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History Matters

By Chris Moore, Executive Director

We live in historic times. Yes, this can be said of each generation, of each era. And technically it's true: every day, every year ultimately becomes a part of history. But right now, History is the central component of a national narrative playing out in our daily newsfeeds. To use Twitter-speak, History is trending.

For instance, with a few notable exceptions—Muhammed Ali, Billie Jean King, Jackie Robinson, and 1968 Olympians John Carlos and Tommie Smith immediately come to mind—professional athletes generally steer clear of politics. Pro sports is, after all, entertainment, and folks do not want politics to dampen their spirits at the game . . . or so the thinking goes. Yet recently, we've seen not just teams, but entire professional leagues act in solidarity to speak out on social justice issues and support their collective right to free speech.

First amendment rights are playing out locally in the world of historic preservation as well. In 2016, the Washington Trust named the Providence Heights Campus in Issaquah to our list of Most Endangered Places. In addition to being architecturally significant, the campus represents a fundamental shift in educational practices for women seeking to become nuns. Over the summer, Providence Heights Campus was designated a City of Issaquah Landmark. The Sisters of Providence sold the property back in the 1970s and while it remains under church-affiliated ownership, no active worship has taken place at the site for several years. The present church has appealed the landmark designation, citing prior Supreme Court decisions exempting religious properties from local landmark ordinances under certain circumstances. A decision on the appeal is expected in October. Regardless of the outcome, Providence Heights stands as a symbol of progress for the education of women.

When we work to preserve places, we are in no small part preserving symbols. This can be a tricky business. Cities across the nation are grappling with the treatment of historic monuments honoring individuals who defended the social and economic system of slavery. Sadly, some of those opposed to removing these monuments represent the worst elements of America today: white supremacists espousing a worldview of hate and exclusion. But the issue has led to a broader discussion of what we should preserve and, more

importantly, why. Some have suggested monument removal is tantamount to revisionist history. But many believe we can do better than to teach the Civil War, the era of Reconstruction, and the painful legacy of "Jim Crow" segregation through monuments erected specifically to commemorate the Confederate effort to perpetuate racist and unjust social and economic structures. Symbols matter.

The monument debate is not limited to southern cities like Charlottesville—the location of violent confrontation on this issue—it is playing out right here in Washington State. Recently, the Clark County Historic Preservation Commission voted unanimously to remove a Confederate monument from the Clark County Heritage Register. At a public meeting, most speakers supported delisting, noting the "implied racism" the monument symbolized. Some, including members of the Pacific Northwest chapter of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, which maintains the site where the monument is located, suggested everyone should work together to ensure all histories are represented. Ultimately, the commission determined that the monument did not have a significant tie to local history. Despite the vote to remove the monument from the Clark County Heritage Register, it will likely remain visible from the roadway, as the monument is located on private land.

Others have a different perspective on places that represent difficult historic periods and events. "Sites of Conscience" is a term generally used to define locations that connect past struggles to current social justice and human rights initiatives. Advocates working to preserve these sites do so with the belief that telling the story, no matter how painful the narrative, is central to reconciliation and progress.

This year marks the 75th anniversary of Executive Order 9066, FDR's directive to forcibly remove Japanese Americans living on the west coast to internment camps. Japanese Americans living on Bainbridge Island were the first residents in the nation to be removed following the Executive Order. Two hundred and twenty-seven individuals walked across a wooden dock, boarded a ferry to Seattle, and were loaded onto trains headed to what the government termed "relocation centers." While the dock is long gone, the site is now home to the Bainbridge Island Japanese American

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Trust News

Editor: Jennifer Mortensen

jmortensen@preservewa.org

Contact

Washington Trust for Historic
Preservation

Stimson-Green Mansion

1204 Minor Avenue, Seattle, WA 98101

206-624-9449 • info@preservewa.org

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**National Trust
Partners Network**

Cover photo: Students take a minute to look out over Gig Harbor from the Historic Eddon Boatyard during Youth Heritage Project. Read the full story on pages 4-5.

Exclusion Memorial. The memorial presently consists of landscaped grounds featuring an artistic and beautiful story wall, and is an official unit of the Minidoka National Historic Site. This memorial exists because the Japanese American community on Bainbridge Island made it a priority. The phrase "Nidoto Nai Yoni" (Let it Not Happen Again) is featured prominently along the story wall.

Japanese internment sites are located throughout the west coast. Like Bainbridge Island, groups engage in struggles to preserve these sites. According to the National Park Service, Tule Lake Segregation Center in California served as the largest of the 10 War Relocation Authority (WRA) camps. Several buildings remain standing at the Segregation Center, now a National Historic Landmark and a Unit of the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument. An airstrip runs through a portion of the site, and a proposal is under consideration to encircle the airstrip with an 8-foot high barbed wire fence. If constructed, the 3-mile perimeter fence would severely impact annual pilgrimages conducted by families of

those incarcerated at Tule Lake during the war. Advocates for preserving Tule Lake oppose the project, noting the site is sacred to Japanese Americans. Tule Lake, like the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial, is associated with a grave injustice under which thousands of Americans suffered. Yet the thought of removing the structures at Tule Lake or otherwise restricting access is unthinkable to the families impacted. For many, remembrance is healing.

