



Board Agrees Mission Still Necessary

The Historic Littleton Inc. Board of Directors held an afternoon retreat on January 5 to discuss the mission and future of our organization.

As Mike Massey, the founder of Second Century Fund and former president of HLI, said, "Our challenge is to protect and grow historic preservation. There are dangerous times ahead for preservation."

HLI began in 1990 as the Second Century Fund, which focused on obtaining grant money to help protect Littleton's historic downtown. Since the year 2000, when the Second Century Fund became Historic Littleton, our organization has been dedicated to preserving the historical and architectural heritage of the greater Littleton area through advocacy and education.

In the last 23 years a lot has been accomplished: Main Street was placed on the National Register of Historic Places, Geneva Lodge and the Ed Bemis house have been saved and restored, the former Arapahoe County courthouse was restored, and Main Street Historic District was formed. HLI has advocated for all of these projects.

While the future of Littleton's thriving Main Street seems secure, the HLI Board of Directors is concerned about other areas. Changes to Littleton's historic neighborhoods could adversely affect the character of our city. Development pressure is threatening some significant architectural gems in the greater Littleton area. Changes to the HP code and

recruiting younger members to HLI and getting them involved in preservation are on-going concerns.

HLI wants to upgrade its website and Facebook presence and increase its visibility in the community. The HLI board is also interested in focusing more on the education part of our mission statement in the future. A possible name change is also being discussed.

The HLI Board of Directors always welcome any suggestions from HLI members. Jot down a suggestion for a new name or an idea of what you would like to see HLI do in the future on the back of your membership renewal form. And thanks for being part of the team that continues to advocate for preserving Littleton's special historical and architectural character!



Some of Littleton's oldest homes (above and bottom right) face a drastic change if a five-story apartment building is built opposite them, on the site of the former Sheriff's Building (top right). Read more on page two.



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Willowcroft May Be Demolished in 2013

Stately Willowcroft Manor in Columbine Valley, one of the architectural and historical gems of Arapahoe County, will be demolished if a site development plan submitted to the City of Columbine Valley is approved.

Willowcroft, 3600 W. Bowles Avenue, was the home of prominent pioneer Joseph W. Bowles. Bowles came to Colorado in 1859 to mine for gold. He settled west of the Platte River, grew wheat, oats and potatoes, and eventually owned a 2,000 acre spread.

Bowles was one of the early settlers in Littleton who joined with Richard S. Little to build the Rough and Ready flour mill in 1867.

In 1884, Bowles commissioned architect Robert Roeschlaub to design a home for him.

Built in the fashionable Queen Anne style, the home features a gabled roof, wood ornamentation, and pink rhyolite stone. Roeschlaub also designed the Central City Opera House and Richard Little's home.

For over 50 years the home belonged to Paul and Cee Wolf. After Cee Wolf died in 2005, the home was passed down to Bruce Wolf, a former president of Historic Littleton Inc., and his siblings. Bruce led several tours of Willowcroft for HLI members. His untimely death in 2008 caused the house to be sold at auction.

Willowcroft was placed on the 2010 list of Colorado's Most Endangered Places by Colorado Preservation Inc. The home is also on the Colorado Register of Historic Places.

Mary Wolf, former president of HLI, has advocated for years to have Willowcroft preserved. "You can't rebuild a house like this," she said. "Tearing it down would be like destroying the Central City Opera house." Mary thinks the best case scenario would be for the developer to split off a lot that includes the Willowcroft home and sell it separately. "The house is strong and sturdy and has good bones, but it needs work."



Five Story Apartment Building May Dwarf Littleton Courthouse

A group of Littleton citizens have formed a committee to protest the re-zoning of the former Sheriff's Building, 2100 W. Littleton Boulevard, which would allow a five-story, 325-apartment building to be built on the site.

Citizens for Rational Development believe the height and look of the proposed development would detract from the historic courthouse and affect the character of "Old Town Littleton." Parking and safety are other concerns of the neighbors.

Call Susan Burgstiner at 303-797-9507 or visit their Facebook site for more information.

The next meeting at Columbine Valley is tentatively scheduled for Feb. 19. HLI suggests members call developer Taylor Morrison at 303-798-3500 to voice their concerns.

The Historic Littleton Inc. newsletter is published for members of HLI as part of their membership contribution. Email comments to: rebeccakast@earthlink.net.

Historic Littleton Inc. Board of Directors:

President: Charlie Carroll

Vice President: Liz Eaton

Treasurer: Ron Richards

Secretary: Sonya Ellingboe

Membership: Barb Eaton

Newsletter: Rebecca Kast

Directors: Karen Arras, Dick Dugdale, Lorena Donohue, Mike Massey, Jean Selders, Darlee Whiting, and Mary Wolf.

It's Time to Renew Your Historic Littleton, Inc. Membership for 2013!

Since October, 2000, Historic Littleton, Inc. has been active in fostering a positive spirit towards historic preservation in Littleton. Historic Littleton members receive periodic newsletters, are invited to participate in special tours and events, and are directly involved in promoting historic preservation in the greater Littleton area.

Last year HLI sponsored a new event: the first downtown Littleton scavenger hunt, which was a huge success. Members were also invited to a day-long bus tour of historic sites in Douglas County. Together with the Historic Preservation Board, HLI presented the 2012 Historic Preservation awards to a standing-room only crowd at Town Halls Arts Center. HLI also exhibited its collection of rita derjue watercolors during Western Welcome Week. None of this would be possible without the support of our members. Thank you for continuing your support!

Sincerely, The Board of Directors of Historic Littleton, Inc.

Charlie Carroll, President; Liz Eaton, Vice President; Sonya Ellingboe, Secretary; Ron Richards, Treasurer; and Directors Karen Arras, Lorena Donohue, Dick Dugdale, Barb Eaton, Rebecca Kast, Mike Massey, Darlee Whiting, and Mary Wolf.

Members of Historic Littleton, Inc. need to renew their memberships for 2013. Please send your \$30 membership fee to:

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

Name _____

Address _____

City, Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

(Historic Littleton, Inc. wants this information solely for its own records. It will not be shared with any other individual or organization.)

January, 2013

Dear Scavenger Hunt Sleuth,

Thank you for your participation in the first-ever Historic Downtown Littleton Scavenger Hunt, which was a huge success. Because you have shown an interest in Littleton's history and its historic buildings, we would like to invite you to join Historic Littleton Inc. (HLI).

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We hope you will join with us in keeping Littleton's special spirit alive!

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Thank you for your interest in Historic Littleton, Inc!

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