Spring Programs 2002

Welcome to your Spring Programs newsletter. (or similar greeting)

In this issue...

- Footprints Edition
- HRPS Officers
- Board of Directors
- Membership Director
- Newspaper Staff
- HRPS Newsletter Staff
- Double Click

HRPS Officers
- President: Kathryn Wishart 702-8327
- Vice President & Program: Felvia Belaustegui 329-0149
- Secretary: Mark Luer
- Treasurer: Bill Walbridge

Board of Directors
- Cindy Armstrong, Patty Calzada, Joan Dyer, Nancy Hibbitt, Ann McClary, Charlotte McConnell, Leanne Stone, Sharon A. Walbridge

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Newspaper Staff
- Editor: Simone D. Fowler, Ph.D.
- Editorial Assistant: Felvia Belaustegui
- Graphic Design: Double Click Design: 324-5569 / www.1click2click.com

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Distribution: Joan Collins, Gary Meyer

Editors Note:

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Footprints
Dedicated to Preserving and Promoting Historic Resources in the Truckee Meadows through Education, Advocacy, and Leadership.

Spring 2002
Newsletter
Vol. 5, No. 2

Footprints
P.O. Box 33444
Reno, NV 89513

Invitation to Annual Meeting & Picnic

Don’t Miss
The Annual HRPS Picnic
Wednesday, May 22, 2002,
6:00 p.m.

Bring your own picnic dinner to McKinley Park Arts and Culture Center for our annual spring fling. McKinley Park is located in the Powning’s Addition, Reno’s first subdivision, also called Reno’s Little Italy.

• HRPS Vice President Felvia Belaustegui, who wrote her master’s thesis on this historic neighborhood, will lead us on a short walk through the area.

• Presentation of HRPS Preservation Award.

Meet at 6:00 p.m. on the lawn at the McKinley Park Arts and Culture Center located on Riverside Drive between Keystone and Vine. Parking access is off of Jones Street. There is limited table space; so for your comfort, we suggest folding chairs, blankets or both. We have access to the auditorium in the event of inclement weather. (Has anybody ever heard of inclement weather in Reno - especially in the spring?)

For more information call Felvia at 329-0129.

HRPS Officers

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Newspaper Staff

Editors: Simone D. Fowler, Ph.D.
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This information is reproduced with the permission of HRPS Vice President, Felvia Belaustegui. It has been drawn from her Master’s Thesis, dated August, 2000, which was prepared under the direction of advisor Donald D. Fowler, Ph.D.

The Nevada State Journal on June 6, 1888 ran an ad which read: “Beautiful Lots for Sale! A Rare Chance for Investment and a Home in the Most Lovely Portion of Reno.”

By the time the ad ran a few homes had already been built along Ralston and Washington streets, in the eastern end of Powning’s Addition. These were the homes of some of the more affluent business men and their families.

Twenty to thirty years later, in the first and second decade of the 1900s the land available to newcomers and immigrants was the Winter, Vine, Jones and Keystone area in the western section of Powning’s Addition. The majority of the residences of the Italian community are smallish bungalows, a sharp contrast to the homes of the earlier settlers in the eastern section of Powning’s Addition. Most lots in the western section had enough room for gardens, grape vines, and additional units, in the back or side for rentals or extended family.

The economic setting of plentiful land, the railroad, and available employment in downtown Reno allowed Powning’s Addition to provide a perfect setting for the Italians to establish themselves in an ethnic enclave.

The Powning Addition: Reno’s Little Italy

By Sharon Adler Walbridge

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For more information call Felvia at 329-0129.
Thank you! HRPS has enjoyed a remarkably successful year. It can be attributed to members and friends who attend our monthly programs, to the volunteers who lead our historic walking tours, to volunteers who help with the newsletter production and mailing, and to those who, in many quiet ways, help out with various events during the year.

Special thanks must be extended to the people who present our monthly programs. Attendance continues to escalate, which is a testament to the quality of the presentations. To all of you who volunteer your time, talent, and knowledge as presenters, we are very grateful.

I must acknowledge the dedication and hard work of the members of the Board of Directors of HRPS. Thanks to them, we achieved some very important milestones in our rapidly growing organization. As we "grow up," certain requirements become clear. The Board worked diligently to develop and adopt a strategic plan. The plan is included in the newsletter. The Board also developed and adopted a budget. In addition to budgeting for such current expenses as the newsletter, program schedules, invitations to various events, and costs associated with walking tours and programs, the budget is a tool for anticipating future fiscal needs. We continue to network with several other groups in the area whose focus is on historic preservation and cultural tourism. Our walking tours not only remain a part of Artoon in help, but became a part of Spirit of Artoon during the winter. They are an integral part of Historic Preservation Week observances in May, as well. Attendance on the walks has also burgeoned.

We do manage to throw quite a party in the autumn! This has become a tradition of fun, while acknowledging the historic treasures which we celebrate in the community.

So, thank you for participating in the success of HRPS. Keep up the good work. We welcome your comments and suggestions.

Kathy Wishart
President

HPS is planning a special celebration sometime in the fall at the California Building. We are looking for any photos or memorabilia that you may have of the California Building by Philip Earl, 1992. Call Ainsworth at 747-0340.

HRPS extends a hearty THANK YOU to Holly Young, who served so ably as our Treasurer for five years. And congratulations on your upcoming blessed birthday.

The 1926 California legislature appropriated $100,000 for the California Building and for their exhibits at the Exposition – quite a sum for that time. Reno contractor Donald McLaren, a San Francisco landscape architect who had designed the grounds for the 1915 Panama-Pacific Exposition.

Idelwild Park was the Exposition's site. Acquired from the Francis G. Newlands Estate in May, 1927, the park grounds were designed by Donald McLaren, a San Francisco landscape architect who designed the grounds for the 1915 Panama-Pacific Exposition.

The 1926 California legislature appropriated $100,000 for the California Building and for their exhibits at the Exposition – quite a sum for that time. Reno contractor Joseph C. Dillard was awarded a $23,353 contract to erect the building.

In 1937, through a California legislative resolution, the California Building was dedicated to those who lost their lives in World War I and presented to American Legion Post No. 1. In 1938 the Legion Post transferred ownership of the building to the City of Reno. And in 2002 the interior of the building will be refurbished to its former glory.

To contribute, please contact Cindy Ainsworth at 747-0340.

Sources:

The California Building by Philip Earl, 1992

References:

HRPS is pleased to welcome Bill Waldrip to serve as Treasurer. His interest in preservation as well as his background in finance and management will be invaluable as HRPS positions itself to apply for the kind of grants we need to move the organization forward.

