John Wesley Howell House : Monmouth, Oregon

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John Wesley Howell House
Monmouth, Oregon

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Monmouth, OR

Original exhibit 2012
Revised 2015

Courtesy of Western Oregon University Archives, MSS 9, Howell House Collection
John Wesley Howell was born in 1850 on land homesteaded by the Howell family in 1843. That land – west of Silverton, Oregon – is now known as Howell Prairie.

In 1874, John marries Sarah A. White (b. 1856).

The Howells had three children: Susie May (b. 1875), Olivia Beatrice (b. 1877), Daniel Boone (b. 1879)
In 1890, John & Sarah move their family to Monmouth to educate their children at Oregon Normal School (now Western Oregon University).

They live where West House currently stands, at Jackson St. and Monmouth Ave.
John Howell, a carpenter by trade, constructs his family’s home at 212 N. Knox, two blocks east of their original Monmouth location.
The house displays Howell's craftsmanship and serves as a kind of advertising for his trade. He would also build other houses in the area.
Mrs. Howell ran one of several boarding houses near the college.
As a student at the Oregon Normal School, Susan Howell could count on the teachers to “whittle nibs” and “clean chimneys.”

_Men teachers_ might think twice about getting a shave in a barbershop.

_Women teachers_ who marry would be dismissed.
In 1893, daughter Susan finishes her ONS degree. She marries and moves out of state.
News from Monmouth in the Polk County Observer
1908

John Howell is building himself a water tower. The city water seems to have proven unsatisfactory, and many are resorting to the use of private wells.
Postcard mailed 8 Oct 1908, from Esther in Monmouth to Miss Dora Larson in Astoria.

Residence, Monmouth, Ore. 907.
This is where I live. My room is on the
L(uther) H(enry) White was Sarah Howell’s father, who lived with the family for many years until his death at the home Feb. 1, 1915.
1917

A yearbook page from the Oregon Normal School featuring the students and activities of Howell House.
Howell’s Hall residents in the 1910’s

HOWELL’S HALL

ORTHAA KENZLER - - - - - President
Gladys Hoisington - - - - - Vice-President
ESTHER KUINDT - - - - - Secretary-Treasurer
FRANCES HAYNES - - - - - Social Chairman

Ella Anderson
Mary Jo Ferguson
Margaret Brant
Mary Fisher
Opal Burgess
Elaine Ferguson

Howell’s Hall

Officers
President
Vice-President
Secretary

Yolanda Heerd
Cecilia Fehrenbacher
Rosina White

Membership
Dulce Andrews
Pamely Andrews
Vesta Cushman
Mina Fretwell
Marie Fehrenbacher

Ceciel Keville
Florence Sisk
Leota Land
Rita Anderson
Bessie Trulove

Howell’s Hall

Secretary and Treasurer, Bessie Wieglesworth

Reported, Dorothy Krager

Gladys Plov
Gladys Gribble
Hildur Peterson
Lula McCly

Hazel Parazoo
Florence Liebe
Mary Vinson
Elva Merrill

Courtesy of Western Oregon University Archives, MSS 9, Howell House Collection
Sometime between 1911 and 1924, Susan returns to Howell House serves as house mother, managing – and later inheriting – the house.

Publications refer to her as Mrs. Susie Stanton and, later, as Mrs. Fred Huber.
June 1924

John W. Howell dies from “blood poisoning contracted through his teeth.”
Daniel Howell, son of John W. and Sarah, was a Portland businessman. His daughters were Louise and Dot.
1924-25

Howell Hall organizes for the first time as a campus entity with officers. It remains privately owned.

Women residents were allowed in Howell Hall – although mainly during the war years.

Top rent was $6.00 per month.
ORGANIZED HOUSES

Girls who are not fortunate enough to enjoy the hospitality of the ivy clad dormitory, cozy Senior Cottage and the impressive Junior House, due to the overflow of students, live in different halls and private homes.

Many of the girls who live in different halls get quite an insight into housekeeping secrets including the making and keeping of budgets. They seem to enjoy it however, and stained hands are no blemish to the true school marm.
Sarah Howell cedes operation of the house to daughter Susan in 1942. Sarah dies in September 1943 at the age of 87.

Both John and Sarah are buried in Fir Crest Cemetery in Monmouth.
Susie Howell Stanton Huber continues to serve as house mother, and now owner, of Howell House.

