

Friends of Price House - May 2011

By Effie McDermott, President

Friends of Price House was established 19 years ago. It is the organization entrusted by the City of Pismo Beach to lead restoration and preservation efforts at Price Historical Park. Formed in 1992 by city parks commissioners, city employees and a corps of supporting volunteers, FOPH now has a six-member board of directors and close to 150 annually renewing members.

When FOPH took over restoration of it, the now 118-years-old Price Anniversary House was in such poor condition it would have otherwise been demolished or used as a controlled burn for firefighting practice, as has been the fate of a number of other historic residences in the city. It was black from having lost all traces of paint, the roof was a shambles, the porches had fallen off, and the foundation was tottering. Not to mention the vandalism. There was no street to it and the dirt road used to get there was impassable in winter.



The Price Anniversary House was built in 1893. It is shown here in 1986 and 2010.

Volunteers and donors are bringing it back to its former glory. It is now recognized as a registered historical landmark. FOPH replaced the foundation, roof and electrical wiring, repaired the siding, rebuilt the porches, rehabilitated the interior walls and planted an orchard. The old windmill waters the orchard. The new paint is in bright Victorian colors to show off its intricate trim. It looks to the unknowing observer like a darling old farm house that never had a day of neglect.

FOPH has also relocated the historic Meherin House to the site and is working with the city to certify a new master plan to bring water and landscaping to the grounds. Restoration continues with plans this year to reconstruct the intricate mirrored fireplace mantle and replicate the intricate Victorian roof cresting which was enjoyed by the Price family when they lived there.

Your donations and memberships are greatly appreciated. For tours and information call Effie McDermott at 773-4854 or log on to www.pricepark.org.