

SUMMER 2007



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Heritage Barn Preservation Bill Signed

By Holly Taylor, Vashon Island

BARN PRESERVATION EFFORTS IN WASHINGTON STATE GOT A BIG BOOST FROM THE LEGISLATURE THIS SESSION, WITH NEAR-UNANIMOUS SUPPORT FOR SHB 2115, A BILL THAT CREATES THE WASHINGTON STATE HERITAGE BARN REGISTER AND ESTABLISHES A GRANT PROGRAM TO SUPPORT PRESERVATION OF HISTORIC BARNs. Governor Christine Gregoire signed the bill in May. Linked to it is a \$500,000 fund in the state capital budget to support the stabilization of heritage barns over the next two years.

"Barns can be beautiful buildings and a symbol of our state's agricultural heritage," said Governor Gregoire. "This bill will help family farms preserve their history, not only for themselves but for all Washingtonians."

Enthusiasm for the bill was echoed in the Legislature. Rep. Daniel Newhouse (R-Sunnyside), the bill's primary sponsor, said, "This bill will provide future generations with the opportunity to see part of our state's unique heritage. If we don't make an effort to preserve historic barns now, there might not be any left after another generation."

Rep. Patricia Lantz (D-Gig Harbor), co-chair of the Washington State Heritage Caucus, added, "I cannot recall an idea that took root as quickly, or that bridged east and west in our state as well as the Heritage Barn Bill. It is an idea whose time has come."

The Washington Trust for Historic Preservation led a coalition of rural advocates, including the Washington State Grange and the Washington State Association of Counties, in pushing for the legislation.

"We are thrilled to see this bill come out of the legislature," said Trust Director Jennifer Meisner. "Dairy barns in the river valleys around Puget Sound or timber framed barns that housed combines and horse teams in the Palouse tell us as much about Washington state's history as the buildings in Seattle's Pioneer Square. This bill shows that preserving our state's history has broad support, in both urban and rural communities."

Last year, in an effort to bring attention to the need to preserve these iconic structures, the Trust included historic barns throughout Washington in its annual "Most Endangered Historic Properties" list.

Julie Koler, King County's Historic Preservation Officer, has been working to preserve barns in King County's remaining rural areas, including the Snoqualmie Valley, the Enumclaw Plateau and Vashon Island and credits the Trust's focus on barns as an important catalyst. Koler said, "The 'most endangered' listing was a real wake-up call to historic preservation leaders around the state, that we have an amazing collection of historic barns in Washington, but they are very vulnerable."

Jerri Honeyford, former Yakima County Farm Bureau president and current Washington Trust board member, notes that people love seeing old barns. "Barns are a piece of our working history and bring memo-
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Washington's barns, such as these in (top) Asotin County and (bottom) Kittitas County, reflect the state's agricultural history, noted Gov. Christine Gregoire. Above left: The Yakima Valley Trolley Company celebrates 100 years.

Your Trust in Action

Greetings from the Western Office



AS THE NEW PROGRAM OFFICER AND THE LIAISON FOR WASHINGTON AND THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST IN THE WESTERN OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION, I AM THRILLED TO BE WORKING WITH THE WASHINGTON TRUST IN ITS MISSION TO PRESERVE THE STATE'S HISTORIC PLACES. I made my first trip to Washington this May to attend the announcement of the Washington Trust's 2007 Most Endangered Historic Properties List. The Trust staff gave me a wonderful introduction to its good work around the state, including the most irresistible photo op of my career at the Teapot Dome Gas Station in Zillah!

I joined the Western Office (based in San Francisco) of the National Trust in April after working for several years in government and private sector cultural resource consulting in the New England and the San Francisco Bay Area regions. I am a relative newcomer to the western U.S., but the region has made an indelible impression on me with the diversity, distinctiveness, and narrative power of its historic resources. I look forward to learning more about the history and cultural heritage of Pacific Northwest, and assisting our able statewide and local partners in their preservation efforts.

The National Trust works closely with statewide partners like the Washington Trust to advocate for important regional and national preservation issues and support preservation activities with technical assistance and grants. The National Trust and the Washington Trust have partnered on important preservation battles, including the recently successful bid to save First United Methodist Church in Seattle,

the defeat of property rights initiatives damaging to preservation such as I-933, and support for the new Heritage Barn Preservation Initiative. The National Trust has also made grants supporting preservation projects across Washington such as the Fox Theater in Spokane, the Old City Hall and Library in Roslyn, and the Courthouse and Clock Tower in Port Townsend. We were also pleased to name Ellensburg as one of this year's "Dozen Distinctive Destinations," an annual listing of well-preserved destination communities around the country.

