

Welcome to the

**East Skinner Butte  
Historic Landmark  
Neighborhood**



In 1979, Eugene's City Council adopted an ordinance creating and protecting this fascinating neighborhood that is well known for its impressive architecture and the families who originally settled here.

## ***Shelton McMurphey Johnson House***



*303 Willamette Street*

The ***Shelton McMurphey Johnson House*** was built for the Shelton family in 1888 and is named for the three families who have called it home. Its prominent place on the hill and the stairway leading up to it draws visitors to its doors. It was purposely sited in this location so it could be seen from downtown and so that its owners could watch the hustle and bustle of the city below. It was donated to the Lane County Historical Museum by its final owner, Eva Frazer Johnson.

## ***Fuller/Watts House***



*335 Pearl Street*

The ***Fuller/Watts House*** was built in 1891-93 and is a loose example of Victorian architecture using balloon construction techniques to build the home. The first owner of the home, J.N.B Fuller, was the president of Eugene Lumber Company. Fuller moved out after his wife's passing in 1909 and the Fuller's son ran a boarding house out of the home for a while. In 1919, Dr. Joseph Watts (the first optometrist in the area) owned the home. He and his wife, Hepsie enjoyed entertaining in the beautiful home. Mary Watts Wallace inherited the home and it remained in the family until 1948.

## ***Ingham/Koppe House***



*205 E. 3rd*

The ***Ingham/Koppe House*** was built in 1892 by John Cogswell for his daughter Clara and her husband Emery Ingham. In 1895, a large barn/carriage house was built on the northeast corner of the property. The barn which is still standing, features sliding doors at both ends so that a carriage or automobile could be driven in and out without having to turn around. This home was later purchased by Emil Koppe, president of Eugene Woolen Mills.

## ***Paul Koppe House***



*221 E. 3rd*

This home was built in 1926 for **Paul Koppe**, son of Emil Koppe who lived in the home next door. Notice the jerkinhead roof style that is similar to the roof style from the Cogswell Miller house across the street. Paul lived in this home for nearly 50 years. The barn directly behind the home was originally part of his father's property next door.

## ***Cogswell/Miller House***



*246 East 3rd Avenue*

The ***Cogswell/Miller House*** was built in 1884 by John Cogswell for daughter DeEtta, who was one of the first graduates of the U of O. It was likely constructed where the Chase House stands on Pearl Street. Lischen (younger sister of DeEtta) and George Miller owned the home after DeEtta passed away. They lived there when it was at the old location on Pearl. It was moved to its present location by horse in 1909. Lischen's husband George, is well known for founding the city of Florence, developing the 400 acre Fairmont District near the University of Oregon, and creating and patenting an early "flying machine".

## ***Pironi House***



*235 East 3rd Avenue*

The ***Joseph Pironi House*** was constructed in 1911 when the Craftsman style of architecture was popular. It originally had window flower boxes in front and a sleeping porch on the east side of the house. It still maintains its large wrap-around porch. Joseph Pironi who worked for Eugene Ice and Cold Storage, died after living in the home for only one year. His wife Mary, continued to reside in the home until the 1940's, taking in boarders to make ends meet.

### ***Dixon/Wendt House***



*258 E. 3rd Ave*

The ***Dixon Wendt House*** is named for the original owners of the property and the couple who bought the lot and built this home in 1925. William and Mary Wendt previously lived in the Henderson House on High Street. William was a lumber inspector for the railroad. The garage behind this home has been converted into an additional dwelling.

### ***James Wiley Dixon***



*306 High Street*

This was the site of the ***James Wiley Dixon*** home. He purchased the property from Thomas Shelton. The current dwelling combines two structures that were moved onto the property after the original Dixon home burned down in the early 1900's. A modern craftsman porch was added onto the front to complete the pieced-together home. The barn was added in 1997 and was inspired by the Koppe barn.

