Rosa Parks' house may be returned to US from Germany

By DAVID RISING ASSOCIATED PRESS

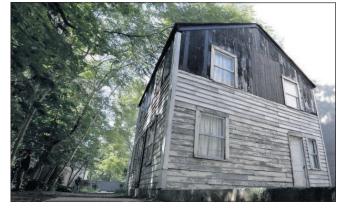
BERLIN — Section by section, American artist Ryan Mendoza painstakingly disassembled the small wood-frame home of civil rights icon Rosa Parks after learning that the struggling city of Detroit was going to have it demolished. He shipped it across the Atlantic Ocean and rebuilt it in the German capital of Berlin, saving the home and creating a new tourist attraction.

The house has been up in Berlin less than a year, but after violence at a white nationalist rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, and the growing call to remove Confederate monuments in the United States, the New York native said it's now clear to him that Parks' house needs to return soon to the U.S.

"It's actually become a necessity, as we see people rising up and seeing things for what they are," he said. "As Americans begin to understand they have to re-contextualize these monuments, the Confederate statues, there is a lack of civil rights monuments to balance things out."

Parks, who died in 2005, became a leading name in the civil rights movement for refusing in 1955 to give up her seat on a bus to a white passenger in Montgomery, Alabama. She moved to Detroit in 1957 to escape death threats and stayed in the house with her brother and his family — crammed into the tiny residence with more than 15 people.

After the financial crisis of 2008 and Detroit's dramatic decline, Parks' home was abandoned and put on a list for demolition.



AP PHOTO/MICHAEL SOHN

Trees stay close to the rebuilt house of Rosa Parks in Berlin. Parks' house has been standing in the German capital for less than a year, but now the American artist Ryan Mendoza who saved it from destruction in Detroit says it's time for it to return to the U.S.

Parks' niece Rhea McCauley instead bought it from the city for \$500 and donated it to Mendoza for preservation. In 2016, he and others took it carefully apart, then rebuilt it on the lot in Berlin where his studio and home are.

Queen Yahna, a soul and gospel singer from Philadelphia who now lives in Berlin, performed for the crowd at the house's official dedication in April. Visiting the house this week, she said it doesn't matter to her where the house is, so long as Parks' struggle is remembered.

"The issue of racism is going on, negative things are going on and there are different things, positive, that can be brought to light, not just physical monuments," she said. "The spirit is more important."

But Mendoza said even though the house is tucked away on his lot, it still draws curious onlookers daily including many Americans — showing how important a symbol it is.

"Imagine if the house were on a public setting in a prominent city in the U.S.?" he said. "That's an educational tool that shouldn't be denied the American people. They have to know their past."

He said a foundation has offered to help pay the costs of moving it back to the U.S., and he's been in talks with museums and a university about putting it on display, but there's no timeline yet on when the house may return.

His dream would be to see the derelict home reconstructed on the lawn of the White House with the blessing of U.S. President Donald Trump.

"Trump says that he's not a racist. This would be a wonderful moment for him to redeem himself in the eyes of Americans," Mendoza said. "He wants to embrace all of America's past. Why not embrace the house that Rosa Parks once lived in?"

McCauley, Parks' niece who still lives in Detroit, told The Associated Press that she would welcome the home's return to the U.S.

"We need all the help we can get, in light of all current events," she said.

coastweekend MARKETPLACE

105 Business-Sales Op

Daily Astorian

Be an Astoria Carrier!

\$100 Signing Bonus!

The Daily Astorian is

currently seeking

independent contractors to

deliver its paper and related

products in the Astoria

Oregon area.

Interested individuals must

have valid drivers license,

reliable vehicle, and

insurance. Routes are

Monday through Friday

afternoons. There are no

collections or weekend

deliveries.

Please come in person to

The Daily Astorian office at

949 Exchange St, Astoria OR

97103 to pick up more

information.

CLASSIFIED ADS are used by peo-

ple when they are searching for

products or services. For fast

results, use a Classified ad to

attract people who are ready to

LIVE OUTSIDE ASTORIA? To place

1-800-781-3211

It's fast and it's toll free!

215 Apartments,

Furnished

Serene Cannon Beach Studio in

Forest setting with vaulted ceiling's

and fireplace. Small kitchenette

appointed, just move in!

\$1000 Per month, thousand dollar

deposit. 425-922-6329.

WE DELIVER!

Please leave a light on or install

motion detector lights to make

vour carrier's job easier. Thanks

THE DAILY ASTORIAN

walk to town. Beautifully, fully

your ad in the Daily Astorian

buy your product.

Classifieds, simply dial:

230 Houses, Unfurnished



Artistic Cannon Beach Vacation Home available for longer-term rental.

- Beautifully appointed four bedroom main home with studio apt. Walk to town and beaches, peekaboo view. \$3500 month. Photos cannot describe the serenity
- and ambience of this home. A must see. Owned by nationally collected, Cannon Beach artist, Miska 425-922-6329

235 Houses, Furnished

House- Furnished 2.5BR, 2Ba. \$1,550+utilities Duplex- 2BR, 1Ba \$700+utilities First, Last, Deposit \$500. harborview@gmail.com 541-580-0333

> Let your pockets "jingle" with extra cash from the Daily Astorian classifieds

300 Jewelry

Buying Gold, Silver, Estate Jewelry, Coins, Diamonds, Old-Watches. Downtown Astoria-332 12th St. Jonathon's, LTD (503)325-7600

Specialty Services

We urge you to patronize the local professionals advertising in The Daily Astorian Specialty Services. To place your Specialty Services ad, call 325-3211.

360 Furniture & HH Goods

Turn-of-the Century Fainting Couch Beautiful, Completely Redone. Restuffed, Resprung, Cash Only. No private checks \$400.00-OBO

(360)214-4412 ERROR AND CANCELLATIONS

Please read your ad on the first day. If you see an error, The Daily Astorian will gladly re-run your ad correctly. We accept responsibility for the first incorrect insertion, and then only to the extent of a corrected insertion or refund of the price paid. To cancel or correct an ad, call 503-325-3211 or 1-800-781-3211.

380 Garage Sales OR

Astori

Lee's Attic Antiques & Collectibles PLUS Vinyl Records, Comics Toys and so much more! Open 11am-4pm 1312 Commercial Street Astoria

Warrentor

Huge Moving Sale Saturday 9-2-17 9am – 4PM 90319 Hawkins RD, Cullaby Lake Dinette set, couch, coffee/end tables, leather high back office chair, glass entertainment stand, stools, and other furniture items, computers, electronics, PS3, big dog crate, men's and women clothing and lots of neat items many in almost new condition.

485 Pets & Supplies



Beautiful AKC English Bulldog Puppy 8weeks 1F1M old,shots current,good family pet for adoption \$635 audrasim1@aol.com (503) 676-5910



Northwest's great small newspapers

