

SPRING 2007



## Port Townsend's City Hall Restoration Links Past and Future

By William Tennent, Jefferson County Historical Society Director

IN A MODEL OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE COOPERATION, THE CITY OF PORT TOWNSEND AND THE JEFFERSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY (JCHS) JOINED FORCES TO SAVE AND REVITALIZE PORT TOWNSEND'S HISTORIC CITY HALL BUILDING, A NEARLY TWO-YEAR PROJECT THAT WAS COMPLETED LAST NOVEMBER WITH THE HELP OF GRANTS AND PRIVATE DONATIONS. While the JCHS undertook restoration of the old building, the City built a new, architecturally appropriate wing to house city offices. The enterprise is the town's most significant recent preservation project, and in a town that prides itself on historic preservation, that's a significant feat.

Since the day construction of the city hall was completed in 1892—having cost two and a half times more than its architects, Batwell and Patrick, had bid—the building was in need of some repair. Over the years, lack of maintenance, weather, earthquakes, and well-meaning attempts at restoration only added to the building's problems. In 1945 a major wind-storm so damaged the roof that two years later the top floor was removed to create a stronger, flat profile.

Eventually, city staff and operations outgrew the Victorian structure. In 1951, the Jefferson County Historical Society moved in and was granted a 99-year lease for a portion of the vacated space, where it opened a museum in celebration of Port Townsend's centennial anniversary. But the building continued to quietly deteriorate, with parts of the ceiling falling onto the museum's displays. By the turn of the 21st century, it was obvious that drastic measures were needed if the building was to survive.

The City assumed responsibility for seismic retrofitting, health and safety issues, and most exterior work. The JCHS tackled the interior restoration and provided quality control. The group also created a Capital Campaign Committee to raise funds and a Facilities Committee to work with the City, architects and contractors to assure adherence to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation.

Hundreds of citizens rallied to the cause: Private donations were often made in memory of loved ones or to named rooms, while groups such as Save America's Treasures, the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Murdock Trust provided major grants. The Capital Campaign Committee raised nearly \$2 million for the project, which included moving the Historical Society's archives into a new research center.

Construction and restoration began in January 2005 and was completed last November, when the restored City Hall made its official debut with a ribbon-cutting ceremony, gala celebration and open house. The building now stands as the focal point of this National Landmark Historic District, housing the oldest active city council chamber in the state as well as the county museum. Thus, it is the one place where we come together to chart our town's future and remind ourselves of its past.

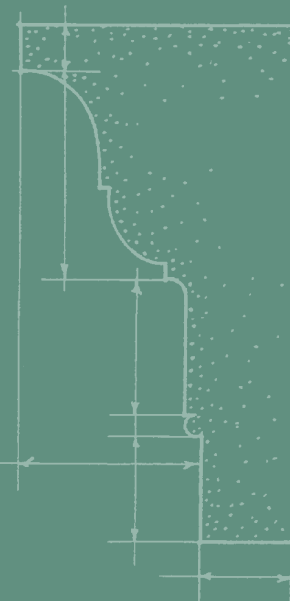


*Top: City Hall during restoration; the 1892 building anchors the National Landmark Historic District. Bottom: The restored City Council Chamber, the oldest active chamber in the state. (Courtesy of Jefferson County Historical Museum)*

*Above left: The Jefferson County Courthouse*

### In This Issue...

- SPECIAL SECTION:  
WASHINGTON TRUST'S  
2006 ANNUAL REPORT
- 2007 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE
- SPOTLIGHTING WATERVILLE
- FIRST UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH OF TACOMA LOST
- SEVEN PROPERTIES  
APPROVED FOR  
WASHINGTON HERITAGE  
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# Your Trust in Action

## From the Director's Desk



GREETINGS TO ALL WASHINGTON TRUST MEMBERS AND FRIENDS. With great admiration and appreciation, I open this issue of *Trust News* by bidding farewell to our long-time editor, Hollis Palmer. Hollis began editing *Trust News*

in 1998. Her creativity, enthusiasm, keen eye, ongoing quest to sleuth out a good story, and perseverance (!) helped transform *Trust News* into the timely, informative, and professional publication that we take pride in distributing to you. We thank Hollis for her many contributions to the Washington Trust over the years, from her tenure on the Board of Directors from 1997 to 2001, to her dedication as our first general manager of the Stimson-Green Mansion from 2001 to 2003. We will miss Hollis and wish her continued success in her exciting new position as Director of Events & Marketing at Seattle Arts & Lectures.

