

GOLDEN LANDMARKS

ASSOCIATION, INC.

**THE FIRST
TWENTY YEARS
1972-1992**



**GOLDEN LANDMARKS
ASSOCIATION**

**THE FIRST TWENTY
YEARS**

1972 - 1992

ARLONE CHILD

March 21, 1993

First Edition

Cover design by Larry Schultz, 1972

INTRODUCTION

In November of 1971 a royal battle developed over whether or not the Astor House would become a parking lot. It pitted the Golden Downtown General Improvement District (GDGID) against the citizens. City Council was caught in the middle.

When a group of people put their heads together you never know what will happen. The 'BIG FOUR' thought the Golden Landmarks Association would wither on the vine like other action groups.

Guess again. **WE'RE STILL HERE!**

DEDICATION

Larry McWilliams

Gene Child

Ruben Hartmeister

Frank Leek

and all the others

who helped to save

the Astor House

FIGHT TO SAVE

In 1971 several things were going on in Golden. The Golden Opportunity Plan, a community survey by Havecost and Waldman, was being released and studied; the Golden Downtown General Improvement District (GDGID, commonly referred to as GDID) was consolidating their plans to increase parking, and the Greenbelt Committee was actively campaigning for public purchase of land for open space and parks. The climate was set for conflict.

The old Baptist Church, built in 1866, had been torn down in 1961 and replaced with a parking lot. The congregation had voted to build a new church at Washington and 19th. Many residents had considered it a landmark.

As old property in the downtown area became available it was considered for more parking. The GDID had been formed with the purpose of providing that parking and as a forum for the needs of the downtown business district. Its board of directors was Golden City Council. They had the power to levy taxes against the district for the purchase of property to be used for parking. Foss Drug had already acquired property at 13th and Arapahoe for customer parking. Meyer Hardware was building a new store at 11th and Arapahoe where the only off street parking was two lots on 12th. The downtown businessmen not only felt threatened by what they considered a shortage of essential central parking, Westland Shopping Center had opened in 1967 and was competing for the Golden dollars.

In 1971 there were no peripheral parks and no trails being maintained for hiking, biking, or horseback riding. County wide parks were few and far between. Team sports were in competition for practice and playing fields. Denver residents complained that Jeff-Co residents used their parks without paying for upkeep. The Greenbelt Committee was promoting public acquisition but Golden government believed

in keeping expenditures at a minimum. They had been active in the community survey and now wanted to capitalize on the recommendations.

Havekost/Waldman & Assoc. first submitted their Proposed Goals and Objectives May 20, 1970. One goal was to identify areas where urban design policies were needed.... preservation of historic buildings. Additional goals included evaluating need for additional cultural facilities...museums and art centers. An overriding desire was to maintain a close sense of community. Their report, published Jan. 27, 1971, included a proposal to "Explore feasibility of preserving or restoring certain historic buildings within the downtown area." They included the Astor House as a possible museum.

It was a well known fact that Eileen Marshall wanted to sell the Astor House. She wanted to retire with her husband who was confined to a wheelchair. They had operated it as a rooming house since 1956. In the summer of 1970 she was approached by a representative of the downtown businessmen to have an appraisal done. That appraisal came through at \$21,000, the value primarily of the lot.

Irene Goetz, who had come to the Astor House as a bride and lived there for 39 years, let her feelings be known to the Transcript. Interviews of her and the stories she had collected were published in Nov. 1970. She was 77 years old at the time. She was quoted, "I think it is going to be the only old building left in Golden." The article ended with the statment, "Not all historic buildings are suited for restoration or revival... Is this one in the category?"

July 22, 1971, Mrs. Marshall attended the GDID directors meeting at City Hall to offer her house to the district for \$30,000. She mentioned that it was built in 1867. The directors voted to table the decision until August 12. At the meeting on that date they voted to purchase the property upon the recommendation of the Chamber Planning Committee and its three principal business owners.