History matters to all of us. The preservation of buildings, sites, landscapes and traditional cultural properties should also matter to all of us. As part of our mission, the Washington Trust is committed to making preservation work at the local level. But we also cannot forget the story behind the place—we must be aware of the symbolism and what is represented. This requires collaboration and cooperation from stakeholders invested in their history. Our pitch to you: in the current atmosphere of social and cultural division, get engaged locally . . . and let us know how we can help!

UPCOMING DATES

ANNUAL MEMBERS MEETING

October 20

All members and friends are invited to attend as we highlight activities from the last year. Join us at 5:30pm for light refreshments and lively conversation at the Saranac Commons (19 W Main Ave.) in Spokane.

BOOK SIGNING + TALK

November 8

The Washington Trust is hosting a book signing of *J. S. White, Our First Architect* which will feature a talk by Otto Greule titled *Compositing the Digital Image*. RSVPs required. See page 6 for more details about the book and the event!

SANCTUARY OPENING GALA

November 11

Celebrate the restoration and elegant preservation of Seattle's oldest downtown church and most extraordinary new venue: The Sanctuary! All proceeds will go toward supporting historic preservation.

thesanctuaryseattle.com

SIVINSKI HOLIDAY BENEFIT

December 5

Celebrate another year of preserving Washington's historic places and support the Valerie Sivinski Fund. We will announce our annual grant award winners at the benefit.

SANTA AT THE MANSION

December 10

Join us in welcoming Santa back to the Stimson-Green Mansion for cider, cookies, and festive photos!

SESSION PROPOSALS DUE

December 15

Share your expertise at RevitalizeWA 2018! Submit your session proposal online at: preservewa.org/revitalizewa

MOST ENDANGERED PLACES NOMINATIONS DUE

January 12

We accept nominations for Most Endangered Places year-round, but January 12, 2018 is the deadline to be included in the official video announcement at Vintage Washington in spring of 2018.

REVITALIZE WA 2018

April 23-25

Join us in Port Townsend for RevitalizeWA, Washington's annual historic preservation and Main Street conference.

For more information about events or programs, please visit preservewa.org, or call our office at 206-624-9449.



We are pleased to announce that RevitalizeWA 2018 will take place in **Port Townsend on April 23-25, 2018**. We hope you'll join us for a unique learning opportunity in "one of the coolest small towns in America"!

RevitalizeWA is Washington's annual statewide conference focused on historic preservation and economic revitalization, brought to you by the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation and the Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation. We look forward to working with the Port Townsend Main Street Program and their local partners to host the conference in their community.

CALLING FOR SESSION PROPOSALS: Share your expertise at the conference! We are now seeking session proposals for RevitalizeWA 2018. Please see our session proposal form for details. **Proposals are due on December 15** and can be submitted online at: preservewa.org/revitalizewa

For questions about RevitalizeWA, please contact Breanne Durham, Washington Main Street Coordinator at bdurham@preservewa.org or 206-624-9449.

YOUTH HERITAGE PROJECT

Making a case for a Maritime Heritage Area

The Youth Heritage Project (YHP) is designed to introduce historic preservation to a younger generation. They are the future leaders who will work to save the places that matter in Washington State and beyond. This year's program focused on Washington State's maritime heritage: from Native American canoe cultures to the age of exploration to the continued growth and development of maritime industry, maritime heritage and culture have shaped western Washington and contributed to the story of our development as a nation.

The Washington Trust was delighted to again work with the National Park Service and the Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation. Both agencies have served as our anchor partners since establishing YHP in 2012. We would also like to thank the City of Tacoma's Historic Preservation Office for planning and fundraising assistance for this year's program. Additional funding for YHP 2017 was generously provided by the Puyallup Tribe of Indians, Pierce County Landmarks & Historic Preservation Commission, Tulalip Tribes, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, 4Culture, the Port Gamble S'klallam Tribe, Bassetti Architects, Pioneer Masonry Restoration Company, and the Suquamish Tribe.

New this year, we added a technology element to YHP: students were tasked with creating video projects. Our students became cinematographers, directors, and editors, assembling video narratives in support of establishing the proposed National Maritime Heritage Area in Washington.

Our group visited the Puyallup Spirit House where we were treated to a wonderful dinner and presentation by the Puyallup Tribe of Indians. The presentation challenged our students' understanding of the region's conventional historical narrative and inspired a deeper introspection about why sacred places are important.

The Foss Waterway Seaport in downtown Tacoma is an interactive cultural institution with a wealth of maritime-related information and artifacts. Our students brainstormed



Taking in all the Foss Waterway Seaport has to offer.