It is also my pleasure to introduce our new *Trust News* editor, freelance writer and editor Niki Stojnic. Niki has been researching people, places and issues in Seattle—from innovative entrepreneurs to urban trends—since 2000. She contributes regularly to a variety of local publications, such as *Seattle Business Monthly*, *Seattle*, *Washington Law & Politics* and *Northwest Home + Garden*. She is currently hard at work editing our updated version of *Washington: A Guide to the Evergreen State*, which will be published as an interactive digital guide later this spring. Welcome Niki!

### 2007 Legislative Update

It's a new year, new Washington state legislative session, and new Congress! I'm delighted to report on the Washington Trust's 2007 legislative agenda, which builds directly on our ongoing efforts to advocate for increased funding for preservation programs and projects at the national, state, and local levels. At the time of this writing, we are gearing up to send 13 grassroots preservation advocates to Washington, DC to participate in National Preservation Lobby Day. Topping the legislative agenda again this year will be requests for:

- passage of the Community Restoration and Revitalization Act
- \$50 million in funding for the State Historic Preservation Offices
- \$30 million for the Save America's Treasures grant program
- \$10 million for the Preserve America grants program

At the state level, our Historic County Courthouse Rehabilitation Grant Program is winding its way

through the capital budget process. We are thrilled that Governor Gregoire included \$5 million in her 2007–2009 budget to continue this extraordinarily successful program. With close to \$100 million in identified need, we are appealing to legislators to increase this allocation.

In 2006, the Washington Trust included historic barns on its annual list of Washington's Most Endangered Historic Properties. This first-ever thematic nomination recognized that heritage barns are essential symbols of Washington's history and culture, yet changes in the agricultural economy and farming technologies, prohibitive rehabilitation costs, development pressures and regulations restricting new uses collectively work to threaten these structures. Few resources are available to help barn owners support preservation efforts.

Thanks to the vision and leadership of King County Council members Kathy Lambert, Jane Hague, and Reagan Dunn, the Council included \$50,000 in its 2007 budget to fund a barn preservation program in King County. This will enable the county to establish a partnership with the National Barn Alliance that includes participation in a pilot project for a national barn survey, develop a model grant program for barn stabilization grants, and develop an advocacy network of folks who support barn preservation statewide. King County Historic Preservation Officer Julie Koler and Cultural Resources Consultant and barn enthusiast Holly Taylor were instrumental in getting this program started and in helping the Washington Trust move historic barns to the forefront of our state legislative efforts.

We further set our sights on bringing attention to historic barns throughout the state. Early in the legislative session, state Sen. Ken Jacobsen (D-Seattle), a Washington Trust board member, introduced Senate Bill 5542, co-sponsored by five other senators, which would create a statewide Heritage Barn Preservation Program. This establishes a heritage barn recognition program, provides matching funds to stabilize and rehabilitate historic barns in exchange for a public benefit, and establishes a heritage barn advisory committee to assess the long-term needs for barn preservation and explore other incentives for barn preservation and rehabilitation.

Shortly after the Senate bill was introduced, state Rep. Daniel Newhouse (R-Sunnyside) introduced a companion bill in the House of Representatives. HB 2115 was co-sponsored by sixteen representatives, with Rep. Patricia Lantz (D-Gig Harbor), co-chair of the Washington State Heritage Caucus, leading the charge for supporters!

*Continued on next page*

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## Hello, Goodbye: Washington Trust Board News

THE WASHINGTON TRUST RECENTLY ELECTED TWO NEW MEMBERS TO OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS, MICHAEL JENKINS AND GINGER WILCOX, BOTH OF SEATTLE. WE'VE LEFT IT TO THEM TO TELL THEIR STORIES BELOW.

In addition, the Trust said goodbye to two longtime board members, Mary Thompson and Eugenia Woo, whose contributions to this organization could take up an entire newsletter and then some. There is no possible way for us to adequately thank them for all they have done for our organization other than to say that the Trust would not be where it is today without their tireless efforts and unflagging support.



