

Preserving Forest Grove

Newsletter of the Historic Landmarks Board

National Historic District Nomination in Process

After years of hoping to establish a National Historic District in Forest Grove, the Historic Landmarks Board has been awarded a federal grant to study the possibility of forming a District. The northern boundary is generally defined by 19th Ave. , 16th Ave. approximates the southern boundary, Elm St. defines the eastern boundary and B St. approximates the western boundary of the proposed district. The HLB interviewed four candidates and selected the firm in late October.

Gail Evans and D. Michael Hatch have been selected by the Forest Grove HLB to assist in preparation of a National Historic District Nomination for an area known tentatively as Painter's Woods. The area consists primarily of single family residences and contains 303 tax lots with 471 structures. Painter's Woods is located southeast of downtown Forest Grove and spans 109 acres. The northern boundary is generally defined by 19th Ave. , 16th Ave. approximates the southern boundary, Elm St. defines the eastern boundary and B St. approximates the western boundary of the proposed district.

The consultants will begin their work this December by doing some basic field work to assess current conditions of the structures, so you will probably see them around taking pictures. They will be researching the history of those structures built before 1950. This stage is the information gathering stage and you may be able to help - we're interested in copying any information that residents may have about their houses or the people who built them. If you own one of these residences and have any questions about the project or information you think would be useful, please contact James Reitz with the City of Forest Grove at 992-3233.



It's the Holidays Tour Historic Homes in the Portland Area

While you're enjoying your time off this holiday season why not tour some historic homes in our area - for free. Did you know that if a house is listed on the National Historic Register (that's Federal not our local historic register) those homeowners must open their house to the public for 4 hours each year? This is a condition for those homeowners to receive a 15 year tax freeze.

Many of these homeowners choose to open their houses during the holidays while they have their houses all decorated for christmas. So why don't you spend some time in the big city and visit these homes in Portland. (house names below are historic names)

National Historic Register Homes Open Houses

December 23rd

Landenberger House	1805 Glisan	9am - 1 pm
C.D. Johnson House	2582 NW Lovejoy	noon - 4 pm
Scottish Bank Building	122 SW First	noon - 4 pm
Swender House	2261 SE Cypress	5 - 9 pm

December 24th

Hawthorne House	1007 SE 12th	12:30 - 4 pm
Williams House	2168 SW Main St.	4 - 8 pm
Ormonde Apartments	2046 NW Flanders #2	5 - 9 pm

December 26th

Flanders House	2421 SW Arden Rd.	9 am - 1 pm
Munsell House	1507 SE Alder	1 pm - 5 pm
Garrigus House	1615 SE Holly	4 - 8 pm

December 27th

Tonelotto House	2036 SE Spruce	9 am - 1 pm
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December 28th

Parker House	2210 SW Main	9 am - 1 pm
Neate House	2390 SW Madison	9 am - 1 pm

December 29th

Autzen House	2425 NE Alameda	9 am - 1 pm
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A Little Bit of Local Home History

by Scott Rogers

This Thanksgiving marked our third year as residents of Forest Grove. When my wife and I took that fateful scenic drive three years ago to look for houses, what set Forest Grove apart from the surrounding communities were its impressive number of historic homes. Since then, on our frequent walks through the neighborhood, several interesting homes have piqued our curiosity. This column provides me with the perfect opportunity to share some of the history that has amassed for these homes. Here is a sampling of houses that I have selected within the Painters Woods section of town.

On the corner lot of 17th and Birch, the Rasmussen House (1653 Birch Street) gives a grand mystique to the area. Borrowing elements from both the Queen Anne and Colonial Revival period, the Rasmussen house still possesses much of the original trim and detail with attic gables, cornices, and decorative round windows being found on the exterior of the house. Architect E. A. Jerome designed this impressive two-story house in 1905, and in 1910, James and Hanson Rasmussen occupied the residence. Natives of Denmark who emigrated to the US in the 1870's, the Rasmussen's raised 4 children and operated a local feed store in town. One of their children, Jennie, later married and lived in the house until her death. The house is still in immaculate condition, and captures my attention every time I pass by.