The monthly rent for a double room in 1938 was $5 per person.

The monthly rent for a single room in 1956 was $12.50.
TEXAS HALL


DEMINGS


HOWELL HOUSE


OFF CAMPUS

1950’s residents

TJ: Clyde Head, Joe

HOWELL HOUSE-STANDING: George Log, Glenn Davidson, Bill Haberly SEATED: Gordon Herman, Marvel Stone, Keith Richards.
Susie Howell Stanton Huber dies in 1962.

Howell House is sold to Norman S. and Nada Runkle, and then to several subsequent owners.

Boarders continue until 1984 when the City of Monmouth seeks to condemn Howell House due to years of disrepair.

The Howell House remains vacant until 1986.
In 1986, Clint and Sandy Boylan purchase the house for $25,000 and, along with their four sons, reconstruct Howell House and make dramatic changes to this historic home.
Howell House

Renovation underway, bed and breakfast planned in Monmouth

Monmouth’s historic Howell house on the corner of Jackson and Knox streets will soon have a new/old look.

Restoration has begun on the house which will reflect the original 1891 appearance. The project is being undertaken by Clint and Sandy Boylan of Independence, a couple well schooled in old house restoration. In 1980, the Boylans restored the historic Fluke house in Independence.

Restoring the house is just one phase of the project. The Boylans plan to open a bed and breakfast business and also make the house their home. “It’s a personal family project,” said Sandy Boylan.

The project includes tearing down additions to the house, built in the 1920s, and an extensive interior remodeling job. The additions slated to be torn down include parts of the front porch and a back addition which housed a few rooms. The back addition had been drooping down from the house as it was not built on the original foundation.

The Boylans bought the home in October 1995 from Norman Martinson. The house had been vacant for the past five years. John Howell, a carpenter and Monmouth pioneer, built the home in 1891 as a dorm for students. It was used as a dorm from the 1890s through the turn of the century. The house was then used for student apartments until as late as 1980. “This is what makes the house so interesting. It is the oldest surviving dorm and there have always been students in it until 1980,” said Sandy Boylan.

The Boylans want the college connection to continue, hoping their bed and breakfast business will attract former alumni coming to the campus for various events such as parents’ weekend and homecoming.

“I think it’s something the community needs and we hope to contribute to the community effort,” said Boylan. “People will walk by and say, ‘My father went to school here in 1915 and lived in this house,’” said Boylan.

Besides Clint and Sandy Boylan, their son Jamie and his friend Caleb Taylor are also working on the project.

The top two floors of the seven-bedroom, three story house will be the Boylan’s home with the ground floor being used for bed and breakfast. The Boylans are hoping to finish the project by mid-summer and open Howell House Bed and Breakfast by next fall.

RENovation HAS BEGUN on the Howell house at the corner of Jackson and Knox Streets in Monmouth. Clint and Sandy Boylan have bought the house which will be remodeled into a bed and breakfast business and home. The project is expected to be completed by mid-Summer with the bed and breakfast business opening in the fall. (Staff Photo)

THERE’S NOTHING LIKE an old, renovated house for kids to explore in. Clinton Boylan, 4, (front), and Eli Boylan, 11, check out the rear addition of the Howell house which will soon be completely torn down. Clinton and Eli get to witness first-hand the renovation of their new home. (Staff Photo)
Historic home:

Boylans restore historic Howell House

Former college dorm, and once condemned, this house has a future

By GAIL OBERST
Staff Writer

It is the last of its kind in Monmouth and soon, Sandy Boylan promises, the Howell House will be opening to bed and breakfast customers. Just a few short years ago, the City of Monmouth, at the urging of the fire department, had sought to condemn the 1891 structure.

The Howell House, which had served as a dormitory for generations of Monmouth College, Normal School, Oregon College of Education and Western Oregon State College students had another purpose to serve, however.

Despite its deterioration, the Boylans were determined to use Monmouth’s last historic dormitory to house their own family of four children. And this summer, the Boylans will also open the first bed and breakfast room in the building. Later, there will be yet another bed and breakfast room upstairs. Sandy Boylan said she’s looking forward to meeting alumni, parents and former college students who might remember the

NEARLY A CENTURY OLD, Howell House of Monmouth was in much different, and less

Boylan began restoring the home. (Photo by Gail Oberst)
The Howell House is listed to the National Register of Historic Places in 1987.

