



HLI Tour of Arapaho Hills Set for October 14

The Arapaho Hills neighborhood, which was recently included on the City of Littleton's List of Merit, will be the focus of Historic Littleton Inc.'s annual meeting on Sunday, October 14.

All HLI members are invited to attend the meeting, which will begin at 2:30 p.m. at the Littleton Historical Museum.

After refreshments and a short business meeting, homeowner Tom Perry will present a slideshow on the distinctive architecture of Arapaho Hills. After the show, HLI members are invited to visit the Arapaho Hills neighborhood to tour several of the homes.

Call Rebecca Kast at 303-730-2639 or email her at: rebeccakast@earthlink.net to RSVP for the annual meeting.

The Arapahoe Hills neighborhood is located north of Berry Avenue and west of Lowell Boulevard, near Goddard Middle School.

The subdivision was constructed in the late 1950's and features the Mid-Century Modern style architecture. The homes are horizontally oriented, with flat or pitched roofs, car ports, large overhangs, and clerestory windows. The homes were placed at angles to the street to take advantage of the natural contours of the land.

Arapahoe Hills is the first neighborhood to be put on the List of Merit, which means properties are subject to a 30-day hold on building permits. This allows the historic preservation staff and the Historic Preservation Board the opportunity to review the proposed alterations.



Arapaho Hills is a cohesive neighborhood of homes built in the late 1950's that display the Mid-Century Modern architectural style.



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

Bega Park Showcases Littleton Social

not accomplished until December, 2004. In the meantime South Suburban Parks and Recreation District leased the property as a park.

In September, 1974, the park was formally dedicated as Bega Park to honor Littleton's sister city in New South Wales, Australia, during the Bega delegation's visit to Littleton.

The Littleton/ Bega connection began in 1954 when Curly Annabel, the editor of a small town newspaper in Bega, Australia, saw the documentary film "Small Town Editor," which featured the Littleton Independent and its editor Houstoun Waring. Annabel noted the similarities of the two communities and began corresponding with Waring. When former President Dwight D. Eisenhower announced his People to People program in 1961, Bega and Littleton became the first sister city program between the U.S. and Australia. This sister city exchange is still



In 1983 Littleton Independent editor Houstoun Waring and his Australian counterpart 'Curly' Annabel were honored for their part in establishing the Littleton/Bega sister city relationship with a bronze plaque that still stands in the park today.

Why designate a park as a historic feature?

According to Carolyn Etter, who managed Denver Parks and Recreation from 1987 to 1991, preserving parks and open spaces is important to preserve our sense of place.

"Unless we as citizens become active in the preservation of our public spaces, we will lose many of them," she said in a lecture at the Colorado Preservation Inc. conference in February, 2007.

"Parks are special places...They are places where design is important and makes a difference. Where plant materials are collected and saved. Parks are enjoyed winter and summer. They help us know who we are and where we are and why we chose to be where we are. In order to really understand these places we need to understand our history."

Etter recommended that park activists make sure historical documents relating to parks, such as master plans, are stored at libraries, not only in the files of park and recreation departments.

Arapaho Hills Related to Arapahoe Acres

Q: What is the history of Arapaho Hills?

Arapaho Hills is closely related to the Arapahoe Acres subdivision in Englewood, which contains 124 modernist houses built after World War II that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The developer of Arapahoe Acres, Edward Hawkins, was a business partner with Clyde Mannon. They worked with several architects to create a unique subdivision based on the architectural ideas of Frank Lloyd Wright.

In 1955 Clyde Mannon purchased land in a wide-open area on the west side of Littleton to build his own subdivision. Mannon hired architects Bruce Sutherland, Jerry Dion and John Eatwell to design residences for the 83 lots.

Between 1957 and 1961 Mannon developed 57 of the lots in Arapaho Hills.

Q: What is unique about the style of Arapaho Hills?

The homes in the Arapaho Hills subdivision were all built in the Mid-Century Modern style. This is based on the Usonian Style of Frank Lloyd Wright. Wright's Usonian style reflected his social ideals: buildings were designed to be economic, energy efficient, and related to their sites.

Homes built in this

style are horizontally-oriented, with flat or low-pitched gabled roofs. The roofs extend out to form deep eaves. The windows are narrow and horizontal, but large glass walls were also used. Natural materials such as stone, wood or brick were emphasized. In Arapaho Hills, many of the homes feature rhyolite walls, similar to the walls at the Littleton Historical Museum.

This subdivision was

ing and repairs are not subject to this hold.

This means that if a homeowner wants to tear down one of these homes or build a substantial addition, the Historical Preservation Board and the community development department staff would review the alterations. They could request a meeting with the property owner to discuss the project and its impact on the historic integrity of the district.