On the regional and national scene, the National Trust is working on several key preservation initiatives that we hope you will follow closely.

Diversity As preservationists, we are continually expanding the canon of buildings, structures, sites, and property types worthy of protection. The National Trust is committed to promoting a preservation ethic encompassing the full range of cultures and ethnic backgrounds that make up America. As one of the most diverse regions in the country, residents of the West are well poised to be leaders in this effort, and the Western Office is committed to using its programs to increase awareness and public support for preservation of resources representing our regional diversity.

Sustainability Before green building, there was preservation. Reusing existing buildings, infrastructure, and material resources by rehabilitating historic buildings is good for the environment, and the National Trust will be working to promote historic preservation and adaptive reuse as vital parts of the cadre of sustainable building practices.

Recent Past Preservation The work of stewarding the physical legacy of the past never stops. The National Trust's Recent Past Initiative focuses attention and resources on raising awareness and appreciation for resources of the recent past, including the thoughtful preservation and reuse of these important contributors to our built heritage. Washington preservationists were early leaders in this effort, and the Western Office is working to expand this ethic throughout our region.

I look forward to meeting and working with many of you in the future, and to my next trip to Washington.

Elaine Stiles

Correction

A caption on the cover of the Spring '07 Trust News misidentified the pictured courthouse as the Jefferson County Courthouse—in fact it is the Douglas County Courthouse, located in Waterville, Wash.

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Donor Focus: BOLA Architecture + Planning

Susan Boyle and Rhoda Lawrence, Principals



The Olson House and weaving shed are part of Auburn's Mary Olson Farm, a 60-acre farmstead that will serve as an interpretive site. (Courtesy of BOLA Architecture + Planning)

WHEN WE FOUNDED BOLA ARCHITECTURE + PLANNING IN 2000, WE SET AN UNDERLYING PRINCIPLE FOR THE FIRM: "THE FUTURE AND THE PAST ARE NOT INCOMPATIBLE." As architects, we had worked together for ten years before founding BOLA, and discovered compatible professional goals, design philosophies, and passions for historic architecture. As BOLA, we've developed plans and designs that preserve the unique qualities of properties by incorporating new ideas and technologies into existing structures and sites.

BOLA has recently completed several new

projects in historic districts—a small, retail building in the Ballard Historic District, and a 13-story affordable-housing apartment building in Pioneer Square. Our diverse practice has engaged its seven planning and design professionals in a range of projects including adaptive use of the Snohomish Carnegie Library, a National Register nomination for the expanded Fort Lawton Historic District, and rehabilitation of the South Cle Elum railroad depot.

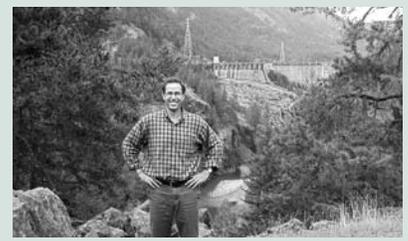
One of our most compelling projects is the Mary Olson Farm in Auburn, Washington. Since 2000, BOLA has helped shape the future of this unique 60-acre farmstead, which dates from 1897. It presents an intact assembly of agricultural buildings, surrounded by a steep hillside and a rich stream ecology. Located along the Green River, the Olson Farm provides an opportunity for its owner/stewards, the City of Auburn and the White River Valley Museum, to interpret daily farm life from the early 20th century for residents, school children and visitors while preserving wetlands and indigenous salmon runs along with archaic building materials and technologies.

BOLA first created a master plan for the farmstead in collaboration with landscape architects of The Berger Partnership. The team analyzed and developed preservation guidelines for eight historic buildings and farm features, such as an orchard and wagon road, and the natural environment. An interpretive plan for educational and recreational use was developed. Wetlands were designated and interpretive signage created. The design and construction work with the museum has proceeded in phases as funding has allowed. To date we have developed rehabilitation design and construction details for the weaving shed, chicken coop, and farmhouse. The historic barn was transformed into an orientation space within its open exposed framing and wood flooring, with the balance of the property left open to personal exploration. Site improvements include orchard drainage and driveway realignment that more closely follows the original wagon road access, a change from the direct contemporary vehicle drive. These improvements have led King County to recently request coordination of a wetlands mitigation project at the farm. Current on-the-boards designs include plans for the house and historic gardens, fencing and pathway layouts, and additional stream restoration.

