



HISTORIC LITTLETON INC.

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Annual Meeting May 22 at First Presbyterian Church

Historic Littleton Inc. will hold its annual meeting at the First Presbyterian Church of Littleton on Wednesday, May 22 from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. First Presbyterian is a landmarked historic church in Littleton that was designed by J.J.B. Benedict, the architect who also designed Town Hall Art Center and the Carnegie Library.

First Presbyterian has been called "Littleton's wedding chapel" be-

cause so many weddings are performed in its beautiful sanctuary, which is similar to St. George's Chapel in Buckingham Palace. The interior features wood paneling, a Wicks pipe organ, the original stained glass windows, and hand-stenciled murals on the ceiling.

The Reverend Dr. Jonathan Masters Hole, minister at First Presbyterian, will lead HLI members on a tour

of the 1929 structure, culminating in a climb up the bell tower to view the church bell, which is rung at every wedding, funeral and worship service.

Afterwards there will be a brief business meeting and appetizers in Ayers Parlor, which often serves as the brides' room at First Presbyterian.

This event is free to all members of HLI, but please call Barb Eaton at 303-977-4054 if you can attend.

History of First Presbyterian

Back in 1883, a group of early Littleton residents organized the Presbyterian Church of Littleton. At first they met in the local schoolroom, but three years later they purchased a vacant church building at Curtice and Main streets.

The membership of Littleton Presbyterian grew so rapidly that in 1926 the board of trustees recommended that a new building be constructed. A site at the corner of Littleton Broadway and 6th Avenue (now Littleton Boulevard and Windermere) was donated by Mabel Ficklin. A few oldtimers grumbled about the wisdom of building a church "way out east of town."

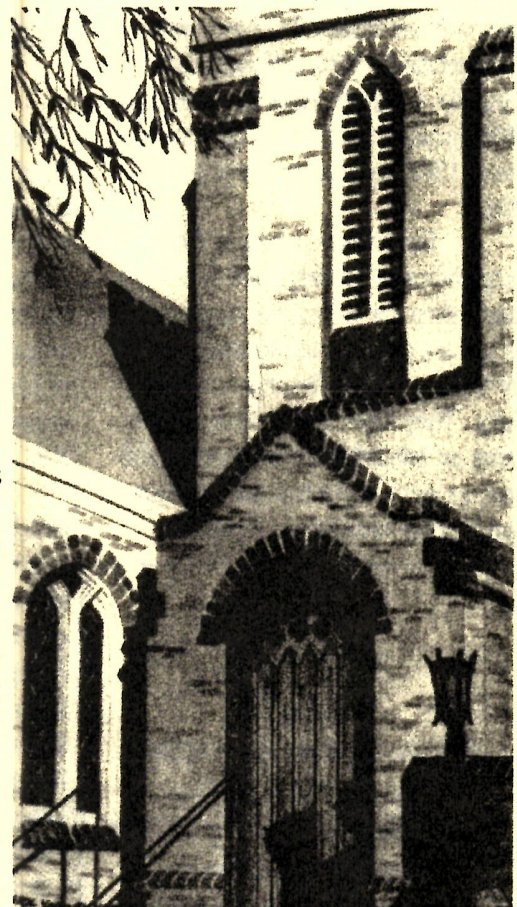
On July 7, 1929, groundbreaking ceremonies for the new church were held, after members of the building committee spent a Saturday afternoon clearing brush and weeds from the building site.

Local architect J.J.B. Benedict was chosen to design the building, which is Tudor Revival style. The first service was held in the new building on January 12, 1930. The original building included the sanctuary and Ayers Parlor on the main floor, the balcony and adjacent rooms on the second floor, and Ficklin Hall, the kitchen and the choir and music rooms on the lower level.

In 1955 a three-level addition was added to the north side of the building, doubling the existing space.

Suspicious fumes in the basement led to the discovery in 1963 that the building, situated over a dry creek bed, was sitting on a flow of gasoline. The church was closed down by the Fire Department for several months as a complex drainage system was installed.

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First Presbyterian Church

Preserving Public Places

Ed. Note

HLI member Sonya Ellingboe recently attended the Colorado Preservation Inc. conference in Denver. This is an abridgement of her article that was previously printed in the Littleton Independent.

"Preservationists are true patriots," said Deputy State Preservation Officer Mark Wolfe at the 2002 Saving Places conference recently held from January 31 to February 2 at the Denver Athletic Club. More than 600 citizen and professional preservationists attended Colorado Preservation Inc.'s annual conference to learn which are the state's most endangered spots.

The Bradford Perley house at Ken Caryl Ranch in southern Jefferson County is one of those sites. Built by Major Robert Boyles Bradford, who founded the Bradford Wagon Road to Leadville, a supply route for miners, this 1880 structure suffered a devastating fire in 1967 and continues to deteriorate.

Doris Ebner, chair of the Ken Caryl Historical Society, said this is the fourth time the group has applied to be on the list of endangered sites, hoping for funding to stabilize the crumbling walls. They hope this building can become an educational resource for children to learn about the early commerce and lifestyle in Jefferson County.

Other sites on the 2002 list were the log Foxton Post office, the Goodnight Barn in Pueblo, the Grant Avenue Church in Denver, a railroad roundhouse in Hugo, the old Fruita bridge, and the Windsor Mill.

