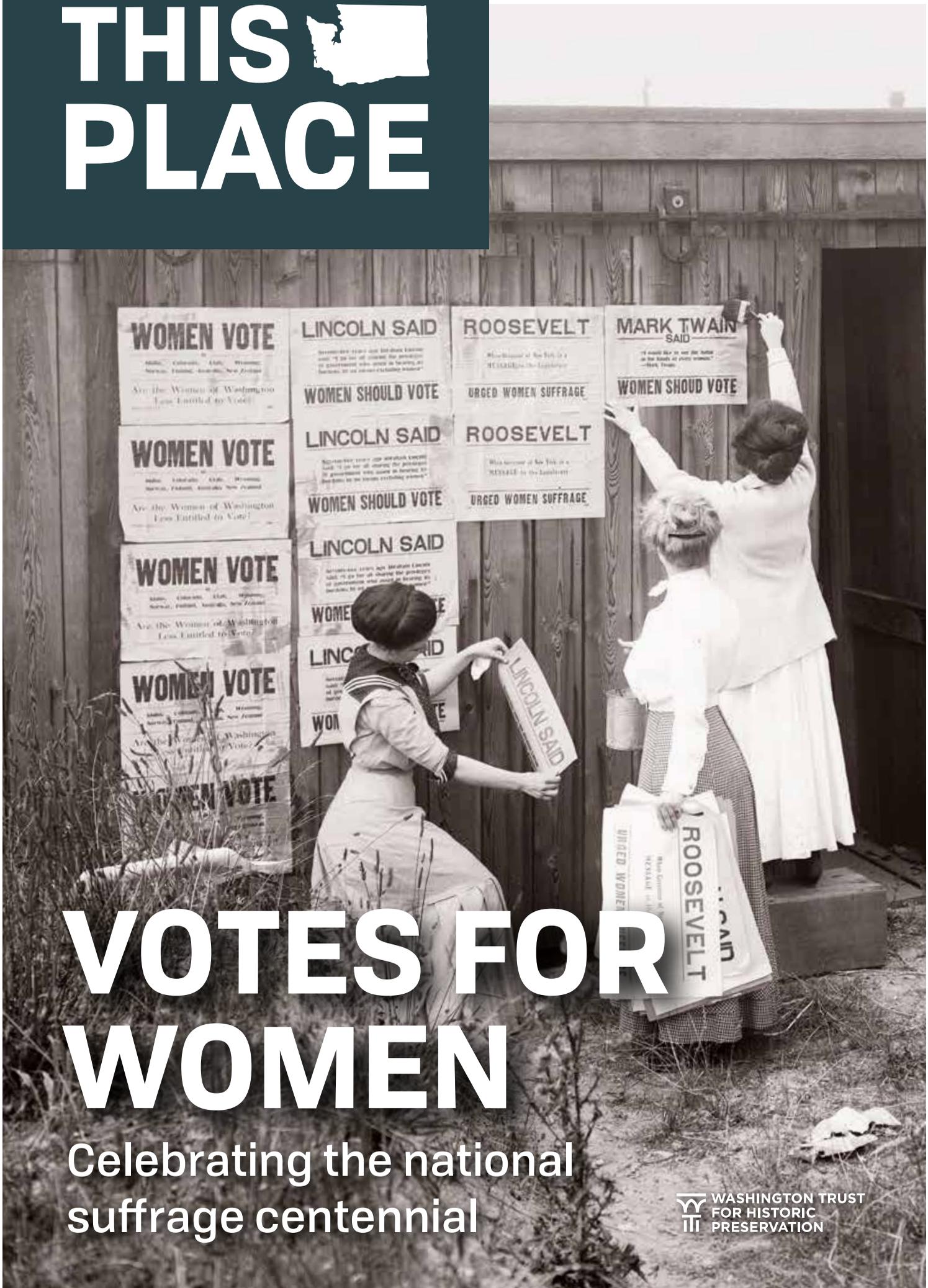


THIS PLACE



VOTES FOR WOMEN

Celebrating the national suffrage centennial

THIS PLACE

Summer 2020

Volume 3, Issue 3

A publication of the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation

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GET INVOLVED

SEPTEMBER 10

Virtual Vintage Washington

While we will miss being in person for our annual fundraiser, we're not about to let the year go by without gathering virtually to celebrate Washington's Most Endangered Places. Join us on the evening of Thursday, September 10 via Zoom to hear about recent Most Endangered Place successes, ongoing campaigns, and new additions. With this virtual platform, the event can truly be statewide, and we're hoping we can host more guests than ever. Tickets are pay-what-you-can with an option to order our signature cocktail shipped to your door!

preservewa.org/vintagewa

OCTOBER 14

Valerie Sivinski Fund applications due

The Valerie Sivinski Fund provides grants of up to \$2,000 to organizations and community groups engaged in historic preservation. For the 2021 grant cycle, we've made a few changes that will open the program up to more types of preservation projects. Learn more at:

preservewa.org/sivinski

OCTOBER 21

Virtual Annual Members Meeting

Tune in virtually at 5:00pm on October 21 to hear about our organizational accomplishments and activities from the past year, as strange of a year as it has been, and be presented with the slate of nominees recommended to serve on our Board of Directors beginning in 2021.

preservewa.org/members-meeting

CAREERS IN PRESERVATION

Preservationists can be found in a wide range of professional roles including design, planning, economic development, construction, engineering, government services, education, tourism, nonprofits, and more. To demonstrate how far-reaching preservation is and to provide inspiration for those who want to get involved, we've been hosting virtual career panels with accomplished professionals.

preservewa.org/learn-with-us

BEER SAVES BUILDINGS

We're taking Pints for Preservation online and want you to nominate your favorite local brewery, housed in a historic building, as one we should feature. Submit your suggestions at:

preservewa.org/beer



The Bigelow House in Olympia received a 2020 Sivinski Fund grant for porch repair. It is also featured as one of the Top Washington Suffrage Sites on page 8!

Cover photo: Three women suffragists in Seattle posting signs advocating for women's suffrage. Photographic print from a glass plate negative created by Asahel Curtis, dated September 16, 1910. Photo from the Washington State Historical Society.



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

VALERIE SIVINSKI

Remembering the Washington Trust's own when celebrating women's history

By Holly Chamberlain, Board President



Valerie Sivinski atop the roof of the Union Station in Tacoma in the late 1980s during its restoration. Valerie was hired as the preservation architect for the project. Photo from Tim McDonald and Kathleen Brooker.

Tacoma was never the same after preservation architect Valerie Sivinski adopted it as her hometown in 1988. Her work in architectural conservation shaped the city she loved and left a remarkable and enduring professional and personal legacy there and nationally.

Although extraordinarily technically accomplished in her field, Val was dedicated to opening the circle of preservation and architecture to all and helping people understand them. She could tell you what an ogee arch is, how it works structurally, its history and typical building materials, the right way to preserve one, the regulations ensuring that, and why they had to be enforced. But she shared her specialized knowledge in a way that included rather than excluded. Val welcomed people into connection with architecture and history and what they mean to a community.

Born in Nebraska and raised in New Mexico, she obtained an architecture degree from the University of New Mexico and studied architectural conservation at the University of York in England. She passed on her expertise by teaching preservation methods at the University of Washington, was an author and lecturer, and served as an encouraging mentor to many younger professionals.

An exemplar of walking the talk, Val performed hands-on preservation work at the Orr House in Steilacoom and also helped the volunteer group

rehabilitating it to write grants and obtain media attention. She worked with her own North Slope neighborhood in Tacoma to create a historic district, and, as a remembrance in the neighborhood newsletter noted, she taught the residents about their "place in Tacoma's history . . . the value of [the] neighborhood as a chronicle of the lives of real people in Tacoma from the 1880s to the 1950s . . . Think of Valerie as you walk along our streets and appreciate what she saw in all the old houses we are fortunate to call home."

Prior to her move to Tacoma, she worked for the Architect of the Capitol in Washington, DC. From 1991 to 1998, she served vigorously as Tacoma City Historic Preservation Officer during a time of major rehabilitation projects such as the Sprague Building, Masonic Temple, Rialto Theatre, and the adaptive transformation of Union Station into a federal courthouse. In 1998, Val fulfilled a dream in forming Artifacts Architectural Consulting with her husband Tim McDonald and friend Michael Sullivan as partners. The firm, which still exists today, has managed many of the most significant preservation projects in the state, including work on the Washington State Capitol Building.

A multi-faceted and outstanding person, Val brought her intelligence, practicality, and creativity into her long-time, effective volunteer work with the Washington Trust. Problem: no staff. Solution: work hard as a volunteer board member and president but also lead a team of people to write a grant to the National Trust to fund a professional position. Outcome: full-time staff. Problem: no money. Solution: encourage everyone around the state to eat a lot of cookies. Outcome: the largest grant ever given by the LU Cookie Company went toward preserving the round Leonard Barn in Pullman. Problem: Trust quarterly newsletter needs an editor. Solution: be the editor. Outcome: preservation news disseminated throughout the state.