### Michael Jenkins

I am a Senior Land Use Planner with the City of Seattle. I became interested in Historic Preservation going back to my studies in history of architecture during undergraduate work at Portland State University. Following graduation, I served for a number of years as a docent with the California Historical Society in San Francisco, where I gave tours of the Whittier Mansion, then the headquarters of the Society. The Mansion was my first exposure to historic properties that served both as a home for historic preservation activities as well as a tool for educational outreach on preservation.

I continued my interest in preservation during my masters program in urban planning, where I specialized in both planning for the built environment and urban design. Following graduate school, I worked in a number of local jurisdictions, including the cities of SeaTac and Tukwila. Since joining the Department of Planning and Development (DPD) in 2000, I have been involved in numerous projects concerning existing landmark structures and structures in historic districts; along with developing expertise in the City's Design Review program and large scale project work, including Amgen, Olympic Sculpture Park and the redevelopment of High Point. I am particularly proud of leading DPD's efforts towards saving The Cadillac Hotel from demolition following the Nisqually Earthquake. I am looking forward to my involvement with the board and hope to complement the tremendous skills and abilities of my fellow members.



### Ginger Wilcox

I grew up in Alexandria, VA, after having been born in New York and living in Paris for two years. However, I spent a lot of time in Brooklyn Heights, New York City's first historic district, where my grandparents lived. I focused my educational pursuits first on art history at Vassar College and then on early childhood education at George Washington University. After working at the Corcoran Gallery in Washington, D.C. and the Seattle Art Museum,

I became interested in preservation during my time on staff with the Seattle Design Commission (1978-86). Responsible for design review on all projects with City funding, the commission was involved from the planning stages through the preparation of construction documents and the selection of design teams. Sharing offices with the historic preservation staff, I was charged with finding a full set of drawings for Seattle's Olmsted parks and wound up at Fairsted in Brookline, Mass. to get the missing ones copied. In the later 1980s, I also got involved with the drive to save the Ft. Lawton historic district in Discovery Park.

I have been serving on the Seattle Landmarks Preservation Board for the past six years, with three years as chair. Although I am newly elected to the Washington Trust Board, I'm not new to the Trust. In addition to being a past board member, I also served as part-time staff for three years. During my tenure, I produced three

conferences and award programs, organized board meetings around the state, wrote and edited the newsletter, ran the "10 Most Endangered Properties" program, and tried to raise money with "Dine Out for Preservation" and annual receptions at the Governor's Mansion. For the past three years, I have participated in the annual Lobby Day activities in Washington, D.C. My current volunteer work also includes serving on the Colonial Dames' Historic Preservation Committee, which is charged with starting its first grants program. With \$15,000 available for the first year, we will begin with invitation-only applications. I am also a past trustee of the Seattle Architectural Foundation.

### DIRECTOR'S DESK—Continued from previous page

At the time of this writing, both bills continue to move forward. If you would like to review the bills in their entirety, or track their progress, please visit the state Legislature homepage at [www.leg.wa.gov/legislature/](http://www.leg.wa.gov/legislature/), click on Bill Search and enter the four-digit bill number. If you have a moment, check to see if your senator or representative supported their respective bills: If so, please consider contacting him or her to offer your thanks. If not, please ask for their support. The fate of our irreplaceable heritage barns and the opportunity to preserve working landscapes and rural community identity may depend on it! Be sure to look for updates and articles on all of our legislative issues on our website and in upcoming issues of *Trust News*.

Jennifer Meisner, Executive Director  
[jmeisner@wa-trust.org](mailto:jmeisner@wa-trust.org)

### Dear Readers,

AFTER THE BETTER PART OF EIGHT YEARS, I'VE "RESIGNED MY COMMISSION" AS EDITOR OF THE *TRUST NEWS*. The Winter '06 issue was my last, but I couldn't leave these pages without bidding you adieu and thanking you for your interest and attention. What fun it has been gallivanting around the state, reporting on the doings of the Washington Trust and other dedicated preservationists. The organization has come so far and achieved so much during that time—and the various incarnations of the newsletter prove it!

Your new editor Niki Stojnic, the Washington Trust staff and board, and the membership are poised for even greater growth. I look forward, as I'm sure you do, to more "good reads" and all the latest on good folks fighting the good fight for preservation statewide, as reported in the *Trust News*.