As the news became public citizens reacted in various ways. Most of the businessmen felt the building was an eyesore and expressed relief to think it would be removed. As feelings of citizens were expressed in an ever widening circle there was regret that a better alternative wasn't available.

Larry McWilliams moved to Golden in 1956. Living on the edge of the downtown area he had watched as various buildings were leveled. He was horrified to find that the contents were often destroyed with them, chairs, tables, beveled glass display cases, etc. He had lived in Spain and France where old buildings and belongings were valued. He was a Spanish teacher; in 1968 he became the Jefferson County Language Coordinator. He stopped to talk to Mrs. Marshall about her house and she invited him to have a look around. Anyone who knows Larry is aware of what a resourceful person he is, and his vision of possibilities is limitless. He didn't feel additional parking was needed.

When his friend Gene Child returned in July 1971, from a two year teaching assignment in Kenya, Larry recounted the news of Golden. Gene had taught in Munich, Germany, four years and traveled extensively in Europe. He also had an appreciation of old buildings. Together they brainstormed about what could be done with the Astor House. They came to the conclusion it should be preserved as a restaurant. They got advice from a contractor and a restaurant manager, then hired a lawyer, Frank Plaut, to present their proposal to the GDID directors Sept. 23, 1971.

Ruben Hartmeister, member of City Council and a director of GDID, had reported at the August meeting that he had several telephone calls about preserving the Astor House. At the September meeting he moved to reconsider buying the Astor House, but the motion failed on a 3/3 vote. That vote didn't stop a small group of citizens. They organized a petition drive. October 14, 1971, Susan Schaffer of the Greenbelt Committee presented petitions to city council with 162 signa-

tures asking them to intervene regarding the demolition of Astor House for parking. Lyle Miller, attorney for GDID, presented a petition signed by 100% of property owners in the tax district who felt that "the Astor House is of no true historic value." They wanted the directors of GDID to abide by the original decision. A motion to refer the matter to the Local Affairs Committee was defeated.

Frank Leek was chairman of the Local Affairs Committee. He didn't like Council dictating the agenda of the Local Affairs Committee. Frank is a barber at Sportsmen's Barber-shop and he collects a lot of public opinion. At the November 29, 1971, City Council meeting he moved that Golden Landmarks Association be given six months to study possible uses of Astor House. They were raising funds and said no financial help would be needed from the city. The motion was tabled. City Attorney Carney recommended the matter be deferred to GDID.

Frank had attended a meeting November 17, 1971, at Larry McWilliams house. In attendance were Ruben Hartmeister, Gene Child, Susan Shaffer, and Mike Dempsey. After discussing the issues involved it was decided an association of concerned citizens should be organized. They named it Golden Landmarks Association. As council members Frank and Ruben could not serve on the board of directors, but they promised to work for a resolution.

While Mrs. Marshall welcomed the citizens to make estimates of restoration and assess the structural problems, she made plans to give possession Dec. 1. She didn't want all the old dressers, etc. so agreed to sell them all to Frank and Ruben "for the price of a new living room set", \$500. Tony Pickering, Frank's uncle, assured him that the dressers alone were worth \$3000. They later donated them to Golden Landmarks.

At the December 27th GDID meeting Larry McWilliams requested that Golden Landmarks Association be given six months for restoration and study of Astor House.

It was approved with a progress report required in three months. The motion carried, five to one.

Golden Landmarks went straight to work. January 8, 1972, the first public meeting was held at Astor House. Committees were formed to restore both exterior and the interior first floor, and to solicit support either through donation of money or materials.

When all the activity was observed at the Astor House a major controversy ensued. February 17, 1972, at a special meeting of the GDID directors, Cliff Evans, a district property owner, stated that if GLA wanted to restore the Astor House they should purchase the property. He objected to the work being done during the time it was owned by GDID.

