



Saving the Hartline School

By Jerry Dormaier, Hartline School Preservation Association



Historic Hartline School in 1926 and now. It is currently listed on the Washington Heritage Register.

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RURAL EASTERN WASHINGTON IS A VAST STRETCH OF WHEAT FIELDS, ROLLING HILLS AND OPEN SKY. The small towns sprinkled throughout are tightly knit communities with deep roots in the land that has nourished their families for generations. Hartline is one of those places: A small town center on Highway 2 serving farms and ranches in surrounding Grant County. At first glance, it looks like a dozen other towns with grain elevators dominating the skyline. But as you approach from the west, an impressive brick building, the “heart of Hartline,” comes into view.

Hartline School, constructed in 1922, is as solid as the community: A two-story building with brick masonry on a concrete foundation, hardwood flooring and finished-fir woodwork, and a large iron bell out front. When new, its 29,000 square feet encompassed 12 spacious classrooms separated by a large central corridor, a 300-seat auditorium with movie projection booth, library, gymnasium and cafeteria. The T-shaped Colonial Revival style structure is embellished with a multi-colored brick façade and multi-paned windows and balanced around a central portico supported by two sets of Doric columns. Since graduating its first senior class in 1923, it has provided both a welcoming place for students of the area to attend classes and a comfortable meeting place for the surrounding communities. Four generations of Hartline residents have learned how to read and attended school dances in this elegant building.

But in the spring and summer of 2009, the Hartline School faced possible demolition, thanks to a series of events that started with the building suffering minor flood damage in November 2005. The Coulee-Hartline School District decided to build a new school in neighboring Coulee City and in December

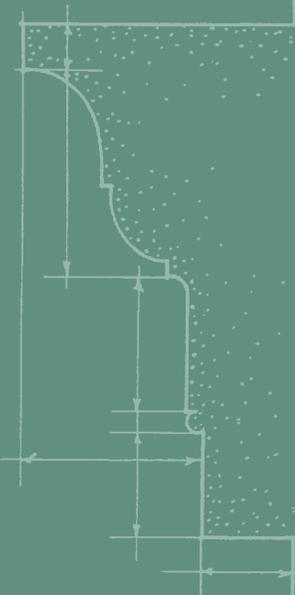
2008 the Hartline School was vacated after nearly 90 years of continuous use. In March 2009, the school district declared the building surplus, and a month later they offered it to the Port of Hartline for town residents to use. In a letter, the school district stipulated, “If the Port declines all offers, the board will put the property on the market for public sale; if no buyers by this fall, the district will demolish the school building.”

But for some Hartline residents, demolition was not an option. “Almost ninety years ago, leaders of this community had the vision and determination to build one of the finest buildings between Spokane and Wenatchee,” says Jerry Dormaier, chair of the Hartline School Preservation Association (HSPA). “I would be shirking my responsibility were I not to honor their vision and do whatever I can to try to breathe new life into an amazing edifice.”

Dormaier is not alone. A group of Hartline residents, landowners, and Hartline School alumni formed the HSPA to fight the School District’s proposal to demolish the venerable building. The group’s goals include preserving and finding new uses for the historic school structure, such as a center for community activities. Shortly after hearing news of the offer, the HSPA sprang into action. They facilitated building tours and inspections to determine whether the building had any structural problems. They mobilized supporters to aid the Port of Hartline in a purchase plan. They recruited community and alumni support with a petition drive, e-mail campaign, and website (www.heartofhartline.com). They researched

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Above left: Downtown Mount Vernon. For full story, see page 6.



Your Trust in Action

From the Director's Desk



DEAR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF THE WASHINGTON TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION,

Your most recent issue of *Trust News* did not get lost in the mail—here it is! Far from taking a hiatus, we've been busier than ever

working to expand our programming, be the best possible stewards of our historic headquarters, the Stimson-Green Mansion, and furthering our statewide mission to preserve the places that matter to all Washingtonians. I am pleased to kick-off this special double issue of *Trust News*, which is jam packed with *twice* the number of inspiring and informative stories, with an update on some of the projects and initiatives that have kept us busy this past year.

2009 was a busy and exciting year for us at home and around the state. We are very thankful for sizable grant awards from the Washington State Heritage Capital Projects Fund and 4Culture Heritage Cultural Facilities Program that enabled us to complete several critical **rehabilitation projects at the Stimson-Green Mansion**, including replacing our failing boiler system with a new energy efficient system (hooray for more reliable heat in the winter!), rehabilitating our water-damaged dishwasher room, and executing Phase I of our Landscape Master Plan, which included re-grading the site to direct drainage away from the house, removing several hazardous street trees and planting new, appropriately scaled trees and shrubs. We had the pleasure of working with a cadre of excellent architects, landscape architects, engineers, contractors, and local trade professionals, who we can now call on for future projects at the Mansion. We are proud of our success in raising funds for capital improvement projects and seeing these important projects through toward ongoing stabilization and preservation of our cherished historic resource.

We increased our educational programming by once again partnering with Historic Seattle, our neighbors across Seneca Street, to offer regular public tours of their headquarters, the 1907 Dearborn House, and our own Stimson-Green Mansion, including special tours for senior groups. In the fall, we also partnered with Historic Seattle to organize The Public Value of Sacred Places, a workshop that convened more than 50 participants interested in learning more about the challenges facing historic houses of worship. Bob Jaeger, Executive Director of Partners for Sacred Places and noted expert on implementing strategies to retain historic houses of worship as viable community assets, served as the keynote speaker.

We continued our partnership with the Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Pres-

ervation in administering the statewide Heritage Barn Program and Historic County Courthouse Rehabilitation Program. The Heritage Barn Program was established in 2007 and has officially recognized more than 400 of these iconic agricultural resources and awarded \$450,000 in state stabilization matching grant funds to 19 barn owners located in counties throughout the state. Our advocacy efforts last year resulted in a \$300,000 appropriation from the State Legislature in the 2009–2011 Biennium to provide ongoing grant funds to stabilize and preserve historic barns throughout Washington. The Historic County Courthouse Rehabilitation Program was established in 2005, and has resulted in grant fund awards of more than \$12 million to 21 counties around the state and leveraged more than \$34 million in capital investments in these highly significant public buildings. Our advocacy efforts last year resulted in a \$2 million appropriation from the State Legislature to continue this important program. The fact that these two programs retained a level of funding in the midst of the state's severe budget shortfall is a testament to their value as generators of economic activity at the local level.

Working in collaboration with maritime heritage stakeholders, historic preservation and heritage advocates, and government agencies we helped guide the feasibility study process toward establishment of a maritime-themed National Heritage Area in the Puget Sound region. The feasibility study will soon be under review by the National Park Service, and will then be sent to Congress for approval. When established, this will be the first National Heritage Area to focus on maritime resources in the country, and the Washington Trust will serve as the management entity for the Area.

In April, we invited preservation educators, tradespeople and government officials to participate in a workshop at Fort Worden in Port Townsend to explore establishing a hands-on, vocational and avocational preservation school there. The idea for creating the **Center for Historic Preservation** was born out of a desire for additional year-round educational programming at the Fort, which will soon be managed by a private, non-profit entity, and recognizing that the Fort's outstanding collection of late 19th and early 20th century military buildings make the perfect laboratory for teaching preservation trades. The City of Port Townsend has created a public development authority to help fund the program, and the Washington Trust continues to play a significant role in developing the school in partnership with local supporters.

We supported the efforts of many local preservation groups and individuals to successfully advocate for

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DIRECTOR'S DESK—Continued from page 2

the protection of a number of properties listed on our annual Most Endangered Historic Properties List, including Washington Hall, which is currently being rehabilitated by Historic Seattle with financial assistance from 4Culture, King County's arts and heritage authority; the U.S. Naval Air Station in Seattle, which was recently listed in the Washington State Heritage Register and recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places; and the Curran House, which is owned by the City of University Place, where the City Council passed a resolution in support of preserving the house and working with a local advocacy group to develop a management plan and identify funding sources for its rehabilitation.

We awarded grant funding through our **Valerie Sivinski Washington Preserves Fund** to groups striving to save historic resources in their communities. A few notable recipients in 2009 included the Cutter Theatre in Metaline Falls, which received \$2,000 to rehabilitate its masonry façade, the George Pickett House in Bellingham, built in 1856 and now owned by the Daughters of the Pioneers of Washington, Whatcom Chapter 5, who received \$1,800 to replace the building's roof, and the Fox Theatre in Centralia, which received \$2,000 to help with restoration of the theater storefront.

And finally, we secured grant funding to design a **new, interactive website** to create an engaging, up-to-date clearinghouse for preservation information and events and help us stay in closer touch with you, our valued members! The new site is currently under construction, but it will be up and running soon under a new URL.