Yours, Hollis Palmer



### Where in WA Is Your Trust?

CONGRATULATIONS TO KELSEY DONCASTER OF YAKIMA WHO WAS THE FIRST TO EMAIL THE CORRECT LOCATION AND HISTORIC RESOURCE PICTURED WITH TRUST FIELD DIRECTOR CHRIS MOORE IN THE WINTER 2006 ISSUE. Says Kelsey, "I believe that Chris is leaning against Sam Hill's Stonehenge in Maryhill, Washington overlooking the Columbia River." Trust

board member Tom Bassett was a close second with his correct answer. For more information about Sam Hill's Stonehenge, visit the Maryhill Museum of Art website at [www.maryhillmuseum.org](http://www.maryhillmuseum.org).

This issue, we again invite our readers to test their knowledge of our state's historic geography by guessing where Trust Program Associate Cathy Wickwire is standing. Email us at [info@wa-trust.org](mailto:info@wa-trust.org) with the location featured in the photo. The first five readers with correct answers will receive a token of our esteem.

# Around the STATE

## Wow! Waterville

By Hollis Palmer, Seattle



three-story brick and half-timbered Tudor Revival structure unlike anything else in the town of Waterville. The place was lived in, but hadn't been operated as a hotel since 1975. Dave figured it should be—and why not by him? He stayed for considerably more than a day, looking for and finding a life experience and new horizons. He bought the State and National Historic Register-listed property and spent two years knocking down walls, reconfiguring spaces, insulating, re-plastering, rewiring, re-plumbing, and generally restoring the hotel's exterior and interior up through the second floor.

The Waterville Hotel, which boasted 33 rooms in 1903, reopened its doors and ten rooms to travelers in 1996. By 1999, the hotel had garnered the Washington State Historic Preservation Award for Outstanding Achievement, but no single style or period predominates. Dave and partner Amy have gone for “stately,” “eclectic,” and “golden age of automobile touring,” rather than a strict recreation of 1903. The rooms—each one different and many with divinely large clawfoot tubs—offer original fixtures, antiques where possible, and appropriate reproductions where not. The décor throughout possesses comfort, charm, and often humor: many Mission/Arts & Crafts pieces, artifacts from far away lands, and portraits of shyly smiling sepia-tone couples above queen-sized brass bedsteads extend a welcome unavailable at the Holiday Inn. Rooms accommodate parties of one to groups of four or five, and rates are reasonable in the extreme. Free Wi-Fi, continental breakfast, and lively political discussion are all there for the taking, April through October. The winter closure months are replete with ongoing rehab projects. Visitors in the 2007 season will enjoy a cozy new library and two additional rooms with en suite baths. Someday the third floor rooms, currently serving as Aladdin's Cave of Fabulous Fixtures and Fixings, may morph into guest aeries.

So the hotel is a destination and an experience in itself; what else is up in Waterville? Just getting there is pretty wonderful—the North Cascades Highway is a spectacular route for Puget Sounders, and the drive up Pine Canyon on Highway 2 from Orondo is no slouch either. The road winds and climbs through sharply faceted red basalt, and then you're at the top of the world. But instead of being on some rocky summit, you find yourself in the midst of rolling fields that go on forever—green, brown, and blonde. Waterville, the county seat of Douglas County (incorporated in 1889), is a dry land wheat farming community, there because of the water. An architecturally eclectic American Renaissance style county courthouse with Art Deco addition and a well-preserved downtown historic district will appeal to the heritage tourist. There is also the Douglas County Museum, which started life as a rock collection and blossomed into a great little general museum displaying the history of life in the Big Bend Country from the Ice Age to the present, with an emphasis on the turn of the last century. The Nature Conservancy manages a preserve in and around Moses Coulee with marvelous hiking. Badger Mountain is nearby for skiing and snowshoeing. The Columbia River and Lake Chelan offer water sports. Grand Coulee Dam isn't far off. There's golfing, hunting, fishing, bird watching, geocaching, and plenty of opportunity for just hanging out and enjoying the 300 days of sunshine.

