

SUMMER 2008



Historic Graves and Cemeteries Preservation Initiative Seeks to Uncover State Roots

By Lauren McCroskey, Chair, King County Landmarks Commission

BREEZING ALONG KENT'S HIGHWAY 167, FEW MIGHT REALIZE THAT THE 212TH STREET OVERPASS FRAMES SOME SLIGHTLY MORBID STATE HISTORY: IT IS THE RESTING PLACE OF A BIT OF THE SOUTH PUGET SOUND'S MOST PROMINENT EARLY SETTLERS. Here, silent grave-stones bear familiar names of pioneer families such as Burke, Saar, Monster, and Willis. County Commissioner Peter Saar buried his wife Margaret on this knoll above the valley in 1873, and 141 people were laid to rest at this site in following years.

At one point choked by twisting vines and dense brush, the Saar Cemetery has been reclaimed by a new generation of Kent Valley citizens. Tireless volunteer Karen Bouton of the South King County Genealogical Society gathered the Department of Veterans Affairs, church groups, Cub Scouts and others to conduct research, cut blackberries, reset headstones and replace missing markers, including two for Civil War veterans. On May 13th, Karen was honored with King County's John D. Spellman Award for exemplary stewardship in preserving this hidden piece of local history.

A number of King County's early cemeteries are not as fortunate. Many well-established cemeteries are increasingly strapped for funds due to changing burial practices, causing a number of small family plots with only a handful of markers to languish, overgrown and invisible. These are the graves with no known descendants, whose stories have been muted for decades. Often cracked, fallen, or simply missing, grave markers are frequently the only link we have to the individuals and events that helped shape the region we know today.

The King County Landmarks Commission has stepped up to help change this landscape. On May 13th, King County Councilmember Julia Patterson officially kicked off the Commission's Historic Graves and Cemeteries Preservation Initiative. Patterson was especially moved by those who labored to preserve the Saar Cemetery, located in her district. The new initiative will target burial places 40 years of age or older in order to raise awareness about their fragility—the

chief threats are vandalism, weather, development and neglect—identify new stewards, and provide maintenance and restoration funds. In an effort to build on the 80 cemeteries recorded to date, the county's Historic Preservation Program will conduct an intensive survey effort this summer to document the condition of cemeteries throughout the county. Finally, staff will also provide technical assistance to mend burial markers and crypts that have been improperly repaired by well meaning caretakers.

Cemetery preservation has an increasing role in heritage tourism. No longer just a Halloween dare, cemetery tours have become popular among visitors wanting a glimpse into the unvarnished history of a region. Sometimes the key events, demographic realities, epidemics, social organization, and cultural expressions that escape guidebooks are found in headstone inscriptions and funerary art. Even the choice of stone tells of the craftsmanship expended, the quarry of origin, and perhaps something about the trouble taken getting the rock to its destination. Increased visitation can also inspire efforts to fund restoration and maintenance, or move volunteers to tend cemetery grounds and monitor threats to these vulnerable places.

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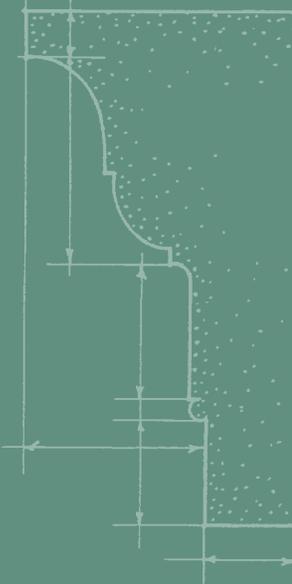


Historic Ravensdale Cemetery, near Black Diamond, tells the story of a 1915 mining explosion that claimed a large portion of the community. Today, vandalism abounds.

Above left: Collapsed rock crib and log support walls at the Olson Long Ranch. Story and restoration, page 8.

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Your Trust in Action

From the Director's Desk



LAST FALL, IN THE WAKE OF SOME PARTICULARLY NEGATIVE COVERAGE OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE'S EFFORTS TO IDENTIFY ADDITIONAL POTENTIAL DOWNTOWN LANDMARKS, I WROTE IN THIS SPACE ABOUT OUR NEED AS

PRESERVATION ADVOCATES TO DO A BETTER JOB OF SPREADING THE WORD ABOUT THE SOCIAL, CULTURAL, AND ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION. I wrote that we must strive to replace stories that continue to portray preservationists as misguided nostalgists (at best) or anti-progress obstructionists (at worst) with stories that show us for who we are: passionate, forward thinking individuals who care about our collective heritage and embrace the restoration and reuse of historic buildings as critical components of healthy, vibrant communities.

Even as I wrote those words, it occurred to me that it was all well and good to say we needed to do these things, but how? Out of this question grew the idea to go straight to the public relations and media professionals themselves to learn how to work more effectively with the media.