Val's death in October of 2000 at age 49 occurred at work as she photographed an historic building in downtown Tacoma. Sadly, she was struck by a truck and died at the scene. The Trust's Valerie Sivinski Fund grants are named in her memory. The grant program (thank you to Feliks Banel for the idea), originally titled the Washington Preserves Grants, fittingly was created during a Trust meeting in Tacoma, and Val was one of the first donors. The memorial re-naming was thoughtfully suggested by Eugenia Woo.

By virtue of her lasting preservation projects which still stand today and the grant program which bears her name, her impact is ongoing. The many friends and colleagues who remember Valerie remain grateful for her generous, well-lived life. 🍪

The Valerie Sivinski Fund provides grants of up to \$2,000 to organizations and community groups engaged in historic preservation across Washington. The goal of the fund is to support historic preservation where it really happens: at the community level. Applications for the 2021 Valerie Sivinski Fund grants are currently open with updated criteria and are due October 14, 2020.



Upper: Portrait of Valerie Sivinski around 2000 by Tim McDonald. Photo from Tim McDonald and Kathleen Brooker.

Lower: Valerie Sivinski and Tim McDonald on a lift inspecting the stone on one of the Capitol Campus Buildings in Olympia while Valerie was the Capitol Campus Conservator. Photo from Tim McDonald and Kathleen Brooker.

VOTES FOR WOMEN

Igniting statewide suffrage centennial programming in Washington

By Elisa Law, Women's Suffrage Centennial Coordinator,
Washington State Historical Society

This year, Americans everywhere are commemorating one of the most influential movements in women's history and marking the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment, giving women the right to vote.

While Washington State passed suffrage a decade earlier in 1910, the national suffrage centennial is a chance to educate Washingtonians about our state's role in the national movement as well as increase the visibility of the important work of women change makers in Washington.

We recognize that the 19th Amendment, while legally extending the right to all citizens regardless of sex, did not ensure that all women could vote in 1920. This centennial presents an opportunity to expand the narrative of women's suffrage beyond white dresses and sashes and engage with the complex realities of our shared history.

The Washington State Historical Society (WSHS), the Washington Women's Commission, and the Women's History Consortium partnered as the Votes for Women Centennial Collaborative to support and organize celebrations across the Evergreen State during 2020. Rather than focus solely on celebrating the major accomplishment of the 19th Amendment, we focused our programs on the long-term legacy of the suffrage movement which allows for a more

inclusive commemoration. Our mission has been to ignite quality suffrage centennial programs across the state.

Here's what we've done so far:

Votes for Women Centennial Grant Program

We've awarded \$150,000 in Votes for Women Centennial Grants to 56 organizations across all 39 counties in the Evergreen State.

Grant funding supported these exhibits: the Wing Luke Museum's *Hear Us Rise: Asian Pacific American Feminism*,* Legacy Washington's *Moving Forward, Looking Back: Washington's First Women in Government*,* and the Washington State Jewish Historical Society's *Agents of Change: Washington Jewish Women's Stories*.*

Grants also funded theater programs in Seattle, choral concerts in Richmond, cycling events in Bellingham, interpretive panels in Edmonds, school performances in Pullman, women veterans' gatherings in Fife, and about four dozen other programs.* Many programs have been adapted to virtual formats or postponed to address health and safety concerns related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

For a full list of grantees and their suffrage centennial programs, visit the Votes for Women Centennial website at: suffrage100wa.com/grants



Free, Downloadable Exhibits and Curriculum

Why is voting important? How does an idea spread? What better time to explore these compelling questions than during the centennial of women's suffrage?

A downloadable curriculum* utilizing primary source materials from WSHS explores why women and men struggled, and continue to struggle, across generations for the right to vote. Students can compare how political ideas spread through media then (during the suffrage movement) and now, consider why women in western states got the vote before their East Coast neighbors, and contribute to a single, collaborative timeline of Washington State women's history.

Three downloadable panel exhibitions* complement our curriculum. Schools, museums, libraries, and historical societies can print, mount, and display these exhibitions for free during this suffrage centennial year. The downloadable exhibits include:

Washington Women Led the Way - While looking at the fight for the vote in Washington and across America over the course of 72 years, this exhibit features vignettes of local and national suffragists and highlights the involvement of change makers who were Black, Indigenous, or people of color.

From Parlor to Podium - Created in 2010 for the Washington State suffrage centennial, this exhibit focuses on the territorial suffrage campaigns centered in Olympia and the women and men who worked to secure the vote for Washington women.

Rightfully Hers: American Women and the Vote - Made free and available by the National Archives, this exhibit tells the relentless struggle of diverse activists throughout U.S. history who worked to secure voting rights for all American women.

Nominate Women Change Makers of Washington

WSHS is accepting nominations of local women change makers that we will be honoring now through 2020 on Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter: [@suffrage100wa](https://www.instagram.com/suffrage100wa).

To nominate a woman in your community who is enacting positive change, tag the person being honored and tag us at [@suffrage100wa](https://www.instagram.com/suffrage100wa) in your post about them.

Wiki Edit-a-Thon

Did you know that of Wikipedia's 1.5 million biographies of notable people, only 18 percent are women? Washingtonians, let's change that!

In partnership with Women in Red's initiative to focus on creating articles about notable suffragists, Washington State Historical Society created a Wikipedia GLAM page* (galleries, libraries, archives, and museums) with a list of local suffragist articles in need of creation or improvement.

In March 2019, WSHS hosted its first ever Wikipedia Edit-a-Thon. People from age nine to 71 joined us to edit Wikipedia pages for local suffragists.

Visit our GLAM page on Wikipedia for information on how you can join us from home to help close the Wikipedia gender gap: suffrage100wa.com/programs





Here Lies a Suffragist

Every year, women visit the gravesite of Susan B. Anthony to pay tribute to her life's work of achieving political equality for women. In honor of the centennial of the 19th Amendment, WSHS is encouraging Washington women to do the same locally.

Inspired by the National Women's History Alliance initiative, WSHS staff and research volunteers have located the final resting places of 115 local suffragists in 42 cemeteries across Washington State in our *Here Lies a Suffragist—Washington State* virtual cemetery.* Very early on, we discovered that some of these gravesites—most notably that of suffragist, poet, and doctor Mary Olney Brown—are in desperate need of repair. We hope to bring statewide attention to this issue and launch a movement to restore the sites.

By the end of 2020, these burial locations will be added to the National Votes for Women Trail* as significant sites in the national suffrage story.

National Votes for Women Trail

Washington State has compiled nearly two dozen sites significant to our suffrage history and has added them to an interactive map* designed by the National Collaborative for Women's History Sites.

We know there are many more sites to add from all across the state—places where suffragists held meetings, where they were born, where they lived, places where Susan B. Anthony touched down during her 1871 tour to our state, and more. Visit the National Votes for Women Trail to add your local suffrage sites.



57 Washington Suffragist Biographies Completed

Washingtonians answered the call and have completed 57 biographical sketches of suffragists from our state for the Online Biographical Dictionary of the Woman Suffrage Movement,* a crowd-sourced biographical database of over 3,500 suffragists nationwide.

This was a grassroots effort with research by students, historians, League of Women Voters members, retired software engineers, professors, research hobbyists, and reference librarians.

To see the full list, visit: suffrage100wa.com/blog

Coming Soon!

The exhibition *Votes for Women: 100 Years and Counting** will greet visitors at the Washington State History Museum once the museum is able to reopen to the public. This exhibition is an intriguing look at the history of the women's suffrage movement from multiple perspectives. Focusing on both the national story and our state's story, *Votes for Women* explains how Washington women contributed to the eventual ratification of the 19th Amendment and more.

This exhibition invites visitors to learn the "who, what, where, why, and why not" of Washington's suffrage battle.

Find out who could legally cast a ballot and who could not during the history of the on-again-off-again vote for women, even after the amendment was ratified.

Journey through an interactive timeline to understand the importance of voting to our society and how women's suffrage has impacted and affected our nation over time. You'll come out

knowing the names of those who fought for this basic constitutional right, and you'll appreciate your right to vote as never before!

Special thanks to the curators of this exhibition, Chandler O'Leary and Jessica Spring, the authors and artists behind the book *Dead Feminists: Historic Heroines in Living Color*. The exhibit *Votes for Women* will be richly illustrated with work created by O'Leary and Spring as well as historic objects and ephemera from the WSHS collections. 🖼️

* For a digital version of this article with links to resources, please visit: preservewa.org/votes-for-women

The Suffrage Special Whistle Stop Tour

Thematically based on the 1909 *Suffrage Special*, a train carrying local and national suffragists through Washington with several "whistle stops" between Spokane and Seattle, the Centennial Votes for Women Collaborative created a virtual train journey across our state to celebrate women change makers then and now and some of the notable locations in our suffrage history.

You can ride along through this eight-episode video series! Just link in at WSHS's website: washingtonhistory.org



TOP WASHINGTON SUFFRAGE SITES

By Elisa Law, Women's Suffrage Centennial Coordinator,
Washington State Historical Society

Do you want to make a pilgrimage to the most significant suffrage sites in our state? Here's a list of top locales to get you started!

