

# newsletter Arcata

HISTORICAL SITES SOCIETY OF



2007 Potawot Aerial

## Return to Potawot

By Suzanne Guerra

In 1996, the proposal by United Indian Health Services for Potawot Health Village on a 40-acre site adjacent to Mad River Hospital had become controversial. Residents were concerned that the loss of agricultural land would open these areas to development. This may have

been because our concept of agriculture is biased by the beliefs of Euro-American colonists, who viewed the local landscape as a "natural" wilderness.



Stormwater Swale @Potawot 2004

The Potawot Agreement crafted in 1997, incorporates traditional plantings, a conservation easement, and habitat restoration. Construction began in 1997, and Potawot Health Village opened in 2002.

Recent cultural studies reveal the entire Mad River region and adjoining sloughs as heavily

populated and extensively managed by the local Wiyot Indians. This coastal prairie, known by the Wiyot as *Gudinih*, was a low-lying wetland with Potawot, the Wiyot name for the Mad River, on the northern boundary and four Wiyot villages along the river. During heavy rains the river overflowed onto the prairie, a feeding ground for wildlife. <sup>1</sup>

Preservationists now understand *Gudinih* as an Ethnographic Landscape, a Cultural Landscape containing natural and cultural resources, defined as heritage resources. Lands were managed under Traditional Ecological

## HSSA Events

**Vintage Clothing Sale** Saturday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> from 10-2: We will be accepting donations of jewelry, scarves and hats.

**Virtual Tour of the Phillips House Museum** (any time you choose).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fSE7qXw5Zsl&feature=youtu.be>



Karole Ely and Alex Stillman serve tea and mini cup cakes after an enthusiastically attended presentation by Fran Beatty on the Creamery District. Her pictorial history of this area coincided with the 100 year celebration for the Golden State Creamery.



Dairy, Ribeiro Lane 1948



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## Mission

Historical Sites Society of Arcata promotes recognition of the cultural heritage of Arcata and its environs, identifies historical and architecturally significant structures and sites within Arcata planning area and encourages their preservation.

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This newsletter is published quarterly. Articles or photos may be submitted to [sdm2@humboldt.edu](mailto:sdm2@humboldt.edu)



## President's Message

*From Alex Stillman*

Summer is the time to explore other parts of America, Europe, Asia and our own area to understand how historic buildings are used and preserved. Summer will soon come to an end and HSSA embarks on fall activities. One of these will be the Vintage Clothing Sale on Saturday, September 23 from 10:00 to 2:00 at the Phillips House Museum. There will be clothing from several eras, including the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s. Karole Ely and I sorted through the vintage clothes and they are now stored properly in boxes with archival tissue.

Vivian Ziegler, a long time member of HSSA, bequeathed to the museum a set of dictionaries. They were used at a local saloon at the corner of 8<sup>th</sup> and G Street where Brio is presently located as a reference to settle disputes between patrons. An early version of "Googling" information on our smart phones?

Are you wondering where the downtown sculptures came from, who made them and where they are located? Go to [ArcataWalks.com](http://ArcataWalks.com) for an on-line tour and then enjoy a casual walk to see them in person.

Jerry Rohde offered two lectures at the Phillips House Museum, one for OLLI and one sponsored by Pierson Programs. The latest was *Saloons, Storefronts & Schools* to a once-again packed house. His next lecture at the Phillips House is on October 6<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you to:

- Nancy Atkinson, docent, set the dining room table and buffet for a summer meal. Looks yummy!
- Claudia Israel continues to transform the "old" office space upstairs into a 1970s student bedroom.
- Kelly Carlin installed a shelf on top of the bookcase in the storage area. The Falk Clothing will be stored there.
- Bob Felter keeps the dehumidifier operating and generously gives his time to help maintain the Phillips House.

It's time to pay your dues. Please use the form at the back of this newsletter. Dues and additional contributions are used to maintain our special Phillips House Museum. If you would like to make an additional donation, HSSA has a fund at the Humboldt Area Foundation.





**Potawot (cont.)**

Knowledge (TEK), defined as “evolving knowledge acquired by indigenous and local peoples over hundreds or thousands of years of direct contact with the environment.”<sup>2</sup>

In a recent interview, Dale Ann Frye Sherman (Yurok) pointed out that the plan was based on “the idea that the people of this area, their cultures, their communities and their family life all revolved around rivers...the people aren’t well unless the

environment is well also.”

The Village Plan incorporates elements of a historic property reconstruction- “depicting vanished or non-surviving portions of a property... (when) essential to the public understanding ...”

With public trails and programs, Potawot continues to expand the interpretation and enriches our understanding of local history.



**Potawot Master Plan**



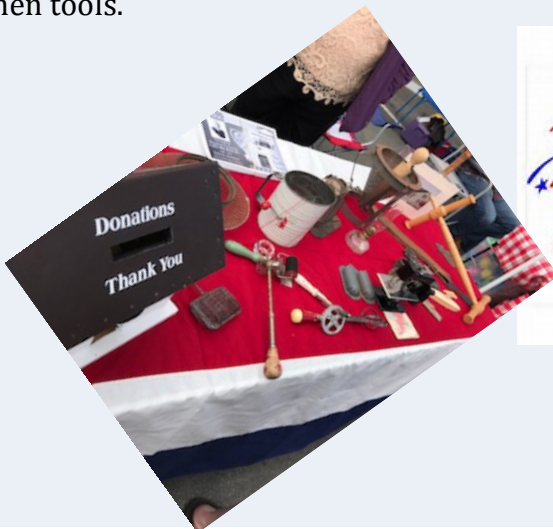
**Tule @ Potawot 2004**

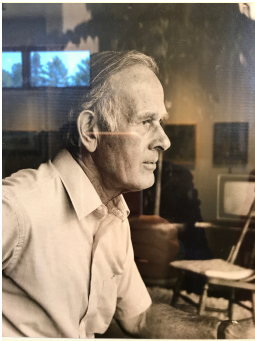
All images, except the Dairy, are from the Traditional Resources Program at Potawat Health Village. The Dairy was cropped out of an aerial from the Shuster Collection, Humboldt Room, HSU Library.