President of the GDID directors, Dave Crawford, was one of several councilmen who said the only way to resolve the problem was to put it to a vote of the citizens of Golden to decide whether or not the building should be saved. The businessmen were getting a lot of flack from the community.

Not only was the community divided, families found themselves on opposite sides. Tom Plummer, owner of the building where his jewelry store is located, said he was tired of fixing up his old building. He agreed with those who said Astor House was a disgrace to the downtown area. His mother, Frances, who owned several old buildings, including the Burgess House, was a supporter of Golden Landmarks. Many of GLA's staunchest supporters were the old timers. Some of them gave invaluable time and services, especially Nils Christiansen and Bill Drew.

By February 14, 1972, Golden Landmarks Association was incorporated as a non-profit corporation and its first board of directors appointed: Larry McWilliams, Gene Child, Verna Katone, Bo Bowers, Bob Baxter, Mike Dempsey, and Charlotte Paschis.

Every weekend was a work day for many of the 300 volunteers. They made exterior repairs and painted the build-

ing white. Inside, the interior work became a complex maze of projects: removing the partition in the living room, steaming off 11 layers of wallpaper, removing paint from woodwork and steps, and choosing appropriate colors and styles. When the wallpaper was removed the plaster fell off the walls. A sagging second floor needed support. Tough paint on the steps had to be burned off with a torch. But for all those involved it was a learning experience and a journey into the past century. Groups of Mitchell school children volunteered to help. They sanded and scraped, but didn't complain.

Verna Katona, a Mitchell kindergarten teacher, took her students through the old house. She even took them up to the stone quarry at the end of Twelfth St. to see where the stones were cut. One of her students said his father thought the Astor House was just an old 'cat house', but he said, "I didn't see any cats."

A week before the progress report to be presented Golden Landmarks provided dinner in the restored dining room of Astor House for the city council members and representatives of the Chamber. The following week, March 24, 1972, Larry and Gene presented the report. Director Vincent stated that the matter should be brought to the citizens so that everyone might have a say.

April 13 City Council adopted an ordinance for a special election to be held June 13, 1972. The ballot question stated:

"Should the City of Golden expend the sum of \$31,488.55 from the general fund of the City of Golden to purchase from the GDGID the following described real property including improvements there on. Lot 9, block 4, South Golden, Jefferson County, Colorado. a/k/a/ 822 Twelfth St."

The voters favored the Astor House purchase two to one — 654 for, 301 against the purchase.

An indication of the reaction of businessmen and public officials is expressed in this quotation from Vic Seiferth, Building Official, in a letter to City Council dated June 15, 1972:

"It was beyond my experience of twenty two years of observation of Council actions and public reaction to election issues to rationalize that the Astor House could survive - the proponents for survival are to be sincerely congratulated for conducting a campaign that would be a credit to any Madison Avenue promotion."

NOW WE'RE LEGAL

A letter to the editor from Bo Bowers summed up the feelings of a very confident Golden Landmarks Association.

PRIDE AND HUMILITY COME WITH THE TERRITORY

"Every day at the Astor House is a day of progress. In the past ten days, miracles have been performed and soon, what had been a rather haggard and tired old building will come alive with newness and life - sparkling and radiating to the whole community the same love and affection that has gone into its restoration. This love is the miracle that is affecting all who are involved. Love for a glorious old structure which we feel is a part of the community we call home.

Workers from seven to seventy years old hammer and saw, sand and smooth this old architectural matron with all the tenderness and respect that a grandchild feels for the grandmother who means so much. Youngsters of every school age group come by every day to work an hour or two, or just to inquire, "How is it going today? Are we going to save her?" This is the same expression we have from the countless citizens (now in the hundreds) who drop by to work, offer encouragement or to leave a generous contribution to this lovely old lady we call the Astor House."

Now work began in earnest. Committees were formed to carry out the multitude of plans already in motion. Notes in the Log Book show the list of volunteers.