The Olson Farm project is unusual, in that its goal is interpretive rather than to create a design for adaptive use or rehabilitation. It is a conservation project focused on the authenticity of artifacts and experience rather than contemporary functions. For us, however, the project was typical in demonstrating the success of an open, interdisciplinary process. BOLA is a small but agile firm, and we look for opportunities to work collaboratively with clients, consultants, specialty contractors, and community members. This results in a richer response, pulling insights from each participant.

Olson Farm has led us to several other projects with rural resources—a historic survey for the City of Puyallup and a study of the Wilkinson Farm in Gig Harbor. These types of projects complement our larger commercial and institutional projects. They exemplify BOLA's underlying belief that authentic forms and use patterns provide inspiration for contemporary work, and that design emerges from a study of each community's context and unique history, along with the needs of future occupants.

Donor Focus is an occasional column designed to highlight the work of the Washington Trust's corporate partners in preservation.



Where in WA Is Your Trust?

Congratulations to Roger Johnson of Tacoma who was the first to email the correct location and natural resource pictured in the photograph of Trust Program Associate Cathy Wickwire in the Spring 2007 Issue. Wrote Roger, "My guess is: Top of Steptoe Butte." Three more Washington Trust members also contacted us with the correct answer: Renate Bartl and Nancy Ousley, both of Seattle, and James Payne of the Fort Walla Walla Museum in Walla Walla. For more information about Steptoe Butte State Park, visit the Washington State Parks website: www.parks.wa.gov.

Once again, we invite our readers to test their knowledge of our state's historic and natural geography by guessing where Trust Field Director Chris Moore is standing. Email us at 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. Good luck!

BARNs—*Continued from front cover*

ries of our farm backgrounds. If this funding can help to preserve some of these historic structures, we can show generations ahead what effort and perseverance it takes to be good farmers."

Specifically, the Heritage Barn Preservation Bill (SHB 2115) will:

- Establish a heritage barn recognition program.
- Provide competitive matching grants to heritage barn owners throughout the state to support their efforts to preserve, stabilize and rehabilitate their barns.
- Establish a heritage barn preservation advisory board to examine tax incentives and land use regulations that support barn preservation and use.

To be eligible for a grant to help with stabilizing roofs, foundations and structural systems, barn owners must agree to provide public benefits such as long-term maintenance and preservation, visibility from public highways, or occasional public access.

In creating a fund to preserve barns, Washington joins a handful of other states including Iowa, Maryland and Vermont, which have barn preservation programs. These programs strengthen connections among historic preservation groups, heritage tourism and other rural economic development efforts, and organizations that support and promote local agriculture.

The Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation will take the lead in creating the Heritage Barn Preservation Program. Information will be posted at www.dahp.wa.gov.

Historic Yakima Trolley Has Much to Celebrate at Centennial

By Kenneth G. Johnsen, President, Yakima Valley Trolleys



Yakima Valley Trolley Company has seen a century of service to passenger, freight and tourist traffic. Today, two wooden trolleys, imported from Portugal in the 1970s, travel the tracks. (Courtesy of YVT)

Properties” in Washington, the system was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1992 as the last intact, early-20th century electric interurban railroad—it includes track, overhead trolley wire, car barn, powerhouse, locomotives and streetcars.

The YVT started as a passenger service but quickly grew to transport freight as well. On July 2, 1907, seven prominent Yakimans incorporated the YVT, building three miles of electrified street railway within five months. Its inaugural trolley run was made on Christmas Eve, 1907. Just about two years later, the line had more than doubled in size, but was faltering financially. The Union Pacific railroad stepped in and bought the fledgling trolley railroad, a move that later proved to be one of the reasons the YVT has survived.

While Union Pacific wasn't particularly interested in the YVT's passenger service, the company viewed the railroad as a potential freight feeder to its Yakima Valley line that was then under construction. In 1909, Union Pacific expanded the YVT into a true interurban railway, constructing lines to the west and north of Yakima. At its peak, the railroad was 44 miles long, and for many decades, Yakima's rich agricultural region provided carloads of fruit and vegetables to the Union Pacific.

But passenger service was ended in 1947, thanks partly to the automobile, leaving the line to haul freight only in what were by then ancient electric locomotives. Twenty-seven years later the trolley line was reopened to passengers, this time as a way to boost tourism. Two wooden trolleys, of the type that opened YVT service at its start, were imported from Portugal to begin running.

