

• A WALKING GUIDE •
TO HISTORIC HOMES

East Skinner Butte Historic Landmark Area



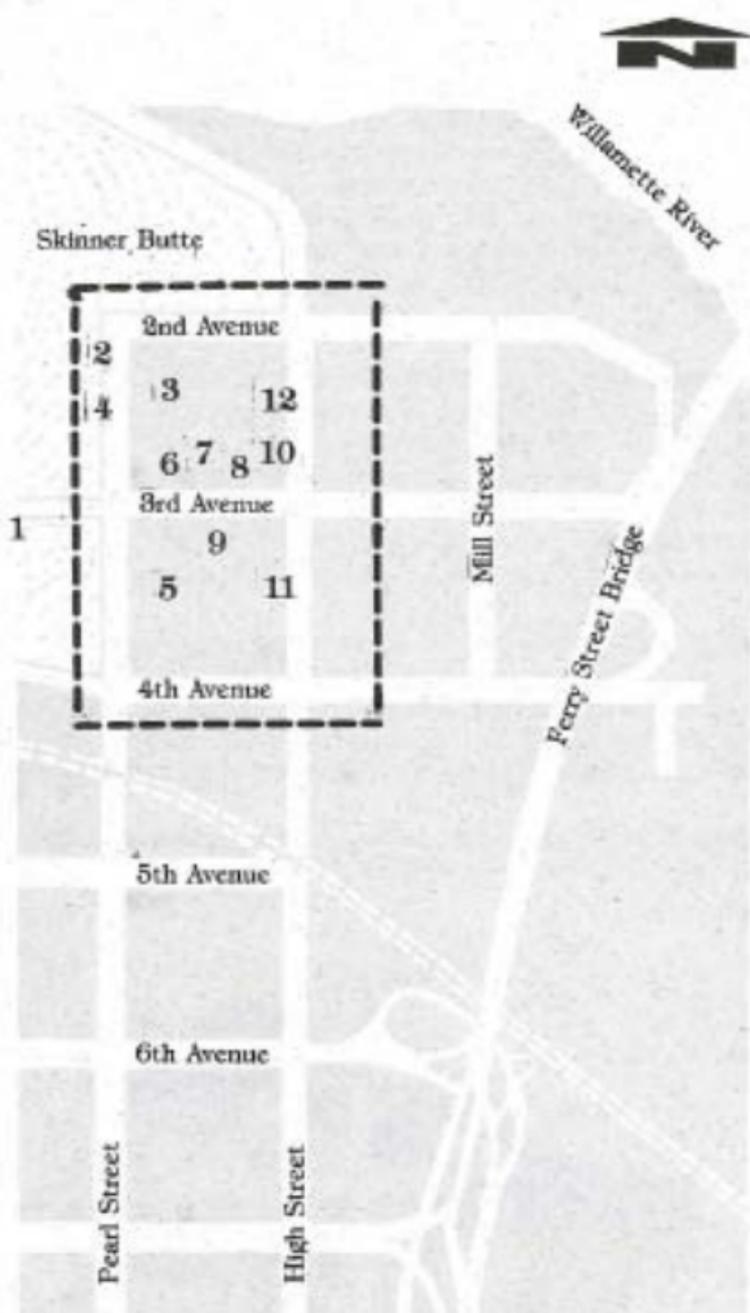
Shelton-McMurphy House



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1 Shelton-McMurphey House (303 Willamette Street)

The Shelton-McMurphey House is the most elaborate example of the Queen Anne Victorian style of architecture in Eugene. It is especially distinguished by its elaborately carved and turned exterior woodwork, polygonal tower, and prominent siting on the south side of Skinner Butte. Although little is known about W.D. Pugh, the Salem architect who designed the house, the builder, Nels Roney, was the foremost contractor of his day. In addition to the Shelton-McMurphey House and several other residences, he was the principal builder of public, commercial, and religious architecture in Eugene—the 1898 Lane County Court House, Villard Hall, Smeede Hotel, and Tiffany Building—to name but a few.

The house was built in 1888 for Dr. T. W. Shelton, an early Eugene physician, his wife, and daughter. After the death of her parents and her marriage to Robert McMurphey, a Eugene insurance and real estate man, Alberta Shelton McMurphey continued to live in the family home and raised her six children there. In 1951, Dr. Eva Johnson, who had grown up in the East Skinner Butte area, and her husband purchased the house. Dr. Johnson, who resided in the house until her death in 1986, gave the house and its surrounding gardens to the Lane County Historical Museum in 1975.

2 Ankeny House (212 Pearl)

This Queen Anne style house built in 1896 by Henry Ankeny overlooks the City and the Willamette River. The third floor was originally a ballroom. The rusticated concrete garage, added in 1910, once featured a mechanical turntable in its floor. Ankeny, the son of a prominent Portland banker and financier, conducted ranching and farming operations locally.