Exterior Work

Donna Miller
Ed Simpson
Mike Dempsey
Bill Drew
Logan McMillan

Interior Furnishings

Mary Hoover
Catherine Coonley
Helen Rogers
Sarah Jane Lind

Research & Designation

Dixon Smith
Paul Bartunek
Donna Miller
Dorothy Carlson

Fund Raising & Publicity

Gene Child
Mike Dempsey
Bill Drew

Functional Uses

Donna Miller
Betty Simpson
Bo Bowers
Mary Hoover
Sarah Jane Lind

Liason with State and
National Organizations

Larry McWilliams
Vic DeMouth

Clerical

Ida Massy
Ole Smith
Betty Simpson

Archives

Ida Massy
Donna Miller
Dixon Smith

Within a week of the election unexpected events continued to occur. Mr. & Mrs. Keith Simon of Littleton, having heard of the prospects of a new museum opening in downtown Golden, offered to donate a square grand piano "to the people of Golden". It had originally been brought to Golden in the early 1860's by Gov. John Evans, the second territorial governor of Colorado.

The people of Golden literally cleaned out their attics and basements and brought their relics to the Astor House. Some of the more precious items were accepted on loan. Nevertheless some very generous donations came through, such as the wonderful kitchen range from G.H. Stewart. An enormous old oil painting was found in the attic of the old Presbyterian Church, now the Foothills Art Center.

The first public fund raiser was an ice cream social held in conjunction with Buffalo Bill Days. This writer spent the whole day in the back yard of the Astor House, next to a hand-crank ice cream freezer, rewarding children who helped with spoons to clean off the paddles. We served 300 and earned a profit of \$95.

In September the work crew was surprised by an unexpected visitor, Josephine Yoast. She had been born in the Astor House in 1881 while her father was looking for work up in the mines. Her family settled near Steamboat, then she married a rancher near Hayden. Her relatives brought her back to see her birthplace in 1971.

The second major fund raiser was a calendar featuring local artists. Verna Katona was the coordinator. Sales totalled \$974, nearly 500 were sold, and most of the printing costs were paid by local businesses.

Unable to pay for professional help, experts in the area gave freely of their time. Tony Pickering helped appraise furniture. Jim Hartman, Curator of Historic Buildings for Colorado Historical Society, gave advice on anecdotal records and recommendations about interviewing elderly residents.

Irene Goetz was our most valuable source of information. She had written articles, taken photographs, and made scrapbooks of life in Golden. They are now in the archives of the DAR museum. She had interviewed Carlos Lake, Seth's son; she knew a lot of information about the construction of Astor House; she was excited about passing on her legacy to the younger generation and was a frequent visitor.

In anticipation of a grand opening in time for the summer tourists the first floor was readied for tours. Visitors would be welcome to see restoration in progress on the second floor. A management agreement between Golden Landmarks Assoc. and the City of Golden was signed April 30, 1973.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Dorothy Carlson and Vicci McGleason were chosen to be in charge of summer tours, with the help of high school students. Astor House was officially dedicated during Buffalo Bill Days and Golden Landmarks had their first entry in the parade.

The Log Book reports that on June 14, 1973, Bo Bowers discovered that there had been a major remodeling job on the second floor. Evidence of old partitions were found on the floor and ceiling. Originally, the hall ran down the middle of the building with rooms on both sides. With Mrs. Goetz help, the researchers were piecing together the history of Astor House.

Not only were abstract details collected from court house records, the trail of information led to the discovery of descendants of Seth Lake. Jim Livesay, the grandson of Carlos Lake, was still living in the Denver area. The Seth Lake quilt and old photographs were in their trunk. They have allowed us to display the quilt. Pieced by the Ladies Aide Society of the Golden First Baptist Church and presented to Seth in 1887, the 500 names on the quilt give us another record of early Golden.

