



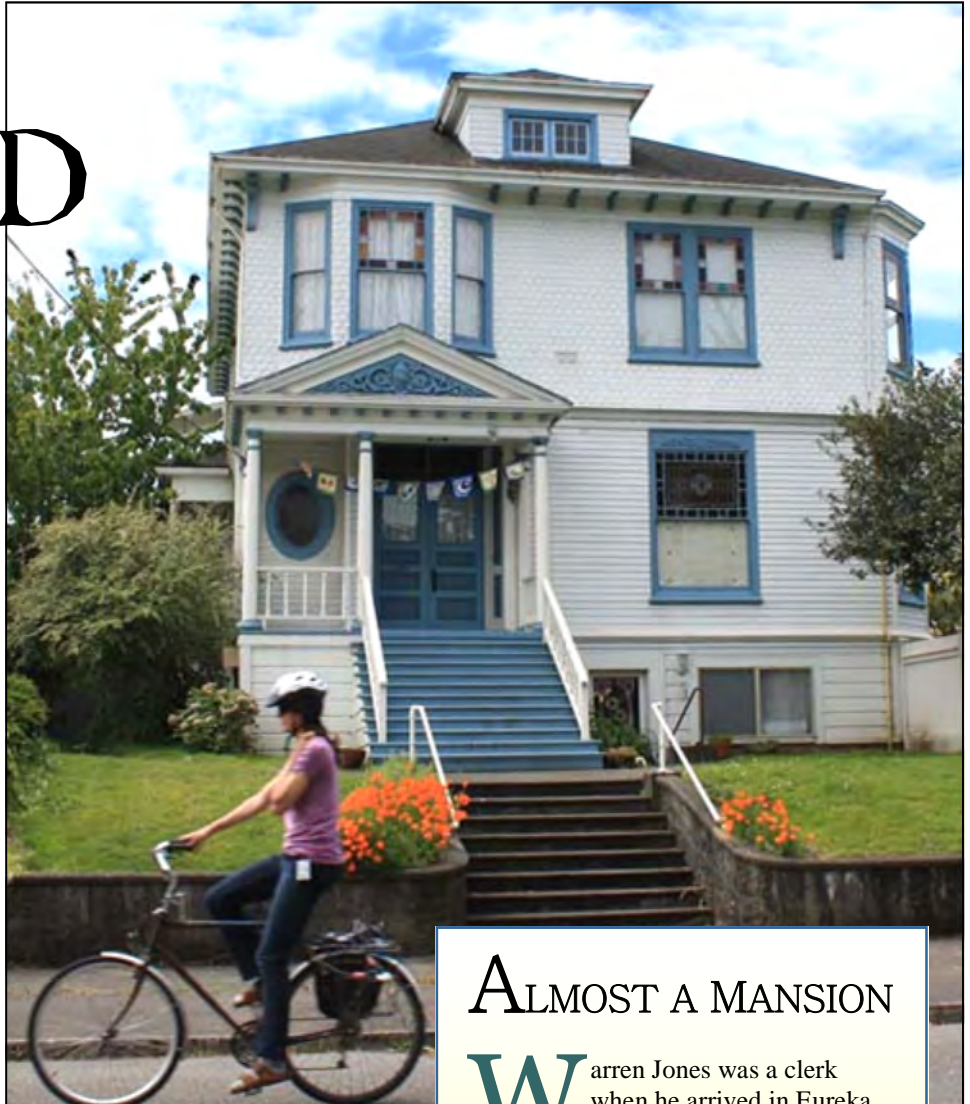
Architectural LEGACY

This OLD City

Eureka's splendid old houses: How to tell one style, and era, from another

Text and photography by
Kathy Dillon

Dating from the 1850s into the mid-20th century, Eureka's historical architecture is exceptional and plentiful. There are a variety of styles, and each reflects the era in which it was built. Many houses are a combination of two or more styles. Look around: Eureka's buildings have much to reveal.



ALMOST A MANSION

Warren Jones was a clerk when he arrived in Eureka in 1871. Twenty-seven years later, his success secured, he and his family moved into their grand new home at 234 Clark St. (*above*)

Even at 5,000 square feet, the 1898 house wasn't among the city's grandest residences, like the glorious Carson Mansion or its near-glorious counterparts built for the Simpsons, Hunters, Evanses and Buhnes. The latter – the extraordinary home of Henry Buhne at Clark and C streets – was a neighbor of the Joneses.

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This Eureka house has elements of Greek and Gothic styles, as well as a touch of Italianate.



