

CORVALLIS HIGH SCHOOL LISTED IN NATIONAL REGISTER AS WRECKING BALL LOOMS

In August, the Keeper of the National Register officially added Corvallis (OR) High School to the National Register of Historic Places. The listing vindicated *Save CHS!*, a grass roots organization formed when the school district announced plans to demolish the Art Deco building in 2002, refusing to acknowledge its historic significance. "We are thrilled that the government's top historic preservation authority has recog-



nized the historic treasure we have here in Corvallis," said Carol Chin of *Save CHS!*, who nominated the school as a candidate for listing last year. "This is an honor for our entire community, one we can all be proud of."

The original portion of CHS was constructed in 1935 through a grant and loan from the Roosevelt Administration's jobs program known as the Public

Works Administration (PWA), later known as the Works Progress Administration (WPA). CHS is one of only 57 school projects (out of more than 5,400 completed nationally) featured in the government publication "*Public Buildings: Architecture under the Public Works Administration 1933 to 1939.*" The school was designed by the prominent Portland architectural firm Whitehouse, Stanton and Church and was built with local labor. Except for changes to the windows, the main façade remains as it looked upon completion in 1935.

In May, the National Trust submitted written comments in support of *Save CHS!*'s appeal of the Corvallis Planning Commission's approval of the project, including numerous examples of successful school rehabilitation projects. These comments were followed by a guest opinion in the *Corvallis Gazette-Times*, co-signed by the Historic Preservation League of Oregon, urging the district to fairly consider alternatives to demolition. Despite these efforts, the City Council rejected the appeal in June, prompting *Save CHS!* to petition the state Land Use Board of Appeals. The appeal hearing was held on November 6, 2003 with a decision expected by the end of the year.

October Grant Round: Eight Projects Funded

The Stone Avenue Temple Project, Inc, Tucson, AZ was awarded a **\$2,592** grant to hire a development professional to plan and coordinate a capital campaign that will ensure the permanent status of the Stone Avenue Temple (1910, NR, Local) and create significant opportunities for the organization to expand its historical, educational, and community programs and resources.

Washington Trust for Historic Preservation, Seattle, WA was awarded a **\$5,000** grant to provide scholarship assistance for the joint American Planning Association/Washington Trust conference, "Planning and Preservation: Essential Tools in Economic Development" in Spokane.

City of Snohomish, WA received a **\$4,000** grant to hire a consultant to complete a feasibility study for the Carnegie Library Building (1910, NR, Local).

Kaua'i Historical Society, Lihue, HI



was awarded a **\$4,250** grant to hire a consultant to develop a preservation plan for the County Annex building (1930, NR, State) and support associated printing costs.

Southern Oregon Historical Society, Medford, OR received a **\$3,000** grant to hire a consultant to conduct a structural analysis of the Courtroom of the Jackson County Courthouse (1883-1884, NHL, State).

Oregon Film & Video Foundation, Portland, OR will receive a **\$4,000** grant to hire a consultant to complete an exterior condition assessment of the Hollywood Theatre (1926, NR, Local) and support the production of a color brochure for fundraising.



Riverside Municipal Museum, Riverside, CA was awarded a **\$3,000** grant to hire a consultant to facilitate a visioning workshop for the Harada House (1880s, NHL, NR, Local). Constructed by first generation Japanese immigrants, at the time prohibited from owning property, the Harada House was deeded to the couple's American-born children. The Harada House was the object of the first constitutionality test of an alien land law in the United States.

A **\$4,612** grant was awarded to **Mendocino Land Trust, Mendocino, CA** to hire an architect to assess the current conditions and estimate the rehabilitation costs of the Mare Barn Complex (1905-08, 1916, 1920s-1940s) at Ridgewood Ranch, home of Seabiscuit.

HISTORIC ALLIED ARTS GUILD RENOVATION

The historic Pedro-deLemos designed Allied Arts Guild building in Menlo Park,



CA (75 Arbor Road, Menlo Park) is undergoing a massive renovation and funds are being sought to complete the \$7.5 million project. The exquisite 3.5-acre property, encompassing luxurious gardens and a complex of Spanish Colonial buildings, is owned and operated by the Woodside Atherton Auxiliary to the Lucile Packard Children's Hospital for the benefit of critically ill children at Packard Hospital. This 1929 show-place houses artists' studios, small offices, shops and a restaurant, all of which are expected to re-open to the public in late summer. For more information go to : www.alliedartsguild.org.

Residents of Wallace, Idaho, Rescue Beleaguered Auditorium



At an emergency meeting on June 16, 2003, the Wallace School Board approved a two-year renewable lease to the Wallace Civic Memorial Auditorium Association, successfully concluding a community effort to save the building led by National Trust Advisor Emeritus Harry Magnuson. Just days before the scheduled demolition, a restraining order was issued to prevent the district from tearing down the building. "This is a momentous development and culminates an effort that has taken a good portion of the last 12 months," observed Magnuson. The lease agreement, with a rent of \$1 per year, required WCMAA to buy out a portion of the demolition contract and relieved the district of responsibility for upkeep and maintenance of the building.