Territorial Capitol site

416 Sid Snyder Avenue SW, Olympia

From 1883 to 1888, suffrage in Washington was twice passed and twice repealed here, where the current Washington State Legislative Building now stands. When women were extended the franchise in 1883, they showed up in huge numbers to exercise their political voice to oust corrupt politicians and bring about local option prohibition. It wasn't to last. In 1887, the Territorial Legislature invalidated the suffrage law, and though suffrage advocates rallied and passed another suffrage act in 1888, it was overturned again the same year.

National suffragist figure Susan B. Anthony became the first woman to address the Washington Territorial Legislature when she spoke in the territorial capitol during the fall of 1871. From her notes:

"October 19 Thursday. Olympia Wash Ter Addressed Legislature at 2 P.M. Assembly room packed—Made pretty good argument."

Goodell's Point Schoolhouse

Exact location unknown, Grand Mound

In 1868, the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was passed, defining citizens as "all persons born or naturalized in the United States." Feminists of the day reasoned that women were citizens and that as such, the 14th Amendment

guaranteed their right to vote. In 1869, sisters Mary Olney Brown and Charlotte Emily Olney French tried to cast their vote in Washington Territory but failed.

"A fearful hue and cry was raised . . . Some of the papers deprecated the idea that 'a woman should unsex herself by dabbling in the filthy pool of politics.' But I was fully committed. The law had been on our statute books for nearly three years. If it was intended for our benefit, it was time we were availing ourselves of it" (Mary Olney Brown, History of Woman Suffrage: 1876-1885, Vol. 3).

Just a year later, at the Goodell's Point Schoolhouse in Grand Mound in 1870, Charlotte and six other women successfully cast their ballots and became the first women in Washington to vote in an election.



Charlotte Emily Olney French (left) and Mary Olney Brown (right). Photos from the Thurston County Historic Commission and Washington State Historical Society, respectively.



Left: Territorial Capitol Building. Photo from the Washington State Historical Society.

Below: Arcade Building in downtown Seattle, now demolished. Photo from the Museum of History & Industry (MOHAI).

Bottom: The entrance of the Alaska Yukon Pacific Exposition at the site of what is now the University of Washington campus in Seattle. Photo from the Washington State Historical Society.

Arcade Building site

1st Avenue and University Street, Seattle

The Washington Equal Suffrage Association had their headquarters in the Arcade Building, using space provided by Dr. Cora Smith Eaton, a medical doctor and suffragist.

Fellow suffragist Missouri T.B. Hanna produced the *Votes for Women* journal from the Arcade Building. This local suffrage journal chronicled speeches, marches, and political lobbying with a focus on suffrage activities in Washington.

After Washington women obtained the vote in 1910, the *Votes for Women* journal was renamed *The New Citizen*, marking the graduation of women from suffragists to voters. *The New Citizen* was published from the Arcade Building as well.

Alaska Yukon Pacific Exposition

University of Washington, Seattle

In 1909, our local suffragists pulled out all the stops to get the vote in Washington. From designing posters and organizing suffrage mountain climbs to staging public performances, suffragists like Emma Smith DeVoe and May Arkwright Hutton made sure that the issue of suffrage was at the forefront of contemporary thought.

The most notable publicity campaign that year, though, was a series of events staged at the Alaska Yukon Pacific Exposition (AYPE) on what is now the University of Washington's Seattle campus, a major World's Fair with over four million people in attendance. Both the Washington Equal Suffrage Association and the National Women's Suffrage Association planned to hold their annual conventions in Seattle in the weeks leading up to the AYPE to leverage the crowd of visitors and garner international exposure.

On July 7, 1909, the AYPE held a Suffrage Day, with approximately 600 suffragists in attendance, national suffrage speakers addressed the crowds, and "Votes for Women" decor hung and pinned from buildings and fairgoers alike. These efforts helped Washington suffragists to win the vote the following year in 1910.



In fact, the events planned by suffragists around the AYPE drew so many suffragists to Seattle that they needed their own train! They called it the *Suffrage Special* and it carried suffrage leaders westward from Spokane across the state towards Seattle. Eager crowds gathered at the "whistle stops" along the train's route to hear the famous orators speak and to shower them with gifts. By the time the *Suffrage Special* had traveled through Spokane, Pasco, Yakima, Ellensburg, and Tacoma, it was covered in yellow ribbons (the official color of the suffrage movement) and laden with baskets upon baskets of fruit and flowers.

Right: Suffragists at the summit of Mount Rainier. Photo from the Washington State Historical Society.

Lower right: "Oh the Women!" graphic of the Suffrage Special printed in The Seattle Times. Photo from the Washington State Historical Society.



Mount Rainier

On July 30, 1909, during the Alaska Yukon Pacific Exposition, a group of suffragists led by Dr. Cora Smith Eaton summited Mount Rainier and planted a Votes for Women pennant at the top of Columbia Crest.

The mountaineering suffragists left Seattle for Mount Rainier National Park by train on July 17, 1909. Amongst the climbers was Pacific Northwest photographer Asahel Curtis, who wrote of the beginning of their ascent:

"[The morning] broke clear and beautiful, and the party in seven companies moved out from camp, dropping to the White Glacier and winding upward among long crevasses."

Dr. Cora Eaton Smith is reported to have carried the Votes for Women pennant to the summit:

"A pennant with this [Votes for Women] motto was carried by a member of the Mountaineers Club to the summit of Mt. Rainier . . . It was fastened to the staff of a larger pennant 'A.Y.P.' of the exposition and the staff was planted in the highest snows on top of Columbia Crest, a huge white dome that rises above the crater" (The History of Woman Suffrage, Volume VI).

Bigelow House

918 Glass Avenue NE, Olympia

Built in the 1850s, the Bigelow House is the oldest residence in Olympia and one of the earliest Pacific Northwest residences still standing. Now operating as the Bigelow House Museum, this Carpenter Gothic style structure was once the home of pioneering suffragists Ann Elizabeth White Bigelow and Daniel R. Bigelow.

According to local historian Shanna Stevenson, Ann Elizabeth Bigelow was one of the 16 women "willing to put their names in the public sphere in favor of women's rights" in the early days of the Washington suffrage movement. When Susan B. Anthony toured Olympia in 1871, she dined with the Bigelows at their home. In her journal, Anthony wrote of the experience:

"Dined at Judge Bigelow's—his wife splendid—met some members of the Legislature—voluntary vote invites me to address Legislature tomorrow at 2 p.m."

The next day Anthony addressed the Washington Territorial Legislature, becoming the first woman to do so in the history of the Territory.



Edward Eldridge Homesite

2915 Eldridge Avenue, Bellingham

Edward Eldridge, former Speaker of the House and five-time House representative from Bellingham, was an early supporter of women's suffrage in Washington Territory.

In the language of Washington Territory's 1867 law that read, "All white American citizens twenty-one years of age . . . shall be entitled to vote," Eldridge argued on the House floor that white women were citizens and therefore should be able to vote.

Again, on August 12, 1889, while serving as a delegate to the Constitutional Convention, Eldridge stood up for the enfranchisement of Washington women. When the proposed language related to election rights was presented, it read: "All male persons of the age of twenty-one years or over shall be entitled to vote at all elections," Eldridge made a motion to strike the word "male." Alas, the motion was defeated 50 votes to eight.

Opposite, clockwise from the upper left: Josephine Corliss Preston, Nena Jolidon Croake, Frances C. Axtell, Frances M. Haskell. Photos from the Library of Congress, the Washington Secretary of State, and the Washington State Historical Society.

Suffrage Special "Whistle Stops"

Spokane, Pasco, Yakima, Ellensburg, and Tacoma

The first stop in Washington for the *Suffrage Special* was Spokane, where national delegates were warmly welcomed by their eastern Washington sisters. The Chamber of Commerce hosted a public meeting at the Spokane First Methodist Church offering elaborate entertainment for the visitors, including driving tours through the city and the region.

The next stop was Pasco, established by the Northern Pacific Railroad in 1884 as a junction between the Seattle, Tacoma, Portland, and Spokane rail lines. Pasco was also where suffrage delegations from Walla Walla and south Columbia River met the train.

At each stop, speeches were made from the rear platform by well-known figures in the movement. Reverend Anna Shaw was one of many women who addressed the crowds, saying:

"The reason we are here is due to the fact that men of Washington are making a desperate effort to be just. We greatly appreciate this struggle on your part, men, toward realization that women are people . . . The life of this republic is in danger because of the wall separating men and women . . . Woman suffrage means the breaking down of sex consciousness in government, the establishment of such a one where woman may toil as a man. We are tired of having men tell us what to do. We are not afraid of doing our duty anywhere and doing it well, and we want to vote as citizens, not as women" (Tacoma Daily Ledger, June 30, 1909).

They reached their third whistle stop in Yakima at the height of cherry season. The best fruit was given as gifts to the suffragists, a delicacy for many of the suffragists from outside Washington.

The *Seattle Times* described the fourth whistle stop in Ellensburg:

"Late yesterday afternoon, as the Special drew into the station at Ellensburg, twenty-five young women, dressed in costumes of white, entered the coaches and distributed flowers, cherries, and strawberries to the suffragists. The train itself presented a gala spectacle, being decorated with long yellow streamers, emblematic of the association. In all of the towns mentioned it was met at the depot by large throngs of folks who had come to hear those women whose reputation has gone abroad all over the country" (Seattle Times, June 30, 1909).

