Anchors Aweigh: Washington’s new Maritime National Heritage Area

Main Street Matters: Goodfellow Bros. investing in downtown Wenatchee

Excellence on Main 2019

Donor Focus: Bassetti Architects

LATINO HERITAGE
Documenting a multiplicity of experiences in the Seattle area
JUNE 12
Youth Heritage Project
Application Extension Deadline

JULY 9—12
Youth Heritage Project
Olympic National Park

YHP will be taking a group of future leaders to Olympic National Park to explore the balance between historic preservation and land conservation. All high school age youth are eligible to attend—applications are now open at preservewa.org/yhp.

OCTOBER 18
Annual Members’ Meeting
Spokane

Join the Washington Trust in Spokane for our Annual Members’ Meeting, where we will reflect on our accomplishments from the past year and announce our slate of new board members for 2020.

DECEMBER 3
Sivinski Holiday Benefit
Stimson-Green Mansion, Seattle

Celebrate another year of preserving Washington’s historic places with the Washington Trust, while supporting the Valerie Sivinski Fund, a program that awards grants to grassroots historic preservation projects across the state.

GET INVOLVED

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

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THIS PLACE

April 2019

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Historic postcard of Spokane Falls in downtown Spokane. Image from the Boston Public Library, Tichnor Brothers collection.

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

Perspective

Washington has a new Maritime National Heritage Area

By Chris Moore, Executive Director

Preservation is often about perseverance. Buildings aren’t saved overnight. Campaigns don’t end in a week. Projects may take years to fully complete (owners of historic houses will tell you the projects are never truly finished). Such is the case with the Washington Maritime National Heritage Area. In April of 2010, the Washington State Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation submitted the National Maritime Heritage Area Feasibility Study to the National Park Service (NPS). Development of the feasibility study alone was a process several years in the making, informed by a steering committee with representatives from maritime organizations, tribes, elected officials, and preservation groups, all with a unified vision of including Washington’s saltwater coastline as part of the National Heritage Area (NHA) program.

The National Heritage Area program is unique within the National Park Service. While NHAs are federally recognized through an Act of Congress, they are locally initiated, managed, and led by grassroots organizations. NHAs support tourism and economic development on a regional level, with cooperative representation from multiple organizations, local governments, and economic sectors. NHAs are not regulatory, nor does management of an NHA involve any authority over land use. Most importantly, NHAs recognize nationally significant natural, cultural, historic, and recreational resources. For Washington’s saltwater shore, this includes canoe cultures, lighthouses, fishing fleets, and trade routes. It includes the stories handed down over hundreds of years by tribal elders, and the stories of exploration and captains, fishing crews and longshoremen, and welders and shipwrights. Nearly a decade after submitting the feasibility study, our efforts have borne fruit. On March 12 of this year, the President signed Senate Bill 47, officially known as the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act. The largest land use bill in over a decade, the sweeping package included provisions for establishing six new National Heritage Areas.

After years of advocacy, coordination, and support by dozens of organizations and individuals, S. 47 established the Washington Maritime National Heritage Area seemingly overnight.

The Washington Trust is thrilled to be named as the local coordinating entity for the Washington Maritime NHA. Over the next few years, we will be working with a variety of stakeholders to develop a management plan specific to our NHA. Following approval of this plan by the NPS, we will be off and running, highlighting the stories, resources, and individuals that make our state’s maritime heritage so compelling.

Designation as an NHA would not have been possible without the vision of the original steering committee, nor the determination of the Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation. We also thank Congressmen Derek Kilmer and Denny Heck, co-sponsors of the first legislation aimed at establishing the NHA. Senator Maria Cantwell was also instrumental in the effort, ensuring our Washington Maritime NHA was included in the final public lands bill. And we especially like to thank Dr. Stephanie Toothman. Throughout her distinguished career with the NPS, Stephanie has always been a champion for the Pacific West and Washington State in particular. She originally floated the idea that the maritime-related stories and resources of Washington could indeed be part of the NHA program, and her ongoing encouragement has been invaluable.

Congratulations to everyone who was involved in achieving the designation of our Washington Maritime National Heritage Area. And now, the work continues—anchors aweigh!

Left: Map of the recently established Washington State Maritime National Heritage Area.
Opposite: Images from the National Maritime Heritage Area Feasibility Study submitted to the National Park Service in 2010.

To learn more or sign up for email updates about the Washington State Maritime National Heritage Area, visit our website: preservewa.org/maritime
A MULTIPLICITY
OF EXPERIENCES

Challenges in documenting King County’s Latino heritage

By Claudia Kiyama

Latino heritage in the State of Washington stretches back several hundred years, all the way to the 18th-century Spanish exploration voyages that helped map the coast and gave us place names such as Orcas, Lopez, and San Juan de Fuca. However, historic sites associated with Latinos remain mostly undocumented in the state and therefore largely left out of preservation efforts. In 2018, with funding from the National Park Service passed through via a grant from the Washington State Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation (DAHP), the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation, with support from local institutions, assembled a small, multidisciplinary team to research and document Latino heritage around the greater Seattle area. This effort followed a previous project to document sites in the Yakima Valley associated with Latino heritage.

