

Preserving Forest Grove

Newsletter of the Historic Landmarks Board

Southside Survey – Another National Historic District?

By Elizabeth Muncher

Through a grant from the State Historic Preservation Office, the Forest Grove Historic Landmarks Board (HLB) has initiated research into the viability of another National Historic District; this one south of the existing Clark District. The HLB would like to update our readers on this project.

To qualify for the National Register a house (or area of houses, for a Historic District) must not only satisfy architectural and age criteria but also must have contributed to history. Therefore, the first step into getting an area classified as historic is to establish whether there is significant architectural and historical heritage within the area qualify for the historic designation.

To begin the research process the HLB has obtained the services of David Pinyerd and his company, Historic Preservation Northwest, to begin a preliminary investigation into the houses in the area under consideration. In addition, preservation planner and former HLB member



**2406 15th Avenue - W.P. Spaulding House
One of the historic resources in the Southside Area**

Kimberli Fitzgerald was contracted to gather historical facts about the houses in the survey area and write a Context Statement. This initial work was begun in February and will be completed this summer.

David Pinyerd is doing an historic building survey for an area of Forest Grove informally referred to as the 'Southside', an area roughly from Main to Hawthorne streets, and 11th to 16th avenues. It is comprised primarily of the South Park

(1891), Knob Hill (1909), Bailey's (1906), Smith (1906) and Bowman (1946) additions. It abuts the south side of the Clark Historic District; hence the name 'Southside'. As part of his survey David is noting all buildings within the area, and recording buildings over 35 years old in greater depth. The detail includes the construction date and a physical description of the exterior of the building, including such things as siding and window type, for example. We are interested in establishing the historical integrity of the house in addition to the

condition. A high integrity house is one that has not been modified and still maintains its historical construction.

Once the survey information is in a database the HLB will be provided with maps showing the distribution of houses based on their construction date, integrity, eligibility, etc. This analysis will help make recommendations if any part of the survey area has potential to become a historic district and whether there are any properties that stand out and could be considered for individual landmark status.

As David and his team have been focusing on the survey, Kim Fitzgerald, with the help of the HLB, has been working on gathering historical information for a document called a Context Statement. A Historic Context Statement contains a description of the history of the specific area being surveyed and how it developed, information on the people who helped build the area, and also includes a general summary of the city's history.

One of the more interesting outcomes of this research is learning how the area and residents have contributed to the history of Forest Grove. For instance, there are two houses that were used as hospitals for a period of time. The A.I. Macrum House at 2225 12th Avenue (1888), in 1911 became Forest Grove's first hospital, and the V.S. Abraham House at 1320 Cedar Street (1920s) was used as a maternity hospital in the 1920s. The Watts/Payne House at 2434 15th Avenue (1905) is on the site of Harvey Clark's original log cabin and is the spot where Tabitha Brown first started Tualatin Academy. There is a stone marker on the property marking the site.

Many of the original owners within the survey area were prominent in local business and history, often having ties to the 'old' families in the area. For example, Jane Smith, who platted Smith Addition, was the widow of A.T. Smith, and Felix Verhoeven, one of the property owners who platted Knob Hill Addition, also owned the Forest Grove Floral Company.

David Pinyerd, Kim Fitzgerald and the Landmarks Board have made significant progress in their work. With the help of associates Bernadette Niederer and Caitlin Harvey, David has completed the initial reconnaissance field survey, which consists of photos and historic integrity. The data is being entered into a database so that analysis and recommendations can be made. Kim is nearing completion of the first draft of the context statement. The first phase of the project should be completed by mid-July. At that time a decision will be made on whether to continue toward developing a National Historic District, based on the number of historic properties, their condition, and the degree to which the area and residents contributed to Forest Grove's history.

Should it be determined that there's sufficient history for another National Historic District, then the HLB will begin outreach to the community, explaining the benefits of living in a District, answering questions, and soliciting support from the property owners. In addition, a more extensive research project will begin, cataloging architectural styles, modifications, owner/builder biographies, and more, as we begin to prepare a history of the area.

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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 503-992-3233, or JReitz@ci.forest-grove.or.us.

