



The barn was built in 1910 as a horse barn.

A Little Piece of Finn Hill History

I had known this barn and house for my entire life, because I lived across the street from them. I loved them. They had many sentimental and historical values to me. Upon seeing that many of the older houses in my neighborhood were being demolished, I decided to try to preserve the history in my neighborhood, particularly the barn and house.



The barn had many sentimental and historical values to me.

I did an oral history with the owner of the property at that time. Her name was Jean. I learned from Jean that the barn was 105 years old. It was built in 1910 as a horse barn. Since the animals were the most important thing on the farm, the barn was built first. While the house was being built, everyone slept in the hayloft of the barn. Just above the hayloft door was a bar used for pulling hay up to the hayloft. The house was built in 1913. It was a little farmhouse with paneling and brackets on the inside. Jean said that the paneling in the house is not made anymore. The basement was originally a Finnish sauna. Then it was a little skullery. In the 1960s, an artist moved into the house. He had his ceramics studio in the barn's original hayloft. He cut a hole in the barn's chimney for a vent to let out the dangerous carbon monoxide from the kiln. He used the barn's ground floor as a garage. He also added an addition to the house in 1964. In this addition he added a kitchen. When Jean bought the property, she turned the little skullery into

a full basement, and she redid the kitchen added in the 1964 addition. She also used the barn as a garage.



When looking at the back of the house, the 1913 portion of the house is seen to the left of the tree, while the 1964 addition is seen to the right.

When inside the house, I looked around. In the 1913 portion of the house, there was the original paneling and brackets. In the hall, the paneling and brackets were painted white. In the living room of the 1913 house, the paneling and brackets were a shade of brown. They weren't painted. There was a square bay window in the living room that protruded from the side of the house. In the bathroom, there was nothing interesting besides a stained glass window. It is thought that the stained glass was created by the artist that lived in the house in the 1960s. The concrete stairs surrounding the house were made out of concrete test tubes. When people were testing the strength of concrete, they created cylinders out of the material. When they were done with the cylinders, the cylinders were

incorporated into the stairs. The house was painted a tealish color, while the barn was painted white with sea green window and roof trim. The inside of the barn was surprisingly intact. Jean led me through a tall door with a window. I was now in a portion of the barn with a much lower ceiling. In one corner, the walls were plate glass. The staircase to the hayloft was in this little room. We went up the narrow staircase. Jean flicked a switch and the lights turned on. There was a little window in the back of the barn and a dormer window on the side. Despite the fact that the dormer window had sash windows, it is probable that it was barely ever opened, because the window was very high up. The hole was still in the chimney from when there was a ceramics kiln. The hayloft door had different color paint splattered all over it on the inside. However, overall, the barn was quite nice and roomy.



In the hall, the paneling and brackets were painted white.

But the barn and the house were too much for Jean to handle. She sold the property to a developer in January. On Wednesday, April 22, the barn and all its history fell with a large crash. Upon looking out the window I saw the wrecked barn. It was a shuddering sight. The next day the 1964 addition of the house was knocked down. The day after that, the 1913 house came down. I hope that someday soon City of Kirkland wakes up and notices that leading examples of Kirkland's history like this barn and house are being destroyed.



The barn came down on April 22, while the house was demolished during the next two days.