The Union Pacific abandoned freight service in 1985, and the railroad was donated to the City of Yakima so it could continue tourist trolley operation. In 2000, a group of citizens calling itself Yakima Valley Trolleys took over YVT operations, after the president of the non-profit group that had operated it since the mid-1970s ran the finances into loan foreclosure and collections.

The YVT is funded through trolley fares, donations and grants, such as the ISTEA (Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act) grants obtained in the 1990s and again in 2005 to rehabilitate and preserve the YVT. A grant is currently being pursued to fund the transformation of the powerhouse into a living museum with interactive displays.

For its centennial, the YVT has staged events throughout the year. In July, a parade of locomotives and streetcars was held, and a re-enactment of the first trolley run will be held on December 22. For more and updated information, visit the YVT website, yakimavalleytrolleys.org.

YAKIMA'S TROLLEY RAILROAD, THE YAKIMA VALLEY TROLLEY COMPANY (YVT) CELEBRATES ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY THIS YEAR, MARKING BOTH A CENTURY OF EXISTENCE AND OF CONTINUOUS OPERATION THAT HAS SEEN MANY HIGHS AND LOWS: IT BEGAN WITH 5 CENT FARES AND EXPANDED INTO A FREIGHT LINE; LATER IT STRUGGLED AS A MODE OF TRANSPORT WITH THE ADVENT OF AUTOMOBILES, AND IN THE 1990S ENCOUNTERED NEAR-FINANCIAL RUIN BEFORE YAKIMA VALLEY TROLLEYS TOOK OVER AT THE TURN OF THE MILLENNIUM. At one point listed as one of the Trust's "Ten Most Endangered

Regional Architectural History the Latest Feature in UW Special Collections

By Brandi Barleycorn, Washington Trust staff, and Kris Kinsey, UW Special Collections Digital Projects manager.

THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON LIBRARIES SPECIAL COLLECTIONS DIVISION JUST GOT BIGGER, WITH THE ADDITION OF ARCHITECTURE OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST, AN EXCITING NEW ONLINE DATABASE THAT FEATURES SOME OF THE REGION'S MOST SIGNIFICANT ARCHITECTS AND STRUCTURES FROM THE 1880S TO THE 1980S. The online collection (content.lib.washington.edu/index.html) includes designs, working drawings and blueprints of both historic and contemporary residential, commercial and public buildings in the Puget Sound region, culled from the University's Pacific Northwest Architecture Collection. Highlights include plans for the 1889 Pioneer Building designed by Elmer Fisher, early proposals for the Space Needle by the John Graham Company, and Carl Gould's design drawings for the 1932 Seattle Art Museum at Volunteer Park, now the Seattle Asian Art Museum. Additionally, regional works of both nationally and locally recognized architects such as Roland Terry, Elizabeth Ayer, B. Marcus Priteca, and Victor Voorhees round out the digital collection.

The database was made possible through a 2005 Friends of the Libraries grant and was created with digital collection management software CONTENTdm's innovative new program, JPEG 2000, which enables larger materials like maps or architectural drawings to be displayed online in a higher resolution than previous imaging software allowed. The program's pan and zoom capabilities allow users to move in, out and across an image to see more details.

Kristin Kinsey, UW Special Collections Digital Projects Coordinator, selected content for the digital collection, while the research and descriptive metadata were prepared by Kinsey, grant assistant Sarah Weeks and Brandi Barleycorn.

The visually rich and stylistically diverse Architecture of the Pacific Northwest represents only a fraction of the UW Special Collections Division's deep resources for historic Pacific Northwest architectural research. As the department acquires more funding, more of the collection will be digitized.

More materials relating to the development of the built environment of the Pacific Northwest—photographs, construction specifications, correspondence, books, pamphlets, advertising and promotional materials, and newspaper and periodical articles—can be found in the UW Libraries holdings. Visit www.lib.washington.edu or call 206-543-0242 for hours and visitor information.

Trust Names Nine Endangered Properties for 2007

By Cathy Wickwire, Trust Program Associate



The Washington Trust unveiled its Most Endangered Properties list first in Seattle, with King County Council Member Dow Constantine's help, in front of Queen Anne's Seventh church of Christ, Scientist, one of the listed structures.

glimpse of this dilemma on the national level and detailed the National Trust's efforts to combat the pressures that favor demolition of historic urban houses of worship. As Washington Trust Field Director Chris Moore presented the 2007 list, he invited representatives of the grassroots groups advocating for the endangered historic properties to speak. Barbara Maxwell of the Maple Leaf Community Council detailed her neighborhood's efforts to save Waldo Hospital, which include submitting a Seattle Landmark nomination and creating a website, www.savewaldo.org. Char Eggleston of the Queen Anne Historical Society said that her organization went almost immediately from saving the Henry Whitney Treat House to preventing the potential demolition of the Seventh Church. These groups and other local partners are vital to the Washington Trust's efforts to save our endangered past.