The support and involvement of our dedicated **Board of Directors** and the ongoing, exceptional work of our **staff**, Program Associate/Mansion Manager, Cathy Wickwire, Field Director, Chris Moore, and the three outstanding interns: Jennifer Mallinger, Jennifer Mortensen, and Kelly Hufty, made 2009 a banner year for the Trust. Thanks to our two additional Jennifers and Kelly, we accomplished many mission-furthering activities and projects, including organizing our participation in National Preservation Lobby Day, creating and managing Trust Facebook, Flickr and Twitter pages, researching and helping to design a new donor management software program, researching preservation website content, researching preservation school models, and planning for our upcoming statewide heritage barn preservation conference in 2010 (more to come on this exciting program soon!).

Looking ahead to 2010, with your support, we will continue striving to expand our educational programming and outreach and advocacy efforts. We will continue building strong relationships with the network of local preservation and heritage organizations throughout the state and promoting an understanding that historic preservation is the key to building strong and vital communities and protecting our irreplaceable past for the benefit of future generations. I look forward to seeing you at upcoming Trust activities around the state and keeping you informed about all the wonderful programmatic developments and preservation successes sure to occur in the coming year.

With Warm Regards,
Jennifer Meisner, Executive Director

Awards and Accolades for Revisiting Washington

LAURELS ARE ROLLING IN FOR THE WASHINGTON TRUST-LED *REVISITING WASHINGTON* CD AND WEBSITE PROJECT, WHICH UPDATES THE STATE'S CLASSIC 1941 WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION GUIDEBOOK *WASHINGTON: A GUIDE TO THE EVERGREEN STATE*. Last fall, the project received the 2009 Scenic Byway Award for Interpretation during the National Scenic Byways 2009 Conference in Denver, Colorado. Even more recently, the WA Trust was awarded a \$156,000 Scenic Byways grant to convert the project into a website.

"History comes alive through the fun and captivating presentation, and the State's entire scenic byway program has benefited from the project," complimented the America's Byways Resource Center.

Fourteen Washington Byways were involved with the project, including Chinook Scenic Byway, Stevens Pass Greenway, International Selkirk Loop, Coulee Corridor, Whidbey Scenic Isleway, Chuckanut Drive Scenic Byway, San Juan Islands Scenic Byway, Mt. Baker Scenic Byway, North Cascades Scenic Byway, Okanogan Scenic Byway, North Pend Oreille Scenic Byway, Lewis and Clark Scenic Byway, White Pass Scenic Byway, and Pacific Coast Scenic Byway.

Sponsored by the America's Byways Resource Center, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and the American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials (AASHTO), the prestigious award recognizes eight projects of excellence from byway nominations across the country. Selection by a panel of byway community experts is based on four criteria, including community involvement and public outreach; partnerships; advancing the goals of the byway's corridor management plan; and, innovation.

"We hope these winning projects will inspire new efforts to preserve, protect, interpret, and promote the intrinsic qualities along America's Byways, distinctive routes designated by the National Scenic Byways Program," commented Michelle Johnson, Director of America's Byways Resource Center.

2010 Heritage Barn Conference, Save the Date and Register Now!



GET READY TO RAISE THE ROOF ON THE STATEWIDE HERITAGE BARN CONFERENCE, PLANNED FOR MAY 6-7TH, 2010 IN WALLA WALLA'S HISTORIC MARCUS WHITMAN HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTER. Sponsored by the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation and the National

Barn Alliance, the Heritage Barn Conference celebrates Washington's rich rural heritage while keeping the focus on barns as viable, working buildings.

Since the Heritage Barn Preservation Initiative was passed by the legislature in 2007, Washington has designated more than 400 Heritage Barns across the state. Given the success of the statewide initiative, the Washington Trust decided a Heritage Barn Conference was the next logical step. The conference will be held in conjunction with the Regional Meeting of the National Barn Alliance and we are thrilled to have barn experts from across the nation planning to attend.

Educational sessions will be held on Thursday, May 6th with an evening reception to follow. The conference's educational tracks will focus on identification and survey of historic barns, rural heritage tourism, sustainable agriculture, rehabilitation, and a variety of topics associated with barn preservation. Site visits to local barns will be offered on the second day of the conference, enabling participants to experience Walla Walla's farming tradition close-up. Additionally, attendees can cycle their way through the beautiful Walla Walla Valley on a self-guided ride-by barn tour. Friday field trips include lunch.

Conference registration is \$125.00 for Washington Trust and National Barn Alliance members and \$150.00 for the general public (includes a one-year membership in the Trust). Registration covers all Thursday sessions, lunch, and the evening reception. The barn tours on Friday are \$35 each and include a box lunch. Register online at Brown Paper Tickets (www.brownpapertickets.com/event/99126). You can also register by phone with Brown Paper Tickets by calling 800.838.3006. A block of rooms is available at a discounted rate at the Marcus Whitman Hotel and Conference Center (866.826.9422) as well as the Best Western Walla Walla Suites Inn (800.780.7234). There are a limited amount of rooms available, so please plan ahead. If you have any questions, please contact us at info@wa-trust.org or call 206.624.9449. Additional conference information can be found on our website, www.wa-trust.org.



Grand front entry and students.

potential funding sources, rediscovered the building's architects (Frederick Westcott and Howard Gifford), and located assistance for historic preservation issues. They helped research and submit a nomination to the DAHP to place the Hartline School on the Washington Heritage Register and the National Register of Historic Places. Despite the group's efforts, the fate of the building remained uncertain throughout the summer months and into September.

The Port of Hartline asked for an extension on the purchase ultimatum in order to assess the community's response and determine the best course of action. The Port Commissioners, HSPA, and supporters all worked under intense pressure to resolve the issue within the short time frame allotted by the School District. Survey letters were sent and responses tallied by the Port. Informal and formal community meetings were held. The HSPA requested help and information from state and local historic preservation professionals. Finally, on September 8th, the Port Commissioners voted to accept the School District's offer. Dozens of jubilant supporters—and a few detractors—attended the meeting to voice their support.

Additional good news arrived on November 5th, when the ACHP unanimously voted to list the Hartline School on the Washington Heritage Register and forward the nomination to the National Park Service for final review and listing by the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places. Several HSPA members attended this meeting at the Spokane Public Library, and proudly accepted the certificate of recognition of the Hartline School listing on the Washington Heritage Register.

Final hearings on the purchase agreement and approval votes by the Port and the School District are underway. The Port expects all legal transactions to be completed by the end of December, and to take possession of the property in January 2010. The HSPA and the Port Commissioners are now working together (and need assistance) to create a plan for the future of the historic Hartline School, ensuring that this integral part of Hartline's history remains solid and strong for years to come.

If you have suggestions, skills, or resources relevant to this project and are able to offer assistance please contact:

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www.heartofhartline.com; PO Box 153, Hartline, WA 99135

Rediscovering Architect Earl Wilson Morrison (1888–1955)

By Glenn Davis

IN THE NOVEMBER 1928 ISSUE OF *PACIFIC BUILDER AND ENGINEER*, A BIOGRAPHY OF SEATTLE ARCHITECT EARL W. MORRISON NOTED: "HE IS PERHAPS ONE OF THE BEST-KNOWN ARCHITECTS, AT LEAST AS FAR AS THE GENERAL PUBLIC IS CONCERNED, IN THE STATE OF WASHINGTON. Scarcely a town in the state cannot show an example of his handiwork."

His numerous, varied, and distinctive projects can be found in and near Spokane, Wenatchee, Everett, Seattle, Bellingham, Hoquiam, Alaska, Hawaii and Oregon. He designed civic buildings, schools, apartments, hotels, newspaper plants, medical buildings, houses, restaurants, offices, warehouses, auditoriums, gymnasiums, stores, automobile showrooms, service garages and defense housing—even buildings at the center of the fledgling movie industry in Seattle.

He took great pains to produce work that was "artistic," even when considering such utilitarian structures as warehouses to which most architects would respond with a "boilerplate" solution. He seemed equally intrigued with the compelling possibilities of modern building technologies and creative methods of delivering professional service, as well as collaboration.

He assembled building teams that featured outstanding professionals, including structural engineer W. H. Witt and builder Howard S. Wright during the early years of their careers. Similarly, his patrons were some of the most celebrated financiers and developers in the Pacific Northwest; LeRoy M. Backus, Colin, O. Radford, Paul N. Ford, Walter Nettleton and Loren Baldwin.



(left) *The Marlborough House, ca. 1937. Puget Sound Regional Archives;* (right) *Gainsborough Apartments, Seattle, September 10, 1930. PEMCO Webster & Stevens Collection, Museum of History & Industry, Seattle; All Rights Reserved*



Mt. Baker Lodge, c. 1930. Bert Huntoon Collection of the Whatcom Museum of History & Art



Rosehill High School, Mukilteo, Wash. Courtesy of Northwest Room, Everett Public Library

Many of Morrison's tower designs for residential, office, and manufacturing purposes were some of the most definitive Seattle structures of their day; 1223 Spring Street, The Gainsborough, Marlborough House, Textile Tower, Olive Tower, Grosvenor House, and Baldwin Apartments. Three of the most magnificent, the City Light Tower, the Mark Twain and the Bachelor apartment hotels remained unbuilt, victims of the Great Depression. When constructed in 1949, Morrison's Eighth Avenue (now Nettleton) Apartments was the largest apartment house west of the Mississippi.