The Seattle area project was intended in part as a crowdsourced learning experience. We would learn from Latinos themselves what places were important to them. The idea was to conduct various oral histories from a diversity of Latinos, and from those conversations start identifying historic sites to survey. The first challenge came in representing at least some part of the multiplicity of Latino experiences. We wanted to come out with an array of sites that, at least partially, represented the vastness of the term “Latino.”

The term Latino, although widely used to homogeneously group a whole population, refers to an incredibly heterogeneous people from diverse walks of life and ancestries. Some Latinos identify themselves as Mexicanos, Salvadoreños, or Chilenos; some as Chicanos, some as Latinx, some as Americans. Some Latinos have landed in Seattle in recent years with no stops in between, while others were born in Washington State after their parents trekked the country, if not the whole continent, to get here. Some found themselves in a new country when the border crossed their families generations ago. The Latino story is definitely not one single narrative repeated over and over again, as it is frequently portrayed. There is wide diversity within the Latino community. There are multiple variants such as ancestry, provenance, reason and moment of arrival to the US, immigration status, and aspirations that configure each singular experience and bring immense richness to Latino culture.

Intending to survey Latino heritage, therefore, is in no way a clear linear task. It should involve people from 20 countries and various degrees of immigration past. Since the survey was for historic sites, more recent experiences were not included in this study. However, the need for interviewing Latinos from different walks of life and backgrounds was evident from the start.

The more we talked to people, the clearer it became that we were dealing with two types of sites. One kind was the common places of daily life established by Latinos in Seattle over the past decades: shops and businesses, family restaurants, social clubs, community centers, and neighborhood clinics. El Centro de la Raza, Sea Mar Community Health Centers, Jalisco Restaurant in South Park, and the Salvadorean Bakery in White Center are some examples. The other type are well-acknowledged Seattle landmarks, already recognized by their relevance to other groups, that are also significant to the Latino community in Seattle. Places such as Franklin High School or the University of Washington campus have played an iconic role in the life of many Latinos. The survey of these sites involved uncovering a buried layer of their already documented story.

revisitwa.org/latino
Special thanks to 4Culture and the Colonial Dames of America in the State of Washington for grant funding that allowed the Washington Trust to adapt the content from the DAHP-funded survey to our Revisiting Washington app/website, which features sites from the Yakima Valley survey as well. You can read more about the places featured in both the Seattle- and Yakima-area Latino heritage surveys online at revisitwa.org/latino.

Other challenges included the lack of flexibility within current preservation standards and practices. Architectural integrity seems to be a fierce opponent of diversity. In reality, some structures have little architectural integrity and still are incredibly important to people. A restaurant can undergo several incarnations, from a taqueria to a pupuseria and back to a Mexican restaurant, and not only maintain but grow its landmark status within a community. Although the good intention to accept different heritages exists, more needs to be accomplished in terms of really embracing, with full conviction, that architectural integrity doesn’t have to always be the closing argument. Part of the reason some communities are underrepresented is precisely because of the disconnect between procedural framework in place and the nature of the sites related to these communities. A big number of these are not grand works of art or do not possess high artistic values; they are, however, the places where a community has created a life in this city. Sometimes, the story simply outweighs the physicality or longevity of a site.

I studied and started my work in historic preservation in my native Mexico. Working on this project felt like a coming home experience for me. Learning the history of Latinos in Seattle from the incredible stories people generously shared with us was a true honor. The warmth and ethic of hard work so ingrained in Latino culture are ever present in Seattle. The contributions of the Latino community are extraordinary and inextricably intertwined with the history of Washington. We hope that this survey opens up further recording of oral histories, broader surveying across the city and state, and amps up efforts to keep acknowledging the Latino heritage layer in already documented landmarks.

Below upper: The building at the corner of 17th and Jackson, one of three buildings which now serve as headquarters for Casa Latina, was constructed in 1931 as a medical clinic.

Below lower: In about 2010, Casa Latina moved into their current three-building campus in Seattle’s Central District.

Casa Latina was founded in 1994 when large numbers of Latino workers began arriving in Seattle. When begun as an attempt to organize day laborers it has grown into a vibrant, immigrant worker rights organization and community. In addition to day labor dispatch, they also provide English classes, job skills and safety trainings, domestic workers’ rights and women’s leadership training, and community organizing for almost 520 worker-members. Beyond the programs, it is a cultural center and a safe place, an anchor for immigrants new and not so new.
Goodfellow Bros. construction company keeps their roots on Main Street

By Chris Martin, Goodfellow Bros.

Goodfellow Bros. was founded nearly 100 years ago in Wenatchee. With projects all over the region from dam building to large highway jobs and everything in between, it was the founders’ belief that Goodfellow Bros. was not simply building roads but helping build a nation. This dedication to quality work and becoming the contractor of choice for the communities in which we work and live continues a century later.

