



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.



Mark your
calendar!

FALL PROGRAM: McMENAMINS

"McMenamins" is a household word throughout Oregon and Washington; each of the establishments is well known as a great place to spend time with family and friends. Brothers Brian and Mike McMenamin humbly followed their hearts to a dream that began more than 20 years ago. They are now considered two of the pioneers of the Northwest microbrew and historic hotels industries. These creative geniuses love historic buildings and artwork and have learned to use both in their facilities.

Tim Hills, who has the enviable job of "Historian" for McMenamins, will be the guest speaker for our fall program and will present the McMenamins' story with a slide program. When a site is selected, it is Tim's responsibility to research the history of the designated site, the neighborhood, and the community. His careful research ensures that the unique and rich culture of the area is incorporated into each new facility. We'll see and hear how it all started and what makes it so successful. There will be time for questions, and of course, someone will ask the inevitable one: "Why don't you come to Astoria?" Don't miss this very special evening — **Wednesday, October 26, 7:00 p.m.** at the Heritage Museum, 16th and Exchange, Astoria.

GARDEN STRUCTURES

June Lake will present a review of garden structures—arbors, trellises, fences, pergolas—best suited for different styles of architecture. Those attending are welcome to bring photos of their completed projects or questions about upcoming projects. This presentation will be held **Saturday, August 20, 2005, from 10:00 a.m. until noon** in the Parker Gallery at the Heritage Museum, 1618 Exchange in Astoria.



Mark your
calendar!

OLD HOUSE FORUMS

by Kim Nurdling

There have been ten Old House Forums held to date. Thank you to our most recent hosts, Vity and Dian Kazlauskas, for sharing the history of their Craftsman home with our membership. The following information should be helpful in planning for your own Old House Forum:

1. Old House Forums are open to LCPS members only, are held on any given weekday evening, and last approximately two hours.
2. A large home is not required; LCPS members are asked to RSVP, and the number of guests can be limited upon request of the owner.
3. All stages of the home restoration process are welcome, from bare stud walls to finished projects!
4. An Old House Forum is not to be confused with a "home tour." Instead, it is an opportunity to share the history of the home, discuss a preservation topic of interest, or share a restoration project. The homeowners may highlight a room or area of the home, or offer an expanded tour at their discretion.
5. Some of our past Forums have included a video presentation of the home's history and occupants. One Forum showed a movie on a particular historical topic of interest. Others have graciously created a social atmosphere, serving cookies and hors d'oeuvres while gathering ideas. Each Forum has been unique and personal, from sharing tips on stripping wallpaper, to demonstrating how to cut marble, to hosting an informal discussion around the kitchen table.

Our membership is invited to consider hosting the next Forum. Contact Kim Nurdling at (503) 325-6273 or e-mail her at sfn@pacifier.com.

See page 2 for information about upcoming Old House Forums.



OLD HOUSE FORUMS



A "BIG RENOVATION PROJECT" IS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY ON THIS 1919 CRAFTSMAN BUNGALOW. WHAT IS REALLY UNDER THAT VINYL SIDING?

An Old House Forum will be held **Wednesday, July 20, 2005, at 6:30 p.m.** at 730 Lexington in Astoria, just off 8th Street. The original owner was Walter Stringham, Treasurer of the Astoria Land and Home Building Company. Current homeowner Irmin Roberts will walk us through his home and show us the challenges facing him. Interested in acquiring an 8' x 10' linoleum tile piece with a nursery rhyme theme? If you can figure out how to remove it, you can have it! An RSVP is a must, so call Kim Nurdning at (503) 325-6273 if you plan on attending. LCPS members only, please.