Students immersing in history at Fort Nisqually!

ideas for future exhibits and explored the Seaport's existing collections. Students discussed which artifacts appealed to them and why, and how they represented our maritime themes.

Just outside the doors of the Seaport, our group boarded the vessel *My Girl* for a close-up tour of the Foss Waterway itself. Students continued to identify examples of our maritime themes, but this time with a focus on buildings and physical features along the historic waterway instead of individual artifacts.

Our group also toured the Port of Tacoma on the *My Girl*, learning about the evolution of shipping and maritime

commerce in the Pacific Northwest. By touring the Port from the water, students were able to experience entry to the Port from the same vantage point as crews aboard the massive container ships unloading their cargo.

After leaving the Port, we toured the Center for Urban Waters which monitors the health of the Foss Waterway. The Foss Waterway is a Superfund site, and ecological considerations are an important part of the proposed Maritime Heritage Area.

Next, at Waterway Park, students generated ideas for incorporating our maritime heritage themes into a new

design for the site. Students worked in groups, considering how our maritime themes could be represented through art, landscaping, building forms, and other community assets.

We ventured to the Fort Nisqually Living History Museum where students immersed themselves in the history of early European settlement in the Puget Sound Region. In addition to donning period costumes (of course!), students learned how to felt wool, make rope, tie knots, and bake apples on an open fire, all under the tutelage of the gracious Fort Nisqually volunteers who spent their evening with us. Much the way Fort residents might have done over a century ago, we wrapped up the evening with live music and dancing.

Students spent a morning aboard the *Commencement*, a historic fishing boat now used for educational purposes. While motoring from Tacoma to Gig Harbor, students explored the vessel, learning about specific modifications made for the transition from a fishing vessel to an educational charter boat—adaptive use applies to more than just buildings!

Once in Gig Harbor, we stopped at the Harbor History Museum to learn about maritime heritage from a local perspective. Students browsed historic photographs of the Gig Harbor waterfront and were treated to a special tour of the *Shenandoah*, a historic fishing vessel currently undergoing restoration at the museum.

The boat building theme continued as the group visited the Gig Harbor Boatshop at the Historic Eddon Boatyard. Students witnessed a master and apprentice at work while engaging in hands-on work of their own assembling boat building kits.

No Gig Harbor experience would be complete without a tour of the historic netsheds scattered along the inner waterfront. With 17 remaining structures, Gig Harbor boasts the largest inventory of historic netsheds on Puget Sound. Many are privately owned, but the Skansie Netshed in the Skansie Brothers Park has been converted into a public space dedicated to documenting, promoting, and preserving local fishing family histories and Gig Harbor's maritime heritage.

On production day, all student groups worked to plan, edit, and complete their video projects. Each student group selected themes, footage, audio, and sites most meaningful to them in order to craft their message in support of establishing a maritime heritage area in Washington.

Presentation of the final video projects took place at the culminating Town Hall event held at the Washington State History Museum in Tacoma. Our students explained their creative approaches, screened their videos, and responded to questions from our invited panel. A huge thanks to our three panelists for offering great feedback to our students: Marilyn Strickland, City of Tacoma Mayor; Sarah Creachbaum, Acting Deputy Director of the National Park Service Pacific West Region; and Greg Griffith, Deputy Washington State Historic Preservation Officer with the Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation.

You can find more information about YHP, including our eight student videos, on our website:

preservewa.org/yhnp

We are delighted to announce that YHP 2018 will take place in North Cascades National Park where we will explore the three historic dams near Ross and Diablo Lakes while looking at preservation issues facing the company towns of Newhalem and Diablo.



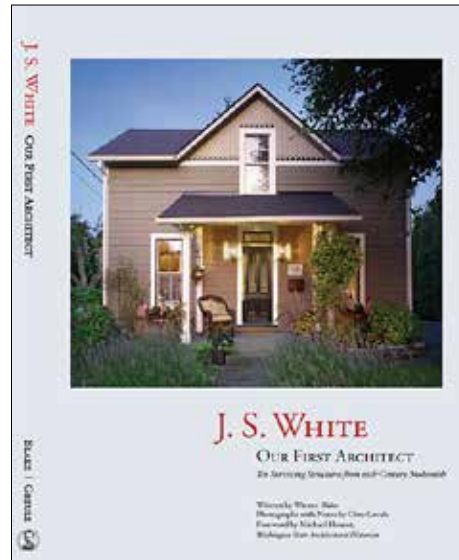
Motoring on the Commencement from Tacoma to Gig Harbor.



Exploring the Skansie Netshed in Gig Harbor.