Howell, John W., House (added 1987 - - #87001536)
Also known as Howell Hall
212 N. Knox St. , Monmouth

Historic Significance: Event, Architecture/Engineering
Architect, builder, or engineer: Howell John W.
Architectural Style: Queen Anne, Stick/Eastlake
Area of Significance: Education, Architecture
Period of Significance: 1900-1924, 1875-1899
Owner: Private
Historic Function: Domestic, Education
Historic Sub-function: Educational Related Housing, Single Dwelling
Current Function: Domestic
Current Sub-function: Single Dwelling
Reconstruction Begins
Ornate wallpaper graces restored home

The Boylans began restoring the house after the death of their grandmother and have since restored the historic house around the same time. According to some estimates, the house was built in 1891 and was used as a small hotel and residence until 1937. Before that, it had been used by summer campers. The Boylans restored the house and now live there with their three children, ages 3, 7, and 9. The children are also involved in the restoration process.

After much research, Sandy said she and Clint found a company in San Francisco that could reproduce 1890s wallpaper and trim. Elaborate gold, green and blue designs line the walls at the ceiling and circle original light fixtures.

HISTORIC atmosphere of Howell House is apparent in dining room, where Abi Cornthwaite studies. Behind her is the music room, former parlor of the 1881 home. (Photo by Gail Oberst)

VIOLINIST Clint Boylan, age 5, and his cousin, Andy Cornthwaite, 6, play together in the music room, which was once the house parlor. (Photo by Gail Oberst)
HOWELL HOUSE: Built in 1891, and owned by Clint and Sandy Boylan, is filled with old-fashioned touches, including this antique stove, lending authenticity to the restored kitchen. (Coca-Cola can not withstanding.) For more on the restoration of Howell House, see pages 4-6. (Photo by Gail Oberst)
The Boylans were able to salvage pieces of moulding and framing from another John Wesley Howell house on Riddell Road for use in the Knox St. house restoration. The other house was scheduled for a practice burn by the fire department.
The Boylans run the Victorian-style Howell House Bed & Breakfast.

1988-2002

Courtesy of Western Oregon University Archives, MSS 9, Howell House Collection
POLK COUNTY LIVING

HOWELL HOUSE
Comforts of home, Victorian fashion

By DAVE COOPER
of the Westport News

Sandra Byolian lives here. As one of the Monmouth area’s local historians, she is often asked about the history of the town and its architecture.

The Byolian family has lived in Monmouth for several generations. They are descendants of early pioneers who settled the area.

The house was built in 1857 and is one of the oldest standing structures in town. It was originally a small cottage which was later expanded to accommodate the growing family.

Over the years, the Byolian family has added many unique touches to the home. The interior includes period furnishings, such as antique chairs and tables, and period paintings and prints.

One of the most distinctive features of the house is the large wrap-around porch. It provides a perfect spot for enjoying the views of the surrounding countryside.

Sandra Byolian says that one of her favorite memories of growing up in the house is spending time with her family on the porch, watching the world go by.

The house has been featured in several local publications and is a popular destination for tourists and history buffs visiting Monmouth.

The exterior of the house is painted in shades of red and white, giving it a charming and inviting appearance.

Inside, the house is filled with light and is furnished with antiques and other period pieces. The main living room has a fireplace and is decorated in period style.

The Byolian family is very proud of their home and enjoys sharing it with visitors who come to see the historic architecture and learn about the history of the area.

Sandra Byolian says that she and her family are always happy to greet visitors and share their love of Monmouth and its rich history.
After the extensive renovation, Sandy Boylan reaches out to find Howell Hall alumni.
Monmouth family throws party for ex-roomies

By Sue McCracken
The Statesman Journal

MONMOUTH — Hundreds of people have lived in the house at 212 N. Knox St. during the years, and Sandra Boylan is trying to invite them to a party.

Boylan, her husband, Clint; and their four boys have spent the last three years renovating the Howell House. It was home to college students for 93 years, from 1891 when it was built until 1984.

Now that much of the house has been restored, the Boylans have scheduled a June 3 reunion for the legions of former occupants. But they are having trouble finding them.

"Many of the students were girls, and, of course, their names are not the same now," Boylan said.