Our corporate office in downtown Wenatchee houses the accounting, contracts, safety, IT, and equipment departments of Goodfellow Bros. along with the real estate and asset management company Pacific Rim Land. With expansion to other areas, including Hawaii, Oregon, Idaho, and most recently California, much of our actual work is done outside of Central Washington, but the heart of our company remains in Wenatchee.

In the last several years, our Wenatchee headquarters had grown and was operating out of three separate buildings. With this steady growth, it was past time to think about seriously reinvesting in creating a central Wenatchee office. This had been attempted multiple times over the past ten years or so and was never brought to fruition; as luck would have it, I had recently joined the company, and I was asked to start scouting locations.

Under the guidance of the fourth-generation CEO, Chad Goodfellow, we knew immediately that downtown Wenatchee was where we wanted to be. While there are numerous factors to consider in a major move like this, above all else we knew the best thing for the company would be to do the best thing for the staff. In addition to considering the needs of our current staff, we also had to think about what the next generation of staff would need. This next generation of employees appreciates working in an urban environment. While not as populous as a city like Seattle, downtown Wenatchee is still urban and is an eclectic mix of local shops, offices, cafes, restaurants, and bars. These are all amenities that add value to keeping a company like Goodfellow on a Washington Main Street. As an added benefit, we could see that growth and positive change are on the horizon for Wenatchee’s downtown, and we wanted to play an active role in its revival.

We found the gorgeous 1929 Metropolitan Building (formerly known as the Dore Building) and discovered that another group of investors had bought it a year before with the goal of retrofitting it and bringing it back to life. Lucky for us the building’s new owners, Rory Turner and partners, were willing to sell us the 12,000 square feet that made up the building’s top floor.

After finding the space, it was in my hands to put together a team that shared our vision and get it built. To fully understand that vision we wanted to travel to Seattle and Portland to see what some of today’s cutting edge offices look like. Along with Chad and his sister Chelsea, who also works for the company, we visited a few of the city’s cutting-edge offices and brought back ideas and merchandise for the design.

Goodfellowbro.com
company. I set off to look at the offices of Facebook, Wieden+Kennedy, and Sellen Construction. Armed with this inspiration and tons of articles on the dos and don'ts of the modern office, we solidified our vision. To bring it into a reality, we grabbed an amazing design firm from Seattle, Grayscale Design, who listened to everything we had in our heads and were able to turn it into drawings. Then the fun really ramped up as we began to bring the vision to life.

For construction we stayed local by hiring Eider Construction. Eider was primarily a custom home builder, but as I interviewed the principal, Flint Hartwig, he impressed me with his ability to think through large issues, find creative solutions, and have fun doing it. That is the type of person I wanted to spend my days with a project like this that was bound to have unforeseen obstacles, as old buildings do. Over the course of a year, Eider Construction transformed our pigeon-infested building into a beautiful space that rivals the most chic offices in Seattle. The end result is stunning, and while the form is gorgeous, the function is also ideal.

Our Wenatchee staff of approximately 50 people is happier than ever to come to work in the new space. As for the employees we have yet to hire, one look at this space and the resumes are stacking up!
In the spring of 1997, we were searching for a new home in the Methow Valley, not at all certain what we'd find. The previous winter had been particularly hard on the region. Record snowfall followed by many inches of rain had left countless barns, sheds, and even a few houses crumpled on themselves—the spring thaw was exposing heaps of rubble and despair. We hadn't considered a barn to be a priority, but the more we looked, the more we realized a barn made a place feel like home for us—a standing barn even more so. As the realtor showed one property after another we grew discouraged that “our place” wasn’t to be found. And then, when all felt hopeless, we rounded the corner on Twin Lakes Road and saw it. Though there were more gaps than boards, though most of the 52 windows were missing or pocked with BB holes, though the farm debris lying about was overwhelming, we were in love. Instant, all-consuming love. This was our place! This was home.

We call it Wild Plum Farm for the plum trees at the foot of the hill, planted there long ago by an unknown farm resident, we imagine. Next to the trees, a Homestead rosebush blooms on my daughter's June birthday, signifying that a house once stood nearby.

The original 160 acres of land was homesteaded by W.W. Easton in 1903 and called “Twin Lakes Ranch” for the two small bodies of water just east and a little bit south. In 1927, a Kentucky-born steel worker, John Pennington, partnered with Allen Wetsel to purchase the Twin Lakes Ranch for the development of a “modern dairy plant.” In the first year, the men built the existing barn to accommodate 90 head of dairy cows. Additionally, a “modern seven-room farmhouse and other modern buildings” were constructed. Over 400 tons of alfalfa were harvested each year.

