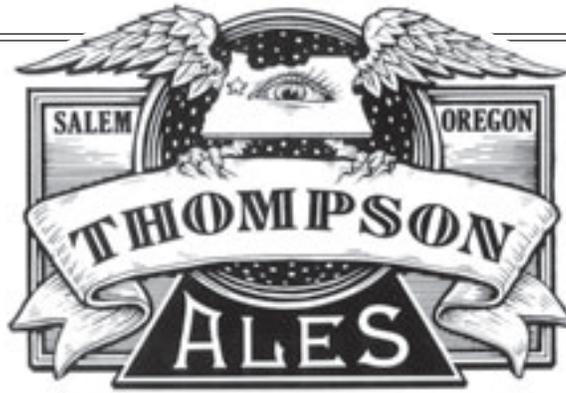


The Thompson Brewery and Public House is a remarkable place! These old walls have witnessed more than a century of colorful occupants, the remnants of which are still clearly visible throughout. From an early country home to a pre-school, and from quiet family gatherings to traditional German folk dancing, this comfortable old house has played host to many wondrous manifestations. We hope you'll enjoy your time here at Salem's first brewpub, take in a pint of fresh brewed ale, and spend a few moments to reflect upon the history and ghosts that reside within.



Heights neighborhood, a streetcar traveled from downtown Salem to Madrona Street, just a handful of paces from here.

Fred, the son, bought 20-acres east of Liberty Road and five on the west side, while Franklin purchased an adjoining five, including this spot. Soon after, they cleared some timber and constructed a barn, dividing it in half to create living space for the two families. Then Fred set about building two homes, first this one for his parents, and then another for his growing family.

The house was originally inhabited by Franklin and Maria Thompson, but it was their son Fred who motivated their move here. Following a stint in the Spanish American War, he visited an uncle living in the area and was struck by the beauty and opportunity of the Willamette Valley. Upon Fred's return home to Evansville in Douglas County, Minnesota, he spoke passionately of the West and convinced his parents to accompany him there. In 1902, Fred, his newly wed bride Ellen Swentson, and his parents made the trip to Marion County, eventually settling here in Salem Heights.

At the time this area was mainly timberland, largely scrub oak and fir, mixed with a number of emerging fruit orchards. What is now Liberty St. was South Commercial then, or "The Market Road to Eugene," a road constructed primarily of crushed rocks from a nearby quarry at Hidden Lakes. To service the quarry and emerging Salem

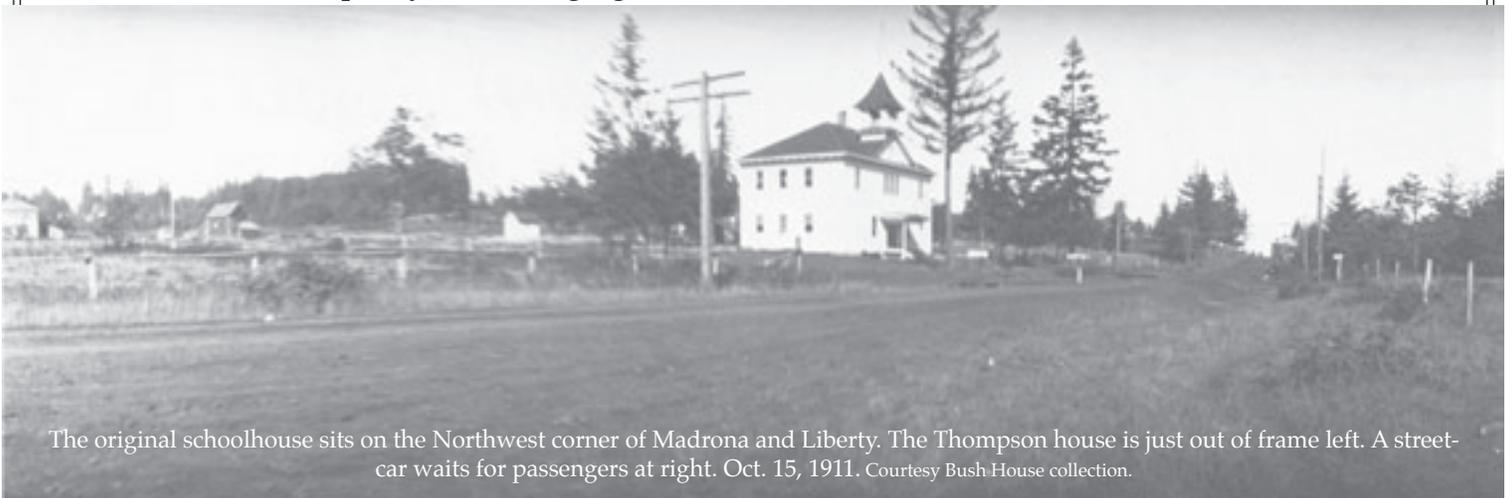
The Thompson families became prominent residents of the new suburb. Fred built the Salem Heights Store up the road and donated land for the cemetery, community center and school.



