

NORTH STAR HISTORIC CONSERVANCY

THE STAR NEWSLETTER

Summer 2019

JEANNETTE FOOTE'S PIANO RETURNS TO THE NORTH STAR HOUSE

The magnificent piano that once filled The North Star House with music has been returned to its historically recognized place in the community. The 1898 Krakauer Brothers Cabinet Grand piano, one of the best built pianos of that era, has been donated to the North Star Historic Conservancy by the Vestry of Emmanuel Episcopal Church. The Church, located in Grass Valley, has owned the instrument since 1968.

The piano had belonged to Jeannette Hooper Foote, Arthur Burling Foote's wife. (A.B. Foote, the son of Arthur DeWint (A.D.) Foote, was also known as Sonny to his friends.) It is not certain when the piano was first brought to the North Star House. Evelyn Foote, daughter of Jeannette and A.B., wrote about falling asleep upstairs listening to her mother playing this piano. After the death of Jeannette and the subsequent sale of the North Star House in 1968, the piano was given to the Emmanuel Episcopal Church by the family in accordance with Jeannette's bequest.

The North Star House was designed by renowned architect Julia Morgan to act as the residence of the mine's superintendent, A.D. Foote. The house was occupied by the family of A.D. and Mary Hallock Foote along with their children, A.B. and Betty. In 1913,



A.B. Foote married Jeannette Hooper and became the general manager of the North Star Mine. Jeannette and A.B. Foote purchased the North Star House in 1929 when the mine itself was sold. The North Star House was sold after the death of A.B. Foote (1964) and Jeannette Foote (1968).

The North Star House is owned and operated by the North Star Historic Conservancy. Built in the Arts and Crafts style, the North Star House is listed on both the National Register of Historic Places and the California State Historic Buildings Register. It is located on 14 acres of spectacular Gold Country landscapes, a portion of the former North Star Mine.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE SUMMER, 2019



By Betzi Franklin Hart

“Follow the Star”, was the theme message four years ago when I joined the Board of Directors of the North Star Historic Conservancy. No one told me that I should be wearing roller skates or how fast the time would pass or how much could be accomplished in such a short time. Now here I am as President of the Board and very proud of what has been accomplished.

This year has been a transition for the House and the Board. We have added members to the Board, now up to 10, and made significant changes to the House. Additions to “spruce-up” the interior, with new doors and upholstery in the living room; a new door, new runners and tablecloths in the dining room; and a new door, pull down blinds in the Julia Morgan Room and bathroom, have made

the House more inviting. Historical additions have made the House significantly more interesting. Thanks to Carole Miller and her History Committee we now have copies of the Julia Morgan blueprints displayed. Rich and Nancy McRay were instrumental in having Jeanette Foote’s magnificent upright grand piano returned to its home at the North Star House. (We are going to have it refurbished so it can be played at our big fundraiser in September.) What you can’t see happening is the demolition and preparation going on in the upstairs gallery area.

The outside of the House and the grounds are looking better since the rain has stopped. Have you noticed the orange paint is gone from the courtyard walls? The shingling is progressing and we have new courtyard lights. Tom Nelly is really keeping the grounds looking good.

The Heritage Garden, open June 23rd, is an important addition to the North Star property. It is a lovely place to enjoy history and beauty together. We are hoping that it will be featured on the yearly Soroptimist of the Sierra Foothills Garden Tour next

year. The building of the Heritage Garden has been a labor of love for the Garden Committee. Now that it is completed Paula Campbell will be recruiting volunteers to assist with gardening chores. Please contact Paula if you are interested in gardening at the North Star House.

None of the above things could have been accomplished with-

President, cont. on pg. 7

NSHC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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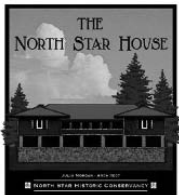
Contributors
Carole Miller
Doug Young
Susan Kane



Rich McRay has been working his magic on reconstructing the Living Room window sill, ensuring that it aligns.



The future Art Gallery that is being used as access to the Living Room overhead lights. The flex cable will be removed after the new wiring is in place. Progress!



NORTH STAR HISTORIC CONSERVANCY

12075 AUBURN ROAD, GRASS VALLEY, CA 95949

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**We need your help with the Ongoing Restoration and Revitalization
of the **Historic North Star House.****

Name: _____

Phone: _____

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Membership Levels:

- ☐ Rising Star \$35+
- ☐ Supporter \$100+
- ☐ Champion \$500+
- ☐ Preservationist \$1000+
- ☐ Benefactor \$2000+



THE HERITAGE GARDEN

The building of the Heritage Garden at the North Star House was a larger endeavor than ever imagined...but now it is almost complete. The Ribbon Cutting to officially open the garden to the public will take place at 1:30 pm, June 23, and the community is invited to attend.