Historical photographs courtesy of the Humboldt County Historical Society

Greek Revival & Gothic Revival

On the right is a **Greek Revival** house that was commonplace in Eureka into the 1860s. Easy to construct, these plain houses have low-pitched roofs, gabled fronts, eave returns, horizontal siding, and dominant corner boards (some cut to look like stone, as on Page 1). They were the simplest versions of a style that was popular throughout the country in the first half of the 19th century. The trend sought to emulate classical architecture of the ancient Greeks.



Here are two **Gothic Revivals** common for early Eureka. Above is a simple dwelling with a steep roofline adorned with gingerbread or vergeboard. On the right is a centered-gable Gothic.

In both, the top windows extend well into the gables. Often these windows were pointed (see Page 1 photo), as is the case with Gothic churches. Also known as Picturesque, this style's origins date back to medieval Europe.

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Growing prosperity ————— 1870s — 1890

Italianate & French Second Empire



These three examples of **Italianate** houses (*top and left*) reflect the variety to be found within one style. The top left house once stood on the corner of Broadway and Cedar streets. Like Gothic Revival, these houses strove for romanticism with their rounded windows and curved bays, rows of small brackets under the eaves, porch hoods, and touches of applied decoration in the cornice, above the windows, and between the window panels.



Eureka boasts one example of the **French Second Empire** style at 933 I St. (*right*), which was built in 1883. The style is distinguished solely by its Mansard roof, which has two slopes on all four sides; the lower slope is longer and at a steeper pitch than the upper. This particular Mansard roof sits atop a house with Italianate windows and a Stick-Eastlake porch.

Architectural LEGACY

This quarterly publication spotlights Eureka's renowned historical architecture. Comments are invited. Send them to *Legacy* Editor Kathy Dillon at kdillon72@att.net or to the Eureka Heritage Society, P.O. Box 1354, Eureka, CA 95592-1354.

ATTENTION ADVERTISERS: This publication is mailed to EHS members and other owners of historic properties. Folks like these often search for goods and services — *like yours*. *Legacy* is also available at key outlets around town and online at www.eurekaheritage.org. To find out about our incredibly reasonable advertising rates, call Jean at 444-2720.

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Stick-Eastlake & Queen Anne



Eureka's most plentiful stock of historic architecture are the highly ornamented Stick-Eastlake and Queen Anne styles. Many blend elements of the two styles in a variety of ways. First came **Stick-Eastlake** (*at left and above far left*). "Stick" refers to the decorative verticle strips — brackets, columnettes — that begin underneath the eaves and continue down below the square bay windows. "Eastlake" refers to many decorative elements including pendants, turned posts, brackets, railings, spindles and latticework.

Queen Anne followed and was even more elaborate — a celebration of rich texture and varied shapes, from charming cottages (*above*) to the grandest homes (*see Page 5*). Towers, turrets, bay windows, a variety of wall surfaces, spindlework, stained-glass windows — the more the merrier.



The grand 1901 home (*left*) at Long and C streets is a transitional Queen Anne. It has a Stick-Eastlake front porch with elegantly turned columns, pilasters and brackets.

In transition

When houses simply could not get fancier, more-restrained classical influences gradually began to return. By the turn of the 20th century, Eureka's new houses still favored the fanciful irregularity of the Queen Anne (*at right and below left*), but they began featuring simpler classical elements, such as round columns and oval windows. The Dutch Colonial Revivals (*below, right*) also gained favor.



Returning simplicity ————— 1900 — 1920s Colonial & Classical Revival — Craftsman



Colonial Revival styles (*one- and two-story versions at left and above left*) reflected Americans' renewed interest in their colonial heritage. In this vein, **Classical Revival**, or **Neoclassical**, styles also surged. Eureka's versions (*above right*) are the smallest, vernacular variations. Much grander versions of the style can be found around the country.



This 1912 **Craftsman** (*right*) on West Clark Street epitomizes the simple, back-to-nature soul of the style with its exposed eaves, large brackets, battered piers and exterior stone elements. While the look was influenced by the English Arts and Crafts movement and by Asian wooden structures, Craftsman is considered to be the first architectural style not directly related to historic precedent.

Architectural Scavenger Hunt

Here's a handsome dormer on a craftsman. The first reader who tells us



where it is wins a \$10 gift certificate to Bon Boniere Ice Cream. Call 442-8937. FROM OUR LAST ISSUE: The intricately detailed porch hood is from the Stick-Eastlake house at 1604 H St.

