



HISTORIC LITTLETON INC.

Vol. 2 No. 1
February, 2001

Updated Historic Preservation Ordinance

The City of Littleton

is in the process of updating its historic preservation ordinance. We asked Rick Cronenberger, a member of Historic Littleton Inc. and the Vice-chairman of the Historic Preservation Board, to explain the new ordinance and the background of the Historic Preservation Board. Historic Littleton Inc. urges its members to read the new ordinance and show your support when this comes before the Littleton City Council in April.

In 1971, the Littleton City Council recognized that Littleton had historic structures that had "Architectural or Historical Significance as LANDMARKS" and needed to be recognized and designated. The council at that time instructed the Littleton Historical Museum to oversee the survey, identification and designation of Littleton's historic structures. Littleton was leading the way for historic preservation in Colorado by passing this ordinance, only 5 years after the 1966 National Historic Preservation Act was passed by the U.S. Congress.

In 1979, the City Council adopted the "Littleton Historic Preservation Code." This ordinance has not been modified since that time. However, the world of historic preservation has evolved substantially.

The Museum Board oversaw all activities related to historic preservation from 1979 - 1997. Under the Museum Board, several significant properties were designated "Landmarks." In 1995 the City of Littleton was designated a "Certified Local Government (CLG)," by the Colorado State Historical Society. Under this designation, the State of Colorado delegated certain preservation actions to the local board. It also required that some members of the board be familiar with historic preservation regulations.

To meet these requirements the City Council created the Historic Preservation Board in 1997 for the "purposes of designating and preserving structures and areas important to the City's cultural, historic and architectural heritage." The Council then instructed the Historic Preservation Board (HPB) to rewrite the existing ordinance to bring it up to current standards and requirements for historic preservation. The board has devoted the last 3 ½ years to this effort, and the revised ordinance is ready for public hearing and adoption by the Council.

So, what changes are proposed for the new ordinance? All the sections of the current ordinance were kept, though the language was updated in

many places. Several sections were added to provide additional checks and balances for property owners and the City. For example, the new ordinance includes information regarding economic hardship, reviewing the possible demolition or relocation of a historic landmark, unsafe or dangerous conditions, and special duties, maintenance and obligations for the owners of historic properties.

There is a non-consensual designation section in the new ordinance. This is a common feature in most local preservation ordinances and allows the city to designate a property a landmark if it is in the best interest of the city. It would be used in cases where an exceptionally significant historic property was threatened to be destroyed. It could also be used to create a historic landmark district when a majority of property owners were in favor of this.

The section of Economic Incentives for Historic Properties was expanded. The current ordinance only offers a rebate of the Littleton City property taxes. New incentives may include a rebate of building permit fees, rebate on the sales tax on material used for maintenance or restoration work, and possible low interest loans. Additional incentives include federal and state income tax credits for qualified

preservation work, grant money and City or grant funded assistance from a historical architect.

Finally, with the revised ordinance the Historic Preservation Board will be located under the Community Development Department and work closely with the planning commission, building code department and economic development.

The board has worked very hard to write an ordinance that will serve the citizens of Littleton well. To see a copy of the current ordinance, please check out the Littleton Historic Preservation Board web site at: www.littletongov.org/boards/historicpreservation. The revised ordinance will be posted on the web in the near future.

The historic preservation site is still under construction. Eventually it will contain a significant amount of information on historic preservation issues. If you have any suggestions on the type of information you would like to see posted, please let the Historic Preservation Board know by sending a letter or note to the Chairman, Mrs. Patricia Anderson c/o the Littleton Historical Museum, 6028 S. Gallup, Littleton, CO 80120.

WEB SITES ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION
 Colorado State Historical Society:
www.copin.org
 Nat'l Trust for Historic Preservation:
www.nthp.org
 City of Littleton:
www.littletongov.org

Did you know?:

The following buildings have been designated landmarks in Littleton:
 1 . *Littleton Town Hall, 2450 W. Main St. designated: 7/1973.

- 2 . D & R G Depot, 5800 S. Prince designated: 7/1973.
- 3 . AT & SF Depot, 2107 W. Powers designated: 7/1973.
- 4 . *Geneva Home, 2305 W. Berry designated: 9/1998.
- 5 . Columbine Mill, 5798 S. Rapp St. designated: 4/1994.
- 6 . Batschelet Building, 2569-79 W. Main St. designated: 11/1994.
- 7 . Littleton Presbyterian Church, 1609 W. Littleton Blvd. designated: 8/1994
- 8 . Duncan House, 5503 S. Prince St. designated: 4/1995.
- 9 . Coors Building, 2489 W. Main St. designated: 11/1993.
10. Two Potters, 2516 W. Main St. designated: 5/1993.
11. Carnegie Library, 2700 W. Main St. Designated: 7/1973.
12. Arapahoe County Courthouse 2069 W. Littleton Blvd. designated 9/1998.
13. First National Bank 2509 W. Main St. designated: 9/1998.
14. H. S. Leach House 2596 W. Alamo Ave. designated: 5/2000.

*Buildings in Littleton with National Register Designation, include the 2299 - 2599 blocks of Main St.

FYI

The City of Littleton received the Stephen Hart award from the Colorado Historical Society for the preservation and restoration of the former Arapahoe County Courthouse. The building will also be featured in the May issue of *Preservation Magazine* and was featured in the December 2000 *F. W. Dodge Colorado Construction Magazine*, a magazine devoted to the construction field.