The conference also included a wide variety of educational sessions based on the 2002 theme of Preserving Public Places. Sessions dealt with restoring historic cemeteries, preserving roadside spots such as gas stations, diners and motels, and the cultural legacy of parks and trails.

A program on preservation of modern buildings, those younger than 50 years old, featured Rodd Wheaton of the National Park Service, who lives in

Massey honored

Mike Massey was honored for his 12 years of service to Second Century Fund and Historic Littleton Inc. at the December HLI board meeting. Massey was instrumental in founding the Second Century Fund after attending the 1989 Littleton Leadership Retreat, where it was recognized that downtown was the heart of Littleton and its preservation was important for the next century of Littleton life.

Massey has moved to Denver with his wife Kathy. He will remain on the board of directors of HLI, but has stepped down as president. New officers of Historic Littleton include:

Rebecca Kast	President
Barb Eaton	Vice President
Sonya Ellingboe	Secretary
Ron Richards	Treasurer
Cindy Hathaway	Membership

Directors: Karen Arras, Jim Campbell, Lorena Donohue, Vern Hendrickson, Mike Massey, Les Sitter, Bernard Small, and Bruce Wolf.

Englewood's nationally acclaimed Arapahoe Acres neighborhood, listed on the National Register of Historic Places. While not every home in Arapahoe Acres meets all the standards for the national register, the neighborhood as a whole meets a critical mass that represents an era.

Judith Robinson spoke on her nomination to place Denver's Byron G. Rogers Federal Building and Courthouse on the National Register. The Rogers building was designed by architect James Sudler and has a massive bronze sculpture by Edgar Britton, who lived in Littleton for a time and had a Main Street studio.

South metro participants at the conference included Lorena Donohue of the Littleton Historical Museum, Littleton City Council members Stew Meagher and Rebecca Kast, who is also president of Historic Littleton Inc, historic architect Rick Cronenberger, who chairs Littleton's preservation commission, commission member/historian Gail Keeley, architect/commission member Chris Fisher, and Littleton Community Development Director Denise Naegle.

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When Dr. Jonathan Hole became minister in 1991 he promoted having the building landmarked as a historic structure. "This is a real special building," Hole said. "To have anybody tinker with the structure would be a real travesty for Littleton."

In 1994 First Presbyterian received landmark status from the city of Littleton. "If I leave any legacy it's that we got that plaque (donating landmark status) on the building," Hole said.

Because the building is landmarked, the Littleton Historical Preservation Board has to approve any renovations to the church. First Presbyterian recently received a \$93,750 grant from the Colorado State Historical Fund to replace its roof.

Calendar

May

Historic Preservation Month

May 19 Museum Day

May 22 Annual Meeting at First Presbyterian Church

September 14 Trial of Alfred Packer

The Trial of Alfred Packer Set for September 14

Will Alfred Packer finally win justice?

Members of Historic Littleton Inc. and the Colorado History Group have a unique opportunity to settle the question of whether Alfred Packer really murdered his fellow gold-seekers when the trial of Alfred Packer is held on September 14, 2002, in the historic Littleton courthouse.

Packer, Colorado's most infamous citizen, admitted to cannibalism after he and five other men heading to California for gold in 1874 were stranded for weeks in the San Juan mountains. But Packer always maintained that he never killed the men he ate.

Dr. Tom Noel, Dr. Colorado, will conduct the trial of Packer, who will be played by our own city councilman Ray

Koernig. Members of Historic Littleton Inc. and the Colorado History Group will portray the gentlemen of the jury (no women were allowed to vote or serve on juries at the time) and the grieving widows of those slain.

This day-long program will also feature a short slide show of the courthouse renovation, a walking tour of historic Littleton, lunch at Jose's, a tour of the Littleton cemetery (including visits to Packer's and other notable Littleton residents' graves), a wake at 5280 Roadhouse, and dinner at the Littleton Historical Museum.

Cost for the entire day's entertainment is \$50.

Because demand for this event is likely to be heavy, only members of Historic Littleton Inc. and the Colorado History Group will be allowed to pur-

chase tickets. A registration letter will be sent out in June, with reservations taken on a first come first served basis. Anyone interested in volunteering to be in the production or help with arrangements should call Lorena Donohue at 303-795-3950.



P. O. Box Snafu



Earlier this year a number of members of Historic Littleton Inc. who sent in their membership renewal checks to our Post Office box had them returned in the mail. Some of you sent your renewals in a second time, only to have them returned again, and then finally tracked down HLI board members to pay your dues! We sincerely apologize for the confusion. We have resolved the

problems with our Post Office box. The only good thing about this situation is that we found out how much our members want to be part of this organization. Thanks to those persistent members. And for those of you who have not yet renewed your membership, there's still time to send in your check with the renewal form listed to the side. You won't want to miss out on this year's special events.

Time to Renew Your Membership

All members of Historic Littleton, Inc. need to renew their memberships for the year 2002. Memberships are \$25 per year. Send your check to:

Historic Littleton Inc.
P.O. Box 1004
Littleton CO 80160-1004.

Name _____

Address _____

City, Zip _____

E-mail _____

Phone _____