Constructed as a memorial to World War II veterans in 1948, the 33,000-square-foot structure was slated for demolition along with the recently-raised old Wallace High School. After school trustees made the initial decision to tear it down, a petition with 700 signatures – in a town of 1,000 residents – was presented to the board in support of preservation. Despite this overwhelming public response, the board reaffirmed its original demolition plan.

"The auditorium has been a center of school and community activities in Wallace for over 50 years," commented WCMAA president Dale Lavigne. "We believe the auditorium can continue to provide a valuable resource to the community which would be irreplaceable in today's economic environment." The WCMAA is now pursuing state and federal grant funding for the building's reuse, with possible functions including a sports and entertainment venue or convention center.

Carson City's Chinatown

[On Nevada State Day, October 31, 2003, the Carson City Historic Preservation Coalition dedicated a plaque honoring the Chinese of Carson City at the site where Carson City's Chinatown was once located. Today Carson City's Supreme Court, state printing and employment, training and rehabilitation buildings, and the legislative parking garage and a parking lot, cover most of what was once a thriving Chinatown with as many as 1,000 Chinese residents. This story is adapted from a speech by Dr. Sue Fawn Chung, UNLV History Department, delivered at the Dedication. Contact vro@nthp.org for her full text.]



Dr. Sue Fawn Chung and children

First drawn to Nevada from California by the elusive "placer gold," many Chinese also found jobs in other professions. When gold was discovered in present-day Dayton, some Chinese moved there. As they headed up the mountain toward Gold Hill and the Comstock Lode, they encountered hostility. On June 11, 1859 miners in Gold Hill set a precedent by passing rules prohibiting the Chinese from holding mining claims in their district. Although this exclusionary clause was not adopted or enforced everywhere, increasingly Chinese immigrants in frontier Nevada began to turn to careers in service industries -- as cooks, domestic servants, and laundrymen.

As merchandise, workers, and information flowed through it to California and other Chinatowns in the region, Carson City's Chinatown became a lively hub. It enjoyed its greatest period of wealth and influence in the 1870s and 1880s. According to tax records, Carson City's Chinatown included several stores, homes, and boarding houses, as well as restaurants and laundries. Census records indicate that in 1880, at its height, almost one thousand Chinese (most of them foreign-born) resided in Carson City's Chinatown -- one out of every six residents. Chinese worked in more than 61 documented professions.

Carson City was the center of a thriving lumber industry. Wood cut in the Sierra Nevada was delivered by wagon, flume, or train to Carson City and then transferred to the Comstock. The Comstock's need for wood opened doors for the Chinese -- between 1870 and 1880 the Chinese dominated the lumber industry's workforce in the Sierra Nevada range.

Railroad expansion provided additional employment for Chinese immigrants. In 1868, an estimated 10,000 -12,000 Chinese railroad workers provided 90% of the workforce for the Central Pacific Railroad. Of this number, approximately 5,000 continued to build the rail line across the Nevada state line, the remainder found work in western Nevada, returned to California, or built railroads in other locations. Chinese railroad workers started on the Virginia and Truckee in 1869 and also built short lines and narrow gauge railroads in Nevada, as well as maintaining many rail lines.

Chinese laundries were commonplace throughout the West and Carson City was no exception: frontiersmen were not interested in washing their own clothes. Frequently Chinese laundries were noted for the high quality of their work. Chinese laundries held another unique attraction: the game now known as "keno" was played in many Chinese laundries, attracting many Euro-American customers. In 1892 a local Carson City newspaper reported a woman who bet fifty-five cents and took home \$900!

In the late 19th century Chinese restaurants serving American cuisine or a combination of American and Chinese dishes catered to single males and railroad workers throughout Nevada. Railroad companies sometimes offered restaurants a subsidy to operate 24-hours-a-day and serve railroad crews and passengers, and Chinese restaurants were frequently located near railroad lines as a result. In Carson City, as in many other towns, a local Chinese restaurant supplied food to the jail.

Because of the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Acts and its amendments and extensions, by 1890 the Chinese population in the county had dropped to around 700 and declined rapidly thereafter. By 1920 only 86 Chinese remained in Carson City. A devastating fire swept through Chinatown in 1935, prompting another Chinese exodus. By 1937 the Chinese population of Carson City had dwindled to 13 and Chinatown's remaining five blocks were practically deserted. Around 1938 when a Chinese visitor from San Francisco visited Carson City's Chinatown he found only two dilapidated rows of wooden buildings, most of them vacant. A fire in 1950 destroyed most of Chinatown's remaining buildings.

