HSSA’s Photographs are Organized!

From Edie Butler
HSSA owns hundreds of photographs, negatives, and slides that show many sites in and around Arcata. In recent months Suzanne Guerra, Alex Stillman and Edie Butler have organized them by geographic location (eg: Arcata Plaza) or by subject (eg: homes, special events, transportation). They are now protected in archival quality boxes and stored in the file cabinet in the upstairs office. Please don’t confuse these images with the numerous photographs that are part of other collections owned by HSSA.

With this new general level of organization it will be much easier for members, and other researchers, to use the images for publicity, exhibits, etc. A collection guide is nearly ready to be posted to the HSSA website. A copy of the guide will be in the file cabinet with the images. Many of the images fit into more than one category; allow time to look in any possibly relevant files when searching for something specific.

To use an image for a non-HSSA purpose, we need to record the information about who, what and why. A revised Guidelines for Granting Permission to Use and a fee schedule have been prepared. See another section in this newsletter for more information.

The Phillips House will be closed for the month of January. It will reopen on Sunday, February 14, 2016. On this special day, we will celebrate with the annual Valentine’s Tea from 2-4 p.m.

Bring your sweetheart and friends for a lovely afternoon at the Phillips House. The Phillips House loves celebrations and looks forward to greeting you!

Annual Luncheon
Saturday, March 19 at the Plaza Grill. Our speaker, Dr. Jack Irvine, will discuss Arcata’s early medical history. Please call Alex at 822-4722 to make a reservation.

Welcome New Members
Deborah Musick
Charline Crump
Ruth-Anne Rohman
President’s Message
From Alex Stillman.

We thank all of our members and friends for their support of HSSA this past year and we look forward seeing you often in 2016.

- The sale of wool fabric donated by Sandra Fletcher’s estate generated over $1000 for the HSSA treasury.
- A big thank you to Cindy Humphrey for her donations of medical equipment, a Horel sideboard and a terrific red wool swimsuit.
- Dr. Jack Irvine has agreed to be our annual luncheon speaker on Saturday, March 19 at the Plaza Grill. He will address Arcata’s early medical history. Please call 822-4722 to make a reservation.
- Charline Crump, a retired third grade teacher, is organizing the elementary students’ visit to the museum for “history days” in May.
- A new sign will soon appear by the main gate to the museum. The sign will have a phone number that will provide information about Arcata History and the Phillips House.
- Brianna Goldstein, a recent graduate of the HSU gallery design program, will be hosting an HSU student art show opening March 4th at the Phillips House. The theme is “Arcata: Place or Idea.” The show will remain on display until May 14.
- Andy Alm, our webmaster, is working on a mobile phone app that will be a guide to the walking tours of Arcata’s historic neighborhoods.
- The January issue of Preservation Matters, the Journal of the California Office of Historic Preservation features an article on Arcata’s efforts to preserve our history. There is a link to the article on the HSSA website, or http://www.ohp.parks.ca.gov/pages/1054/files/2016_Volume_9_Issue_1.pdf. According to the article, “Historic preservation takes place primarily at the local level. Preservation succeeds when concerned citizens and property owners, preservation advocates, elected and appointed officials, and other local government decision makers work together to recognize, preserve, and appropriately use the historical and cultural assets of their communities by integrating preservation planning strategies and programs into the broader land use planning process.”
- Arcata and HSSA lost two valuable historians this winter. Both Mac McClary and Susie Van Kirk contributed much to the success of our organization.
More on the HSSA Photo Collection

“Permission to Use” photographs owned by HSSA: HSSA welcomes opportunities to share photo collections. New forms have been. The new forms are: Application for Permission to Use Images and Guidelines for Granting Permission to Use and Requesting the Fee. Look in the files at the Phillips House for these documents and use them as occasions arise. Please remember to file the completed documents in the correct place. Hensel’s Hardware is currently displaying some of the historic photos from our collection and they look terrific.

Donation Acceptance Policy and Process: HSSA, in part, fulfills its mission of preserving the cultural heritage of Arcata and environs by maintaining archival and artifact collections at the Phillips House Museum. Since not everything offered is a good fit for our collections and because all historic items require proper care (which can be expensive and always requires storage space), we have updated our process for accepting donations. The Donation Acceptance Policy and Process document and revised Deed of Gift blank forms can be found in the files at the Phillips House Museum.

The 1920’s Kitchen

The Phillips House Museum contains historic items that have been lovingly put together to create an authentic kitchen from the 1920’s.

Gas Range: One of the iconic images of the 1920s kitchen is the special gas cabinet range, with its distinctive barrel-door warming oven on top. Designed for constant use by large families or boarding houses, these ranges combined three or more broiling and baking ovens with multiple burners. (Gift of Ruth Horel Caskey)

Toaster that fits over a burner on the gas range

Tabletop butter churn

Hoosier Cabinets: The compact efficiency of the Hoosier cabinet appealed to the turn-of-the-century homemaker, and the Hoosier Manufacturing Company turned out at least 600 a day. (Gift of Alex Stillman)

Soap was precious. Slivers were saved in this mesh holder in order to swish through dishwater to create suds.