Another home designed by E.A. Jerome is the Peterson House). Located on the corner of 18th and Douglas (2338 18th Avenue), the house sits directly across the street from Rogers Park. Built in 1902, the Peterson house is another classic example of Queen Anne architecture, with much of the original exterior trim and detail still present and an impressive circular porch wrapping around the front of the house. The Peterson House and the Rasmussen House both share the same architect and the fact that they were first occupied by Danish emigrants. Mathias Peterson was born in Denmark in 1858, and at the age of 4 immigrated to the U.S. He and his wife Theresa moved to the residence in 1910, along with one of their three children and their housekeeper, and lived in the house until 1922. This house always catches my eye, and I continually hope to see the "for sale" sign out front. Just let me know who to make the check out to.

Finally, one of the most interesting and mysterious houses in town is the Charles O. Roe House (2120 17th Avenue). It retains all of its original charm, from the elegant scrollwork in the gable peak to the simple porch spreading across the front. Mr. Roe was born in the Washington Territory in 1865, but in the early 1890's followed his parents to Forest Grove and worked as a merchant. He later married Belle, and finally in 1897 the couple had the house built next door to his parents. In my opinion, this is one of the true gems in town. Not tarnished by any odd additions and with all of the original trim and detail preserved, the house appears as I imagine it must have at the turn of the century.

As I mentioned earlier, these are by no means the only houses in town that I am curious about. They are simply three of many which have a story behind them, stories that I hope that you found as interesting as I did.

Over the last year there have been many changes with the Historic Landmarks Board of Forest Grove and we thought you might like to meet the members of the board:

Cheryl Hunter, Chair has been a member of the board for 2-1/2 years and became chair after Edwin Dey joined the city council. She has a Bachelor of Architecture and currently works for Nike, Inc. as an Art Director. She has spent time with the Main Street Restoration Program of Petersburg, VA and is interested in older buildings, especially residences and churches.

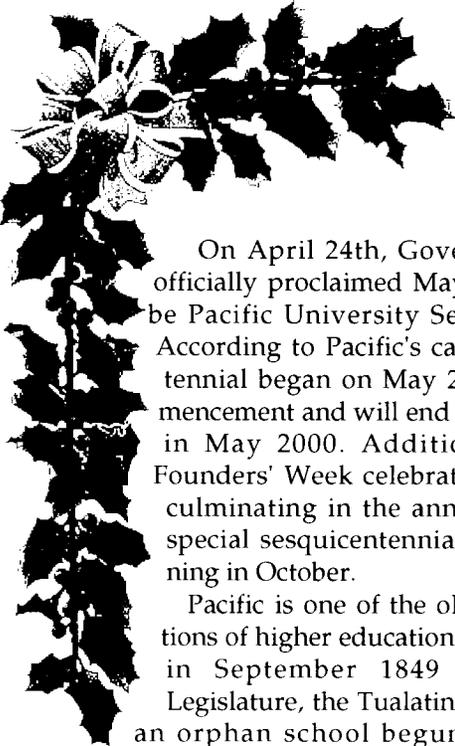
Kimberlea Montoya, Vice-Chair has been a member of the board for 1-1/2 years and works for Washington County. She has spent time as a guide for the forestry service and is very interested in Historic preservation in Forest Grove.

Julie Casto, Secretary joined the Board in July of 1999. She was elected to Secretary, filling the spot previously held by Martha Khoury. Julie is a sales associate for Gateway Computer and has an avid interest in computers and history. She is currently working on a degree in Graphic Design and she is a family historian. Julie has lived in Forest Grove for six years.

Scott Rogers joined the board in July of 1999. He is the Manager of Operations at Extensis in Portland. Scott and his wife have lived in Forest Grove for three years. Scott is renovating his home and is doing much of the construction himself. His construction knowledge is a benefit to the board.

Katya Duncan joined the board in July of 1999. She has a love of older homes and once lived in a three hundred year old stone house. Prior to moving to Oregon Katya and her husband renovated a victorian Bed and Breakfast in California. She currently lives on Ash street and is renovating her home, the Ireland House, which is on our local register.