With regret, HRPS accepts the resignations of Scott Gibson from the Board of Directors. His total dedication to HRPS and his mission has been a shining light for all of us. But Scott isn't going too far, because he'll continue to help with the walking tours. Too bad you have to work for a living, Scott!
Dear Ms. Collins,

I share your regret over the fire that burned the Wingfield Mansion, but I object to your assessment of its occupant (“Another Landmark Gone,” Winter, 2002). To mention just a few highlights of his career: George Wingfield overcapitalized his Goldfield Consolidated Mines Company, fleecing many investors; he destroyed the radical labor unions in Goldfield by imposing an illegal black list and recruiting scabs under military protection; in 1932 his chain of banks collapsed under questionable circumstances, wiping out the savings of numerous Nevada depositors. This man can hardly be said to provide a “true reflection of the pioneer spirit that gave root to the western spirit that is uniquely Nevada.”

Sincerely,
Sally Zanjani, Ph.D.

Jean Collins responds:

I agree with Dr. Zanjani’s assessment that George Wingfield was a rogue of questionable reputation. The pioneer spirit that built the West was one of survival in the harshest of environments. The rest of the country paid little attention to this sparsely settled Great Basin filled with rugged mountains, sagebrush, and rattlesnakes. Mining had an immoral reputation of enticing men to leave their families and homes in search of the ubiquitous gold ore. The law of the land dominated; politicians and law enforcement gave only a cursory nod as long as monies kept rolling in from the mines. Nevada was the grabstake for the entrepreneurial spirit. Financial gain was the catalyst that built Nevada and George Wingfield was in the right place at the right time with the skills to create a Mecca in the desert. Wingfield brashly built a totalitarian empire within a Democratic system and ruled virtually unopposed, feeding the greed of both Republicans and Democrats. In spite of all the negatives, Wingfield kept his fortunes within this state and put Reno on the map as a destination city. Tall tales that flourished around the poker tables throughout his lifetime still shadow the financial and political power he wielded. I believe that his story has several chapters yet to be told. For now, my focus is on the loss of the home that was a historical gem on the river. This structure that was retouched by Fredrick DeLongchamps has been a horrific loss to historical Reno. HRPS’s commitment to heighten awareness of such destruction by neglect or design. We must be cognizant of how fragile our tangible past is becoming.

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Dear Editor:

My childhood friend, Jean Collins, sent me the last issue of your newsletter, FootPrints. I read the story regarding the loss of the Wingfield property with special interest and great sorrow. That house was a big part of my life. I’d like to take this opportunity to clarify the way in which the Hardy and Wingfield families are linked.

My great-grandfather, Dr. George Thoma, came to Nevada in 1864. He was interested in mining and politics, and was a pioneer in serving the mentally ill. He married a much younger woman who was a teacher in the Carson Valley. Her name was Alice Wilsey. They had two daughters, Bonnie (Hardy) and Roxy (Wingfield). Ronnie’s husband, my paternal grandfather, was Roy Hardy. Ronnie and Roy lived at 442 Flint Street, AKA the “Hardy House.” They had two children: my father, Royce A. Hardy, and my aunt, Alice Hardy Paulsen.

Grandfather Hardy became associated with George Wingfield through mining. Pretty much after Wingfield had amassed his $20 million in mining and banking, and after he’d divorced his San Francisco socialite wife. (Amazingly, he received permanent custody of their two children, George Jr. and Jessie.)

When Alice Wilsey Thoma died, her daughter Roxy moved in with her sister, Bonnie Hardy, and her brother-in-law Roy Hardy. Not long afterwards George Wingfield was introduced to Roxy by my grandfather, Roy. Roxy and George Wingfield were married shortly thereafter. Roxy Wingfield, Bonnie Hardy, Roy Hardy, and George Wingfield were extremely close. George Wingfield’s niece was Alice Hardy; my sister Susan and I were nieces once removed. George Wingfield and Roy Hardy were brothers-in-law, married to the two Thoma girls.

- Helen Hardy Mills

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HRPS invites readers to send in their thoughts, opinions, and questions. The editor reserves the right to edit for appropriateness and/or length. Short letters have a better chance of being included than longer ones.

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HISTORIC RENO PRESERVATION SOCIETY
Strategic Plan 2001-2003

MISSION STATEMENT
Dedicated to preserving and promoting historic resources in the Truckee Meadows through education, advocacy, and leadership.

I. Organizational Goals and Strategies

1. Implement uniform business procedures.
   - Strategies:
     • Standardize, document, and copyright all heritage tour materials.
     • Hire full-time executive director and grant writer with dedicated office space.

2. Improve financial management procedures.
   - Strategies:
     • Develop annual budget.
     • Implement formal financial tracking and reporting system including an annual audit.
     • Obtain necessary funding.

3. Increase HRPS membership by 15% annually.
   - Strategies:
     • Develop an outreach and retention plan.

4. Provide training to HRPS volunteers.
   - Strategies:
     • Develop training packages for tour leaders and other volunteers.
     • Conduct training as needed.

II. Promotional Goals and Strategies

1. Develop and enhance fundraising activities.
   - Strategies:
     • Sell HRPS logo merchandise.
     • Hold a fundraising event each year.

III. Preservation Goals and Strategies

1. Identify, research, and protect historic resources.
   - Strategies:
     • Collaborate with the Historic Resources Commission and other like-minded community organizations.
     • Implement an adopt-a-block program.

2. Educate the community on historic preservation.
   - Strategies:
     • Increase number and quality of heritage tours.
     • Develop and conduct educational programs.

CALL FOR PAPERS

Sin and the American Roadside is the theme of the 2002 Society for Commercial Archaeology annual conference to be held at the National Automobile Museum in Reno, September 25-28, 2002. The Program Committee invites proposals for papers and posters that address those aspects of the American roadside that are often overlooked in conventional histories. The maximum length for general session papers is 15 minutes. For session papers, submit abstracts of no more than 500 words and a one-page Curriculum Vitae. Graduate students and others are encouraged to submit poster abstracts of 250 words and a one-page C.V. Send abstracts to Mella Rothwell Harmon, State Historic Preservation Office, 100 N. Stewart St., Carson City, Nevada 89701, 775-684-3447, mharmon@clan.lib.nv.us. Deadline: May 1, 2002.
THE HONOR OF YOUR PRESENCE IS REQUESTED

THE MASTER’S WORKS:
A BUS TOUR OF FREDERIC J. DELONGCHAMPS’ BUILDINGS IN THE TRUCKEE MEADOWS

Ronald James, our State Historic Preservation Officer, called him “Nevada’s Historic Architect.” During his career of sixty years, DeLongchamps designed more than five hundred buildings; his genius can be seen in the diversity of his designs. While he is best known for his impressive public buildings, you can also find in the Truckee Meadows some of his finest examples of houses and commercial buildings.

