denoting the location of each house. Tickets go on sale September 10th and can be obtained by contacting the Historical Society at (503) 325-2203. Tickets will also be sold the day of the tour at the Flavel House.

MAY MEMBERSHIP MEETING RECAP

The lecture and slide presentation on Lord and Schryver, the first professionally trained women landscape architects in the Northwest, was well attended and gave members an opportunity to view professionally designed Northwest gardens of an earlier era. Their firm was respected not only in the Northwest but throughout the United States. They were, without a doubt, the most highly regarded landscape artists in the history of Oregon. As in the Astoria Column gardens, Lord and Schryver made use of boxwood in their landscape designs. It might be worth asking the Astoria Parks Department to research their records to determine the landscape designer of the Column gardens. Who knows, maybe they were designed by this famous pair!

Those of us who love old houses and their history could easily empathize with Ruth Roberts’ and Gretchen Carnaby’s research of Lord and Schryver. Just as many of us have learned to identify house styles by their characteristics or the houses designed by architect John Wicks, Roberts and Carnaby are able to identify Lord and Schryver gardens by the unique characteristics of their designs. Many thanks to Ruth and Gretchen for their inspiring presentation and for continuing their research, lest we forget these important designers and the contributions they made to the landscapes of the Northwest.

LOOKING FOR SOMETHING NEW TO DO THIS SUMMER?
Saturday Afternoon Tea at the
Benjamin Young Inn B&B

Carolyn Hammer prepares full tea each Saturday at her home at 3652 Duane Street in Astoria from 1:00 pm to 3:30 pm by reservation. Full tea includes sandwiches, scones, fresh fruit, three desserts, and a full pot of the tea of choice for $10. You may also tour this 1888 National Register Queen Anne Victorian home built by salmon cannery owner Benjamin Young. For information or reservations, call (503) 325-6172.
GARDEN TOUR A BLOOMING SUCCESS

Well over 100 happy, smiling gardeners attended the garden tour on June 30th, and there are no doubts it was a resounding success. LCPS added twenty-two new members and $700 to its treasury. Each and every garden was as charming as it was unique. Many attendees have shared their delight with the tour and hope it will become an annual event, perhaps even a fundraiser! Special thanks to the following homeowners (pictured, right) who generously opened their gardens for us to enjoy: Liz Banholzer, Rosetta Hurley, Colleen Lower, Anne Spline Phillips, Jessica Schleif, and Sue Skinner.

Thank yous also to docents Brad Alstrom, Jewell Benford, Dave Fitch, Ann Gydé, Carolyn Hammer, John Goodenberger, Linda Oldenkamp, and Dave Pollard; to ticket-takers Michelle Schmitter and Melissa Yowell; and as always, to designer Ann Gydé for the beautiful posters, reminders, tickets, and maps.

LCPS AWARDED 501(C)(3) NONPROFIT STATUS

On April 20, 2001, the Internal Revenue Service approved LCPS’s application for nonprofit status. In addition to firmly establishing our credibility as a nonprofit organization, this is an important step that will open many doors for continued growth and financial stability. We are now eligible to apply for grants through foundations and to request nonprofit status from the Post Office, which will greatly reduce our mailing expenses. An immediate benefit was a substantial reduction in the cost of setting up LCPS’s website. As a 501(c)(3) organization, our members’ contributions also qualify as tax deductible. In the near future, the Board will solicit your ideas for grant-funded projects, so don your thinking caps and help us build a wish list.
DR. EDWARD HARVEY AWARDS

At the May 21, 2001, Astoria City Council meeting, Mayor Willis L. Van Dusen presented the Dr. Edward Harvey awards for 2001. 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 Astoria. He successfully lobbied the Clatsop County Commissioners to establish a Historic Advisory Committee, on which he served as the chairman for many years.