When the train reached Tacoma, delegates were taken to Point Defiance Park by Tacoma women's club members as part of a five-hour stop before moving on to Seattle and the AYPE, their final destination.



Old Capitol

600 Washington Street SE, Olympia

Nearly 50 years after Arthur Denny proposed Washington Territory's first suffrage legislation, a constitutional amendment for woman suffrage was ratified in this building on November 8, 1910.

The Old Capitol was also the site where Josephine Corliss Preston, the first woman to win a statewide elected post, began her service as Superintendent of Public Instruction in 1913, along with the first two women legislators, Frances Axtell and Nena Jolidon Croake.

Finally, at this site on March 22, 1920, Representative Frances Haskell would introduce the 19th Amendment for ratification by the Washington State Legislature.

Woman's Century Club

807 E Roy Street, Seattle

Formed in Seattle in 1891, the Woman's Century Club was established by influential local women including its president—and at the time a Washingtonian—Carrie Chapman Catt, an internationally renowned suffragist who later founded the League of Women Voters.

In 1896, the Woman's Century Club arranged to bring Susan B. Anthony to lecture in Seattle on the importance of women's votes. Bertha Knight Landes, later Seattle's first woman mayor, served as president of the Club from 1918 to 1920. The brick clubhouse at Harvard and E Roy, built in 1925, hosted meetings and workshops to address issues related to women and still does to this day. 📌

WOMEN MAKING HISTORY

Celebrating the women of our national parks

By Stephanie Toothman and Elaine Jackson-Retondo



Acting NPS Director David Vela earlier this year encouraged all parks to tell more stories of women's contributions through their park social media, interpretive, and educational programs. The National Park Foundation, our philanthropic partner, has provided grants to parks and regions to support this effort. In the Pacific West, the regional Cultural Resources Program and five individual parks received grants.

The regional grant will supplement the work of park staff by collaborating with scholars of women's history led by Professor Ellen Hartigan-O'Connor and Professor Lisa Materson at the University of California, Davis. The project team will develop biographies of women associated with every park in the region, as well as an essay that will link the history and legacy of the suffrage movement to other themes in women's history that are represented in the region's parks. The five park recipients include American Memorial Park for research on the women of the Northern Mariana Islands who held their communities together during World War II; Cesar Chavez National Monument which will conduct oral histories with women who have participated and are participating in the farmworkers' movement; Death Valley National Park to compile primary and secondary source material associated with the history of women in the park; Fort Vancouver National Historic Site for the production of a resource guide on women's history; and San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park to support new tours of women's history sites in San Francisco.



Top: Harriet Pullen in front of the Pullen House in Skagway. Photo from the Alaska State Library.

Above: Dr. Leona Woods Marshall at the University of Chicago in 1946. Photo from the Argonne National Laboratory.

Opposite: Cover of the new NPS handbook, Women Making History: The 19th Amendment.



This year, the National Park Service (NPS) is commemorating the passage and ratification of the 19th Amendment in its parks, programs, and partnerships. These efforts place women's suffrage within the context of the continuing struggle to extend citizenship and suffrage to all Americans and highlight the contributions of diverse women to our shared heritage. The NPS is the steward of sites established to tell the broader stories of the fight for women's suffrage—Women's Rights National Historic Park and Belmont-Paul Women's Equality National Monument—and the history of individuals who played important roles in the struggle, including Harriet Tubman and Frederick Douglass.

Although some of the planned park events celebrating final ratification in August may be limited by challenges of the pandemic, NPS has created a robust website (nps.gov/subjects/womenshistory) that features essays and individual profiles of women, a story map, travel itinerary, state profiles, and toolkits to support 19th Amendment educational and interpretative programs. A new NPS handbook, *Women Making History: The 19th Amendment*, was released this spring and is available from Eastern National (easternnational.org). One of the essays in the handbook, "Woman Suffrage in the West" by Jennifer Helton, discusses the struggle for suffrage in the western states and territories for women, Native Americans, Asian immigrants, and other western communities.

nps.gov/subjects/womenshistory

*Real preservation. Real success.
Real cocktails. (Virtual event.)*



SEPTEMBER 10, 2020
5:00-6:00pm via Zoom

preservewa.org/vintagewa

A special thanks to our sponsors:



Right: Lilly Kitamoto Kodama (left) and Kay Sakai Nakao (right) share their experiences living through forced Japanese internment during World War II.
Lower right: Rosalie Edge (center right) and guests at the Hawk Mountain Sanctuary she founded in Kempton, Pennsylvania. Photo from the Hawk Mountain Sanctuary archives.



Here in Washington, women's lives are part of every park's history. Their stories can be found in the cultural traditions and activities of native peoples who shaped the landscape of our parks from time immemorial, in the labors of women homesteaders, and in those of other women who have been, and continue to be, advocates for and contributors to all aspects of conservation, preservation, and recreation in our parks. Women such as Marguerite McLoughlin, the Métis wife of Fort Vancouver's Chief Factor; Faye Fuller, first white woman to climb Mount Rainier; and missionary Narcissa Whitman are already known to many park visitors. Other stories are less well known. Dr. Leona Woods Marshall, for instance, was the only woman involved in the physics and operations at Hanford and the only woman present at the start-up of the B-Reactor. Harriet Pullen from the Port Angeles area joined the gold rush with \$7 in her pocket and worked her way to owning one of the grandest hotels in Skagway, Alaska. Kay Sakai Nakao from Bainbridge Island was one of 227 islanders of Japanese descent incarcerated during WWII, and upon returning home, she and her family created the Town and Country Market, now a Bainbridge institution, and she has worked to preserve the stories of her community. Rosalie Edge established the Emergency Conservation Committee in 1929 and was a prominent advocate for creating Olympic National Park.

Today, women of the National Park Service are superintendents, scientists, archaeologists, architects, historians, facilities managers, members of trail crews, interpreters, and educators; they are creating their own new stories through their contributions to our shared national history. We welcome any stories that Washington Trust members can contribute to the ongoing effort to tell women's stories both past and present. 📌

Contact Washington Trust Outreach Director Jennifer Mortensen at jmortensen@preservewa.org if you have stories to share.

These are just some of the women associated with our national parks—we are excited to uncover even more stories that we will be able to share as a result of the research funded by the National Park Foundation grant and the efforts of our park history, interpretive, and education programs.

Main Street Matters

BUSINESS-MINDED WOMEN

How early Bellingham businessmen shut down a “lady barber”

By Marissa McGrath, Assistant Director, Downtown Bellingham Partnership

A woman stands in front of a judge accused of operating a house of ill repute. A tobacconist testifies that he heard rumors from customers that Lorena Upper's daughter was working as a prostitute out of her barbershop, and a tailor says he stood on a trunk to look in an upstairs window and saw something “decidedly raw.” With these two pieces of testimony as the only evidence against her, Bellingham's first female barber is fined \$300 and forced to close her shop permanently.

In 1921, the idea that Lorena could be operating a legitimate business as a cover for behind-the-scenes sex work was by no means far-fetched. Ever since the Fraser River Gold Rush of 1858, the towns that would later be incorporated into Bellingham were known in the region to be “wide open.” The laws around sex work were not enforced, and madams ran brothels with little fear of reprisal. There were unwritten rules to operating a brothel, however. Lorena's neighbors, including the tobacconist who also had a small barber shop inside his own store, knew how easy it was to get a woman-owned business shut down. All you had to do, as an upstanding male member of the business community, is insist she was a madam to the police, and the rest would take care of itself.

Madams operated under a set of agreements with local law enforcement. Among them, that police would appear once a month, and each of the

women working in the brothel would be examined by a doctor, fined, and left to return to their work. This was considered a cost of doing business. To police, who had never seen a woman work as a barber before, Lorena and her 19-year-old daughter had to be lying, and worse, they were refusing to play the game. Female barbers were a relatively new phenomenon. While some barber shops in cities like San Francisco might promote their “lady barber,” there was often a sexual connotation implied to the services she offered.

Options for business-minded women in 1920s Bellingham were limited, and sex work was a lucrative one. With bustling logging and fishing industries, there was a steady supply of clientele. A woman could make the same money working in a brothel in one day that the women at the salmon canneries made in two weeks. It seems unlikely that Lorena Upper was a madam, partially because those who could easily afford the regular fines that the police imposed. Even the \$300 Lorena was forced to pay—over \$4,000 in today's money—wouldn't have been enough to force most madams to close up shop.

In Bellingham, as in the rest of the world, we have seen women expand into almost every industry, but we often forget how long that process took and how much resistance women faced from those with greater access to power.

Just how much has the status of the female entrepreneur changed in 100 years in downtown Bellingham? Two notable recent women come to mind. Last December, Bellingham elected Hollie Huthman, owner of a popular bar and music venue, as the first downtown business owner to city council in living memory. And downtown now has its own woman-owned inclusive sex shop, WinkWink Boutique. The owner, Jenn Mason, is also on the school board.

