

Renaissance in the making: Three stories from Roslyn

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NEW DESIGN, NEW WEBSITE

The Washington Trust is sporting a new logo, new colors, and a newly designed website

WASHINGTON HERITAGE AT RISK!

The proposed state budget will have a major effect on heritage programs around the state

LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS

Historic Tacoma, continuing forward



YOUR TRUST IN ACTION

A new year, from the director's desk

By Jennifer Meisner, Executive Director



Dear Members and Friends,

Happy New Year to you all! 2011 marks the Washington Trust's 35th year of working to save the historic places that tell our collective stories and to promote sustainability, economic development, and community vitality through the adaptive reuse of historic buildings. Thanks to the vision and dedication of our past and present Board of Directors, the generosity and support of our members, and the talent and tireless efforts of our staff,

the Washington Trust has provided critical support to local communities as they work to save the places that matter since our founding in 1976. Over these many years the Trust has grown and changed significantly, and this year we also celebrate the 10-year anniversary of one of the most momentous junctures in our history: the gift of the Stimson-Green Mansion from community leader and philanthropist Patsy Bullitt Collins. The gift of the Mansion in 2001 enabled the Trust to exponentially expand our capacity to deliver our statewide mission and forever changed the landscape of preservation in Washington State. I hope you will join us in celebrating our 35th anniversary year by participating in the many events and activities we have planned throughout the year – and best of all, you can stay on top of everything with a mere click of the mouse.

I am delighted to kick off 2011 by announcing the launch of our newly designed website! Our site has not only undergone a major visual redesign, but we have added several exciting new features that we hope will help us keep lines of communication open with you, our members and friends, and provide you with exciting and interactive ways to engage with us as well. We have also begun to take advantage of the opportunities available through social networking to stay better connected. These online resources help us connect to our constituents in new ways and bring preservation information into already existing, everyday, online networks.

Our Facebook and Twitter accounts have been operating and posting news for the last several months. I hope you will visit these sites often as we are ramping up our postings to keep you informed about the dire threats to heritage and preservation as a result of the state's budgetary crisis (please see *Washington Heritage at Risk*, pp. 4-5). We also want you to let us know how these online accounts can most effectively serve you so please be sure to leave comments and messages about the things you like seeing on our Facebook and Twitter feeds. If we know the kinds of updates and information you most value, we can be sure to circulate the news that is most important to you. The Washington Trust also has an account through an image archive site called Flickr, featuring high-resolution photos for easy access and download. We welcome contributions to our online photo archive, please contact us if you would like to contribute.

In addition to keeping in contact with our current constituents, we hope these online tools will foster new connections with people of diverse ages and a wide array of backgrounds. Social media tools are a great way to begin and foster relationships with those who may have only a casual interest in preservation. Hopefully, by following our updates, these friends will solidify their support for the important preservation work happening around the state.

In conjunction with the launch of our new website and the promotion of our social media accounts, we would greatly appreciate feedback on what you think of our organization in general. Please visit our new website to find our online membership survey; we value your participation and input!

We hope the following explanation of new features on our updated website will help your initial experience with it be efficient, informative, and successful!

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Jennifer Meisner, Executive Director

Chris Moore, Field Director

Cathy Wickwire, Operations Manager

Sarah Hansen, Main Street Coordinator

Kelly Hufty, Membership & Events Coordinator

Trust News

Editor & Layout: Jennifer Mortensen

jmortensen@preservewa.org

Design: Jennifer Mortensen

Contact

Washington Trust for Historic Preservation

Stimson-Green Mansion

1204 Minor Avenue, Seattle, WA 98101

Phone: 206-624-9449 - Fax: 206-624-2410

E-mail: info@preservewa.org

Website: www.preservewa.org

STATEWIDE PARTNER

NATIONAL TRUST FOR
HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Cover photo: A wood window on the west wall of the Roslyn Northwest Improvement Company Building, with a corrugated steel shutter. Photo courtesy of Kevin Kane, SHKS Architects.

New website, new connections!

An introduction to the features we hope will increase collaboration and communication

By Jennifer Mortensen, Communications Coordinator

A Fresh URL You can find our new website at: www.preservewa.org! This new domain also applies to our email addresses. The old emails will still forward to our new inboxes for now, but be sure to update your address books!