In celebration of Preservation Week, HRPS is offering a bus tour of DeLongchamps’ buildings. We will not only explore some of his more popular designs but also take a look at a few hidden jewels here in Reno and Sparks.

Money raised from the tour will be used to help fund future HRPS publications.

INFORMATION

When: May 11, 2002
Cost: $35.00, includes a special “DeLongchamps Gourmet Luncheon” at a secret location.
Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The tour will leave promptly at 9:00 a.m.
Tour Guides: Carrie Bennis-Young and Meredith de La Garza

Space is limited and reservations are required. To RSVP, please call Nancy Holmes at 852-2094, no later than April 23.

Checks or money orders must be received no later than April 26th. This is going to be fun, so reserve your spot early!

FAMOUS FIGURES IN RENO’S HISTORICAL PAST:
FREDERIC J. DELONGCHAMPS

Trained at the nation’s first-aid school, Borden College in Philadelphia, DeLongchamps began his career in 1906, working as a draftsman for an architectural office in San Francisco. He moved to Reno in 1909, and began his solo career in 1910. Over the next ten years, his work included the Nevada buildings at the Panama-Pacific Exposition in San Francisco, and the Nevada State Building in Carson City (1920), the Nevada State Hospital in Sparks (1920), and the Nevada State Capitol (1926), which was completed in 1932.

In 1932, DeLongchamps was appointed State Architect to supervise the campaign. The position of State Architect was abolished in 1931. In 1933, DeLongchamps was reappointed State Architect and remained in that position until it was abolished again in 1936. DeLongchamps was responsible for the design of several state buildings including the Nevada Industrial School in Elko (1931), the Nevada State Hospital in Sparks (1932), the Heroes Memorial Building in Carson City (1932), the Nevada State Building in Reno (1932), and the State Supreme Court Building in Carson City (1936).

DeLongchamps was very active in the community. In 1949, he served as the first president of the Reno Chapter of the American Institute of Architects. He was also a member of the Chamber of Commerce, the Rotary Club, and the Elks Club. As president of the University of Nevada Alumni Association in 1938 and 1939, he was the University of Nevada’s Distinguished Alumnus Award in 1936.


Facts about DeLongchamps:
- His 31 individuals who consider “my” students, 22 of them currently work in historic preservation or in Historic Resources Management (the federal term that combines Historic Preservation and Archaeology). Those in Northern Nevada include: Kenneth Keil, Cliff Ceng, Judith Eiche, Jef Christiain, Alice Barden, Thomas Burke, Craig Young, Christine Yev, Feo VanLentgk, and Mella Harmon.
- Julie Tipps, who got her Master of Anthropology with me, went on to law school and is now an Assistant Clerk-Attorney with the Nevada Supreme Court. Others work in Oregon, Utah, California, Texas, and Arizona, either for federal agencies or for private consulting firms, or they own their own consulting firms. Of the 29 master’s students currently finishing their PhDs elsewhere, one at the University of Michigan, and another at Washington University in St. Louis. I currently have 3 master’s and one doctoral student in the throes of finishing up their degree programs.
- There were also some 200 plus undergraduate students from UNR and all across the country who passed through the UNR Archaeological Field School. From between 1982 to 1998, when I was overall director. Field directors included Gene Hatuito, Craig Young, Alanah Woody, and Julie Tipps over the years. Students learned not only archaeology, but also heritage management. A number went on in historic preservation or heritage management at their home universities, or at UNR. Christine Foy, for example.
- In 1987, we started the UNR Continuing Education Program in Historic Resources Management, designed for professionals in Historic Preservation and Heritage Management. We have a faculty drawn from UNR, UNLV, other universities, the judiciary, governmental agencies, Indian tribes, and the private sector. As of January 2002, we’ve taught about 270 workshops and seminars, in Reno and all across the country. Finally from Guant to Maine. We’ve had about 4,700 students, all working professionals, in attendance—many have taken several courses.
- Ours was the first program of its kind in the country (we now have imitators, both in the U.S. and Canada) and we’ve won an award or two. Some courses are designed for specific groups: for example, we conduct special Historic Preservation/Heritage courses for Indian tribes, because they have special issues and problems under federal heritage legislation. Many of our courses are co-sponsored at the national level, by the National Park Service, or the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.
- Between 1981 and 1996, I made 67 trips to 30 different cities (some were too foolish to ask me back, some more than once) across the country to lecture and conduct seminars on historic preservation (and related topics) for the Smithsonian Institution Associates Program. The “Flip Side” lecture was one such. I also gave over 60 such lectures within Nevada.
- I’ve been Principal Investigator for 74 research grants and contracts and published nearly 100 professional papers and monographs, and 5 books.
- Finally, over the years, I’ve been fairly active in the national level, helping write Historic Preservation and Heritage legislation, lobbying and testifying before Congress, etc. In Nevada, I helped create the Washoe Heritage Council in the late 1970s, the statewide Nevada Heritage Council in the 1980s, and now the Truckee Meadows Heritage Trust. I also served 6 years as President of the Society for American Archaeology, the largest professional archaeological organization in the world.
- We’ve come a long ways since 1966. Many of our students are active in the field in Northern Nevada and are at points in their lives and careers that indicate they will remain in place for years to come. In the meantime, we have more students in the pipeline. I am pleased to have been associated with many good students and colleagues, and to be associated with Nevadans who cherish, and work to maintain, our heritage. It’s been a privilege and a pleasure.
Bus, walk, and bike your way through HRPS’s celebration of Historic Preservation Week - A Sense of Place. All tours are about 1 1/2 hours long. Please wear comfortable walking shoes, clothing appropriate for the weather, and a helmet for the bike tour. Reservations required, please call each guide listed to register. There is no cost for HRPS members. $5.50 for non-members, with the exception of the bus tour.

Saturday, May 11 - 9:45 a.m.
DeLongchamps Defined Bus Tour
Nancy Holmes, 852-2894
Renowned architect Frederic DeLongchamps was responsible for more buildings in more styles than any other architect in Nevada. This tour will view some of his buildings in downtown Reno and on the University of Nevada, Reno campus. Meet at the National Automobile Museum parking lot, Lake and Mill Streets. Cost $35.00, includes gourmet lunch. (See page 1 for details.)

