

UPSTAIRS NORTH BEDROOM - The marble top dresser is a delight to the brides being married in the Settlemier House. They have a full view of themselves, before descending the curving stairway to their waiting groom. It was donated by Judge and Mrs. Edward Howell. An oak washstand and dresser drawers are also on display and were donated by Settlemier descendants. There are also lovely examples of men's, women's and children's clothing from the late 1800's and 1900's in all the bedroom closets. The sleeping porch has been restored and serves as a dressing area for groomsman.

UPSTAIRS BATHROOM - Quite a modern feature of the day - a shower! Notice the small tub - probably used for soaking or a foot bath. A fine way to conserve water.

MASTER BEDROOM & SITTING ROOM - A wonderful three piece bedroom set including bed, nightstand and dresser graces the master bedroom. These rooms have recently been painted and wallpapered with a wide floral border reminiscent of the first of four layers of wallpaper found on the walls. The original fir floor was repaired and refinished. A generous donation in 2004 of white wicker furniture completes the refreshed look. Notice the white wicker pram carriage with umbrella for infants.

Thank you for coming!

For information on renting the house for weddings or other special occasions you may call (503) 982-1897. (Please clearly leave your name, number, and message)

To schedule a group tour please call
Cindy Thomas' cell phone at (503) 481-5401.

The house is open to the public on the first Sunday of each month from 1-4 pm.

Adults: \$5.00 Youth 12-18: \$3.00
Children under 12 free with an Adult

The French Prairie Historical Society would be happy to welcome you as a member or volunteer. Please ask for a donation envelope from one of our volunteer-members.

\$20 per year for Individuals...\$30 per year for Families

Welcome to The Settlemier House !



This 12 room home with over 5,000 square feet was built at a cost of about \$10,000 in the fall of 1891 for Jesse H. Settlemier, founder of the city of Woodburn. The family moved in New Year's Day, 1892.

Born in Alton, Illinois in 1840, Jesse came west with his parents in 1849, over the Old Oregon Wagon Trail. News of the California Gold Strike turned the immigrants south to Sacramento. Not liking it there, they soon took passage on a sailing ship to Oregon. His father, George Settlemier, was a nurseryman and soon filed on a land grant, now occupied by a portion of Mt. Angel. At 19, Jesse with two of his brothers, William and Henry, started a nursery near Tangent, Oregon.

In Dec.1862, Jesse married Eleanor C. Cochran. He was 22, she was 14. Jesse was ambitious and wanted his own business. In March of 1863 Jesse bought a 214 acre tract for \$5 per acre at a sheriff's sale and moved into a log cabin near where the Settlemier House now stands. He started Woodburn Nursery which developed into one of the largest on the west coast..

As his business grew, he felt more and more the need for a town. He platted the first 4 blocks of what is now downtown Woodburn in 1871. He gave a lot to anyone who would build upon it. The railroads were building west, but were going to miss the town by several miles. In the meantime, he had bought more land. He gave 50 acres to Southern Pacific and 35 acres to California-Oregon, to persuade them to build the railroad through 'his' town.

As the town grew he named it Woodburn and was elected it's first mayor, president of the first bank. He also served two terms in the Oregon Legislature.

Jesse and Eleanor had six daughters - Nettie, Ada, Elsie (or Eliza as listed in a genealogy report), Emma, Della, Jessie Eleanor and one son Frank. Sadly, Eleanor died in 1879. A year later, Jesse married Clara S. Gray. Six weeks later, she died of typhoid fever. Jesse later married Mary C. Woodworth. They had a son, Jesse, Jr.

When Jesse retired from the nursery business, Frank took over the nursery operations in 1892. Later, Jesse and Mary moved to property in Portland. Frank and his wife Mabel moved into the family home and remodeled the interior of the home, installing electricity and modern plumbing. You may see and compare the original floor plan with Frank's remodel plan in the office upstairs. Today, the mixture of Victorian and Craftsman architecture and design shows the tastes of these time periods.