Beyond Seattle, a sampling of his work includes an early grouping of superlative mansions along Spokane's iconic, Olmstead-designed Rockwood Boulevard. In 1924 he designed the Chelan County Courthouse to last for one hundred years. The Gothic design of the Herald building in

Bellingham, with its beautiful terra cotta trim, was said at construction to be "the most beautiful building in the Northwest."

Morrison also created the rustic Mount Baker Lodge. Designed to harmonize with nature, it was a destination resort comparable to the grand National Park lodges of the early twentieth century. Hollywood royalty were among the 11,700 guests visiting the lodge during its opening year. Sadly, after only four years of operation it was destroyed by fire in 1931.

Perhaps an even sadder aspect of Earl Morrison's legacy is one for which he was most notable and to which he devoted a great part of his attention, schools. Grade schools and junior high buildings were a specialized focus of his overall production. Most were built in rural school districts or small cities with very modest budgets. They were efficiently planned and built of elegant and durable materials to perform over an extended period, requiring only minor operational and maintenance expense. Like most of his work, they tended to be designed with a carefully considered bilateral symmetry to present an image of dignified formality.

Over the past generation, many of these unique schools have been systematically destroyed in various local school systems' version of 1950s Urban Renewal. However, many continue to live on, some as historically renovated buildings. One that still exists, although its characteristic ornamental treatment has been curiously

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New Orleans Needs Volunteers Once Again



Volunteers from the 2009 trip to help restore New Orleans' historic buildings.

AS PRESERVATIONISTS WE HAVE A COMMON LOVE OF THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND ALL OF THE RICH AND DIVERSE CULTURAL HERITAGE STORIES THAT ACCOMPANY IT. Many of us have been involved in numerous battles to save a piece of the architectural heritage that we personally hold dear; and most of us have felt the painful sting when we lose the battle.

Over the last few years I have taken a group of preservation minded volunteers down to work in the Ninth Ward in New Orleans with the goal of helping that community preserve, protect and reuse the thousands of homes damaged or destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. Now, more than four years later, the immense needs of that community remain. I have personally witnessed a slow rebirth of one of the toughest areas in America (Holy Cross); and all of those who have traveled with me previously to New Orleans have a lot to be proud of. We've experienced firsthand the power of community to overcome overwhelming odds. We've witnessed the grace of a devastated community and their determination to move forward. And we have all been touched by the outpouring of thanks from everyone, not only those directly impacted by the disaster, in New Orleans.

Hurricane Katrina remains the single most destructive phenomenon on our country's cultural heritage since the Civil War. While it's easy to ignore the work that needs to be done when the story is no longer on the front page, it doesn't relieve any of us of the obligation to continue to assist in the rebuilding of that city.

You can still participate in the rebuilding of the Lower Ninth Ward—once again I will lead a team of volunteers down to New Orleans from April 5th through the 9th to work on three houses in the Holy Cross neighborhood. We welcome all sorts of talented people to join us, from those who have strong carpentry skills to those who can push a broom, deconstruct or paint. Everyone is welcome and needed. Please join us for this next trip.

While the costs of travel and accommodations are borne by each volunteer, we can assist in finding inexpensive lodging or potential roommates. As all who have gone before will attest, it is a rewarding experience that will stay with you throughout the remainder of your life.

For more information please contact me at kevin.daniels@nsco.com.



Preservationists have been coming to help Ninth Ward homes like these for the last several years.

MORRISON—*continued from page 4*

shrouded, is the Rosehill School in Mukilteo. This Morrison-designed facility was built by one of Snohomish County's leading contractors of the day, Hans J. Solie in 1928; its structural systems were engineered by W. H. Witt, whose firm grew to become one of the worldwide giants of structural engineering with buildings such as the World Trade Towers in New York City to its credit. Even though Rosehill is a product of some of the brightest design talent in Washington State history, it is currently one of the state's most endangered buildings. Despite unwavering efforts by local residents to preserve it, the building faces imminent and senseless destruction.

Earl W. Morrison was a gifted, leading figure of architectural design. Today the success of his efforts endures in helping to define the quality of our built environment, extending throughout the Pacific Northwest and beyond. Morrison continued working relentlessly until his untimely death in 1955.

Glenn Davis (glennDavis777@comcast.net) is a Spokane architect working together with Pat Kessler (patkessler@aol.com) of Mukilteo to rediscover the work of Earl Wilson Morrison.

Recent State Parks Historic Preservation Projects

By Lex Palmer

STATE PARKS STAFF STATEWIDE UNDERTOOK A VARIETY OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROJECTS DURING THE 2007–2009 BIENNium. These efforts included the Dalles Mountain Ranch Barn, Fort Simcoe Commanding Officer's Quarters, South Cle Elum Substation, St. Edward Seminary, Olmstead Place cabin and the Millersylvania CCC picnic shelter.

Washington State Parks Northwest Region completed four preservation projects: Admiralty Head Lighthouse and Battery Worth at Fort Casey State Park on Whidbey Island, Peace Arch at the Blaine border crossing to Canada in Whatcom County, and the Fort Flagler army hospital in Jefferson County on the Olympic Peninsula. Here are some project highlights.



Admiralty Head Lighthouse at Fort Casey State Park

Admiralty Head Lighthouse and Battery Worth, Fort Casey State Park – Established in 1890, Fort Casey State Park is located in Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve and its resources are National Register-listed within the Central Whidbey Island Historic District. The

Army established Fort Casey in 1890, constructing the concrete coastal defense batteries between 1898 and 1907. Battery Worth hosted a disappearing carriage gun, completed in 1898. State Parks acquired Fort Casey and its buildings in 1954.

Fort Casey Army Corps personnel built Admiralty Head lighthouse in 1903 using Lighthouse Service architect Karl Leick's design. The Lighthouse Service decommissioned the navigational light by 1922 and removed the lantern house to the New Dungeness Light Station in 1927. State Parks began the initial lighthouse restoration in 1958, followed by the latest, 2007–2009, effort. A historic structure report, which employed the original lighthouse construction drawings and specifications, guided a more accurate restoration effort by Epic Construction of Bellevue. The company reconstructed the lantern house, replaced windows, painted the exterior with period-appropriate finishes, repaired floor joists, and replaced the downspout, gutter, and metal roof and cornice. WSU Extension, Island County has provided additional support by restoring a Fresnel lens and painting the interior with finishes based on historic paint analysis.

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The Skagit River (left) is once again becoming a focal point for downtown Mount Vernon (right and below). Courtesy Mt. Vernon Downtown Association

Mount Vernon: Once Again Embracing the River

By Georgiann Dustin, Director, Mount Vernon Downtown Association



THE HISTORICAL VIBRANCY OF MOUNT VERNON, LIKE THAT OF MANY SMALL CITIES, CAN BE TRACED BACK TO A WATERWAY. For decades, the Skagit River was a major source of life, offering up its bounty and transporting people, goods and lumber. As modes of transportation changed and the influx of malls and big box stores altered consumer practices, the river became more of an entity to fear: Residents dreaded the devastation and expense of seasonal flooding and deteriorating embankments that eventually caused more anchor businesses pulled up stakes and the historical old downtown to suffer.

riorating embankments that eventually caused more anchor businesses pulled up stakes and the historical old downtown to suffer.

We, the members of this community—townspeople, city government, Main Street proponents, downtown activists, and merchants alike can proudly say that we have all begun the process of turning back towards and embracing this river of life.

The City of Mount Vernon has commenced a comprehensive redevelopment plan for its historic downtown area to guide public and private investments over the next 20 years and the center of attention is the riverfront. The Mount Vernon Downtown Flood Protection Project is intended to protect the city's downtown area from flood damage up to and including the levels of the 100-year event. In addition to flood protection, the project's goals include enhancing public access to the shoreline and river, and maintaining the existing availability of parking in the downtown area. The potential offered by this project for a rejuvenated historical downtown area and business community is very exciting.

One of the jewels located in the center of our historical district is the Presidents Hotel, which in the early 1920s was the famous Windsor Hotel. Plans are underway for a complete renovation in the near future. The hotel's owner, the Skagit Housing Authority, is collaborating with the Mount Vernon Downtown Association to help retain the historic integrity of the original hotel once the update is completed. It will house middle and fixed income households, which will boost the retail climate downtown.

Additionally, Mount Vernon was recently rated number one by *Business Week* magazine in their ranking of top 25 places set for job recovery.

“Mount Vernon, a small town in the Skagit Valley, about 60 miles north of Seattle and 80 miles south of Vancouver, has a historic downtown, nearby whale-watching tours, eagle-watching and kayaking. The town's small job market has retracted significantly and could be poised for a rebound. Mount Vernon's relative affordability makes it an attractive alternative to Seattle.”

