

Preserving Forest Grove

Newsletter of the Historic Landmarks Board

Local Historic Hotels

Drive or ride a train to a great vacation or weekend getaway . . .

Are you thinking of going away at all for the holidays? If you are like a lot of people, you may choose to stay closer to home since the terrible events of September 11th. With that in mind we thought we'd share some information on Historic

Whether you are searching for a relaxing getaway in the country, a fun-filled urban jaunt, a few days at the beach or a delightful spa, there is a Historic Hotels of America (HHA) property for you. Combining historic character and ambiance, members of HHA offer what other hotels cannot - the latest in modern amenities and a sense of place.

Members of Historic Hotels of America represent the ritage and development of America, in settings that range from the rustic countryside to refined urban centers and everything in between. To be accepted into Historic Hotels of America, hotels must be located in a building that is at least 50 years old and listed in, or eligible for, the National Register of Historic Places or recognized locally as having historic significance.

The National Trust established Historic Hotels of America in 1989 to identify quality hotels that have faithfully maintained their historic integrity, architecture and ambiance. Membership in HHA has grown from 32 charter members to the current 171 hotels and resorts. Hotels are located in 42 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, range in size from eight to 1,407 rooms and charge from \$49 to \$15,000 per night.

We gathered some specific information about hotels in Oregon and Washington. If you want more information please visit the website at: <http://www.nationaltrust.org/historic-hotels/list.asp>

To make a Historic Hotels reservation, please call 1-800-678-8946. Each time you use this toll-free number, three percent of your room cost is donated back to the National Trust - at no additional cost to you.

OREGON:

Governor Hotel: 611 SW 10th St., member since 1997
Portland's Lewis & Clark Exposition of 1905 marked the .0th anniversary of the pair's cross country expedition and it prompted a local boom, which included building a grand new hotel four years later. The Seward Hotel-later renamed The Governor Hotel-opened in 1909 as one of America's last "handmade" buildings, its Arts and Crafts character found

in its exterior detailing and interior furnishings. In the lobby, Lewis and Clark's journals provided the inspiration for the rustic décor, including the large murals that trace their 8,000-mile journey. The rich, wooded textures of the Northwest that create the warm atmosphere of an urban lodge give way to Italian Renaissance styles in the hotel's 1923 addition, The Princeton building, which is loosely designed after the Farnese Palace in Rome.

Heathman Hotel: 1001 SW Broadway, member since 1992
Built in 1927, the Italian Renaissance-inspired Heathman Hotel was the toast of Broadway-Portland, Oregon, style-with a clientele of entertainment luminaries, lumber barons and railroad magnates. It remains a popular center of activity, and the hotel's dramatic public spaces of marble, granite and teak provide a sophisticated setting for its extensive art collection. A prominent supporter of the city's cultural and fine arts community, the hotel has on display pieces ranging from 18th-century French canvases to Andy Warhol's famed Endangered Species and Wild West series of silkscreens. The Heathman Hotel has long been a favorite of writers, musicians, actors, and artists, and each guest room features original works by Northwest artists.

WASHINGTON:

Paradise Inn, Mt. Rainier national park, P.O. Box 108 Ashford, WA, member since 1997

In the early 1900s, there was a need for lodging to service visitors to the higher elevations in Mt. Rainier National Park. A corporation of local businessmen from Tacoma was formed in 1916 to begin construction on Paradise Inn. It was built in 1917 from Alaskan cedar resurrected from a devastating forest fire. Hand-hewn furniture and two large stone fireplaces in the lobby convey the inn's rustic charm to guests immediately upon arrival. The original 33 guestrooms were offered without bath and are still available to guests. In the early 1920s, the Annex was added, providing accommodations with private baths. The inn was threatened with demolition in the 1950s, but a public outpouring of protest eventually led to a major renovation in 1979. Today, the inn welcomes visitors to the great beauty and scenic grandeur of Mt. Rainier from mid-May to early October.

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Restoring an Old House?

Scott Rogers shares some hints on where to find the materials you need.

In a perfect world, the turn-of-the-century house you call home would have all of its original woodwork and fixtures – picture rail unpainted, door knobs intact. However, for most of us (including myself), the original details are either badly in need of repair or have long since disappeared. As a house is remodeled and the attention is turned to the finer details, the question invariably arises: how do you recreate that original old-fashioned charm? Where can you find the four panel doors, or the Victorian gingerbread for the front porch? You have two options – buy it new, or buy it salvage.

If you opt for salvage, you have several excellent options within the Portland Metro area. One of the best known is Rejuvenation, located in SE Portland. Rejuvenation specializes in reproduction period lighting, but also offers other items for residential renovation. The place is massive, half of the first level being dedicated to salvage and offering a wide variety of moldings, doors, hardware and lights to fit just about any historic house.

