

Preserving Forest Grove

Newsletter of the Historic Landmarks Board

All Previous Newsletters Now Archived on the Web!

The newsletter was started in 1996 and since 2004 all newsletters were posted on the website, but none of the issues between 1996 and 2003 were available except in paper form through the city office. Now all newsletters are archived online in PDF format and are available for you to download. The archive can be accessed at the City of Forest Grove site (www.forestgrove-or.gov) and navigating to the Historic Landmarks Board pages, or by going directly to www.forestgrove-or.gov/city-hall/historic-landmarks-board-current-a-past-newsletters.html. All newsletters are of modest size (< 1 MB), so they should be quick to download, and are formatted as separate 8 1/2 x 11 pages for ease of printing.

Gems From Past Newsletters

Restoring & Maintaining Double Hung Windows (Summer and Winter 2002)

There have been four helpful articles about restoring wood windows, and these are two of the earliest. The third one is summarized below and the fourth one was very recent, in the Spring 2011 issue.

Many wood windows are being replaced with vinyl windows with promises of lowering energy and maintenance costs. These claims are frequently not true, but each case is different. Unfortunately, replacing wood windows with vinyl or something not compatible may destroy any hope of maintaining the historic designation of your home. (Careless siding replacement is another major risk area).

Part I identifies Terence Meany's 1998 book

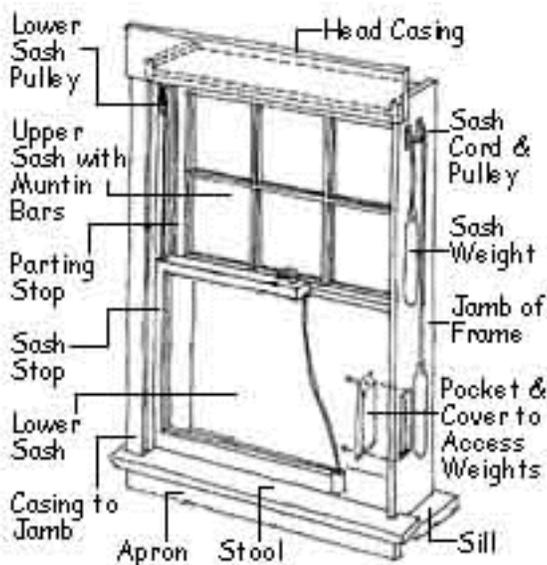
called *Working Windows* (available through the local library system) as the source of the material

presented. He also refers to web sites. The first article covers the most common problem, opening windows that have been painted shut.

Part II covers issues with replacing ropes and weights, broken glass, sashes hardware, refinishing and putting them back together.

While repainting old wood windows may not fit into your do-it-yourself skill set, you could try some of these repairs yourself, and for the more complex tasks you can

find local professionals who do this for a living.



Gems From Past Newsletters

Window Energy Concerns (Summer 2008)

While this article is relatively recent, it provides some important thoughts by former Landmarks Board member Claude Romig as he considered ways to reduce the high heating costs of his Clark District home. If you are considering replacing rather than restoring your wood windows because of perceived energy cost savings, this is a must-read.

Historic Landscaping (Winter 2003)

“Landscaping makes a strong impact on the overall authenticity of the exterior of your historic home” says Scott Rogers in this article. He describes the differences between Pre-Victorian (1850-1900) and Post-Victorian (1900-1935) landscape designs and gives specific ideas for re-creating designs for each period, depending on the age of your property.

Rehabilitating an Historic Home (Winter 2003)

This article refers to a 1989 magazine article from the National Trust’s Preservation Magazine entitled “Ten Basic Principles for Sensitive Rehabilitation”, which are:

1. Use buildings for their original purpose
2. Don’t destroy distinctive original features
3. Recognize buildings were of their own time
4. Respect changes that have taken place
5. Honor skilled craft work
6. Repair rather than replace
7. Clean using gentlest methods possible
8. Preserve archeological resources
9. Balance alternations with historic architectural elements
10. Build new additions with underlying structure in mind

Eight Common Mistakes in Restoring Your Old Home (Fall 1996)

For the full description see the article, but the list is:

1. Destroying records (evidence)
2. Over restoring
3. Making a building that never was
4. Scraping away true old colors
5. Sandblasting brick
6. Assuming things can’t be fixed
7. Getting the design right
8. Not getting competent help

Why Preserve? (Winter 2003)

This short article presents some thought-provoking ideas for why we even care about preservation. Sometimes it’s important to us individually, sometimes to the neighborhood or community, sometimes because they are simply pretty. Sometimes we preserve by re-purposing, essentially recycling architecture.