Even under today's difficult economic conditions, the vision and effort of Mount Vernon's passionately engaged community members lays the groundwork for building a vibrant sense of place and ensures the continued momentum of Downtown Mount Vernon.

For more information: www.mountvernondowntown.org • 360.336.3801

STATE PARKS—continued from page 5

The second Fort Casey State Park historic preservation project, Battery Worth, has undergone a phased restoration that concluded in 2009. Parks staff and contractors restored the ammunition hoist, horizontal concrete surfaces, and metal blast doors in 2003. Advanced Construction of Mukilteo restored the vertical concrete surfaces, an ammunition crane, and applied a period-appropriate military green coating during 2008–2009.

Peace Arch, Blaine – To the north of Fort Casey, Peace Arch is located in Blaine directly on the US/Canada border. London architect Harvey Wiley Corbett donated his monument design to the project, which was championed by noted Pacific Northwest entrepreneur Samuel P. Hill to promote international relations. American contractor W.H. Bassett and Canadian manager W.E. Simmons constructed the National Register-listed monument in 1920–1921.

Due to the harsh environment adjacent to Semiahmoo Bay, previous concrete and paint restoration efforts took place in 1975 and 1993. B.C. Provincial Parks and Washington State Parks jointly funded the 2009 restoration, with State Parks leading the effort. Washington Industrial Coatings of Tumwater performed concrete restoration using techniques developed at the Battery Worth project—this involved high-performance polymer-modified concrete, epoxy-coated rebar, and breathable elastomeric paint.

Fort Flagler Hospital-Fort Flagler State Park – Southwest of Peace Arch, Parks historic preservation efforts on the Olympic Peninsula also involved Fort Flagler State Park. The Army established Fort Flagler on Marrowstone Island in 1896 as part of the Puget Sound Harbor Defense Command, which included Forts Casey and Worden. McInnis & Herrington constructed the 12-bed hospital in 1905. The Fort was deactivated in 1953, and the tract became a State Park by 1962. The property is National Register-listed.

Friends of Fort Flagler initiated the hospital restoration effort in 2005. A historic structure report drove the scope of work, which involved slate and standing seam metal roof replacement, ventilator replacement, chimney restoration, flashing replacement, wood window restoration, and gutter and downspout replacement. Cherry Street Builders of Port Townsend served as the general contractor. State Parks obtained replacement slate from Canadian sources, and it was installed by Brogan Slate of Snohomish. Cherry Street Builders and Window King restored the double-hung wood windows.

Fletcher, Farr, Ayotte Architects of Portland performed invasive testing to define the hospital Phase 2 work for 2009–2011, which will involve exterior siding replacement, window surround and porch decking restoration.



ON BEHALF OF THE WASHINGTON TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS, IT IS MY PLEASURE TO PRESENT OUR 2008 ANNUAL REPORT. Thanks to the ongoing support of our many members, donors, grant makers, and volunteers, we continue striving to fulfill our mission to save the places that matter to Washingtonians across our state.

This report introduces new programs and initiatives launched in 2008 and highlights of the many preservation successes we achieved through collaboration with individuals, groups, government agencies, and elected officials throughout the State. We continued our partnership with the Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation to administer the Historic County Courthouse and Heritage Barn Preservation programs. These hugely successful programs have resulted in rehabilitation of 11 historic courthouses and stabilization of 18 threatened historic barns while leveraging thousands in private investments in these significant historic resources.

In 2008, we continued to promote neighborhood revitalization through rehabilitation and adaptive reuse of historic buildings throughout the state, provide educational programming to increase public awareness of Washington's historic resources and the need to protect them, expand our Valerie Sivinski Washington Preserves grant program to support historic preservation where it really happens—at the community level, and to facilitate positive outcomes for threatened historic buildings through our Most Endangered Historic Properties List

Closer to home, we converted underutilized spaces to offices in our historic headquarters, the Stimson-Green Mansion, and welcomed two statewide non-profit organizations, Humanities Washington and the Washington State Arts Alliance/Foundation as long-term tenants. We are delighted to share our headquarters with these wonderful organizations and see many opportunities for future collaborations.

At the close of 2008, the Trust said goodbye to four longtime Board Members: Joe Finnie of Port Townsend, who most recently served as our Board President; Katie Franks of Bellingham; Sondra Purcell of Tacoma, who served as our Treasurer; and Janet Rogerson of Shelton, who served as our Secretary. Our special thanks and utmost appreciation goes to each one of them for six years of service during a period of great transition for our organization.

I hope you will enjoy learning more about our activities and accomplishments in 2008, all of which were made possible by your generous financial support and commitment to preserving Washington's precious past.

Jennifer Meisner, Executive Director



Once again, the Washington Trust was proud to assemble a knowledgeable, articulate, and passionate group of preservation advocates to participate in the annual Lobby Day activities held in Washington, DC on March 3-4, 2008. For the first time, our group of sixteen included at least one excellent representative from each of

our nine Congressional districts, and our delegation included a number of enthusiastic first-time participants as well many more experienced lobbyists. Every year, our visit to Rep. Norm Dicks of Washington's 6th District is a highlight of our long day on the Hill. This year, Rep. Dicks was kind enough to pose for a picture and offered his own seat to Trust Executive Director Jennifer Meisner. Posed on either side of Rep. Dicks at the center is (from left to right) Kevin Daniels, Jack Williams, Greg Griffith, Dow Constantine, Cathy Wickwire, Reuben McKnight and Sue Lean.

Honoring Our Public Servants

ON DECEMBER 2, 2008, THE WASHINGTON TRUST PRESENTED ITS 2008 LANDMARK DEEDS AWARDS FOR PUBLIC SERVICE TO TWO STATE LEGISLATORS, SENATOR CRAIG PRIDEMORE (D-49TH) AND REPRESENTATIVE DENNIS FLANNIGAN (D-27TH), AND TWO KING COUNTY COUNCILMEMBERS, BOB FERGUSON (DISTRICT 1) AND LARRY PHILLIPS (DISTRICT 4).



Senator Pridemore was recognized for his amendment to House Bill 1386, which increased the county surcharge on document-recording fees, collected for the preservation of historical documents, from \$2 to \$5. Pridemore's amendment directed that \$1 of the surcharge be earmarked to promote historic preservation or historical programs, thus creating a long-term source of funding for important preservation projects across Washington. Since the bill's passage in 2005, numerous projects statewide have been implemented using these funds, including survey work, preservation planning, brick-and-mortar rehabilitation, and collection acquisitions.



Representative Flannigan was honored for his efforts to save Tacoma's Murray Morgan Bridge. These have included negotiating terms to allow state funds to be used for the bridge's rehabilitation rather than demolition and introducing legislation that would enable the City of Tacoma to create a transportation improvement district, with sales tax revenue going toward maintenance and operation of the bridge. Although the campaign to save the bridge continues, Representative Flannigan has been instrumental in keeping preservation on the table as an option.



Councilmembers Ferguson and Phillips were recognized for co-sponsoring several county ordinances passed in October of 2008, ensuring that historic preservation will play a stronger role in decision-making and advancing efforts to preserve and protect historic and cultural resources throughout King County. This includes historic preservation action plans for improving stewardship of county owned historic resources and streamlining the permitting process for privately owned historic and



Continued on page 2 of 2008 Annual Report

2008 Most Endangered Historic Properties List



Bettinger House, Edmonds William and Ina Bettinger built this Queen Anne-style house in 1907. Identifiable for typical Queen Anne details such as multiple gables, a wraparound porch, fish-scale shingles, and decorative woodwork, the house is considered eligible for the local register. In 2008 the property changed hands. While the new owners appreciate the historic value of the house, the plans for the site, which is commercially zoned, were to construct a new building. Throughout the year, the Edmonds Historical Commission worked with the City of Edmonds to find a location to move the house, but none had been identified by year's end. The owners remained willing to donate the house to any party interested in relocating the structure.



Old Granary Building, Bellingham Built in the 1920s, the Granary Building was a key part of Whatcom County's early chicken and egg cooperative movement. Architecturally notable as an agricultural building form co-existing with an urban/industrial working waterfront setting, the Granary Building creates a distinct silhouette in downtown Bellingham's skyline. The Port of Bellingham is the current owner of the waterfront property where the building is located.

While the Port has indicated it would explore possibilities for adaptive reuse of existing industrial buildings including the Granary, 2008 ended with no proposals put forth. The Port and the City of Bellingham held differing opinions over proposed redevelopment schemes at the end of the year.



Greyhound Bus Station, Olympia Questions surrounding the Art Moderne structure and its future as Olympia's downtown bus station remain unanswered. Greyhound officials indicated a desire to move operations to a proposed Intercity Transit station several blocks, but construction of the station depends on federal funding—funding that had not materialized by the end of 2008. Should Greyhound move in the future, the 1937 bus station, a contributing building within the Downtown Olympia National Register Historic District, would likely be sold.