Sunnier weather greeted Trust associates at their next stop, Zillah, where they held a press conference in front of the Teapot Dome Gas Station.

the Pot," Mayor Clark expressed his hope that the listing will raise the profile of the proposed project and fundraising efforts. In addition, a local group, Friends of the Teapot, was recently formed to assist the city with fundraising activities.

UNDER GRAY AND CLOUDY SEATTLE SKIES, THE WASHINGTON TRUST UNVEILED ITS 2007 MOST ENDANGERED HISTORIC PROPERTIES

LIST AT A PRESS CONFERENCE ON MAY 22, 2007. Washington Trust staff and several current and former board members greeted a crowd of more than thirty gathered in front of Queen Anne Hill's Seventh Church of Christ, Scientist, one of the listed properties. Before the presentation, King County Council Member Dow Constantine, a tireless advocate for the preservation of Seattle's First United Methodist Church downtown, spoke eloquently of the inherent difficulties of trying to save threatened historic sanctuaries. "What is required is patience, goodwill and caring," he said, "and the application of sustained effort in order to turn these situations into wins for the entire community."

Echoing his words was Elaine Stiles, program officer for the Western Regional Office of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. She provided a

The following day, Washington Trust staff, accompanied once again by Elaine Stiles, traveled east across the state to Zillah, where they held a second press conference in front of the Teapot Dome Gas Station, a much-loved, but endangered, local icon. The Yakima Valley city rolled out the red carpet in welcoming the Trust and preparing for the event at the Dome, which gleamed in the bright sunshine. During the proceedings, Mayor Gary Clark spoke of Zillah's plan to move the historic structure from its current location near the interstate to the center of town and to convert it for use as a visitor center.

Wearing a t-shirt sporting the slogan, "Save



Places in This Issue

Bainbridge Island Memorial Nearing National Park Status

IN FEBRUARY, NIDOTO NAI YONI MEMORIAL CAME ONE STEP CLOSER TO GAINING NATIONAL PARK STATUS, WITH THE UNANIMOUS PASSAGE OF THE BAINBRIDGE ISLAND JAPANESE AMERICAN MONUMENT ACT, H.R. 161, IN THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. It next needs to win approval in the U.S. Senate before going to the President for his signature.

Co-sponsored by U.S. Rep. Jay Inslee (D-Wash.) and U.S. Rep. Mike Simpson (R-Idaho), the bill would make Bainbridge's former Eagledale Ferry Dock and the memorial currently being constructed on that site a satellite of the Minidoka Internment National Monument in Jerome County, Idaho. It was from Eagledale that the first Japanese Americans were sent to internment camps during WWII, under President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Executive Order 9066 and Civilian Exclusion Order No. 1—most of these internees ended up at Idaho's Minidoka Relocation Center.

The memorial project is scheduled for completion by 2009 at an estimated cost of more than \$5 million. One of its main features will be a "story wall," to be constructed this year, where the names of the 227 people who were interned will be inscribed. Equally symbolic is the planned 150-foot pier, with each foot representing a person who returned to Bainbridge Island. An interpretive center, along with other pieces, are also being planned for the future.

H.R. 161 formalizes a process that Inslee started three years ago, pushing to commission and fund a study on the feasibility of including the Eagledale site in the national park system. Fumiko Hayashida, at age 95 the oldest living island resident taken to internment camps, lent her testimony to boost the bill in Washington D.C. at Inslee's urging. "I thought nobody cared. I'm very happy," she told the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* in March. "I hope I live to see it done."

Ellensburg Named One of National Trust's Dozen Distinctive Destinations

By Fennelle Miller, Historic Ellensburg



ELLENSBURG IS A TOWN WITH A LONG AND COLORFUL PAST, AND ITS BUILDINGS REFLECT THAT. But it hasn't always been easy getting the word out about our historic buildings, businesses and museums to potential visitors—that is, until this year, when the National Trust dubbed Ellensburg one of its “Dozen Distinctive Destinations.”

On March 7, we were proud to hold a press conference at the Clymer Museum, announcing Ellensburg's newest designation. Nearly 50 members of the community, several members of the local press and the Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer Greg Griffith, attended the hour-long press conference.