Many of the homes in the Arapaho Hills subdivision feature rhyolite rock walls and low-pitched roofs.

built to conform to the contours of the land. Grading was kept to a minimum, and the homes were often oriented at an angle from the street.

Q: What does being on the List of Merit mean for the Arapaho Hills neighborhood?

Properties on the List of Merit are subject to a 30-day hold on building permits for exterior alterations, additions and demolition. Normal maintenance such as paint-

Arapahoe Hills homeowner Mitch Cowley, and 25 other property-owners, requested that 72 properties on Arrowhead, Chimayo, Lowell, Berry, Manitou and Mohawk streets be put on the List of Merit. On August 20, 2007 the Historical Preservation Board approved the request.

Bega Park Showcases Littleton Social

not accomplished until December, 2004. In the meantime South Suburban Parks and Recreation District leased the property as a park.

In September, 1974, the park was formally dedicated as Bega Park to honor Littleton's sister city in New South Wales, Australia, during the Bega delegation's visit to Littleton.

The Littleton/ Bega connection began in 1954 when Curly Annabel, the editor of a small town newspaper in Bega, Australia, saw the documentary film "Small Town Editor," which featured the Littleton Independent and its editor Houston Waring. Annabel noted the similarities of the two communities and began corresponding with Waring. When former President Dwight D. Eisenhower announced his People to People program in 1961, Bega and Littleton became the first sister city program between the U.S. and Australia. This sister city exchange is still Curly Annabel, the editor of a small town newspaper in Bega, Australia, saw the documentary film "Small Town Editor," which featured the Littleton Independent and its editor Houston Waring. Annabel noted the similarities of the two communities and began corresponding with Waring. When former President Dwight D. Eisenhower announced his People to People program in 1961, Bega and Littleton became the first sister city program between

the U.S. and Australia. This sister city exchange Curly Annabel, the editor of a small town newspaper in Bega, Australia, saw the documentary film "Small Town Editor," which featured the Littleton Independent and its editor Houston Waring. Annabel noted the similarities of the two communities and began corresponding with Waring. When former President Dwight D. Eisenhower announced his People to People program in 1961, Bega and Littleton became the first sister city program between the U.S. and Australia. This sister city exchange



In 1983 Littleton Independent editor Houston Waring and his Australian counterpart 'Curly' Annabel were honored for their part in establishing the Littleton/Bega sister city relationship

Thanks to our Renewing Members (as of May 1st)

(If you don't see your name, it's not too late to renew your membership for 2007. Please fill out the form below and mail your \$25 membership dues to Historic Littleton Inc.)

Meg Anderson and John Lake
Patty Anderson
Gary and Karen Arras
Jack and Arleda Ballard
Libby Bortz and Mike Altenberg
Florence and James Bullock
Mary Bradford
Helen Brundage
Stan Bush
Charlie and Marilyn Carroll
Amy and Don Conklin
Woody and Phyllis Cottle
Betty Croft
rita derje and Carle Zimmerman
Jim and Lorena Donohue
Anne and Dick Dugdale
Bill and Barb Eaton
Sonya Ellingboe
Virginia Fleenor
Tim Flynn
Bruce and Roberta Gillis
Arthur and Anita Garfein
Mike Giesen
John and Dee Gustafson
Cindy Hathaway

Vern and Lynn Hendrickson
Jerry Hill
Bill Hopping
Doris and Jim Hulse
S. Lebrun and Mrytle Hutchison
Jay and LaDonna Jurgensen
Eric and Jean Johannisson
Cliff and Carol Johnson
Bill and Rebecca Kast
Ray and Mary Koernig
Lautenbach Insurance Agency
Bill and Gloria Leeper
Yolanda McAllister
Robin McDonald
Tom and Betty Mulvey
Betty and Peter Ney
Perry and Pam Nissler
John and Terry Ostermiller
Lil Owens
Sally and Bob Parsons
Joe and Judy Racine
Dennis and Sue Reynolds
Ron Richards
Mildred Rothstein
Jean Selders
Robert Simmonds
Max and Donna Smith
James Taylor
John and Susan Thornton
John and Joyce Volp
Don and Margaret Wagenbach

Kay Watson
Howard Weese and Peggy McManus
Western Welcome Week
Charles and Nancy Williamson
Darlee Whiting

Other Preservation Month Events

May 9 Free lecture on Historic Windows and Energy Efficiency by Chris Koziol, PhD.
Littleton City Center, 7 p.m.
Littleton Historical Preservation Board.

May 21 Free tour and lecture at the Highlands Ranch Mansion, 7 p.m.
Highlands Ranch Historical Society.
Call Caroline Smith, 303-471-5611
or email: foxydad@hotmail.com.

To become a new member or to renew your Historic Littleton Inc. membership for 2007, please send your \$25 membership fee to:

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

Name _____

Address _____

City, Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

I'd like to help with: Bemis House Committee Newsletter
 Membership Special Events