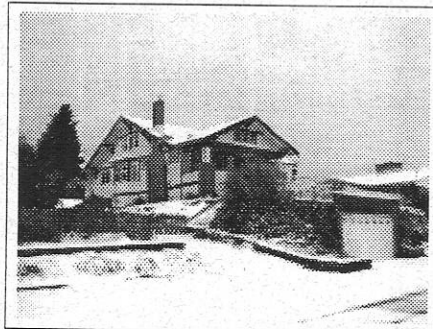


"MYSTERY HOUSE" OLD HOUSE FORUM

The Nels and Laura Jeldness house, located at 362 Kensington Avenue in Astoria, was built in 1918. Nels Jeldness is listed in the 1920 Polk Directory as the "County Roadmaster and Steam Shovel Operator." Apparently he had access to the steam shovel in his free time, for this house is rumored to have the longest tunnel in Astoria! The house makes a strong Craftsman statement and was exceptionally well built. A good thing, too, for it has survived two fires, the removal of structural elements, incredible temper tantrums, renters, and who knows what else!

The Jeldness House is currently in a state of transition, being mechanically and structurally sound, but "cosmetically challenged." Multiple projects are now underway, including restoring the fireplace, stripping woodwork, repairing plaster, painting, and stenciling. We invite LCPS members to come and marvel at the profoundly scatterbrained approach Kim and Josef are taking toward restoring this gem. It will be especially fun to hear some singing in the tunnel (any volunteers?) The Jeldness house is also occupied (owned?) by an entirely benevolent collie, who insists upon being included in all activities concerning her house and her people. (All joking aside, folks with allergies to pet dander and/or hair should be warned about this.)

The Old House Forum is set for **Wednesday, September 7, 2005, at 6:30 p.m.** at the home of Josef Gault and Kim Angelis, 362 Kensington Avenue, Astoria. An RSVP is a must to attend, so call Kim Nurdning at (503) 325-6273 if you plan on attending. LCPS members only, please.



Nels and Laura Jeldness House, January 2004.

WEB NEWS AND REVIEWS

By LaRee Johnson

As much as we love the old, sometimes the new technology can help us with preservation tips and ideas, resources, and support. In the coming issues of *Restoria*, I would like to acquaint those of you with computers to some resources you can check out. For this issue may I suggest www.PreservationDirectory.com, which is an online resource for historic preservation, building restoration, and cultural resource management in the United States and Canada. Their goal is to foster the preservation of historic buildings, historic downtowns and neighborhoods, and cultural resources, and to promote heritage tourism by facilitating communication among preservationists, historical societies, state and federal historic preservation offices, and the general public.

You can choose from among 20 categories to begin exploring the comprehensive resources available for historic and cultural preservation found on this website. If you are traveling, check this site for Historic Inns, House Museums, and Historic Tours; if you are looking for Historic Real Estate for Sale, there is a category listing (there is a Warrenton listing as of this writing). You can find Historic Societies, Educational Programs, Preservation Conferences, and Events, and there is a wonderful bookstore with historic and preservation reference materials. Check the category "Preservation Photo Gallery" for pictures of Astoria's historic buildings!

This site has some free listings for Events and for Historic Bed and Breakfasts, as well as business categories for a small yearly charge. I recommend this site for ease in locating resources, and I imagine it will be expanding as time goes on. Check it out!

If you have a favorite website resource, please send a review of the website to restoria@earthlink.net and we will share the information with other members.



Don't forget to check our website for updates:
www.lcpsweb.org

LCPS YEAR IN REVIEW

At the April annual meeting, the LCPS membership was treated to a preview of the restored Liberty Theater and an entertaining history of the restoration of the Elliott Hotel by Chester Trabucco. At that time our President, John Goodenberger, presented a recap of the LCPS accomplishments this past year. LCPS has offered informative programs, lectures, and workshops including "Historic Landscapes," "House Inspection," "Ins and Outs of Design Review," and two wood window workshops. Both window workshops were facilitated by Kevin Palo of window restoration fame in Astoria. One workshop was held at the home of Steve and Kim Nurdling, who graciously let us all cram into their dining and living rooms to work on a dining room window, and the other one was held at Shively Hall.

Our July 2004 Garden Tour had 305 attendees, with many new members joining at that time. We also debuted *Astoria on Film II*, enjoyed by more than 900 enthusiastic audience members at the historic Columbian Theater (Thanks, Jeanine and Uriah!). Other events included the Church Tour, the Historic Neighborhoods of Lower Columbia, and our regular Old House Forums, which included the John Hobson House, Andrew Young House, and the Turina House. Thanks to the owners for sharing their homes and stories!