Jesse died in 1913 at age 73. The town honored Mr. J.H. Settlemier with a grand funeral procession through 'his' town. He was laid to rest at Belle Passi Cemetery south of town. Frank carried on with the nursery business until his death in 1951. His wife Mabel died a few years before. Frank and Mabel had no children, so the home and property was sold to Kilian and Hazel Smith. In 1972, Hazel, now a widow, put the place up for sale. Many concerned citizens, realizing the historical value of the Settlemier House to the city of Woodburn, formed The French Prairie Historical Society, a non-profit organization and purchased it to preserve and maintain it for the pleasure and education of future generations. Hazel generously cancelled the last \$10,000 of the mortgage. Today Society members continue to work to restore and maintain this "grand home of Marion County."

TOUR OF THE HOME

The Society presents a livable home of the Victorian-Craftsman era. Brilliantly rendered in symbolic fretwork, arches and cupolas, Settlemier House is, perhaps, our best and last chance to preserve the historical heritage it represents. It is filled with furniture and artifacts of its period, some purchased, most donated to the Society.

FRONT PORCH - In the Queen Anne style, curved railing and scroll work are all excellent examples of Victorian period architecture. Note the floor boards, wider at one end than the other.

FRONT ENTRY - The entire hall is a glowing example of woodworking in the early years using many different kinds of woods. The curved stairway, the fluting, the panelling, all denote first class work. Notice the visitor's closet and the curved window - all indications of wealth. The woodwork was recently stripped and refinished after years of paint accumulation and the wallpaper was replaced with a similar pattern to the original paper.

PARLOUR - The organ is more than 100 years old and still playable. Note the rolled cushions in the sofa and chairs. When ladies wore bustles, before seating themselves, they would drape the bustle, to prevent crushing it, across the cushion. The wall clock, known to jewelers as a regulator, has a pendulum, weighted with mercury for better accuracy.

SITTING ROOM - The Parlour was for the ladies to socialize and the sitting room was for the men. A door to the porch makes it convenient for the smokers. Jesse and Frank's pictures hang above this grand piano which is over 150 years old and still played on special occasions.

DINING ROOM - The solid oak dining table and five surrounding chairs represent some of the remaining Settlemier articles in the house. The built-in 'china' cabinet is a beautiful example of the Craftsman style of cabinetry and features hidden drawers beneath the shelves. Note the tall wainscoting and columns with wood inlays in this room with a signature keystone at the top of the beam by Architect William Knighton. The french doors and portico were all added during Frank's remodel early in the 1900's.

WORKING KITCHEN - It was originally a pantry. Remodeled in the 1950's when the Smith family lived here, it serves as a "modern" kitchen for the special events and rentals that occur at the house. Note the doorbell monitor mounted on the wall which would indicate what doorbell was ringing!

ORIGINAL KITCHEN - Such a wonderful array of things from long ago. Many of our visitors enjoy lingering here, remembering things at Grandma's house. Can you identify all the kitchen gadgets?

MAIN FLOOR HALL - The restroom is not to be used. Once upon a time water flowed by gravity from a tank in the attic. Thomas Jefferson invented the dumb waiter that you may see by lifting the upsliding door across from the hall toilet. You must hold it up or it will come down! The Settlemiers used it to lift wood to the fireplaces.

BASEMENT - Here is the huge boiler, capable of operating a small factory, two woodlifts, and many artifacts from days gone by. The furnace could burn wood, sawdust, and coal, but is no longer operational. A gas furnace serves to heat the home now. The kitchen was constructed to provide additional space for cooking, storing and preparing for any special occasions that are celebrated at the house. Pantry cabinet bins from the upstairs have been re-used in this area. Public restrooms are near the back door.

ATTIC - The Society uses the attic for storage and due to the fire and health codes, is not open to the public.

UPSTAIRS SOUTHWEST BEDROOM - This room has been repainted and serves to show some of the 'office' and men's items of the day. Some of the letters sent to the Settlemiers are on display. On the east wall are two awards from the Lewis and Clark Exposition to the Settlemier Nursery, one for rye and one for forest products.

UPSTAIRS NORTHWEST BEDROOM - This room features many items that would be found in a child's room, complete with a rope bed.