3 Wheeler House (245 Pearl)

This Swiss Bungalow style house was built in 1909 during the second period of construction on East Butte. The first house on the property was built about 1870 and occupied by Mary Skinner Packard and her second husband, N.L. Packard. Its original sandstone foundation, still intact, forms the rock garden in the northwestern corner of the property. Following her death in 1881, N.L. Packard sold the property to T.W. Shelton who in turn sold to Mary E. Wheeler in 1890.

The 1-1/2 story house has Swiss Chalet detailing including curved brackets, stick work and interior boxed window seats, gable roof, dormer window, cedar shingle siding, irregular fenestration (1/1 sashes with multiple panes), and front porch. The house also has a full daylight basement on the south side. The back portion of the house was added in the late 1920's.

The Wheeler home has had four owners. The third owners completely restored the interior of the home from 1976 to 1983.



4 Campbell House (252 Pearl)

This large imposing house was one of the early Queen Anne residences constructed in the East Butte area. Built in 1892 for Idaho Cogswell Frasier before her marriage to Ira Lane Campbell, owner and editor of the Eugene Register Guard. Prior to 1992 the house was owned by descendants of the Frasier-Campbells. Mrs. Frasier's daughter was Dr. Eva Frasier Johnson, who resided in the Shelton-McMurphey house on the south slope of Skinner Butte until her death in 1986.



5 Fuller/Watts House (335 Pearl)

The Fuller/Watts House stands on property originally patented by Eugene F. Skinner in 1860. J. B. Fuller, President of the Eugene Lumber Company, began construction of the house in 1891. In 1893, Fuller gave the finished house as a Christmas gift to his wife, Mannie.

Joseph O. Watts, the first trained optometrist in Eugene, bought the house on January 10, 1919. He and his family lived in it until his death in August of 1934.

The house is typical Queen Anne Style with an Italianate Portico, three window styles, no gables, a corner tower, and bay windows. It was wired for electricity (one light in the center of the entry, parlor and dining room—no electricity to the kitchen). It is built of local fir and cedar with balloon construction techniques. The only hardwood in the house is the steamed bent maple stair railing and maple fireplace mantle.



The house has been owned by six families since 1891.

6 Emil Koppe House (205 East 3rd Avenue)

Built in 1892 for Clara Cogswell and her husband E. H. Ingram, this house was later associated with Emil Koppe, president of the Eugene Woolen Mill. It is one of the City's earliest examples of the Queen Anne style, and still retains much of its original exterior detail. Most noticeable are the gables, which are covered with narrow vertical siding and contain a circular window framed by decorative bargeboard.



7 Paul Koppe House & Barn (221 East 3rd Avenue)

The Paul Koppe House is a late example of the Colonial Bungalow style of architecture. Distinguishing characteristics are the symmetrical front facade, jerkinhead roof, and huge fluted porch columns.

Paul and Grace Koppe built the house in 1926 and resided there until 1970 when Paul died. Paul was the oldest son of Emil and Clara Koppe, who lived next door to the west in the family home. The lot was carved out of the property owned by Paul's parents, which accounts for the oddly shaped lot and the closely spaced Koppe houses.

The lot includes the barn in the alley behind 235 E. 3rd Ave. The barn was built in 1895 and originally was the carriage house for the Emil Koppe house next door. It has vertical boards, molded battens, and a loft. Sliding doors at both ends allowed carriages to be driven through.

Emil Koppe came to Eugene with his family in 1906 upon purchasing the Eugene Woolen Mill from Robert McMurphey. Paul was president of the mill from 1940 to 1950, when he retired and the mill was sold and moved to Harrisburg.

The current owner/residents are the third since the home was built.



8 Pironi House (235 East 3rd Avenue)

The Pironi House is an excellent early example of the Bungalow style of architecture, popular from the early 1910's to the late 1920's. Typical features of the style found in the 1-1/2 story Pironi House are the gable roof and dormer window, shingle and clapboard siding, window flower boxes, exposed rafter tails and brackets which support the wide overhanging eaves. The house's rustic character is enhanced by the use of natural materials and colors, and simple detailing. The large wraparound porch which was used as an outdoor room integrates the house into its natural surroundings, an aim of designers of the period.

The house was built in 1911 by Joseph Pironi who was the manager of Eugene Ice and Cold Storage, an ice plant and beer depot owned by Henry Weinhard. Joseph's wife Mary, who was widowed soon after the house was completed, resided there until the middle 1940s.



9 Cogswell-Miller House (246 East 3rd Avenue)

One of only two Rural Gothic houses in Eugene.

Features: two-over-two double-hung windows; square bay windows, decorative brackets, window hoods; jerkinhead roof, truncated gables.