Advocacy is another important aspect of LCPS and this year we supported the Shively-McClure Historic District with letters and a collection of signatures, we wrote a letter of support to the loan board for the repair of historic John Devlin House, we wrote a letter to the Pacific County Review Board supporting the retention of the original boundaries and design for Oysterville Historic District, and we wrote a letter of support for land use planning and opposing Measure 37.

Our projects for the past year have included the following activities: providing volunteers for scanning/organization of historic blueprints now available at the Clatsop County Historical Society, City Hall, and Astoria Public Library for residents to research their home's original design; assistance with documentation of John Wicks' blueprints; and sponsorship of the Preservation Leadership Training conference held in Astoria.

We have enjoyed three publications of *Restoria*, our newsletter made possible by contributions from our members. Please send your articles to LaRee at restoria@earthlink.net for publication. A special "thank you" to all the active members of LCPS who have enriched our experience with historic preservation.

RECAP: EXTERIOR PAINTING WORKSHOP

The exterior painting workshop was well attended and was both entertaining and informative. Chuck Hillestad, an attorney practicing in Cannon Beach, started the program with a talk about the importance of contracts when having work done on your home, the pitfalls of hiring unlicensed contractors, strategies for timing of payments, and related stories of problems he has dealt with when clients proceed without adequate contractual protection.

John and Ada Anne Wolcott, owners of an historic home in Astoria, provided a very comprehensive packet of information about their experience and knowledge gained during the three-year process of having their home's exterior lead-based paint safely removed. They also stressed the importance of sealing the bare wood surfaces before applying primer and paint and the significance of testing the moisture content of the surface to be painted. They answered many questions from the audience and provided a lively question and answer session after the program ended.

June Lake demonstrated an environmentally friendly paint stripping technique using the Silent Paint Remover (www.silentpaintremover.com). Infrared heat is used to warm the paint to the point it can be scraped off easily. The low operating temperature prevents the release of hazardous gases from lead-based paint. It can be safely used without a protective mask. John Wolcott also demonstrated his effective paint removal technique using a variable temperature heat gun (Milwaukee model 8977-20) and a putty knife. Wear a respirator if working with paint applied earlier than 1978.

Since the workshop, June has located a water-based sealer similar to the discontinued product that the Wolcotts used on their project. Woodlife Classic Clear Wood Preservative, produced by the Zinsser Company, is available locally for around \$10 per gallon.

The handouts provided by Chuck Hillestad and by John and Ada Anne Wolcott are available on our website, www.lcpsweb.org, under Resources, in the Archives section.

DR. HARVEY AWARDS

Congratulations to the 2005 winners of the Dr. Harvey Awards. Each year, the City of Astoria's Historic Landmarks Commission recognizes the work of property owners who have restored or renovated their buildings in the spirit of Dr. Edward Harvey, an early preservationist. Recipients received recognition and a framed certificate from the Astoria City Council in May, National Historic Preservation Month.

Residential award winners included Matthew Stadler and Kasha Kavanaugh for their work on 1135 Grand Avenue. Honorable Mention was awarded to Vity and Dian Kazlauskas for the work on their home at 531 35th Street. Commercial awards were shared by Sunset Empire Transportation District for renovating the Transit Center at 918 Marine Drive and by Clatsop Community Action for restoring their new office at 364 9th Street.

Bruce Berney received a special Outstanding Citizen Award for his lifetime dedication to historic preservation. Bruce has worked tirelessly in Astoria for nearly 40 years. Bruce was Astoria's first Preservation Officer and helped found and chair the Historic Sites and Buildings Commission (now renamed the Historic Landmarks Commission). As librarian for the Astoria Public Library he helped coordinate the Astoriana section, which houses historic books and manuscripts. The newspaper index was his idea. He also directed a CETA volunteer, who used old telephone directories to match hundreds of addresses with the names listed in the phonebook. Now an address can be looked up and a person can find out who lived there between 1896 and 1925. Bruce also restored houses, including the Judge Charles Page house owned by his mother. Recognition of his good works is certainly well deserved.