Kitchen Sink was a donation from the owner of a home at 16th and J.

Photos courtesy of Alex Stillman
Horel House

By Alex Stillman.
The Horel House, on 13th and J is part of the Arcata Heights neighborhood where many of Arcata’s largest homes are located. It sits next to the Baer House, which is the second most photographed house in Humboldt County. Dr. Francis R. and Mrs. Lois Horel moved to Arcata in 1891. Dr. Horel was an 1885 graduate of Rush Medical College in Chicago. He established his medical practice at the Arcata Sanatorium. Daughters Ruth and Lois were born in 1895 and 1903. After her high school graduation in 1913 Ruth attended the University of California at Berkeley earning a bachelor’s degree in 1917 and a Masters in Dental Pathology degree in 1918.

HSSA made Ruth Horel Caskey’s acquaintance when she was living in Tucson, Arizona. Ruth was interested in donation some family heirlooms to the Phillips House Museum. The organ stool, chairs, and a corner wall shelf can be seen in the museum’s living room. The master bedroom suite is also from Horel family.

Later the house was divided into apartments. I had a friend who lived in the Horel House in the 1980’s. After entering the foyer, I climbed the beautiful staircase to reach his apartment. His apartment faced east and consisted of two rooms with the kitchen in one, a loft in another and a bathroom.

The Petersons, who owned the house in the 1990’s, restored the house for family living. They removed the small kitchens and lofts in the apartments, cleaned woodwork, hung wallpaper, replaced ceiling light fixtures, planted trees and shrubs in front of the house and made it a pleasing family home. HSSA held an event at this home when the Petersons lived there.

Bella Holmes is the current owner of the Horel House. It took months for her to complete the purchase after the foreclosure sale. HSSA is pleased that she rescued this house from vandalism and an uncaring owner. Bella and her family have taken up residence in this lovely historic home. This house, one of Arcata’s finest, deserves to be cherished by a family.

HSSA has Ruth’s collection of photographs and written materials, curated by Edith Butler. The collection includes photographs of Arcata and northwest California (1890 - 1920), documents and ephemera pertaining to Humboldt County and Dr. Horel's practice (1890-1925) and Horel Family photographs and correspondence

More info at http://www.oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/tf900006j0/

Plaza Chronology
1901: Bar owner Charley Richards’ goat, other livestock and the fence were removed. A bandstand was built in the center.
1903: Grass, rose bushes, boxwoods and palms were planted
1906: The bandstand and boxwood were removed, more palms were planted and McKinley’s statue came to town
1910: The radiating sidewalks, suggested by Charles Murdock were built
1912: The WCTU drinking fountain was added
Arcata’s Auto Park

By Don Tuttle

In the early 1920’s Arcata had a nice Auto Park in the Community Park accessed by driving to the east end of 14th street. The fee was 50 cents for parking and you were provided all the privileges of the park. The facilities included fuel, outside stoves or oil stoves with kerosene for use in the kitchen, hot and cold water for dish washing, oil clothed tables, laundry with electric flat-iron, hot and cold showers, good sinks and sanitary lavatories. There were four outside stoves and a kitchen equipped with six kerosene stoves, seven tables, fly-proof garbage cans, and enough room in the building to hold 50 people.

The park area had been logged in 1875 but by the 1920’s it had ferns, flowers and berries and tall trees. The parlor of the park building was equipped with a fireplace, easy chairs, and tables for card playing or games. Outside there was a sandbox for the children and an aviary with 30 canaries. Water was supplied from a mountain spring.

Reference: August 24, 1989 Humboldt Beacon. A column by Evelyn McCormick called Point In Time

The Swastika (also known as the gammadion cross, cross cramponnée, or wanzi) is an ancient religious symbol that generally takes the form of an equilateral cross, with its four legs bent at 90 degrees. It is considered to be a sacred and auspicious symbol in Hinduism, Buddhism and Jainism and dates back to before 2nd century B.C.

It has been used as a decorative element in various cultures since at least the Neolithic era. It is known most widely as an important symbol long used in Indian religions, denoting "auspiciousness." (Wikipedia). It was apparently also used by our local Indian tribes—as shown on this hat currently on display at the Clarke Museum in Eureka

For Susie

Humboldt County lost a very valuable person who tirelessly documented our history. Susie Van Kirk worked continuously to research and document the historic resources of Humboldt, especially Arcata, during her life. The residents of Arcata are the main beneficiaries of Susie’s work. She carefully researched each historic building in the City of Arcata and published a book. Her book: Humboldt County: A Briefest of Histories, became the main source for determining the history of a specific structure. Her tablets contain many details on the history the County and City and will remain a great resource for future historians researching the history of a specific house or barn or railroad or road. from Don Tuttle
Membership Form: Historical Sites Society of Arcata

Name: ________________________________________________________________

Address:_____________________________________________________________________________________________________

City: ___________________ State: ___________________ Zip Code: ___________________

Phone: ___________________ email___________________________________________

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

To join HSSA send your dues to:
Historical Sites Society of Arcata
PO Box 4521
Arcata, CA 95518
707-822-4722