Thanks to generous support from the Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, the Washington Trust recently hosted a half-day Preservation and the Media workshop at the Stimson-Green Mansion in Seattle. We were thrilled to develop the workshop with the expert staff at Nyhus Communications, a leading public relations and public affairs firm. The workshop was facilitated by Roger Nyhus, and featured a Media Relations 101 presentation, a small group exercise and a lively discussion with a panel of print, online and broadcast media professionals who shared their thoughts about what makes a story newsworthy, how to pitch a story and how to position yourself as the go-to expert on preservation-related issues.

It was a fantastic opportunity, and I wanted to share a few kernels of wisdom from the workshop about how to increase coverage of historic preservation and heritage issues:

- **Build relationships.** Learn which reporters cover preservation and heritage issues and build and maintain credible, trustworthy relationships with them. Don't just call when you're pitching a story. Establish yourself and/or your organization as an expert in the field to help ensure accurate reporting and greater receptivity when you do have a story to pitch.

- **Understand the media's role.** Reporters are observers of interesting things, people and places. Their job is to tell stories about the life of the community in real time and to report all sides of an issue. While you can't control how a story gets told, you can deliver your side in a way that increases your chances of getting your message across.
- **Increase your chances of success** by asking yourself, "What's the hook? Is this news? Why should people care? How does your story introduce new and fresh ideas to the community? Who is the target audience?"—before you contact the media. Frame your stories in the context of what differentiates you or your organization from others.
- **Be prepared for the interview.** Know all the facts and figures of your story, have the key message ready, be prepared to respond to any controversial aspects of the story and control your natural tendency to talk too much. Always lead with your most important information and know that reporters love short, pithy quotes. Remember, anything you say can be on the record!

The media panel discussion was kicked off with the question, "What makes a preservation issue compelling enough to be newsworthy?" Here are a couple of panelist responses:

"A compelling story is one that is about someone doing something for a reason. What's at stake, who cares, and why? The best stories are the kinds of things you like to chat about with your friends over the phone." Phyllis Fletcher, radio journalist and staff reporter for NPR affiliate KUOW-FM news.

"Preservation and heritage organizations have an advantage in getting their stories covered because every historic building has an individual story to tell making every preservation story unique. I'm most interested in delving into the back story of a historic building and tying the story to the community." Todd Matthews, freelance journalist and editor of the Tacoma Daily Index. Recipient of the 2007 SHPO award for outstanding achievement in the media.

If this piques your interest in understanding the media and honing your media relations skills, please visit our website (www.wa-trust.org) where you will find a transcript of the lively panel discussion plus all of the workshop presentation materials and handouts. When you do have the chance to put your newfound skills into action, be sure to send us the fruits of your labor and we'll feature your published preservation success stories on our website!

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Six Grant Awards Mark 10th Anniversary of Valerie Sivinski Washington Preserves Fund

SINCE 1998, THE VALERIE SIVINSKI WASHINGTON PRESERVES FUND HAS WORKED TO ASSIST COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE STATE ENGAGED IN PRESERVATION ACTIVITY. INCLUDING BRICK AND MORTAR REHABILITATION, PRESERVATION PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT OF INTERPRETIVE MATERIALS, AND CAMPAIGNS TO EDUCATE PEOPLE ON THE POWER OF PRESERVATION, GRANTS FROM THE SIVINSKI FUND HAVE HAD A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON A BROAD ARRAY OF HISTORIC RESOURCES.

The grant program sprang from modest origins. According to Washington Trust legend, one evening ten years ago, a group of board members huddled around Valerie Sivinski's dining room table and discussed a request from Historic Ellensburg for funds to help conduct a structural assessment of the historic Ellensburg Rodeo Grandstand. Thrilled to see a local group taking initiative, those board members agreed to assist with the project despite having nothing in the budget. The proverbial hat was passed, and with the emptying of wallets and scribbling of checks, the Washington Preserves Fund was born. Historic Ellensburg received \$250 that year for their project—today, the grandstand is a component of the National Register-listed Kittitas County Fairgrounds.

In 2001, the Fund was renamed in honor of Valerie Sivinski, an astute practitioner and irrepressible cheerleader of historic preservation who was tragically killed while working in the field. The Valerie Sivinski Washington Preserves Fund has provided more than \$43,000 to 57 projects statewide during its 10-year existence. The Washington Trust for Historic Preservation is proud of the fact that our grand vision continues to provide modest sums for important preservation work, often in areas of the state where few funds are available for these projects. The Fund's inclusion in our annual budget now guarantees a round each year, and a recently established endowment promises to increase our capacity to continue supporting grassroots preservation efforts.

This year, the Washington Trust received 17 grant applications—the most ever in a single application round. Congratulations to the six recipients of our 2008 Valerie Sivinski Washington Preserves Fund—and to all recipients of the past 10 years.