Monday, May 13 - 6:00 p.m.
Reno: Beyond the Arches
Anne Simone, 853-5418
Travel back in time as you walk the downtown streets of Reno. Hear about the people who built Reno and its legends, revivals, and changes. Enjoy the beautiful tree-lined streets. Learn about some basic architectural elements, make your own decisions about adaptive reuse, and hear the answer to the mystery - where did they get all those rocks? Meet at My Favorite Muffin, 340 California Ave.

Tuesday, May 14 - 6:00 p.m.
Wells Avenue Neighborhood
Mark Toner, 826-7070
Follow the route of the Wells Avenue Streetcar line to the bungalows of Reno’s business people and the middle class family life of the 1940s and ’50s. This area is now on the verge of a neighborhood renaissance. Meet at Southside School, now part of the Reno City Hall Complex, Sinclair and Liberty Streets.

Tuesday, May 14 - 7:00 p.m.
Mystery Bike Tour
Joan Collins, 329-0394
This easy bike tour travels about six miles through the quiet, historic streets of old Reno. Bring your own bike. HELMET REQUIRED. Meet at My Favorite Muffin, 340 California Ave.

Wednesday, May 15 - 6:00 p.m.
Historic Truckee River Corridor
Anna Collins, 329-0394
Wander through the Victorians and view the mansions on the bluff as you listen to the gentle cascade of the Truckee River and the “trembling leaves” of early Reno during this nostalgic journey. This north side of the river is where the early growth of Reno took place. Meet at McKinley Park Arts and Culture Center, Riverside and Vine Sts.

Thursday, May 16 - 6:00 p.m.
Bricks and Stones
Anne Simone, 853-3414
In one of Reno’s more eclectic neighborhoods, you’ll find bungalows of brick and stone. Queen Annes to Craftsman, along with schools, churches, and a neighborhood grocery store all on beautiful tree-lined streets. Learn about some basic architectural elements, make your own decisions about adaptive reuse, and hear the answer to the mystery - where did they get all those rocks? Meet at My Favorite Muffin, 340 California Ave.

Friday, May 17 - 10:00 a.m.
Ride Through Old Reno Bike Tour
Glee Willis, 323-0696
This very, very easy bike tour travels about six miles through the quiet, historic streets of old Reno. Bring your own bike. HELMET REQUIRED. Meet at My Favorite Muffin, 340 California Ave.

Saturday, May 18 - 10:00 a.m.
Blast From the Past:
Historic Fourth Street Corridor
Joy Canepa, 323-0220
Well-traveled transcontinental Highway 40, the Lincoln Highway, was the business center of Reno - back when Reno and Sparks were actually three miles apart! Thanks to the efforts of the Reno-Sparks Business Corridor Association, this area is undergoing a rejuvenation. Meet at Lewis’ Basque Corner, E. Fourth and Evans Ave.

Sunday, May 19 - 10:00 a.m.
Wells Avenue Neighborhood
Mark Toner, 826-7070
Follow the route of the Wells Avenue Streetcar line to the bungalows of Reno’s business people and the middle class family life of the 1940s and ’50s. This area is now on the verge of a neighborhood renaissance. Meet at Southside School, now part of the Reno City Hall Complex, Sinclair and Liberty Streets.

I had a dime for every time someone said to me, “I don’t want my property listed in the National Register of Historic Places because then the federal government will tell me what I can and can’t do with it.” I would be lying on a beach in Tahiti, not writing for the HRPS newsletter. Please understand, I am not meaning to be critical of property rights. They are sacred to democracy and the American way of life, and I would defend them to the death. It disturbs me, however, that there are so many misconceptions about the National Register, and by extension, the State and City Registers, to the detriment of honest and sincere preservation efforts.

In 1966 the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) established The National Register of Historic Places. The National Register is intended to recognize and honor properties (sites, districts, buildings, structures, and objects), that are significant in local, state, and/or national history. The example in the Mapes Hotel, which was listed in the National Register. When all was said and done, the building could not be saved from demolition. Listing can bring benefits, though, in the form of rehabilitation tax credits and federal and state preservation grants.

Nevada has a State Register of Historic Places, as well, created by the state legislature in 1979. The State Historic Preservation Office administers the State Register. The State Register is purely honorific and no requirements or restrictions are placed on a property listed in it.

The City Register of Historic Places was established along with Reno’s historic preservation ordinance in 1993. The Historical Resources Commission (HRC) administers the City Register and the City’s preservation ordinance. The City Register’s purpose is to recognize and honor buildings and sites that are important to Reno’s history and sense of community. The preservation ordinance recognizes the importance of maintaining our historic character, so the City Register imposes minimal requirements, which pertain only to exterior modifications that require a building permit. This excludes ordinary maintenance or repair (including

continued on page 6
continued from page 5

interested in encouraging contemporary construction, the considering new buildings, to prohibit the reconstruction or demolition of structures, or districts on the states the intent of the Certificate of Reno’s historic preservation ordinance permit will be issued.

Reno’s historic preservation ordinance states the intent of the Certificate of Appropriateness requirement:

It is the intent of these regulations to ensure that buildings, structures, or districts on the Register shall be in harmony with their surroundings. It is not the intention of these regulations to require the reconstruction or demolition of individual or original buildings, to prohibit the demolition or removal of such buildings, or to impose architectural styles from particular historic periods. In considering new construction, the Commission (HRC) shall encourage contemporary design which is harmonious with the character of the district or historic resource.