Kapus Farmstead, Ridgefield, Clark County Southwest Washington Health System purchased the Kapus Farm property, listed in the Clark County Register of Historic Places, with the intent of removing the historic farm buildings for a planned development in 2007. After several opportunities to move the farm buildings to a new site failed to come to fruition, in December of 2008 SWHS applied to the Clark County Historic Preservation Commission for a Certificate of Appropriateness to demolish the structures, claiming they had done their due diligence in attempting to relocate the structures. The Commission's decision was expected in early 2009.



Murray Morgan Bridge, Tacoma Designed by renowned bridge engineers Waddell and Harrington, the Murray Morgan bridge played a key role in Tacoma's urban development and labor history, linking the downtown, waterfront, and industrial tide flats when it opened in 1913. By 2008, the structure had been closed to vehicular traffic by the Washington State Department of Transportation. Negotiations were ongoing between WSDOT and the City of Tacoma

throughout the year, with the primary issues related to the feasibility of rehabilitating the bridge and securing the financing needed to return it to use as a viable transportation corridor for the city. Local and state elected officials continued to work through the end of 2008 to identify a solution that would lead to the rehabilitation of this engineering wonder and landmark structure.



Commercial Fishing Net Sheds of Gig Harbor The collection of historic net sheds that line the waterfront of Gig Harbor offer a glimpse into a way of life fast disappearing across Puget Sound. Part family hub/community center, part repair shop, the net sheds tell an important social and economic story in Gig Harbor's development along with serving as architectural icons beloved to residents and visitors alike. Real estate pressures and the increasing property taxes, however,

threaten the long-term viability of these structures, several of which have given way to condominium and marina development. In 2008, the City of Gig Harbor received a grant from the Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation to document 17 remaining net sheds. The project is slated for completion in 2009.



Nuclear Reactor Building, Seattle The University of Washington's Nuclear Reactor building embodied

both architectural and philosophical principles of modernism at the time it was completed in 1961. As an architectural statement, the building exhibited an expressive concrete structure in-filled with walls of glass. The transparent sheathing served more than an aesthetic purpose—it enabled all passersby to witness the nuclear research occurring within. Recent efforts to demolish the reactor building were put on hold as the university called for further study of the structure. In October of 2008, the state's Advisory Council on Historic Preservation recommended the Nuclear Reactor building for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, despite opposition from university officials. The recommendation for listing was pending with the National Park Service at year's end.



Washington Hall, Seattle As an early settlement house and fraternal club, dance hall and music venue,

activist hub and Masonic lodge, Washington Hall exemplifies Seattle's multi-cultural history more resoundingly than perhaps any other location in the city. Built by the Danish Brotherhood in 1908, it served as home to the Sons of Haiti since the early 1970s and is architecturally significant as the only known fraternal hall designed by Victor Voorhees, a prominent Seattle architect known more for residential work. Facing increased maintenance costs, the Sons of Haiti put Washington Hall up for sale. Fearing the possibility of the building being demolished for speculative development, during 2008 Historic Seattle worked to secure the purchase of Washington Hall with plans to rehabilitate the structure and return it to prominence as a performing arts venue.

LANDMARK—*continued from Annual Report page 1* archaeological properties. In addition, major maintenance reserve funds may now be utilized for historic preservation projects. Finally, updated cost estimates and a financing plan associated with the restoration of the landmark King County Courthouse have been approved.

These annual awards are presented to public figures who demonstrate leadership on issues related to historic preservation and who understand the critical role Washington's heritage plays in providing livable, sustainable communities statewide. Recognition goes to these public officials for their diligent work and outstanding contribution to protecting Washington's invaluable cultural resources.

Sivinski Fund Continues to Expand its Profile Statewide

2008 MARKED THE WASHINGTON TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF AWARDING GRANTS THROUGH OUR VALERIE SIVINSKI WASHINGTON PRESERVES FUND. According to organizational lore, a little more than a decade ago, a group of board members were gathered around a kitchen table in Tacoma, stymied over a particularly thorny preservation problem. Someone made the suggestion to handle the issue the old-fashioned way: with cash. After literally passing the hat, those present donated enough to act as seed money to assist with finding a solution to the problem at hand.

Since establishing the Washington Preserves Fund as an annual program in 1998, the Washington Trust has continued this tradition. Grant awards, while modest, continue to serve as meaningful sources of funding for locally initiated and supported preservation projects. Whether serving as a catalyst to jumpstart a campaign or as the final piece to an overall financing puzzle, grant funds assist in transforming preservation visions into bricks and mortar rehab, historic structures reports, organized advocacy campaigns, and a host of other projects for which program funds have been awarded. In 2001, the program officially became the Valerie Sivinski Washington Preserves Fund; that year Valerie, a passionate preservationist, tragically died while engaged in preservation fieldwork. Naming the program after Valerie has been a way for the Washington Trust to honor her legacy. And in reality, this tribute was destined—the Tacoma living room where it all began (along with the hat), belonged to her.

In 1998, four grants, totaling \$1,250, were awarded. The program has come along way since then, as in 2008 the Washington Trust received 17 Sivinski Fund grant applications, surpassing the previous record of 15 set just the year before. Through 2008, 56 projects across the state received more than \$41,000 in grant funds. 2008 Valerie Sivinski Washington Preserves Fund recipients include:

- **Historic Ellensburg**—\$2,000 for project planning, including needs assessment and cost estimating, as part of phase one for the rehabilitation of the Northern Pacific Train Depot, located within the Downtown Ellensburg National Register Historic District.
- **Kirkman House Museum, Walla Walla**—\$1,500 to repair a failing section of the unreinforced masonry foundation on the 1880 Italianate-inspired Kirkman House.
- **McReavy House Foundation, Union**—\$1,000 to help develop a needs assessment study for the comprehensive rehabilitation of the John McReavy House, situated on the bluff above Hood Canal in the town of Union.
- **R-Dock, Lopez Island**—\$500 to purchase materials to replace the roof on the Jevick Beach Fishing Shed. Although numerous fishing sheds existed at one time, the Jevick Beach structure is reportedly the last of its kind.
- **Skamokawa Grange, Skamokawa**—\$300 to help preserve the antique, hand-painted roll down curtain used for the stage at the Grange Hall. Too fragile to remain in use, the curtain will be preserved, mounted, and exhibited as a backdrop to the stage.
- **Wahkiakum Community Foundation, Cathlamet**—\$700 to assist with repairs to the National Register-listed Julia Butler Hanson House. Severe storms resulted in damage to the roof and water damage to portions of the interior.

The Washington Trust has created an endowment fund for the Sivinski Fund. Contributions to the Sivinski Endowment will work to ensure that this important source of grant funding will continue to assist with local preservation efforts for years to come. For information on making a donation to the Sivinski Endowment, please contact us at info@wa-trust.org.

A Full House

IN 2008, THE WASHINGTON TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION WELCOMED TWO NEW TENANTS TO OUR LANDMARK SEATTLE HEADQUARTERS, THE STIMSON-GREEN MANSION.

In late August, Humanities Washington, a non-profit organization and public foundation providing cultural and educational programs to the people of Washington State, moved their offices to the Mansion's third floor. Originally, this area housed the servants' quarters and extensive storage space, which includes a large trunk room, built-in cabinets, and oversized closets.

Over the summer of 2008, a tenant improvement project transformed the space, which totals some 2,800 square feet, at the same time it retained the original character, including the claw foot tub in the bathroom. Humanities Washington already looks to be quite at home.

In early September, our second new tenant, the Washington State Arts Alliance (WSAA), the leading statewide arts advocacy organization, moved their offices to one of the Mansion's second floor bedrooms. Once some electrical upgrades were completed, the WSAA staff was able to move in and resume their advocacy work to promote public funding, legislation, and policy favorable to the arts. With the addition of these new tenants, the Stimson-Green Mansion now houses the statewide non-profit organizations for historic preservation, humanities and the arts.

Preserving our Maritime Heritage

IN 2008, SEVERAL YEARS OF GRASSROOTS EFFORTS BY A BROAD COALITION OF HERITAGE ORGANIZATIONS CULMINATED IN A ONE-TIME ALLOCATION OF \$150,000 FROM THE WASHINGTON STATE LEGISLATURE TO FUND A FEASIBILITY STUDY TO ESTABLISH A NATIONAL MARITIME HERITAGE AREA IN WESTERN WASHINGTON. This effort was initiated by 4Culture, King County's cultural services agency, and its Maritime Heritage Task Force, which includes the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation, and was shepherded through the legislative process by this group's Advisory Team and members of the Pacific Northwest Maritime Heritage Council. As a result of these groups' advocacy efforts and the leadership of Representative Pat Lantz (Gig Harbor) and Senator Karen Frasier (Olympia), funding for the feasibility study was included in the State's 2008 Supplemental Budget.

Authorized by the U.S. Congress and managed by the National Park Service, the National Heritage Areas program establishes regions where natural, cultural, historic and recreational resources combine to form a nationally distinctive landscape—a landscape of human activity shaped by geography. The designation supports local citizens in preserving, sharing, and promoting the region's heritage, and does not increase federal regulation. The National Heritage Area being considered in Washington would be the first NHA in the country to be focused on maritime heritage.