LCPS WEBSITE NOSTALGIC CARD SERVICE

There is a fun new feature at the LCPS website! You can now create and send an historic e-card to your friends to celebrate holidays and special occasions. This is a free service for LCPS members only. To access this new feature, go to www.lcpsweb.org/ecards.html, leave "member" in the username box, and type "preservation" in the password box. You will be guided from there on how to create

and send your card. This may also be a fun way to tell friends about LCPS and encourage them to become new members!

The photos are from historic local postcards that were scanned into the system. There are currently 11 cards to choose from and it would be great if we could add more! If you have any photos or postcards in your collection that you think may make nice e-cards, please send scanned copies of them to webmaster@lcpweb.org.

NATIONAL PRESERVATION CONFERENCE IN PORTLAND THIS FALL

by Todd Scott, Astoria Director of Community Development

The National Trust for Historic Preservation will be holding its annual preservation conference at the Hilton Portland, beginning September 27. The conference provides a great opportunity for local preservationists to learn about innovative ideas for rehabilitation of historic structures; for preservationists, architects, and planners to get additional training; or for community leaders, volunteers, and staff to network with others involved in historic preservation. It's a terrific opportunity to learn from both the experts and the non-experts, and it's ideal for people like LCPS members who want to learn more about the little things in preservation. The theme for the conference is "Sustain America —Vision, Economics, and Preservation." The conference runs through October 2.

The conference features preservation workshops, educational seminars, and field sessions that exemplify adaptive reuse, infill, and cultural heritage. This year one of the field sessions will be held in Astoria. Participants will be bussed to our community for a day tour of significant preservation projects.

Advance registration is \$295 for the full conference, including the national preservation awards ceremony and opening reception. After July 31, registration is \$355. The conference also includes the Resource Center, an exhibit hall featuring preservation vendors and a preservation bookstore. The National Preservation Conference is always a great opportunity to learn more about historic and cultural resources. Last year it was held in Louisville, and next year it will be in Pittsburgh, so this is a rare opportunity to attend at a venue so close to home.

For more information you can visit their website at www.nthpconference.org. If you have any interest in attending, plan ahead now and take advantage of the advance registration. Hope to see an LCPS presence there!



WHAT IS YOUR "PQ?"

by Kim Angelis

What's your Preservationist Quotient? Take this simple quiz and find out! But be warned: under no circumstance is this test to be taken seriously! The opinions subtly expressed within are not necessarily those of the LCPS Board or membership; they feebly originated in the zany mind of the test's creator. Additionally, the scenarios presented were all lovingly and cheerfully suggested by the author's 1918 Craftsman home (give credit where credit is due!) Now, with all that business out of the way, let's sharpen our pencils and take the PQ Pop Quiz! Simply select the answer that best describes what you would do with the given situation, given your druthers. No thinking, please!

1. You have just purchased your "new" old house. Upon closer inspection of the upstairs rooms, you discover that vinyl windows have replaced the original wood frame Prairie Style windows. You:

- a) are thrilled, and quickly call your nearest Milgard dealer to have all the downstairs windows replaced as well.
- b) disguise the vinyl windows with frothy lace curtains and let them be.
- c) do your research, and order the highest quality wood frame windows, custom made to match the originals.
- d) become so incensed at the sight of those wretched vinyls that you immediately remove them (with a certain amount of restrained violence), cover the openings with plywood, and spend all of your free time combing the salvage yards, hoping to stumble across your missing antique windows. Never mind if the sash is rotten!

2. The interior walls have all been painted Navajo White. You:

- a) panel the walls so they'll never need painting again.
- b) repaint the rooms bright, cheerful, up-to-date colors.
- c) research historically appropriate interior decoration schemes, and select the period paint and/or wallpaper that is the most aesthetically pleasing to you.
- d) carefully scrape away the layers of paint until you find the original colors. The living room and dining room were first painted a peculiar olive green; you meticulously duplicate this pigment. Every time you set foot in these rooms, you feel like you're choking on a platter of overcooked asparagus, but that's OK!