Historical Architectural Development Corp., Walla Walla—\$1,500 for repairs to the unreinforced brick masonry foundation on the Kirkman House Museum.



McReavy House Foundation, Union—\$1,000 to assist in conducting a needs assessment for the rehabilitation of the McReavy House.



Wahkiakum County Community Foundation, Cathlamet—\$700 to help repair damage to the roof, interior ceiling, floors and walls in the study of the Julia Butler Hansen Home.



R-Dock, Lopez Island—\$500 to purchase materials for replacing the roof on the Jeveck Beach Fishing Shed.



Skamokawa Grange, Skamokawa—\$300 for a project to preserve the antique hand-painted roll-down curtain, part of a backdrop to the stage located in the building.



Historic Ellensburg, Ellensburg—\$2,000 to initiate project planning for the rehabilitation and adaptive reuse of the Northern Pacific Train Depot in downtown Ellensburg.

This Washington Place Matters

LAST MAY, THE NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION CELEBRATED NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION MONTH BY LAUNCHING A CAMPAIGN CALLED *THIS PLACE MATTERS*. The National Trust modeled this campaign on Place Matters (www.place-matters.net), a program that seeks to foster the conservation of New York City's historically and culturally significant places. These places are not identified by asking experts, but by surveying New York residents about those locations that hold memories and anchor traditions for them and their communities, helping tell the history of the city as a whole. Educational and advocacy programs are then used to promote and protect these places and others like them.

As part of their campaign, the National Trust invited participants to download and print out a "This Place Matters" sign from their website and then take a photograph of people holding the sign while standing in front of a building or place of particular personal significance. They could then post the photograph on the National Trust's website with a brief story about the place and why it personally matters, enabling them to share their special places with others.

Hundreds of people responded, highlighting places across the country from Lortondale, a mid-century modern neighborhood in Tulsa, Oklahoma to Ben's Mill, a water-powered mill in Barnet, Vermont. Many took advantage of the opportunity to advocate for a place threatened with demolition, including the Seneca County Courthouse in Tiffin, Ohio, and the Weenie Beenie, a colorful hot dog stand in Arlington, Virginia. Others just wanted to share the special place they call home, such as the Prather House in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Although National Preservation Month has ended, the campaign has not. The National Trust continues to welcome submissions to its website and has also launched a PreservationNation channel on YouTube to share preservation-related videos, all with the goal of increasing awareness and advocacy.

It is in this spirit that the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation invites its members to submit photographs of buildings or places in beautiful Washington state that are special to them. If you're feeling shy, you don't have to pose with your special place, but we'd like to know why this place matters to you. We'd prefer you submit your photos and stories digitally by emailing us at info@wa-trust.org, but you can also send us hard copies in the mail. We don't know what kind of response we'll get, but we hope to make this a regular feature of our newsletter and post them on our website.

To learn more about the Valerie Sivinski Washington Preserves Fund and how you can support our work, visit our website at www.wa-trust.org/preservesfund.htm.



Where in WA Is Your Trust?

AS WE ANTICIPATED, IDENTIFYING THE CORRECT LOCATION OF FORMER TRUST BOARD MEMBER EUGENIA WOO IN THE PHOTO THAT APPEARED IN THE SPRING 2008 ISSUE OF *TRUST NEWS* PROVED TO BE THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE YET, WITH ONLY THREE

READERS CORRECTLY IDENTIFYING THE STONEROSE INTERPRETIVE CENTER'S EOCENE FOSSIL SITE. Sheri Kaser of Curlew was first with her correct guess: "I think the picture of Eugenia is in Republic, WA at the Stonerose Fossil Dig area." It's not a surprise that Sheri knew the answer, since Curlew is located about 20 miles north of Republic, the county seat of Ferry County and the western end of the Sherman Pass Scenic Byway (SR 20). The historic mining town of Republic may be off the beaten path, but it's well worth a visit, especially if the prospect of finding your own 50 million-year-old fossil sounds enticing.

The Stonerose fossil site provides a window into life nearly 50 million years ago, during the Eocene Epoch, when the area was part of an ancient lake. Over many years, layers of sediment, much of it powdery ash from volcanic activity occurring in the area, built up on the lakebed and eventually hardened into sedimentary rock. Today, the layers of shale split apart like pages in a book, revealing fossils and information about the ancient lake and its surrounding vegetation during a time when the climate was warmer and wetter.

Open from May 1 to October 31, the Stonerose Interpretive Center (www.stonerosefossil.org) welcomes visitors to dig their own fossils after they purchase a site admission sticker and receive digging instructions. You can bring your own hammer and cold chisel or rent them from the Center. Once you have finished your fossil search, a Stonerose staff member will identify your pieces and advise you on how to care for them. The Center reserves the right to retain any fossils that are of scientific value or significant to the Stonerose collection.