Like Lorena Upper, women in Bellingham are still working to change what it means to move about in the world as professionals, but as we all know, there is still more work to be done. ■

The Downtown Bellingham Partnership is dedicated to furthering the vibrancy and growth of our downtown. Everything we do is rooted in the idea that our community—Downtown Bellingham—is a place unlike anywhere else. We work to enhance, promote, and advocate for a vibrant city center through development, promotion, support, and celebration. To learn more, visit: downtownbellingham.com

For more information about Bellingham's fascinating history, visit bellinghistory.com

Upper: Downtown Bellingham today. Photo from the Downtown Bellingham Partnership.

Lower: Lorena Upper operated as the sole proprietor of a barber shop for less than a year on West Holly Street, downtown Bellingham's bustling arterial corridor, in the second building from the left. Photo from the Washington State Historical Society.



WOMEN OF MAIN

Resilience in the face of COVID-19

By Alex Gradwohl, Project Manager

Small businesses frequently show tremendous innovation and determination in their stores, restaurants, studios, and other spaces. In the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, however, we have been truly blown away by their tenacity, ingenuity, and generosity. Entrepreneurs on Main Streets across the state adapted quickly and creatively to face a changing market, leading their businesses through difficult waters while often going above and beyond to assist their downtown neighbors and bring joy to their communities.

In May, The Washington Trust launched a new feature called “Resilience on Main” to celebrate and support these bright spots. We invited our Washington Main Street Communities and Affiliates to nominate small businesses to be featured on our website, social media pages, and through a new monthly e-newsletter. Unsurprisingly, the stories these local community champions shared with us did *not* disappoint! From bigfoot-hunting podcasts and virtual music lessons to technical support for fellow business owners and community-wide fundraising campaigns for families in need, these entrepreneurs have shown the true spirit of Main Street.

Those who have spent time in any of Washington’s Main Street communities likely will not be surprised to learn that many of these inspirational stories came from female-owned businesses. Since 2007, the number of women-owned businesses in the U.S. has increased by 58%, with women now making up between 40-45% of small business owners across the country.* In Washington, we’re lucky to be home to many of America’s 12.3 million women-owned businesses.* We hope you’ll join us in celebrating,

supporting, and drawing inspiration from these amazing female entrepreneurs and their resilient small businesses! Read a few of their stories here and visit preservewa.org/resilience to browse all the Resilience on Main nominees.

Hey, Darlin’, The Shop

Hey, Darlin’, The Shop, opened the doors of their new Gig Harbor retail business on March 7, just one week before the stay at home order was announced. But co-owners Paige Wells and Brianne Kampbell—two self-described “business women, mamas, and dreamers living in the same small town”—didn’t let that stop their mission to spread joy and launch their new business. Hey, Darlin’ instantly started working on their Celebration Bags: expertly curated weekly gift bags featuring select items from their inventory. These bags support local artists and responsible brands while helping their customers celebrate another week of staying home and staying safe.

Natalia’s Café

Natalia’s Café in Camas has always been known for their generosity and friendly service, serving the Camas football team on game days, hosting fundraisers for families in need, and giving to local charities. When the COVID-19 pandemic hit Camas and Washougal, owner Erica Slothower and manager Wendy Delbosque continued that tradition by organizing a campaign to donate meals to their community’s most vulnerable members. So far, they’ve rallied thousands of dollars of support and served frontline health workers, families facing unemployment, and staff at local nursing homes.



MnE Boutique

At the beginning of March, business owner Alma Ayala was moving her business, Prosser’s MnE Boutique, to a larger location. While the COVID-19 pandemic required her to delay her official celebration, Alma didn’t let anything slow her down. She immediately bolstered her online presence, allowing customers to shop with curbside pick up and shipping options. Alma also worked with another local business, In Stitches, to design special T-shirts for those in need. Proceeds from her “Essential: PNW Strong” t-shirts, available at MnE’s online store, are used to purchase downtown gift cards for essential workers—supporting both her fellow Main Street businesses and showing support for those working on the front lines. 🍷

*For links to citations, please visit the digital version of this article on our website at: preservewa.org/women-of-main

preservewa.org/resilience

Top: Natalia’s Café manager, Wendy Delbosque, at the grill.

Above left: Co-owners Paige Wells and Brianne Kampbell at the counter at their shop, Hey, Darlin’.

Above right: MnE Boutique owner Alma Ayala and her father, Custodio Ayala, sporting the “Essential: PNW Strong” t-shirts.

Donor Focus

GIRLIE PRESS

Starting and stopping the presses since 1995

By Bailey Hess, Philanthropy & Communications Manager, Historic Seattle

20 Girlie Press is a woman-owned small business located in an adaptive reuse space in the Capitol Hill neighborhood in Seattle. After eight years and only two other jobs as an offset press operator, Risa Blythe founded Girlie Press in 1995 in the back of a building in Belltown and then moved into a historic Anne Michelson property on 10th Avenue. "I shared a space as an offset printer with BSK, a screen-printing company that did much of the printing for Sub Pop and the grunge music scene. That was fun and insane, and I worked and worked, and I put money away," said Risa.

In 2000, when Risa acquired the building where Girlie Press is now located, it had been subleased to a stone cutting artist and sculptor who essentially fled in the middle of the night—leaving behind a warehouse full of massive, heavy stone cutting equipment. "One of the companies I did a lot of work for was the Seattle Men's Choir. Doug Exworthy was in the choir and owned the rights to the building where the shop is now. He knew I did a lot of work for the queer community, and he contacted me and said, 'You need your own building.' He became my mentor, guiding me through the whole process. It was adventurous, but I pulled it off! This was back in the day when you could put on a suit and go into a bank and talk things through . . . with people," Risa explained.

All of the items left behind were sold off to put money back into the building and to make way for

printing equipment. With her penchant and passion for machinery, Risa was just the woman for the task. Her keenness for mechanics, a trait she recalls recognizing early in life, has continued to prove valuable throughout her career. For example, when it came to acquiring her own 10,000-pound press, she was able to purchase a broken machine for a low price and repair it herself.

"I remember at one point, I applied to be a certified woman-owned business," explained Risa. "A guy called me to ask for clarification about some parts of my application, and he just couldn't seem to comprehend that a woman was capable of fixing a machine like this! That he believed that this was beyond my . . . realm, that's when I knew why it was important to get the certification. There aren't a lot of women in print, but I grew up in a feminist, entrepreneurial household, and I'm thick-skinned. So I have been able to shoulder discrimination I've encountered in the field. I started my own business because I wanted to work with people who had a sense of humor and didn't mind working for a woman in a male-dominated field. Nobody—no guy—who's got a lot of issues can work here and go home at the end of the day and say, 'Yeah, I work at Girlie Press!'"

When asked if she considers herself a preservationist, Risa made a surprising connection between her love of machinery and historic preservation. "The part of me that is a preservationist is that I really like a well-built machine. I really like

function. Newer things are more disposable, they are meant to have an end of life, whereas with an older machine its gearbox can be rebuilt again and again and its function is to last long term. I also like new things that are super fancy and have lots of bells and whistles, but I like them to be built on an older mechanical premise," said Risa.

Risa enjoys the location of her current shop at 1658 21st Avenue. While she is attracted to industrial and gritty places like Georgetown (one of her favorite places in Seattle), she appreciates that the shop is not in a strictly industrial area but is instead nestled within a neighborhood with a commercial and residential mix. "There's a German philosopher—someone who I can't recall—who presented the idea that something went wrong when people started working in places that were far away from where they lived. It allows for more tolerable levels of pollution, longer workdays, and less family interaction. I live less than a mile away in Madrona, in a simple 1902 Victorian. Another favorite place is my backyard because my wife is such a great gardener! And I like that I can work in a trade but still work in an area where people are living too," said Risa.



The community is very important to Risa. In addition to the long list of organizations Girlie Press supports, she uses her business to promote causes she cares about: "There aren't a lot of print shops that care about the same things I care about, so I have a unique opportunity to use what I do, and do well, to support those things. I like the idea of using the power of the press to help organizations make money or do good things. We've printed over 1,000 posters since the most recent events of the Black Lives Matter movement have been unfolding. A lot of times people will ask us to print something for them, and we'll ask, 'Do you want us to print a bunch more of these and just give them out?' It's cool to be part of this ancient history of activism through art."

Lately, the effects of the pandemic have been felt at Girlie Press. At one point, Risa sheltered at the shop and ran the whole press herself in order to execute print jobs (including Historic Seattle's emergency appeal and this very magazine) for grocery stores and other essential businesses. Many of her staff have recently returned to the shop after many weeks working remotely. Upon their return, staff were able to spread out further, occupying space in the mezzanine that was fortunately recently built in the warehouse.

In a recent article from the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation, Breanne Durham wrote, "There has never been a more poignant time to reflect on the value small businesses have in our lives and in our work. The onslaught of COVID-19 has taken our local economies by storm . . . Small businesses employ about half of the private workforce in the United States. And without them, our historic commercial districts lack the activity and commerce that creates healthy, socially cohesive, and economically viable communities. If the preservation field is looking for its place within the COVID-19 crisis, here it is." ■

*Looking for other ways to support small and local businesses? **Intentionalist.com** allows you to search for Asian-owned, Black-owned, disability-owned, family-owned, Latino-owned, LGBTQ-owned, Native-owned, veteran-owned, and woman-owned businesses and social enterprises in select cities, including Seattle.*

Risa Blythe at her shop, Girlie Press, in Capitol Hill.