In reviewing your application, the HRC will take into account the historic and architectural significance of your building, the exterior form and appearance of your proposed addition, and the effect of your planned addition on other structures in the vicinity. The HRC will apply the following standards in evaluating your proposal:

- Every reasonable effort shall be made to provide a compatible use for a property that requires minimal alteration of the building, structure, or site and its environment, or to use a property for its original purpose.
- The distinguishing original qualities or character of a building, structure, or site and its environment shall not be destroyed. The removal or alteration of any historic material or distinctive architectural feature shall be avoided, when possible.
- All buildings, structures, and sites shall be recognized as products of their own time. Alterations that have no historical basis and that seek to create an earlier appearance shall be discouraged.
- Changes that may have taken place in the course of time are evidence of the history and development of a building, structure, or site and its environment. These changes may have acquired significance in their own right. This significance shall be recognized and respected.
- Distinctive stylistic features or examples of skilled craftsmanship that characterize a building, structure, or site shall be treated with sensitivity.
- Deteriorated architectural features shall be repaired rather than replaced, whenever possible. In the event replacement is necessary, the new material should match the material being replaced in composition, design, color, texture, and other visual qualities. Repair or replacement of missing architectural features should be based on an accurate duplication of features, substantiated by historic, physical, or pictorial evidence, rather than on conjectural designs or the availability of different architectural elements from other buildings or structures.
- The surface cleaning of structures shall be undertaken with the gentlest means possible. Sandblasting and other cleaning methods that will damage the historic building materials shall not be undertaken.
- Every reasonable effort shall be made to protect and preserve archaeological resources affected by or adjacent to any project.
- Contemporary design or alterations and additions to existing properties shall not be discouraged when such alterations and additions do not destroy significant historical, architectural, or cultural material, and when such design is compatible with the size, scale, color, material, and character of the property, neighborhood, or environment.
- In the case of an addition, the underlying principle is to create a design that is compatible and complementary to the building, without duplicating historic elements. The idea is that the addition should not confuse the history of the building. It should be identifiable as a modern addition.

In its review the HRC may make recommendations and ask that you consider revising your plans to meet the above criteria. It is the HRC’s job to work with property owners to identify solutions. The HRC must approve or deny an application for a Certificate of Appropriateness within 45 days. Certificates may be issued subject to reasonable conditions, and although the HRC’s decision is final, the preservation ordinance allows for appeal to the City Council. Certificates of Appropriateness are valid for 18 months, but extensions can be obtained.

So, what happens if you want to demolish a building that is listed on the City Register? You will need a Demolition Certificate from the HRC. The process is similar to the Certificate of Appropriateness process, will be triggered when a demolition permit application is submitted to the City. The HRC has 120 days to approve the Demolition Certificate. Property owners within 500 feet will be notified, and a public hearing will be scheduled. The HRC may negotiate with the owner to find a means of preserving the building. If preservation is not possible, the HRC can institute its mitigation procedures, which typically involve documenting the building.

The HRC has 120 days to approve the Demolition Certificate. Property owners within 500 feet will be notified, and a public hearing will be scheduled. The HRC may negotiate with the owner to find a means of preserving the building. If preservation is not possible, the HRC can institute its mitigation procedures, which typically involve documenting the building.

So, there you have it in a nutshell. The bottom line is that listing in the City Register is intended to help property owners preserve historic properties, because to do so is beneficial for property owners and for all Reno citizens. The HRC was created to protect the historical integrity of the City of Reno for the citizens of the community, visitors, investors, and property owners. We attempt to do this by fairly and justly implementing established preservation principles. It’s not as scary as you think.

Please call me at 775-681-3447 or Donald Naquin at 775-326-6675 if you have questions about the HRC, the National Register, State Register, or City Register, and/or Reno’s preservation ordinance. If all you want is reassurance, there is a small fee to help finance my trip to Tahiti.
In reviewing your application, the HRC will take into account the historic and architectural significance of your building, the exterior form and appearance of your proposed addition, and the effect of your planned addition on other structures in the vicinity. The HRC will apply the following standards in evaluating your proposal:

- Every reasonable effort shall be made to provide a compatible use for a property that requires minimal alteration of the building, structure, or site and its environment, or to use a property for its original purpose.
- The distinguishing original qualities or character of a building, structure, or site and its environment shall not be destroyed. The removal or alteration of any historic material or distinctive architectural feature should be avoided, when possible.
- All buildings, structures, and sites shall be recognized as products of their own time. Alterations that have no historical basis and that seek to create an earlier appearance shall be discouraged.
- Changes that may have taken place in the course of time are evidence of the history and development of a building, structure, or site and its environment. These changes may have acquired significance in their own right. This significance shall be recognized and respected.
- Distinctive stylistic features or elements of skilled craftsmanship that characterize a building, structure, or site shall be treated with sensitivity.
- Deteriorated architectural features shall be repaired rather than replaced, wherever possible. In the event replacement is necessary, the new material should match the material being replaced in composition, design, color, texture, and other visual qualities. Repair or replacement of missing architectural features should be based on accurate duplication of features, substantiated by historic, physical, or pictorial evidence, rather than on conjectural designs or the availability of different architectural elements from other buildings or structures.
- The surface cleaning of structures shall be undertaken with the gentlest means possible. Sandblasting and other cleaning methods that will damage the historic building materials shall not be undertaken.
- Every reasonable effort shall be made to protect and preserve archaeological resources affected by or adjacent to any project.
- Contemporary design or alterations and additions to existing properties shall not be discouraged when such alterations and additions do not destroy significant historical, architectural, or cultural material, and when such design is compatible with the size, scale, color, material, and character of the property, neighborhood, or environment.
- In the case of an addition, the underlying principle is to create a design that is compatible and complementary to the building without duplicating historic elements. The idea is that the addition should not confuse the history of the building. It should be identifiable as a modern addition.

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So what happens if you want to demolish a building that is listed in the City Register? You will need a Demolition Certificate from the HRC. The process, similar to the Certificate of Appropriateness process, will be triggered when a demolition permit application is submitted to the City. The HRC has 120 days to approve the Demolition Certificate. Property owners within 300 feet will be notified, and a public hearing will be scheduled. The HRC may negotiate with the owner to find a means of preserving the building. If preservation is not possible, the HRC can institute its mitigation procedures, which typically involve documenting the historic building before it is demolished. There are several levels of documentation, depending on the significance of the building, but in general documentation involves black-and-white photography and a narrative history of the building.

No, lest you think that approval of a Certificate of Appropriateness is arbitrary or subjective, the underlying principles employed by the HRC (stated in the ordinance), are derived from the Secretary of Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation. These standards set out basic measures to ensure that the characteristics of a property that make it eligible for the National Register, or in this case, the City Register, are retained — that “its historical integrity is not compromised.” These standards are intended to “be applied to specific rehabilitation projects in a reasonable manner, taking into consideration economic and technical feasibility.”

So, let’s say you own a house listed in the City Register and you want to build an addition. You will need a building permit from the City and they will tell you that you need a Certificate of Appropriateness from the HRC before they can issue the permit. In addition to completing the information required on the application form, plans, sketches, and photographs, and specifications of the proposed addition must be submitted at least 15 days before an HRC meeting. (HRC meets the second Thursday of the month, 3 p.m., at McKinley Arts and Culture Center.) All property owners within 300 feet of your property will be notified at least 10 days before the meeting. A public hearing on your proposal will be held at the HRC meeting. You will be given an opportunity to make a presentation to the Commission and will no doubt be asked questions by the Commissioners. Members of the public will be given an opportunity to comment, as well.
Bus, walk, and bike your way through HRPS’s celebration of Historic Preservation Week - A Sense of Place. All tours are about 1 1/2 hours long. Please wear comfortable walking shoes, clothing appropriate for the weather, and a helmet for the bike tour. Reservations required, please call each guide listed to register. There is no cost for HRPS members, $5.50 for non-members, with the exception of the bus tour.

