



Littleton Courthouse Turns 100 on January 12



The 100th anniversary of the courthouse will be celebrated January 12 with a VIP reception, speeches, and a public street dance from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m.

HLI member Max Smith will re-enact the speech given in 1908 by Representative J.W. Springer at 7 p.m. There will be dancing in the street in front of the courthouse until 10 p.m. Costumed members of the Historical Preservation board will give tours and HLI members will hand out cookies and cider. To volunteer, call Lorena Donohue at 303-795-3950.

Littleton's Municipal Courthouse, the former Arapahoe County Courthouse, has been a sentinel overlooking Main Street and Littleton and a symbol of civic pride since it was dedicated in 1908.

In 1904 Littleton won an election against Englewood for the right to be the county seat of the newly formed Arapahoe County, which brought increased social status and an economic boost to Littleton. When construction began in 1907, the courthouse was carefully sited on a hillside with a panoramic view to signal permanence and power.

The dedication of the "temple of justice" in January, 1908 was a "social success" according to the January 17, 1908 Littleton Independent. "Dancing was the order of the evening" for 1500 visitors, even though the population of Littleton at the time was only 700 people!

A modern brick annex was added to the west side of the courthouse in 1949, which obscured the architectural beauty of the John J. Huddart design for 50 years. In 1987 the courts moved out of the building, which became abandoned, filled with bat guano, and was threatened with demolition.

The cooperation of the Arapahoe County Commissioners, the Littleton City Council, and the Colorado State Historical Fund saved the courthouse, which has been restored to its former glory. According to Bill Hopping, chair of the Historical Preservation Board, "The courthouse is an icon for historic preservation, and one of the bookends for our historic downtown. This event will be a celebration both of preservation and the vitality of our city over the last 100 years."

Historic Littleton Inc. is dedicated to preserving the historical and architectural heritage of the greater Littleton area through advocacy and education.

City Applies for Grant for the Edwin Bemis House

The city of Littleton has submitted a request for a \$198,453 grant to the State Historical Preservation Fund to do major repairs at the Edwin Bemis House.

Last summer architect Nan Anderson of Andrews and Anderson Architects pre-

pared a building assessment which detailed repairs that needed to be done at the home.

The first phase of the project would consist of replacing the existing roof, stabilizing the basement support columns, removing the asbestos siding and restoring the lap siding underneath, and rehabilitating all exterior doors and windows.

The city has budgeted \$95,000 in its 2008 budget as a 32% cash match for the Phase I work.

Historic Littleton Inc. and Ed Bemis' granddaugh-

ters, Maya Bemis DeBus and Sandy Bemis Geoffrion submitted letters of support for this grant.

According to Cindy Hathaway, executive director of Western Welcome Week, the landscaping around the Ed Bemis house has been upgraded, with a new sprinkler system and sod.

The city of Littleton will be notified next year if this grant request is funded.

New Co-Presidents for HLI Board

Bruce and Mary Wolf were elected co-presidents of the Historic Littleton Inc. Board of Directors at the 2007 HLI annual meeting on October 14. They will replace Rebecca Kast, who is stepping down after six years as HLI president.

Also elected were Vice President Charlie Carroll, Treasurer Ron Richards, Secretary Sonya Ellingboe, and Membership Chair Barb Eaton.

Other members of the HLI Board of Directors include Karen Arras, Jack Ballard, Lorena Donohue, Vern Hendrickson, Doris Hulse, Rebecca Kast, Mike Massey, Leti Mudlo, and Joe Racine.

The HLI Board wishes all its members a very happy holiday season!



CPI Conference Feb. 6-8

Colorado Preservation Inc.'s eleventh annual historic preservation conference, Promoting Colorado's Heritage, will be held February 6-8 at the 1770 Sherman Street Event Center in Denver.

This annual conference is the largest statewide historic preservation conference in the country. Over 50 sessions will be presented by 150 preservation experts and leaders. The 2008 Colorado's Most Endangered Places List will be announced.

Field sessions include bus tours to the Five Points neighborhood in Denver, the state Capitol and Civic Center Park, and a tour to "green" preservation projects.

Educational sessions include talks on revitalizing small towns, cemetery preservation, use and abuse of eminent domain, and local level advocacy.

Early registration (due by Dec. 20), which includes basic registration, the Wednesday reception, Thursday and Friday lunches and a choice of field sessions, is \$190. Registration for one day only is \$90.

For more information, visit the CPI website at www.coloradopreservation.org or call 303-893-4260.

Congratulations to Historic Littleton Inc. member Peggy Cole on her recent election to the Littleton City Council!

Council Candidates Speak on Preservation

Seven of the eight candidates for the Littleton City Council attended a forum at the Buck Center on Thursday, September 20.

Each of the candidates was asked what role government (specifically the city of Littleton) should play in historic preservation.

Their answers are summarized here:

Doug Clark:

Government's role is to highly encourage preservation where it is appropriate.

Debbie Brinkman:

She agreed with Clark that some buildings deserve preserving, but this must be balanced with private property rights.

Peggy Cole:

Government should give incentives, other than financial incentives, to encourage preservation.

Cindy Christensen:

She supports the city's current role in preservation and would strongly encourage the use of incentives.

Bruce Stahlman:

He is currently serving as the city council's liaison to the Historical Preservation Board. He feels homeowners need tools to help them retain the character of their neighborhoods. He likes what the city is currently do-

ing to promote historic preservation.

Amy Conklin:

The city has a long tradition of helping to preserve its historic buildings, which she would like to see continue. She feels that government can be a facilitator for preservation.

Joseph Trujillo:

He said he fought against historic designation in downtown Littleton because they wanted to make it mandatory—everyone had to go into the district. They finally came up with an opt-in/opt-out district and 24 of 150 businesses have historical designation. Their incentive is to reduce your parking by 50 percent. He is against

this incentive. He had to knock down a historic house, even though the city fought it, to provide parking for his business. Downtown is very short of parking spaces. A requirement for any business should be that they provide enough parking.

Tony Gallagher was not present at the forum, but when questioned later he said he is definitely for preserving something that has historic value. The Bemis House is a good example of that. But just because a building is old doesn't mean it has historic value.

To learn more about the city council candidates' views on historic preservation, or any subject matter, contact them at the following numbers:

District 2

Bruce Stahlman
720-987-7955

Joseph Trujillo
303-794-7930

Doug Clark
303-798-3594

Peggy Cole
303-795-9552

Amy Conklin
303-795-5925

Tony Gallagher
303-798-4299

District 4

Debbie Brinkman
303-797-3427

Cindy Christensen
303-738-1071

At Large