This happened to Ann Sharley-Hubbard of Spokane Valley, who supplied the second correct guess to our Spring quiz: "Well, they actually wanted one of mine! Several weeks later I received a certificate in the mail documenting my "donation"—it included the scientific name of the fossil plant and some additional information."

Trust staff member Cathy Wickwire, who visited the site along with Eugenia while doing field research for the *Revisiting Washington* guide, had a similar experience. About to give up after spending nearly an hour splitting rocks open and finding nothing, Cathy found a fossil of a leaf later identified as *Sassafras hesperia*, a member of the Laurel family. She also found several fossils that had been discarded by others—the Center kept one and later identified it as a leaf from the Fagaceae family, which includes modern beech and oak. If only it had been something that had never been found before, it might have been named after Cathy!

Finally, although he has been to Republic several times and guessed the site correctly, Stephen Emerson of Cheney has not yet managed to visit during open hours. Hopefully, his travels will take him there again.

For your next challenge, we are still showing a distinctive historic or scenic location, but minus any posed Trust members.

Email us at info@wa-trust.org with the location pictured in the photo. The first five readers with correct answers will receive a copy of our interactive travel guide, *Revisiting Washington: A Guide to the Evergreen State*. If you have your own photo of the location, we'd love to see that too. Good luck!



Washington Trust Board News

THIS SPRING, THE WASHINGTON TRUST WELCOMED A NEW BOARD MEMBER, KING COUNTY COUNCILMEMBER DOW CONSTANTINE, WHOSE STORY IS INCLUDED BELOW. The Trust also added two new *ex-officio* members, Kevin Daniels and Mary Thompson, who are on the Board of Trustees for the National Trust for Historic Preservation. It was an easy decision to include these Trustees from Washington state as non-voting members, and neither should be a stranger to longtime readers of the *Trust News*.

Kevin Daniels has over 25 years of real estate experience in Seattle, including development and property management, and is the President of Nitze-Stagen & Co., Inc. and Daniels Development Co., LLC. Both companies focus on the redevelopment of land-marked structures and community redevelopment projects in the city of Seattle. Mary Thompson manages Thompson Consulting, along with her husband Dick, which provides services in historic preservation, planning, public policy and project management. Both are actively involved in our organization and very supportive of our efforts, and their status as *ex-officio* members will serve to keep them better informed of our work. This follows an action the Washington Trust Board took in 2005 when they voted to include the National Trust's two Washington State Advisors as *ex-officio* members with all responsibilities and privileges of elected trustees. Currently, Joanne Moyer of Spokane and Michael Sullivan of Tacoma serve on the Board in this capacity.



Dow Constantine represents King County Council District Eight, an area of 200,000 people that includes the Southwest and Duwamish Valley neighborhoods of the city of Seattle, the unincorporated areas of Vashon/Maury Islands and North Highline, and all or part of the cities of Normandy Park, Burien, SeaTac, and Tukwila. He was appointed to the District Eight seat in 2002 and has since won election to his seat three times. Before joining the King County Council, Dow practiced law in Seattle and served in the Washington State House of Representatives and State Senate.

Dow is the current chair of the County Council's Capital Budget Committee, and is a member of the Council's Growth Management and Natural Resources Committee and Transportation Committee. He also serves on the Sound Transit board of directors and the Regional Transportation Investment District (RTID) executive board.

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Around the STATE

Work to Rehabilitate Historic Barns Gets Underway

By Chris Moore, Field Director

THANKS TO THE HERITAGE BARN INITIATIVE, A PROGRAM ESTABLISHED IN 2007 WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGY & HISTORIC PRESERVATION (DAHP), THERE ARE NOW MORE THAN 300 DESIGNATED HERITAGE BARNs THROUGHOUT THE STATE. What's more, 18 of these barns are currently in the process of being rehabilitated. In March of this year, the state's Barn Advisory Committee reviewed more than 100 applications requesting grant funds for projects aimed at preserving the historic buildings that represent Washington's agricultural heritage. Though the committee agonized over funding decisions, the final list of grant recipients reaches all four corners of the state and includes an array of barn types and forms. In announcing the grant awards, State Historic Preservation Officer Dr. Allyson Brooks remarked that "Historic Barns are an authentic element of our agricultural landscape and an essential ingredient of Washington state's working lands."

With the construction season upon us, Heritage Barns are getting some much-deserved TLC. From a hog house in Coupeville to a hop kiln in Yakima, saws are buzzin' and hammers are poundin' as roof replacements, structural stabilizations and foundation repairs get underway. Through the program, grant recipients are required to implement projects in a manner consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Rehabilitation of Historic Properties, ensuring that the historic character and defining features of these buildings will be retained.



Restored rock crib with reconstructed walls at the Olson Long Ranch. Photos courtesy of Macdonald & Lawrence Timber Framing Ltd.