In 1936, John Pennington returned to his native Kentucky, and the property was purchased by C.J. Ridge. Whether it continued as a dairy and alfalfa operation is unknown. Mr. Ridge lost the property to back taxes, and it was auctioned from the Okanogan County Courthouse steps in 1949. LeRoy Wright bought the farm at the sheriff sale and immediately resold it to the Remsburg Family. The Remsburgs came to Winthrop from Paul, Idaho. On Twin Lakes Ranch they farmed potatoes and built a potato packing shed along the Twin Lakes Road, the foundation of which is still evident today. Their market route extended north to Oroville and south to Wenatchee, and the Remsburgs farmed Twin Lakes Ranch until 1961. One old-timer remembers the Remsburgs as “the best potato farmers in the West!”

George Miller purchased the Twin Lakes Ranch in 1962, then down to 120 acres from the original 160. Mr. Miller altered the dairy barn to accommodate alfalfa hay storage and farmed the land until 1966. In 1963 he was named Washington's Conservation Farmer of the Year for his efforts to conserve water. He had installed an underground irrigation pipe system that, according to his son, Carl Miller; reduced his usage by 50 percent. In 1966, Mr. Miller was forced to sell the Twin Lakes Ranch to pay down debts accrued by his oldest son. Grenville Clark, a Boston investor who came to the Methow on speculation that a railroad line would run from Wenatchee over the North Cascades to Seattle, purchased the farm and in turn leased it to local cattle ranchers Sandy and Shirley Haase. The Haase family worked the farm from 1968 to 1993, growing alfalfa and raising beef cattle.

In the early 1990s, John Blethen purchased the land and renamed it Sunnyview Ranch. He kept the Haase family on as ranch hands until 1993 but then divided the ranch into numerous parcels and built a new horse facility on the upper portion, along with a home on Patterson Mountain, overlooking Winthrop. Mr. Blethen sold the southern 40-acre parcel, including the original dairy barn and 7-room house, to our family in 1997, and that’s when our labor of love began.

With day jobs to pay the mortgage, little kids to raise, and heads full of dreams, we slowly picked away at making the rundown farm a home. For nearly 20 years, our efforts focused on cleaning up the broken-down buildings, rusted-out machinery, and various detritus from over a century of accumulated use. Acknowledging that the once-lazy county road was now a popular tourist route, we moved the farmhouse from the street to a sunny spot behind the barn in 2003, shielding it from the traffic noise.

dahp.wa.gov/heritagebarngrants
In 2016, after years of living on a hope and a prayer that the old barn would last another winter, we finally had time and energy to devote efforts toward its restoration. With financial help from the Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation’s Heritage Barn Grant Program, our in-house construction experience, a whole lot of elbow grease, and perseverance, we put the barn back together, giving it a new life and renewed functionality for years to come.

It was late in the summer of 2018 when the final touches to the restoration project were complete, and life was returning to a normal routine. As I coiled irrigation hose in the barnyard, a strange car slowly pulled up the drive. The windows rolled down, and I saw six smiling faces peering out from inside. A petite, white-haired woman sat in the passenger seat and introduced herself as Nila Pennington. At the golden age of 92, Nila is John Pennington’s last surviving child. Her nieces were taking her on a tour of her old homestead and the valley where she was raised.

Nila filled in gaps in the history not found in books and journals. Her father’s dairy failed when their 65 cows developed a fatal disease. John Pennington was unable to find work locally, so he returned to work in Kentucky while Nila, her two sisters, and mother remained in Washington. Nila had long wondered what had become of her beloved farm, having moved away from it in 1936 at the age of 10.

During the grant writing process, and later the restoration project, countless connections were made with old-timers with ties to the farm. It was a magical experience, listening to their reminiscences and imagining life in the early 1900s. Shirley Haase, now in her 90s; Carl and Claude Miller, in their 70s; Donna Martin, in her 80s—each had bits and pieces of history to share and fond memories of the farm during its many iterations. To celebrate the homestead and the old-timers’ history, and to give thanks for our community’s support, we threw a barn dance and pig roast in late October last year. Nearly 300 people, including three generations of the George Miller family, came out to the farm to visit, eat, dance, and reminisce about days of old. With music and dancing in the loft and a bonfire crackling in the barnyard, one could almost imagine a similar night in 1927 when, perhaps, the Pennington family celebrated the raising of their new, “modern dairy plant.”

Today, the barn stands as a regal reminder of days gone by. Under its restored majesty thrives a soap-making studio, farm mechanic’s shop, horse stalls and tack room, hay storage, and an agriculture bay for machinery and feed. The insurance agent now calls it “a beautiful asset”; we call it the heart and soul of Wild Plum Farm and our greatest love.

Immense gratitude and appreciation to the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation and the Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation for giving us the opportunity to keep a little bit of history alive and well in North Central Washington.

The Heritage Barn Initiative is a program of the Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation. Funding from the program has worked to preserve over 125 barns across the state. For more information, be sure to visit dahp.wa.gov/heritagebarngrants.
MAIN STREET NOW: SEATTLE

Hosting the National Main Street Conference

By Breanne Durham, Main Street Director

What an experience it was to co-host Main Street Now, National Main Street’s annual conference, in Washington State in March! With over 1,800 attendees, 17 field sessions throughout the Puget Sound region, and over 1,000 local volunteer hours logged (not counting Washington Trust staff time), we are proud to say that this marks the largest National Main Street Conference to date!

