

# Preserving Forest Grove

Newsletter of the Historic Landmarks Board

## Restoring and Maintaining Double Hung Wood Windows – Part 2

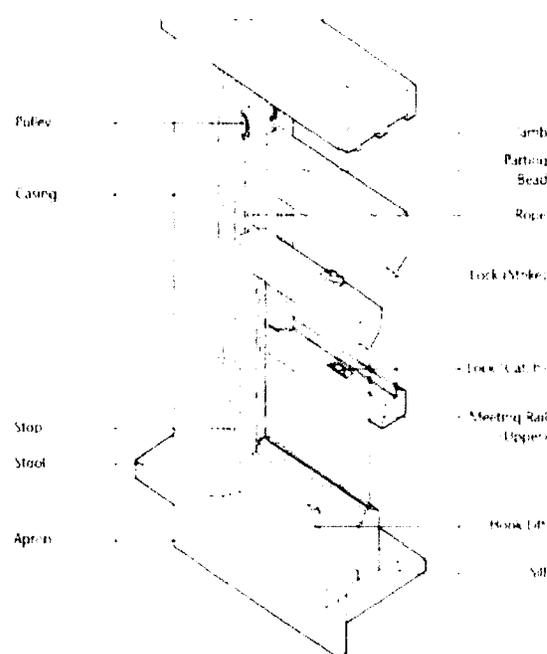
By Monty Smith

In the last issue, we discussed opening windows that were painted shut or otherwise stuck. This time we'll discuss replacing the ropes and weights, broken glass, sashes, hardware, refinishing and putting your windows back together. Again, here's an unabashed plug for Terence Meany's book Working Windows, now available at the Forest Grove library. That book, and a lot of old windows, form the basis for this article.

**Replacing the Ropes** - If you replace crusty old ropes while they're still intact, you'll avoid having to fish out that detached weight next year when the rope finally breaks. There are two ways to access the weights, depending on how extensive you're tearing into the window. Let's start by assuming you're not ripping everything apart...

The weights and ropes can be accessed behind a covered opening in the jamb called, appropriately enough, the pocket cover. This may be very well covered with paint, so using the knife again, cut through the paint around the pocket cover. There should be a nail or screw at the bottom holding the cover in place. Remove the nail and then the cover. Remove the ends of the rope from the window sash and weight, and attach some heavy string to one end of the rope. Pull the rope through the pulley. You should now have the string threaded through the pocket, up through the pulley and out. Firmly attach the new rope to the string and pull the new rope through. Tie it to the weight, then put an overhand knot in the other end and put it back into notch in the window. After replacing the rope on both sides, open and close the window a few times to make sure the length is right.

But let's say it's not too much work to remove the window casing (that's the trim on the side of the window). By removing this wide piece of wood, the



weights should be exposed in front of you. This avoids having to fish around inside the little pocket hole. Although you'll likely crack and mar the paint on the casing, if you're planning on sanding and repainting anyway, often just removing the casing is easier than going in through the pocket hole. Homes built before 1920 usually have the weights exposed behind the casing, but those built later often have lath and plaster extending clear to the jamb. In the latter case you'll then have to cut into the lath and plaster to access the weights and rope.

If you've got the same windows with the original weights, then most likely they'll balance. But if you've replaced the windows with a double-pane insulating type, then the weights may not be heavy enough to act as a counterweight. If you need to add weight, you can stack washers, Olympic gold medals or other heavy objects on the rope. Another option is to buy heavier weights at Hippo Hardware or Renovation,

# Forest Grove Library History

By Kim Fitzgerald

The first Library Board was appointed by the Forest Grove City Council in 1906. Miss Emma Penfield was appointed to the position of librarian. She used one corner of a millinery store which was owned by Mr. and Mrs. Burdan which was on the NW corner of College Way and First Ave. North (now 21st Ave.). Miss Penfield kept some of her own books, and books brought in by other people, for people to borrow or buy.

