

# SALEM LANDMARK

*Newsletter of the Salem Historic Landmarks Commission*



## *Salem's Historic Marker Program*

The City of Salem Downtown Historic Marker Program is moving forward with the active support of several community members and partners. Funding received from a Preserve America grant administered by the National Park Service, Department of Interior, and the Salem Riverfront/Downtown Urban Renewal Area provide support for the fabrication and installation of the historic marker template and logo, updating the downtown historic walking tour brochure and creating an accompanying educational website.

The hallmark of the Salem Historic Marker Program is the diligent participation of several individuals who are committed to preserving the historic character of Downtown Salem. Through a public involvement process that engaged key stakeholders, a historic marker template and logo were developed and approved by the Historic Landmarks Commission in February 2009. A Stakeholder Committee is actively working with staff to market the Downtown Historic Marker Program, re-design the walking tour brochure and develop a complementary educational website.

The cast-bronze markers will display the date the building was constructed and an interesting historical story about the building. All "historic contributing" buildings, as defined in the National Register of Historic Places, located in the Downtown Historic District are eligible for a historic marker at no cost to the property owner. So far, thirty-two (32) property owners have agreed to display the historic marker on their property. For example, Stephen Martin, Director of the Historic Elsinore Theatre has signed up for historic markers.

For more information on the Salem Downtown Historic Marker Program please visit:

[www.cityofsalem.net/residents/HistoricMarkerProgram](http://www.cityofsalem.net/residents/HistoricMarkerProgram). Or contact Kim Moreland, Project Manager, at [kmoreland@cityofsalem.net](mailto:kmoreland@cityofsalem.net) or 503-588-6173, ext 7511.



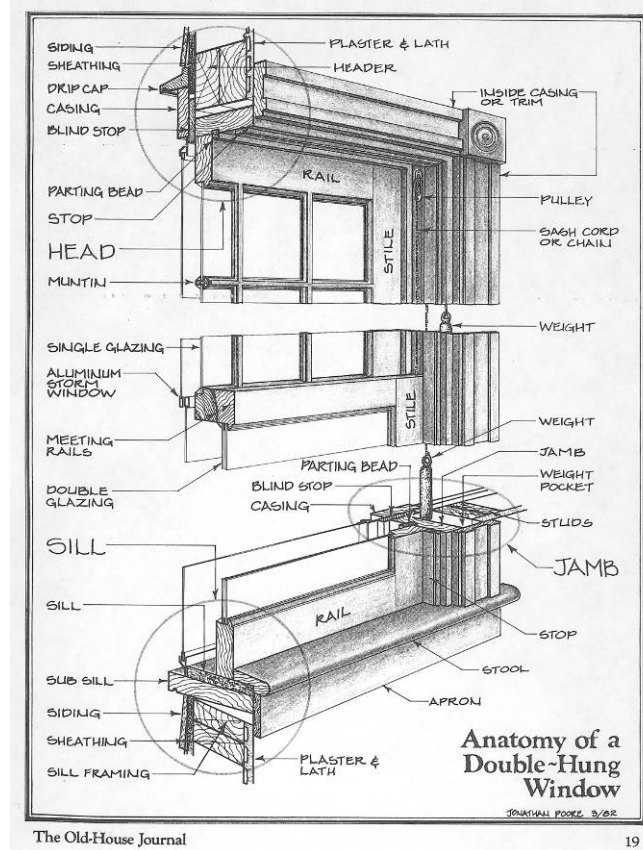
## *Did You Know About Historic Wood Window Evaluation and Maintenance?*

Windows of an historic structure are an important aspect of the resource's historic character. Every effort should be made to preserve the original wood windows on a historic structure. Original windows will most often reflect the original design and regional styles or building practices which were common during the period the building was constructed.

Each window should be evaluated separately and the condition of the paint, the frame and sill, the sash and the glazing should be noted. Moisture is the primary cause for window decay, and all window units should be examined to see if water is entering around the edges of the frame. The joints or seams can be caulked at weak points to eliminate this problem. The sill should be examined to make sure that it slopes downward away from the building allowing water to drain off; if not, it may be necessary to cut a small drip line to allow drainage. The sill, joints between the sill and jamb, corners of the bottom rails, and muntin joints are typical points where water collects and deterioration begins. The glazing putty at these joints or seams should be inspected for cracked, loose or missing sections which allow water to saturate the wood.

The condition of the paint can often give clues about areas of excessive moisture. Areas of paint blistering, cracking, flaking and peeling are signs of potential deterioration. However, the wood underneath is frequently still sound underneath. A small ice pick can be used to test the condition of the wood underneath. Jab the pick into a wetted wood surface at an angle and pry up a very small section of the wood. Sound wood will separate into long, fibrous splinters, but decayed wood will reflect the breakdown of fiber strength and will lift up in short, irregular pieces.

