

**Winter
2025**



Arcata

HISTORICAL SITES SOCIETY OF

Arcata's Historic Preservation

By Dan Hauser

In the early 1970s the lowering of voting age from 21 to 18 created a major change in college towns including Arcata. In 1972 Dr. Rudy Becking and Alex Stillman were elected to the Arcata City Council. Two years later Wesley Chesbro and I were elected, creating a progressive or liberal majority for the first time in Arcata history. In 1978 Sam Penisi replaced Dr. Becking, maintaining that majority.



In the midst of all this, some of us wanted to proceed with a Historic Preservation program. A number of historic homes had already been demolished, and others were threatened to make way for newer homes, apartments and businesses. We soon realized that a mandatory preservation ordinance could trigger legal actions from inverse condemnation. The ordinance was made voluntary but with a provision that there would be a 30-day delay before any demolition permit could be granted. Even that delay provision brought out angry opposition. In particular, I remember the angry rant of Doris Chapman Ritchie, the owner of the Chapman House. Doris demanded the right to destroy the Chapman House any time she wanted to.

Has the historic preservation program worked? I would argue that overall it has worked. There has seemed to be an awareness of the value of our historic structures. That awareness was enhanced by the City Council commissioning a survey and book by historian Susie Van Kirk titled *Reflections of Arcata's History: Eighty Years of Architecture*, published in 1979.

Ironically, a few years ago, Doris Ritchie's son sold the Chapman House to Scott and Sandy Hunt. The Hunts did a fantastic restoration of the property, maintaining the historical integrity of the home. The Chapman House is one of the finest older homes in Arcata (photo above).

We have still lost one structure, the Derail House, at 12th and I Streets, due to aggressive neglect. We still have apartments in front of beautiful Victorians that should have been removed. While not perfect, Historic Preservation has worked well for Arcata.

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

HSSA is aware that Arcata
stands on Wiyot lands. We
acknowledge the original
preservers of our community.

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President's Message

by Alex Stillman

Our Valentine's tea means to me that spring is almost here. The tea was well attended. We found a lot of people came because they read the info on Meet-Up or on our Facebook page. It was wonderful to see so many new faces. The Mad River Union had a photo of the tea on its front page.

The Telonicher House at CalPolyHumboldt has a new use as the Communications hub on campus. This was home of Professor Telonicher, the only person with two campus buildings named after him, and his family. In the 1950s, faculty lived on the edges of campus. Those homes were eventually absorbed into the campus and the Telonicher house is in a row by the south side of the library.

Imagine a time in the 1950s when a father left to teach his classes at Founders Hall and dropped his children off at Gist Hall, the elementary school on his way. By the library, several homes bear the names of the faculty families who lived there. It must have been quite the time! Would the mothers have been waving goodbye in their aprons after fixing breakfast and lunchboxes? Which reminds me, you may observe a display of aprons and hankies on display at the Phillips House.

We have a marvelous collection of clothing on display at the Phillips House. Read the article by Karole Ely to learn more, and be sure to stop by and visit. Historic Preservation month is in May and the Historical Landmarks Committee has plans to use Steve Lazzar's postcards to tell their story of Arcata history. The museum might be part of this special event during Saturday of CPH graduation weekend. More to come in the next newsletter.

Every year the Phillips House gets better at telling stories of our history. Whether it's the building itself, one of the oldest houses in Arcata, the WWII bedroom, Dr.

Horel's bedroom furniture from his home on the corner of 13th and J Streets or the suffragette's bedroom. Every room tells a story.



Left: The Telonicher House on Sequoia Ave. Right: Professor Fred Telonicher was a professor of Marine Biology from 1927 through 1967. He also coached the Lumberjack Football team from 1927-1934. The Marine Lab in Trinidad is named after him/.

