

HERITAGE HERALD

NEWSLETTER OF THE EUREKA HERITAGE SOCIETY, EST. 1973 — EUREKA, CA

Fall 2021

Eureka Heritage Society Preservation Awards 2021

ON JULY 10, 2021, THE EUREKA HERITAGE Society presented its 2021 Preservation Awards before a small gathering under tents on the grounds of the Annie B. Ryan house. Each of the seven award recipients contributed in unique ways to preserve precious structures in the greater Eureka area.



Preservation Awards Ceremony. Eureka Heritage Photo

Commercial Preservation

Matson and Vallerga Architects Inc.
for their offices at 3234 T Street

When people think of historic buildings, grand Victorians often come to mind, yet throughout Eureka there are hidden gems from all decades just waiting to be recognized. One such structure is the mid-century jewel at 3234 T Street.

The building is unmistakably contemporary mid-century modern. The aesthetic came out of Frank Lloyd Wright's High Prairie style, though with fewer decorative features. These types of buildings feature clean lines, floor-to-ceiling windows, and natural materials like wood, stone and brick. Many have asymmetrical exteriors with windows extending to the roofline and exposed ceilings and interior beams.

Designed by local Architect Gerald D. Matson in 1960, the building was erected per his specifications to serve as the future home of his architecture firm. In 1960, Peter Vallerga joined the firm, and in 1999 the name changed to Matson & Vallerga Architects, Inc.



Matson & Vallerga. Eureka Heritage Photo

The structure has many delightful contemporary mid-century modern elements, especially the simple verticality of construction materials and floor-to-ceiling windows that let light in and offer views of the lush landscaping.

The interior is a wonderful symphony of mid-century modern: beautiful vertical wood-paneled walls (one with grass cloth wall covering), custom sliding doors, asymmetrical ceilings with skylights, wide and flat Bakelite light switches, a built-in period clock, and a custom curly redwood table with turquoise Formica legs made specifically for the conference room. The color turquoise is splashed throughout, and office layouts offer traditional mid-century modern efficiency.



Matson & Vallerga custom doors. Eureka Heritage Photo

Fortunately, a fire at a neighboring structure several years ago did not cause major damage to the building, nor has time. While many mid-century modern structures have been remodeled, this prime example has been preserved by the company remaining much as it was when it was built, and for its original purpose.

—Mary Ann McCulloch



Eureka Heritage Society Board of Directors

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The board meets on the second Monday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at the Annie B. Ryan House, 1000 F. St. Eureka, CA (during the pandemic via Zoom)

Committees and Chairs

Annie B. Ryan: Bill Peer
Events: Mary Glavich & Wendy Petty
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Our Mission

The Eureka Heritage Society will provide leadership, education and advocacy that preserves and enhances Eureka's irreplaceable historic structures and neighborhoods so as to ensure a legacy for future generations.

Suggestions or comments may be sent to:

- (707) 445-8775
- www.eurekaheritage.com
- eurekaheritagesociety@gmail.com

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Preservation Awards

EUREKA HERITAGE Society has presented Preservation Awards since 1994. Thanks to the efforts of Bob Libershal, a comprehensive list was compiled this year and some interesting features emerged.

Awards have not been given every year. As near as can be determined, no Preservation Awards were handed out by the Society in 1997, 1999 or 2000.

Award categories and names are not rigidly fixed, and the number of awards varies from year to year. Including 2021's seven awards, the Society has handed out 120 Preservation Awards.

The fewest awards were given in 2001, when only two awards were presented. That year an award for educational success was given to College of the Redwoods for its outstanding preservation and restoration program. The second award was for commercial restoration, and it was given to Kurt and Kim Kramer for the Vance Hotel Project.

The greatest number given in one year occurred in 2004 when ten awards were presented. That year there were three "Commercial Building" awards, three "Restored Residential" awards,

two "Preserved Residential" awards, one "Adaptive Reuse" award and one "Secondary Structures" award.

Over the years there have been 30 different names of awards. The most common awards were for Residential (Preservation) nineteen times, Preservationist (of the Year), Adaptive Reuse and Commercial (Preservation) seventeen times each. Some of the rarer awards were Century of Preservation - once - and Preservation of Eureka - once. There have also been three Lifetime Achievement awards.