### ***Dixon Daughter's House***



*320 High Street*

The ***Dixon Daughter's House*** was built in 1905 for the eldest Dixon daughter Jincy, and her husband Ewan Bailey. The simple box shape identifies it as a Four-square Style home. There were four rooms on each floor of the home and a front porch that ran the full length of the house. The senior Dixon's lived next door on the corner.

### ***Mims House I***



*330 High Street*

The ***Mims House*** was built in 1867 and is one of the oldest homes in Eugene. It is thought to be the home of James Huddleston, an early settler of Eugene who ran a Trading Post. This charming home features a lancet window above the front porch. The house was originally sited across the street and moved to its current location between 1918 and 1921. The porch and wooden balcony had to be replaced due to damage during the move of the home. The local chapter of the NAACP currently uses it for their home office. The house is named for the Mims family who became one of the first African American homeowners in Eugene when they purchased it in 1948 from C.B. Mims' employer, Joe Early.

### ***Mims House II***



*336 High Street*

The ***Mims House II*** was built in 1870, and is the oldest home in the area that is ***still*** on its original site. This home was used to provide housing to African Americans who passed through the area and were not permitted to stay in local motels. U of O students also stayed here due to discrimination in student housing. Entertainers Ella Fitzgerald, Louis Armstrong, and Nat King Cole are known to have stayed here. The millstone monument came from the Eugene Mill and Elevator company and was moved here and used as a doorstep after a fire burned down the mill.

### ***The Bray Building***



*341 High Street*

This photo shows what is left of ***The Bray Building*** that was built in 1924. This site previously contained the Model Cash Grocery and the First Chance Service Station. After automobiles gained a foothold in the area, it became Conaway's Service Station and People's Meat Market. The lower floor was designed for business use with residential units on the top floor. It originally had a nearly identical building next door with only a narrow walkway between the buildings.

### ***Ham House***



*347 High Street*

The ***Ham House*** was built in 1893-94 for Joseph Ham and his 2nd wife Jincy, and ***his*** 8 children. The home is influenced by Queen Anne and Italianate styles. It features decorative design work on the rails and turned posts on the two story recessed porch. The house was moved from it's previous location near the Bray Building sometime after 1925. The house is now divided into apartments.

### ***McAlister House***



*286 High Street*

The ***McAlister House*** was built in 1904 for local banker, Frank McAlister and his wife Fannie Young McAlister. Fannie was the youngest daughter of early pioneer Charles Young. Her father insisted on buying this lot at 3rd and High Street so that he could stop and visit her on his way to town. Fannie's brother, Cal Young, was the first football coach at the University of Oregon and was a very active member of the community. The large redwood tree in the front yard was brought from California in a coffee can and planted in the front yard by the McAlister family. Mr. McAlister was renowned for frequently wearing a freshly picked rose from his home garden in his lapel. Fannie was known for her fashionable wardrobe which was donated to the Very Little Theater after her death in 1958.

## ***Henderson House***



*260 High Street*

The ***Henderson House*** was originally part of a larger structure that was built in 1854-55 at 8th and Pearl Street in the downtown area. It was the home of several taverns in its early years. Later, it was rented by Columbia College as a private school. It is named for College President, Rev. Enoch Henderson. In 1909 it was moved to its present location (by neighbor Fannie McAlister) to make way for the Osburn Hotel at 8th and Pearl.

## ***Queen Anne House***



*242 High Street*

This simple Queen Anne home and the Queen Anne Cottage directly to the north were built around 1900. ***Averill Bennett*** is an early owner of this home. He was still living here when the historic district was formed. This home became a 5 unit apartment after Bennett's passing.

## ***Queen Anne Cottage***



*212 High Street*

This home features a bullseye window over the front entry which is typical of Victorian Architecture. Built around, 1900, early owners were ***Frank and Bertha Hanson***. Frank worked as a salesman at the local men's clothing store that was owned by his brother.

