

# PASADENA STAR-NEWS

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LOCAL

PASADENA STAR-NEWS **A3**

## Merrill House tours scheduled

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**PASADENA** — Before restoration starts on the Merrill House, considered one of the finest small homes ever built by architects Charles and Henry Greene, Pasadena Heritage is offering tours of the 1909 bungalow Saturday.

"This is a chance for people to see the Merrill House in its 'before' condition, and hear about the challenges we're facing to take the best care we can of this unique historic property," said Sue Mossman, execu-

tive director of the preservation group.

Mossman said the Craftsman house on the 1200 block of Summit Avenue will undergo a thorough analysis before work starts, and Pasadena Heritage has applied for grants from various private foundations, including the Getty, to fund the study.

"This is quite different from one of the simpler rehabilitation projects we've done," Mossman said. "We want to take the most care of our limited dollars and stretch them as far as possible. Planning and preparation are nine-tenths of the game —

the execution is the finishing touch."

The Greene & Greene house, which survived decades of neglect and a stint as a neighborhood crack house, was bought in December for \$40,000 — \$95,000 under its appraised price — in an agreement with Washington Mutual. The home becomes the third in Northwest Pasadena to be rehabbed as part of a homeownership program for first-time low- to moderate-income buyers that includes Pasadena Heritage and the city.

The 1,800-square-foot house, complete with a later Greene & Greene-built sleeping porch,

was built for Samuel Merrill, a conservationist and friend of John Muir. Merrill lived there for 40 years.

When he toured the house in December, Ted Bosley, director of the Gamble House, called it a "minor miracle" that so many of the home's original features remain, including lighting fixtures, art glass, built-ins and even the original wooden attic vent.

"People are very enthusiastic about the project, starting with the neighbors who first drew it to our attention," Mossman said. "There's been interest from preservationists from

the state and beyond."

Mossman said she hopes the house will be ready for sale by the end of the year.

"It's our goal to have someone in it as soon as possible," she said. "That's what it needs, someone living in it and loving it."

There are about 30 places left on the 9 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. tour schedule; tickets are \$12, with proceeds to benefit the project. The tours will be led by architects Peyton Hall, Bill Ellinger and Elizabeth Neaves, who specialize in restoration projects. For reservations, call (626) 441-6333.