

**Summer
2025**



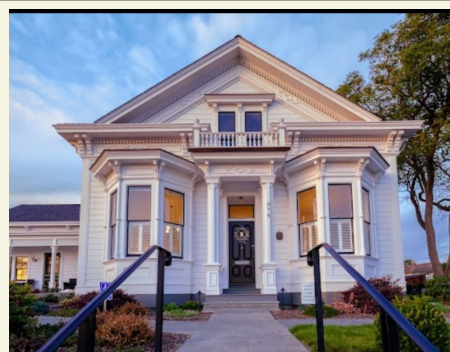
Arcata

HISTORICAL SITES SOCIETY OF

Historic Preservation of Old Homes

by Dan Hauser

The Historical Sites Society of Arcata was founded in the mid-1970s to encourage the preservation of the significant older homes in our community at a time when a few homes had been demolished or were threatened with radical modification. That encouragement helped with many homes although one was ultimately lost and a few still have little rental units in front of them. Preservation and restoration take different forms, a couple of examples are at 10th and J Streets.



The Chapman House (photo at right) was neglected for many years although Roy Chapman Ritchie, the grandson of the original owner, tried to maintain it even though he lived in Nevada. Fortunately, Scott and Sandy Hunt had the interest and resources to restore and upgrade the property. A few years ago, they purchased the home from Roy and set to work. Bob Felter agreed to come out of retirement and headed up the project. The house had to be almost totally rebuilt while maintaining the historical integrity. That included raising the structure to install a full perimeter foundation. The interior, upstairs and down was improved to make three living units intended for short term rentals. The old dirt floored garage was torn down and replaced with a two-story unit that matches the original architecture.

Across J Street to the west the Hauser-Nixon House has been a very long-term project. I was still in my 20s when we bought the house from Nixon's granddaughter. At that time, we had very little money, so we had to do almost all the work ourselves. The worst room was the dining room with wallpaper peeling off. We removed seven layers of wallpaper to get down to the rough redwood and then had to put up ½ inch sheetrock. The sheetrock was needed to create a smooth surface for modern wallpapers, again to keep the historical integrity of the home. I was even able to paint the exterior myself the first few times. Later we were able to have work done on most other rooms as well as having the kitchen and bathroom fully remodeled. There are always things that we would like to complete. On the other hand, now that I am in my mid-80s, it's harder to even keep up with regular maintenance.



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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

It's windy and the sun is out; summer must be here. We have received great publicity for the Tamara de Lempicka exhibit. *Redwood News* interviewed Karole Ely. The open house for the exhibit was well attended, the *Arcata Union* and the *Times Standard* provided excellent coverage bringing visitors to our door on Sundays. We would like to thank our local media.

The Fulton Brothers (see photo below), who grew up near the old Trinity Hospital recently dropped by the museum. They had stories to tell and provided the photo below of the interior of a blacksmith shop.

I have been fascinated with the Temperance movement and Tamara Wolski's story about the temperance fountain spurred me to find out more. I never knew Arcata did not want to be a dry town. I am sure it had to do with providing liquor to the lumberjacks on "tavern row" each weekend. The police had to control a lively group on Friday and Saturday nights. No wonder the bars needed to be together. The article on page 3 expands on this.

Fiber Fair is the weekend of September 6 and 7. Preparations are under way with gathering items for sale. We have a nice selection of rug hooking items. This event helps publicize HSSA and the museum, encourages new rug hookers and is also a fund raiser.

Jeanette Cooper has volunteered to chair the Collectibles Sale on Saturday, September 27 from 10-3. It's a good fund raiser for HSSA. She will need helping hands and a selection of salable vintage items. Please reach out to her: jeanette.wt@gmail.com.



We look forward to seeing all
of our members at the sale.