In celebration of the NTHP award, the City also held an all-day community party, “Destination Ellensburg,” on May 12. Blocking off a street in the historic downtown core, the party included more than 20 booths representing events such as Jazz In The Valley, Dachshunds on Parade and our non-profit group “Historic Ellensburg,” which offered a free walking tour of the historic business district. Downtown merchants participated in a large sidewalk sale, a local dairy offered free ice cream cones, local musicians played on the street, and a group of middle schoolers put together a scavenger hunt, looking for historic building details around town.

The nomination was encouraged last fall by the City's newly hired Ellensburg Downtown Association Director and Washington Trust President Timothy Bishop and entered by a group of Ellensburg preservation advocates and tourism experts.

Work on the nomination, organizing the press conference and the “Destination Ellensburg” event resulted in the production of marketing materials that will be used for years to come. By focusing on the integrity and authenticity of the historic downtown district of Ellensburg to draw visitors, tourism experts learned about historic preservation, and preservationists learned about tourism. We all learned that preservation can boost tourism and the money can be used for preservation. I think this was exactly what the National Trust had in mind when they designed the “Dozen Distinctive Destinations” program.

(Above) Ellensburg feted its new distinction with a downtown celebration packed with food, music, and family activities. (Courtesy of Ellensburg Downtown Association)

Amendment Dollars An Opportunity for Heritage Groups

By Susan Tissot, Executive Director, Clark County Historical Society and Museum

It is no secret that all museums and historic preservation projects could use additional financial support. In 2005, Senator Craig Pridemore, (D-Vancouver), penned an amendment to HB 1386 that created a new source of funding for museums and historic preservation organizations in Washington State. The original bill amended RCW 36.22.170 by increasing a surcharge on document-recording fees collected at the county level for the preservation of historical documents from two dollars to five dollars. Senator Pridemore's amendment earmarked one dollar of the surcharge deposited in the county general funds to be used, at the discretion of the county commissioners, to promote historical preservation or historical programs, which may include preservation of historic documents.

This enabling legislation became effective July 24, 2005 and created a funding source separate from the regular operating budgets in each county, giving commissioners the authority to determine how the money is allocated. Because the legislation was worded broadly, many counties have yet to create a formal program to allot this new source of funding to their local heritage organizations.

In 2006, Clark County created the Historical Promotion Grants Program (HPG) in order to increase knowledge, educate, and better preserve, exhibit, and interpret historical collections. In the first round of funding, the Historical Promotion Grants Advisory Committee, on behalf of the Board of Clark County Commissioners, awarded \$142,445 in matching grant funds to six recipients for 2007 projects. These include a capital request, a property purchase, creation of a commemorative museum exhibit and gallery lighting upgrades, purchase of clothing for a historic costume interpretive program, an interpretive brochure, and a historic preservation project. Clark County announced in June 2007 that it will be accepting applications for 2008 grants with a September 14, 2007 application deadline (visit www.clark.wa.gov).

The successful Clark County HPG program has become a model for the other 38 counties in Washington. For more information on funding that may be available in your community, contact your county commissioners. This is an opportunity for all of us in heritage-related organizations to get involved and help shape this new program.

Ellensburg Downtown Association Receives Main Street Designation

By Susan Kempf, Washington State Main Street Program

CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER FOR THE ELLENSBURG DOWNTOWN ASSOCIATION, WHICH WAS RECENTLY SELECTED TO RECEIVE SPECIALIZED ASSISTANCE AT THE MAIN STREET™ DESIGNATION LEVEL OF THE STATE MAIN STREET PROGRAM, ANNOUNCED THE WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY, TRADE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (CTED). The Ellensburg community will join eight others already at the Main Street™ level including Auburn, Bainbridge Island, Kennewick, Port Angeles, Port Townsend, Puyallup, Walla Walla, and Wenatchee. CTED also added that Chelan, Colfax, Coupeville, and Prosser will receive special assistance at its “Start Up” designation level.

Assistance is based on the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Main Street Approach™, which has been used successfully in more than 1,600 cities nationwide to recapture business interest and vitality in traditional downtown areas. The approach emphasizes four critical areas of revitalization:

- Organization helps everyone work towards the same goals and maximizes involvement of public and private leaders within the community.
- Promotion brings people back downtown by helping to attract visitors, shoppers, and investors.
- Design enhances a district's appearance and pedestrian amenities while preserving its historic features.
- Economic restructuring stimulates business development and helps strengthen the district's economic base.

For more information about the Washington State Main Street Program, please visit www.downtown.wa.gov.