3. The ornately detailed, exceptionally beautiful woodwork has also been painted Navajo White. You:

- a) remove all the molding, baseboard, and trim. The woodwork was in the way of the paneling.
- b) paint the millwork a bright white that really stands out against the happy yellow walls.

c) learn the art of *faux bois*, and paint the wood to look like — wood!

d) decide to remove all five layers of paint with organic, nontoxic Soy Gel. Every night you strip, while singing along to your favorite violin concerti. After two years of such activity, you can hit high Cs with such piercing accuracy that the paint begins to peel at the mere sound of your voice.

4. The fireplace has been bricked in and painted — you guessed it! — Navajo White. You:

- a) cover the fireplace with River Rock Contact Paper.
- b) have the bricks removed from the fireplace opening, and install a natural gas fireplace insert.
- c) remove the offending bricks, install a natural gas insert, and strip the remaining original bricks of their white paint.
- d) discover that the chimney is completely unsafe, so you rip down the entire thing — chimney, fireplace, and mantle — and rebuild it, using only the original bricks, which have all been numbered, of course.

5. The kitchen cabinets have no doors. Some 30 years ago, an enraged former occupant yanked the cupboard doors off their hinges and threw them out the window. For the past three decades, no one has done a thing about it. You:

- a) surprise everyone, and opt for the \$100,000 custom kitchen. This requires the addition of a 16' x 20' Great Room, with cathedral ceilings and a pool table.
- b) tastefully remodel the kitchen with Craftsman style cabinets and granite countertops.
- c) research old-house kitchens, and decide that you could stomach a 1940s-style kitchen, which you faithfully recreate, right down to the fabulous O'Keefe & Merritt stove.
- d) insist upon restoring the kitchen to its original 1918 ambiance, including freestanding cupboard, sink, and wood stove. Unfortunately, the ice man no longer cometh.

6. You have just had the lovely fir floors resanded and refinished. While moving the baby grand piano, you put an ugly gouge in your floor. You:

- a) never had the floors refinished. They're covered with orange shag carpeting.
- b) cover the scar with an area rug.
- c) replace the damaged floor boards with flooring found at a salvage yard.



(continued from page 5)

d) will restore the floors as your final project. Meanwhile, you consider the marks and scuffs of age "patina," and you can never have enough patina!

7. The plaster on the dining room ceiling is water stained and cracking. You:

a) have an acoustic "popcorn" ceiling, complete with sparkles, sprayed on. You really can't get enough of that "cottage cheese" look, so you coat all the ceilings in the house with the stuff.

b) discreetly install 1/4" sheet rock on the ceiling, and have it textured to match the plaster walls.

c) repair the cracks and damaged areas before applying historic reproduction ceiling paper (a la Bradbury & Bradbury!)

d) go to Ukraine to learn the lost art of plastering. What a trip!

8. The upper floor of your house was originally an enormous attic. In 1955, the attic was converted into a living space of two large bedrooms and a bath. The rooms — moldings, light fixtures, decor — are pure 1950s "on the cheap." You:

a) love it!! It inspires your downstairs decorating! After all, the upstairs is now 50 years old and historic.

b) take advantage of the space, gut it entirely, and transform it into an amazing Master Suite, with "his 'n her" walk-in closets, a six-person Jacuzzi tub, and push-button fireplace #2.

c) remove the orange shag carpet, cheap paneling, trim, etc., and get to work. You freshen up the rooms with new carpeting, paint, and paper. You replace the woodwork, doors, hardware, lighting, and bath fixtures with Craftsman-style materials, either salvage or reproduction. You do your best to make the second floor integrate seamlessly with the original first floor.

d) rip out the entire second floor, including the well-built staircase, and return it to its original attic condition, complete with knob and tube wiring and a trap door.

9. The back porch has been ensconced in T1-11 siding and aluminum sliders. Attached to this is an oddly shaped deck. You:

a) already obliterated the porch and deck in the kitchen remodel. They were swallowed up by the Great Room.

b) replace the sliders with classy French doors, and deck the deck in a gorgeous array of potted plants.

c) think that enclosing the porch was not a bad idea, as the basement is accessed via this porch, and it makes a nice little mud room. But you replace the T1-11 siding with cedar shingles that match the rest of the house, and replace the aluminum sliders with multi-paned antique windows. You completely remove the deck, as it is not historically appropriate to the house. In its place, you plant a small Japanese garden.

d) demolish the deck and the porch enclosure. You restore the

back porch to its original open configuration. You heap the wet jackets, shoes, and boots in the kitchen, and avoid going down to the basement on horizontal rain days.

