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New sign welcomes visitors to Caples complex

BY AMANDA FRINK **Mar 25, 2015**



Fundraisers and donations helped the Daughters of the American Revolution purchase the new sign that now graces the Caples House Museum property in Columbia City.

AMANDA FRINK photo

Since the Caples House Museum Complex reopened to tours earlier this month, visitors will likely find the attraction with ease thanks to new signage installed at the corner of Second and Main streets in Columbia City.

According to Caples Buildings and Grounds Committee Chair Diane Wheatley, the museum needed more prominent signage for some time, since visitors often have to stop and ask for directions at the city hall.

“We’ve already had so many compliments, because when people come into Columbia City, they didn’t know the museum was there,” Wheatley explains. “We’ve always felt we needed a big sign and it took a long time.”

The property, which is owned by the Oregon State Society Daughters of the American Revolution (OSSDAR), overlooks the Columbia River and features the 1870 Caples family home, a tool shed with old tools and artifacts, the Children’s Attic with antique toys and dolls, and the Knapp Smith Center, a popular venue for birthdays, weddings, memorials and other gatherings. The Caples family donated the property to OSSDAR in 1959.

After raising over \$7,000 through fundraisers and donations, a couple weeks ago OSSDAR was finally able to install a large new sign that is easily visible from the street.

Designed by Cliff Bryson, the sign appears to be made from wood, but Wheatley says it’s actually a special product that has been sandblasted to create the handcrafted look.

Wheatley says the new addition is timely since the property re-opened for its seasonal guided tours on March 1.

“We’re very proud of it,” she says. “It’s a big addition. That one should last us a hundred years.”

OSSDAR’s other current projects include turning the Caples garage into a welcome center, dedicating the annex this spring, and a fundraising campaign for a project that would address settling issues within the museum building.

For more information about the Caples House Museum Complex, call the caretaker at 503-397-5390 or log onto www.capleshouse.com. Guided tours at the complex are available for \$4 per person through October.