FUMC—Continued from page 9

For a while, the church seemed destined for the wrecking ball; however, preservation advocates were tireless in their efforts. Groups such as Friends of FUMC and Save Our Sanctuary formed to raise awareness of the building's plight. The Washington Trust placed the building on its “Most Endangered Historic Properties” list and the National Trust put Urban Houses of Worship on its list of America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places, including FUMC as one example. Later, Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels and King County Councilman Dow Constantine lent their considerable clout as well. In 2006, Nitze-Stagen's proposal was met with initial skepticism; church leaders had little confidence that a solution could be had that would please both preservationists and the needs of their growing congregation.

With their proposal accepted, Nitze-Stagen plans to renominate the church for landmark status, and the congregation's new church at Second Avenue and Denny Way is projected for completion by 2009.

Horseplay Abounds At New Bickleton Historic Museum

By Sandra Powers, Alder Creek Pioneer Association



The Alder Creek Pioneer Carousel Museum (top) opened last spring to showcase Eastern Klickitat County history, which includes 24 restored carousel horses (bottom) that belong to Bickleton's Herschell/Herschell-Spillman portable track carousel, one of fewer than ten working models in the country. (Courtesy of Sandra Powers)

Originally the carousel was operated by a five-horsepower steam engine that used 120 pounds of steam pressure with a water temperature of 356 degrees. The boiler held 90 gallons of water and used five to ten gallons per hour. With its 176-foot long steel cable, it took one-and-a-half to two hours to develop enough steam pressure to give rides.

On May 5, 1929, the Alder Creek Pioneer Association purchased the carousel, band organ and steam engine for \$500. That June, a headline in the only newspaper in eastern Klickitat County, Bickleton News, read: "Alder Creek Pioneer Association Has Purchased Its Own Merry-Go-Round Which is Bigger and Better Than Any Ever Set Up in Klickitat County." It operated that first year at the 19th Pioneer Picnic and Rodeo.

After many years of use and abuse, in 1968 members of the Bickleton community began restoration work on the carousel. In the 1980s and 1990s, extensive restoration began on the 24 horses, a job which the many talented carvers and painters finally completed in 2003. The next year, restoration work was begun on all four chariots.

Through the years the steam engine was abandoned for the use of a belt-driven tractor, then much later a belt-driven electric motor. Early in 2004 the original steam engine was found and purchased on the internet from Windward Center in Wahkiacus, Washington.

A \$1,000 grant from the Washington Trust's Valerie Sivinski Washington Preserves Fund has initiated restoration work on the band organ (music box), a Wurlitzer Model 3534 original to the carousel. Imported from Germany in the late 1890s, the 31-key, hand-cranked organ will be brought back to life once additional monies are raised.

Members of the community volunteered many hours to restore the carousel horses and finish the interior of the museum, built by Sunnyside's Mountain States Construction. Restoration has been funded by carousel pin sales each year at the Pioneer Picnic, memorials, donations and grants from the National Carousel Association, the American Carousel Society and Klickitat County Economic Development.

The museum is open Thursday through Sunday; call 509-896-2007 for more information and hours. Next year the town will celebrate its 98th Alder Creek Pioneer Picnic and Rodeo in June, when the carousel will be put together again to entertain young and old alike.

FOR BICKLETON, THIS SPRING BROUGHT MORE THAN WARMER WEATHER AND NEW BLOOMS. It heralded a brand-new historic resource: Alder Creek Pioneer Carousel Museum, a 3,400 square foot building spotlighting the town's 24 one-of-a-kind carousel horses, which are more than 100 years old, alongside other ephemera of Eastern Klickitat County history.

The museum, made possible by \$450,000 in state grants and four determined women—Barbara Clark, Jan Brown, Lynn Mains and Sandra Powers—is a testament to the community's dedication to getting a permanent home for the much-loved, four-chariot Armitage Herschell/Herschell-Spillman portable-track carousel. It has been trotted out annually for the town's Pioneer Reunion Day, but then disassembled and put into storage for safekeeping afterwards; it's one of fewer than ten in operation in the U.S., according to a historian at the Herschell Factory Museum in New York.

The carousel has a long and colorful history. Opened at "The Oaks" Amusement Park in Portland, Oregon, in May 1905, this very rare piece, a two-row, portable track machine with no overhead mechanism, was manufactured in North Tonawanda, New York sometime between 1890 and 1907. The horses are rocked in a plunging motion by an arm beneath where the horses and chariots sit. Tires on a track underneath the deck drive the carousel, while a belt from an external engine runs the machine.