The garden project was a dream of the historians and volunteer gardeners who had been identifying heritage plants on the North Star property for over ten years. The Heritage Garden would include heritage roses, peonies, hydrangeas, boxwood, grapes, and fruit trees to represent the plants that had once been on the property.

The plaque at the front gate explains the reason the Heritage Garden was created.

The Heritage Garden honors Arthur DeWint Foote's horticultural skills and his affiliation with renowned horticulturists Luther Burbank and Nevada City nurseryman Felix Gillet. In 1905



Entrance to the Heritage Garden at The North Star House.

Garden, cont. on next page.

OUR DOCENT TEAM

The North Store House is pleased to welcome Lisa Robinson and Joan Clappier who've joined forces to direct our docent program. In their words:

Our goal is to enhance the solid foundation of historical information that [former docent program director] Carole Miller has gathered over the years by bringing it into the electronic age—not only for archival purposes but also to provide a library of information docents can access from the NSH website. This system will benefit new and veteran docents alike, and our hope is that the ongoing access to North Star House history will make recruitment and training of docents a year-round process. We hope online access to the house's history will enable us to augment and replenish our docent staff.

Lisa and Joan add, “We are very excited to help advance all the great work that the conservancy has accomplished and to work with the historical committee as we enrich the program.”

We are thrilled to welcome Lisa and Joan in this



Lisa Robinson and Joan Clappier

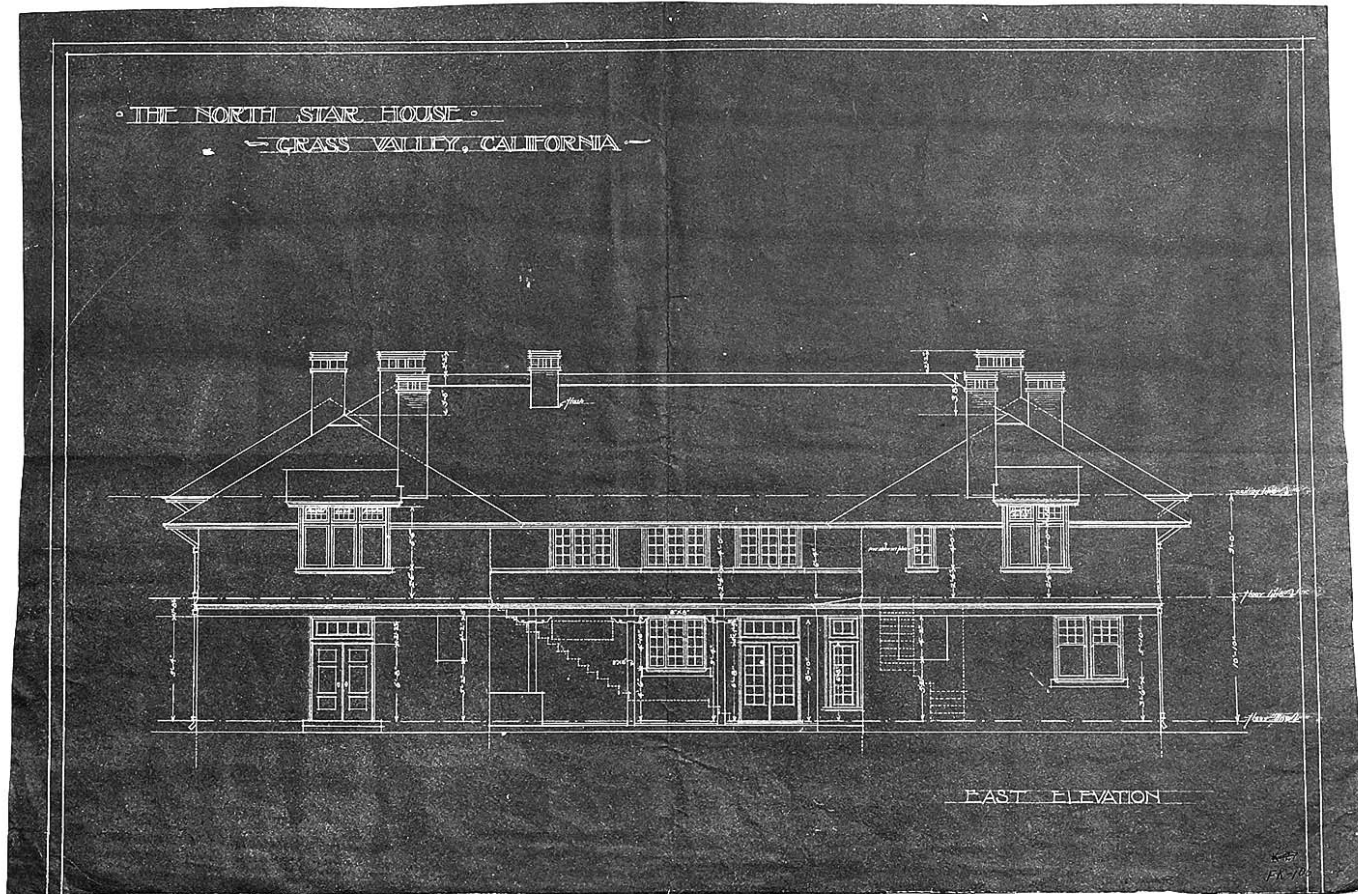
role so crucial to the advancement of the House's goals, and it is with immense gratitude that we acknowledge the efforts of Carole Miller in establishing and directing our successful docent program.