Originally, the Waterville Hotel housed a full-service restaurant, and as far as Dave and Amy are concerned, it could do so again. But there is currently a dearth of eating establishments in town. Local resident Teresa Ruud offers great lunchtime-only soups and sandwiches at the Checkered Tablecloth, located in her grandfather's law office just off the main street. From the NAPA auto parts guy to fully uniformed high school cheerleaders, the whole town knows that this *the* spot. If you don't want to mic your own, you'll have to travel for dinner, however. There's Wenatchee, or if you really want to have some fun, there's Jack's Resort. Twenty-two miles east on Highway 2, followed by six miles of gravel road, puts you in the middle of Moses Coulee—a geologic artifact of the Great Ice Age Floods that lends new meaning to the word “awesome.” I kept looking for a huge river in the bottom of this gorge, but it hasn't been there for a jillion years. The basalt walls—dark red and gold spotted with chartreuse lichen—are stepped and look as if they've been scraped in different ages by a gigantic earthmoving machine, which of course they have. Every so often there's a break in the cliff face where a waterfall should be, but it's dry as a bone. As the sun set over one side of the coulee and an impossibly large, pale



*The 1903 Waterville Hotel is alive, well, and welcoming visitors from April through October—25 scenic miles northeast of Wenatchee on Highway 2. (Photos courtesy of Dave Lundgren)*

balloon of a moon rose over the other, I pulled up at Jack's. A counter, couple of stools, three Formica tables, bait, boat rentals, Jiffy Pop, Crisco oil, cornmeal, and breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Good beer, burgers, steaks, and fries; famous pies—a fisherman's paradise at the south end of Lake Jameson.

But back to Waterville—calling all chefs and entrepreneurs—mondo opportunity! It's a town on the cusp, calling out for appropriate, heritage-fueled development. Great historic properties, at attractive prices, outstanding natural attractions, locals who like good food, and tourists in season. Not to mention the key infrastructure piece that's already there, the Waterville Hotel...but hurry! I met a Kirkland couple, an artist and a newly retired real estate consultant, at breakfast in the hotel. They're looking to relocate, and she's got a few dynamite recipes.

Check out [www.watervillehotel.com](http://www.watervillehotel.com), or call toll-free 1-888-509-8180, for more information on the hotel; [www.watervill washington.org](http://www.watervill washington.org) is a great overview of attractions and activities in town and the surrounding area.

## Dining Car 1663 Returns Home

By Dave Burns, Project Coordinator, Tacoma Railcar Preservation Society



*Top: Moving day for dining car 1663, which traveled from Easton to Tacoma. Bottom: The dining car is the sole remainder of the original 15 that were ordered by the Northern Pacific Railroad in 1909. (Courtesy of Dave Burns)*

WHEN THE NORTHERN PACIFIC RAILWAY SELECTED TACOMA IN 1873 AS THE HEADQUARTERS FOR ITS WESTERN TERMINUS, IT WAS AN EXTRAORDINARY HONOR FOR THE “CITY OF DESTINY.” Today a piece of that rich railroad heritage, a 1910 Northern Pacific dining car which served on the North Coast Limited run between Chicago and Seattle for nearly forty years, is being restored to its former glory, thanks to the Tacoma Railcar Preservation Society (TRPS) and the Tacoma Historical Society.

The unique car, constructed by the Barney and Smith Car Company of Dayton, Ohio, was one of fifteen dining cars ordered by the Northern Pacific Railroad in 1909 and is the only one that remains in existence. Barney and Smith employed some of the era’s top artisans and Northern Pacific spared no expense to create an elegant setting for an unforgettable dining experience: The cars’ interiors were clad in Cuban mahogany detailed with ornate carvings and intricate art nouveau inlays. Tables were adorned with white linen tablecloths and fine sterling silver dinnerware, while waiters in white dinner jackets, black slacks and bow ties served seven-course meals. Meals were prepared fresh daily, with raw ingredients coming from the Northern Pacific Railroad’s own 52-acre dairy, poultry and hog farm in the Kent Valley; butter was churned daily on each dining car.

After it was retired in 1949, dining car 1663 avoided the scrap yard when it was rescued the next year to serve as a diner in Easton, Washington. The Sportsman Diner served customers 24 hours a day, seven days a week along highway 10, the main route connecting western and eastern Washington prior to the construction of I-90. After the highway opened, traffic to the diner slowed dramatically, causing it to close after 35 years of service.

The TRPS acquired car 1663 in 2003, and last October transported it back to Tacoma, a \$25,000 venture. Though restorable, the car has suffered from neglect over the past 20 years. Major restoration efforts will concentrate on the existing wood roof, superstructure and approximately forty percent of the interior veneer.