This designation would raise awareness of our heritage resources with a national audience, help communities preserve their historic resources and share the story of their past, and support expanded cooperation among the maritime heritage groups working in Washington. Other benefits to local communities include:

- Supporting heritage tourism for coastal and Puget Sound communities
- Providing new funding for community based museums and heritage groups
- Supporting working waterfronts and our region's maritime industry
- Raising awareness of marine resources and the health of marine-based industries

Anticipated to get underway in early 2009, the feasibility study will be managed by the Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, with guidance by a steering committee comprised of representatives from tribes, local and state government, heritage organizations, the Washington Trust, and other interested stakeholders. The study will be the critical first step in the process towards obtaining Congressional approval for the National Heritage Area designation.

Silos and Dairies and Barns...Oh My!

IF 2008 WAS MARKED POLITICALLY BY A PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN PROMISING CHANGE AND PROGRESS FOR THE MILLENNIUM, FROM A PRESERVATION STANDPOINT IT WILL BE NOTED FOR A COLLECTIVE LOOK BACK—TO OUR AGRICULTURAL HERITAGE AND HOMESTEADING ROOTS. Yes, 2008 may just go down as the Year of the Barn in Washington.

The fervor actually began in 2007 when the State Legislature passed House Bill 2115—the Heritage Barn Preservation Initiative. The bill established a mechanism to officially acknowledge historic barns, and the families who have provided years of caring stewardship to those barns, through the Heritage Barn Register.

Maintained by the Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation, the Heritage Barn Register is a list of historic barns that are more than 50 years old and which retain a significant degree of historic integrity. Intended as an honorific, the nomination process has the added benefit of revealing a tremendous amount of important information related to barns and our rural heritage. Methods of construction, built dates, and types of structures provide insight to the state's economic development, rural demographics and, in some cases, agricultural patterns. By the close of the year, there were 336 officially designated Washington Heritage Barns located throughout 38 of the state's 39 counties.

A second component of the legislation is the Heritage Barn Grant Program. While it is recognized that historic barns support active farming, symbolize our agricultural heritage and strengthen tourism activity, the fact remains that dozens of barns are lost each year due to severe weather and deferred maintenance. The grant program is designed to address this issue. With matching funds aimed at assisting with structural stabilization and urgent rehabilitation needs, 2008 marked the first time that owners of designated Heritage Barns had a dedicated resource to which they could turn.

In January of 2008, the program received a stunning 105 grant applications requesting more than \$2.1 million in rehabilitation grant funds. With only \$500,000 in available funding, the Barn Advisory Committee (the body established for the purpose of awarding grants) faced very difficult decisions. In the end, the following 19 barns received grants:

Farm Name	County
Van Vogt Family Farm	Garfield
Hall Family Farm	Island
Sherhill Vista Farms, LLC	Island
Blue Heron Farm	Kittitas
Crocker Ranch	Klickitat
Boistfort Valley Farm	Lewis
Straub Farm	Lincoln
Olson Long Ranch	Okanogan
Parpala Farm	Pacific
La Porte Farm	Pend Oreille
J4 Ranch, LLC	Skagit
Prevedell Farm	Skagit
Jackknife Ranch	Snohomish
Hutton Settlement	Spokane
Erickson Family Farm	Thurston
Cook Family Farm	Whitman
Herke Hop Kiln	Yakima
LaFramboise Farmstead	Yakima
OJ Gendron Ranch	Yakima

Each of the above grant recipients commenced rehabilitation work to their respective Heritage Barn in 2008 and several projects were completed by year's end. The Heritage Barn Preservation Initiative is a program of the Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation. The Washington Trust for Historic Preservation is privileged to assist with administration of the grant program. For more information on the program, including before and after pictures from specific barn rehabilitation projects, visit www.dahp.wa.gov/pages/HistoricSites/HeritageBarnRegister.htm.

Justice for Historic Courthouses

OVER THE COURSE OF 2008, THE WASHINGTON TRUST CONTINUED TO ASSIST THE DEPARTMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGY & HISTORIC PRESERVATION WITH ADMINISTRATION DUTIES SURROUNDING THE HISTORIC COUNTY COURTHOUSE REHABILITATION GRANT PROGRAM. The program, established in 2005, provides state matching grants to counties with courthouses either listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and/or the Washington Heritage Register. Grant funds are used to implement rehabilitation projects aimed at retaining the significant, character-defining features of these iconic buildings.

In 2008, rehabilitation grant projects were underway in 11 counties, including Ferry, King, Klickitat, Mason, Pacific, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, Spokane, Stevens, and Wahkiakum. Projects ranged from window rehabilitation to clock tower stabilization, with a wonderful assortment of other renewal efforts mixed in. Since the grant's establishment in 2005, nearly \$10 million in funds have been awarded to 19 counties across the state. In turn, grant awards are working to leverage additional local funds projected to reach nearly \$20 million, for a total of \$30 million in overall capital improvements to these historic houses of justice.

With 31 of Washington's 39 counties featuring courthouses eligible to participate, the impact of the Historic County Courthouse Rehabilitation Grant Program has been far-reaching and substantial. As you travel through Washington's county seats and catch a glimpse of shimmering spires, freshly refinished window frames, and restored entryways, please take satisfaction in knowing that our Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation and, by extension, our state, takes great pride in its courthouses.

Planning and Public Outreach

MORE THAN 170 PRESERVATIONISTS AND PLANNERS FROM ACROSS THE STATE JOURNEYED TO CAMPBELL'S RESORT ON THE SHORES OF LAKE CHELAN TO ATTEND THE WASHINGTON TRUST'S BIENNIAL CONFERENCE, THE "POWER OF PLACE" IN APRIL 2008. Co-hosted by the Planning Association of Washington (PAW), the two-day conference aimed at investigating the intersections between historic preservation and planning. Dr. Anthea Hartig, Director of the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Western Region Office, set the tone at the opening plenary by calling on participants to take time to recognize and embrace the collective roles we all play in safeguarding Washington's cultural vitality. Conference sessions, spread across four tracks, focused on such timely issues as the status of Washington's historic bridges, strategies for the preservation of heritage barns, and tools for neighborhood planning, along with many others. Attendees also had the opportunity to explore downtown Chelan and a local winery through several field sessions. Special thanks goes to our conference partner, the Planning Association of Washington, for all of the energy and hard work they put into planning, preparing, and implementing this event. We look forward to future collaboration with PAW.

Two months later, the Washington Trust hosted a half-day workshop, "Preservation and the Media," at the Stimson-Green Mansion in Seattle. Thanks to generous support from the Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, we were able to develop the workshop format and content with the expert staff at Nyhus Communications, a leading public relations and public affairs firm. The workshop was facilitated by Roger Nyhus and featured a Media Relations 101 presentation, a small group exercise, and a lively discussion with a panel of print, online and broadcast media professionals who shared their thoughts about what makes a story newsworthy, how to pitch a story, and how to position yourself as the go-to expert on preservation-related issues. The goal was to provide attendees with the tools to become more media savvy and increase positive coverage of the social, cultural, and economic benefits of historic preservation.



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San Juan County Historic Barn Inventory Gets a Great Start

HISTORIC BARN AND AGRICULTURE ARE NOT NECESSARILY THE FIRST IMAGES THAT COME TO MIND WHEN THINKING OF THE SAN JUAN ISLANDS. But prior to the construction of railroad lines in eastern Washington, the islands comprised one of the premiere fruit producing counties of the western seaboard, shipping apples, pears, peas and other products as far away as Seattle, New York, Europe and New Zealand. Today, an estimated 120 historic barns survive in this small archipelago of islands that comprise San Juan County. And to the people who live there, historic barns matter.

A couple of years ago two island preservationists created the 100 Friends of Old Island Barns. "I kept hearing barn owners talk about perfect strangers stopping to question them about why they weren't doing more to save their barns," explains 100 Friends founder and Town of Friday Harbor Historic Preservation Coordinator Sandy Strehlou. "Knowing that most really do want to preserve their historic barns and farm buildings, it seemed clear that as a community, we all needed to get involved before it's too late. And the first logical step was to figure out how many barns are left, and determine what they need to keep standing."

Since then, the group has been off and running. Last year, 100 Friends launched the San Juan Historic Barn Inventory, administered through the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation. Funding came in the form of an initial grant from San Juan County's Historic Preservation Fund, an assessment on all legal forms filed with the County and allocated through a competitive application process. With it, the 100 Friends began an ambitious project to document and assess the preservation needs of the county's historic barns.

Architectural historian Boyd Pratt notes that it has been interesting to discover the diversity of island barns in existence: There are dairy and sheep barns, turkey barns, fruit barns—even one barn that turned out to be a granary; roof styles such as shed, gable, gambrel and monitor; and building materials that include logs, timber frame, poles, and framed trusses. "Barns are some of the largest structures on the islands," says Pratt. "One of the largest I've measured is 131 feet long by 56 feet wide, and stands 33 feet tall."