Bayside Temperance Hall and the Arcata Temperance Fountain (WCTU)

by Alex Stillman

Temperance Halls and fountains stand as enduring symbols of the 19th-century temperance movement, which sought

to address societal issues stemming from excessive alcohol consumption by banning alcohol. While temperance halls became central meeting places for advocates of moderation and sobriety, temperance fountains served as public reminders of the ideals of self-restraint and community welfare. They also offered drinking water, a healthy alternative to alcohol. When Arcata voted that it did not want to be a dry town, a fountain was installed in 1912 west of bar row on the Arcata Plaza. (photos in the Spring 2025 Newsletter).



Where halls engaged the mind and spirit, fountains served the practical needs of the body, offering reminders that moderation could be practiced in all aspects of life. These structures became landmarks of a movement that aspired to restore dignity, health, and unity to communities impacted by the challenges of alcohol overconsumption.

Women played a central role in the temperance movement, and their contributions were highly visible in the activities held in Temperance Halls. Organizations like the Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) were instrumental in promoting the cause. For many women, involvement provided a platform for broader social and political engagement, including the fight for women's suffrage (visit the Phillips House Museum's Suffragist's Room).

Bayside Temperance Hall was built in 1882 as a small one room building. It would have been ideal for the small communities of Bayside and Arcata. It was intended as a space where community members could gather without alcohol and is a symbol of a broader movement to improve society through education, moral reform, and community engagement. Their impact on social history remains significant and reflect the aspirations and challenges of the era of human desire for progress and betterment. The Bayside Hall is still standing. It is currently being restored for community events. To engage in this effort, contact Baysidecorners@gmail.com. For more information on the impact of the temperance movement in Humboldt County, visit <https://www.clarkemuseum.org/whiskey-in-the-wall.html>

Please Save the Date

Natural Fiber Fair

a non-profit organization

Celebrating 35 years of teaching sustainable traditions.

September 6 - 7, 2025

Arcata Community Center

321 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway, Arcata CA

The opening reception on May 18th for the HSSA's newest exhibit, *Aprons, Hats & Hankies with a Splash of Glamour* was a huge success! Thanks in part to a lovely article in the Times Standard, the Phillips House Museum experienced many new visitors along with members who came to enjoy the exhibit.



Pictured: Kel Loughmiller and Karole Ely (exhibit curator)

IMPORTANT:

Thank you for helping us share our history with the community.

It's time to renew your membership. Please complete the form and mail it with your check to HSSA, PO Box 4251, Arcata, CA 95521

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____

email _____

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

() in honor of _____

() in memory of _____

The Further Adventures of Ruth Horel Caskey

By Tamara Wolski



Below are some further excerpts from Ruth Horel Caskey's diary. She wrote these entries while attending college at UC Berkeley in 1915. Ruth was born in Arcata in 1895.

February 24, 1915: Ukulele Club at Gamma Phi Beta House at 4 P.M. Our numbers have increased- Katherine Ashley '18 (from Honolulu) teaches us a dandy stroke. Dean and Mrs. Barrows and Miss Patterson here to Faculty dinner. Dean Barrows is the grandest man. How I would love to be as learned and as gracious as he is! I will study Poli Sci and Econ diligently so I can approach it. My ambition is to "know life," understand its various phases thoroughly.

Left: Ruth as a young girl

May 7, 1915

Nina Beers and I go to City. Buy my blue suit and pink crepe de chine waist at Prussia House. Lunch at Sunset Cafeteria. Exposition where we spend day. Stay for illuminations. In P.M. see Art Smith fly- (19 years old).

"Art" Smith flying at night at the 1915 San Francisco International Exposition (Photo: CSU Fresno).



Aerial view of the Panama-Pacific International Exposition



**P.O. Box 4521
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Then and Now photo comparison by Tamara Wolski.

Looking north on H Street
at the corner of 8th Street;
circa 1930s and today.

We posted this comparison
on our Facebook page,
and an eagle-eyed follower
commented, "That is my
Grandma and Grandpa's
Arcata Bakery right next to
Bank of America in the first
photo." We love to hear
these stories!