One of the foremost priorities is to relocate the car from the Port of Tacoma to a temporary, covered warehouse space in that area for much of the restoration work. Plans are now underway for a dinner and silent auction to be held in August or September to raise money for the restoration. With any luck, in addition to contributions from businesses and organizations, this project will also qualify for funding through local grants and foundations, and car 1663 will be substantially restored by August 2010, in time for its 100th birthday. For more information, contact project coordinator Dave Burns, 253.468.8180, [NPDiningcar@Comcast.net](mailto:NPDiningcar@Comcast.net); or visit [NPDiningcar.home.comcast.net](http://NPDiningcar.home.comcast.net)

## 2007 Pacific Northwest Preservation Field School Wants You



*Heyburn State Park, Idaho. (Courtesy of PNFS)*

STUDENTS AT THIS YEAR’S PACIFIC NORTHWEST PRESERVATION FIELD SCHOOL WILL HONE THEIR SKILLS ON THE CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS (CCC)-BUILT, MID-1930S STRUCTURES IN IDAHO’S HEYBURN STATE PARK, ON THE SOUTH EDGE OF LAKE COEUR D’ALENE. Participants at the week-long school will learn skills such as log and traditional framing, masonry and window repair, and roofing, as well as listen to lectures and take field trips to other nearby historic sites.

There are six repeatable sessions available: August 5-10, August 12-17, August 19-24, August 26-31, September 9-14, and September 16-21. Participants can receive two academic credits for each week.

Each year the field school attracts a broad range of people, including preservation and cultural resource professionals, architects, landscape architects and other design professionals, contractors, carpenters and skilled artisans, and graduate and undergraduate students studying related fields. Previous preservation and building conservation skills are not required, just a love for heritage and a desire to learn.

Applications and more information are available at [hp.uoregon.edu/fieldschools](http://hp.uoregon.edu/fieldschools). Priority is given to applications received before May 1, 2007.

## Pike Place Market Turns 100

By Scott Davies, Pike Place Market PDA



*Top: In 1907 the City of Seattle opened the Pike Place Market so consumers could buy directly from the source at lower prices. Bottom: Seattle voters rescued the Market in 1971, which now draws locals and tourists alike. (Courtesy of Pike Place Market PDA)*

THIS WILL BE ONE BIRTHDAY CAKE WITH MANY CANDLES: PIKE PLACE MARKET, THE GRANDDADDY OF FARMERS’ MARKETS, TURNS THE BIG 1-0-0 ON AUGUST 17. There might not have been anything to celebrate if it wasn’t for the price of onions in 1907—that year they spiked from ten cents to one dollar a pound. In response, the City of Seattle started the Market so farmers could sell directly to consumers, eliminating the need for the alleged price-gouging middlemen.

Today the Market is one of the best examples of historic preservation in the nation, and it will be celebrating throughout spring and summer in style, from Centennial Family Day April 28, packed with crafts, tours, music and juggling, to the grand finale August 17, a day-long extravaganza that includes chef demos, special musical performances and fireworks.

Visit [www.pikeplacecentennial.org](http://www.pikeplacecentennial.org) to check out additional events, such as free lectures at the downtown public library; as well as to share Market memories, take the Centennial Quiz and of course, stay up to date.

## Classroom Based Assessments: A New Way to Learn History

By Holly Taylor, Past Forward Northwest Cultural Services

HISTORIC PLACES HAVE A NEW OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE AS EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES FOR WASHINGTON'S STUDENTS WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF CLASSROOM BASED ASSESSMENTS, OR CBAs. Part of the nationwide education reform movement, CBAs, which were developed in 2005, measure student knowledge in social studies. In contrast to standardized tests that ostensibly measure student achievement in English, math and science, CBAs are project-based tasks that engage students in civics, history, geography and economics, helping them become informed citizens.

The Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) has developed more than a dozen CBA guides for elementary, middle and high school students. They include tasks such as conducting research, writing essays, and delivering presentations. All are available at [www.k12.wa.us/Assessment/WASL/SocialStudies/default.aspx](http://www.k12.wa.us/Assessment/WASL/SocialStudies/default.aspx).

Museum educators, local preservation commissioners and others interested in preserving history can work with teachers to create their own CBAs focused on topics of local interest. Several CBAs are particularly relevant to historic preservation issues:

- "Dig Deep" engages students in gathering and analyzing evidence about history using primary source materials and artifacts to prepare timelines and other historical accounts of particular time periods.
- "Technology Through the Ages" involves students in assessing the significance of historical developments and their economic impacts.
- "You Decide" has students examine constitutional rights and stakeholder perspectives and prepare issue papers on historical topics.