J. S. White: Our First Architect

Who is John S. White you might ask? He was Snohomish's first architect, and in Warner Blake and Otto Greule's new book, *J. S. White: Our First Architect*, nearly two decades of Snohomish history can be told through the stories held in his remaining buildings. Warner opens the book in his introduction disclosing that his claim as the first "architect" before the profession was licensed in the state of Washington is a label used to describe the quality of a builder/contractor's work. The book then expounds ten remaining buildings designed by J. S. White, spanning eight years, multiple typologies and architectural styles. Each building is presented in a standalone essay but offered in chronological order with compounding context. The essays interweave personal anecdotes and historic material from primary sources. This format appeals to everyone, from academic



historians to interested property owners, and provides research in a digestible format. Four of the essays are enhanced through reprinted newspaper articles from *The Eye* and *The Snohomish County Tribune*, striking a successful balance between past and present.

The true gems of *J. S. White: Our First Architect* are the stunning photographs by Otto Greule juxtaposed with Blake's prose and historic images. Many publications focusing on architectural history have stunning historic photographs, but rarely do they include contemporary images that are equally compelling. Greule's photographs beautifully document White's remaining



Methodist Church, photographed by Otto Greule, 2009.

Book Signing + Talk

The Washington Trust for Historic Preservation will be hosting a book signing of *J. S. White: Our First Architect* at the Stimson-Green Mansion. The event will feature a short talk by Otto Greule about his photography, titled *Compositing the Digital Image*.

Books will be available for purchase at the event, and both author Warner Blake and photographer Otto Greule will be in attendance for signatures.

**Wednesday, November 8
5:00pm-8:00pm**

Stimson-Green Mansion
1204 Minor Ave
Seattle, WA 98101

RSVPs are required. Please contact Julianne Patterson at 206-624-9449 or jpatterson@preservewa.org if you are interested in attending.

buildings in Snohomish, illustrating not only the initial attention taken in the original design but also the overwhelming care taken by property owners and the city to preserve these residential, civic and commercial buildings. For photography enthusiasts, a bonus at the back of the book in Greule's "Photography Notes" details the setting, time of day, perspective, and technical components for each photograph.

A final highlight worth noting is that the book was successfully published by the people (and friends) of Snohomish by crowdfunding! In summary, Blake and Greule's contribution to Washington's understanding of its own history is a unique and informative read for anyone interested to know more about Snohomish or buildings in Washington in the later part of the 19th century.

J. S. White: Our First Architect is available for \$49.95 and can be purchased online at snohomishstories.org or at the following local booksellers: Uppercase Bookshop in Snohomish and Third Place Books in Lake Forest Park.

Crowdfunding for the Sivinski Endowment

Earlier this year, the Washington Trust was invited to participate in a beta test of a new online crowdfunding platform called 100 Extraordinary Women (100EW). With a vision to “build a community of extraordinary women who are dedicated to doing extraordinary things,” 100EW has successfully funded numerous projects over \$100,000 by word of mouth campaigning and recently took the program online to maximize reach and impact.

We were thrilled to be given the opportunity to test out this fundraising method and decided the most appropriate campaign was one in honor of a very extraordinary woman, Valerie Sivinski. Val was a longtime board member of the Washington Trust and served as president in the early 1990s. She was known for her tenacity in opposing inappropriate alterations and demolition of historic buildings, and for her ability to convey positive preservation solutions to property owners. Val believed that a



The Bush House rehabilitation in Index received a grant from the Valerie Sivinski Fund. Photo by Dan Bates, The Herald.

community’s past was meant to be celebrated, and she led by example in demonstrating that a community’s responsibility is to save, not destroy, history.

Many members are familiar with the Valerie Sivinski Fund, which provides small but meaningful grants to

grassroots preservation efforts across the state. Our annual holiday party is held each year to support our ability to provide \$10,000+ in grant funds. Due to the overwhelming support of our members, we hit our \$10,000 fundraising goal each year, but this amount only provides funding for one annual grant cycle.

A few years back, an endowment fund was established to create long-term stability for the program. The goal of our 100EW campaign is to raise \$10,000 through one hundred contributions of \$100 to kickstart fundraising for the endowment. Once the endowment reaches \$200,000, we will be able to withdraw \$10,000 in interest each year. This stability will allow the Washington Trust to provide more and/or larger grants to our applicants.

Please join us in making a \$100 contribution to this important cause to kickstart the long-term sustainability of the Valerie Sivinski Endowment Fund! You don’t have to be a woman to contribute; everyone has an extraordinary woman in their life, and we encourage you to make a donation in her honor!

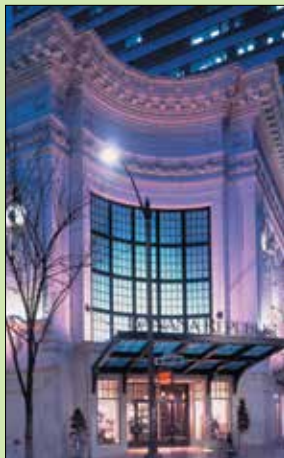
preservewa.org/100EW



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Rafn Company is a leading general contractor in the renovation of historic buildings in the Puget Sound region. With over 100 projects completed, we are highly skilled and experienced in what it takes for a successful

renovation project. We work to build success for our people, customers, and associates by delivering a quality result, every time, measurably and profitably.