Garden, cont. from previous page.

A.D. Foote began designing the Edwardian woodland landscape surrounding The North Star House. This garden includes plants and trees that grew in the original landscape, including roses found in the courtyard rose garden, a Felix Gillet heritage pear

tree, and perennials inspired by Luther Burbank. The pond represents the original Julia Morgan designed courtyard reflecting pond.

The Conservancy is extremely grateful to the many volunteers, businesses and donors that helped make this vision a reality.



THE JULIA MORGAN BLUEPRINTS

Now on display in the North Star House: architectural blueprints from Julia Morgan's design firm.

The blueprints were discovered in A. D. Foote's office at the North Star Mine Central shaft and were archived for preservation at the Empire Mine in Grass Valley. With Empire Mine's permission, we were able to examine and photograph a selection from these valuable historical documents. As archi-

tect and NSHC founding father David Wright explains, these blueprints were the roadmap builders and craftsmen depended on during the construction process. The blueprints bear the professional architectural stamp used by Julia Morgan. We have acquired about half the Julia Morgan North Star House drawings, examples of which you can find on display in the House's Julia Morgan Room.

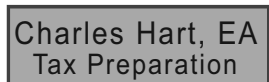
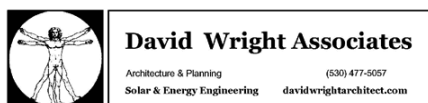
President, cont. from pg. 2

out the support of our volunteers and board members. The environment at the House is constantly filled with a sense of hope, joy and friendship because the people working there are all interested in the common goal of refurbishing the North Star House to make it the place the community wants it to be. Thank you all!! We can always use more partners. Please encourage your friends to join in our goal and "Follow the Star".



USING eScrip IS FREE AND EASY.

Just go to the eScrip website, www.eScrip.com/signup. Please consider designating The North Star Historic Conservancy as a recipient. It's a terrific way to support our efforts to refurbish The North Star House.



THANK YOU

TO OUR ANNUAL SPONSORS





HERITAGE, HISTORY & HOPS

THE NORTH STAR HOUSE

Sunday, June 23 1pm - 4pm

\$10 Donation

12075 Auburn Rd, Grass Valley

Historic
House Tours



Heritage
Garden
Ribbon Cutting
1:30pm

Beer & Music on the Veranda

Three Forks Bakery & Brewing Co.

Ol' Republic Brewery Grass Valley Brewing Co.

1849 Brewing Co. Lagunitas Brewing Co.

Music: Down Home Country Friends



**FUNDRAISER FOR THE
NORTH STAR HISTORIC CONSERVANCY
ALL PROCEEDS GO TO
RESTORATION AND OPERATION OF
THE NORTH STAR HOUSE**

www.TheNorthStarHouse.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPT. 14:

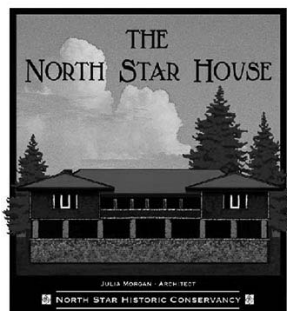
An Evening under the North Star

This year's annual fundraiser will feature the melodies of local songstress Kris Stepanian. A special catered dinner will be provided. Limited seating. Time: 5-9:30pm, Tickets: \$85.

OCT. 27:

Native Americans in Nevada County

Spokesperson and Tribal Council Secretary of the Nisenan Tribe, Shelly Covert, will honor the history and heritage of our local Native Americans. Light refreshments. Time: 2-4pm, Suggested Donation: \$10.



North Star Historic Conservancy

12075 Auburn Road

Grass Valley, CA 95949

www.thenorthstarhouse.org

FOLLOW THE STAR... ★ ★ ★