Built in the spring of 1884 by John Cogswell for his daughter DeEtta, one of the first U of O graduates, on a 150' x 429' plot just outside the city limits, west of Pearl and north of Third on Skinner Butte. DeEtta became ill and died in 1886 at age 25. Her sister and brother-in-law, Lischen and George Melvin Miller, purchased and moved into the house in August 1884. A brother of Joaquin Miller, famous "Poet of the Sierras," George was a lawyer and real estate developer who became known as the "Prophet of Lane County." He advocated a transcontinental highway from New York to Florence; designed and patented a flying machine in 1892; platted the town of Fairmount; laid out the road to and founded the coastal towns of Acme and Florence. The house was moved by horses in 1909 to its present location.



10 The McAllister House (286 High Street)

Built in 1904, this house was the last of the large Victorian period residences to be constructed in the East Butte area. Most interesting architecturally is the house's Colonial Revival detailing such as triangulated gables, simple brackets and turned columns. The redwood tree in the front yard was brought from California by the original owners. McAlister, a local banker, was known for the rose he always wore in his lapel. The nicely maintained Victorian style garden has been enhanced by the current owners.



A Brief History

The East Skinner Butte Historic Landmark Area includes 24 buildings of architectural and historic significance, dating from the 1850s to the 1920s. One of the features that distinguishes this area from the other older residential areas in Eugene is the variety of periods and architectural styles represented. Major periods of construction occurred in the East Skinner Butte area. The first took place in the 1880s and is best represented by a number of structures in the Queen Anne style. The second period occurred in the 1910s and 1920s, and is best represented by the Bungalow style. Most of the older structures in the area which represent building styles prior to the 1890s, such as the Rural, Greek, or Gothic Revival have been relocated to their present site.

This area is part of the first survey and original plat of Eugene, made by Eugene Skinner and D.M. Ridson in 1852, to provide land for the influx of new settlers. The area's residential development appears to be associated with the location and growth of industries along the Millrace, with many of the first homes built by people involved in those industries. The general growth of the city, due to the arrival of the Southern Pacific Railroad and the establishment of the University of Oregon, also affected the area. Because of frequent flooding, the area was not developed extensively until the 1890s.

The East Skinner Butte Historic Landmark Area was designated by the city in 1979. Comprising an irregular 2-3 block area in downtown Eugene, east of the Butte, fronting on High and Pearl streets and 2nd and 3rd avenues, it is the City's first historic district. In 1982 it was listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Skinner Butte defines the west boundary of the landmark area by its steep, tree-covered slopes. The native conifers on the Butte's higher slopes act as a backdrop to the distinctive roof shapes of the many Victorian houses below. To the north, the area is bounded by the lawns of Skinner Butte Park which extends to the bank of the Willamette River. To the east, south and southwest, the area is bounded by commercial and high-density residential structures.

The East Skinner Butte Historic Landmark area is conveniently located close to the hub of the City's Center, just north of the major downtown retail shops, the Saturday Market, and the Hult Center for the Performing Arts. It is only three blocks from the popular 5th Avenue shopping district. The proximity to the Butte and Skinner Butte city park, affords easy access to numerous recreational possibilities. Trails for strolling, bicycling, as well as grassy lawns for picnics and concerts are all within a few minutes reach.

For more information, contact the Eugene Planning Division, 687-5481.

11 Mims House (330 High Street) Built in 1867 on the corner of 4th Avenue and High Street, the present site of Midgley's Mill, this simple pioneer dwelling appears to be one of the oldest residences constructed in the East Butte area. The steep gable roof and painted arch windows make it characteristic of the Gothic Revival style. A front porch and wooden-railed balcony were lost when the structure was moved to its current site between 1918 and 1921. Through recent restoration efforts they have been partially reconstructed.

The gothic farmhouse next door to the south was built in 1879, and is the oldest structure in the area on its original site.



12 Henderson House (260 High Street) This is the City's oldest example of Greek revival architecture. The house was apparently built over a period of years. The oldest, or southwest portion, was built in 1857 as part of the Heatherly and Bailey Tavern. It has a number of features which are characteristic of regional 1850s and 1860s construction: clapboard siding, handmade six-over-six light windows, eave returns, and wide frieze boards. The house is associated with Rev. Enoch P. Henderson, first president of Columbia College (1856-9). Rev. Henderson used the building for his private school from 1861 into the 1870s, before converting it into residences. It was moved in 1909 from its location on the northwest corner of 8th and Pearl to its present site.



Other significant structures in the area are located at: 188 High, 212 High, 240-242 High, 320 High, 336 High (see Mims above), 284 Pearl, 298 Pearl, 208 E. 2nd, 215 E. 2nd, 224 E. 2nd, 240 E. 2nd, 259 E. 2nd, and 235 E. 3rd.