

# Edmonds Historic Preservation Commission

## Then and Now #1

### The Bishop Hotel

By Andy Eccleshall

(Edmonds - WA) This article is the first in a monthly series, produced by the Edmonds Historic Preservation Commission, depicting the changing city of Edmonds. If you regret the loss of familiar and historic structures and are concerned by the changing character of Edmonds you will no doubt be interested in this series which will show how so many beloved and important sites have changed over the years.

The nine-member Edmonds Historic Preservation Commission, established by ordinance in 2002, works to foster civic pride in the beauty and accomplishments of the past and a sense of identity through Edmonds history. Its assigned responsibility is to safeguard the heritage of the city inherent in its historic structures and to keep alive through them, the story of Edmonds.

There have been many significant changes to our city in recent years and over the next few months the Commission will be bringing you a series of “then and now” images. The first takes a look at the corner of 2nd Avenue and Bell St.



Edmonds Historical Museum

The Bishop Hotel opened its doors at the corner of 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue and Bell street on April 16<sup>th</sup>, 1894. It was named after James H. Bishop, president of the Minneapolis Realty and Investment Company which had bought the land on which Edmonds now stands from George Brackett.

The hotel was built in preparation for an expected economic boom, created by the building of the Great Northern Railway. By the time the hotel opened however, there had been no boom, the land had gone back to George Brackett, and the name of the hotel had already changed to the Stevens Hotel, after its owners Mr. and Mrs. W.S. Stevens.

It became the Olympic View Hotel in 1908 under the ownership of Mrs. Annabelle Turner. During this period the hotel became known as one of the Puget Sounds best. Mrs. Turner raised the splendor of the establishment and it became known for its banquets and fine dining. The hotel was a favorite dining establishment for those traveling through Edmonds and a boarding place for the local shingle mill workers.

After the Second World War, the hotel became the Olympic Apartments, being converted into 10 separate units. It remained until 1975, when it was demolished to make way for the Harbormaster Condominiums, seen in the picture below.



The grand hotel is gone, and with it a piece of our local heritage. But there is still time to preserve Edmonds few remaining historically important buildings. A critical case in point is the Bettinger/Kretzler House, one of Edmonds' few remaining Victorian landmarks. Known to generations as "the pink house" (though it's no longer that color), it has been a welcoming landmark and has served as a gateway to the downtown core of Edmonds for 100 years.

The land currently occupied by the house is zoned commercial, and the house is scheduled to be replaced with another structure. The Edmonds Historic Preservation Commission and the South Snohomish County Historical Society have a July 1 deadline to find another location.

The Commission and the Society welcome input and ideas from the community. Our time to save this icon of our past is running out. Suggestions/ideas may be submitted to Fred Bell, South Snohomish County Historical Society, 425-775-5650 or Andy Eccleshall, Edmonds Historic Preservation Commission, 206-579-3211.

The Edmonds Historic Preservation Commission meets the second Thursday of the month at 4.30pm in the Brackett Room at City Hall, 121 Fifth Avenue, Edmonds. We welcome you to join us and we are keen to hear your views regarding the historic preservation of our wonderful city.

**"A country without a past has the emptiness of a barren continent: and a city without old buildings is like a man without a country." *British architect and planner Graeme Shankland***



**Bettinger House today**



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