Kimberli Fitzgerald is the newest member of our board, She joined us in November. Kimberli is a preservation planner with 10 years experiance. She has a Masters in city Planning and Certification in Historic Preservation. She lives in Hillsboro and lived in Gresham where she was the chair of their Historic Resource Advisory Committee.



Pacific University's Sesquicentennial Year

On April 24th, Governor John Kitzhaber officially proclaimed May 1999 to May 2000 to be Pacific University Sesquicentennial Year. According to Pacific's calendar, the sesquicentennial began on May 22 with the 1999 commencement and will end with a gala celebration in May 2000. Additional events include Founders' Week celebrations September 12-18 culminating in the annual corn roast, and a special sesquicentennial lecture series beginning in October.

Pacific is one of the oldest chartered institutions of higher education in Oregon. Sanctioned in September 1849 by the Territorial Legislature, the Tualatin Academy grew out of an orphan school begun by pioneer widow Tabitha Brown and the Rev. Harvey Clark. In the summer of 1848, the Rev. George H. Atkinson had come to Oregon, commissioned by the Home Missionary Society of the Congregational Church Association to "found an academy that shall grow into a college on the New England model." Atkinson and Clark drew up plans for the new educational institution, based on the orphan school. By 1854 a new charter had been granted, establishing Tualatin Academy and Pacific University." The growth of a local public high school caused the Tualatin Academy to be closed in 1915 and Pacific University stood on its own - a pioneer institution of higher education.

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In honor of the sesquicentennial, a book "Splendid Audacity: The Story of Pacific University" is being written by Gary Miranda and Forest Grove's own Rick Read. Read is currently Field Services Coordinator for the Oregon Historical Society and served on the Forest Grove Historic Landmarks Board. He worked at Pacific as archivist and museum curator from 1988 to 1997. Miranda is an author and Pulitzer Prize nominee. Published in coffee-table format, the book will be the first comprehensive history of the university.

The volume is scheduled for release in December.

Forest Grove History Room Update

Getting the history room up and running continues to be a learning experience. We are learning to catalog our records. Dave Morelli is making a database on our computer so that everything in the history room will be documented with a continual update as new items are received. We've also had our first training session and started entering Survey data onto the database. Rich Taylor has made some shelves for the room, which will give us more storage. We also reached an agreement with the city to allow the History Room to use many home renovation and history books that the Historic Landmarks Board has purchased.

The purpose of the Forest Grove History Room is to provide an accessible location for information on historic preservation and records pertaining to the history of the Forest Grove area.

While we are working on the behind the scenes things we still need your help. Donations (both cash & non-cash) are tax deductible to the extent of IRS tax regulations and are acknowledged by a contribution letter of receipt.

We still need a Zip drive \$100, Macro lens for Cannon Camera \$250, Fax machine \$100-\$150, 4 folding chairs, and Internet Access @\$20.00 a month. Some of these items are one-time gifts and will last a long time. Please help and see Our Forest Grove History live up to its purpose.

The mission of the FG History Room is three-fold:

1. To provide a reference center for research on Forest Grove historical topics and historic preservation.
2. To house historic documents in a designated space for safekeeping and orderly arrangement, where they can be available for research by townspeople and historians, and available for display as well.
3. To provide an office for the Friends of Historic Forest Grove.

Grant Money Available for Renovation Projects

by Julie Casto

The time has come for a reminder that the Historic Landmarks Board has funds available for exterior restoration and repair of properties on the local historic Register. The funding comes from the community enhancement grant application submitted by the Board to the City Council, and from the State Historic Preservation Office.

Persons owning a historic building on which external repairs are needed--such as paint, windows, roof or structural restoration--may apply for a grant of up to \$1,000 to be applied to those repairs. The money is disbursed on a stringent "first come-first served" basis and is in grant form -- it is not a loan. Design assistance is available at no charge from the Historic Landmarks Board.

To qualify, the repairs must not visually impair or drastically alter the historic appearance of the building. The property owner should provide as much research as possible, such as archive pictures or other documentation.

For information on obtaining a Renovation Grant, contact James Reitz at the Community Development Department (992-3233), or attend the monthly meeting of

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.

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