10. Your house is starting to settle and sink into the soft soil. The floor is gently undulating, the cracks in the plaster are getting bigger, and some doors don't shut as well as they used to. You:

a) don't notice any problems. The floor is a blissful sea of orange, the walls are a beautiful brown forest, and you removed most of the doors, as they were in your way.

b) decide that "enough's enough!" and put the house on the market, making a full disclosure, of course. Within hours of doing so, a furious bidding war erupts.

c) consult a structural engineer, who informs you that there really isn't much of a problem — your foundation is in relatively good shape, and a certain amount of sagging is to be expected with age. (Don't we all know that!) So you let your marbles roll where they may, gently sand a few of the doors, and fantasize about how good that Arts and Crafts wallpaper would look in all the rooms.

d) decide that it's time for a session of "jack 'n crack" (no, not Cracker Jack!). You put your old-time water level, 12-ton jacks, and heavy (recycled!) timber to work. Days later, your floors are as flat and smooth as an ice rink, your doors swing freer than Jimmy Dorsey, and your walls have more cracks than a sidewalk in Astoria. Good thing you took that trip to Ukraine!

At last! It's time to tally your score and determine your PQ! For each "a" answer you selected, score one point. Give yourself two points for "b" answers, three points for "c"s, and four points for each "d."

Total 10 to 17 points? So sorry! You are a Fully Committed Remuddler, possibly related to a Troglodyte, and your creditors are coming to take you away. . . .

Score 18 to 25 points? You are a Savvy Renovator. Your project is finished and your once starving bank account is sleek and fat. Savvy, savvy, savvy!

26 to 33 points? You are a Dedicated Preservationist. You respect the historic integrity of your house, and often enhance its livability. But there's a hole in your pocket where your wallet used to be, and the projects will never end. (Say, when can we tour your house?)

34 to 40 points? You are a Fully Committed Restorationist. The National Park Service is looking for you. So are your friends and family, they're coming to take you away. . . .

For those who must know, the author's PQ is 34. She can be found down on the ol' funny farm, peacefully chewing on back issues of *American Bungalow* and *Old-House Journal*.



BIDDING TIDBITS

by Steve Nurning

I had a recent experience with some contractors that I want to pass on to the LCPS membership. I got into a project that was just too much work for me, and I needed to hire a contractor. I started making phone calls to arrange walk throughs. (I am withholding the nature of the project from this article because you would know the contractors if I were to divulge the craft.) Within a few days I had talked with many contractors and made appointments with four of them. Two of these contractors have excellent reputations in our community. Two of them were unknown to me.

A little background first. I am frequently involved in contractor and equipment procurement negotiations where I work. I also have extensive experience and training at the best School of Negotiation in existence: garage sales. I therefore was only slightly surprised when two of these contractors (coincidentally the ones with excellent reputations) asked who else was bidding on the job. I replied that yes, I was getting competitive bids, but I didn't think it was a good idea for me to reveal the names of the other bidders. Dirty looks and scowls. I remember one fellow rattling off the names of his competitors, watching me for a reaction while making comments about how the other contractors were likely to bid. I found his information to be very useful and a good way to learn the names of other contractors to consider!

The outcome was that one of the "excellent reputation" contractors (someone you all know) didn't even turn in a bid when he found out that this was a competitive bidding situation. The other "excellent reputation" contractor did turn in a bid, but he was high by a considerable margin. The bid we accepted provided references that we checked carefully, and in the end we were very satisfied.