Choosing the Right Paint Color (Spring 2001)

Color photographs don’t exist to tell you what color your house was painted and chances are there are no color paintings, so how do you decide whether an exterior paint scheme is historic or not? This article dives into some concepts and suggestions on where to start. The author suggests that Victorian homes often had bold colors while later Arts and Crafts homes were more subdued. Fortunately some paint stores as well as Rejuvenation have developed historic color palettes to guide your selection.

Welcome New Member: Ernest Walston

I met my wife in 1972 in Forest Grove at the Music in May festival held each year at Pacific University. We married in 1973 and have enjoyed each other's company since. My wife and I were so enthralled by this wonderful community that we decided to retire here in 2009. In fact we live only a half a mile from where we met. I am very interested in keeping the "flavor" of this community, so when I received the opportunity to serve on the Historic Landmarks Board, I jumped at the chance to help preserve Forest Grove's historic heritage.

I am an Oregonian, grew up in Madras, then with a population of 1500 people, and I can say that small town America is certainly my roots. I was the first in my family to attend college, starting at Central Oregon Community College in Bend, Oregon in 1973, then finished with a degree in Electrical Engineering at PSU in 1988, and later from OHSU I received a Masters degree in Managing the Technical Company, a variation of an MBA. I worked at Intel, where among other things, I patented part of an automated tester designed to speed up production, enabling Intel to produce one million network cards per month on a single line, largely without human intervention.

I injured my back in 1972, breaking it from losing my balance on the bleachers at my High School Homecoming football game that year. This problem grew until in 2005 I underwent fusion surgery which was to give me a 70% chance of recovery but instead I ended up in the 30% area worsening my pain. I was then medically discharged in 2005 and retired.

Grant Money Available

The Historic Landmarks Board's renovation grant program makes funds available to property owners on the Forest Grove Register of historic buildings, as well as those in the Clark, Painter's Woods, and Walker - Naylor National Historic Districts. Proposed projects must focus on exterior rehabilitation or renovation improvements, or on structural improvements to preserve the building's integrity. The conditions of the program require that all projects be in keeping with the architectural integrity of the structure. Eligibility for a grant depends on whether your home is classified as "historic" or "historic-contributing". Examples of previously funded projects include restoring exterior architectural features, windows, foundations, porches roofs and painting. If you are contemplating submitting a grant application, please contact James Reitz in the Community Development Department at City Hall at jreitz@forestgrove-or.gov or 503-992-3233.

Informal Survey: E-Newsletter Format?

We're considering adding the ability for readers to receive the newsletter in an electronic format, to reduce costs, improve circulation, and add more content. We know some of you highly prefer paper, so that will always be an option, but we also know some of you highly prefer an electronic format. There are many implementation and policy issues around using your email address for distribution, so we don't expect to do this soon, but we would appreciate your input.

We are considering a conventional approach where you would get one email a quarter announcing the availability of the online PDF-formatted newsletter, along with a brief summary of the contents. In addition, you would get about one more email a quarter for relevant announcements.

Please send an email to JReitz@forestgrove-or.gov and tell him whether you highly prefer paper only, highly prefer e-format only, or have any other comments.

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 help you with your projects. If you are planning any exterior restoration work such as restoring architectural features or if you have structural work to do such a foundation repair, we'd love to help. We fund projects up to 50% of the cost of the job per grant. Come see us! We can also help you find historically appropriate solutions to any problems you may have.

The Forest Grove Historic Landmarks Board

George Cushing (secretary)	503-357-2767	greenacres2@frontier.com
Kevin Kamberg	503-341-1238	kevin@oregonrainsticks.com
Neil Poulsen (chair)	503-359-7812	nkpoulsen@yahoo.com
Holly Tsur	503-992-0894	holly.tsur@gmail.com
Larry Wade	503-312-7745	larrywade@comcast.net
Ernest Walston	503-804-0761	megamips1@frontier.com

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 503-992-3233, or jreitz@forestgrove-or.gov.

***Historic Landmarks Board
City of Forest Grove
PO Box 326
Forest Grove, OR 97116***

In this Issue:
All Previous Newsletters Now Online
Gems from Past Newsletters

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