## ***2nd Street Bungalows***



*240 2nd Street*



*224 2nd Street*



*208 2nd Street*

These 3 homes were likely built on speculation around 1927 by developer, M.D. Mitchell. They all have the same basic floor plan with small variations. They are all in nearly original condition other than the green home in the center that now has a bay window in the front. After these homes were built in 1927, there were no new homes built in the district until the 1960's.

## ***2nd Street Homes***



*275 and 259 2nd Street*

The smaller home was built in 1960 and has only 420 square feet. Previous records indicate that the right side of the home was originally a garage. The larger home has 1736 square feet and was built in 1924. Little information is known about the previous owners of these two homes.

## ***American Foursquare Home***



*215 2nd Street*

This large home was built in about 1905. In 1920, it was home to Daniel and Alice Walker and their seven children. This style of home was built to accommodate the larger families of that time period. There had previously been a full-length front porch that wrapped around the east side of the home. The porch was removed, when the house was divided into 4 apartments and additional units in the back were constructed.

## ***Ankeny House and garage***



*212 Pearl Street*

The Queen Anne style **Henry Ankeny House** was built in 1896. The Ankeny name is well-known in the Salem area thanks to relatives that farmed over five thousand acres across 10 miles. The family was also known for success in banking, mining, and steamboat ownership. Notice the windows on the 1st and 2nd floor that line up with each other that indicate the obvious signs of the use of balloon construction techniques. The concrete block garage was added to the site in 1910 and featured a mechanical turntable. The adoption of the reverse gear in automobiles didn't come about until 1905. In 1954, the home was altered to create six apartments.

## ***Campbell House***



*252 Pearl Street*

The **Campbell House** was built for Idaho Cogswell Frazer in 1892 after her first husband, Nicholas Frazer, died in 1890 after being caught in a snowstorm while on a hunting trip. Idaho was one of the daughters of early Oregon pioneer John Cogswell. At one time, sisters Clara, Lischen, and Idaho lived across from each other on Pearl Street. Idaho married Ira Campbell (editor, co-owner and publisher of the Daily Eugene Guard) in 1897. The Campbell House now serves as a lovely bed and breakfast with impeccable outdoor landscaped areas.

## ***Cogswell Campbell House***



*284 Pearl Street*

The **Cogswell Campbell House**, a typical Craftsman Bungalow, was built in 1910. This home may have originally been built for the Campbell family's hired help, but when Idaho's son came of age, she gave the home to him. Cogswell and his wife Mary Ruth raised two daughters in this home. They loved nature and outdoor activities. Mary Ruth kept a greenhouse on the property where she grew orchids.

## ***Chase House***



*298 Pearl Street*

The **Chase House** was built in approximately 1909 for Nettie and Emma Chase, nieces of John Cogswell. The previous home on this lot was moved east onto 3rd Avenue, (possibly the Cogswell Miller House.) Later, Idaho acquired this home for her daughter Celeste, who was an accomplished musician, world traveler and outdoorswoman. She also spent countless hours working for the war effort during WW II. As a benefactor, the Celeste Campbell Senior Center in Eugene is named in her honor. Part of the funds used to purchase the property for the senior center came from Celeste's half-sister, Eva Johnson (final owner of the SMJ House).

## ***Wheeler House***



*245 Pearl Street*

This one and a half story Swiss Bungalow was built in 1909 with a full length front porch along with a sleeping porch above. **Mary Wheeler** owned the property since 1890 when she purchased the large lot from Thomas and Adah Shelton. Mary and her husband Lucas lived in the older home that was sited where the rock garden still remains, until this house was built. A sizable addition was added in the late 1920's, doubling the living space to accommodate their growing family. This house also has a daylight basement.