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

The recipients in the Residential category for 2001 were David and Elizabeth Blanchard for their restoration of 423 6th Street. They constructed an addition on the north elevation of this home that was sensitive to the historic architectural features of the home. They also painted the exterior, adding to the overall historic character of Astoria.

In addition, two Residential Honorable Mention awards were presented: to John and Shirley Dahlsten for the extensive renovation, repair, and landscaping of their home at 1567 Jerome;

and to Steve and Maria Kustura for the reconstruction of a deck, renovation, and painting of their home at 1656 Jerome.

The recipients in the Commercial category for 2001 were Mitch and Toni Mitchum for the renovation of 1124–1132 Commercial Street. This commercial structure, which includes Let It Rain, Victorian Lace, and Danish Maid Bakery, had been neglected for years, and historic features had been covered with a modern facade. The Mitchums renovated the exterior, revealing the original hidden transoms, painted the exterior, and installed historic style signage for the three businesses within the building. The completed work added to the overall historic character of the Downtown National Register Historic District.

In addition, a Commercial Honorable Mention award was presented to Allen Staley for the work on Owl Drug at 1198 Commercial Street. This commercial structure has undergone numerous changes over the years. Mr. Staley replaced newer windows with windows that match the earlier design. While making the second floor of this structure more suitable for residential use, the work was done with sensitivity to the historic architectural features of this building in the Downtown National Register Historic District.
THE “ELLIS ISLAND” OF THE COLUMBIA RIVER

The Knappton Cove Heritage Center houses a museum showcasing the old Columbia River Quarantine Station—the “Ellis Island” of the Pacific Northwest. Thousands of immigrants passed through this port of entry between 1899 and 1938. The effective control of communicable diseases during that time is attributed to the work performed there by the Public Health Service.

This protected cove is located on the officially designated Lewis and Clark Trail Highway and parallels their actual canoe route. On November 10, 1805, the Lewis and Clark Expedition canoed past Knappton Cove hugging the shoreline due to foul weather. They camped at Hungry Harbor, about one quarter mile downriver. At Knappton Cove, there is an excellent view of their water passage along with a sweeping view of the lower Columbia River estuary, Saddle Mountain, and the city of Astoria.

The property was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1980. The Knappton Cove Heritage Center was established in 1995 in the old hospital building that served the Quarantine Station. The free museum at the Heritage Center is open by appointment (or chance) during the summer months. This Fall there is also the following scheduled opening:

**Nov. 10-11, Fourth annual “O, How Horrible is the Day” event**
1:00 pm to 4:00 pm. Hot Cider and History—raingear highly recommended!
Program at 2:00 pm: “November on the North Shore”

The Knappton Cove Heritage Center welcomes tour groups and school field trips by appointment. A choice of several programs is offered and an educational packet for teachers planning field trips is available. The west wing of the old hospital building is also available as a heritage vacation rental. The location of the Heritage Center is three miles upriver from the north end of the Astoria/Megler bridge. For more information or for rental reservations, call Nancy Anderson at (503) 738-5206 or email thecove@theregonshore.com.

KUDOS

To Dave Pollard, outgoing LCPS board member, for the respect and leadership he has provided LCPS in its formative years.

To Patrick Overton for the fine restoration of the craftsman at 1606 Grand Avenue, Astoria (corner of Grand and 16th).

To the host gardeners for their willingness and generosity in permitting the public to view their lovely gardens during the June 30th Garden Tour. Thank you Liz Banholzer, Jessica Schleif, Rosetta Hurley, Anne Splane Phillips, Sue Skinner, and Colleen Lower.
OLD HOUSE FORUM

The first “Old House Forum” was held on June 7th at the Italianate Victorian home of Kim and Steve Nurdings, located at 1393 Franklin Avenue in Astoria. About 15 people attended, and all seemed to enjoy the experience. Because it was the first Old House Forum, there was no precedent for the format, so the hosts had total freedom in deciding what to do. The Nurdings showed a videotape that explained the house’s architectural style, the history of the house and of its occupants, and showed details that cannot easily be shown any other way. The videotape was followed by a tour of the entire house, with an emphasis on changes recently made by the Nurdings, such as faux graining, floor refinishing, kitchen remodeling, and marble flooring. Steve also gave a brief demonstration of marble cutting with a wet saw.

