

702 N Main Street Coupeville, Washington

John & Jane Kineth House

John Kineth was born in Bavaria in 1828. He came to America at age ten with his parents and settled in Illinois. He then joined a troop of emigrants and crossed the plains in 1849, settling in the Oregon territory. He was a harness maker for many years, earning ten to fifteen dollars a day.

Jane M. Carter was born in 1835 in Ohio. She crossed the plains with her parents when she was thirteen. Her father, Thomas Carter, was a direct descendant of Mayflower pilgrim Robert Carter. The family settled in Portland, Oregon when there were only five houses there.

The Kineth family farmed on Smith Prairie and built a farm house in 1866. They had the first double team in the neighborhood and the family prospered by marketing their grain and livestock in Victoria and other places.

In 1887, John and Jane bought a tract of land in town from A.D. Blowers and built a home for retirement. Minerva Carter, Jane's Mother, lived with them. Howard Lovejoy built the house in an elegant Italianate style, set on the main street where it was visible with tall vertical bays, decorated frieze and carved brackets under the eaves. The home was built with diagonal bracing, all hand sawn from trees on the Island. The original fireplace of marbleized stone, wide plank floors, 11-foot ceilings and the 1898 pump organ, transport one immediately to another world of long ago.

1887 – Howard Lovejoy built the house for John & Jane Kineth on a tract of land the Kineths purchased from A.D. Blowers. The house was built as a retirement home for the Kineth family in an elegant Italianate style, set on the main street where it was visible with tall vertical bays, decorated frieze and over 60 ornate carved corbels.



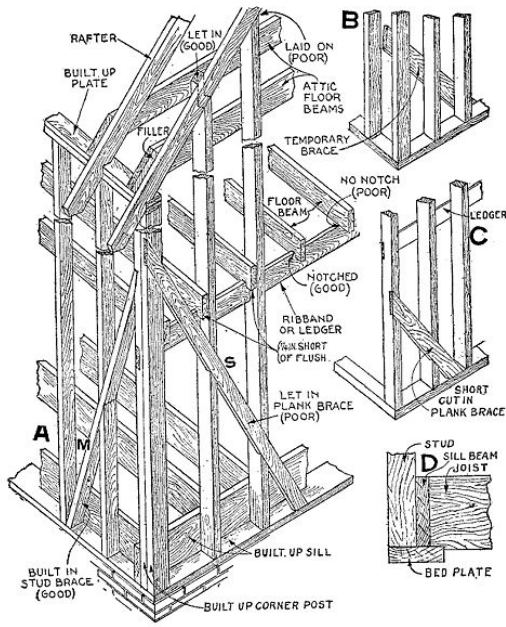


Illustration of the balloon framing construction technique

The construction was done with balloon framing (or “Chicago construction”) with diagonal bracing. This technique uses long, continuous framing members (studs) that run from the sill plate all the way to the top plate. The lumber was all hand sawn fir from trees on the Island.

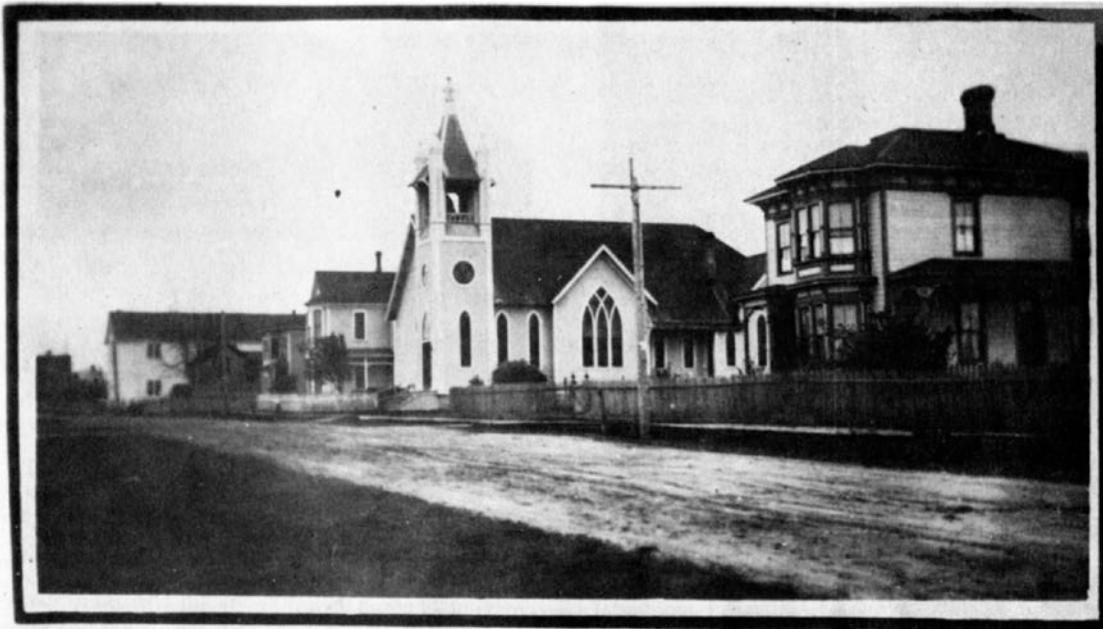
The house maintains the original fireplace of marbleized stone, wide plank floors, 13-foot ceilings, a 1898 Kimball pump organ, and many period antique furnishings that transport one immediately to another world of long ago.

Many of the historic light fixtures and chandeliers in the home were installed as *dual-fuel* lights with one section running on acetylene gas and the other on electricity. Before 1939, electricity service in Coupeville was limited to about 8 hours/day through the local generator co-op.

As the home was originally built, it included one water closet with hot and cold running water, a claw-foot tub, and a toilet with Thomas Crapper’s patented valve and siphon design, which was considered quite modern for the time and said to be the first home in Coupeville with indoor toilet and with electricity. The original tub and vanity are still in use today.



Pen & Ink drawing from the Franklin & Bertha Stidham family who lived here from 1937 – 1941



Historic photo showing Kineth house with picket fence and the Methodist Church with some early utility poles and a dirt street (probably between 1940 and 1960)

An image of the Kineth house in Coupeville was also featured in several books that show a compilation of historic Victorian homes. One book is called ***Daughters of the Painted Ladies: America's Resplendent Victorians***, by Elizabeth Pomada with photography by Douglas Keister (1987), pp102-103. Another book is ***Beautiful America's Northwest Victorians*** by Kenneth Naversen, pp25 & 45.

If the style of the Kineth house looks familiar to you, it is possible you've seen some other homes built as variations of the same basic design. The Dr. H.R. Keylor home in Walla Walla (below) is another example of the architectural style and floor plan.



Other earlier examples can be found in cities such as San Francisco with very similar designs going back to 1872.