<sup>1</sup> Roscoe et al. 1996. Cultural Resources Investigation of the Proposed United Indian Health Services Medical Complex, Roscoe Archaeological Consulting, Eureka, Ca.

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2011. “*Traditional Ecological Knowledge for Application by Service Scientists*” W. Brown Morton III et al. reprint 1997. Secretary of The Interior Standards for the Rehabilitation of Historic Properties, U.S.D.I National Park Service.

HSSA sponsored a table on the Plaza for the Fourth of July. Everyone enjoyed our display of vintage kitchen tools.





**Marvin Trump**, a long-time Humboldt County architect, died in December of 2016 at the age of 94. He designed notable local buildings including the Arcata City Hall, the Lutheran Church of Arcata and the Arcata Airport. The core of the airport building still exists after its recent remodel. He was passionate about local landscapes and joined with fellow coastal homeowners to establish the Trinidad Coastal Land Trust with the vision of protecting the natural resources of our coastline. His mid-century architectural designs are an important reminder of this period of architecture after World War II.

**Photo of City Hall: note the exposed rafters, clear story windows giving light to the council chambers, open pergola covering the walkway, curtain wall with concrete block wall to give privacy. The plaques were added during the bicentennial in 1976.**



## What is the Appropriate Treatment for this House?

Choosing an appropriate treatment for a historic building or landscape is critical when a property is designated as historic. The California Office of Historic Preservation and the National Park Service administer the Secretary of the Interior's Standards

**Preservation** focuses on the maintenance and repair of existing historic materials and retention of a property's form as it has evolved over time.

**Rehabilitation** acknowledges the need to alter or add to a historic property to meet continuing or changing uses while retaining the property's historic character.

**Restoration** depicts a property at a particular period of time in its history, while removing evidence of other periods.

**Reconstruction** re-creates vanished or non-surviving portions of a property for interpretive purposes. The choice of treatment depends on a variety of factors:

- Relative importance in history. Is the building nationally significant? Is it a rare survivor or the work of a master architect or craftsman? Did an important event take place in it? National Historic Landmarks, designated for their "exceptional significance in American history," or many buildings individually listed in the National Register often warrant Preservation or Restoration. Buildings that contribute to the significance of a historic district but are not individually listed in the National Register more frequently undergo Rehabilitation for a compatible new use.
- Physical condition. What is the existing condition, or degree of material integrity, of the building prior to work? Has the original form survived largely intact or has it been altered over time? Are the alterations an important part of the building's history? Preservation may be appropriate if distinctive materials, features, and spaces are essentially intact and convey the building's historical significance. If the building requires more extensive repair and replacement, or if alterations or additions are necessary for a new use, then Rehabilitation is probably the most appropriate treatment.



**This house, owned by Peter Daggett, is located at the corner of 16<sup>th</sup> and H in Arcata.**



- Proposed use. An essential, practical question to ask is: Will the building be used as it was historically or will it be given a new use? Many historic buildings can be adapted for new uses without seriously damaging their historic character. However, special-use properties such as grain silos, forts, ice houses, or windmills may be extremely difficult to adapt to new uses without major intervention and a resulting loss of historic character and even integrity.
- Mandated code requirements. Regardless of the treatment, code requirements will need to be taken into consideration. But if hastily or poorly designed, code-required work may jeopardize a building's materials as well as its historic character. Thus, if a building needs to be seismically upgraded, modifications to the historic appearance should be minimal. Abatement of lead paint and asbestos within historic buildings requires particular care if important historic finishes are not to be adversely affected. Finally, alterations and new construction needed to meet accessibility requirements under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 should be designed to minimize material loss and visual change to a historic building.

## Ruth Horel Caskey Collection Update

Four boxes of travel memorabilia that did not pertain to Arcata or Humboldt County were recently donated to the University of New Mexico. A special thank you to Edie Butler, who found appropriate places for Mrs. Caskey's material, and to Carolyn Otis for helping to sort the materials.

We received the following thank you letter:

Dear Edie: "I briefly looked at two boxes and there is very good ephemeral material in the collection that will nicely complement and enhance our own collections. I am excited to work with one of our students to sort these boxes out. Once I have taken a cursory look at all the materials, I will send you some paperwork.

Again, thank you very much for your kind donation.  
Best wishes, Tomas  
Tomas Jaehn, Director, Special Collections/CSWR  
University Libraries MSC05 3020  
Albuquerque, NM 87131-0001



**Items donated by Mrs. Caskey on display at the Phillips House Museum**



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## Membership and Renewal Form Historical Sites Society of Arcata

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_(\$25) Individual      \_\_\_\_(\$35) Family      \_\_\_\_(\$100) Preservation Partner

\_\_\_\_(     ) Additional contribution

My gift is (   ) in honor of \_\_\_\_\_ (   ) in memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide contact information so we can notify honorees.

To renew your HSSA membership, send your dues by September 15 to:  
Historical Sites Society of Arcata  
PO Box 4521  
Arcata, CA 95518