She has searched yearbooks and old newspapers looking for people to invite and has found some former roomers now living in Portland, McMinnville and Creswell.

Boylan will gladly send a personal invitation to former occupants, their families and friends who write to her at 212 N. Knox St., Monmouth 97361, or call her at (503) 836-2085.

John and Sarah Howell built the three-story boarding house in 1891 soon after they moved from Howell Prairie, near what is now Silverton.

They moved so that their daughter, Susie, would be close to a college. She graduated from what is now Western Oregon State College, became a teacher and managed the boarding house when

House/Monmouth family throws party for ex-residents

Continued from Page 1C.

Sandra Boylan and her family have spent several years restoring the Howell House, an 1891 boarding house used by students at what is now Western Oregon Community College. The Boylans will throw a party with former residents.

She inherited it.

When it opened, the house accommodated as many as 14 male students. It switched to female students during World Wars I and II and then back to males until it became so dilapidated that no one could live in it.

When the Boylans bought it in 1986, it had been vacant for two years. The first thing they did was tear it apart. Using a photograph from the turn of the century, the family set about tearing down the west extension and the wrap-around porch, saving the boards and the square nails to use in reconstruction. The roof came off, interior walls came out, and layers of wallpaper were stripped back to the fir boards and timbers.

"It looked like a tornado had hit it," Boylan said.

But now, the old house glows with the warmth of the Victorian era. The music room is vibrant with blue paint and, below the 10foot high ceiling, a wide strip of wallpaper with twined-chamelyons, a pattern reproduced from the old days.

Stained wood doors hang from frames with carved detail. In the kitchen, a gas stove from the early 1900s shares space with a discretely placed microwave.

Throughout the work, the Boylans have invited people in to look at what is going on. As an officially designated historic home on the National Register of Historic Places, the house is required to be open to the public for tour once every two years, but Howell House is on the tour every year.

A downstairs bed and sitting room suite is open for occupancy.
April 26, 1959

Dear Boylans,

My name is Jack Graves. I lived in Howell House 1954,55,56. I will attend the reunion if I can possibly get away. Unfortunately, June 3, I have another commitment that will be difficult to break.

After I moved to Tillamook, Oregon, I shared a room with my roommate. He was a Japanese student named Aki. Aki was sponsored at O.C.E by Dr. Matthew Thompson. We have kept in touch over the years. I've visited his family in Yokosuka and he has visited us three times here. Aki has held various positions with the Japanese Navy's materials procurement services.

The other room ($12.50) I occupied was at the head of the stairs. I shared this room with Akihiro Mitomi, a Japanese student. Aki was sponsored at O.C.E by Dr. Matthew Thompson. We have kept in touch over the years. I've visited his family in Yokosuka and he has visited us three times here. Aki has held various positions with the Japanese Navy's materials procurement services.

I am a teacher at Camp Tillamook High School, in Tillamook, Oregon. I've been teaching for thirty-three years, thirty-one at Camp Tillamook. I retire this August 1. I am living in Garibaldi (which was my home town then as well). I am married with three children. Our youngest is a junior in high school.

I'm glad to hear that Howell House has been chosen to be listed as a historic place. We always joked about it, but had no idea that we were "George Washingtons" sleeping there. It's an honor to be a Howell House alum. See you June 3 if I can.

Thanks,

Jack Graves

Jack Graves, Howell House resident 1954-56
Oregon College of Education graduate 1956
Gordon L. Herman, Howell House resident 1954-56, Oregon College of Education graduate 1956

 серьезно, я был хорошим студентом. Я активно участвовал в драме и политике (национальной деятельности, а не студентской политики). Я жил в Howell House все время, что был на Oregon College of Education.

Был летом 1955 года с Джеком и некоторыми другими старыми жителями, провел время в Howell House. Я всегда наслаждался своим временем в Howell House.

С уважением,
Гordon L. Herman
Dear Mr. and Mrs. Bailey,

I'm delighted that Howell House is a local landmark. I too was a Howell House in 1938-9. My last year was over the roof. The stairs were rather rickety even then. I think I remember.

We called it the Science House. There was a slippery, worn, black horse hair sofa in the parlor. It was not to be sat upon without sliding off. The horse hair was 212. I remember thinking boiling point. Many the young.

Please another note.