The experience made me believe that there must be plenty of people in Astoria who do not get competitive bids. Or if they do, they "show their cards" right from the start. All of these craftsmen know what their competitors charge. When you tell contractors whom they are bidding against, then you are really missing out on an opportunity for considerable savings. I would also add that it is not a good practice to tell a bidder how high or low he was, regardless of whether he is the successful bidder or not. For example, if a successful bidder knows for a fact that he was \$1,000 lower than his nearest competitor, then he now knows that he left \$1,000 sitting on the table that could have gone into his pocket. He'll be more likely to have a bad attitude

about the project or leave you with a quality problem if he knows that he could have made an extra \$995.

Yes, contractors might get frustrated with you if you won't give them extra information. But I can assure you that you will not lose their respect if you "hold your cards close," and you will save money, too.

COTTAGE TOWN

by Jill Grady

Cannon Beach, Oregon, is a true beach cottage town. It is filled with hundreds of vintage cottages that quietly complement rather than compete with the spectacular natural surroundings. Quietly dispersed along the beach, the town's cottages authentically reflect their origins. They were built to house summer vacationers. A primitive road from Seaside to Cannon Beach was opened in 1891 and vacationers began to arrive that first summer. Over the next several decades, property owners built summer residence cottages, as well as rental cottages for profit. Since then, beach cottages have sustained the local economy. Many of the earliest cottages remain and continue to serve as the retreats of choice for generations of summer residents and weekend visitors.

The City of Cannon Beach lacks a formal preservation plan, despite ordinances that state in part: "The city will encourage the preservation of older housing stock," and "The City, in conjunction with the Cannon Beach Historical Society, should establish a voluntary program for protecting buildings with local historic merit." Actual preservation of the town's cottage heritage has been accomplished by default. Initially, growth and change were slow due to inaccessibility. After the road to Cannon Beach was improved, economic setbacks in tourism, such as the depression and WWII, created a forced preservation of many of the early cottages. Today, preservation is accomplished solely through the determination and custodial awareness of individual cottage owners. Most resist "big" and "new" as design choices, choosing instead to repeat the historic values of their cottage town. Each September, the Cannon Beach Historical Society acknowledges the cottage owners' contribution to the community by sponsoring the annual Cottage Tour. This year's tour will be **Saturday, September 10, 2005.**

OYSTERVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT THREATENED

by Rob Freed, Vice-Chair, Oysterville Restoration Foundation

Encompassing 80 acres near the north end of the Long Beach Peninsula in Washington State, the Oysterville Historic District was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1976. With its population having peaked at about 900 residents in the 1880s, the once bustling town went into steep decline after native oysters were over harvested and the once-profitable industry collapsed. Since then, the Oysterville Historic District has remained a bucolic sleepy little village on the edge of Willapa Bay with 14 permanent residents and a great collection of historic structures exhibiting rural gothic, Victorian, cottage, and vernacular architectural elements.

However, recent events may portend significant changes to this outstanding historic district. In October 2004, the Pacific County Planning staff was informed a mobile home had been placed within the very southern end of the County Historic District, which surrounds the National Register District and serves as a protective buffer to the village core. The staff evidently allowed placement of the home without realizing the parcel was located within the County Historic District, thereby failing to have the design of the proposed structure submitted to the Oysterville Design Review Board (ODRB). The ODRB, which was established by county ordinance, reviews applications for all proposed structural modifications to existing buildings as well as all new building construction. After realizing what had happened, Mike DeSimone (Director, Pacific County Planning Department) freely admitted, "We dropped the ball."

Well, not only did Mr. DeSimone drop the ball, now he wants to lower the ax. The county planning staff eventually scheduled a meeting in January 2005 with ODRB and Oysterville Restoration Foundation (ORF) representatives, Oysterville residents, and County Commissioner Bud Cuffel. However, no middle ground was achieved. The county suggested changing the historic district boundary so the home would no longer be located within the district or allowing a variance to permit the as-is home. Neither option was acceptable to ODRB, which countered with suggestions for the county to either remove the home from the district or to hire an architect to attempt to retrofit the mobile home to comply with design guidelines. The county rejected both options as too costly but agreed to continue collaboration with attendees to develop a solution.