Walking Tour of Historic Downtown Littleton

Join Rebecca Kast and Lorena

Donohue on Sunday, April 22 to walk through historic downtown Littleton and learn more about our historic buildings.

Meet at the restored Arapahoe County Courthouse at 2 p.m. The walking tour will end at 4 p.m. at the 5280 Roadhouse for Buy Your Own Refreshments.

RSVP to 303-730-2639

Calendar of Events:

March

21 Wednesday, dinner and lecture at the Buckhorn Exchange.

April

22 Sunday, walking tour of Historic Downtown Littleton.

May

Nat'l Hist. Preservation Month

16 Historic Littleton Inc.

Renewal dinner at Hudson Gardens

20 Museum Day at the

Historical Museum, 6028 S. Gallup, music, vintage baseball game featuring Littleton's own Rough & Readies

HLI Board Members:

Chair	Mike Massey
Vice Chair	Barbara Eaton
Treasurer	Ron Richards
Secretary	Sonya Ellingboe
Newsletter Editors	

Rebecca Kast
 Lorena Donohue

Board members:

Karen Arras
 Jim Campbell
 Rick Cronenberger
 Cindy Hathaway
 Vern Hendrickson
 Bernard Small
 Bruce Wolf

Get Involved

Members often ask how they can become more involved with Historic Littleton, Inc. As we are a fledgling organization, we need everyone's ideas and hard work.

The following committees have been formed. Contact the chairperson if you're interested in volunteering.

Special Events Committee:

Chair: Barbara Eaton

w: 303-977-4054

h: 303-979-8282

Members: Karen Arras, Rebecca Kast

Sonya Ellingboe, Lorena Donohue

Finance Committee:

Chair: Ron Richards

w: 303-795-5131

h: 303-794-3499

Members: Vern Hendrickson

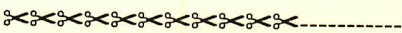
Jim Campbell

Newsletter:

Co-Editors: Rebecca Kast

Lorena Donohue

Member: Cindy Hathaway



Join Historic Littleton, Inc.

- Annual Family Membership - \$25.00

Name _____

Address _____

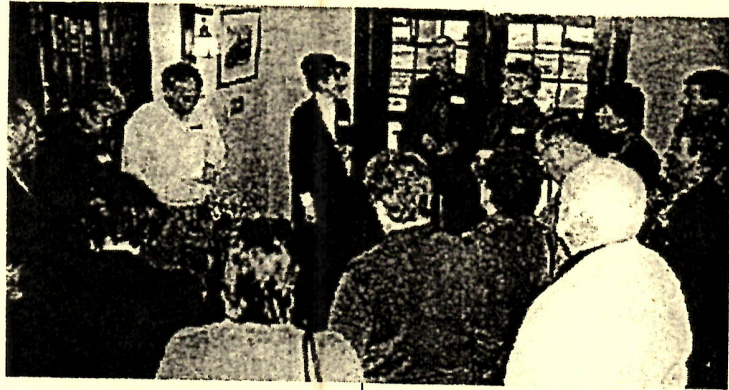
City, Zip _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Please send with your check to
Historic Littleton, Inc. P. O. Box 1004
Littleton, CO 80160-1004

- I would like to volunteer to help with HLI's programs and/or events.



Nearly 70 charter members of Historic Littleton Inc. gathered at historic Geneva Lodge on November 12, 2000 to see the renovation of this National Register Landmark building by Fisher Associates.

Thanks to Chris and Renee Fisher for hosting us at such an educational and enjoyable afternoon!

Dinner at the Buckhorn Exchange

Join Historic Littleton Inc. and the Friends of the Littleton Library and Museum on Wednesday, March 21 at 6:30 p.m. for dinner and a lecture by Roi Davis, owner of Littleton's Carnegie Library (The MeltingPot), the Historic Buckhorn Exchange Resturant (Denver Liquor Licence no. 1) and several other buildings in the metro area. Mr. Davis will discuss the advantages of owning historic buildings and some of the headaches.

The plan is to meet at the light rail station and ride to the Osage station where we will walk across the street to the Buckhorn. Tickets for light rail are \$4.00 round trip and .50 cents for seniors. This is not included in the fee. You can also meet us at the restaurant located at 1300 Osage.

Dinner (\$40.00 pp includes tax & gratuities) will consist of Rocky Mt. oysters, buffalo bratwurst, navy bean soup, and a choice of either 8 oz. buffalo prime rib or beef tenderloin, salmon, or two boneless quail with prickly pear sauce, baked potato, Haagen Dazs ice cream, coffee, tea and soft drinks. Alcoholic beverages are extra and paid for upon ordering.

Yes sign me up for the Buckhorn dinner:

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____

_____ persons @ \$40.00 per person

Total enclosed: _____

Mail with your check to:

Dinner at the Buckhorn
c/o Littleton Historical Museum
6028 S. Gallup
Littleton, CO 80120

Annual Renewal Dinner

Mark your calendars for Historic Littleton Inc.'s Annual Renewal Dinner at Hudson Gardens on Wednesday May 16.

We will join together for an evening of good food and entertainment, have our annual meeting and elect officers for next year. Additional information will be in the April Newsletter.