As information from census records and other sources accumulated the family history has come together. The descendants of Joseph Casto, who married Julia, Seth's oldest daughter, have also shared records, photographs, and family possessions.

Another descendant, Helen Rees, great granddaughter of Hulbert Lake, Seth's first son, found us on her geneological search. She shared information she and her mother recorded.

One history buff who helped greatly in the collection of stories about early Golden was Den Galbraith. He was a geological engineer, but from 1972 to 1974 he pursued his love of historical research. His series of stories were published in the Transcript. He wrote a brief history of Golden and Astor House which was given to all Golden Landmarks members. He became the GLA representative to the Jefferson County Historical Society. When he died of a heart attack in 1974 after attending one of their meetings in Morrison it sent shock waves through the organization.

In July of 1973 the Astor House was officially designated on the National Registry of Historic Places.

One of the membership meetings that year was called "Gilpin County's Two Foot Ghost". It was a two-projector slide show by Ron Parkhurst. As the historic picture faded out, the contemporary view took its place. A recent occurrence in Golden made the members realize that preservation was an enormous issue.

St. Joseph's Catholic Church had built a new church in 1960. The old church on 14th and East St., built in 1867, had been sitting vacant since then. Efforts to save it had failed. With the help of the State Historical Society, Golden Landmarks began a survey of old buildings "from Coors to the foothills". Ron Parkhurst did the mapping and cataloguing, Tom Lyons was the photographer. Many GLA members were involved in the survey, but efforts to establish a historic district were unsuccessful. Property owners were wary of government regulations.

An effort was made to interview and record memories of old timers. Families took a renewed interest in their ancestors. Teachers and students searched the library and neighborhoods. The library established a Golden History section and the writers proliferated.

Golden Landmarks' members took a field trip to Georgetown and Leadville to see how they preserved and exhibited their history.

1974

Early photographs of Astor House showed a balcony. Why it was removed became one of the favorite 'tales' of the tour guides. A matching grant was pursued and in 1974 the balcony was restored.

Meanwhile the backyard improvements were taking place. High school students at Warren Tech built a gazebo, something Irene Goetz remembered. Bill Drew supervised Gene Child laying a brick sidewalk. The Golden Garden Club took on the responsibility of planting flower beds. More crabapple trees were planted and the lilac hedge replanted.

While interior work continued and volunteers were able to keep the museum open several days a week, plans were being made to hire a director for the summer. Charlotte Lohrenz, a college student and history major, was hired at a salary of \$178 to keep Astor House open weekdays. She was promised a crew of volunteers. While work proceeded around her, the association breathed a sigh of relief that there was finally one person in charge, and hoped the donations would be sufficient to pay her salary, meagre as it was.

Several groups also made arrangements to rent the downstairs as a meeting place. A Catholic Worship Community met weekly and the Ghost Town Mavericks met monthly. Other clubs and organizations were encouraged to make reservations to hold a special meeting or social there in order to promote its use and fund raising. In 1975 Alcoholics Anonymous began their regular meetings and are the longest continuing renters, 18 years.

1975-76

Another goal of some of the members was finally realized, saving Guy Hill School which had been built in 1876 in Golden Gate Canyon. It had been on Verna Katona's mind for some time, but when Mitchell School wanted to do a Bicentennial project she saw her opportunity. The owners,

Ramon & Marie Bisque and F. J. & Darlene Stermole, donated the building.

Sixth graders learned a lot that year. They raised \$2000, went before City Council for moving and building permits, and watched their project to completion. JoAnn Thistlewood and the PTA, the Marines, and Golden Landmarks all worked together to move the old school to town June 24, 1975. Wharton Construction Co. donated the use of a crane, Bo Bowers got a flatbed truck from the marines. Most of the materials and labor were donated for its renovation. Verna and JoAnn received a grant to furnish it, but they had to comb the state for enough old desks to restore it to it's original style. Then a lot of us dusted off our copies of McDuffy's Reader and the classroom was ready. By July 4, 1976, it was ready for visitors.

