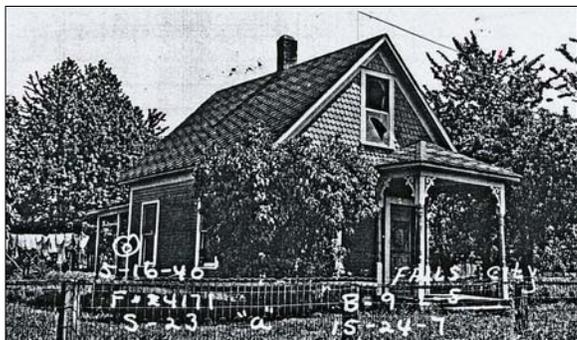




FALL CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Local owner for Ronnei-Raum House

You may remember from last year that this 1904 cottage, owned for many years by the Masonic Lodge next door, was purchased by Historic Seattle for renovation and resale. Their banner was put up on the porch this spring and plans to rehabilitate the house were well underway when an unexpected — yet welcomed — change in plans resulted in the sale of the

Ronnei-Raum House at the end of July, in advance of its completed restoration. Fall City resident Britton Shepard was excited by the project and made an offer to purchase it and finish the restoration project. Sale proceeds will be reinvested into the Preservation Action Fund for the next project.

It is great for Fall City to have a local owner for this property. About Britton's plans for use, he said, "The goals that we have for the house don't include selling it. In a sense this is a professional undertaking, one that will allow me to continue to work locally and further invest in this community."

Read on to learn more about Britton Shepard, and the agreement he has undertaken to restore the cottage. (Information excerpted from the August 2020 Historic Seattle eNews.) To see the full article, go to:

historicseattle.org/britton-and-rachel-shepard-the-ronnei-raum-house/

As part of the terms of the sale, Historic Seattle will hold a preservation easement on the property indefinitely. An easement is a tool used to protect a historic resource requiring that current and future owners maintain their property in a way that reflects its historic significance. "We are willing to make the commitment to the [easement] 'obligation' because it fits into family plans of being rooted here. Also, the guidelines align perfectly with my own set of values so that I'm actually coming to the same conclusions about how to approach this project," said Britton.

Britton also has plenty of experience restoring old houses. Prior to moving to Fall City, he and his wife, Rachel, owned a 1904 home (the same vintage as the Ronnei-Raum House) in Georgetown. "We put a lot of work into that house to make it happy again. Then, when we moved to Fall City 15 years ago, we were committed to the idea of recycling a farmhouse – a labor of love that is not just about the house and its setting, but also about the lives lived there," said Britton. Rachel, in fact, grew up in Fall City. "Ten years ago when our son started kindergarten, he did so in the same classroom where she went to kindergarten! Moving out here was a bit of a discovery for me, but it turns out that the character of the neighborhood, the scale of the houses, the open fields with no sidewalks, was similar to the neighborhood where I grew up in Boulder, Colorado. So, I instantly felt at home here."



New owner, Britton Shepard