

Winter 2020

Arcata

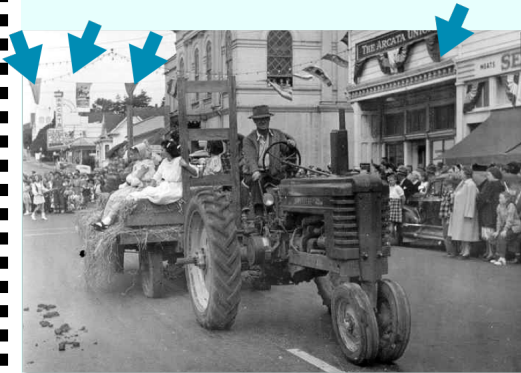
HISTORICAL SITES SOCIETY OF



Upcoming Events

Annual meeting:
Saturday, March 14, 2020
11:30 a.m. Baywood Country Club

Collectibles Sale: Saturday,
September 19, 2020



This photo is from a story written by True Hoyle and given to us by her son Glenn. It is her father, Rush Dolson, on his tractor pulling a float in a parade south on G street. The plaza is located just to the left. It was probably taken in the mid 1950's. The

Arcata Union building to the right was the location of John Gray Dolson's funeral home. The building is still standing. As you look up G street you can see Melvin Robert's home at 10th and G. Today a US Bank office building occupies that space.

Looking further north you see another Arcata landmark — the Arcata Theatre. And finally at the top of the street is the Arcata First Presbyterian Church. Before Highway 101 cut Arcata in half in 1945, G street was the main north/south road going up the coast.

2019 Holiday Tea



At left is a recent photo of Glenn Hoyle and his family on a visit to the Phillips House. His great-grandmother, May Roberts, was born in the Phillips House in 1867. May is shown in the near photo at the wedding of her daughter Atlant to Rush Dolson (True's parents). More about May and her family in our fall newsletter.





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Newsletter

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Mission

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

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President's Message

We had a wonderful holiday tea party. Phillips House looked as festive as ever and we had a delightful time visiting with friends old and new.

The City of Arcata and HSSA were involved in two webinars. *Advanced Topics in CEQA and Section 106* and *Owner Consent & Designation: Summary & Strategies*. Both of them were updates dealing with current thoughts on historic preservation.

Historic Preservation in California was transformed with the passage of SB 451, which Governor Newsom signed in October 2019. The California Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit was long overdue. "Now that this bill has passed, hundreds of preservation projects will now be feasible that otherwise would not pencil out, and it will encourage the development of historic properties throughout the state. California Preservation Foundation". The California Preservation Foundation will go to the legislature each year to make sure SB 451 remains active in order to protect California's irreplaceable heritage. Thank you CPF. HSSA and the City of Arcata supported this bill.

HSSA's annual dues are due. A membership form is on the back of this newsletter. Thank you to all members for supporting HSSA. Your support helps to keep the Phillips House and HSSA functioning as an important part of the Arcata Community.

HSSA also has a fund at the Humboldt Area Foundation which accepts donations. The HAF fund was started several years ago with \$10,000. and continues to grow. HAF manages the fund and keeps us informed of how it's doing. This fund is to be used for major museum repairs or big projects and/or programs .

I love the movies and came across a list of historic movies provided by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. They are listed within this newsletter. Enjoy!

Alex



Shown here is the P. C. Sacchi Super Garage and Willard Service Station at 8th and H Streets. Sacchi remodeled this 1885 building into his Super Garage and Vulcanizing Works in 1924. After 23 years, a Ben Franklin Store moved in. Today a furniture store occupies this space. (Courtesy of Ericson Collection, HSU Library.)

Docent Notes

We have an amazing group of volunteers who are docents for the Phillips House, but they are few and have busy lives of their own. We are always looking for more folks to work at the Museum on Sundays from 2 to 4 to lighten the load for everyone. Typically, docents only volunteer every 4 to 6 weeks, so it is not a huge time commitment. If our Museum is dear to your heart, would you consider being part of the docent roster? If you are interested, please call me for more information.

Thank you Brian!

We are so fortunate to have Brian Ingram as an HSSA member and supporter. He shares our values of preservation and maintenance of historic places, including our sweet little Phillips House. Brian has been responsible for painting the Phillips House for many years. We typically have one side of the house painted every year. To help us save money, he requested a discount from Hensel's for the painting materials. Ceva at Hensel's was more than generous and provided the paint at no cost. In addition, Brian volunteered his labor at no cost. We are so very grateful to both Brian Ingram and Hensel's.

We live in such a caring and generous community! Thank You!

Jaffa Dugan,
Museum Maintenance/Docent Coordinator

Terracotta, terra cotta or terra-cotta (pronounced [ˌtɛrəˈkɒtə]; Italian: "baked earth", from the Latin terra cocta), a type of earthenware, is a clay-based unglazed or glazed ceramic, where the fired body is porous. Where can you spot it? Founders Hall's entry arch, Willits High School entry, General Hospital across the upper facade, Clarke Museum facade, and Gist Hall at HSU.