Another designation also occurred during the Bicentennial, the backyard of Astor House became the Colorado Territory Park. With that official status it could never become a parking lot without a vote of the people, and we were now confident that would never happen.

Paul Warren was hired for the summer director. In October Peggy Sons was hired as part-time director for \$138 a month to coordinate volunteers, be the official representative of Golden Landmarks, and schedule events.

1977-1981

By May 1977 Peggy felt the responsibilities had grown too much and an experienced person was sought. For the first time an 'outsider' was hired for her experience working in a museum with volunteers. Lynn Spensst of Littleton convinced the board that her philosophy of preservation would promote sound practices and volunteer training to ensure our future progress. She was a godsend. Her direct and straightforward manner led her to Washington Ave. Her contacts regained the confidence of the businessmen. One of her great accomplish-

ments was to bring the Chamber of Commerce Office to the East Room of Astor House.

Another major change she promoted was to discourage acceptance of loans to the growing collection and to formalize the donation process. She actively pursued a list of contents needed and established a time frame, 1860 to 1900, for exhibition.

In February 1978 Astor House was officially listed in the AAA Guide. Lynn actively promoted Astor House throughout Denver, attended museum association meetings, and coordinated a growing list of social events and fund raisers. Bill Wells presented his "Saloons, Gambling Houses, and Sporting Houses of Old Denver" program. With her encouragement and the help of Eugenia Mitchell the quilters began meeting regularly.

A farewell party was held for Verna, who had retired and was going to Ponape for the Peace Corps.

In 1979 City Council budgeted \$4500 for Astor House. Annual reports showed increasing usage, income, and events. GLA provided a pasty dinner for the Golden Civic Foundation auction. The Wine Garden made a profit of \$60.

Under Lynn's direction and philosophy other changes were taking place. The fireplace in the dining room was removed so that the pot bellied stove could return to its original location. Light fixtures in the dining room were replaced with more appropriate period chandeliers.

An annual tradition was initiated which continues to the present, the Christmas House Tour.

March 22, 1981, was a sad day, Lynn resigned. She had a better offer at the Molly Brown House. But what made her departure worse was a financial problem. The Social Security Adm. came after GLA for four years of FICA, \$1975. Seven years before, when the director was hired, it had been an

option. Lynn had elected not to receive the benefit, as it turned out later, she didn't have the choice. Coors and Civic Foundation rescued GLA with \$1600. With a heavy heart, Gene Child resigned after being treasurer for almost 10 years.

1982-83

Pat Fluekiger was hired to replace Lynn at a salary of \$400. She had no museum experience, but she did enjoy organizing the business matters, managing volunteers, arranging for tours, teas, meetings, and the traditional social events. A fashion show was planned for October. The profit from the yard sale was \$500. Plans were made for a 10th Anniversary of Golden Landmarks.

The Chamber of Commerce Office moved to Washington Ave. and soon after Pat resigned to work for the chamber.

In August Sue Kelly, who had been elected to the Board of Directors in 1980, was hired as Director. Several things were happening. Golden Landmarks had been given a grant to catalog its inventory and Mary Sawyer was hired to inventory the collection.

As a newcomer to Golden, Anna Shuck was not discouraged by the news that a historic district had failed to be established. She's a very determined lady. Through her efforts and the help of others a Preservation Ordinance was passed which allowed a Historic District to be formed. Much of the information had already been collected for the survey which was necessary to establish proof. The Twelfth Street Historic District followed the next year. Anna quickly dispelled the myth that unless you are a Cousin Jack in Golden you won't get to first base.

As director, Sue had continued to serve as treasurer of the Board of Directors. In hindsight that probably was a mistake. Conflicts arose over allocation of funds. April 1984 she resigned.