He was also instrumental in forming the Salem Heights School district. Franklin, an old farmer and Civil War veteran who had fought in some

of the decisive battles of the war, spent his retirement years in this house, surrounded by rolling countryside and ghostly images of the Confederate soldiers he had faced. At 81 years old, in November 1923, he passed on to join them.

When Maria died three years later, this house and the Salem Heights store were purchased by Jacob and Elva Fielder. The two lived here and ran the



The original schoolhouse sits on the Northwest corner of Madrona and Liberty. The Thompson house is just out of frame left. A streetcar waits for passengers at right. Oct. 15, 1911. Courtesy Bush House collection.

store until Jacob passed away in October 1933. Later residents of the house included Ralph C. Morton, Edward and Myrtle Cotman and Charles Knyrch. Through that string of occupants the house remained relatively unchanged. It wasn't until Jack and Lillian Beck acquired the house in 1963 that new uses were considered for the classic structure.

After offering the house as a rental for a few years, Jack decided to renovate the unique 60-year old Thompson house to accommodate his interior design business. Jack's "The House of Design" introduced this place to the commercial life, and it hasn't looked back since. After a decade as The House of Design, more recent incarnations include Crickett House Daycare, McNary Real Estate, the House of Hair Design and Ritzi Rags Used Clothing.



The Thompson house as The House of Design, 1965. Reprinted with permission of the Statesman Journal.

Each incarnation brought something a little different and altered the space slightly. A major refinement, though, came in early 1984 when a workaholic named Peter Niedbel took possession of the place. He and his wife Waltraut moved to Salem from Bavaria, discovered the house on Liberty St. and four months later opened Peter's Little Bavaria.

Peter shipped two 40-foot containers of tables, chairs, booths, hutches, paintings and mementos like mounted antlers, maps, and a bust of Ludwig, the Crown Prince of Bavaria, over from his Austrian ski lodge and bed & breakfast in the

Alps. His new Salem restaurant, not surprisingly, would feature authentic German, Austrian, Bavarian and American cuisine along with imported beers and spirits. The place opened in May 1984 to favorable press, bona fide German folk dancers and (at least) a tri-lingual staff.

McMenamins came upon the intriguing property more than fifteen years ago when its life as a Bavarian restaurant was coming to an end. We knew right away that the country home-turned-Old World eatery was a perfect roadside stopping-off point to create Salem's first brewpub—since prohibition that is. We inherited most of Peter's mementos (sadly, his impressive selection of schnapps was not one of them,) but we also knew that we wanted to introduce interesting new twists to transform the space.

And transform it we did. The house's footprint is basically unchanged from the time it was a home, but now the spirits of its previous occupants blend with fun new elements to create a uniquely divergent atmosphere. Old-world woodwork and relics mix with psychedelic posters, brewery, and McMenamins-inspired ephemera to create a number of incongruous and interesting settings—all of which offer fertile ground for conversation.

Since reopening as the Thompson Brewery and Public House, it has attracted lots of families and a stream of people from all walks—lawyers, teachers, college students, ministers, and, when in session, a number of Oregon legislatures. Recent sightings include Speaker of the House Karen Minnis, Oregon GOP chairman Kevin Mannix and former state Treasurer Jim Hill. A few years back, Governors Barbara Roberts and John Kitzhaber were visible regulars as well.

Let's raise a glass and offer cheers to this century-plus old house, the occupants that have added their spirits over the years and the employees and customers who have contributed to—and will continue to contribute—the house's great personality!