This rare opportunity was made possible by our partnership with the National Main Street Center. Special thanks go out to CEO Patrice Frey (a Washington native!) and NMSC board members and fellow Washingtonians Mary Thompson and Kevin Daniels (both of whom the Washington Trust is fortunate to count amongst our most valued statewide partners, as well) for seeking out Seattle to host this national event. We also extend our deep gratitude to all of the conference sponsors and volunteers who helped make Main Street Now 2019 such a success.

Our own conference highlights came from the many opportunities we had to showcase Washington’s Main Street Communities. From field sessions that shared the bounty of Mount Vernon, the diversity of Kent, and the bold initiatives of Olympia to classroom sessions led by our friends from Bellingham, Wenatchee, and Gig Harbor, we were buttons-bursting-proud of how our Main Street programs stepped up as leaders at this national event.

And if you were among the attendees in Seattle in March, a special thanks to you, too. The Washington State Main Street Program, which we are proud to manage in partnership with the Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation, is poised for to make even more of an impact across the state in the coming years. The opportunity to co-host this national conference put extra wind in our sails for 2019 and beyond.

Left: Our Operations Manager, Cathy Wickwire, led the “How does the Market grow?” field session at Pike Place Market.

Above: A dazzling set-up for lunch at the Skansie Netshed in Gig Harbor during the “Show & Tell: A Best Practices Retail Tour” field session.
EXCELLENCE ON MAIN 2019

By Breanne Durham, Main Street Director

On March 25, during the National Main Street Conference in Seattle, Washington Main Street hosted Excellence on Main, an annual event that celebrates outstanding examples of leadership and community engagement across our Main Street Communities. Check out the full list of award winners here, and be sure to follow Washington Main Street on Facebook for more details about each of this year’s winners—a new story is posted every Friday.

We began the Excellence on Main program with our Standout Volunteers, a noncompetitive award category that recognizes some of the exceptional community volunteers who help make our Main Street programs so successful.

Water Street Enhancement Project, Port Townsend

The Port Townsend Main Street Program was recognized with our Outstanding Special Project award for their work managing a significant communication and small business support plan in conjunction with their city’s major street rebuild of Water Street, their main street, in 2018. Their plan included marketing, retail promotions, hosting our annual RevitalizeWA Conference, and more. Businesses experienced significantly less in losses than expected, and four new businesses opened during construction.

Downtown Sounds, Bellingham

The Downtown Bellingham Partnership was recognized for their Outstanding Promotional Event, Downtown Sounds, which is celebrating its 15th year in 2019. The summer concert series has grown tremendously but also very intentionally over the years, now bringing approximately 3,000 people to the heart of downtown Bellingham each week. The event has stayed true to its original goals of creating equitable access to the arts, encouraging creative use of space, and fostering community.

John Baule, Yakima
Tom Burkley, Kent
Stephanie Castillo, Ellensburg
Bob Culp, Wenatchee
Mary Gorman, Gig Harbor
Tiffany Hein, Selah
Deb Heintz, Prosser
Janet Ploof, Langley
Keith Watts, Issaquah

Sayers Building, Walla Walla

The Sayers Building, which underwent a meticulous exterior restoration in 2018, was recognized with our Brick and Mortar award. The project honors Walla Walla’s rich history of specialty tradespeople; some of the contractors recently involved in the restoration recalled having worked on the building as young apprentices. Local knowledge, including preservation resources, was utilized throughout the process of restoring this key building at the heart of downtown Walla Walla.

Above: Our Brick and Mortar award went to the rehabilitation of the Sayers Building in downtown Walla Walla, pictured on the left.

Left: Mayor Deborah Stinson and other local leaders volunteered as “Celebrity Concierges” to greet and assist people through downtown Port Townsend during the Water Street Enhancement Project.

Above: Volunteers make the world go around on Main Street! We’ve made a tradition of honoring them as “Standout Volunteers” each year at Excellence on Main.

Above: Our Brick and Mortar award went to the rehabilitation of the Sayers Building in downtown Walla Walla, pictured on the left.
Elmview and the Ellensburg Downtown Association

Two nonprofits out of Ellensburg were recognized for their innovative Community Partnership, which solved the intractable problem of keeping downtown plants alive during the hot summer months. The Ellensburg Downtown Association struck up a partnership with Elmview, a nonprofit that connects adults with disabilities to job opportunities, that has benefited both organizations, enhanced the appearance of the downtown district, and created new paid positions for community members.

Dia de los Muertos, Chelan

A second Outstanding Promotional Event award was given in recognition of a first-time event that was specifically designed to share in and celebrate Chelan’s Latino community. The Historic Downtown Chelan Association worked with business leaders and other partners, notably high school Spanish classes and the Todos United student group, to celebrate Dia de los Muertos in downtown Chelan. The event drew large crowds and sparked new partnerships in the community.