1984-92

August 4 Vi Hader was hired as Director/Curator from a list of 10 applicants. She had no museum experience, but what she did have was a lot of contacts in Golden. As Chamber of Commerce Director she knew everyone in town. She had helped in the organization of Foothills Art Center in 1968. She was eager to become involved again. She was active in both Jefferson County Historical Society and state museum organizations.

Not only did she carry on with the traditional events she organized new ones, like a pasty cooking school, flower arrangement classes, miniature shows, and open houses on holidays. She also initiated or made arrangements for many birthday parties to honor our elder citizens.

One of her first projects was to organize a Restoration Committee with interior decorator Ruth Neuhauser as advisor. They completed the second floor renovation with most of the work done by volunteers, made some dramatic changes in the dining room and raised funds for carpeting. Several major repairs were made under her direction.

The Cultural Alliance had also been formed. The greatest benefit was to receive the help of John Jenkins who helped write grant proposals, a talent that was necessary to acquire funds for the various projects that were needed.

Several meetings in 1985 reveal the activities and actions of various residents and businesses. JoAnn Thistlewood and Lorraine Wagenbach gave their "Walk Through the Nineteenth Century" talk; the Adventures Unknown Club held a dinner and mystery night; Lee McBride presented plans for restoring the Everitt Block, now H. J. Foss, and Paul Ricks to restore Landmark Laundry; a Green Mountain High School film making class used Astor House as the location for their film. In 1986 Sue Petrovski's social studies class at Golden Junior High School wrote a book, GLIMPSES OF EARLY GOLDEN, using some information from Astor House archives.

Mildred Strohfield, who was elected to the Board of Directors in March of 1984, was ready to become involved. She volunteered to help store clothing. Later she was instrumental in organizing the annual style shows. As an antique collector she was aware of the values and history of the collection and helped to put together a notebook of the significant items in the inventory. She was an active fund raiser. She helped sponsor and coordinate many activities such as Girl Scouts working on badges and a quilt raffle.

Vi was instrumental and the driving force behind purchasing from the Parshall-Gow-Hook estate the dining room suite and a beautiful bed and dresser. It is the largest single purchase to this date. \$7000 was raised in three years, 1985-87, with fundraisers and grants. Pansy Hook had been the Curator of the DAR Pioneer Museum for many years. She lived in the next block on Twelfth, a neighbor to Astor House. Parshalls were contemporaries of the Lakes and Pansy's father was the architect of The Armory.

In 1986 another very interesting collection was given to Golden Landmarks from the estate of Pete Morrison, the cowboy movie star of 1910 and grandson of the founder of Morrison.

In 1988 we were all encouraged to support the Scientific and Cultural Facilities tax, which passed, only to find out that the Jefferson County District Council guidelines excluded historical museums. Foiled again.

The last quilt exhibit in the Astor House was held October 13, 1988, on the occasion of Eugenia Mitchell's 85th birthday, the Queen of Quilts. In 1990 the Rocky Mountain Quilt Museum opened their doors and Golden Landmarks lost another support group.

Vi's friendship with the residents paid off in many ways through generous contributions. Her last great project was to obtain and install the antique wrought iron fence in 1991, a gift of JoAnn Thistlewood and Lorraine Wagenbach,

and restored with a grant from the Civic Foundation. It came from the Masterson house which stood on the opposite corner of Astor House.

A NEW ERA BEGINS

In November of 1991 two changes occurred. The Board of Directors opened up a gift shop and hired an executive director. Vi was adamantly opposed to both. The changes alienated Vi and the volunteers.

On January 12, 1992, Golden Landmarks Association celebrated their 20th Anniversary on Founders Day.

On January 14 Vi Hader resigned. When she left on February 15 twelve volunteers went with her. The ill feelings created on both sides left scars on more than a few relationships. The winds of change swept through the historic district once again, only this time the battle was within the ranks of GLA. Julie Cushman, the new director, had her hands full. As chairman of the Golden Historic Preservation Board, she already knew more about Golden's Landmarks than most of us. Let's hope her professional approach will once again prove a bonus to Golden Landmarks Association. Time will tell.

