



CLASSIC RIVER FRONT

Steiner Log Home



JEAN ICE

Oregon Principal Broker

ERA Freeman & Associates, Realtors

503-319-1110

jean@eraglobal.com

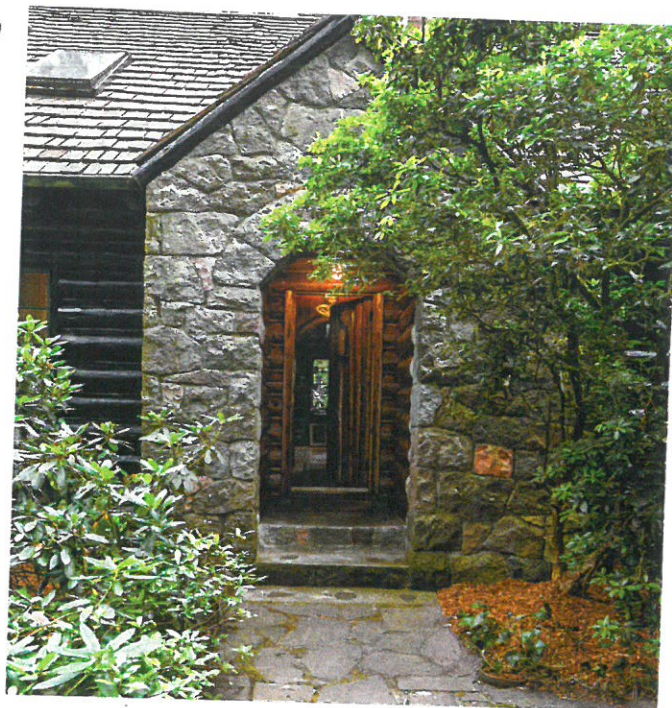


28408 E HISTORIC COLUMBIA RIVER HWY

TROUTDALE, OR 97060

A Brief History

by Sharon Nesbit, Historian



If there was any doubt as to who built his beautiful log house, owner John Urquhart was convinced about 20 years ago when a woman accompanied by an elderly man stopped by asking to look at the log home on the Sandy River near Troutdale. The gentleman was John Steiner, son of Henry Steiner, brother of Fred Steiner, the family that built more than 100 rustic log houses in Oregon from 1925-1952. Steiner cabins are cherished Oregon landmarks.

Most Steiner cabins are on Mt. Hood, but the family came to the Sandy River in 1939 to build a log home for the Hoyez family. Hoyez, a real estate developer in Southeast Portland, created the Montrose subdivision along the Sandy River, named for the Montrose entertainment and dance park that was once located there.

The Hoyez log home, started in 1939 and finished in 1940, was made of timber cut at high elevation with narrow growth rings so it was strong wood. The trees were barked and cold-decked to cure and each log placed so the cracks would not catch water that would cause rot.

Henry Steiner was a master craftsman raised in Germany. He helped build the famed Forestry Building for the Lewis and Clark Exposition in 1905 and worked on the Timberline Lodge. He searched his sites for twisted logs and other quirky wooden pieces to decorate his homes. His sons learned all these skills and more, specializing in stones and mortar. The fireplace stones of this house were gathered on the White River. John Steiner, on the day of his visit, told Urquhart that he was not surprised that the stone front porch pulled away from the house, saying "it should have been wet-packed."

This three-story house has a log bridge across the living room, a specialty of the Steiners who build a similar bridge in a house on the mountain. Look closely at the front door with its peekaboo window, and the back door, with the same window. The builders split the log to create both doors.

John Urquhart and his late wife, Pat, came home hunting from Boise, Idaho, more than 30 years ago. Seeing a for sale sign on their way to Dodge Park for a picnic, they inquired, inspected the "as-is" situation of the deteriorating house and agreed to take it on; offering half the price requested. Urquhart has replaced rotting logs on the ground floor, reinforced the stone entry and admits he has learned to be an expert in matching stains used on logs and cabinets.

His children, John and Anna, 8 and 9 at the time of the move, enjoyed jumping off the log bridge. "Let's just say we went through seven or eight couches," he says. In the spring, the woods approaching the house are filled with rhododendrons, most planted by John Urquhart.