In December 1908, the Library Board decided to ask the City Council to levy the first library tax. Then in 1909, Mrs. Adeline Rogers signed a contract with the City of Forest Grove, selling to the City the land and the building which became the Rogers Free Library. The City promised "that it will perpetually maintain a Free Reading Room and Rest Room open for use of the public during all reasonable hours each day of the week except Sunday." The City also promised it would levy \$200 a year in taxes to be spent in support of the library. In addition to this gift of property to the city, Mrs. Rogers later left \$6000 to the library in her will, with the provision that \$200 should be spent annually for books. Mrs. Rogers died in 1922.

The first library building (1909-1919) was a long, narrow building. The lot on which it stood is 100' x 25', so the library was only 25' wide. A 10' alley was taken off the north end of the lot for access to adjacent buildings, so the library building was less than 90' long. The entrance was from First Ave. North (the present 21st Ave). The entrance led directly to the reading room, where newspapers and magazines were displayed along the walls. Two long tables ran the length of the room. This is where people sat to read. North of the reading room was a second room where books were stored in bookcases along the walls. The librarian's desk stood along the east side of the room. Here books were checked out and in. Two books could be taken out for two weeks. If they were returned after the due date, one penny

was charged for each day that the book was overdue. Fines were used to purchase new books. A storage/workroom was north of the book room. Opening out of the storage room was a door to the rest room, which also had an outside entrance off of College Way. In this rest room, a small cubicle at the west end contained a wash basin and toilet. A long table occupied the east end of the room. Here people who came into town from the country often ate their lunch and college girls from Pacific also came here to eat their lunch.

Mrs. John Bailey wrote in the News-Times, July 6, 1933: "Our little library will ever be associated with the name of Mrs. Rogers who many years ago saw the need of a public place here where the people, especially the people from the country, could rest and read and meet their friends. She lived to realize that her dream had come true, for while the name "library" means books and their circulation, Rogers Library stands for a larger circulation of home spirit, comfort and good will: for the outstanding feature of this institution.. is the rest room. We are told that ours is the only small library in the state that conducts a rest room in connection with a library..."

Mrs. O.M. Sanford was the librarian from 1908 until 1928. She was a strict disciplinarian in that she demanded strict silence in the reading room, which was in the front part of the library. With children however, she was very warm, friendly and helpful. She would take them into the back room of the library, where she would talk to them about the books they had read, the ones they liked best, and would help them pick out new ones to take home. One afternoon each week, she had a story hour for young children, and Mrs. Sanford would bring cookies for a treat.

On July 20, 1919 the library was destroyed by fire. The fire was apparently started in or near a store owned by Mr. Sanford, husband of the librarian. A strong wind spread the fire through the town. At the time of the fire the library had about 1200 books, some of which were saved by being moved to peoples homes before fire reached the building.

The library was rebuilt and opened in 1921. In 1978, the library moved to the new building on Pacific Avenue. The structure was built and furnished entirely with a federal grant. The name was changed to Forest Grove City Library, but Mrs. Rogers is still remembered in the Rogers Meeting Room, part of the new library. The old Rogers Library building is still owned by the City and proceeds from its rental go to the purchase of books for the library.

Just this last week, in April of 2002 the library opened the doors to its new expansion. The library has doubled its space and now has a History Room, which will be devoted to the display and use of historical documents left by Eric Stewart for use by Forest Grove residents. The devotion of the library to its community continues through its commitment to providing residents with a place where they can rest, read, learn and study in a quiet restful environment. As Mrs. Bailey said in 1933, "library" in Forest Grove still stands for a larger circulation of home spirit, comfort and good will.

*This publication receives federal financial assistance for the identification and protection of historic properties. Under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the U.S. Department of the Interior prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, age, national origin, sex, or handicap in its federally assisted programs. If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility operated by a recipient of federal assistance, or if you desire further information, please write to: Office for Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of the Interior, PO Box 37127, Washington, D.C. 20013.*

*The activity that is the subject of this publication has been financed in part with federal funds from the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, as provided through the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office. However, the contents and opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Department of the Interior, nor does the mention of any trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation by the U.S. Department of the Interior.*

## Restoring Wood Windows Continued . . .

Inc. in Portland. – Working Windows covers each of these topics in more detail. See the book for rope selection, different pulley types and weights that are shared between wo adjacent windows.