Why is there such variety? Because the efforts to save, preserve and restore are so highly varied that they don't neatly fit into categories that can be simply reapplied year after year. Even trying to describe a reliable criterion for preservation or restoration is extremely difficult. Sometimes efforts by individuals, groups or companies simply need to be recognized for their impact on preserving the diverse building stock of Eureka.

In July Eureka Heritage Society once again honored preservationists recognizing their unique contributions.

Eureka Heritage Society News Update

IN THE PAST FEW MONTHS Eureka Heritage Society hosted three events outdoors, two under the tents in the Annie B. Gardens. First was the Preservation Awards ceremony. A week later the Clark Historical Museum held its Victorian Tea fundraiser in the garden. Then in August, the Society held its annual yard sale fundraiser.

Due to the rise in Covid, the Home Tour is on hold once again, but keep the date on your calendars for next year.

We are still considering some Society function near the Christmas Holidays, but it is not clear in what format, nor whether conditions will allow a gathering. The Holiday Boutique, however, is

still on the schedule—help support the society by attending and purchasing holiday items.

The board welcomed Tom Schrader as a new member bringing the sitting board to its full compliment.

The Annie B. Ryan House has been added to the Eureka's Local Register of Historic Places. In the gardens, the fountain has been installed, and the shed has been embellished.

We are looking for volunteer assistance with some planned initiatives including scanning old newsletters, developing website content and helping create walking and biking tours. If you are interested please contact us via email at eurekaheritagesociety@gmail.com.



In the Annie B. Garden

THE MELANIE KUHNEL Memorial Rose garden has gone into full bloom, reminding us of her vision and determination to see this place happen. The new fountain is a lovely focal point, and the surrounding lavender is starting to bloom.

There are plenty of opportunities to deadhead the roses, if that strikes your fancy, or to collect petals for potpourri, if that is more to your liking. Of course, you could do both at once (hint, hint).

The borders and cottage gardens continue to color up with wild abandon, new blooms following old, different plants taking center stage with the changing season. The rhodies are done blooming for this year, and they were fertilized one last time to encourage next year's production. We'll keep them watered through the summer. Most of the mowing is now done for the summer.

The native areas are awaiting the winter rains for some new plantings; the ground should be nicely prepared for it, having been well composted with cardboard and chips. The grass and weeds occasionally poke through, but keeping them pulled is not too difficult, and it's so rewarding to see the area tidy, and think of the planting to come.

In the kitchen garden, all the fava plants but the two saved for seed are out and composting for next year's "feeding" of the veggie patch. All of the summer greens are now in and growing.

The Free Farmers' Market at Jefferson School continues to benefit from our kitchen garden. The kale has already had one big harvest (two huge crates), and within a week, you couldn't tell it had happened. The rhubarb has produced at least 20 lbs. so far and more will follow throughout the summer. Four rows of peas will eventually

have me on my knees for several consecutive Saturdays mornings, picking each row at least three weeks running. The first heads of lettuce have been cut and delivered. The newly planted chard and spinach beets are taking hold nicely.

One row of "tree kale" now runs down the middle of the rectangular patch. Watch what happens with that in a few more weeks! The herbs grow and bloom with minimal water—a plus for us. The Beauty plum in the orchard is laden with fruit, which will be ready soon; please feel free to help yourselves to them as they ripen.

If you are interested in assisting with our ongoing "water-weed-dead-head-harvest" summer/early fall festival of food and bloom, please contact Heritage Society board member Bill Peer at (707) 445-8775

—Claire Perricelli

Eureka Heritage Society Preservation Awards 2021

Lifetime Achievement

Melanie Kuhnel



Melanie Kuhnel
Eureka Heritage Photo

Eureka Heritage Society posthumously awarded Melanie Kuhnel a Lifetime Achievement Preservation Award for her zealous work in historic preservation. She served on the board of Directors of the Eureka Heritage Society for many years and was a Historic Preservation Commissioner for the City of Eureka for fifteen years.