Experiencing RevitalizeWA

By Michelle Yellin, Graduate Student, University of Washington

Having never been to a professional conference before, I was a little nervous how I would navigate the RevitalizeWA 2017 conference in Ellensburg. Would I find people to talk to? Would I have anything interesting to contribute? Would I be wandering around aimlessly on my own while everyone else was reconnecting with their best friends?? OK, that's a little overly dramatic, but some of those thoughts crossed my mind. To those of you who are more well-versed in professional conferences, you probably won't be surprised to hear that I HAD THE BEST TIME. I left the conference with a realization that is not at all academic but still very important: connecting with strangers is made so much easier when everyone has a niche and specific shared interest, especially when you're in an adorable historic small town with only a few bars and restaurants that everyone wants to hang out in.

All jokes aside, I was thrilled to be chosen to be a part of the Washington Trust's first PreserveWA Fellows cohort, which was started in order to engage more young people in the field and practice of historic preservation. As a young preservationist, I am often met with stereotypes of what it looks like to be involved in preservation work: we want to save anything old, we are totally against new development, and our careers are spent in and around fancy old house museums. The former two statements are especially true in Seattle, where the rapid rate of development means that a Landmarks Preservation Board meeting can have just as much drama as any reality show on network television. While these stereotypes have some merit in Seattle and elsewhere, I am excited to challenge them and explore "non-traditional" ways to engage in historic preservation practice.

I first became interested in this field because I care deeply about maintaining a connection to the past as a means to develop and strengthen a contemporary cultural identity and sense of place. Who we were and where we came from informs so much about who we are now and where we're going, and it is extremely important to preserve physical reminders of our diverse and shared histories into the future. As I have come to realize more recently, by helping to preserve places and spaces considered culturally and historically significant to a variety of groups of people, we can help to ensure that people with diverse backgrounds feel a sense of welcome and belonging in our collective communities. The act of preservation is a direct reflection of what we value, and if we value diverse communities, we need to reexamine our definitions of what is worthy of preservation.

This is where we can be creative in rethinking the scope of historic preservation as a field and practice moving forward. Traditionally, we have focused primarily on the tangible—the preservation of buildings, monuments, districts, battlefields, etc. In many non-Western cultures, intangible heritage—rituals, language, oral histories, music, etc—is highly valued. How can we prioritize the preservation of cultural intangible values within historic preservation practice? Traditionally, we have also focused on the preservation of high-style architecture and grand monuments, which are primarily associated with white, European cultures. Conversely, many sites associated with minority communities and cultures are vernacular in nature, and are made of affordable and available materials that are not built to last. We can choose to actively value vernacular buildings that have a lot of cultural



Our first group of PreserveWA Fellows from 2017 with their mentors! From left to right: Mary Thompson, Washington Trust Board Member; Allison Bremmeyer; Holly Chamberlain, Architectural Resource Center & Washington Trust Board Member; Logan Camporeale; Nick Fazio; Megan Duvall, Spokane City/County Historic Preservation Officer & Washington Trust Board Member; Michelle Yellin; Jennifer Meisner, King County Historic Preservation Officer & former Washington Trust Executive Director; Anneka Olson; and Michael Sullivan.



Pacific Northwest Young Preservationists coasters from our first RevitalizeWA pub crawl. Photo by Otto Greule.

significance, but may not appeal to traditional Western aesthetics of beauty.

As I have come to understand, and was reiterated at the RevitalizeWA 2017 conference, creativity in rethinking how we value and preserve our heritage requires interdisciplinary work—work with artists, community organizers, urban planners, business leaders—as well as a more active engagement with community members and community

leaders. At the conference, I attended sessions on designing for people with all kinds of abilities, prioritizing diversity in preservation, and advocating for the arts in historic downtowns. The work that we do is an extremely important part of keeping our cities and towns culturally rich and vibrant places that we all want to be a part of. As a young preservationist, I am excited to be a part of exploring new possibilities within the field.



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experience in historic masonry renovation and preservation, and are also specialists in concrete restoration, including parking decks and stadiums. For nearly a century, Western has considered quality a cornerstone of our organization. It is the foundation of a healthy, long-term relationship with our customers and an internal source of pride.



Fundraiser to benefit the Everett Public Library's Northwest Room

The Northwest Room at the Everett Public Library provides access to a range of materials and services that enhance understanding of the Pacific Northwest region, with a focus on the histories of Everett and Snohomish County. Their collection features maps, pamphlets, oral history interviews, historic photographs, and online digital collections. Its two full-time historians have played an active and visible role in collecting, preserving, and interpreting local history and are available to provide research assistance, programs, and workshops to school and community groups.