**Replacing Broken Glass** – If replacing the glass in older windows, we all know that 99% of the work is dealing with the glazing – heck, the glass is easy! A couple tips: Old glazing might be softened with a heat gun, but will damage the paint near the glazing, so only use this method if planning to repaint anyway. Be aware that glazing may contain both lead and asbestos, so if removing it, use a spray bottle of water to keep the glazing wetted down so airborne particles aren't breathed. The final tip – don't put latex paint over glazing unless you've allowed the glazing to completely dry (at least a day, but a week is better). The evaporating solvent interacting with the latex paint will cause both glazing and paint to crack.

**Repairing Damaged or Broken Sashes** – Moving on to bigger repairs, next we'll consider replacing a broken mortise and tenon holding the corner of a sash together. If it's just loose, drill some holes and use either long nails or a deck screw (make sure to countersink and fill the head) – that may tighten everything up. But if it's really deteriorated (rotted, etc.) then you'll need to reinforce the corner with long splints into the broken joint. Picture driving chopsticks into the joint and you get the idea. Next, the deteriorated wood needs to be filled and strengthened. Good-old automotive Bondo is an inexpensive choice, but may work its way out in future years. The best stuff is epoxy, and the recommended type is Albatron's Liquid Wood and WoodEpoxy (800-445-1754). Although preferable to Bondo, it's also 4-5x the price.

Damaged or cracked sills can be repaired in the same way, but often there's so much repair needed it's easier to replace the entire sill.

**Hardware** – Most all hardware can be replaced, often out of old house catalogs. But why? Instead, salvage the existing hardware – you may be surprised what's underneath all that paint. To strip the paint off, put the hardware into a container with about a cup of granulated dishwasher detergent. Add boiling water and let it sit overnight, and in the morning the paint will be gone. An even better method is to keep it hot by using a hotplate.

Don't try this in your kitchen unless you're really fond of long-lasting, stinky odors. Trisodium phosphate works better than detergent but it's more expensive.

Clean the final product with a buffer or fine wire wheel, and then with steel wool. You can restore quite a shine!

**Refinishing** – Stripping years of paint off the windows can be tough. I've had better luck with chemical strippers than heat guns, but both still leave a lot of sanding, and remember that may be lead paint you're sanding! Prep the windows before painting them, which includes adding filler, sanding, etc. Once everything's ready to be assembled, it's easier to paint before assembly than after. All bare wood will first need a primer. You'll also want to sand/roughen any glossy oil-based paint if you're putting latex over oil, otherwise the new paint will easily chip off. Don't paint the sliding surfaces of the sashes, leaving them in primer only. Between coats, sand smooth with 220 grit or finer sandpaper.

**Putting It Back Together** – As you re-assemble the window, you'll want to adjust the fit so it's not too loose or tight. If too tight, start by removing the paint from the exterior jamb. If still too tight, use a belt sander on the sash, but be careful – it's easy to remove too much. If it's too loose, adding weatherstripping could be the solution. For more serious gaps, you'll have to shim up the sash – add a thin strip of wood to the sides to shim it out. Once both top and bottom are fit and sliding well, the last step is making sure they both meet at the meeting rail properly (this is where the lock goes – one half on the top meeting rail on the top sash, and the other half on the bottom meeting rail). It's often easiest to adjust the top rail overlap by trimming or shimming the top rail of the upper sash. Or, for small corrections, simply shimming one side of the lock may suffice. Once re-assembled, caulk as necessary to close out the drafts.

**What Wasn't Covered, and Where to Find It** – A short article such as this can't fully cover the topic, and many topics were omitted such as weatherstripping, sill replacement, different pulley styles, sash pins and sash controls, casings and moldings. Not to sound like a stuck record, but see Meany's book for all this. It's an easy read, and chock full of practical tips learned through years of experience.

## Walla Walla, WA named one of America's Dozen Distinctive Destinations by the National Trust for Historic Preservation

by Margaret Foster *courtesy of Preservation Magazine Online*

For a future vacation, the National Trust suggests visiting one of the towns listed on its third annual list of America's Dozen Distinctive Destinations, 12 of the best-preserved and unique communities in the country. Walla Walla, WA was named as one of the twelve cities.