Education being important to Melanie, she earned a Certificate in Historic Preservation and Restoration Technology from College of the Redwoods.

When Melanie and her husband, Ron, purchased the Magdalena Zanone House in 1999 it was being used as a boarding

house for women and prior to that had been unoccupied, neglected for years and was in deplorable condition.

Melanie was meticulous in the restoration of the house and carefully selected the experts to assist her in every phase of restoration. Finding some pieces of the original wallpaper between the middle parlor and the dining room, she searched until she found a manufacture that specialized in reproductions of significant historic wallpapers. They recreated the wallpaper pattern from the original wallpaper found in the house.

In 2004 the Magdalena Zanone House was listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Melanie Kuhnel worked with her husband Ron to restore the land around the Zanone house. They removed tons of garbage and fill from a deep creek that once ran through the property. They restored the creek and land to its original beauty. One hundred forty redwood trees were planted in addition to ten alders. The row of old Monterey Cyprus trees fronting G Street was pruned. The grounds became known as Zanone Park and Gardens.

For her tireless stewardship and preservation efforts Melanie Kuhnel was awarded with a Lifetime Achievement Preservation Award.



Eureka Heritage Society Preservation Awards 2021

Residential Restoration

Randy and Ray Swedenburg
for their home at 2424 B Street



Ray and Randy Swedenburg. Eureka Heritage Photo

Ray and Randy Swedenburg have completed a major restoration of their home at 2424 B St.

Built in 1909 by a Finnish immigrant, the house is a late Queen Anne/Neo-classical bungalow. It was bought and sold many times during the 1950s and '60s, when building records rated its condition as “fair” or “fair to poor.” One notation speculated it wouldn’t make it to 1970.

The house was rented out for many years before the Swedenburgs moved into the house in 2007 and began restoration. They proved to be an ideal duo for the job. Although the couple got help from several experts, Ray did much of the work himself.

Ray honed his restoration skills through College of the Redwoods’ Historic Preservation and Restoration Technology program. He assisted in the effort to restore the Annie B. Ryan house.

Meanwhile, Randy scoured many issues of “Old House Journal” for inspiration on everything from wallpaper to light-switch plates.

Kitchen restoration efforts included the removal of a drop ceiling, construction of door and window casings to match rest of the house, installation of new period-styled cabinets, and wall displacement to make space for modern-day appliances.

The resultant kitchen honors the history of the house while including modern amenities.

Work throughout the house has included restoration of the original windows, as well as foundation work—before and after a sizeable quake. A bedroom and bathroom were remodeled, and acoustic tile ceilings were removed. All floor coverings were removed, and the douglas fir and redwood floors were refinished.

Layers of wall treatment were documented prior to restoration efforts in order to have historical documentation for the house. Period appropriate replica wallpaper was installed.

Heritage Society applauds the Swedenburgs for their restoration efforts on one of Eureka’s fine old houses.

—Chuck Petty, Kathy Dillon

Community Preservation

Eureka First United Methodist Church
for the church at 520 Del Norte Street



Eureka Heritage Photo

Members of Eureka’s First United Methodist congregation have always been proud of their church and of the volunteer work they have done during the past 90 years to maintain it. Because of their tireless efforts, the Eureka Heritage Society has presented them with a 2021 Preservation Award.

Built in 1931, the picturesque church is unique to Eureka, and it reflects characteristics of Georgian and

Greek Revival architectural styles.

Both styles are based on the architecture of ancient Greece, which spread over the centuries to all of Europe and then to the New World. Its elements include predominant porches with rounded columns, and the Eureka church is no exception. The building also originally included another common element: dentil cornices. They had to be removed for safety reasons, but one was saved, and the congregation hopes to replicate it in the future.

The church’s central steeple is also a familiar feature of both venerable styles, and, to dispel a modern-day rumor, it does not contain a cell phone tower. Its only inhabitant is a bell that rings every Sunday.

Methodist churches throughout America have been built in various architectural styles. Why the Georgian Revival or Greek Revival styles were chosen for this particular church is unknown. Georgian was vastly popular in the 18th century when the very first Methodist church was built. Greek Revival was predominant in the early to mid-19th century, and it is believed to be the first American architecture style to reach the West Coast, including Humboldt County.