Work completed to date at the Olson Long Ranch in Conconully exemplifies this. The farmstead features the main barn and associated outbuildings, including a granary, a machine shed, a chicken coop, an icehouse and other structures. The work of Welsh immigrants who arrived in the area in the late 1880s, the buildings are notable for their unique foundations: a system of rock cribs supported by interlocking log walls.

Deterioration over time had resulted in the collapse of several log wall sections, while other sections demonstrated significant bowing at the joints from decades of outward pressure transferred through the rock cribs. With grant assistance from the Heritage Barn Initiative, this is no longer the case. Experienced timber framers spent nearly two weeks on site, rebuilding the rock cribs, hand-hewing replacement logs where needed, and implementing a variety of other preservation tasks. The project completed at the Olson Long Ranch highlights the challenges our Heritage Barns face and underscores the importance of the grant program as an effective measure to assist barn owners with their stewardship efforts.

Congratulations to the 2008 grant recipients and to all owners of Heritage Barns across the state. In addition, DAHP and the Barn Advisory Committee are to be commended for their tireless efforts in making the Heritage Barn Program a huge success. The Washington Trust is privileged to work with both DAHP and the committee to administer the grant program.

In 2008, the following barns received nearly \$460,000 in overall funding through the Heritage Barn Grant Program:

Garfield County—Van Vogt Family Farm
Island County—Sherhill Vista Farms, LLC
Kittitas County—Blue Heron Farm
Klickitat County—Crocker Ranch
Lewis County—Boistfort Valley Farm
Lincoln County—Straub Farm
Okanogan County—Olson Long Ranch
Pacific County—Parpala Farm
Pend Oreille Count—La Porte Farm

Skagit County—J4 Ranch, LLC
Skagit County—Prevedell Farm
Snohomish County—Jackknife Ranch
Spokane County—Hutton Settlement
Spokane County—Paulson Heirs
Thurston County—Erickson Family Farm
Whatcom County—Rocky Mountain Dairy
Yakima County—Herke Hop Kiln
Yakima County—OJ Gendron Ranch

For more information on the Heritage Barn Initiative and details on individual designated barns, visit the DAHP website at: www.dahp.wa.gov/pages/ HistoricSites/HeritageBarnRegister.htm

Places in This Issue



Tacoma Hosts Regional Conference for Society of Architectural Historians

HISTORIC TACOMA IS DELIGHTED TO HOST THE MARION DEAN ROSS CHAPTER OF THE SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIANS THIS FALL. The Marion Dean Ross chapter, a regional branch of the SAH, encompasses British Columbia, Washington, Oregon, and Idaho. This year's meeting will be held October 2-4 in Tacoma, and the theme is "Re-Use, Recycling, and Rebirth: Architecture and Preservation in the Pacific Northwest." Conference attendees will have the opportunity to take tours of the North Slope Historic District, the UWT's urban branch campus, the French Chateau-styled Stadium High School, Walter D. Widmeyer's 1954 modernist home and the SOM-designed Weyerhaeuser headquarters. For additional information on the event, please visit the chapter's website at www.sahmdr.org.

Fremont Rallies Around Landmark Fitch-Nutt House

By Carol Tobin



Built circa 1900, Fremont's prominent Fitch-Nutt House (shown above in 1937 and 2006) officially became a Seattle Landmark in 2007.

IN NOVEMBER 2007, THE SEATTLE LANDMARKS PRESERVATION BOARD VOTED TO DESIGNATE THE FREMONT NEIGHBORHOOD'S FITCH-NUTT HOUSE AS A SEATTLE LANDMARK. This designation was the culmination of a yearlong community effort to designate the century-old Folk Victorian residence. Like other historic Seattle neighborhoods, Fremont has lost many older, character-defining homes to townhouses, apartments and other new development in recent years.

The Fitch-Nutt House, at 4401 Phinney Avenue North, is a vernacular Folk Victorian style residence with distinctive decorative bargeboard details on the main elevation and a notable I-house form. It was built by carpenter Jackson D. Fitch in about 1900 and expanded by Thomas W. Nutt in 1902.

Sited prominently on the corner of Phinney Avenue North and North 44th Street, the house is familiar to many Seattle residents. It was identified as historically and architecturally significant in three past surveys of historic resources: a 1976 Historic Seattle inventory of the Fremont neighborhood, conducted by Victor Steinbrueck and Folke Nyberg; a 1979 City of Seattle survey of historic buildings citywide; and a 2004 inventory of residential buildings in Seattle built prior to 1906.

A group of four Fremont neighbors collaborated on the nomination of the Fitch-Nutt House and organized a major community education process about the house's significance to the neighborhood. The support of major state and city preservation organizations, including the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation and Historic Seattle, was also central to the success of the nomination. In addition to receiving support from the Fremont Neighborhood Council, the designation was also endorsed by preservationists from other neighborhoods, including Queen Anne, Phinney Ridge and Ballard. However, the biggest groundswell of support came from past and present Fremont residents, including some people who had once lived in the house.