It's "the town so nice, they named it twice." Resting at the foot of the Blue Mountains in the southeastern region of Washington State, Walla Walla (pop. 29,686) has been called one of the "Best Small Art Towns in America." A destination

rich in history and natural beauty, Walla Walla boasts a vibrantly revitalized main street, year-round arts and music festivals and abundant opportunities for family fun.

The region was once inhabited by several Native American tribes, including the Walla Walla. Later, it became one of the first areas between the Rockies and the Cascades to be permanently settled by American pioneers. Between 1805 and 1806, Lewis and Clark passed through this historic territory, and in 1836 famed missionaries Marcus and Narcissa Whitman settled here. (*cont'd on page 6*)

## *Things to Consider When Choosing Fixtures for Home*

by *Scott Rogers*

Choosing fixtures for your home is a fun yet important part of making your house exude that sense of continuity. This is an opportunity to express your personal taste and style, providing those finishing touches that bring the room together. However, it is often best to consider the house itself when making the decision on that new light fixture or faucet. When determining what lights to purchase, there are several factors to consider. The best and most simple way to narrow down the choices available today is to consider the age of your home. Since the fixtures are fairly permanent, it is usually best to keep them all true to the age of your home. If you own a classic 50's home for instance, simple chrome may be a better option than that new aged brass you've been eyeing.

Another consideration is the architectural style of your home. The style of your house will always provide clues as to which light or faucet to choose. For example, if your home is of the craftsman style, think of the features that would stay true to that style. You can look for fixtures with clean, classic lines that reflect the other elements in your home. Choose finishes that will fit right in, such as patina, copper, or bronze. In addition, the room the fixture is to be in plays a large role in the decision making process. There are some that are designed to suit the smaller confines of a bathroom, and therefore would not

be appropriate for your newly remodeled sitting room. Style, scale, and finish all come into play here. You may not want that two-foot wide chandelier hanging in your entryway, but perhaps it would be perfect for your dining room.

Despite how well a fixture matches the style of your house, there are cases where fixtures may just not be suited for the location you are wishing to accessorize. For example, you may want to opt for sconces to flank the mirrors in your master bathroom, however those might not be appropriate if overhead or natural light also exists in the room. The scale of the fixture is a key. You don't want to overwhelm a small room with an obnoxiously large piece. Keep the fixtures in proportion to the room, and consider the height of the ceilings and size of the surface you're working with. A sweet little powder room would call for delicate, perhaps intricate fixtures, whereas the grand entryway may call for a huge, sparkling chandelier.

You can still put your own individual taste into play when choosing the right fixtures for your house – after all, it's what will make it yours. But don't forget to consider your house and what's appropriate for it. In the end, it will feel much more cohesive and you might just be more happy with the results.

---

## *Elizabeth Ann Muncher*

*The Historic Landmark Board's Newest Member*

503-357-6168

[Elizabeth.A.Muncher@tek.com](mailto:Elizabeth.A.Muncher@tek.com)

Profession - I have been in the usability engineering profession for 15 years. I am currently a Tektronix employee.

Experience and Interest in Historic Homes - My last three houses have been older homes. I owned an 1840's house in Frederick, MD. It was upgraded in the 1870's. The architectural features were original to the house. The features upstairs such as the mantle were 1840's but the features downstairs were from the 1870's. I lived in the original area of Frederick as opposed to the growth area that sprawled around the town and into the farmland around it. Frederick is an old town originally established in the 1600's. The downtown area was full of houses from the 1700's and 1800's.

My house in Dayton, Ohio was in the South Park Historic District. This was one of about seven national historic districts in Dayton and the largest. It was a community in transition moving from a majority of rental to a majority of owner-occupied homes. There were issues that we needed to address as a community often

requiring us to go to city council meetings. One of the pleasures of living there was being a part of an active community. My house in Dayton was an 1896 High Eastlake Queen Anne style. The interior and exterior were predominantly original.