National Trust Vice President Addresses Joint Washington Trust/APA Conference

National Trust Executive Vice President David Brown was plenary speaker at the Washington Trust/American Planning Association conference, "Planning & Preservation: Essential Tools for Economic Development," held in Spokane, Washington, October 13-15, 2003. Reflecting the theme of the conference, his remarks focused on the interplay of planning and historic preservation in revitalizing downtowns and neighborhood districts, a relationship expounded upon by the following speaker, Paul Farmer, AICP, Executive Director of the American Planning Association. The National Trust also supported the conference with a \$5,000 grant from the Pacific Northwest Preservation Services Fund to underwrite scholarships for conference attendees from Washington Trust.

Vice President Brown's visit to Spokane also included tours of the Spokane Fox Theater, recent recipient of a \$250,000 Save America's Treasures grant, and the Corbin and Moore-Turner Gardens, which received a \$3,000 Preservation Services Fund grant in 2001 and a subsequent grant of \$3,000 from the Pacific Northwest Preservation Services Fund in 2002. To request a copy of David Brown's remarks, email the Western Office at wro@nthp.org.

The National Trust is now accepting session proposals for the **2004 National Preservation Conference**, to be held September 28 - October 3, 2004 in Louisville, Kentucky. Preservationists interested in conducting educational sessions or leading field sessions may now submit their proposals online or by mail. To download submission forms go to www.nthpconference.org/Propose/. Deadline for proposals is **Jan. 16, 2004**.



APPROACHING DEADLINES

The National Trust is accepting applications for *America's 11 Most Endangered Places* for 2004. Since 1988, this list has featured more than 140 buildings, sites and landscapes, including Little Manila, Stockton, Bok Kai Temple in Mendocino, Angel Island Immigration Station, San Francisco, California. This is your chance to spotlight parts of America's heritage threatened by neglect, deterioration, lack of maintenance, insufficient funds, inappropriate development or insensitive public policy. While nominations are accepted from any source; it is strongly recommended that a preservation professional or community advocate participate in the preparation of the nomination. Guidelines and nomination forms are available at: <http://www.nationaltrust.org/11Most/nomination.html>

Deadline: January 20, 2004.

Applications for the National Trust's **Preservation Services Fund Grants**, **Cynthia Woods Mitchell Grants** and **Johanna Favrot Grants** are being accepted until **February 1, 2004**.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact the Western Office prior to submitting an application. For additional information regarding these grants contact Anne Gailliot, Field Representative, anne_gailliot@nthp.org

The National Trust is seeking entries for the 2004 **Preservation Poster Week Poster Contest**. The theme for Preservation Week 2003 was "*Cities, Suburbs and Countryside*". Preservation Week 2004 will occur May 3 through 8. **Deadline Feb. 2, 2004**. For more information

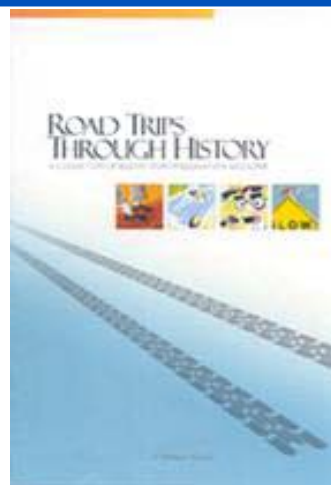
<http://www.nationaltrust.org/preservationweek/index.asp>.

Preserve America, a White House initiative developed in cooperation with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the U.S. Department of the Interior, and the U.S. Department of Commerce highlights the efforts of the President and Mrs. Bush to preserve our national heritage. Goals of the initiative include a greater shared knowledge about the nation's past, strengthened regional identities and local pride, increased local participation in preserving the country's cultural and natural heritage assets, and support for the economic vitality of our communities.

The **Preserve America Annual Presidential Award** is one component of the initiative. The Award will honor individuals, governmental entities, and organizations for their commitment to the protection and interpretation of America's history and resources. Applications are available at <http://www.preserveamerica.gov/presidentialaward.html>.

Deadline: January 15, 2004.

Communities may apply for special designation as a **Preserve America Community**, which will recognize communities that protect and celebrate their heritage; use their historic assets for economic development and community revitalization; and encourage people to experience and appreciate local historic resources through education and heritage tourism programs. For more information and to download an application, go to <http://www.preserveamerica.gov/communities.html>.



Dwight Young, the National Trust's Senior Communications Associate, uses his column "The Back Page" to record his insights about places and how they affect people. He highlights why we need such places, and now 54 of his columns are available in **Road Trips Through History: A Collection of Essays from Preservation Magazine**.

Road Trips Through History (item no. 2RTH) is available from Preservation Books for \$15.95 plus postage and handling. To order a copy, visit [Preservation Books on-line store](http://www.preservationbooks.com) or call (202) 588-6296. National Trust Forum members can take advantage of a 25% discount (\$11.96) and standard members of the Trust receive a 10% discount (\$14.35).