Saturday, May 11 - 9:45 a.m.
DeLongchamps Defined Bus Tour
Nancy Holmes, 852-2094
Renowned architect Frederic DeLongchamps was responsible for many buildings in more styles than any other architect in Nevada. This tour will view some of his buildings in downtown Reno and on the University of Nevada, Reno campus. Meet at the National Automobile Museum parking lot, Lake and Mill Streets. Cost $35.00, includes gourmet lunch. (See page within “The Master’s Works” for details.)

Monday, May 13 - 6:00 p.m.
Reno: Beyond the Ashes
Anne Simone, 853-3414
Travel back in time as you walk the downtown streets of Reno. Hear about the people who built Reno and its legends, revivals, and changes. Enjoy the memories and the realities that make Reno the “Biggest Little City in the World.” Meet at the National Automobile Museum parking lot, east side of building, Lake St.

Tuesday, May 14 - 6:00 p.m.
Wells Avenue Neighborhood
Mark Teter, 826-7070
Follow the route of the Wells Avenue Streetcar line to the bungalows of Reno’s business people and the middle class family life of the 1940s and ’50s. This area is now on the verge of a neighborhood renaissance. Meet at Southside School, now part of the Reno City Hall Complex, Sinclair and Liberty Streets.

Wednesday, May 15 - 6:00 p.m.
Historic Truckee River Corridor
Jan Collings, 329-0394
Wander through the Victorians and view the mansions on the bluff as you listen to the gentle cascade of the Truckee River and the “trembling leaves” of early Reno during this nostalgic journey. This north side of the river is where the early growth of Reno took place. Meet at McKinley Park Arts and Culture Center, Riverside and Vine Sts.

Thursday, May 16 - 6:00 p.m.
Bricks and Stones
Anne Simone, 853-3414
In one of Reno’s more eclectic neighborhoods, you’ll find bungalows of brick and stone. Queen Anne to craftsman, along with schools, churches, and a neighborhood grocery store all on beautiful tree-lined streets. Learn about some basic architectural elements, make your own decisions about adaptive reuse, and hear the answer to the mystery - where did they all these rocks? Meet at My Favorite Muffin, 340 California Ave.

Saturday, May 18 - 10:00 a.m.
Blast From the Past: Historic Fourth Street Corridor
Gege Canepa, 323-0220
Well-traveled transcontinental Highway 40, the Lincoln Highway, was the business center of Reno - back when Reno and Sparks were actually three miles apart! Thanks to the efforts of the Reno-Sparks Business Corridor Association, this area is undergoing a rejuvenation. Meet at Lewis’ Baskin Corner, E. Fourth and Evans Ave.

Sunday, May 19 - 10:00 a.m.
Ride Through Old Reno Bike Tour
Dee Willis, 323-0836
This very, very easy bike tour travels about six miles through the quiet, historic streets of old Reno. Bring your own bike. HELMET REQUIRED. Meet at My Favorite Muffin, 340 California Ave.

HRPS QUALITY DENIM SHIRTS
HRPS now has quality denim shirts for sale with our logo sewn over the pocket in black. If you’re not familiar with our logo look on the front page of this newsletter. $25.00 for walking tour guides. $35.00 for the general public. Shirts are available at meetings or from Fekia Belastegui at 292-0149.

NHPA also guides federal agencies to consider the effects of their activities on historic resources. National Register eligibility is the benchmark against which resources are evaluated. For private property owners, however, listing in the National Register brings no conditions or restrictions whatsoever. Reno had a prime preservation grants.

Nevada has a State Register of Historic Places, as well, created by the state legislature in 1979. The State Historic Preservation Office administers the State Register. The State Register is purely honorific and no requirements or restrictions are placed on a property listed in it.

The City Register of Historic Places was established along with Reno’s historic preservation ordinance in 1993. The Historical Resources Commission (HRC) administers the City Register and the City’s preservation ordinance. The City Register’s purpose is to recognize and honor buildings and sites that are important to Reno’s history and sense of community. The preservation ordinance recognizes the importance of maintaining our historic character, so the City Register imposes minimal requirements, which pertain only to exterior modifications that require a building permit. This excludes ordinary maintenance or repair (including... continued on page 6
Ronald James, our State Historic Preservation Officer, called him “Nevada’s Historic Architect.” During his career of sixty years, DeLongchamps designed more than five hundred buildings; his genius can be seen in the diversity of his designs. While he is best known for his impressive public buildings, you can also find in the Truckee Meadows some of his finest examples of houses and commercial buildings.

In celebration of Preservation Week, HRPS is offering a bus tour of DeLongchamps’ buildings. We will not only explore some of his more popular designs but also take a look at a few hidden gems here in Reno and Sparks.

Money raised from the tour will be used to help fund future HRPS publications.

INFORMATION

When: May 11, 2002
Cost: $15.00, includes a “DeLongchamps Gourmet Lunch” at a secret location.
Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The tour will leave promptly at 9:00 a.m.
Tour Guides: Carrie Bennis-Young and Meredith de La Garza

Space is limited and reservations are required. To RSVP, please contact Nancy Holmes at 547-2094, no later than April 24. Checks or money orders must be received no later than April 24th. This is going to be fun, so reserve your spot early!

FAMOUS FIGURES IN RENO’S HISTORICAL PAST:
FREDERIC J. DELONGCHAMPS

The son of French Canadian immigrants, Frederic J. DeLongchamps was born in Reno on June 2, 1882. A 1904 graduate of UNR with a degree in mining engineering, he briefly pursued a career in mining. In 1906, DeLongchamps moved to San Francisco as an apprentice architect. After a brief partnership with Ira W. Teach, DeLongchamps started his solo career in 1909.

That same year, DeLongchamps won the design competition for the Washoe County Courthouse, which was completed in 1910. Over the next ten years, his work in Nevada included the Nevada State Capitol Building in Carson City (1910), the Nevada State Building in Reno (1926), and the State Supreme Court Building in Carson City (1936). DeLongchamps was very active in the community. In 1949, he served as the president of the University of Nevada Alumni Association in 1918 and 1919. He was awarded the University of Nevada Reno’s Distinguished Alumnus Award in 1966.


