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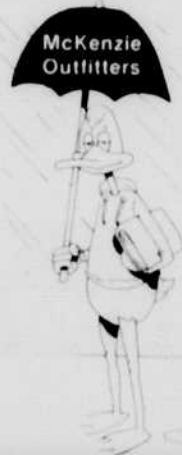
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## Community

# Historic house may be renovated

By Catherine Hawley  
Emerald Reporter

A renovation plan would open up a 100-year-old Eugene house to the public for meetings, workshops, weddings and receptions, as well as provide more parking and wheelchair access.

The Lane County Board of Commissioners voted Nov. 21 to award a commission for the development of a master plan for the Shelton-McMurphey House, located next to Skinners Butte at 303 Willamette St., to Crow/Clay Associates.

The plan will include detailed drawings and analyses of the house's electrical, structural and engineering aspects, as well as a topographical study of the surrounding property and an archaeological plan.

The master plan, which will be completed by August, also will outline stages for historic restoration in order of importance.

"The real value to the master development plan is that we're going to have a document to guide us through the process step by step," said Ed Stelfox, director of the Lane County Historical Museum.

The museum used a grant it received from the National Park Service in February as well as money from fundraisers to commission the master plan.

"We want to restore it as accurately as possible, of course taking into account updated codes," Stelfox said. Improvements would include better wiring, public restrooms, more



File photo

Renovation of the 100-year-old Shelton-McMurphey House, located at 303 Willamette St., would provide space for meetings, workshops and receptions.

parking and wheelchair access, Stelfox said.

The three-story wooden house was built in 1888 by Dr. P.M. Shelton and his wife, Adah, at a cost of \$8,060.

In 1951 neighborhood resident Eva Johnson purchased the house and converted the basement and second floor to apartments. She willed the house to the Lane County Historical Museum after her death.

In August, the county offered the house to the city, primarily for funding reasons, Stelfox said. "The city has shown interest in the house, and we (the city and county) are working together on the master plan," Stelfox said.

No formal proposal for the transfer of the house has been made, said Margo Drivas of the county commissioners' office.

An eventual transfer of the house would require a vote by the county commissioners and the city council.

The museum would continue to act as an adviser to the renovation of the house if ownership were transferred to the city, Stelfox said.

## Suspect sought in Eugene rape

The Eugene Police Department is continuing the search for a suspect in the Nov. 28 rape of a Eugene woman.

The suspect is described by Eugene police as a 22 or 23-year-old white male, between 5 foot 9 inches and 6 feet tall, with light-colored, collar-length hair and possibly freckles. He was last seen wearing a blue T-shirt and tan walking shorts.

The incident occurred at approximately 5 a.m. in the woman's apartment in the 15th Avenue and Ferry Street area.

The woman reportedly was awakened by a noise, went into another part of her apartment to investigate, and was grabbed and sexually assaulted by a stranger, who then left.

The woman went to a neighbor's apartment and reported the incident.

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