During the second half of the Old House Forum, the group retired to the living room for refreshments and an informal sharing of information — joys, discoveries, travails, tips — concerning the homes of those attending. Everyone had lots of informative fun at the first Old House Forum and they are all looking forward to the next one. The enthusiasm of the hosts and attendees made for a really special evening. Each Forum is likely to vary as much as the houses they are held in, which will add to the evening’s pleasure. A big thank you to the hosts of this first of a series: Steve and Kim Nurdings, and Carolyn Hammer!

WIRKKALA’S CHRISTMAS PAINTING
by Beth La Fleur

Moving into our “new” old Craftsman/Prairie style house late last November was quite a scene. In our preliminary research into the history of the house and the deed records, we knew that the house had been designed by John E. Wicks and built for Charles and Anna Wirkkala. Charles Wirkkala was a banker and, later, editor of the Columbia Press, a Finnish-language weekly paper.

In preparation for our first warm meal on the upcoming Thanksgiving Thursday, we decided to square away the kitchen first. We started by scrubbing the walls, ceiling, counters, and cabinets with mild soap and water. It quickly became evident that it hadn’t been done in a while. As I began to feel I was making progress, Matt took on peeling up the linoleum flooring. A previous peek had already revealed fir flooring beneath. Luckily, the flooring rolled up like a crispy burrito. We weren’t sure what to do next about the floor, but, thank goodness, the fir was exposed and in excellent condition as far as we could tell through the swirls of white glue.

By the time midnight rolled around, we were still in our cleaning frenzy. I had decided that after making this commitment to the house, I wanted to know every nail mark, every piece of carpentry, and every floor joist. We were also examining every scratch in the painted woodwork in all of the rooms, trying to figure out how many, or how few, layers of paint existed. Only the floors and the cupboard shelves had been left unpainted. We contemplated whether the woodwork had originally been painted or if that was a more modern interior alteration. The year of the house, 1920, is inscribed in the top of the concrete garage, so we presumed that the original interior paint was intentional, to give the illusion of a more sanitary household. Yet, we wondered...

Still feeling ambitious in my cleaning escapade, I got to the point of pulling out the drawers and flour bins in the kitchen to clean and examine the condition of the undersides of the counters and cabinetry. Things were looking solid, and as my flashlight moved from one nail hole to the next, I saw writing on the base of the flour bin cabinet.

Our house had been put together solidly and with an obviously conscious effort for efficient use of space, with very few hidden nooks and crannies, so I had assumed that evidence from the long-ago past had long since been discovered. And so I almost couldn’t believe it: I was about to have an “if walls could talk” moment. Covered in dirt and dust, Matt and I leaned into the flour cabinet, tracing over the penciled words with the beam of the flashlight: “Painting of Wirkkala, December 25, 1921.” The lettering is so elegant and distinctive. We now know that, chances are, the woodwork was originally painted, at least in the kitchen. And we know that we can put “stripping the woodwork” to the bottom of our latest “to-do” list. Whew!

Our next surprise came a few weeks ago, when John Goodenberger called us on a Friday evening to give us exciting news. Two sets of the original architectural plans of our house, as drawn by John E. Wicks, along with Wick’s 12 pages of project specifications, had been recently donated to the Clatsop County Heritage Museum. We couldn’t believe our good fortune when we viewed the plans in the Archives room! Many thanks and kudos to Christina and Bruce Berney for their thoughtful donation!
HELPFUL HINTS

Videos available from LCPS: Repair, don’t replace, those wood windows! LCPS has purchased a video which shows the step-by-step process of refurbishing double-hung windows. The video was produced by Andrew G. Coviello, a window repairman in Greenwich, Connecticut, and it includes how to keep the chain or rope from slipping back into the side pocket. It has written instructions and a list of tools and materials.