Goodfellow Bros., Wenatchee

A fourth-generation general contractor company, Goodfellow Bros., was recognized for the Economic Vitality they have brought to downtown Wenatchee for rehabilitating the upper floors of the Metropolitan Building, which now houses their nearly 50 Washington-based employees. The company started in Wenatchee nearly 100 years ago, and their investment of two years and $2.9 million to bring this key downtown building back to active use showcases their commitment to their roots. (Don’t miss the feature on this project on page 8!)

Mario Alfaro Lopez, Ellensburg

Washington Main Street’s Entrepreneur of the Year is restaurateur Mario Alfaro Lopez. His food truck turned full-service restaurant, The Red Pickle, features a menu inspired by his Guatemalan roots and a community-centered atmosphere. He sources many of his products locally and is always on the lookout for opportunities to partner with fellow business owners. Mario is a fixture in downtown Ellensburg, known for his innovation, generosity, and hospitality.

Barb Smith, Kent

During her ten years as Executive Director of the Kent Downtown Partnership, Barb Smith has shown herself to embody Leadership on Main. When she retires this summer she will leave behind a stable organization with many volunteer leaders she has cultivated, led, and inspired over the years. Barb is a master of the art of leading volunteers by empowering them to be creative, productive, and focused on what inspires each of them to serve. We thank her for all she has done for downtown Kent.

Kris Nelson, Port Townsend

Our top honor of Excellence on Main goes to the unstoppable Kris Nelson, a successful entrepreneur and dedicated community advocate from Port Townsend. Her four downtown restaurants—Alchemy Bistro & Wine Bar, The In-Between, The Old Whiskey Mill, and Sirens Pub—are local institutions that employ over 70 people. Kris also finds time to serve as a volunteer leader with many community organizations, including as the Board President of the Port Townsend Main Street Program. Her dedication and work ethic make her community a more vibrant place.

Special thanks goes to our generous Excellence on Main event sponsors which included Arnett Muldrow, Rafn Company, SHKS Architects, Swenson Say Fagét, Tonkin Architecture, and Western Specialty Contractors.
Donor Focus

BASSETTI ARCHITECTS

Transforming Lincoln High School into a 21st-century learning facility

By Michael Davis, AIA, Principal

History
Lincoln High School opened its doors in 1907 in response to the rapid growth of North Seattle resulting from the streetcar extension to Wallingford and the relocation of the University of Washington from downtown. Over the next two decades, Lincoln’s student population would increase from 500 to 2,200. Lincoln is Seattle’s oldest existing high school and the sole surviving high school designed by Seattle Public Schools’ first architect, James Stephen. The Jacobean-style building featured curvilinear stepped parapets and Tudor arches. The first alterations occurred in 1914 when Edgar Blair designed the north wing, including an auditorium, library, and gymnasium. The school’s architecture became more distinctive with Blair’s character-defining details, such as tripartite windows, terra cotta trim and emblems, a balcony, and an iron fence. In 1930, Seattle School District architect Floyd Naramore designed a south wing for art, music, classrooms, and a study hall. Naramore’s use of materials and form is contextual to the original building, yet significant for his Art Deco interpretation of Jacobean elements at the south entrance. The history of these three architects’ complementary styles is apparent in the remodeling, each architect bringing their unique touches to the building.

The school’s final addition, designed by NBBJ, occurred in 1958. Although Naramore was a founding partner of the firm, the addition was a departure from the historic context, designed in the International Style. Lincoln thrived until the early 1970s when enrollment began to drop. In 1981, the school closed and remained unused until 1997, when it became a swing site for District schools under construction. During those years, numerous haphazard remodels transpired to accommodate various schools using Lincoln as their temporary space.

Coming full circle, current growth is creating the need for additional schools, and Lincoln is once again responding. In 2015, Basetti Architects was commissioned to restore this designated Seattle landmark to a viable, 21st century learning facility while celebrating its 20th century roots.

Restoration and Renovation

Interior remodels during the swing site years left Lincoln disjointed and without a central heart. The unattended exterior had deteriorated. This once-beautiful landmark needed refreshing, and its infrastructure required an overhaul. The Seattle School District desired a building that would reflect their educational specifications for a safe, comprehensive high school that supported multiple teaching modalities, universal access, and a connected campus.

Currently under construction, Lincoln’s exterior will be restored to its original splendor with repointed masonry and the replacement of damaged terra cotta. The original piano nobile entrance at Stephen’s central wing will be restored and seismically anchored. It did not meet ADA access, and installing ramps did not prove to be a viable solution. Instead, a glass entry at-grade, recessed from the prominent facade, was designed at the bridge connecting the north and central wings. This met both universal access and safety codes by providing a transparent, secure airlock upon entry. The resulting transparent facade highlights the historic landmark behind it, while providing a light and welcoming presence to students and community.

The most transformative work is taking place at Blair’s north addition. His ornate exterior detailing is renewed with the restoration of the brick and terra cotta highlighting the trim, emblems, and fenestration. The renovation of the historic auditorium into a 21st century library continues to highlight Blair’s details. Previously hidden by a suspended acoustical tile ceiling, the ornamental plaster beams and original coffers are now exposed and restored, offering a glimpse into Lincoln’s history.