One of the key elements of our strategy was the decision to submit the landmark nomination to the city prior to any specific development plans for the property. Many landmark nominations are submitted as part of the review of a development proposal, which usually involves a proposal to demolish the historic building and

construct a new structure. We decided to take a more proactive approach by preparing the nomination in advance of a development proposal notice for the site. Builder and developer Gronvold Construction owns the Fitch-Nutt House, along with much of the property on the same block, and has been constructing townhouses in the vicinity.

Paul Fellows and I, both long time Fremont residents, submitted the nomination to the city. As part of the process, we conducted an active neighborhood outreach effort that included posters notifying people of the Landmarks Board meetings when nomination and designation would be considered. We also held a community meeting at Lighthouse Roasters in Fremont, just one block from the Fitch-Nutt House.

Fremont residents, representatives of preservation organizations and other Seattleites spoke in favor of designation at the Landmarks Board meetings, and the board received many letters of additional support for the house. The only opposition came from the property owner, his wife and his attorney.

We added historian Greg Lange to our presentation team for the designation meeting. Greg had prepared the survey of early residential buildings for the city that included the Fitch-Nutt House, and he provided critical information on how this house fits into the context of the historical development of Fremont and Seattle as a whole. The success of the designation of the Fitch-Nutt House may serve as a model for others interested in preserving significant vernacular structures in neighborhoods across Washington state.

Lake Chelan Sparkles for the "Power of Place"



Top to bottom: Downtown Chelan and Campbell's Resort.

WITH THE SUN-DAPPLED SHORES OF LAKE CHELAN AS THE BACKDROP, PRESERVATIONISTS AND PLANNERS FROM ACROSS THE STATE CONVENED AT CAMPBELL'S RESORT IN APRIL TO ENGAGE IN THE "POWER OF PLACE." The two-day conference, co-hosted by the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation and the Planning Association of Washington, aimed at investigating the intersections between historic preservation and planning. Dr. Anthea Hartig, Director of the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Western Region Office, set the tone at the opening plenary by calling on participants to take time to recognize and embrace the collective roles we all play in safeguarding Washington's cultural vitality. Conference sessions, spread across four tracks, focused on such timely issues as the status of Washington's historic bridges, strategies for the preservation of heritage barns, and tools for neighborhood planning, along with many others. Attendees also had the opportunity to explore downtown Chelan and a local winery through several field sessions. In all, more than 170 conference participants made new connections, rekindled old acquaintances and tackled important questions affecting all of us as we strive to preserve and enhance the places that make Washington unique.

The Washington Trust would like to give a special thanks to our conference sponsors and exhibitors—because of their support the conference was an unqualified success!

Conference support generously provided by:

- Washington State Dept. of Archaeology & Historic Preservation
- Washington State Dept. of Community Trade & Economic Development
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- Purcell Advisory Services, LLC
- SHKS Architects
- SMR Architects
- Snohomish County Public Works
- Studio Cascade

In addition, the Washington Trust would like to acknowledge the Planning Association of Washington for all of the energy and hard work they put into planning, preparing and implementing this event. We felt privileged to be a conference partner and look forward to future collaboration with PAW. We'd also like to highlight the graphic design services provided by David Chrisman of Historic Everett. Finally, thanks to Campbell's Resort for providing a wonderful venue and top-notch accommodations for conference participants.

Donor Focus: SMR Architects

By Douglas Ito, Stickney Murphy Romine Architects

STICKNEY MURPHY ROMINE (SMR) ARCHITECTS WAS FOUNDED IN 1977, BY JERRY STICKNEY AND RON MURPHY, DURING THE EARLY YEARS OF THE PRESERVATION MOVEMENT IN SEATTLE AND WASHINGTON STATE. Since then, our clients have been responsible for preserving many historic properties throughout downtown Seattle and statewide.

We were recently involved with two extremely satisfying renovation projects. After it incurred extensive damage during the 2001 Nisqually earthquake, the Cadillac Hotel in Pioneer Square and its potential demolition became a rallying point for preservationists. The earthquake also necessitated a seismic upgrade of the King County courthouse, as well as rehabilitation of the Fourth Avenue entry lobby and corridor rehabilitation.

The Cadillac Hotel, located in the Pioneer Square Historic Preservation District, was one of the first masonry buildings constructed after the Great Fire of 1889. Following the Nisqually earthquake, the building faced a precarious future; its severely damaged exterior and surprisingly intact interior were initially slated for demolition.

Fortunately, through its purchase by Historic Seattle and the efforts of many individuals and organizations, including the Washington Trust, the building's survival was ensured. Renovation included particular emphasis on the remaining original architectural features and the reuse of existing materials. The process involved salvaging; evaluating and integrating existing and new masonry on the rebuilt exterior walls; rehabilitating the existing windows; and incorporating contemporary utilities (including an elevator, toilet and general utility rooms) to take advantage of the intact original lightwell area. The building's basement and first floor were adapted for a new 10,000 square foot visitor center for the Seattle branch of the Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, while the second and third floors contain offices for the National Park Service.