Source: Thematic Nomination of the Architecture of Frederic J. DeLongchamps. National Register of Historic Places Inventory-Nomination Forms (Riverside Hotel). The form was prepared by Kathryn IA Namida, Architectural Historian, Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology, signed and dated 6/2/96 by Ronald M. James, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer.

Editor’s Note: Don Fowler, distinguished professor of anthropology at the University of Nevada, Reno, was the speaker at HRPS’ February meeting. At that time, I asked him if he could tell us something about his students and his career so we might understand that without Don and his students, preservation in our state, and indeed in North America, would be in a very different place.

Over the years (since 1966, when UNR started a master’s program in Anthropology), I’ve been the Graduate Committee Chair for 29 master’s students and 2 PhDs. These are “my” students. Committee chairs work one on one with students, usually find them research topics, and edit endless drafts of their theses or dissertations. I’ve also served as a member on probably 30 or more other Graduate Committees across the campus. Other individuals, such as Ken James, and probably 20 plus of Don Hanyton’s students, have attended one or more of my graduate level classes. Others, such as Alahid Woody and Gene Hattori, both at the Nevada State Museum, have both been in my classes and worked with me on various research projects.

Of the 31 individuals who I consider “my” students, 22 of them currently work in Historic Preservation or in Heritage Resources Management (the federal term that combines Historic Preservation and archaeology). Those in Northern Nevada include Renee Robert, Cliff Cenzer, Judith Ehler, Leif Christian, Alice Baldwin, Thomas Burke, Craig Young, Christine Yee, Fehla Belantasia, and Mella Harmon. Julie Tippis, who got her master’s in Anthropology with me, went on to law school and is now an Assistant Clerk Attorney with the Nevada Supreme Court. Others work in Oregon, Utah, California, Nevada, and Arizona, either for federal agencies or for private consulting firms, or they own their own consulting firms. Two of the 29 master’s students are currently finishing their PhDs elsewhere, one at the University of Michigan, and another at Washington University in St. Louis. I currently have 7 master’s and one doctoral student in the midst of finishing up their degree programs.

There were also some 200 plus undergraduate students from UNR and all across the country who passed through the UNR Archaelogical Anthropology graduate programs between 1982 and 1998, when I was overall director there. Field directors included Gene Hattori, Craig Young, Alahid Woody, and Julie Tippis over the years. Students learned not only archaeology, but also heritage management. A number went on in historic preservation or heritage management at their home universities, or at UNR. Christine Foy, for example.

In 1987, we started the UNR Continuing Education Program in Heritage Resources Management, designed for professionals in Historic Preservation and Heritage Management. We have a faculty drawn from UNR, UNLV, other museums, the judiciary, governmental agencies, Indian tribes, and the private sector. As of January 2002, we’ve taught about 270 workshops and seminars, in Reno and all across the country. Briefly from Guern to Maine. We’ve had about 4,700 students, all working professionals, in attendance—many have taken several courses.

Ours was the first program of its kind in the country (we now have imitators, both in the U.S. and Canada), and we’ve won an award or two. Some courses are designed for specific groups: for example, we conduct special Historic Preservation/Heritage courses for Indian tribes, because they have special issues and problems under federal heritage legislation. Many of our courses are co-sponsored at the national level, by the National Park Service, or the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

We’ve come a long ways since 1966. Many of our students are active in the field in Northern Nevada and are at points in their lives and careers that indicate they will remain in place for years to come. In the meantime, we have more students in the pipeline. I am pleased to have been associated with many good students and colleagues, and to be associated with Nevadans who cherish, and work to maintain, our heritage. It’s a privilege and a pleasure.
Dear Ms. Collins,

I share your regret over the fire that burned the Wingfield Mansion, but I object to your assessment of its occupant (“Another Landmark Gone,” Winter, 2002). To mention just a few highlights of his career: George Wingfield overcapitalized his Goldfield Consolidated Mines Company, fleecing many investors; he destroyed the radical labor unions in Goldfield by imposing an illegal black list and recruiting scabs under military protection in 1913; his chain of banks collapsed under questionable circumstances, wiping out the savings of numerous Nevada depositors. This man can hardly be said to provide a “true reflection of the pioneer spirit that gave root to the western spirit that is uniquely Nevadan.”

Sincerely,

Sally Zanjani, Ph.D.

Joan Collins responds:

I agree with Dr. Zanjani’s assessment that George Wingfield was a rogue of questionable reputation.

The pioneer spirit that built the West was one of survival in the harshest of environments. The rest of the country paid little attention to this sparsely settled Great Basin filled with rugged mountains, sagebrush, and rattlesnakes. Mining had an immoral environment. The rest of the country hardly be said to provide a “true reflection of the pioneer spirit that gave root to the western spirit that is uniquely Nevadan.”

Dear Editor:

My childhood friend, Joan Collins, sent me the last issue of your newsletter, FootPrints. I read the story regarding the loss of the Wingfield property with special interest and great sorrow. That house was a big part of my life. I’d like to take this opportunity to clarify the way in which the Hardy and Wingfield families are linked.

My great-grandfather, Dr. George Thoma, came to Nevada in 1864. He was interested in mining and politics, and was a pioneer in the Carson Valley. He married a much younger woman who was a teacher in the Carson Valley. Her name was Alice Wilsey. They had two daughters, Bonnie (Hardy) and Roxy (Wingfield). Bonnie’s husband, my paternal grandfather, was Roy Hardy. Ronnie and Roy lived at 442 Flint Street, AKA the “Hardy House.” They had two children: my father, Royce A. Hardy, and my aunt, Alice Hardy Paulsen.

Grandfather Hardy became associated with George Wingfield through mining. Roy Hardy had amassed his $20 million in mining and banking, and after he’d divorced his San Francisco socialite wife. (Amazingly, he received permanent custody of their two children, George Jr. and Jessie.)

When Alice Wilsey Thoma died, her daughter Roxy moved in with her sister, Bonnie Hardy, and her brother-in-law Roy Hardy. Not long afterwards George Wingfield was introduced to Roxy by my grandfather, Roy. Roxy and George Wingfield were married shortly thereafter. Roxy Wingfield, Bonnie Hardy, Roy Hardy, and George Wingfield were extremely close. George Wingfield’s niece was Alice Hardy, my sister Susan and I were nieces once removed. George Wingfield and Roy Hardy were brothers-in-law, married to the two Thoma girls.