Like many early Eureka church congregations, the Methodists relocated their church a few times before their current site. The preceding church, built in 1866, was located at Third and H streets. That structure no longer exists. Another church, built for the Scandinavian Methodists in the community, still stands on the corner of California and Church streets.

The current church campus also includes two other buildings: Fellowship Hall is directly south of the church, and it was constructed at the same time as the main building; next to it is Christie Hall, which was built in the 1950s. All are staving off the ravages of time thanks to one determined congregation.

— Mary Ann McCulloch

Adaptive Reuse

Redwood Community Action Agency
for the preservation of the Simpson-Vance House
at 904 G Street.



Zooey Goosby and Chuck Petty. Eureka Heritage Photo

The Redwood Community Action Agency bought the 1892 Simpson-Vance house for use as its administrative building in 1980. By that time the house had become a dilapidated shadow of its former glory.

Original construction of the extravagant 2½-story Queen Anne began in 1892. It was built for James Simpson, a notable builder, his wife, Elizabeth, and their 12 children.

At completion the Daily Standard (5-15-1892) declared it to be “one of the handsomest in town.” Its most notable architectural element is a 2½-story polygonal bay-window tower topped with a conical dome. It is also decorated with half-cir-

cle pediments filled with ornamentation, coffered panels, molding brackets and plentiful scrollwork.

The house passed through many owners as it slowly deteriorated over the decades.

The agency board members knew the house needed extensive repair work. It was made particularly obvious when the front parlor’s ceiling collapsed on them during a board meeting.

The restoration process began with getting the house placed on the National Register of Historic Places, enabling the agency to access various preservation grants.

Everything needed work, from the foundation to the final atop the tower. Inside virtually all of the historical elements had been stripped, so the to-do list was lengthy. It included replicated paint, wallpaper, window lifts, light fixtures and doorknobs. Outside, much of the scrollwork had to be reconstructed, and the carriage house was repaired and turned into a financial office.

The work culminated in 1991, when the exterior was painted a gleaming blue with red and white trim. The story did not stop there. The agency has continued to maintain the structure, and that is why the grand house remains an impressive tribute to the city’s rich architectural history.

—Chuck Petty, Kathy Dillon

Adaptive Reuse

The Benbrook Family
for the preservation of the house at 1590 Myrtle
Avenue (Tuxedo Den)



Tuxedo Den. Eureka Heritage Photo

One of the most iconic buildings on Myrtle Avenue was chosen to receive one of the Heritage Society’s 2021 Adaptive Reuse Awards. For 55 years, the 118-year-old, two-story house at 1590 Myrtle Avenue has been the home of the Benbrook family and their business, the brilliant white Tuxedo Den.

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Eureka Heritage Society New & Renewal Memberships



March 1 through July 31, 2021

Darin Bell

Jules Bell

Ben Breckenridge*

Penny Chastain*

Jeanne Sapunor &

Ralph Davis

Eureka Woman's Club

Marilyn Field

Leo & Louise

Fredrickson

Julia Heatherwick &

Dave Geare*

Margaret Hope*

Marc Kunze*

Joy Lindholm

Elaine Matheson

Lisa Monet*

Carolyn Otis

Peter & Shirley Santino

Matthew Steele

Gerry Tollefson

Wayne & Mary Wilson

* indicates new member



The Green Book

Published in 1987 by the Eureka Heritage Society, "Eureka, An Architectural View" is popularly known as the "Green Book." It contains photographs of 1,200 houses and is considered to be one of the finest publications ever published about the details of historic houses. A limited number of these books are still available, and they can be purchased directly from the Heritage Society. For more information email eurekaheritagesociety@gmail.com or call (707) 445-8775 and leave a message.

In the spring issue Heritage Herald regretfully omitted Lora Canzoneri from the list of renewing members. Please accept our apology.

THE EUREKA HERITAGE SOCIETY recently lost two of our former board members and long-time supporters, Elizabeth Thompson and Paul McNally.