The next "communication" came from Mr. DeSimone on March 30, 2005, in a legal notice for a public workshop on April 18 with the County Planning Commission who would discuss and forward recommendations to the County Commissioners to act upon at a public hearing on May 5, 2005. In the legal notice, Mr. DeSimone offered four alternatives for the Planning

Commission to consider. Three involved variations of eliminating the County Historic District and making the design review guidelines voluntary. The fourth alternative was to leave the design review process in place, but "procedural clarifications" would be necessary.

On a very short notice, ORF and Oysterville residents (and, of course, friends of Oysterville) generated a grassroots effort to solicit numerous letters and support from various groups and individuals in order to save the historic district from attempts to adversely affect the protections afforded by the design review process. Pro-preservation articles, letters to the editor, and editorials appeared in area newspapers (including the *Daily Astorian*). Prior to the workshop, the county received more than 30 letters, including those from the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation, National Trust for Historic Preservation, Washington State Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, and the Lower Columbia Preservation Society. The public support for retaining the integrity of the historic district was overwhelming.

At the April workshop, the county planning staff reluctantly relented from their original agenda, only after the County Planning Commission suggested delaying the hearing process so all parties could meet to resolve the issues in a more collaborative manner. Only then would a recommendation be forwarded to the county commissioners, if necessary. Representatives from the Planning Commission, ORF, and ODRB met informally earlier in May to discuss the issues; however, the Pacific County Planning staff has yet to hold a meeting to initiate the collaboration process. In addition, the mobile home remains in place and is currently occupied.

The immediate assault on the Oysterville Historic District appears to have been diverted for the time being. Preservation issues remain to be resolved, but Oysterville residents—while ever vigilant—are hopeful that a mutually agreeable solution will be developed. Further efforts will surely be required to preserve this historic jewel. Oysterville is most appreciative of the support that has been provided by all and particularly by the LCPS Board.

We thank you very much.



KUDOS

To **John Goodenberger**, for his contribution to saving the Astoria city blueprints and making them available to Astoria citizens.

To **Bill Lind** and **Gin Laughery**, for the stunning paint job on their downtown buildings at 12th and Commercial in Astoria.

To **Liberty Restoration, Inc.**, for the restoration and rehabilitation of the Liberty Theater in Astoria.

To **Susan Bryant**, for the expansion of our LCPS website, and for the exciting nostalgic card feature (see the article about this feature in this issue of *Restoria*).

Submissions:

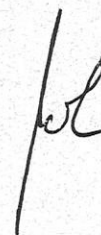
Do you have an idea for an article or a "kudos," or have an item of historic interest you would like to sell? Please send your ideas, articles, or ads to restoria@earthlink.net. Classified ads, which are free, are available to members only and must be related to restoration/renovation.

CLASSIFIEDS

For Sale: Antique "Majestic" Kitchen Stove. Half of the stove has four electric burners and the other half uses wood or coal. The stove has an oven plus a water heating system that sends stove-heated water into a storage tank. Stove, water tank, hoses, and exhaust pipe are included. Model # DL-31H, serial # D5207126. \$500 or best offer, you pick up. Will trade for plumbing help. (503) 325-9556

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR *by John Goodenberger*

The Lower Columbia Preservation Society recently received memorials in remembrance of Anthony "Tony" Stramiello, Jr. The board is deeply honored by the generosity of his family and friends. We believe establishing an endowment fund with these gifts is a fitting tribute to Tony. The board also believes an endowment fund is one more step toward stability and longevity. We will not spend the donations made to the endowment. Instead, we will use the interest to fund special projects or board-designated missions. We are currently developing endowment and gift-giving policies to ensure all donated money is handled professionally and mindfully. If you would like to donate money to the Lower Columbia Preservation Society, please call our treasurer, Jewel Benford at (503) 325-0292. Jewel will gladly discuss our policy, what your investment can mean to our organization, and how you can be a part of our mission to the preserve the history and architecture of the Lower Columbia region.



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="checkbox"/> Advocacy | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter | |

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

LOWER COLUMBIA PRESERVATION SOCIETY

PO Box 1334
Astoria, OR 97103

Lower Columbia Preservation Society Current Board Of Directors:

John Goodenberger, Chair

Pamela Alegria

Kim Angelis

Jewel Benford

Susan Bryant

Jill Grady

Ann Gydé

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