

What's Your Vision for Historic Preservation?

What do you think in Littleton is worth preserving? And what is the best way to ensure that will happen?

With a new majority on the city council, historic preservation in Littleton is at a crossroads. The City of Littleton's Historic Preservation Board wants to hear what members of the Littleton community feel is important to preserve, so that the city's efforts can be focused on what its citizens truly value.

The HP Board and Historic Littleton Inc. are co-sponsoring two public forums on historic preservation in February. The forums are free and open to everyone in the community. The first will be held on Thursday, Feb. 12 from 7 to 9

p.m. at the Littleton Historical Museum. The date and place for the second forum had not been determined as of publication time for this newsletter. HLI members will receive further information on the forums.

"My hope is that we get a strong turnout of people who say 'this is what makes Littleton Littleton'," said Bill Hopping, chair of the HP Board.

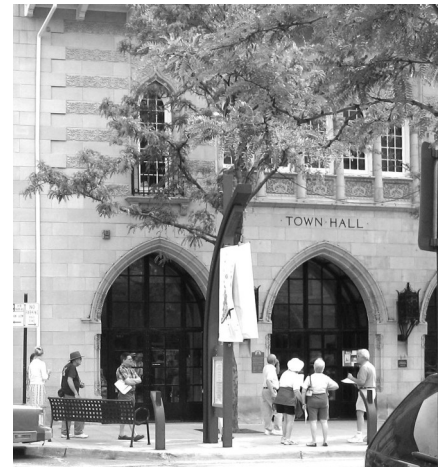
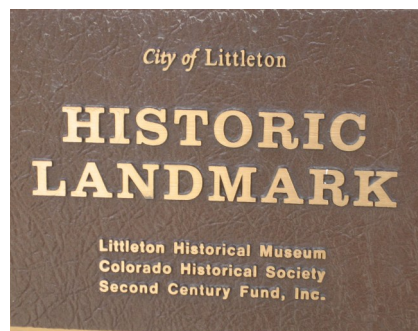
"Let's define historic

preservation," Hopping said. "We'll be able to say, here's why we think this is good. And here are some of our options for protecting that."

Last spring the Littleton City Council requested a look at the city's historic preservation ordinance, to see if parts of it, specifically the non-consensual designation section, should be eliminated. They also asked to review the incentives currently in place to encourage preservation, such as the parking incentive in downtown Littleton.

The HP Board asked to have a chance to solicit public input before any tinkering was done with Littleton's historic preservation program.

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Littleton's historic buildings display a wide variety of architectural styles. Come to the February forums to voice your opinion on historic preservation.

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

Preservation Forums will Build Consensus about Vision for Littleton

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Which is why these forums are being held.

Nore Winter, owner of a Boulder design firm, will conduct the workshops.

Winter and Company specializes in urban design and preservation plans, using a process that actively engages stakeholders, residents, and property owners in creative ways of team building and problem solving.

Winter's prospectus advertises its focus is on enhancing community livability, pro-

tecting cultural resources, and providing delight in the community experience.

Andrea Mimnaugh, the city's preservation planner, said the HP board is hoping to see 100 people attend the forums. They also hope people will attend both evenings.

"The slides will show various downtowns so people can see what kind of places they like. Participants will be given the necessary vocabulary so they can discuss preservation and build consensus about a vision for Littleton. Then they

will discuss the steps to get there," Mimnaugh said.

The forums will break into small groups so everyone has a chance to express their opinion.

No pre-registration is necessary. Light refreshments will be served.

HLI members are strongly encouraged to attend both forums and express their opinions.

Historic Willowcroft to be Auctioned in 2009

One of the most historic homes in the Littleton area—Willowcroft Manor, which was designed by R.S. Roeschlaub in 1884 for Joseph Bowles— will be auctioned along with 9.6 acres in early 2009, according to a sign which went up on the property in November.

Willowcroft Manor is a beautiful Queen Ann style home built of pink rhyolite stone that is located on Middlefield Road in Columbine Valley. It was the childhood home of former Realtor and HLI president Bruce Wolf. Wolf died unexpectedly last spring, before the estate of his mother Cee Wolf had been settled.

Joseph Bowles was one of the first pioneers in the Littleton area, staking out a claim of 160 acres on what became Bowles Avenue in the early 1860's. He eventually owned 2,000 acres west of the Platte River and became prosperous enough to commission the architect of the Central City Opera House to design a home for him in Littleton.

Willowcroft is on the state register for historic properties, but that does not give any protections to the property. Columbine Valley does not have a local preservation ordinance.



Bruce Wolf led members of Historic Littleton on tours of Willowcroft in 2001 and 2006.

rita derjue Donates Watercolors to HLI

Nationally renowned artist rita derjue has made a wonderful offer to Historic Littleton Inc. She is giving our organization over two dozen of her sketches and watercolors of Littleton's historic buildings, some of which have been demolished, in order to further the cause of historic preservation.

derjue said she wants the public to be able to see the paintings and become more aware of the importance of preserving both buildings and open space.

Ever since she moved to Littleton in 1964, derjue has documented the vanishing views and buildings of Littleton, sometimes finishing a watercolor as the bulldozers started demolishing a house.

derjue is an accomplished artist who has exhibited her work and taught classes across the U.S. and in Europe.

Her lifelong interest in preservation began when she and her husband Carle Zimmerman first moved to Denver in 1963. Carle is a PhD chemical engineer who worked for Marathon Oil. "I couldn't believe they were demolishing such fine buildings on Capitol Hill," she said.

After rita and Carle moved to their home on Ridge Road, rita turned to painting the buildings in Littleton that were slowly disappearing.

"I've always been interested in drawing houses



Photo by Karen Zink, courtesy of rita derjue

with character," rita said.

In 1976 rita had a show of what she called her "preservation paintings" at Bemis Public Library. She said at the time she wanted to "show the variety of architecture we have in Littleton." She was dismayed to see fine old houses such as the Culp House destroyed. rita also attempted to influence the city council to declare more buildings landmarks.

She was one of the artists involved in the restoration of the Littleton Depot.

HLI President Mary Wolf said the HLI board is thrilled with rita's donation.

Save the Date!

Historic Littleton will honor rita derjue for her work in furthering historic preservation at a gala evening at Hudson Gardens on May 14, 2009.

The donated watercolors will be displayed. Several will be sold in a silent auction, to raise funds for HLI. There will be wine, food and music. Rita will receive the first Bruce F. Wolf Award for Lifetime Achievement in Historic Preservation.

Invitations and more information will be sent out later this spring.