The County's initial seed grant of \$6,464 made it possible to start the inventory, but a \$5,000 gift from an anonymous barn lover has enabled Pratt to continue the field survey, recording 85 of the currently identified 120 or so structures on all four of the ferry-served islands (Lopez, Orcas, San Juan, and Shaw). The response to this effort has been enthusiastic—with an additional \$5,000 challenge or matching grant on the line, the group raised just over \$5,000 by the end of 2009 to match it and complete the survey.

Besides Pratt's field work, 100 Friends has done outreach presentations at the last two county fairs, has successfully pitched articles in local newspapers and magazines, and distributes a quarterly e-newsletter with updates about the inventory and the State's Heritage Barn Register and grant program. These efforts have helped uncover additional barns, some on islands reachable only by private boat or plane.

With the field work coming to an end, Strehlou and Pratt are beginning work on compiling the inventory for use by the broader community. They are partnering with the San Juan Island Library to store the data in cyberspace through the Washington Rural Heritage Program, as well as the County's Geographic Information System (GIS). The 100 Friends will also help interested barn owners register their barns and apply for funding, getting the word out through a series of community meetings in 2010.

Ultimately, the group knows that preserving these barns will mean locating outside funds for essential mitigations like new roofs and foundations to keep the barns from deteriorating further and members believe that the answer lies in building creative partnerships that broaden the community of interest beyond the usual cast of preservationists. They are currently working with wildlife habitat organizations on a bat habitat/barn preservation pilot project grant as well as exploring opportunities with the state's newest scenic byways organization to include heritage barns as part of the San Juan Islands Scenic Byways wayfinding and interpretation plan. For the 100 Friends though, the real goal is longer working lives for historic barns in San Juan County.

For more information on the San Juan County Historic Barn Inventory, the 100 Friends of Old Island Barns, or the challenge grant, contact Strehlou at 360.378.8337, strehlou@rockisland.com, or snail mail the 100 Friends of Old Island Barns at P.O. Box 2053, Friday Harbor, WA 98250.



The Doran Barn on Straits View Farm, San Juan Island



The Prestle Turkey Barn, a.k.a. the Bicycle Barn, on Lopez Island



Hudson Barn on San Juan Island



A red apple barn, on Orcas Island

Update: 2009 Most Endangered Historic Properties



Alki Homestead Restaurant, Seattle In the fall of 2009, the owner of the Alki Homestead Restaurant, along with his project architect and other team members, appeared before the City of Seattle Architectural Review Committee. The pitch: to demolish the restaurant and reconstruct a new restaurant in a slightly different location on the site. The shift in location, the proponents argued, would allow the site to be more intensely developed, allowing for a small hotel or housing project to be added to the parcel.

The property owner has since moved ahead with his stated objectives, filing two permit applications in January 2010. Both applications relate to new construction on the site coupled with reconstruction of the Alki Homestead Restaurant, known historically as Fir Lodge. As the resource is a designated City of Seattle Landmark, the city's Landmark Preservation Board will review the project. Given the scope, the project will also go through the local neighborhood design review process.



George Carmack House, Seattle Significant as the Seattle residence of Klondike Gold Rush booster George Carmack, the resource sits vacant on its corner lot and remains for sale. Efforts to purchase the house and embark on a rehabilitation program are ongoing. The goal is to capitalize on the resource's associations with the Gold Rush, a historic period that truly impacted Seattle's development.



Curran House, University Place Set amid an apple orchard, this fine mid-century residence is the work of Robert Price, the first architect from Tacoma to be inducted into the AIA College of Fellows. Despite earlier concerns about maintenance, liability, and long-term costs, this past fall the University Place City Council resoundingly (6-1) passed a resolution in support of preserving the Curran House and the associated orchard. Following this show of political support, Pierce County sweetened the pot with a \$30,000 Conservation Futures grant to implement much-needed repairs to the roof. Congratulations to the many Curran House supporters—advocacy pays off!



Sand Point Naval Station, Seattle Home to the 13th Naval District beginning in 1923, the collection of historic structures comprising Sand Point is perhaps better known today for being part of Seattle's Magnuson Park. After completing a thorough survey of the structures associated with the naval base, the City of Seattle nominated the area to be listed as a Historic District in the National Register of Historic Places. The National Park Service is presently reviewing the nomination, which advocates for Sand Point hope will be official shortly. Designation in the National Register is an important step in preserving the base, as it will make the historic structures on site eligible for federal tax incentive programs, and rehabilitation economically feasible in some instances.



St. Edward's Catholic Church, Shelton Despite a viable offer from a determined group of advocates to purchase the church for use as a pre-school and an arts and music venue, the Mason County Board of Commissioners refused to veer from their previously determined course of demolition. While the St. Edward's parish technically demolished the building, the parish, along with the Seattle Archdiocese, had expressed a willingness to work with the county on an outcome to retain the 1931 Paul Thiry-designed church. In failing to

even consider the proposal put forward, the commissioners proved unresponsive to their constituents as well as fiscally shortsighted—revenues from the sale would have benefited a county facing cuts to personnel and services. The county's immediate plans are to use the site as a parking lot.



Vashon Elementary School Gymnasium, Vashon Island Efforts to convince stakeholders that the wood-framed gymnasium constructed in 1919 to serve Vashon Island's schoolchildren deserved relocation rather than demolition fell flat. In the fall of 2009, the Vashon Island School Board voted to demolish the structure, making way for new athletic fields proposed for the site. In making

the decision, school board officials acknowledged personal attachments to the old gym, noting that no one wanted to see it torn down. But relocating the structure was never really an option, as questions surrounding its structural stability lead to cost estimates the board considered untenable. The contractor responsible for de-

constructing the gym did salvage as much material as possible, later donating the proceeds earned from the sale of those materials back to the School Board to support local athletic programs. His actions show that even after they are gone, historic buildings have the power to give back to the community

Update: 2009 Watch List Properties



Bettinger House, Edmonds Due in part to the flagging economy, plans to construct a new commercial build-

ing where the 1907 Queen Anne-inspired Bettinger House sits have been shelved. In fact, the owners have put the house up for sale. In the interim, a preservation-minded tenant is leasing the building, using it as the base of operations for a newly established non-profit organization. Reinvented as the Rose House, the historic residence serves as the Center for Creative and Humanitarian Endeavors. The long-term goal is to raise enough money to purchase the house and make it the organization's permanent home. For more information, visit www.edmondsrosehouse.org.



Old Granary Building, Bellingham In December of 2009, consultants for the Port of Bellingham and the City of Bellingham issued the Waterfront District Adaptive Reuse Assessment. The purpose of the study was to evaluate the feasibility of utilizing the Old Granary and 10 existing buildings formerly part of the Georgia-Pacific pulp and paper mill as part of a new waterfront redevelopment plan. Based on the consultants' finding that adaptive reuse of the existing buildings is not economically feasible at this time, the report recommends the following: near term demolition of five buildings along with the Steam Plant Chimney; temporary hold of four buildings, including the granary, to be demolished if re-use is deemed unviable; and temporary hold of three structures (former bins and tanks used in the mill complex) for evaluation as possible interpretive artifacts in the new development.

While the consultants identify the Granary Building as potentially eligible for tax credits, the report finds that none of the structures associated with the former Georgia-Pacific site would be eligible to utilize the federal incentive program. This finding is based on the recommendation for near-term demolition of

Continued on the next page

five buildings, which, if executed, would result in a lack of integrity/coherence to consider a historic district for the remaining structures.

Despite the report's findings, a January 2010 letter from the Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation determined the following: that the 10 buildings and structures formerly associated with Georgia-Pacific are eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places as a Historic District; that eight of those 10 buildings and structures are eligible to be individually listed in the National Register; and that the Old Granary Building, historically known as the Washington Egg & Poultry Building, is individually eligible for the National Register. The state's findings suggest that both federal tax credits and local incentives should be part of the overall analysis related to re-use potential.



Kapus Farmstead, Ridgefield, Clark County An agreement is in place between the Clark County Historic Preservation Commission and Southwest Hospital system to retain the farm structures on the original site for one year. During this timeframe, the hospital will offer the buildings free of charge and will contribute the would-be cost of demolition to relocation expenses. At the end of the allotted year, however, if the structures cannot be relocated, the

hospital may apply for a demolition permit. If demolition is sought, the hospital has agreed to supplement existing documentation already completed for the farm complex.



Nuclear Reactor Building, Seattle In October 2009, the National Park Service announced that the University of Washington's Nuclear Reactor Building, or More Hall Annex, had officially been listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Despite university opposition to the listing, the Park Service accepted the nomination put forward by the state's Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. The decision to list the reactor in the National Register is especially

welcome news to those with an appreciation of the recent past. Buildings associated with architecture's modernist movement are frequently underappreciated and, as such, increasingly at risk. While typically there is a 50 year threshold for inclusion in the National Register, the Park Service deemed the Nuclear Reactor Building, constructed in 1961, to be significant enough to warrant special consideration. Although the University of Washington at one time sought to demolish the building, future plans for the site remain unclear.