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Modern influences --- 1910s — 1930s Period Revivals — Streamline Moderne



The **Mission** look (*above*), which has been so predominant in Southern California since before it was a state, finally made its way to Eureka as a revival style in the early 20th century.



Period Revival styles surged when U.S. soldiers returned home from World War I, bringing with them an appreciation of European architecture. Among them were Spanish Colonial (*above*) and English Tudor (*below*).



Beginning in the 1920s, **Streamline Moderne** was inspired by the rounded designs of modern airplanes, ships and automobiles. The look is horizontal, with little ornamentation, and features flush windows wrapping around rounded corners. Glass blocks and small port-holes are also common. This G Street home — along with a similar apartment on H Street—was designed by a local physician, Dr. Samuel Burre, in the 1930s.



Sources for this issue of “Architectural Legacy” include “Eureka: An Architectural View,” “A Field Guide to American Houses” and “The Guide to Architecture in San Francisco and Northern California.”

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The 1898 Jones House

ALMOST A MANSION

Continued from Page 1

Nevertheless, the Jones residence was, and remains, remarkable. It was the last of the praiseworthy middle- and upper-middle-class houses built along Clark Street beginning in the late 1870s.

The house is described by the Eureka Heritage Society as an unusual late Queen Anne with asymmetrical picturesqueness, thanks to stunning stained-glass windows, a Colonial Revival porch with filigree details and a large “oeil-de-boeuf” oval window next to the front door.

It had been a long journey to this threshold for Warren and Margaret Jones and their seven children.

Margaret Axton Jones, a native of Eureka, was a member of a pioneer family that was among the first group of settlers to make the laborious overland trek to Humboldt Bay in 1855.

Warren Jones had left his home in Ohio in 1861 and worked as a clerk in San Francisco before relocating to Eureka at age 28. He soon became a successful merchant with a series of stores. Within five years he had his own commercial structure built. Then called the Jones Building, it was given an Art Deco remodeling in the 1930s and is now home to the Ritz bar.

Jones was involved seemingly everywhere, from playing in the county’s first official baseball game in 1878 to tirelessly advocating for the construction of rails and roads that would connect Eureka to main points south and east.

In 1910 Jones retired. He and his wife spent the rest of their lives – and their final hours – at 234 Clark St. He died in 1933, and the house was sold in 1938. Soon it was divided into apartments, a common fate of that era – and a kinder one than that of its towering neighbor, the Buhne mansion,



Original windows are among the highlights of the historic Jones House on Clark Street.

which was torn down in 1965.

That era was hard on many aging buildings. The Joneses’ home became a drug house, according to stories told by a neighbor to current owner Paula Rhude. Fortunately, the 1970s ushered in the still-thriving preservation movement in the city – and a new owner to 234 Clark St. He put in modern plumbing and electricity while leaving its charm intact.

“He did a beautiful job,” Paula said. “He left all of the windows, the staircase, pocket doors and some molding and wainscoting.”

Paula bought the building in 2003 and lives on-site. She was drawn by its beauty, its proximity to Old Town and its ability to provide good, lower-rent housing for her tenants.

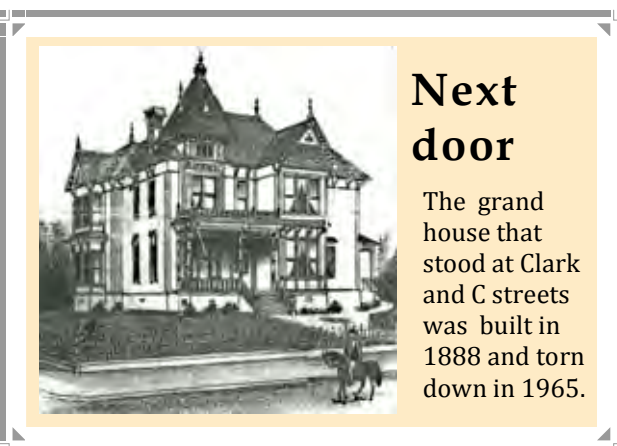
While this is her first old house, Paula has had experience with modern house construction and was ready for a new challenge.

At first it included now-controlled flooding in the basement. Now it means repairing damage caused by the recent earthquake which sent the chimney toppling.

The continuing goal, Paula said, is to maintain the structure’s original features while increasing its environmental benefits.

The preservation bug, it seems, has taken hold.

“I am privileged to hold this beautiful historic building in trust for the next owner/generation,” she said.



Next door

The grand house that stood at Clark and C streets was built in 1888 and torn down in 1965.