



HISTORIC LITTLETON INC.

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Louthan Street is First Landmarked Neighborhood in Littleton

On November 11, 2002, the Littleton City Council unanimously voted to establish a historic landmark district for 17 residential properties located at 5607 through 5687 South Louthan Street. This is the first locally landmarked district in Littleton.

All 17 houses within the proposed district are Craftsman style bungalows built between 1921 and 1929. Thirteen of the houses were built by Charles Louthan, a former city councilman and mayor of Littleton in the 1920's and 1930's. Louthan was a carpenter who moved to Littleton from Virginia to work on the construction of Fort Logan. He built 85 homes in Littleton, several of the businesses on Main Street, and remodeled a number of other buildings. Louthan married Lorena Bair and raised seven children in Littleton. One of his daughters, Charlotte Louthan Skinner, lived in Littleton until just recently and has written down her memories of growing up in early Littleton. She remembers her father riding in the Homecoming (Western Welcome Week) parade wearing a top hat and tails. At his death in 1954 Charles Louthan was



called "Mr. Littleton."

The 5600 block of South Louthan Street met eight criteria for historic designation, including being a unique example of a particular style or period, evidencing original materials and workmanship, and being associated with a historically significant person.

The homes display many Craftsman style features, such as gable roofs with overhanging eaves, exposed rafters, and porches with solid balustrades. But their most interesting feature is their pebble dash stucco walls, which are formed by pressing pebbles into wet stucco.

For decades this block was home to many local leaders—a virtual who's who of Littleton. City councilmembers, city attorneys, high school principals and doctors lived in

the area considered to be the "in neighborhood."

Now the residents of Louthan Street are proud of the historical nature of their homes. The residents worked for several years to get their block designated a historic district. Matthew Wilson, who lives at 5627 S. Louthan, said the

neighborhood is very close. They host a block party every year, help out the elderly residents on the block, and work together on house projects.

Because of the landmark designation, owners of these properties will be refunded 50% of the Littleton portion of their property taxes. They are required to maintain the outside of their property and must get a certificate of approval from the Historic Preservation Board before making any major changes to the façade.

Historic Littleton will visit this neighborhood and tour the inside of several homes on May 18, as part of the celebration of Historic Preservation Month. Details will be in the next newsletter.

HLI Members Invited to High Tea at Castle Marne

Members of Historic Littleton Inc. are invited to high tea and a tour of the Castle Marne mansion, located at 1572 Race Street in Denver, on Sunday, April 6 at 1:00 p.m.

Owners Jim and Diane Peiker will give a tour of their beautifully preserved building, which is now a popular bed and breakfast inn listed on the National Register of Historic Structures. Castle Marne is of the Romanesque style, with Queen Anne overtones. It was built in 1889 of rhyolite stone, quarried in Castle Rock. (This is the same stone found in many of Littleton's historic buildings, such as Richard Little's house and the depot at the light rail station.)

When the Peikers purchased Castle Marne in 1987, it had been vacant for over six years. Pipes had burst and the building had been severely neglected. The Peikers will explain the details of their painstaking restoration during the tea and tour.

The cost for this afternoon is \$30, which includes the meal, tour and gratuity. Because of limited seating only 26 reservations can be accepted.

Members should fill out this form and mail it by March 15 with their checks (made out to Historic Littleton) to

Barb Eaton
7484 W. Laurel Avenue
Littleton, CO, 80128.



Castle Marne

Name _____

Number of tickets _____

Amount Enclosed _____

For more information, call Barb at 303-977-4054.

TWO FREE LECTURES

Two free lectures are of interest to members of Historic Littleton. The first is a lecture on the history of the recently demolished General Iron Works in Englewood on Thursday, February 20, from 7-9 p.m. at the Englewood Civic Center Community Room, 1000 Englewood Parkway. Prints from the General Iron Works Photo Project will be on sale. This event is sponsored by the Englewood Historical Society

and the Englewood Cultural Arts Commission. Call 303-783-6953 for information.

The second is a slide show presentation by Mike McPhee on Littleton architect J. J. B. Benedict at Bemis Public Library on Tuesday, March 18, at 7:00 p.m. McPhee is the grandson of Benedict, who designed Town Hall and the Carnegie Library, and will show rare family photos.

CALENDAR

**February 20 — Lecture on
General Ironworks**

March 18—Benedict Lecture

April 6—Tea at Castle Marne

**May 18—Tour of Louthan
Street Historic District**

Time to Renew Your Membership!

It's that time of year again! Members of Historic Littleton, Inc. need to renew their memberships for 2003. Memberships are \$25 per year. Please send your check to:

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

Name _____

Address _____

City, Zip _____

E-mail _____

Phone _____