Aileen M. Langhans, local author and active member of Historic Everett, has created a book as a labor of love and a thank you to her “adopted” hometown of Everett. Aileen is generously donating her book sales as a fundraiser for the Everett Public Library's Northwest Room in celebration of local history. The book, titled *Random Facts from the Founding Days of Everett, Washington*, aims to bring life to the town's beginnings with biographies of early Everett's quirky personalities. The Northwest Room will use all fundraising revenue to bring a collection of historic panoramic photographs out of storage and into the creation of a public display.

Support the Everett Public Library in its dedicated service to the Everett community! A book signing fundraising event will be held at the Everett Public Library on Sunday, October 22 from 2:00-4:00pm.

Books can also be purchased by contacting the author at:

randomfactsofeverett@outlook.com

A Window onto Main Street

By Anneka Olson, Historic Preservation Intern, City of Tacoma & Graduate Student, University of Washington Tacoma

Rottle's Clothing and Shoes

In 1914, my great-grandfather Abdo boarded a ship from Tripoli, Lebanon, with Washington State as his final destination. Just over 100 years later, the clothing and shoe store that he had helped found closed its doors along Main Street in Auburn, Washington. Within the span of that hundred years, and under three generations of family ownership, the store's windows had looked out over decades of urban and demographic changes in two small town Main Streets.

One day, driving past the empty storefront, I realized that the windows offered an ideal tableau to connect the history of my family's store with that of the broader Auburn community. In the empty windows, I saw an opportunity to connect site-specific public history with Main Street regeneration efforts. Using both public archives and family files, I put together a series of five window display panels as a street-side exhibition, filling the empty storefront for 6 months while it sat vacant.

An Immigration Story

Abdo Rottle immigrated to the U.S. from Lebanon in 1914, joining his uncle and older brother in their business in Montesano, a booming lumber community. The store proffered flannels and waterproof gear to the loggers doing work in the mills and forests, as well as selling fine dry goods to the town's urban community. In Montesano, his older brother John served a term on the local town council, while Abdo's early efforts to secure citizenship were unsuccessful, possibly because of increasingly restricted naturalization laws.

Abdo met Rose Gee, a girl from Virginia, on a boat in Puget Sound, writing to her of the thriving real



Abdo and Rose's wedding photo, 1920.

estate market in Montesano, "you can't rent any house for love or money!" After they married, he applied again for naturalization, which was granted in 1925.

Two more brothers followed from Lebanon, joining the business and allowing the family to open four stores throughout the Grays Harbor area.

The Depression Era

On January 7, 1930, the brothers incorporated, unaware of the depth of the recession to come. A local mill fire and Montesano's exhausted timber supply further plunged the town into economic hardship.

Unable to subsist on dry goods sales, Abdo's Montesano store began selling groceries to make ends meet. In 1939, the partnership was no longer tenable, and the brothers split up, with each brother taking a store.

Abdo looked to other places in the region that could sustain his store, settling on Auburn, which was poised to grow as Boeing and other large employers ramped up production prior to World War II.



Don Rottle in uniform, c. 1944.

Rottle's Grows with Auburn

In 1939, when Rottle's of Auburn opened their doors, the town had numerous small retailers dotting the Main Street. With his son, Don, serving in the Air Force, Abdo joined the rest of the local businesses in selling war bonds, advertising in the local newspaper.

When Don returned from the service in 1945 as store manager, he quickly recognized that expansion would be critical to allow them to compete with the growing number of large retailers. Under Don's leadership, the store grew, relocating in 1963 to a much-updated space one block away.

Throughout the 1960s and 70s, the store underwent multiple remodels, many of them designed to compete with the malls, easily accessible by the new highways that were connecting Auburn to Seattle, Tacoma, and other nearby towns. Active in the local downtown association, Don worked with other merchants to tout the benefits of shopping on Auburn's Main Street as an alternative to the growing shopping malls. Rottle's also emphasized their connection to the Auburn community—another way that the store could out-compete mall retailers.

A Changing Downtown

By 1995, the Auburn Supermall opened just two miles from downtown, threatening to further diminish foot traffic along Main Street. Again adapting, the store shifted their main entrance to the rear parking area, renovating the entrance to accommodate the increasing number of drivers arriving at the store.

In 2015, after decades of adaptation to the changing downtown and retail landscape, with the third generation of the Rottle family nearing retirement age, the store closed its doors—with hopes that the space can be again repurposed to breathe new life back into Auburn's Main Street.

Historical Connections

What can we learn from the history of this one small business? While compiling the window display, I focused on history that might have contemporary resonance for Auburn today.

For example, I was interested in my great-grandfather's experience of immigration, naturalization, and assimilation, and more broadly, the role of newcomers in bringing

new ideas and energy to shape the future of places. This topic continues to deserve our attention, as the demographics of South King County continue to shift towards an increasing number of immigrants, drawn by the expanding economic opportunities our region can offer.