Though they are currently optional for classroom use, starting in 2008 these assessments will become a mandatory part of the social studies curriculum for all Washington state public schools. So in the not-too-distant future, any historic site or community museum that has developed a CBA may gain friends and fans among teachers who are scrambling to meet this new requirement.

## First United Methodist Church of Tacoma Lost

By Michael S. Sullivan, Artifacts Consulting



*Tacoma's historic First United Methodist Church was demolished early this year.*

IN THE GRAY DAYS OF EARLY JANUARY, MULTICARE CORPORATION AND ITS PARTNERS AT FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH TORE DOWN THEIR BUILDING. The 1916 landmark had been gutted with sawzalls over the holidays, and the interior's quarter-sawn oak doors and glass panels were already being offered for sale on the Internet when the demolition contractor began the dismantling.

Efforts to use local landmark designation as an obstacle in the path of demolition were blunted by a partnership between MultiCare and the church. Once the health care company bought the church for \$8 million, it passed the title back to the

religious organization so it could use its legal shield against Tacoma's landmark ordinance in order to demolish the structure. A landmark nomination was submitted by Historic Tacoma and the Washington Trust immediately after the sale was recorded, but the City of Tacoma chose not to consider the nomination once the title was returned to the church.

The 1500-seat building was designed by Frederick Heath, the architect for Stadium High School and several other National Register-listed sites in the Pacific Northwest. Its sad fate reflects the problems once-grand urban churches face today: small congregations, a greater sense of social street mission, and no effective financial tools for preservation.

Similar situations loom in Seattle at Queen Anne Hill's Seventh Church of Christ Scientist, where a legal appeal is delaying a demolition request, and at downtown's First United Methodist Church, where an ominous silence surrounds tentative developer interest in saving the downtown sanctuary. For now, however, Tacoma mourns the loss of an inspirational, sacred building, a vacant lot sitting in its place.

## Tacoma Local Sondra Purcell Receives Coveted ACHP Chairman's Award



*Sondra Purcell helped guide Albers Mill to new life as condominiums along Tacoma's Thea Foss Waterway.*

IN FEBRUARY, THE 142ND MEETING OF THE GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION APPROPRIATELY TOOK PLACE AT THE WASHINGTON STATE HISTORY MUSEUM IN TACOMA.

Three times a year, the Governor's ACHP convenes to review and recommend nominated historic properties to the Washington Heritage Register and to the National Register of Historic Places. Continuing a tradition begun in 2006, ACHP Chair Jack Williams kicked off the meeting by presenting the ACHP Chairman's Award to Tacoma resident Sondra Purcell, who Williams noted as a "trouble-making preservationist, the kind we need to actually get things accomplished."

In accepting her award, Purcell pointed to Albers Mill, visible directly out the window, which marks one of Purcell's—and Tacoma's—many successful preservation battles: The rehabilitated industrial building now serves as condominiums along Tacoma's Thea Foss Waterway. In addition to her advocacy with Albers Mill, Purcell has been a stalwart supporter of the Washington Trust. She serves as both a member of the Trust's Board of Directors and as the current Treasurer. Moreover, Sondra and her husband Don have played an integral role in establishing an endowment for the Trust's Valerie Sivinski Washington Preserves Fund. Congratulations Sondra—the Chairman's Award is very well-deserved!

During the ACHP meeting the council also reviewed several nominations for historic designations. The following resources were approved for listing in the Washington Heritage Register and recommendations for their inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places will be forwarded to the National Park Service:

- Conrad & Annie Beutel House, Tacoma
- Peter Hersey House, Ashford
- Central Service Station, Rosalia
- Sacajawea State Park, Pasco
- MV Westward, Seattle
- Sigma Kappa Mu Chapter House, Seattle
- Gotchen Creek Ranger Station, Gifford Pinchot National Forest

For more information on nominating a property to the Washington Heritage Register or the National Register of Historic Places, visit the Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation's website at [www.dahp.wa.gov/pages/HistoricSites/Register.htm](http://www.dahp.wa.gov/pages/HistoricSites/Register.htm).

# Thanks TO YOU

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