HSU Website



This building is now a residence on 16th Street. In the past, it was a store for the Arcata High School students to buy snacks. Notice the large windows and recessed entry. For many years it was the home of HSSA member Phyllis Helligas. It is included in the slideshow on our website, This Place Matters

Memory and Landscape: History in Ireland



Upon returning from a year abroad studying at University College Cork in Ireland, Alex asked me to write an article about my experiences. I figured I could regale you, dear reader, with accounts of the castles I visited (that's right.. Castles, plural!) or perhaps provide a fantastical account of the dramatic battles of the Irish war of independence, which, depending on who you ask, was only resolved in the 1990s. However, I thought what would be of most interest to all of you who are so

dedicated to the preservation and promotion of local history, would be the ways in which local history is viewed in Ireland.

Ireland is not a big place. It is made smaller by the way everyone seems to know at least something about someone else. That being said, it feels a place deeply concerned with the local. Everyone is loyal to their local sports teams, indeed the goal for many young Gaelic football players is to represent their county in the annual All Ireland Final. Neighbors stop in for a cup of tea and chat about local gossip. Even in a city like Cork, the second largest in the Republic, there was a real sense of unity.



Rock of Cashel in County Tipperary.

From the first time I walked up the street to my apartment in Cork, I felt history differently. There's a mix between reverence and nonchalance towards history. The area around Barrack Street has been settled since the 1st century AD, when Saint FinBarre established a monastery on the banks of the River Lee. Now Saint FinBarre's Cathedral, built in the 19th century, dominates the skyline. When I'd go for a run, I could always find my way back to my apartment by heading back towards the spires.

Further along the road is Elizabeth Fort, a star-shaped structure which housed the English forces. The barracks inside the fort are what give the street its name. Built in 1601, it originally marked the southern entrance into the walled city centre of Cork. Today it functions as a free museum, complete with exhibitions modeling 17th century punishment from a pillory to spikes with fake heads. Across the street is the Coach House, originally constructed in 1701. Today it houses the local grocer and became a frequent stop for me after class to grab a sleeve of biscuits.



St FinnBarre's Cathedral from my window.

Beyond a physical difference of history in the land and cityscape, there is a cultural difference as well. People carry their history in a very personal manner. The story of their city, their town, their country is the story of their family and themselves.



Charles Fort in Kinsale, another star fort in Ireland.

This was especially impressed upon me after a conversation I had with an older man I was sitting next to in a pub. He expressed curiosity about what I was learning at the university. After I told him that my Irish History class was covering the Great Famine, he positively erupted.



The Irish Famine Memorial in Dublin.
(Image Source The Irish Time)

He spoke with such genuine anger and sadness about events which took place over a century and a half ago that I was almost certain he must have lived through them!

Overall, my experience made me realize how little I feel connected to my own history. I have a vague understanding of my family's ancestry and a slightly better comprehension of American history, but I don't necessarily know how to synthesize the two. My time in Ireland opened my eyes to the way history can be presented beyond facts about the past, but in an emotional and personal way.



Outside of Newgrange, a neolithic passage tomb in the Boyne Valley in County

I think there's inspiration to be found in the way the Irish are so committed to living their history. As custodians of a living history museum, the HSSA is responsible for more than preserving the physical history of Arcata, but also the memory of peoples and times past.

Preservation-Themed Movies By:Emily Potter

We know there's no substitute for visiting historic places and experiencing firsthand the stories they tell and the history they bring to life, like when you step into an old movie theater or pull up to a drive-in and feel the magic about to begin. But for the times when you can't get out to a historic site or for whenever you're in the mood to simply cozy up on the couch, we've put together a big list of preservation-themed movies worth a watch.

1. *Barbershop* (2002)—One day, the son of a barber decides he no longer wants to run the barbershop his father handed down to him. But shortly after he sells the shop, he realizes how vital it is to the surrounding community and decides to try and get it back.
2. **batteries not included* (1987)—Small alien machines help the tenants of a threatened apartment block save their building from demolition by developers.
3. *Cars* (2006)—On the way to California for a tiebreaker car race, race participant Lightning McQueen and his big rig end up being impounded overnight in Radiator Springs, an old Route 66 stopover. When the race is over, Lightning returns to the town to help put it back on the map.
4. *The Descendants* (2011)—A family living in Hawaii controls 25,000 acres of land that are both financially and culturally valuable. The family trust will expire in seven years and they decide to sell the land to a developer, until one member of the family changes his mind
5. *From the Ashes: The Life and Times of Tick Hall* (2003)—This documentary explores the history, loss, and rebuilding of the 125-year-old house known as Tick Hall in historic Montauk, N.Y. After the house was tragically destroyed in a fire in 1997, the owners decided to rebuild it exactly as it once was.
6. *From Up On Poppy Hill* (2013)—A Japanese animated drama, this story centers on the relationship between two high school students who decide to clean up their school's clubhouse. When they learn that the chairman of the school intends to demolish the building for redevelopment, they set out to convince him to reconsider.
8. *The Majestic* (2001)—A man suffering from amnesia finds himself welcomed by a small town who believes him to be a long-lost WWII veteran. He settles into his "new" life and starts to restore The Majestic, an old, abandoned movie theater.

The complete list is available on the HSSA website.



**P.O. Box 4521
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"In an era where tourists leave negative reviews online about being "bummed out" by depressing stories at historical sites, it is even more important that we do not candy coat history to make it more palatable."

Membership and Renewal Form

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.

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