Elizabeth Thompson passed away March 2, 2021 at the age of 89. She served on the Society's board for several years and was instrumental in the educational efforts of the organization. She used her many skills to aid the Society, including contributing to our newsletter. She, along with her late husband, Walter McConnell, were passionate about the unique architecture of Eureka and worked to preserve it for future generations.

Paul McNally passed away July 15, 2021, at

the age of 68. He served on the Society's board for eight years and was instrumental in assisting with the Society's annual home tours, as well as the holiday luncheons at the Ingomar Club, where he served as general manager until his retirement in 2019. Paul traveled extensively throughout his career with Hyatt, but returned to his hometown of Eureka and endeavored to share the city's unique architecture with others.

The Eureka Heritage Society will place commemorative bricks in the Annie B. Ryan garden to honor these former directors' service to our organization and our community.

Eureka Heritage Society Preservation Awards 2021

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Adaptive reuse is the renovation or reuse of existing structures for new purposes, and it is an important tool in saving historic structures. Adaptive reuse ensures that the quality construction materials, historic significance, and architectural integrity of a building remains while it is adapted for a different function.

In the case of 1590 Myrtle Avenue, adaptive reuse is only half correct. Downstairs was the bustling business, while the family lived in the bright second story of the house. The Colonial Revival house was built for Austin and Bessie Smith in 1903, a time when Myrtle Avenue was a quiet rural route. The Benbrooks purchased the home in 1966.

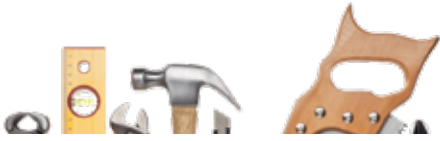
The downstairs required work to meet the needs of the business. Two walls were removed to allow for sufficient showroom space, and they were

replaced with large redwood beams. Those beams were made from timbers salvaged from the 1964 flood, and they were in keeping with the quality materials already in the home.

A sensitive addition was added to the back of the house for inventory space, and its roof became a deck for the second story. Cove moldings milled in Arcata were installed, and a fireplace was relocated from the first to the second story. Both floors have remained accessible by the original staircase.

While the Tuxedo Den is no longer in business at 1590 Myrtle, the second story is still home to members of the Benbrook family. In speaking with them at the 2021 Preservation Awards, it was quite apparent that this shining example of adaptive reuse holds a special place in their hearts. It holds a place in our hearts, as well.

—Mary Ann McCulloch



Craftsman Corner

WELCOME BACK TO Craftsman's Corner. In the last issue, we began repairs to a south-facing window sash that had suffered significant decay over the century of its existence.

Opening up the wall led to the subsequent discovery of water intrusion around the window that caused frame-member rot. With the wall framing exposed, minor structural damage was apparent. Thus, prior to working on the window sash, the framing had to be repaired.

Fortunately, though called structural, removal of small segments of wall studs and plates will not cause the wall to collapse during repairs. For this repair, the rotted plate and short sections of wall studs were removed using a sawzall.

Damaged wood was replaced with similar sized full dimension 2x4 red-

wood. Replacement framing was nailed into place and reinforced with Simpson Strong-Tie straps. In the photo one can see a new 2x4 plate at the bottom of the photo supporting two 2x4 studs next to the window casing.

Once the rotted wood had been replaced it was possible to reattach the original siding to it from the outside. Note also that caulking has been added to the seams between siding planks.

Maintaining historic structures does not mean that modern techniques must never be used. Deck screws are ideal for reattaching siding to wall framing. They are self-tapping and, because of the softness of redwood, countersink themselves. No need for driving nails, countersinking nail heads with a nail set, or leaving hammer kisses (marks from the hammer in the soft wood).

This is a good time to mention that



Window repair. Bruce Seivertson Photo

when repainting one is liable to find many of the original nails badly rusted—sometimes to the point of being able to hold siding to the framing. Deck screws are a good replacement for failed nails.

In the next issue, with framing repaired and siding back in place, it will be time to restore the window casement and sashes.

—Bruce Seivertson

2021 Preservationist

Bob Felter



Ron Kuhnel and Bob Felter. Eureka Heritage photo

Bob Felter is the Eureka Heritage Society's 2021 Preservationist, but his work in historic preservation began many years ago and extends beyond Eureka.