LCPS also has a video of the “Wood Window Repair” workshop with Kevin Palo. If you are interested in checking out either or both of these videos, contact Dave Fitch, (503) 325-8089.

Restoration tips (from Beth LaFleur): “I can’t take credit for this tip, but old dental tools of the plaque-scraping variety are very handy tools to have around. You may be able get these from your dentist upon request. We used a few, as well as a crab claw picker, to scrape the white glue from the thin grooves and small dings in our recently uncovered fir floor.”

Also, now that construction season in full swing, property owners may get a little over-zealous with projects and not know they need building permits and Historic Landmark Commission review for exterior alterations on locally and nationally designated historic houses. A quick phone call to Astoria’s Community Development Department at (503) 338-5183, before projects get underway, can clear up any confusion about building permits and historic review processes, and whether or not they are required for specific projects! If you live outside of Astoria, check the phone book’s blue pages for the number of your community’s planning office.

More restoration tips (from Fred White): To darken metal, such as new brass or nickel screws, use liquid gun blue, also called cold blue. Perma Blue uses selenium dioxide as the active ingredient and is sold by Winks Hardware, in Portland. Sky’s Gunsmithing in Astoria sells another brand (about $8 for a small bottle) which uses copper dioxide. According to Sky, metals darkened with copper dioxide are less likely to rust than those done with Perma Blue. We have used Perma Blue and found that brass darkens to a nice antique brass color, and nickel or steel turns black or blue/black.

One of my favorite hand tools is my Ars brand pruning saw, which I think of as a manual Saws-all. The folding saw has a six-inch, tapered pull blade with extremely sharp teeth, making it ideal for getting into tight spaces. I use it for both rough and fine cutting. The saws are sold at many garden stores, come in different styles, and have replaceable blades (which can also be resharpened).

Like many old houses, ours has had its share of sloppy paint jobs. One sloppiness we decided to continue, however, is the practice of leaving the tops of indoor window and door trim unpainted, allowing only whatever paint “slops over” onto the top. Future home “archaeologists” may enjoy seeing all the colors which have been used over the years. We hope they won’t be as appalled at our color choices as we have been at our predecessors’!

email

LCPS email: LCPS has an official email address which you are encouraged to use. You may contact us at: lcps_restoria@hotmail.com. Board members will check the email periodically, but it’s best to contact us directly if you need information immediately.

Keep informed via email: If you are not receiving reminders about LCPS meetings and workshops via email, it’s because we don’t have your email address. Please email us at lcps_restoria@hotmail.com and tell us to put you on the email list. We will send you meeting notice reminders and other information regarding preservation issues. We will not publish or sell your email address; we will use it exclusively for informing you of preservation-related events and issues. Of course, we will also honor your request to be removed from the list.
DISTINCTIVE DESTINATIONS OFF THE BEATEN PATH

It’s vacation time and if you’re looking for a charming town where you can step back into America’s past, you might find information from the National Trust for Historic Preservation helpful. They checked out 70 communities nationwide and came up with their annual “Dozen Distinctive Destinations.” Here are the 12 gems on this year’s list:

**Eureka Springs, Arkansas:** A Victorian village in the Ozarks that also boasts art festivals and a UFO conference.

**Calistoga, California:** It’s in the Napa Valley, whose features include 300 wineries, a geyser, mineral baths, and a petrified forest.

**Silverton, Colorado:** An 1800’s mining town from the gold and silver booms. Most of the original buildings are still standing.