## ***Mary Skinner-Packard's House Site***



*235 Pearl Street (garden area behind the picket fence)*

This is the site of the home built in 1868 for **Mary Skinner Packard and her second husband Captain N.L. Packard**. Mary lived here until her passing in 1881. Thomas and Adah Shelton bought the property from Mary's heirs and lived in the home until their mansion was completed. Mary Wheeler later purchased the property from the Shelton family and had a new home built in 1909 next to the original home. The rock foundation in the garden area outlines the footprint of the 1868 Skinner-Packard Home.

**Skinner Butte**

**"E"**

**Cross**

**"O"**



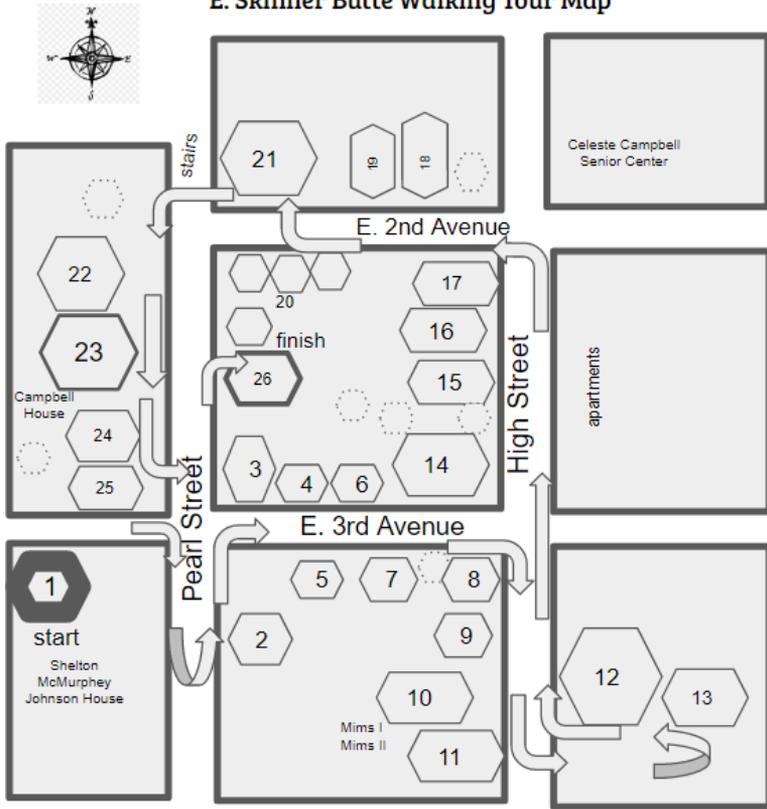
*Near the top of the butte*

\* **The "O"** was placed on the butte by U of O's junior class in 1908. It was originally made of wood and was normally painted yellow except when rival schools vandalized it with their own colors. It used to be much more visible but the growth of trees (planted by the CCC in the 1930's) partially obstructs the "O" from downtown viewing. In 1958 the "O" was replaced with one made of steel, set atop concrete pylons. In 1962, it was "dismantled" with a blowtorch and kidnapped by OSU students who returned it, in pieces, in 1965. It was welded back together and placed back in its original location at that time. The "O" is on the National Registry of Historic Places.

\* Less well known, built in 1915, **the "E"** is symbolic of Eugene High School when there was only one local High school. The big "E" is now mostly a memory, hidden by time and the growth of the trees.

\* A succession of wooden crosses have been placed on the hill from the 1930's-1964 by private citizens. They were continually replaced as they rotted away from our wet climate. In 1964 a 51' tall, **concrete cross** replaced the wooden crosses, and stood until legal action in 1997 forced its removal to Eugene Bible College. A tall flagpole now stands in the place the cross once stood.

## E. Skinner Butte Walking Tour Map



*Information and photographs for this booklet were compiled by S. Whitten, volunteer docent at the Shelton McMURPHEY Johnson House.*

*Sources include: City of Eugene Historic Archives, and the 2012 "Walking Tour" booklet (no longer in print).*

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