The delightful stylistic nuances of Lincoln provide neighborhood identity and speak to the cultural continuum that links us to our predecessors. When the school opens this fall, alumni and students will welcome back a beautiful high school that defines both the past and future of Seattle Public Schools.

Above: A view of the Lincoln School from the northwest in 1934 showing the Blair addition on the left and the original 1907 building on the right. Image from HistoryLink.

Below: The Lincoln School and its subsequent additions from the east, pictured in 1962. Image from HistoryLink.

bassettiarch.com
HISTORIC PRESERVATION IN WILDERNESS

Balancing priorities at Isle Royale National Park in Michigan

By Carla Anderson, Isle Royale Families and Friends Association; Nancy Ousley, Washington Trust Board of Directors and Isle Royale Families and Friends Association; and Missy McDonald, Isle Royale Families and Friends Association

Isle Royale National Park is an archipelago of over 400 islands in Lake Superior; it is in Michigan, though geographically closer to Ontario and Minnesota. Isle Royale is the least visited and, because of its location and harsh winter climate, only national park to close for the winter. The Park is now part of the debate between historic preservation and wilderness advocates. Despite having a rich human history of over 4500 years, much of the park was designated Wilderness or Potential Wilderness in 1976. The community that remains on Isle Royale are descendants of immigrant Scandinavian commercial fishing families, resort owners, Mid-Western industrialists, church leaders, and writers of the late 1800s and early 1900s. Given their socio-economic differences, these families would likely not have come into contact in their urban environments. But Isle Royale’s isolated, dangerous environment helped forge friendships, marriages, and bonds that have lasted for generations. Descendants of at least three Isle Royale families live in Washington State.

Royce Yeater, former Director of the National Trust for Historic Preservation’s Midwest Office, described this community in a presentation at the National Trust’s 2012 annual conference: “These people are Isle Royale, every bit tied to the land and the water as the wolves for which the island is famous. They are like one extended family that assemblies for Thanksgiving, clans of cousins… This is a community, a culture, and culture that is itself worth preserving.”

When the Park was established in 1939, property owners were required to sell and vacate or retain a life lease or special use permit (SUP). Some chose the life lease option; most of the other camps were removed by the National Park Service (NPS). The remaining camps and cabins qualify today for listing on the National Register of Historic Places and occupy less than 1/10 of 1% of the Park’s total acreage. The terms of the leases and permits require families to maintain the structures in accordance with historic preservation principles, a challenging task when everything—building materials, food, and provisions—must be transported by boat to the island. Consequently, families have adapted to their environment by reusing, recycling, and re-purposing found materials to maintain and preserve the historic structures.

Above: Captain Kidd Island off the Isle Royale North Shore. There are several log structures here dating from early 1900s to 1930s. The McPherson family of Omaha, Nebraska, purchased the island in the early 1930s. One of the McPherson children, Sally, married Jack Orsborn, a member of another Isle Royale family, in 1954, and they were long-time residents of Pullman and Port Townsend, Washington. Captain Kidd and Johnson Island families started their long friendship in the 1930s as summer neighbors and have maintained strong ties ever since. Photo by John Snell.

Left: The Andersons and Johnsons on Johnson Island, c. 1910. The families were Scandinavian immigrant fishermen based in Duluth, Minnesota, and their families started fishing at Isle Royale in the 1880s. John Anderson, Carla Anderson’s great-grandfather, is on the far right. Gill Anderson, his son, is the other seated male— he later wintered over on Johnson Island to establish the homestead in 1916. Herman Johnson and his wife and daughter are pictured, standing. Mr. Johnson retired from fishing and sold his share of the island to Mr. Anderson for $1 in 1923. The structure pictured here behind the families remains and was rehabilitated by Carla and her family and friends in 2004 to 2005.
The NPS is drafting a Cultural Resources Management Plan (CRMP) to address the future of the historic camps and other sites, and a Section 106 process is underway, which provides stakeholders with a voice on federal projects that may adversely affect cultural resources. Consulting parties in the Section 106 process include: the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Michigan State Historic Preservation Office, the Isle Royale Families and Friends Association, the Michigan Historic Preservation Network, the Sierra Club, and Wilderness Watch. The NPS is further consulting with tribal governments. The 106 process also applies to the Wilderness Management Plan.

Wilderness advocates potentially want this community and the structures removed from Wilderness Areas, once lease and SUP holders pass away. Preservationists believe the structures and community represent a unique and historically significant part of our country’s history. These issues have arisen in Washington State in recent years with trail shelters in the Olympic Wilderness Area (Daniel J. Evans Wilderness) and the Green Mountain Lookout in the Glacier Peak Wilderness Area. Historic structures are often part of the story of how wilderness areas become protected places, so the differences between the goals of historic preservation and land conservation advocates may not be as pronounced as they sometimes appear.