Routine maintenance may require some degree of interior and exterior paint removal, removal and repair of the sash, repairs to the frame, weatherstripping, reinstallation of the sash and repainting. While these repairs can be done by an experienced do-it-yourselfer, it is recommended that homeowners find a qualified contractor who has experience in the repair and restoration of historic windows to complete the work. Additional information can be obtained from the HLC, City staff or SHPO staff.



## **ENERGY EFFICIENCY WORKSHOP**

*Mark your calendars for August 29, 2009. The City of Salem's Historic Landmarks Commission and the State Historic Preservation Office are co-sponsoring an Energy Efficiency Workshop. Topics to be covered include simple repairs and maintenance you can do to make your historic residence more energy efficient.*

*The workshop will be held at Pringle Community Hall from 1:00-4:00pm.*

*For More Information please contact Joy Sears at 503 986-0688.*

## Salem Arts Building Comes To Life. . .

*Elaine Gesik*

Developer Michael Tevis of Intrinsic Ventures based out of Menlo Park, California, has invested in our community with the Salem Arts Building, bringing Salem a building that could be stylistically defined as cool trendy urbanism. It is reminiscent of something you might find in the Pearl District in Portland. The Salem Arts building was completely renovated about 2 1/2 years ago, and it has grown into a true urban village. Retaining the exposed brick and highlighting the buildings features, a forgotten building has regenerated a new life.

The Salem Arts Building, located at 155 Liberty Street NE, was originally built in 1934 and housed the Montgomery Wards Store. The building has six stories (including basement and mezzanine) and was redeveloped as a mixed-used building, with 14 full-time residents, offices, retail, artists and non-profit groups.

The building has attracted a group of individuals on the third floor who are sole practitioners but have found the synergy of working cooperatively to market one another. The building also has a hair salon, esthetician, massage therapist, personal trainer,

marriage and family therapist, retail stores, dance classes, sound studio, etc... I am very impressed with the entrepreneurial spirit that has developed among those who have decided to establish themselves here, as they are trend-setters helping to move Downtown Salem forward.

I recently heard two quotes from Martin Luther King, Jr., that seem to exemplify the entrepreneurial spirit that it takes to move forward in today's marketplace

1. "A genuine leader is not a searcher for consensus but a molder of consensus."
2. "Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase."

The building has office and retail studios for lease. Call today for a tour: 503-586-7402



## Union Street Railroad Bridge

*Julie Osborne*

On April 29, 2009, the Union Street Railroad Bridge (built 1913) had its second grand opening. As people of all ages listened to dignitaries and waited to walk or bike over the newly restored bridge, each basked in the sunshine of a glorious spring day. The significance of reusing this National Register property is not only a physical link, but also a metaphorical link. It ties the past through the present to the future.

The rehabilitation of this significant structure is a success story that speaks to the importance of historic preservation. The interpretive panels at either end of the bridge tell the story about the bridge's beginning and its use over the years. More meaningful, walking, running, or bike-riding over the bridge allows each of us to enjoy a real-life experience. It is an awesome experience that every person, no matter how rich or poor, young or old, can appreciate.

The railroad that built this bridge to support a mode of transportation that was essential in the growth of Salem left a legacy that supports another mode of transportation, a bike/pedestrian path, which is the future well-being of Salem. Thanks to the many folks who had the vision, motivation, and perseverance to make sure the bridge remains a tangible link for future generations.



## Greetings from the Chairman of the Salem Historic Landmarks Commission

Hello!

Welcome to the first newsletter by the Salem Historic Landmarks Commission! Though I am relatively new to the area, I find it a pleasure to serve on the commission that is charge of reviewing cases involving the historic buildings that make Salem a great capitol city, full of exciting history. I am proud to be a resident of Salem and hope to make historic preservation work in the city a priority in the coming years. Other communities are vastly ahead of our commission in educational workshops, award programs, grant programs for historic properties and other fun historic events. The commission, myself and Kimberli Fitzgerald, our new senior planner, hope to garner support for a preservation master plan that sets forth a schedule for honoring the proud heritage here in Salem. I am always available to answer technical questions about historic and old buildings, so feel free to contact me at [Joy.Sears@state.or.us](mailto:Joy.Sears@state.or.us) or 503-968-0688. Take care,

Joy

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*We're on the Web!*

*[www.cityofsalem.net/Departments/Community  
Development/Planning/Historic/Pages](http://www.cityofsalem.net/Departments/CommunityDevelopment/Planning/Historic/Pages)*

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### **Salem Historic Landmarks Commission**

555 Liberty Street SE, Room 305

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