**Madison, Indiana:** Lots of pre-Civil War buildings dot this former pioneer town.

**Bonaparte, Iowa:** A riverfront town that even boasts a butterfly garden.

**Northampton, Massachusetts:** “America’s Best Small Arts Town,” with year-round theater.

**Red Lodge, Montana:** The Sundance Kid robbed a bank here, but now the area boasts ski areas, fishing and more.

**Las Vegas, New Mexico:** A mix of Spanish, Native American, European, and Jewish communities overlooked by mountains.

**Jacksonville, Oregon:** A former gold rush town, it now has llama and alpaca ranches, plus summer arts festivals.

**Doylestown, Pennsylvania:** A top cultural center with music and museums in a small town.

**Beaufort, South Carolina:** Site of the film Forrest Gump, this ocean island community is laced with historic buildings.

**Staunton, Virginia:** A Shenandoah Valley town unscathed by the Civil War.

For more information, call (300) 315-6847 or visit them online at www.nationaltrust.org.

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**LET’S HAVE SOME FUN!**

We’ve had our noses to the grindstone working on our houses and we’ve been attending meetings and workshops to educate ourselves about our restoration projects. Now it’s time to stop, take a break, and have some fun! Put October 12, 2001, on your calendar. Find a picture of your house, and we’ll use an opaque projector to view it on a screen. We had fun with this at one of our first meetings, and we should do it again. We’ll also have refreshments. We will update and remind you about the social at the August membership meeting, September workshop, and through emails. But mark it on your calendars now and be looking for a picture to show off your house.
FROM THE CHAIR

LCPS has made important progress in the last few months. At our membership meeting on May 23rd, five new board members were elected to serve for two-year terms. The new board members are Jewel Benford, LaRee Bruton, Carolyn Hammer, Beth La Fleur, and Fred White. Current board members Dave Fitch and Ann Gyde agreed to serve another term and were also elected for two-year terms. Thank you to all seven individuals for their commitment to the LCPS mission—preserving, protecting, and promoting the historic architecture in the Lower Columbia region—and for committing to the important work that lies ahead.

Receiving our 503(3)(c) nonprofit status is no small undertaking for an all-volunteer organization like ours. Nonprofit status will allow us to grow in ways that would otherwise not have been possible.

We held our first “Old House Forum” in June and it was a resounding success! I’m sorry if you missed it. Ken and Carolyn Hammer of the Benjamin Young Inn will host the next Old House Forum. We’ll tell you the date and time at our August meeting, September workshop, and in emails.

Again, let me remind you to tell others about our group, and encourage them to join us. We’re a great way to get acquainted with other old-house aficionados, and more importantly, to help educate our respective communities about the value of preserving our wonderful architectural heritage. Call membership chair Melissa Yowell; she’ll be happy to send a letter with our most recent newsletter. Or bring your friends to a membership meeting or to one of our Saturday workshops.

As always, we need your ideas and your help; you can reach me at (503) 325-3981. See you at the August 29th membership meeting on “Period Light Fixtures.”

Linda

AGENDA
AUGUST 29, 2001
7 - 8:30 pm
Heritage Center, 1618
Exchange Ave, Astoria
I. 7:00 - 8:00pm: Monica Burke, “Period Light Fixtures”.
II. Business meeting:
Call to Order
Treasurer’s Report
Membership Report
Questions & Answers
For the Good of the Organization

NEEDED
Your articles, classifieds, kudos, etc. for Restoria.
Please make your submissions to the LCPS email:
lcps_restoria@hotmail.com.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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☐ 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
☐ Publicity
☐ Education
☐ Advocacy
☐ Newsletter
☐ Grant Writing
☐ Other

Please note our new mailing address and make checks payable to:
Lower Columbia Preservation Society
Post Office Box 1334
Astoria, Oregon 97103
Since our last newsletter . . . .


Current Board Of Directors:

Linda Oldenkamp, Chair
Brad Alstrom
Jewel Benford
Joy Brewer
LaRee Bruton
Dave Fitch
John Goodenberger

Ann Gydé
Carolyn Hammer
Beth La Fleur
Michelle Schmitter
Fred White
Melissa Yowell