EXCELLENCE ON MAIN

By Breanne Durham, Washington Main Street Director

22 Excellence on Main, our annual celebration of exceptional entrepreneurs, organizers, and preservationists in Washington State, usually held during our annual RevitalizeWA Conference, this year was held virtually Monday, July 20. A special addition to this year's celebration was the official release of the Washington Main Street Impact Study, which you will read more about in a future issue of *This Place*.

We are thrilled about all our awardees, but each year the Excellence on Main committee chooses one exceptional nominee to receive our top award—*The Excellence on Main award*—so let's start there:

Excellence on Main

Linda Haglund of the Wenatchee Downtown Association won't mince words about the state of the Ellis-Forde Building when Jeff and Heather Ostenson and Rick and Cory Wray got their hands on it. Over a hundred years of Wenatchee history is infused in the bones of this 1905 building, which was built as a mercantile, and now it provides a future-focused co-working space known as The Mercantile for entrepreneurs and remote employees who have made wonderful Wenatchee home. But before the grand opening last fall, there was a tremendous amount of work to bring the building into the 21st century. The team worked diligently to keep the historic character, and where new materials were needed, source with sustainability in mind.

The partners have created an open and collaborative culture within The Mercantile, which represents 31 unique businesses and nonprofits and offers conference rooms and event space for the public. The vision of the Merc—to promote health, happiness, and productivity in your workplace—

is something many of us crave now, more than ever. We say it all the time, but I think we feel it more these days—places matter. And this place—The Merc—helps small businesses thrive, has preserved a crucial historic building, and builds community in downtown Wenatchee.



Bricks & Mortar Rehabilitation over \$100k

After falling into disrepair, the renaissance of The Belmont Hotel began with its purchase in December 2017 by Kirk Nesbeitt, Marya Sessions, and Enrique Ferreyros. Restoring a Victorian building from the ground up is a huge challenge, but the new owners found a path forward through private funding and a Port Townsend Main Street Housing and Urban Development revolving loan for the front façade. Rehabilitation work included re-pointing the brick exterior, restoring copper roofs on the bay window to replace shingles, rebuilt parapets, roof repair, and extensive woodwork on the windows including saving the rope and pulley systems. The crew updated everything from the basement up, including completely refreshed hotel rooms and a beautiful new deck overlooking the waterfront.

Outstanding Special Project

Nestled between Campbell's Resort and the Old Bridge was a hidden gem—public access to Lake Chelan, right off Chelan's Main Street. To activate this special but neglected area, the Historic Downtown Chelan Association took on their first capital project: the Woodin Avenue Landing Park. The goal of the park project was to create a public space that connects two of Chelan's greatest assets—its lake and its historic downtown district. The HDCA Design Committee began developing plans, and fundraising efforts quickly followed. The vision for the park galvanized private donors and partners such as the City and County Public Utilities District. The Woodin Avenue Landing Project, completed in May 2019, has turned an unused, unsightly area of downtown into a beautiful park with highly sought-after public access to the lake.

Economic Vitality

The Colfax Mercantile was first imagined by a Colfax Downtown Association Committee who knew they wanted to attract and educate entrepreneurs about how to run a business so they could fill storefronts and bring a buzz back to historic downtown buildings. The CDA partnered with business owners Laura and Austin Storm to transform a storefront of the 1893 Ellis-Waite Building into a incubator that is now home to seven new businesses. The Colfax Mercantile has created a ripple effect on Main Street—more storefronts are being updated and filled, and more people from surrounding areas are recognizing Colfax as the gem that it is. While COVID-19 has changed some of its operations, it is worth noting that incubators like the Mercantile may play even more important roles in rebuilding our local economies over the coming years.

The owners of the Mercantile in Wenatchee, Jeff and Heather Ostenson and Rick and Cory Wray, were given top honors this year.



Bricks & Mortar Rehabilitation under \$100k

The Dobbs Building in the heart of historic Chelan shows how much impact a small storefront can have on both the built environment and façade improvement ethic of a community. When Ray and Kathy Dobbs purchased it in 2004, the façade was dominated by a huge shingle awning, which had earned local notoriety when it was included in Chelan's 2010 Downtown Master Plan as a "before" example. The owners hired local architect Larry Hibbard to design the Dobbs Building reconstruction. Ron McGauhy of the Lake Chelan Historical Society also consulted on the project and brought in photos of the original brick façade of the building for reference. Since work started on the Dobbs Building in fall 2019, three additional buildings have façade improvement projects underway.

Organizational Excellence

Newly designated as a Washington Main Street Community just this year, Colville Together has emerged as a standard of quality and cooperation. The town began organizing around Main Street in 2014 by establishing a steering committee of community volunteers, the Chamber of Commerce, the Tri County Economic Development District, and the City of Colville. Formalizing this partnership as an independent but unified nonprofit, now known as Colville Together, allowed the team to raise funds and eventually hire Rosemary Shaw as the executive director to coordinate their efforts. Momentum has truly been building in Colville, with much credit to the strong alliance that came together to form—and continues to support—its Main Street organization.



Outstanding Promotional Event

The Centralia Downtown Association's Lighted Tractor Parade, held on the second Saturday in December, is a holiday spectacular that highlights Centralia's agricultural heritage and showcases small businesses, farmers, school groups, and local bands. The parade, which started 10 years ago amidst much skepticism, now caps vehicle entries at 90 with every available spot filled within a few days. The parade lasts for over an hour, illuminating downtown streets with over 100,000 lights on creative and colorful floats, and is enjoyed by 15,000 spectators. Local hotels book to capacity well in advance, and visitors often arrive early to buy holiday gifts at downtown shops, bringing a splash of outside dollars into Centralia's economy. Even with the parade gaining regional renown, the heart and soul of the event is still the hard-working community of Centralia.

Leadership on Main

John Baule is a beloved public face of downtown Yakima. His decades-long dedication to his community has included serving as board member, committee volunteer, "Wrist Band Man", info booth keeper, flower planter, bookkeeper, payroll manager, budget planner, tax expert, and more for the Downtown Association of Yakima (DAY). John makes serving as an ambassador of DAY to the city, public, and other stakeholders look easy, partly because he brings his credibility and knowledge of Yakima history from over 25 years spent as the executive director of the Yakima Valley Museum. By taking the lead in so many aspects of DAY's work and giving so generously of his own expertise, John does what all good leaders do: he enables the rest of the DAY team to do more work more effectively in its mission to strengthen downtown.

Sustainable Future

Operating out of the first LEED Gold building on the Olympic Peninsula, the Northwest Maritime Center views environmental stewardship as integral to its mission. The Northwest Maritime Center campus was designed to minimize impact on the environment and features solar panels, a super-efficient water pump system, and electric car charging stations. The Center's dock—which is often used by historic vessels, recreators, and students—was part of a coastal restoration initiative to protect the Port Townsend Bay ecosystem. The Center hosts an extraordinary number of programs, events, and educational opportunities each year, including Marine Thrift which takes usable boat parts out of the waste stream. The Center looks at all aspects of their business practice—down to the use of plastic cups and other single-use products—and continually strives to break down barriers and find creative solutions. 🌱

New online this year, you can these and more Excellence on Main awards at preservewa.org/geomarchive.

Opposite upper left: Removing the 1950s awning from the Dobbs Building in downtown Chelan.

Opposite upper right: The Lighted Tractor Parade in downtown Centralia

Opposite lower right: Phoebe and Jonathan Carpenter Eells, Entrepreneurs of the Year.

Left: The Northwest Maritime Center in Port Townsend.



Entrepreneur of the Year

After successfully making and selling art as a hobby, Phoebe Carpenter Eells decided in 2012 to turn her craft into full-time work with business elSage Designs. Within a few years, Phoebe and husband Jonathan were both dedicated full-time to the blooming business, which sold printed shirts and other products at markets, craft shows, and through wholesale production. In 2016 the couple signed a lease on their first brick-and-mortar location in downtown Mount Vernon and in the four years since have moved elSage to a prime retail location downtown and opened Fern Creative Coworking in their original building, which they now own. Through it all, Phoebe and Jonathan have approached business with true commitment to community and collaboration, as exhibited by their hosting of pop-up makers markets and their partnership with organizations like the Mount Vernon Downtown Association.



Heritage Barn Grants

LOTZGESELL BARN

Preserving history and agriculture in the Sequim-Dungeness Valley

By Rebecca Olson

The Washington State Heritage Barn Initiative has helped saved 122 barns throughout the state since its inception in 2007, not only preserving local history and culture but helping small farms restore to full use what is arguably their most valuable and important farm structure: the barn. The Lavender Connection farm in Sequim, a grant recipient from the 2017-2019 biennium, is a perfect example of a working farm being placed on more secure financial footing and en route to a brighter future in no small thanks to the success of this program.