First United Methodist Church Saved

A YEARS-LONG DEBATE OVER A PIECE OF URBAN HISTORY IS FINALLY OVER. Downtown Seattle's oldest house of worship, First United Methodist Church, will remain standing, announced the National Trust in a spring press conference. In May, church members ended their struggle with preservation advocates, voting unanimously to accept a deal put forth by developer Nitze-Stagen that includes keeping the nearly century-old structure and building an adjacent office tower and a new church for the congregation in Belltown.

Preservation-friendly developer Nitze-Stagen facilitated the agreement in the 11th hour of a long struggle that started in the 1980s, when the church took issue with the Seattle Landmarks Board decision to designate FUMC a landmark.

The firm has a solid track record of coming up with solutions that integrate historic structures with new construction, such as Seattle's Starbucks Center and Union Station. In the FUMC proposal, Nitze-Stagen will purchase the church property plus two Belltown-area parcels of land for \$32 million, to which the National Trust is contributing \$1 million and the city and county are providing \$500,000 each. The plan also includes a new, approximately 40-story office tower at Fifth Avenue and Columbia Street. Three-quarters of the block will be preserved as public open space and historic structures.

Built in 1908 for a congregation that was established in 1853, the Beaux Arts sanctuary was designed by architects James Schack and Daniel Huntington, and sits on Fifth Avenue and Marion Street. After the Seattle Landmarks Board decision, the State Supreme Court sided with the church in 1996, saying that landmark designation would cramp the congregation's First Amendment rights to freely practice religion, because it would restrict its ability to raise money.

Continued on page 8

"When we throw away an historic building, we are simultaneously throwing away the embodied energy incorporated into that building. How significant is embodied energy? In Australia, they've calculated that the embodied energy in the existing building stock is equivalent to ten years of the total energy consumption of the entire country." —Donovan D. Rypkema at this spring's National Main Streets conference in Seattle, speaking about "Downtown Revitalization, Sustainability, and Historic Preservation."

Where in Ellensburg is...?

THERE WAS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE AT THE DESTINATION ELLENSBURG CELEBRATION, INCLUDING A SCAVENGER HUNT WITH AN EDUCATIONAL TWIST. The celebration on May 12 commemorated Ellensburg's listing this year as one of the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Dozen Distinctive Destinations, and the Downtown Scavenger Hunt was designed by Morgan Middle School's 6th grade journalism and publications class, who picked 20 historic features from around town which contest participants had to identify and locate.

Test your Ellensburg knowledge with our condensed quiz, inspired by the scavenger hunt. Pictured below are a few of the city's distinctive points of interest. Can you identify what the images depict and where the items can be found?

#1



#2



#3



#4



#5



#6



#7



#8



#9



#10



KEY

- #1: The Historic Cadwell building located on the corner of Third and Pine is now home to the Kittitas County Historical Museum—a great place to stop and explore the rich history of the Kittitas Valley.
- #2: This coyote is one smart character, located in front of the City of Ellensburg Public Library at the corner of Third and Ruby. There are several other pieces of public art to enjoy on the plaza in front of the library as well as even more inside.
- #3: The Caldwell Banker Clock is located at the corner of Third and Pearl. While this is a relatively new building, its architectural style fits well with the surrounding historic downtown.
- #4: This second-story balcony is located at 105 W. Fourth. The building is home to Martin Animal Clinic on the ground floor and this apartment on the second floor.
- #5: Located on the northeast corner of Third and Main this is one of several old “ghost signs” celebrating Ellensburg’s history. This one depicts the Ellensburg Rodeo, one of the longest running rodeos in the country.
- #6: The SRC Building, located at 109 W. Third, is a great example of the Victorian building types common in downtown Ellensburg. This structure was built in 1889, a very important year in Ellensburg’s history.
- #7: The historic Davidson Building is located on the corner of Fourth and Pearl. On July 4th, 1888 a fire destroyed nearly all of downtown Ellensburg and the Davidson building was the first to be completed after the fire, in 1889.
- #8: The Ostrander Clock is located at the corner of Fourth and Pine. Many downtowns have street clocks like this one, usually in front of a jewelry shop or a bank.
- #9: Located at 118 E. Fourth, the Collins block was home to both a pharmacy and a men’s clothing store until recently. The building is currently being renovated for new uses.
- #10: While much of downtown was built between 1889 and 1910, newer buildings have been added since, reflecting the architectural styles of different eras including the art deco-style Liberty Theater located on the northwest corner of Fifth and Pine.

(Courtesy of Morgan Middle School 6th grade journalism and publications class.)

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