The changes in transportation infrastructure and urban policy—and how both have impacted downtown vitality—can also be instructive as our region grows rapidly, makes investments in public transit

infrastructure, and chooses how to allocate public dollars. All of these things can have important impacts on existing businesses, towns, and communities.

These connections are subtle, but, by exploring the forces that have shaped our downtowns, they can tell us important stories about the kinds of urban futures we seek. And, by offering an opportunity to reach broader public audiences, it's what sets apart site-specific projects.

Site-Specific Storefronts

For those interested in pursuing a similar project, some things to consider:

Partnerships are key

Many downtowns have vacant spaces, and still more have windows that are under-utilized—but it can be challenging to know where to begin. I was lucky to know the property owners, but there are many possible partnerships, including arts commissions, storefronts programs, or local museums that can provide access to storefronts.

Connecting to new stories

Site-specific history can also provide an opportunity to discuss larger stories, and can reach people with public history in the every day places where they travel, live, and work. New media can also connect people to expanded content and broader stories. Window displays can provide a QR code or web link to expanded online content, such as audio, expanded text, or information about institutional partners.

Local

Rottles business has matched Auburn growth

By MARJORIE ROMMEL
Correspondent

Don Rottle, owner of Rottle's Apparel and Shoes in downtown Auburn, remembers a day when his father, Abdo J. Rottle, took in only \$1.50 all day in the family's clothing and grocery store in Montesano. That was back in the 1930s, and no merchant was doing well.

Now, as Rottle's marks its 50th anniversary in the city, the store can claim a position as Auburn's top clothier for women and men and as a thriving anchor for the city's downtown.

The store began in Montesano, as one of a chain of Rottle Brothers Department Stores in the Grays Harbor area. In the 1920s, the chain broke up, with each of the five brothers taking a store

the University of Washington and served with the U.S. Army Air Corps. He returned home at the war's end in late 1945 to his own young family and the store.

When he returned, Rottle recalled, "There had been a fire in the Rainbow Cafe next door, and the store was empty. They were painting the walls."

Rottle bought the store, located where the Auburn Mini Mall now stands, when his dad retired to Ephrata in 1953 (the elder Rottle died in 1966) and soon began moves and expansions he said have made the store what it is today.

The first move, in 1962, took the store east along Main Street to its present location, where Johnson's Hardware had been. Five years later, Rottle's expanded into offices next door, then five years



Don Rottle says downtown Auburn is a great place for merchants to conduct business

Staff photo by DUANE HAMAMURA

A 1989 story in the Valley Daily News with an image showing the Rottles Store after remodels in the 1960s and 1970s.

Transforming Stewart Middle School

By Jordan Kiel, Principal, Bassetti Architects

A (very) Brief History of Stewart Middle School

In 1914, the Panama Canal opened for business and Tacoma felt the impact. Almost immediately, the city saw a surge in population from increased port activity. By the 1920s, the young public school system in Tacoma was showing signs of stress from the rapid growth, and desperately needed more space. In 1923, Tacoma voters authorized an unprecedented \$2.4 million of spending on six new intermediate schools. Included in this bond was Stewart Middle School (then called Stewart Intermediate School), named after James P. Stewart, Tacoma's first teacher, as well as a territorial legislator.

In post-war 1950s and 60s, a surge in population impacted the public school system once again, and Tacoma responded with more building. In 1964, as baby boomers reached middle school age, a single-story classroom annex was built, followed by a separate addition of an industrial arts and gym building ten years later.

Fast forward to 2010, the school population declined to several hundred students, and test scores put Stewart in the bottom one percent of schools statewide. Stewart Middle School was failing academically, and the building reinforced the sense of decline, while decades of deferred maintenance had taken a serious toll. In 2013, Tacoma voters approved a \$500 million bond measure, which included funds to renovate Stewart. In addition, in 2014, the Federal Department of Education awarded a grant in an effort to improve educational outcomes. The building had long ceased to adequately serve the needs of students and educators, and Bassetti Architects was hired to lead a design effort focused on transforming the building to support the next 100 years of educational delivery.



The exterior of Stewart Middle School after rehabilitation. Photo by Jeff Amram Photography.



The north project lab of Stewart Middle School. Photo by Jeff Amram Photography.

Project Goals

The overarching goal of the project was to remodel the school to support 21st century learning, while preserving the 1924 historic building. Common to many historic schools, the building plan was disjointed from years of incremental modifications with isolated classrooms, poor

sightlines, and outdated technology. The auditorium felt like a dark void in the center of the building and divided the school. The cafeteria, located on the ground floor with seven-foot ceilings, felt like a dank basement. The design advisory committee requested that the renovation help support a sense of school wholeness, allow for

Grant program for National Register of Historic Places signage comes to Washington

The National Register of Historic Places is the official list of our nation's historic places worthy of preservation. When a property or district is placed on the National Register, the designation does not include funding for a plaque or sign. As a result, many sites do not have signage to convey their significance to the public.