As our concepts of historic preservation and land conservation continue to evolve, we may realize that human activity is not so much separate from nature as it is part of it. It is through deliberate choices and thoughtful management that we can protect both.

Left: In 2012, the Edwards and other Isle Royale families and friends celebrated the 100-year anniversary of the Edwards Island cabin in Tobin Harbor, which is on the east end of Isle Royale. The Edwards family, church leaders of Saint Paul, Minnesota, first visited Isle Royale in the 1890s and later purchased the island and auction.

Below: An original structure on Johnson Island near Belle Isle built by John Anderson and Herman Johnson in the early 1910s. Carla Anderson and Nancy Ousley stay in this structure in their summer visits to the island.
When an arsonist’s fire destroyed most of a business block in August of 1917 on Clark Avenue, downtown Republic’s main street, it set the stage for the biggest building ‘boom’ in the small mining town’s history. The merchants who had been burned out replaced the lost space with new, modernized wood-frame buildings with brick and concrete, creating much of Republic’s modern streetscape.

The most impressive result of this building boom is Slagle’s Drug Store: it and the restaurant with which it shares a wall are currently the city’s only two-story brick business buildings. The Republic Drug Store has been serving Ferry County’s pharmaceutical needs for a century. Slagle’sDrug Store connected residents to a registered nurse by telephone, playing a key role in the community’s health care.

In 1946, J.W. Slagle sold the store to two of his pharmacist sons. It is currently operated by a grandson and his wife. While the store’s interior has been altered several times since the 1920s to keep pace with the changing needs of a modern pharmacy, the building still sports the best stamped metal ceiling in Ferry County. J.W. Slagle’s Republic Drug Store retains its position as an anchor business on Republic’s main street.

By Madeline Perry

J.W. SLAGLE’S
REPUBLIC DRUG STORE

Tracing a building’s construction through the newspaper

The result of all this activity was a two-story, red brick structure with a common wall in the middle, room for two businesses at street level, and office or meeting spaces upstairs. Slagle’s Republic Drug Store moved into the southern storefront, followed shortly by Zwang and Eustace’s Corner Store in the northern storefront shortly after.

The long construction produced a heavy load of debt which required the building to generate income. Public dances held upstairs did not produce enough, and so other intended money-makers included a fireproof safety deposit boxes for rent to the public, retail space in the basement, and a short-lived soda fountain in the drugstore.

When the Masonic Lodge and other fraternal organizations offered to rent the space above the drugstore, J.W. Slagle agreed. The space was leased by the Masonic Lodge which sublet to the Order of the Eastern Star, the Odd Fellows, the Rebekahs, the Royal Neighbors, the Modern Woodmen of the World and, later, the Rainbow Girls. The lodges occupied the space until the late 1980s. This area is now used for storage but retains some of its lodge hall features.

During World War II and the immediate post-war years, Republic lacked a medical doctor. The Republic Drug Store connected residents to a registered nurse and was linked with physicians in the outside world by telephone, playing a key role in the community’s health care.

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While many of our readers could have identified Dale Chihuly as the artist of the work featured in our January 2019 issue of This Place, only two correctly guessed the location. Former Trust board members Kris Bassett of Wenatchee and Kelsey Doncaster of Yakima correctly identified the Sleeping Lady Mountain Resort outside of Leavenworth as the site of Chihuly’s iconic Icicle Creek Chandelier.

Nested in the Cascade Mountain foothills on the banks of Icicle Creek, Sleeping Lady is the brainchild of founder Harriet Bullitt who wanted to create a new kind of Pacific Northwest hideaway and conference center after purchasing 67 acres in 1991. Over the decades, the land had seen varied uses, which resulted in the development and redevelopment of a complex of buildings. This included Camp Icicle, a Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp from 1934 to 1942; the Icicle River Ranch, a private family-oriented ranch from 1946 to 1957; and Camp Field, a Catholic summer youth camp and off-season retreat for adults from 1957 to 1982.

Not content with simply preserving the land, Harriet Bullitt engaged Jones & Jones Architects as well as landscape architects to redevelop the older buildings into an environmentally friendly conference facility and mountain retreat. Named Sleeping Lady after the mountain profile above the narrow valley, the resort retained 18 buildings in the new site plan for historical and environmental considerations, five of which remain in their original locations and 13 of which were moved to new locations on site. Since the resort’s opening in 1995, that original vision has grown and evolved over the years with new construction bringing the total to 44 finished buildings. Although the focus has been on environmental stewardship and sustainability, adaptive reuse has played a central role in the character of the resort and the ethos of its operations. Recently, Harriet Bullitt transferred ownership of Sleeping Lady to the Icicle Fund, a 501(c)(3) non-profit that she founded 20 years ago to enhance the health and quality of life in North Central Washington.

To visit Sleeping Lady yourself, it’s featured on the Icicle Creek side trip on the Leavenworth to Everett Tour on our Revisiting Washington guide. Visit it at the beginning or end of this tour that crosses the Cascades via Stevens Pass. 

revisitwa.org/side_trip/icicle-creek/
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