Washington Hall, Seattle Through the efforts of Historic Seattle and 4Culture, King County's cultural services agency, the future of Washington Hall no longer remains in question. Historic Seattle purchased the building and began a comprehensive rehabilitation program last year. Construction is ongoing, and the goal is to re-open the venue in early 2010. One thing is certain: Washington Hall will once again play host to musical and arts performances as

vibrant as its history and the Central District community that surrounds it. For more information on Washington Hall and rehabilitation efforts, visit www.historicseattle.org.



Preston-Shaffer Milling Co., Waitsburg The iconic structure known locally as the Waits Mill sadly burned to the ground in September of last year. The cause of the early morning fire remains unknown, but it is suspected that vandals played a role. With the original portion constructed in the 1860s, the Waits Mill represented early industrial technology related to eastern Washington's agricultural development. An intricate system of belts, chutes, sifters, elevators and cogs

remained in the complex, all powered by the stream running alongside the mill. The mill has been featured on our Watch List since 2005, and local planning had been initiated to determine a rehabilitation strategy for the structure.

Former 7th Church An Official City Landmark

By Leanne Olson, Queen Anne Historical Society Landmarks Preservation Committee



ON JUNE 17, 2009, THE (FORMER) 7TH CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST, LOCATED AT 2555 8TH AVENUE WEST AND DESIGNED BY HARLAN THOMAS (THOMAS & GRAINGER) IN 1926, WAS DESIGNATED A CITY OF SEATTLE LANDMARK BY A UNANIMOUS LANDMARKS BOARD VOTE. This designation brings the total number of City of Seattle Landmarks located in the Queen Anne district to 33, which includes two other Harlan Thomas-designed buildings: the Chelsea Apartments (1907) and the Queen Anne Library (1913, Somervell & Thomas).

The landmark report for the church was prepared and presented by Larry Johnson, AIA, principal of The Johnson Partnership, with the assistance of Queen Anne Historical Society Landmarks Preservation Committee members Char Eggleston and Leanne Olson. Also in attendance were two of Harlan Thomas' granddaughters, Koque Thomas Todd and Edith Williams Shuman, as well as Jay Kelly, Minister of the Seattle Church of Christ and current owners of the property. All ten board members were present and voted unanimously to approve the designation based on the building meeting three of the six designation criteria specified by the City of Seattle Landmarks ordinance, criteria D, E and F: The property embodies distinctive visible characteristics of an architectural style, it is an outstanding work of a designer and it is an easily identifiable visual feature of its neighborhood. The designation covers the exterior of the building, the main entrance foyer that includes two cloakrooms, and the auditorium, including the speaker's platform and the site. The Queen Anne Historical Society would like to express gratitude to the many community members and representatives of heritage organizations who helped to make this designation possible.

Correction

We misplaced the Orcas Island Historical Society in our last issue ("2009 Valerie Sivinski Washington Preserves Fund Grants Awarded," Issue 2, 2009), locating it on Friday Harbor when it is, in fact, on Orcas Island. We apologize for the error!

Historic Landscape & Garden Workshop in Cheney

Do you want your historic building to look at home in its setting? Are you having trouble mastering the challenges of gardening in the Inland Northwest? What kind of landscaping is *authentic* for a house built in the 1890s... the 1920s... or the 1940s...?

Join other local history buffs, do-it-yourself landscapers and garden enthusiasts for a one-day workshop on Saturday, March 20, 2010 highlighting landscape and garden options for historic buildings. Sponsored by the Cheney Historic Preservation Commission, the workshop will run from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm in recently restored Hargreaves Hall on the Eastern Washington University Campus. The \$25 fee includes snacks and a box lunch. Visit the City of Cheney's website (www.cityofcheney.org) for more information and to download a registration form. If you have questions or wish to pay by credit card, contact Susan at 509.498.9240.



Olmsted designed this stone bridge for Spokane's Cannon Hill Park as a footpath for "little folks" like these, as a reminder of Central Park and eastern bridges created by the Olmsted firm.

Portrait of C.D. Stimson. Courtesy of Curtis Collection, Rainier Club



C.D. Stimson.



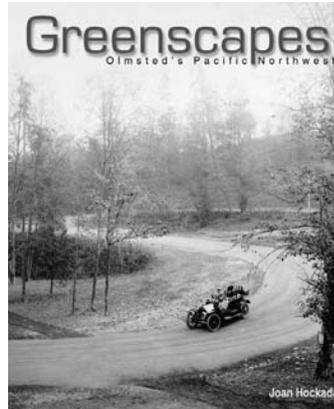
Restaurateur and hotelier Louis Davenport's South Hill home and garden, designed collaboratively by Olmsted and architect Kirtland Cutter and later destroyed for hospital expansion. Courtesy of Museum of Arts and Culture, Spokane

Olmsted Leaves Legacy in Pacific Northwest

By Joan Hockaday

DURING THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY, MASSACHUSETTS LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT JOHN CHARLES OLMSTED WENT WEST TO SOW THE OLMSTED LEGACY, INDUSTRIOUSLY SHAPING PARKS AND GARDENS IN SEATTLE AND THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST. He crossed the countryside in newly minted trains a dozen times between 1903 and 1911, impacting these greenescapes for centuries to come.

Dozens of books exist on his famous father, Frederick Law Olmsted, but none on dutiful son John Charles Olmsted, who helped carry on his father's business and left such an indelible imprint on the Pacific Northwest landscape.



Greenscapes: Olmsted's Pacific Northwest (WSU Press, May 2009) is the first regional look at this son, whose designed park systems in Seattle (1903) and Spokane (1908) along with advice to Walla Walla city fathers (1906), left visible landscape reminders of his park principles. His 1903 Portland park report became a blueprint for American park planning during the era.

Olmsted's campus work at the University of Washington (1903, 1909 and again in 1911), at Whitman College (1906), at Oregon State University (1909) and his advice to two other Oregon colleges, along with his finished campus plan for the University of Idaho in the first decade of the last century, all preserve and embody the Olmsted-era dignity of place when landscapes were newly logged over and rough around the edges. For campus presidents Kane (UW), Penrose (Whitman), Kerr (OSU), Riley (Linfield), and MacLean (Idaho), Olmsted wrote their report card to respectability, to trustee approval and fundraising, with Olmsted campus plans in hand at the turn of the century.

Finding and separating the son's work from the father's was a monumental research task five years in the making, begun after Seattle's 2003 Olmsted parks centennial celebration. Though this book was originally intended to focus only on Seattle, the astonishing scope of Olmsted's entire Northwest oeuvre became clear after trips to the Library of Congress (home to Olmsted Sr., Jr. and partners' entire office papers), to Harvard University Graduate School of Design (to find John Charles Olmsted's thousands of personal letters written daily on the road) and to art archives at Fairsted, Olmsted's Brookline, Massachusetts home and office now administered by the National Park Service. All three sites slowly revealed John Charles to be a workhorse and dutiful son of the first order.

Olmsted's private work is still visible in the Pacific Northwest, where clients today appreciate Olmsted's advice to preserve the best of Northwest native vegetation while transplanting favorite Eastern and Midwestern specimens. From the Stimson family, who eventually moved from their First Hill mansion to a spacious Cutter-Olmsted collaborative house and garden design (Norcliffe) in the Highlands, to hundreds of handsome gardens dotted around the Pacific Northwest on the mainland and islands (including Bainbridge, Orcas and Vancouver islands), the legacy is left to us as intended.

Greenscapes is finally a fuller story of one son quietly carrying on in the then-new profession of landscape architecture that his father pioneered. In Northwest architects like Charles Saunders, designer of Denny Hall in Seattle and Kirtland Cutter, designer of historic Campbell House and many others in Spokane, Olmsted found workmates and soulmates not unlike his father's early successful collaborations with architect Calvert Vaux in New York state and later with H. H. Richardson in and around Boston.

Last year's centennial celebration of Olmsted's *Rainier Vista* design for the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition on the University of Washington campus—his grand mountain and fountain design still cutting diagonally across the UW campus (just as the father's central Mall cuts diagonally across the Central Park landscape in New York City)—and the publication of *Greenscapes* potentially serve to rekindle appreciation for Olmsted's Northwest legacy.

For a full account of Olmsted's work—with Dorothy Stimson Bullitt's role—in and for the Washington Park Arboretum, see the 75th anniversary issue (released summer 2009) of the Arboretum's quarterly magazine, The Arboretum Bulletin, available at the Arboretum gift shop. Joan Hockaday's Greenscapes—the name chosen as offspring to the Central Park competition name "Greensward" won by Olmsted, Sr.—is available in most Seattle, Bainbridge Island and Portland bookstores, and at Auntie's Bookstore in Spokane.

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