The William G. Pomeroy Foundation has generously offered to supply National Register markers to public or non-profit 501(c)3 agencies who wish to commemorate individually listed National Register properties and /or districts. At this time, funding is not available for private residences or commercial properties. The foundation accepts applications at any time throughout the year.

The free-standing plaques are cast aluminum, weigh almost 50 lbs., and are 3 feet wide, 2 feet tall and a half-inch thick. The plaque also comes with an aluminum mounting post. A grantee may also select a plaque that can be mounted to a flat surface if that is preferred. The Foundation will cover the cost of a plaque or sign, the pole, and shipping.

The William G. Pomeroy Foundation is a private grant-making foundation with offices in Syracuse, New York. Established by Bill Pomeroy in 2006, one of the Foundation's main initiatives is to help preserve history and promote historical tourism through signage. The first historic signage grant program provided funding for Historic Roadside Markers in New York State. In 2013, they established a grant program to provide funding for a sign or a plaque

for public properties or districts in New York state that are on the National Register of Historic Places. In 2017, the Foundation generously decided to extend that program to Washington State. We are thrilled about this opportunity and hope to see stewards of historic sites take advantage of the offer!

For more information and to find a link to the grant application, visit: wgpfoundation.org



passive supervision, make the ground floor feel open and welcoming, and maintain the historic quality of the place.

The Restoration and Renovation

On the exterior, the three primary facades were selectively repointed, and the brick and precast concrete over entrances are now tied back to the concrete structure with helical fasteners. The back of the building was a plain, plaster façade and became the logical place to attach the addition to accommodate a modern gym. Severely deteriorated windows necessitated replacement. The new windows mitigate solar heat gain and sit within the original window frames,

closely replicating the profiles of the historic windows.

Inside the building, the walls were not only in the wrong place, but the hollow clay tile posed a serious safety risk. Almost all of the interior partitions were demolished, insulation was added to exterior walls, and new materials were layered onto the historic bones of the building.

The result is spaces that meet the programmatic requirements, while exposing as much of the concrete structure as possible. New life is breathed into the auditorium, restoring the plasterwork and transforming it into the social center of the school. The light wells flanking the

auditorium have been converted into interior sky-lit atria, which are used as hands-on learning labs showcasing the STEM education focus of the school. New group collaboration spaces are layered into the historic volumes of the light wells, allowing occupants to see and understand the original fabric of the building and the modifications that have been made. A new central stair in the north atrium, transparency throughout, and the beautiful renovation of the historic student commons combine to create a sense of connectedness throughout the school, exude its history.

With student success now on the rise, Stewart Middle School is ready for the next one hundred years.

WHERE IN THE WA IS YOUR TRUST?

We received three correct guesses for the structure featured in our July 2017 issue of Trust News. Roger Johnson of Tacoma was, not surprisingly, the first to identify the East 21st Street Bridge in Tacoma. Washington Trust board member Kelsey Doncaster of Yakima happened to be in Tacoma with his wife to celebrate their anniversary when he recognized the top of one of the bridge's two towers. Kelsey waited until he returned home to confirm his recollection and call in his correct guess. Phil Brooke of Kosmos recognized the same distinctive tower in sending his guess.

Completed in January 1997, this cable-stayed bridge spans the Thea Foss Waterway and connects downtown Tacoma with the Port of Tacoma via State Route 509. Its two towers rise 180 feet and anchor the cables that support the bridge deck with four lanes of traffic. According to HistoryLink.org, the bridge's distinctive design was not the first planned by the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT). The project initially called for a more typical concrete highway bridge as part of a new route between downtown and the port that skirted the industrial tideflats. It was local architect Jim Merritt who took the initiative to propose a better alternative and who enlisted

the assistance of U.S. Representative Norm Dicks to help convince state officials. Tacoma offered to pay for any additional costs of the new bridge, but the project came in under budget.

Washington Trust staff became very familiar with the bridge while in Tacoma in July for our Discover Washington: Youth Heritage Project (YHP). We saw it from every angle on land and water and had the pleasure of driving over it several times in the course of our activities on the Thea Foss Waterway and at the Port of

Tacoma. Additionally, we held one of our YHP activities at Waterway Park, just below the bridge. The students worked in groups, considering how maritime heritage themes could be represented on the site through art, landscaping, building form, and by creating community assets. The site currently features an existing building located near the shoreline, causing students to consider the pros and cons of re-purposing the existing building from the standpoint of public benefit and connection to the past. See pages 4-5 for more details about YHP 2017!



YHP participants at Waterway Park below the East 21st Street Bridge.



Where in the WA? October 2017

For your next challenge, can you identify the structure seen here? If so, email us at info@preservewa.org or call us at 206-624-9449 with the answer. Good luck!

We welcome images from readers taken in their favorite places around our beautiful state that we might be able to feature as a *Where in the WA* in the future. Email us a selfie with your favorite landmark, or post it on our Facebook page.

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