Missing a Little Something in That Old House of Yours?

By Jon Stagnitti

How about a little quiz? What do clothing, music, hair, and architectural styles all have in common? Well, at least one thing they have in common is that they all tend to weave in and out of popularity. Everything old is new again, as the saying goes. Thankfully, some styles disappear faster than a box of Krispy Kremes at a school fundraiser; though they are seldom gone for good. Lucky for us, the classic architectural styles of yesteryear tend to stay in favor with homeowners, now more than ever. Lately the Arts and Crafts style seems to be particularly hot; furniture, fixtures... you name it. And the merchandisers have not failed to meet consumer demand. From quarter-sawn oak dining sets to art glass lights, reproductions of various qualities seem to be widely available; one does not have to look too far. But what happens when a reproduction is not what you are after?

When refinishing the doors in a 1910 bungalow, I found one door was missing its original hardware – hinges, doorknobs and escutcheons. With the other doors intact and perfectly matched, I was determined to find their missing cousins. Only one possible avenue to take as far as I was concerned... cancel all plans for the day, throw on an old pair of jeans and a work shirt, stuff the pockets full of change for coffee and head to Portland on a treasure hunt.

First stop, Hippo Hardware. This would be an easy one since their immense hardware section greets you at the front door and escorts you up the stairs. Hippo came through in the past when I needed a three-panel door and a light globe. Today's visit turned up a nice set of escutcheons that fit with the others, but no luck on the hinges. Next stop, The Rebuilding Center in North Portland.

The Rebuilding Center is perhaps the eighth wonder of the world, processing some 4.5 million pounds of salvaged architectural building materials each year. Last trip here I did well with some antique wavy glass windows, which would be stored for future use. The challenge with the Rebuilding Center is that it is nearly impossible to resist the temptation to spend an entire day, or a week for that matter, exploring their inventory and fantasizing about building a whole house with the

things you find there. Unfortunately, my desire for a certain set of hinges was to go unrequited that day. Hmm, this was turning into a real hunt. No worries, on to Rejuvenation House Parts to search some more.

It is fun to enter the front door of Rejuvenation and peruse their signature lights and the Stickley furniture, but not that day. Nope, that day was a back-door day...the shortest route to the old stuff. Alas, a thorough search of their expansive inventory of antique hinges came up empty. Just when I was ready to admit defeat, for the moment anyhow, along came an employee wheeling a cart full of hardware ready to be shelved. It was halfway down through this cart that my pulse began to race...could it be? Sure enough, an identical match. In fact, I had to wonder, could these somehow be the long-lost pair?

All that was left to find were the right doorknobs. I had picked up a half dozen knobs back at Hippo that would someday complete a nice coat rack, but found none that matched the others in the bungalow. After a long but fruitful day, I was ready to call it quits...after a quick stop at one, or two, of Forest Grove's many antique stores. And there they were, three short blocks from my doorstep... mission accomplished.

Locating the right antique architectural house piece to replace a missing or broken one can be a bit exhausting...and quite rewarding. Here is a list of my favorite sources for antique house parts, along with a few I have yet to explore. Happy hunting and remember... reuse and restore.

Local Resources:

The Rebuilding Center of Our United Villages

(503) 331-1877

3625 N. Mississippi Avenue, Portland

www.rebuildingcenter.org

Hippo Hardware and Trading Company

(503) 231-1444

1040 E. Burnside Street, Portland

www.hippohardware.com

Rejuvenation House Parts Incorporated
(503) 238-1900
1100 SE Grand Avenue, Portland
www.rejuvenation.com

Aurora Mills Architectural Salvage
(503) 678-6083
14971 First Street NE, Aurora
www.auroramills.com

Stanley Avenue Tub Company
(503) 771-8827
8600 SE 82nd Avenue, Portland
www.stanleyavetub.com

House of Antique Hardware, Incorporated
3439 NE Sandy Boulevard/ P.M.B. #106
Portland, Oregon 97232
(888) 223-2545 or (503) 231-4089
www.houseofantiquehardware.com

Virginia Ashmore Construction
(425) 644-2879
www.demomomma.com

**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.

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