One chapter ends, another beings. Only the driftwood knows the answer.

DRIFTWOOD

Ruben Hartmeister, April 1972

Pray tell just why one seems to find
A piece of driftwood of some kind,
On dusty mantle, sill, or shelf,
That tells a tale within itself.
(Tho ugly if one only stare,
And see gnarled wood, dark, twisted, bare.)

Perhaps 'twas cast upon the shore,
A piece of spar, or mast, or oar,
Or branch, or root, or stump, or twig,
Of fallen tree, once strong and big.
And was it saved by man or maid,
While strolling in the evening's shade?

From rugged cliff of mountain scape,
Each piece designed by twist or shape,
A fallen log from sheltered glen,
Of weathered wood--that yet remain.
This gem laid bare upon the earth,
For one to find, to give it worth.

The warmth and glow, each piece doth show
To him who looks for life--and "Lo"
"Twas saved by fate, that one might give,
This preceious gem, the right to live.
Oh mark the words, "To live, to give."
The words of life, "To give, to live."

Pause now, my friend, and contemplate
Upon your life, before too late
You find yourself alone and sad,
A castoff, useless, ugly, dead!
No more to be of worth to clan,
Or be of use to fellow man.

Come learn from me, give what you can,
Give out of love, and give to man.
And take to heart--you too shall be,
A piece of driftwood,
Just like me.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Directors who served at least one year are listed under the year they were first elected. The usual term of office is three years. Those serving more than one term are shown with terms in parentheses.

FEBRUARY 1972	1978	1986
Larry McWilliams (2)	Billie Helstrom	Dan Abbott
Gene Child (3)	Charles Ryland	Irma Wyhs
Bo Bowers (3)		Marian Metsopoulos
Verna Katona (3)	1979	Kathy Sargent
Charlotte Paschis (2)	Dixon Smith (2)	Joan Havercroft (2)
Bob Baxter		Bill Drew
Mike Dempsey	1980	Dorothy Ruscetta (2)
	Eugenia Mitchell	
September 1972	Sue Kelly	1987
Vic DeMouth	Anna Shuck	Roy Banks
Nils Christiansen		Albert Palmes
	1982	Marie Christensen
March 1973	Sherrie Moss	Harry Horblitt
Ron Haines	Mary Williams	1988
Donna Miller (3)	Ted Nickerson	Janine Sturdavant
Ron Weizmann		
Dorothy Carlson (2)	1983	1989
	Nancy Burr	Joyce Maulis
March 1974	Scott Saewart	Dee Carmichael
Ron Parkhurst		
	1984	1992
March 1975	Steve Tarlton	Conrad Gardner
Paul Warren		
Branda McCoullough	March 1985	1992
Ed Simpson (4)	Mildred Strohfield	
	John Jenkins	

Presidents

1972
Larry McWilliams

1973
Gene Child

1974
Charlotte Paschis

1975
Bo Bowers

1978,82 & 92
Donna Miller

1984-85
Mary Williams

1986-87
Ed Simpson

1988
Albert Palmes

1989
Harry Horblit

1990-92
Roy Banks

1993

Curator Directors

1975
Charlotte Lohrenz

1976
Peggy Sons

1977-81
Lynn Spenst

1981
Pat Fleukiger

1982
Sue Kelly

1984
Linda Weck

1984-92
Vi Hader

1992-93
Julie Cushman

IN MEMORY

Golden Landmarks is indebted to these people who contributed their time, talents, and resources in behalf of Astor House.

Den Galbraith
Irene Goetze
Charles Ryland
Paul Bartunek
Vic DeMouth
Bob Baxter
Tony Pickering
Bob Allen
G. H. Stewart
Nils Christiansen
Dorothy Carlson
Velma Churchill
John Jenkins
Bill Drew