Etta Bailey Donivan
12476 S.W. Edgewater Ct.
Tigard, OR 97223.

Etta Bailey Donivan
“Howell House” 1938-39

Courtesy of Western Oregon University Archives, MSS 9, Howell House Collection
In 2002, Howell House is purchased by Carey Madden. She continues to operate it as a bed and breakfast until 2004.
In 2004, Carey returns Howell House back to its boarding house roots. WOU students and artists take up residence.

This is definitely not typical college housing. The house appeals to students who appreciate the homier atmosphere, the history, the antiques, and the aesthetics.

In 2002 the historic Howell House was put on the market again, and Madden spotted it for sale on the Internet. Now Madden and her tenants enjoy a cooperative, personal setting where they share a kitchen, during roommates' or computer room, as well as social activities, but they can retreat to their own rooms for solitude. "If I need quiet time, I can close my door, but if I want to be social, I can just step into the hall and find someone to talk to," says Alyssa Magee, WOU senior.

Alyssa Magee

"We try to do things together every couple of weeks, like dinner or a movie night, and sometimes we cook dinner together. Carey (Madden) usually leaves us cookies once a week, too."

Although Madden lives in an apartment over the detached garage, she says she is rarely in the house. "The tenants essentially set the rules themselves. They resolve conflicts on their own and call house meetings when necessary," Magee adds. "The general rule is just to be polite. We accommodate each other; we compromise." "I love it, and I'll definitely stay as long as I'm at school," says Knope. "For my first three years at Western, I lived on campus, but I wanted a little more independence. The location is great too because if I forget something I can be home and back to campus in five minutes."

"It was a little hard at first, living with people I didn't know," says Magee. "Now there is a familiarity among the residents. We leave each other notes, and we are all home around the same time each evening."

"This is definitely not typical college housing," Madden says. "The house appeals to students who appreciate the homier atmosphere, the history, the antiques, and the aesthetics. All of the rooms are furnished, and tenants enjoy the weekly services of a housekeeper, as well as free long-distance calls on the house phone. All utilities are included in the rent which ranges from $375-385 per month." "The costs are comparable to living on campus," says Magee, "and after seeing the house, I realized I wouldn't want to live anywhere else."

"I think that the students' parents really like that," Adds Knope, "We've never had a problem. We can all lock our doors individually if we choose to, and the house doors always stay locked. We know each other and trust each other."

"Our housemates are a very close-knit group of people who all care about one another," adds Magee. "We all have a sense of family here."

The Howell House has come full circle in its shared history with WOU. "I look at the pictures on the walls of tenants from the past and the graduating classes," says Knope, "and wonder who those people were. It's hard to believe we are the same people."

-May 2000
HOWELL HALL
A Luxury Boarding House

Sorority living Victorian Style

Amenities include:

- House mother on premises • Weekly in-room housekeeping
- Monthly guest speakers • Monthly Sunday brunch • Book club
- Weekly homemade cookies • Laundry service available
- Monthly pizza and movie nights • Study hall w/ internet access
- Fully furnished with gorgeous antiques • Manicured gardens
  - One block from downtown and campus
  - Six rooms available, all are single occupancy
- All utilities included • Rates start at $375.00 per month

Call today for your free tour!

212 N. Knox St. • Monmouth • 503-838-2085
In 2007, Terri Gregory purchases Howell House and renews it both structurally and stylistically into its present iteration—a New Orleans-inspired bed and breakfast.

Terri is the current owner of this historical treasure.
MaMere’s Bed and Breakfast

Photo courtesy of 47percent / Wikicommons / Public Domain
Photos courtesy of Terri Gregory, MaMere’s Bed & Breakfast
Photos courtesy of Terri Gregory, MaMere's Bed & Breakfast
Much of the historical material in this presentation was discovered by Terri Gregory during her renewal of the Howell House into MaMere’s Bed and Breakfast in 2007. Western Oregon University is grateful to Terri for the donation of these materials to the University Archives and for the use of current photographs of MaMere’s.

Howell gravestone photograph courtesy of Patricia Carson and www.oregongrabestones.org.

Newspaper clippings from time of the house restoration from Polk County Itemizer-Observer and The Sun Enterprise.

For more information on Howell House and the history of Western Oregon University, please contact Western Oregon University Archives, located in Hamersly Library.