The King County Courthouse is a 12-story stone, brick and terra cotta-clad civic structure, nearly 600,000 square feet in area. Located prominently in downtown Seattle at the north edge of the Pioneer Square Historic District, the courthouse is now listed as a King County Landmark. It was dedicated on May 4, 1916 as a six-story structure, with the additional six stories completed later, in 1930.

Major seismic and fire/life safety improvements were made on the building following the 2001 earthquake, including interior renovations and the conversion of major floor areas to new uses. The historic renovation included removing the "modern" finishes, added in a 1968 remodel, that had destroyed the original finishes and details of the courthouse's entry lobbies, first floor corridors and elevator lobby.

The renovated interior and exterior areas restored the building to its former elegance by enhancing the primary public spaces with architectural elements that recall the original design details, and materials that invoke the courthouse's civic role.

Many of the buildings restored by SMR Architects have been allied to affordable housing, combining historic and low-income housing tax credits to help fund the rescue of these structures. This strategy has ensured that building owners and developers in Seattle would be able to preserve historic building stock during tough economic times, by finding a compatible use for these structures. Fortunately, housing marries well with many of the building types that make up much of Seattle's historic building stock, such as former single-occupancy room hotels, and warehouses.

SMR has also utilized this two-pronged strategy, both saving buildings and providing housing for those in need, in recent projects in smaller communities: The New Wilson Hotel in Anacortes and the Oakland Block in Bellingham. The firm currently has two more projects on the boards using similar combinations of funding sources, in Bellingham and Spokane.

SMR Architects also continues its role in the preservation community by volunteering on committees and boards. Douglas Ito is currently chair of the Pioneer Square Historic Preservation District Board, Vernon Abelsen is vice chair of the Seattle Landmarks Board, and Andrew Phillips is vice-president of the Docomomo Wewa board.



SMR Architects led renovations and seismic upgrades for Pioneer Square's historic Cadillac Hotel and the King County Courthouse, both damaged by the 2001 Nisqually earthquake.

GRAVES—Continued from front cover

The Commission is hopeful that the initiative will encourage new stewards to step up and honor the lives of those remembered in these quiet graves. Whatever their place in history, these cemeteries bind an ever changing landscape to its beginnings and house the energy of the ancestors who reflected on an uncertain future, asking us to pause and remember. Surely these are messages we would not want to lose.

Information about sites in the county should be passed along to Tom Hitzroth, Cemetery Survey coordinator at (425) 823-2981, or thitzroth@msn.com.

NEW ORLEANS—Continued from page 10

To me, it's just unbelievable that, as we live our lives in the greatest economic power the world has ever known, we have allowed tens of thousands of our fellow citizens to be abandoned, with no hope of going back to their homes. New Orleans has neighborhoods with thousands of empty structures in need of repair or slated for demolition, while residents in the Ninth Ward still use a Wal-Mart as their community hospital.

In October, the National Trust, the Washington Trust, Historic Seattle, Architects Without Borders and AIA-Seattle in October will take a work party down to partner with New Orleans' Preservation Resource Center on renovating a few of the vacant houses in the historic Holy Cross district (Ninth Ward).

Individuals will travel at their own expense but look forward to the opportunity of helping our fellow Americans in New Orleans rebuild their homes and their lives. For more information about how you can become involved, contact the Trust's Executive Director Jennifer Meisner at (206) 624-9449 or jmeisner@wa-trust.org.

BOARD NEWS—Continued from page 4

A longtime supporter of historic preservation efforts, Dow worked with developer Kevin Daniels and the leaders of the First United Methodist Church congregation to craft an agreement that preserved the church's historic downtown Seattle sanctuary, while providing a new home for the church's services and ministries. For his work on preserving the sanctuary, Dow was honored by the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation with a 2007 Landmark Deeds Award for Public Service. He received (with Daniels) a 2008 Washington State Award for Outstanding Achievement in Historic Preservation and was inducted as an honorary member of the American Institute of Architects Seattle.



Wenatchee's Taste of the Harvest Festival—then and now.

Wenatchee Downtown Association: Maintaining a Growing Downtown District's Identity

By Laura Johnson, Washington State Main Street Program

IT'S A TRICKY PARADOX—VIBRANT DOWNTOWN COMMUNITIES OFFERING A HIGH QUALITY OF LIFE OFTEN ATTRACT A FLOOD OF NEW RESIDENTS. But these same districts risk losing their unique sense of community during periods of population growth. In an effort to protect the charm and character of their downtown district, the Wenatchee Downtown Association (WDA) has adopted a proactive outlook that encourages new residents to join their commitment to “The Heart of Wenatchee.”