In addition to Rejuvenation, there are two other great sources for salvage in town – Hippo Hardware off of East Burnside, and the Portland Rebuilding Center in North Portland. Hippo is not for the faint of heart – shelves are cluttered, aisles require you to be nimble just to move around but they have a lot of unique items, particularly relating to plumbing or bath. The Rebuilding Center also carries a little of everything – the center is designed to keep construction and demolition debris out of landfills, so it is always a mixed bag. You can find old fir 2x10 framing members right next to hollow core-doors.

If you have already checked out the various salvage centers, and just decided that new is for you, then my first recommendation is located right in downtown Forest Grove - Parr Lumber. While Parr may carry a wide range of products designed for new residential construction, they also have access to catalogs – go in, ask any of the staff behind the counter and they'll prove it to you. Under that front counter are stacks of catalogs and resource books, from a vast array of companies specializing in doors, trim, siding, anything associated with an old house. Some items are in stock, such as the picture rail, while others can be ordered. Parr is usually my first stop not only for the items that they can order but for the customer service that is lacking in a lot of other companies.

What if Parr doesn't stock it, and they can't find it in their library of catalogs? Depends on what you are searching for. Millwork? Try McCoy Stair and Millwork in SE Portland. While McCoy's showroom isn't much, the books behind the counter are impressive – every type of trim, baluster, post, or rail seems to be available through them. How about miscellaneous, the handle on that bathroom cabinet, or the handle on your back door? Check out Winks Hardware, recently relocated to SE Portland, just down under the Morrison Bridge.

While I am certain that there are many places I haven't listed here, the ones I have mentioned are those that I have either discovered on my own or checked out via recommendation. Which leads me to my final point – half the fun in living in an old house is having an excuse to visit these stores in the first place.

Clark Historic District Update

We're all very excited here on the Forest Grove Historic Landmarks Board, on October 29th the state historic review board voted to send our proposed Clark District on to the Federal Government with a recommendation to make it a National Historic District.

It's been two years since we started the survey work for the application and about 10 since the board dreamed of even creating a district in Forest Grove. We expect to hear back from the federal review board sometime in January. If they approve the district we will become the first national historic district in Washington county. There are currently about 85 national historic districts in the state and hopefully we will be added to the ranks come January. Look for another update soon.

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Endangered Movie Theaters across the US

We wanted to revisit the National Trust for Historic Preservation's 2001 list of America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places, which since 1998 has identified more than 120 threatened, one-of-a-kind historic treasures. One of the 11 properties featured is the old American movie theater . . .

Act One: Since the birth of the motion picture era more than a century ago, millions of Americans have flocked to downtown theaters for the latest films. Historic theaters were designed to transport audiences to fanciful, faraway places with their Art Deco, Egyptian and Chinese motifs, bringing a unique dimension to the moviegoing experience.

Act Two: The multiplex is born. Movie studios gain influence over distribution companies, helping determine which theaters run their films; often, independent, historic theaters are left out of the loop. Many are forced to close, often demolished in the face of staggering competition from suburban multiplexes. Downtowns suffer at the loss of these Main Street anchors. Hundreds of these irreplaceable cinemas have been demolished, and more close every year.

Because multi-screen chain theaters can show more movies to smaller audiences, they don't need a full house to make a profit. Historic movie theaters, which have higher operating costs, typically have hundreds or even thousands of seats per screen. When the theater isn't full, it's harder to viable. The sheer size of large theater chains influences movie distribution, so independent theaters generally don't have much clout in obtaining the profitable blockbusters that would fill the house.

However, independent historic movie theaters can be profitable for distribution companies because they seat many more people per screen and keep a smaller percentage of the profits than do multiplexes. But access to first-run movies is essential to their success.

If a theater must close, it doesn't have to be demolished. Adaptive reuse can save a theater while finding a new use for the space – but reuse must be approached carefully to make it possible for the theater to be returned one day to its original use. Theaters are often adapted as performing arts

centers, live entertainment venues, nightclubs and even churches. Such uses can honor the theaters' heritage and keep the buildings centers of community life.

Some historic movie theaters fighting the multiplex trend are:

Historic Theaters of San Francisco - Since 1980, a staggering 35 single-screen theaters have closed in this city; those that remain open face uncertain futures as new multiplexes dominate the market. Other venues that have already closed are widely considered white elephants, although much of their splendor remains intact. The situation in San Francisco illustrates the perilous state of single-screen theaters nationwide.

The Rogers Theater, Shelby, N.C. (1936) - Considered one of North Carolina's finest historic theaters, the Rogers is owned by its founder's son and anchors one end of Shelby's main street. It has been dark since 1986, but preservationists hope to see it reborn as a performing arts center.