The Lavender Connection farm is a working lavender farm that is open to the public during the summer season when lavender is in bloom. The farm produces all things lavender: fresh cut lavender, distilled lavender essential oil, dried lavender bundles, lavender bud, and over 30 different bath, body, and home products all made from lavender grown on the site. The farm also provides a perfect venue for lavender agritourism, which Sequim has become known for.

Their barn is used for three primary purposes: storage for farm equipment, space to hang and store dried lavender and defoliated bud, and a small retail store in the southwest corner where the milking stations used to be. The barn is important to customer experience at the farm; customers especially love to visit the store in the barn because it gives them a very up close view of its historic interior and architectural eccentricities. The barn is also a significant component of Lavender Connection's branding and business identity, as it is one of the primary features that makes their farm unique from other lavender farms in the area.

The Sequim-Dungeness Valley has a long, rich agricultural history and became one of the state's major dairy regions in the first half of the 1900s. Dairy barns defined the character of this region for decades, but unfortunately, barn fires, severe storms, encroaching development, and the inevitable effects of time have destroyed the majority of these historic barns. The Lavender Connection dairy barn, built circa 1913, is one of the oldest barns still standing in the former New Dungeness area of Sequim. Its shape is a combination of a saltbox roofline with an attached lean-to on the south side.

The barn is an incredibly important piece of the Lotzgesell property; George Henry Lotzgesell was one of the first pioneers to homestead in the Dungeness Valley when he settled here in 1859. After clearing the land of timber, the Lotzgesell family eventually began dairy and cattle farming. In addition to farming, George Henry Lotzgesell was a prominent member of the Dungeness and Sequim communities, as were his sons, George Jr. and Frank, who each inherited a portion of the homestead after his death. In 1913, both sons built dairy barns within a few miles of each other and became successful dairy farmers in their own rights. Several farmers have owned the Lotzgesell properties over the years, and it eventually was subdivided into smaller parcels, separating the historic barn from the original farmhouse, which is currently owned by a neighbor to the north. The current Lavender Connection parcel, including the barn built by Frank, was sold to Richard and Susan Olson in 2004. "Our parcel is just a small portion of the original Lotzgesell homestead, but fortunately the land has escaped extensive development and

has been farmed almost continuously since it was originally settled by the Lotzgesells in 1864," their daughter Rebecca explained. George Lotzgesell Jr.'s dairy barn is also still standing off Lotzgesell Road, operating continuously as a dairy farm up to the 1990s.

Over the years, the Olsons have done their best to maintain and restore the barn and had intended to make additional repairs incrementally over the next decade as finances allowed. Unfortunately, severe windstorms took their toll over the years, completely destroying one of the cupolas and damaging the barn to the point where it became critical that they make repairs as soon as possible. A serendipitous visit from a neighbor (Judy Stipe, executive director of Sequim Museum and Arts) who suggested they apply for the Heritage Barn Grant program she'd just heard about, put them on the path of applying and ultimately being accepted as a grantee. The Olsons were thrilled and relieved that the formerly daunting prospect of how to save the barn, and whether to spend limited farm funds, was now resolved.

The first hiccup in the project came when none of the contractors who'd bid on the different project components never returned their calls. Fortunately, barn owner Rick, a retired professional engineer, took on project management, and daughter Rebecca's husband, Doug Mazzeo, a professional carpenter and builder, became the new contractor. Rebecca and Doug had initially moved out to Sequim from Seattle temporarily to spend the summer of 2018 helping out her parents with the summer tourist season, but with the barn project in need, they found a renter for their Seattle home and settled in for the duration of the project.



Above: Views of the Lotzgesell Barn at the Lavender Connection farm before the grant project showing significant roof deterioration and structural sagging.

Left: Rebecca Olson and Doug Mazzeo moved out to Sequim to help restore the barn at Lavender Connection.

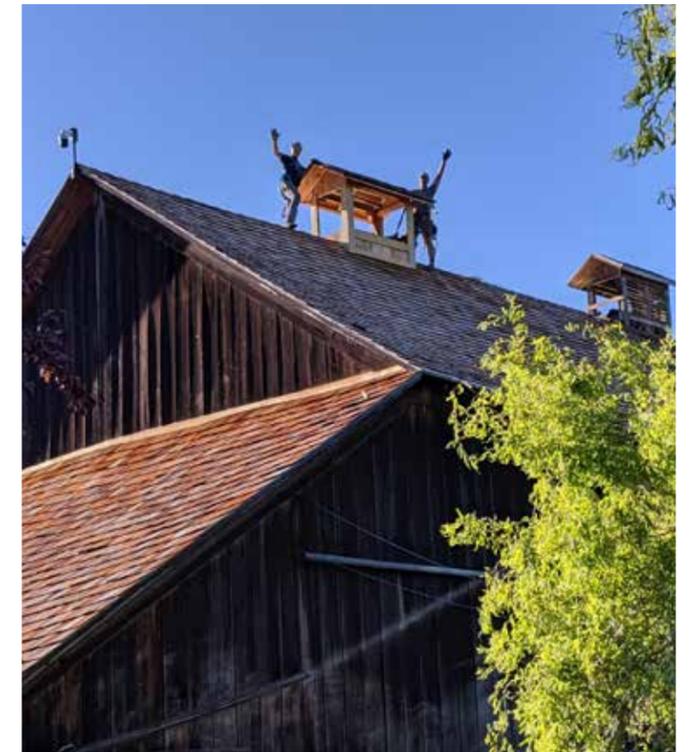
The Lotzgesell Barn with a straightened and freshly shingled roof.

The first critical step was to prevent the barn from structural collapse by restoring and repairing four support columns along with retrofitting or replacing barn rafters and beams where necessary. "There were five more rafters than we thought we'd have to replace," Mazzeo explained. In all locations where rotten beams were found, the beams were replaced with new rough-cut timbers to match the original double layer beams used throughout the barn. In addition, after the project began, it was determined that the levels to which a previous contractor had raised a different row of support columns were not sufficient to bring that section of roof into alignment, so that additional work was added to the "to-do" list.

The second major component of the project was replacing the roof of the barn, which had deteriorated rapidly after recent windstorms, forming large holes including one over the corner of the barn where the retail store is located. While the Olsons originally intended to install a metal roof, once Rick and Doug took measurements and consulted with a family member who is a professional roofer, they determined that a metal roof wouldn't allow for the inches of variation in height that would exist even after the barn was stabilized, so they settled on cedar shakes. Mazzeo said the toughest part of the project was adding the cedar shakes on the barn's east side roof—standing atop rotting wood about 20 feet up. The final phase of the project was rebuilding the cupola that had been destroyed to match the original existing cupola and reinforcing and repairing the other remaining cupola.

The Heritage Barn Grant allowed the Olsons to complete all of the work in fewer than 12 months. Dubbed "Big Red," the Olsons' forklift became a somewhat unexpected key piece in the renovation. In addition to being an essential piece of equipment for the column work, they attached 16-foot posts to "Big Red" to help temporarily support a sagging portion of the roof while Doug began selective demo. "Big Red" (and the recently completed structural work) helped the barn survive the brunt of an unprecedented two-foot snowfall in Sequim that occurred over the winter during the project; other local Sequim barns were not as lucky.

Though Rebecca and Doug were planning to return to Seattle before the barn renovation project, their time living at the farm and managing the barn project shifted their perspective on how to spend the next period of their adult lives. They're now hoping to



find a way to stay in Sequim at least part of the year, taking over the Lavender Connection farm (with the continued assistance of the other Olson children) when Rick and Susan finally retire for good.

Now that the barn has been made structurally sound and weather-proof, the family hopes to continue restoring additional elements, such as updating the electrical panel and replacing missing and damaged siding. The barn now has the potential to increase the space they use to hang their lavender, expand the store, add a woodworking shop in the corner, and even open up portions of the interior to allow customers to tour. In addition, a fully restored barn significantly increases their business potential to include an event space, should they choose to incorporate events into their business model at a future date.

The Frank Lotzgesell Barn is a testament to the hardworking people of the Sequim-Dungeness Valley and the dairy farms that put that region on the map. Now an integral part of the Olsons' working lavender farm, it is a bridge between old and new Sequim: a symbol of the preservation of rural farmland through lavender farming and agritourism. 🍷

The Heritage Barn Initiative is a program of the Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation (DAHP) and is managed by the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation. For more information, please visit: dahp.wa.gov/heritagebarngrants.



Top right: Richard Olson and Doug Mazzeo finishing off the roof work with a reconstructed cupola.

Above: Doug Mazzeo, Richard Olson, and Big Red.

Left: Susan and Richard Olson.

Historic Cemetery Grants

WASHINGTON LAWN CEMETERY

Legacy of Centralia's founding family

By Elizabeth Darlington, Washington Trust volunteer & cemetery enthusiast

The City of Centralia's Washington Lawn Cemetery, a leafy four acres in the heart of historic Centralia, was donated to the city by its founders, George and Mary Jane Washington, in 1880. The Washingtons were black pioneers who took the extraordinary step of founding a town in the mostly white-settled Pacific Northwest, overcoming racist land laws and countless barriers. Until a few years ago, their story went largely unnoticed in the pages of history. In 2016, biographer Brian Mittge and a dedicated group of community members formed the George Washington Bicentennial Committee (GW200) ahead of the 200th anniversary of George Washington's birthday in 2017. Thanks to the committee's efforts and widespread community support, multiple projects and events honoring Centralia's founding family came to fruition, including a remarkable renovation of their family plot at Washington Lawn Cemetery.