The population has been steadily increasing in this Main Street community since the 1990s. The WDA is committed to accommodate both existing and new residents as well as plan for future residents who undoubtedly will follow the trend of those clamoring to live in this appealing area.

Wenatchee has a history of adapting to change. It experienced its first population boom in the 1920s and 1930s with a swell of industrial success in agriculture, manufacturing, farming, lumber and shipping. Many of Wenatchee's historic commercial district buildings and institutions date back to this prosperous era, but were in jeopardy of becoming vacant a few short decades later. The city began to annex land in the 1960s, propelling downtown business owners out of the commercial district. The few remaining businesses formed the Park and Shop Association in an effort to revive downtown. The budding organization established key strategies and partnerships, including the adoption of the Main Street Four-Point Approach and a new name, The Wenatchee Downtown Association. In 1992, amid a surge of big box store construction, the WDA was officially awarded Main Street status.

Today, Wenatchee's pedestrian-friendly downtown offers an eclectic range of attractions. Residents and visitors are surrounded by distinctive architecture as they sample North Central Washington's culinary delights and fine wine at local restaurants, take in a film at the historic 1920s Liberty Cinemas, and wander through Art on the Avenue—an outdoor exhibit of more than 60 public art pieces.

Wenatchee received the Great American Main Street Award in 2003 and last May was selected to host the 22nd Annual Downtown Revitalization Training Institute, which included walking tours of Wenatchee's commercial districts.

Not resting on their laurels, however, the association continues to charge forward, eager to tackle the eternal downtown to-do list. Changes in trends and population play a major role in the WDA's determination of which projects take priority.

WDA Executive Director Annette Pennington calls her position the most difficult yet rewarding job she's ever had. One of the WDA's many accomplishments during her tenure was to champion the reestablishment of the 2007 Taste of the Harvest Festival. “The Harvest Festival originally focused on the apple harvest, but interest in the event had plateaued,” says Pennington. “We revamped and renamed the festival in September 2007 to celebrate the developing relationship between the tree fruit growers and the wine crops since many of the farmers that harvest apples now grow wine grapes as well.” Three thousand people turned out for the two-day event, which included a food and wine garden, cooking contest, live music and more than 50 local farmers at the market.

While downtown promotional events are a valuable piece of what ties a community together, the WDA also uses their association website for research and as an outreach tool through monthly community polls and a video showcasing downtown businesses, activities and events.

The WDA took advantage of Wenatchee's steadily increasing population by welcoming new residents downtown and encouraging them to get involved. Such proactive planning has helped to preserve the identity of beautiful downtown Wenatchee even as it attracts and accommodates a growing population.

New Orleans: A Call to Action

By Kevin Daniels, Daniels Development



ONE OF THE PRIVILEGES OF BEING A TRUSTEE FOR THE NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION IS

THAT I RECEIVE QUARTERLY UPDATES ON THE PRESERVATION OF OUR ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE ACROSS AMERICA. In January, I joined my fellow trustees for a meeting in New Orleans to look at the Trust's work in the Gulf region and see firsthand the impact and continuing effect of Hurricane Katrina on that area.

A week prior to that meeting, I invited the project management team for the First United Methodist Church project in downtown Seattle (ZGF and Turner Construction) to travel to New Orleans to help save a historical home in the Ninth Ward that was slated for demolition. It was truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience for all of us. We repaired the foundation and structure of a “barge” shotgun house that dated from the late 19th century. Homes like this one were built from barges that transported goods down the Mississippi but were unable to then travel back upstream. Instead they were abandoned on the riverbanks where poor residents “recycled” them into a collection of remarkable houses that tell an important history of black America. Many of America's jazz and blues greats have called this neighborhood home.

Although it's been three years since Hurricane Katrina hit, the extent of its impact and the damage done are still heartbreakingly evident. More than 200,000 homes were damaged or destroyed. Whole neighborhoods remain abandoned. Schools, churches, stores and houses still sit empty. Imagine, if you can, what it would be like if all of the houses in Seattle were to be abandoned. It's hard to picture until you've actually been on the ground to see it. Hurricane Katrina's impact is now considered to be the greatest cultural disaster in our country's history. While some progress has been made, it's been severely limited—in New Orleans alone, tens of thousands of historically significant structures today still remain at risk of demolition.

The National Trust is joining with numerous other groups, including the Washington Trust and Historic Seattle, to bring attention to this issue. But it has not been easy. Funders, government officials and the rest of us are suffering from Katrina fatigue and want to move on; but we simply can't leave this area's overwhelming problems to someone else to solve. New Orleans needs a commitment to help from all of us.

Continued on page 9

For more information:

- Wenatchee Downtown Association (www.wendowntown.org)
- Washington State Main Street Program (www.downtown.wa.gov)
- National Trust Main Street Program (www.mainstreet.org)

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