The Capitol Theater, Burlington, Iowa (1937) - One of the most modern and luxurious theaters of its time, the Capitol symbolized hope for Burlington in the darkest days of the Depression. Its stunning Art Deco façade is the most significant remaining element, as its 700 seats have been removed and the structure has become unstable. The Capitol fell victim to competition from a nearby multiplex and was mothballed in 1977.

The Senator Theater, Baltimore, Md. (1939) - This 900-seat landmark anchors the Govantowne neighborhood and has been owned by the same family since it opened. In 1991, USA Today ranked the Senator as one of the four best movie theaters in the nation. It has been on the verge of closure for the past year due to competition.

Here in Forest Grove we have two theaters both of which were movie theaters and only one of which is in still open. The old Grove Theater is now the Theatre in the Grove and supports local live theater. The movie theater shut down a few years ago . . .

Welcoming New Members to the Forest Grove Historic Landmarks Board

My name is Ralf Busby and I joined the Historic Landmarks Board in June of 2001. I was born and grew up in Germany, where I was able to travel through most of Europe. As a young adult I moved to the United States where I became a resident of Oregon. Because I enjoyed Forest Grove's heritage and small town character, I made it my home for the past two years. My background is in mechanical engineering, manufacturing engineering and project management. Currently I have my own consulting firm and I also work as a volunteer firefighter for the Forest Grove Fire and Rescue department.

I am what you would consider an amateur historian. History always fascinated me and I hope that I will be able to make a difference while serving on the Historic Landmark Board. If we know and understand our past we will be able to use the present in order to create a solid path for our future. I consider it an honor to serve my community and to be part of the Forest Grove Historic Landmarks Board. I anticipate learning a great deal about the city, the people in it and the challenges that come with the preservation of our history.

Joining the Landmarks Board last July is Monty Smith. Monty is no stranger to historic homes; he grew up in a 1932 Craftsman in SE Portland, and later restored the Roberts house in Old Town (2303 15th Ave). More recently, he purchased the Stephen and Parthenia Blank House (aka the Old Stagecoach Stop) at 2117 A St and is currently restoring that. "Working on a house that's on both the local and national registers has been quite interesting.

I've found both the city and SHPO (State Historic Preservation Office) quite accommodating, and getting a Special Assessment to freeze the property taxes based upon the restoration will help make this more affordable".

Monty has enjoyed the challenges of older homes, but also loves how preserving them brings a sense of lasting personality to the community "Working on the Historic Landmarks Board lets me contribute to more than just my little piece. I enjoy learning about, and helping guide the preservation of historic Forest Grove."

The Forest Grove Historic Landmarks Board

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Preserving Forest Grove is a quarterly newsletter published by the Forest Grove Historic Landmarks Board to help fulfill its duty of public education regarding the preservation of cultural resources. If you would like to be on the mailing list, please call James Reitz at 992-3233.

The Forest Grove Historic Landmarks Board Grant Program . . . is your house on our local register? If it is did you know that your house is eligible for restoration/rehabilitation grant funding? The Historic Landmarks Board has funds to give your house. If you are planning any exterior restoration work such as painting, restoring a porch or replacing a roof OR if you have structural work to do such a foundation repair. We'd love to help. We fund projects at 50% of the value of the job up to a limit of \$1,000 per grant. Come see us! We can also help you find historically appropriate solutions to any problems you may have.

Local Historic Hotels

WASHINGTON HOTELS (continued from page 1)

Rosario Resort, 1400 Rosario Way, Eastsound, WA, member since 1998

Located in Washington's beautiful San Juan Islands in Puget Sound, Rosario Resort has long been a favorite getaway for residents of the Pacific Northwest. Set on thirty acres overlooking Cascade Bay, Rosario Resort is reached by seaplane, ferry, or private vessel. The resort's centerpiece is the Moran Mansion built in 1909 as a family retreat. The teak and mahogany mansion houses the resort's restaurants, lounge, spa, historical museum, and famed music room featuring an Aeolian 1,972-pipe organ and Steinway grand piano. Whale watching, sea kayaking, sailing, rain forest hiking, diving, and cycling are among the many activities available.

Mayflower Park Hotel, 405 Olive Way, Seattle, WA 98101, member since 1998

Built in 1927 as the Bergonian, the Mayflower Park is the oldest restored hotel in continuous operation in downtown Seattle. High ceilings, stained glass windows and a magnificent five-tier crystal chandelier contribute to the feeling of old-world charm. Small touches such as the two-hundred-year-old grandfather clock and English Regency breakfront in the lobby create the ambiance of a small European hotel. The Mayflower Park's facade is renowned for its unique terra cotta detailing, recognized as some of the finest in Seattle. Centrally located in the heart of downtown, the hotel opens to the Westlake Center and its eighty specialty shops and restaurants.

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