Aprons, Hankies & Hats with a Splash of Glamour

by Karole Ely

The Phillips House Museum opened its doors for the season with its annual Valentine's Tea and latest exhibit *Aprons, Hankies & Hats with a Splash of Glamour*. Karole Ely, museum curator, always wanted to highlight one of the museum's collections of clothing. This collection was given to HSSA by Henrietta Chizzola a former New York socialite. When Karole and Alex Stillman recently visited the de Young Art Museum in San Francisco and viewed Tamara de Lempicka's paintings, it spawned an idea to pair Henrietta's gowns with Tamara's paintings. Tamara was also a New York socialite in the 1930s and may have attended the same glamorous parties and events as Henrietta.

Also on display is our lovely antique hankie collection located in the parlor and paired with the *History of the Handkerchief*. In the kitchen is an exhibit of interesting antique aprons also with its own history. Our beautiful hat collection can be found in the entry exhibit area.

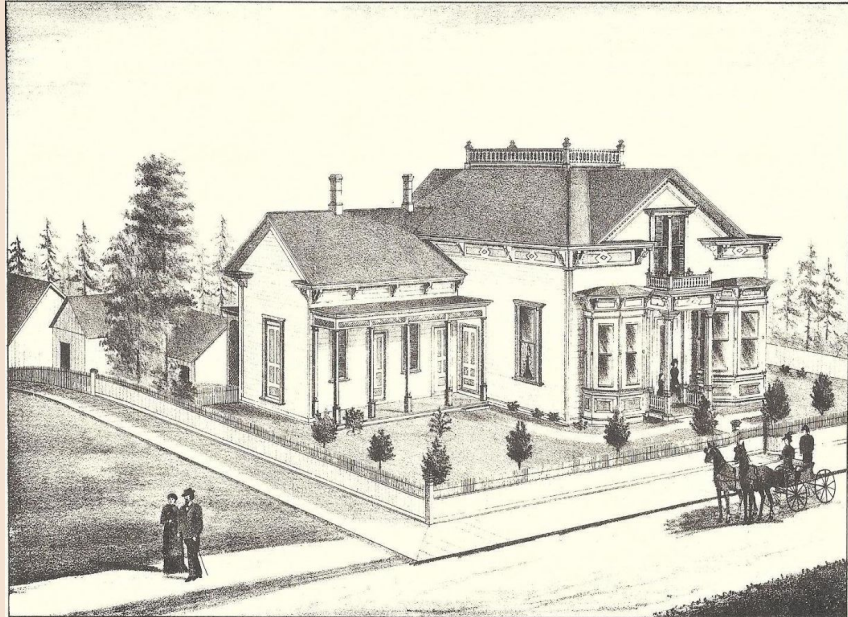
You can view this dazzling exhibit on Sundays from 2 to 4. Come and learn about these fascinating women. It will transport you into Tamara and Henrietta's interesting and glamorous lives in 1930's New York society.



Join HSSA or Renew Your Membership

We cordially invite you to join or renew your membership with the HSSA. You are part of a community that values our past and works to preserve it. We would be grateful if you could consider an additional gift to help support our ongoing projects and expenses. Your contribution will certainly ensure that our historical sites continue to narrate the stories of our past for generations to come. To join or renew, please complete the form below and mail it with your check to HSSA, PO Box 4521, Arcata, CA 95518.

Renewals to Date
Wesley and Cindy Chesbro
Jennifer and Brian Cilker
Ken Tambe
Tamara Wolski
Edith Stromberg
Robin Kinzer
Lee and Chris House
Tom Conlon
Karole Ely
Jeanette Cooper
Sharon Ferrett



New Members:
Jodi Smith
Kathy Seror

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____

email _____

____ (\$25) Individual

____ (\$35) Family

____ (\$100) Preservation Partner



*Valentine's Tea at the
Phillips House
February 16, 2025*



P.O. Box 4521
Arcata, CA 95518

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*After generations of good times,
great breakfasts and memories,
the Alibi, one of the last remnants
of Tavern Row on the Plaza is
closed. Thanks for the memories
—and we look forward to seeing
what happens there next!*