George Washington was born in Virginia in 1817. His father was a black enslaved person and his mother a white woman of English descent. To prevent George from enslavement, he was given to a white couple, Anna and James Cochran, to raise. The Cochrans and George moved gradually westward and eventually tried to settle in Oregon Territory, but exclusionary land laws prevented the now adult George from owning land. Finally, the Cochrans were able to purchase 640 acres in the new Washington Territory and sell it to George, who, along with his wife Mary Jane, became the only black pioneers to found a town in the Pacific Northwest. They became known for their generous and fair business practices, such as selling land for little money down and offering loans with no interest. During the Panic of

1893, George traveled to Oregon to gather food which he distributed to his residents so they wouldn't go hungry. At George's death in 1905, the mayor of Centralia declared a day of mourning and required that businesses be closed. George Washington's funeral was the largest in Centralia's history, and he was buried beside Mary Jane and the Cochrans in the cemetery which they donated to the town.

That cemetery, now known as Washington Lawn Cemetery, has been run by the City of Centralia since 1937. As with many cemeteries, volunteer support is critically important to its maintenance. Robert Russell, a local businessman and self-proclaimed "cemetery junkie," says that he would often go weed-whacking at the cemetery on a Saturday morning, when one day he met a man who drove to Centralia all the way from Montana to find the grave of his great-great-great grandmother. Russell and the man went on a hunt for his ancestor's grave, discovering that she likely knew the Washingtons themselves, as she was alive at the same time in the same small town. "It's amazing to think that they must have been walking around together back then, and she probably bought her land from the Washingtons," says Russell. Suffragist and Centralia local Ellen E. West Ellis (d. 1913), who is also buried at Washington Lawn Cemetery, is another contemporary and likely neighbor of the Washingtons.

When Russell became aware of the Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation's Historic Cemetery Grant Program, he and others on the GW200 committee submitted a proposal to refurbish the Washington family plot at Washington Lawn Cemetery. The grant was awarded, and after two-plus years of work, they made a number of improvements

to the site, including a brick walkway and standing area for visitors to more easily pay their respects to Centralia's founders. They cleaned, repaired, and rotated cracked obelisks and created new headstones detailing the Washingtons' accomplishments. In addition, a brand-new arch is being erected at the entrance of the cemetery to highlight its significance as a historic site in the town. With greater visibility, community members have become even more involved at the cemetery. Sixteen-year-old Eagle Scout Malachi Simper organized over 75 volunteers to spruce up the cemetery as part of the bicentennial celebration. This was one of the largest Eagle Scout projects the community has seen, and many people spent the day scrubbing moss off grave stones and painting the external wall of the cemetery.

Visiting Centralia today, you will see evidence of the commemoration efforts, such as the newly erected bronze statues of the Washingtons in George Washington Park, a mural of George Washington and his trusty sheepdog on one of the buildings, and *Our George Washington* coloring books created by local residents to educate young people about Centralia's founders. Robert Russell recommends that visitors spend the day on a historic walking tour, checking out the bronze statues, stopping for a bite to eat at McMenamin's Olympic Club (one of many local businesses that supported fundraising projects), and capping off the day with a visit to the historic Washington Lawn Cemetery. 🇺🇸



Above top and middle: Burial site of George and Mary Jane Washington and Anna and James Cochran at Washington Lawn Cemetery before and after the grant project.

Above: The Washington Lawn Cemetery sign during fabrication.

Left: George Washington in Centralia, circa 1900. Photo from the Washington State Historical Society.



WHERE IN THE WA

By Cathy Wickwire, Operations Manager

We're disappointed but not surprised that no one submitted a guess for the location of the house featured in the Spring 2020 issue of *This Place*. This tidy, wood frame vernacular structure could be found in most any Washington city or town although the gray skies and green yard suggest a location west of the Cascades. However, its modest appearance belies the extraordinary person who lived here for more than 50 years and demonstrates the importance of looking beyond architecture and integrity in identifying places with historic significance.

This house, located on South 13th Street in Tacoma's Hilltop neighborhood, was the longtime residence of Nettie Craig Asberry, an African American leader and music teacher. The short version of Nettie Asberry's life story was that she lived from the Civil

War to Civil Rights (July 15, 1865 - November 17, 1968) and founded the Tacoma chapter of the NAACP in 1913, the first one west of the Rockies, but this leaves out so many of her remarkable accomplishments.

Born in Leavenworth, Kansas, the only free child of Violet Craig's six children, she began studying piano when she was eight years old and later began composing her own music. In 1883, she graduated from the University of Kansas and received her Ph.D. from the Kansas Conservatory of Music and Elocution. She is believed to be the first African American woman in the United States to receive a doctorate degree. Her journey to the Northwest began in 1890 when she moved to Seattle with her first husband, Albert Jones. She returned to Kansas in 1893 after his untimely death but moved to Tacoma shortly after in

revisitwa.org/tours



1893. There, she met Henry Joseph Asberry (1862-1939), and they married on February 23, 1895, and built a prosperous life together. While music was the focus of her professional life, her passion was civil rights.

As a 13-year-old, she became interested in women's suffrage after listening to Susan B. Anthony in Leavenworth and became secretary for a Susan B. Anthony Club. After founding Tacoma's NAACP chapter, the first order of business was to defeat a measure against inter-racial marriage that was being pushed through the state legislature. She often used letters to the press to bring attention to her causes and organized letter writing campaigns to combat racial discrimination in movie theaters, stores, and restaurants. With her efforts to encourage African American women to organize clubs around the state, she married the cause of women's rights with civil rights. At one time there were more than 120 individual clubs with 500 members working to upgrade the social, economic, and political status of African Americans. Throughout her long life, she received many honors and much recognition, but 50 years after her death, a renewed effort is needed to bring her accomplishments to a wider audience.

As Washington's third largest city, Tacoma is featured in four tours from Revisiting Washington including Canadian Border to Vancouver, Asotin to Hoquiam, Tacoma to Mount Rainier National Park, and Skokomish to Tacoma.



Upper left: The Nettie Asberry house as it was in the 1990s. Photo from the Tacoma-Pierce County Buildings Index of the Tacoma Public Library.

Upper right: Nettie Asberry portrait in the Colored Women's Federation of Washington and Jurisdiction Club Journal, circa 1925. Photo from the Washington State Historical Society.

Above: Washington map from the RevisitWA app showing the four tours that route through Tacoma.



Where in the WA? Summer 2020

For your next challenge, can you identify the object seen here and where it is located? If so, email us at info@preservewa.org or call us at 206-624-9449 with the answer!

Also, you can send us pictures of yourself in your favorite places around our state, and we might be able to feature them as a "Where in the WA" in the future!

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

Amidst all of the fear and uncertainty in our world today, we are pleased to be able to share some good news, the 2019 Washington Trust Annual Report which details our activities throughout 2019—from major public policy successes at the state and federal levels, to new additions to our Most Endangered Places list, to developments in our Washington Main Street network, and more.

This annual report demonstrates what can be accomplished when the preservation community comes together in defense of the places that matter. And while COVID-19 has changed the playing field to

some extent, we're more certain than ever that our community is powerful, resilient, and united.

Below are some of the highlights from the report, and we hope that you will take a moment to peruse the full document online. If you're heartened by what you see, if it renews in you the passion for preservation that informs our work every day, consider a donation to the Washington Trust. We're here fighting for the places that matter, so that during this time of uncertainty and after it comes to an end, our historic and cultural spaces are there for our communities.

preservewa.org/give

Dedicated to saving the places that matter in Washington State

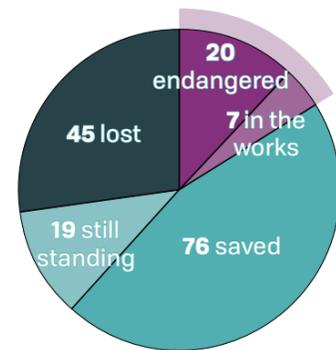
6 staff, 26 board, 631 members, 37 statewide events, and 1,151,000+ in statewide impact

Advocating for policy in Olympia and Washington, DC

11 caucuses attended, 80 representatives visited, and 20 bills supported

Most Endangered Places

3 sites saved, 0 sites lost, 2 sites added in 2019



Washington Main Street



34 Main Street Communities

Valerie Sivinski Fund

\$157,485 in grant dollars and pro bono services awarded since 1992

Maritime Washington National Heritage Area

Designated in 2019 with 3,000 miles of coastline, 19 tribes, and 32 cities & towns

- 1 new Main Street Community: **Colville**
- 533 businesses started
- 1,616 jobs created
- 266 buildings rehabilitated
- \$71,764,881 in downtown investment
- 54,000 volunteer hours (\$1,500,000 in value)

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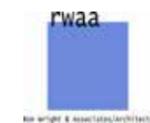
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