My house here in Forest Grove was built in 1909. The interior has been changed quite a bit but the exterior appears to have changed only a little.

I have had an interest in older homes for many years. I have read some books about how lifestyles affected the way houses were designed. For example, the formal part of the house was able to be closed off from the main part of the house so that when the owners entertained, the guests would see the "perfect house". This affected the layout of the dining room relative to the parlor and the rest of the house. The foyer was another important part of the house and was meant to make a good impression on guests. We are a much more informal society now and hence in contemporary houses guests walk through the front door into the living room.

With my interest in living in older established areas I have an interest in seeing our heritage preserved. That is why I have volunteered to be on the Landmarks Preservation Board.

## *The Macrum House – 2225 12<sup>th</sup> Ave*

by *Mark Everett*

The "Macrum House" in Forest Grove, currently owned by Allen and Valerie Warren, is receiving an extraordinary amount of care and renovation at the hands of Allen. He has set out on a project that he says will take him somewhere in the neighborhood of 8-10 years.

The house, a classic Queen Ann Victorian constructed in 1888, really is more a castle than a house. In all it is over 8,000 square feet, has three floors, a full basement and 21 rooms. The extensive renovation is all the more remarkable given that Allen has had no formal training in the construction arts. He has however, worked on four previous house renovations and has begun to take classes to obtain his contractor's license.



Over the past five years Allen has been able to complete the following house projects:

- installation of a new cedar shingle roof
- new electrical system throughout
- installation of a fire sprinkler system
- total removal and replacement of the porch
- new plumbing throughout
- renovation of the kitchen and installation of a pantry
- installation of a cable that plumbs coaxial, fiber optic and telephone lines into each room
- construction of a carriage house
- replacement of the original sawdust-burning fireplace with a gas furnace

The plan for the house, when the renovation is complete, is to serve as both a bed-and-breakfast as well as a central location for his wife's antique business. The fact that the house is on the national historic register will certainly add to the air of timelessness.

Allen has no regrets about his commitment to the huge renovation task. He enjoys working with his hands and would take on the project again if given the opportunity.



### **The Forest Grove Historic Landmarks Board**

Cheryl Hunter (Chair) .....	503-357-2999
.....	Cheryl.Hunter@nike.com
Scott Rogers (Secretary).....	503-357-8265
.....	SRogers@extensis.com
Katya Duncan (Vice-Chair).....	503-359-0420
Elizabeth Muncher.....	503-357-6168
.....	elizabeth.a.muncher@tek.com
Mark Everett.....	503-359-4392
.....	hbrain@teleport.com
Monty Smith .....	503-357-7804
.....	monty.smith@intel.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 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.**

### **Walla Walla, Continued . . .**

A gold rush in the 1860s made Walla Walla a major commercial, banking, and manufacturing hub. Eventually - in the pre-Microsoft days - it became the largest city in Washington Territory. After the gold rush waned, however, farming anchored this great city, and today agriculture is still the backbone of Walla Walla's economy.

Walla Walla was a recipient of the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Great American Main Street Award in 2001, and its downtown lives up to this recognition. Built on the Nez Perce Trail, which stretches to the Columbia River, Main Street features splendidly restored 19th-century buildings that house an eclectic mix of art galleries, restaurants, coffee shops and wine tasting rooms.

To say that Walla Walla's art scene is active is an understatement. Boasting more than 15 art galleries, the oldest continuously operating symphony orchestra west of the Mississippi and a blues or jazz concert series almost every weekend, Walla Walla is proudly immersed in the arts. The area's three colleges keep the city's artistic pulse beating strong with a varied array of theatrical events and concerts, lectures and gallery tours.

Children will love Fort Walla Walla Museum, which contains a complete pioneer settlement of 16 original and replicated buildings, including an 1800s-era railroad depot. The Balloon Stampede, an annual display of hot air balloons, is fun for kids of all ages.

Learn more by visiting the Web site of the Walla Walla Chamber of Commerce, [www.wwchamber.com](http://www.wwchamber.com).

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

**In this issue:  
Walla Walla, WA  
How to restore Wood Windows - Part 2**