When Bob moved to Humboldt County, he wondered about all

of the wonderful architecture, so enrolled in College of the Redwoods Historic Preservation & Restoration Technology (HPRT) program. His work included assisting the Timber Heritage Association with repairing the Samoa Shops and roofing the Roundhouse. Utilizing learned preservation restoration techniques, he assisted restoration efforts on the Annie B. Ryan house, and providing much-needed repairs on the Gross Wells Barnum House for the Humboldt County

Historical Society. Bob has repaired many wood windows, most recently rebuilding twelve window sashes for North Coast Land Trust's Milk Parlor in Freshwater.

For many years, Bob served on Arcata's Historic Landmark Committee, which helped survey the town's historic resources and advised the city council in historic matters. He assembled a cutsheet on why wood windows should be saved, along with building a display window about the process of restoring a wood sash. Additionally, he researched the Mills Act and was instrumental in guiding the city council in adopting the Mills Act Property Tax Abatement Program. In Arcata owners of historic structures may now receive assistance with renovation and maintenance.

Bob has been involved with historic preservation throughout Humboldt County, but his most satisfying experience has been teaching classes for the Community Reinvestment Grant via the Jefferson Community Center. These classes are designed to provide skills to recovered addicts so they can return to work. Bob and the students restored aspects of three turn-of-the-century houses where a number of the students live as they start a new chapter in their lives.

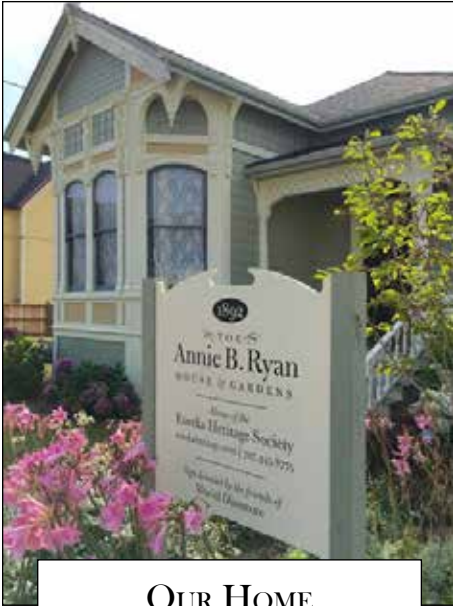
The Society is thankful for Bob's dedication to historic preservation and that he gives of his time and skills to the community for its betterment.



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Heritage Action Calendar

All of the following meetings take place at Eureka City Hall, 531 K St., 2nd floor, City Council Chambers. During the pandemic meetings are held via Zoom. Check online agendas for more details.

City Council

1st & 3rd Tuesday, 6 p.m.

Historic Preservation Commission

1st Wednesday, 4 p.m.

Design Review Committee

2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 3:30 p.m.

Planning Commission

2nd Monday, 5:30 p.m.

2021 Eureka Heritage Society Membership Form

- New** or
- Renewing** Member
(January to January)

- \$25** Individual
- \$35** Family
- \$15** Student/Senior
- \$25** Senior Family
- \$50** Nonprofit Sponsor
- \$75** Private Sponsor
- \$150** Patron
- \$300** Benefactor
- \$500** Life Member

Additional Contribution(s) to the Eureka Heritage Society

\$ _____ Annie B Ryan House Fund or Garden Fund (circle one)

\$ _____ Buhne Fence Fund

\$ _____ Carson Carriage Maintenance Fund

\$ _____ Muriel Dinsmore Library Fund

\$ _____ Preservation Fund

Enclosed is my check in the **total amount** of \$ _____ .
(made payable to the Eureka Heritage Society)

Interested in volunteering or further information?

Call (707) 445-8775, email: eurekaheritagesociety@gmail.com

- Events, including Home Tour docents, host/hostess, serving refreshments
- Education
- Publications, including mailing and distribution
- Archival Project and Research
- Serving on the Board
- Additional suggestions:

Name _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____ Cell _____

Email _____