- Helen Hardy Mills

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

HISTORIC RENO PRESERVATION SOCIETY
Strategic Plan 2001-2003

MISSION STATEMENT
Dedicated to preserving and promoting historic resources in the Truckee Meadows through education, advocacy, and leadership.

I. Organizational Goals and Strategies

1. Increase awareness and involvement of HRPS in the community:

   Strategies:
   - Develop and implement a HRPS marketing and public relations plan.
   - Produce publications to inform the public.

2. Increase HRPS membership by 15% annually.

   Strategies:
   - Develop an outreach and retention plan.

3. Contribute towards community efforts to increase cultural tourism in the Truckee Meadows.

   Strategies:
   - Develop a package of heritage tours for visitors, in collaboration with the RSCVA.

III. Preservation Goals and Strategies

1. Identify, research, and protect historic resources.

   Strategies:
   - Collaborate with the Historic Resources Commission and other like-minded community organizations.
   - Implement an adopt-a-block program.

2. Educate the community on historic preservation.

   Strategies:
   - Increase number and quality of heritage tours.
   - Develop and conduct educational programs.

CALL FOR PAPERS

Sin and the American Roadside is the theme of the 2002 Society for Commercial Archaeology annual conference to be held at the National Automobile Museum in Reno, September 25-28, 2002. The Program Committee invites proposals for papers and posters that address those aspects of the American roadside that are often overlooked in conventional histories. The maximum length for general session papers is 15 minutes. For session papers, submit abstracts of no more than 500 words and a one-page Curriculum Vitae. Graduate students and others are encouraged to submit poster abstracts of 275 words and a one-page C.V. Send abstracts to Mella Rothwell Harmon, State Historic Preservation Office, 100 N. Stewart St., Carson City, Nevada 89701, 775-684-3447, mharmon@clan.illinois.us. Deadline: May 1, 2002.
Thank you! HRPS has enjoyed a remarkably successful year. It can be attributed to members and friends who attend our monthly programs, to the volunteers who lead our historic walking tours, to volunteers who help with the newsletter production and mailing, and to those who, in many quiet ways, help out with various events during the year.

Special thanks must be extended to the people who present our monthly programs. Attendance continues to escalate, which is a testament to the quality of the presentations. To all of you who volunteer your time, talent, and knowledge as presenters, we are very grateful.

I must acknowledge the dedication and hard work of the members of the Board of Directors of HRPS. Thanks to them, we achieved some very important milestones in our rapidly growing organization. As we “grow up”, certain requirements become clear. The Board worked diligently to develop and adopt a plan. The plan is included in the newsletter. The Board also developed and adopted a budget. In addition to budgeting for current expenses as the newsletter, program schedules, invitations to various events, and costs associated with walking tours and programs, the budget is a tool for anticipating future fiscal needs. We continue to network with several other groups in the area whose focus is on historic preservation and cultural tourism. Our walking tours not only remain a part of Ainsworth in help, but became a part of Spirit of Reno.

So, thank you for participating in the success of HRPS. Keep up the good work. We welcome your comments and suggestions.

Kathy Wishart
President

HRPS planning a special celebration sometime in the fall at the California Building. We are looking for any photos or memorabilia that you may have of the California Building, the Transcontinental Highways Exposition, or the Lincoln and Victory Highways. Stories about events held at the California Building and for their park grounds were designed by Newlands Estate in May, 1923, the site. Acquired from the Francis G. Idlewild Park was the Exposition’s building. In 1927, through a California legislative resolution, the California Building was dedicated to those who lost their lives in World War I and presented to American Legion Post No. 1. In 1938 the Legion Post transferred ownership of the building to the City of Reno. And in 2002 the interior of the building will be refurbished to its former glory.

To contribute, please contact Cindy Ainsworth at 747-0340.

$23,333 contract to erect the building, the State Journal, 8/22/1965.

In 1973, through a California legislative resolution, the California Building was dedicated to those who lost their lives in World War I and presented to American Legion Post No. 1. In 1938 the Legion Post transferred ownership of the building to the City of Reno. And in 2002 the interior of the building will be refurbished to its former glory.

To contribute, please contact Cindy Ainsworth at 747-0340.

Calling all photos, memories, memorabilia

FIVE YEARS OLD AND ON THE MOVE!

HRPS is pleased to welcome Bill Walbridge to serve as Treasurer. His total dedication to HRPS and his mission has been a shining light for all of us. But Scott isn’t going too far, because he’ll continue to help with the walking tours. Too bad you have to work for a living, Scott! Scouted the resolutions for that time. Reno contractor transferred ownership of the building.

HRPS extends a hearty THANK YOU to Holly Young, who served so ably as our Treasurer for five years. And congratulations on your upcoming blessed event (baby).

HAIL AND FAREWELL

With regret, HRPS accepts the resignation of Scott Gibson from the Board of Directors. His total dedication to HRPS and his mission has been a shining light for all of us. But Scott isn’t going too far, because he’ll continue to help with the walking tours. Too bad you have to work for a living, Scott! Scouted the resolutions for that time. Reno contractor transferred ownership of the building.

HRPS extends a hearty THANK YOU to Holly Young, who served so ably as our Treasurer for five years. And congratulations on your upcoming blessed event (baby).
The Powning Addition: Reno’s Little Italy

By Sharon Adler Walbridge

Editors Note: This information is reproduced with the permission of HRPS Vice President, Felvia Belaustegui. It has been drawn from her Master’s Thesis, dated August, 2000, which was prepared under the direction of advisor Donald D. Fowler, Ph.D.

The Nevada State Journal on June 6, 1888 ran an ad which read: “Beautiful Lots for Sale! A Rare Chance for Investment and a Home in the Most Lovely Portion of Reno.”

By the time the ad ran a few homes had already been built along Ralston and Washington streets, in the eastern end of Powning’s Addition. These were the homes of some of the more affluent business men and their families.

Twenty to thirty years later, in the first and second decade of the 1900s the land available to newcomers and immigrants was the Winter, Vine, Jones and Keystone area in the western section of Powning’s Addition. The majority of the residences of the Italian community are smallish bungalows, a sharp contrast to the homes of the earlier settlers in the eastern section of Powning’s Addition. Most lots in the western section had enough room for gardens, grape vines, and additional units, in the back or side for rentals or extended family.

The economic setting of plentiful land, the railroad, and available employment in downtown Reno allowed Powning’s Addition to provide a perfect setting for the Italians to establish themselves in an ethnic enclave.