A Totally New Look and Layout What a change! We truly hope you are excited about the Washington Trust's new, energetic online presence. Our new design conveys not only freshness and vibrancy, but also a focus on positive outcomes and future success. Toward this purpose, our logo has been streamlined and modernized and our bright color scheme reflects sustainability, advocacy, conservation and energy, while still expressing a respect for the precious heritage we seek to preserve. Take some time to explore and become familiar with the site's new layout, starting with the main navigation found in the header.



Our header features new navigation as well as a search box and links to the Forum and donations in the upper right.

New Pages and Topics Our website features a host of new pages that build upon the information available from our previous website. In addition to providing a much wider range of information, the pages are cleaner, easier to read and better organized. The Washington Trust has grown significantly in the last few years, and we have expanded our website content to accommodate this. Some pages are still under construction, so please be patient as we continue to add information.

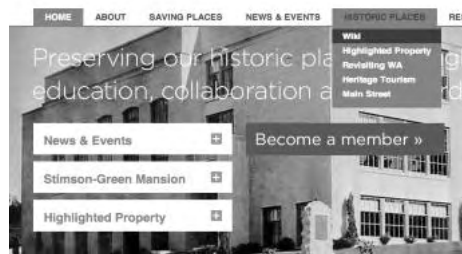
Calendar We have added several interactive features on our website, among the most important of which is an events calendar. This calendar will publish all Washington Trust events as well as those hosted by our local partner organizations. Preservation events need support, and we would

like to be a central place from which to promote and publicize these efforts. In order to have the most comprehensive information in our calendar, we need your help! The calendar accepts submissions; we rely on our statewide members to help us stay aware of all the happenings from Bellingham to Longview to Walla Walla. You can select a date on the calendar, submit an event and after the event is approved by a Washington Trust staff member, it will appear for all to see.



The calendar feature can be found under "News & Events."

News & Events Another new feature that relates directly to the calendar is the "News & Events" module found on the homepage of the website. This module will publish both upcoming dates from the calendar as well as pertinent news or notifications we have to share. Because this feature is located on the home page, it is a quick way to get information and easy to use! Just click on the plus sign to the right to expand the box.

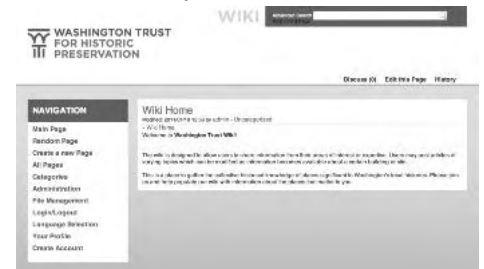


The "News & Events" module on the home page is pictured here, as well as navigation to the Wiki under "Historic Places"

Washington Preservation Wiki

The Wiki is designed to allow users to share information from their areas of expertise. Users may post articles of varying topics which can be modified

as more information becomes available about a certain building or site. This is a place to gather the collective historical knowledge of places significant to Washington's local histories. Please join us and help populate our Wiki with information about the local places that matter to you.



The Wiki page is now open to users!

Forum One of the recent goals of the Trust is to serve as a common connection between organizations and individuals across the state. As an advocacy group, providing an active link between preservationists is key to our mission, and we hope our new Forum will promote more active dialogue. Users simply register with a unique login, and are then allowed to post new threads of conversation and comment on existing ones. As opposed to the calendar feature or the Wiki, the Forum is intended for more informal publicity, requests and offerings. Do you have a question about a restoration project? Or perhaps you're looking for photographs or information about a specific building? Post your requests on our Forum and see how the preservation community in Washington State can help. Be sure to check back on a regular basis to respond to others who are in need of your expertise!



The Forum pages, waiting to be populated with threads of questions and answers!

Continued on page 5

Washington heritage at risk

An overview of proposed budget cuts and their devastating effects

By Chris Moore, Field Director

When tackling a deficit as immense as the one staring Washingtonians in the face, it may be true that there are no good answers, but there are varying degrees of bad ones. For heritage concerns statewide, Governor Gregoire's proposed budget for the 2011-13 biennium is absolutely abysmal. In the short-term, her proposed budget will result in the closure of many of our state parks, shuttering major historical museums in Tacoma and Spokane, and eliminating agencies and programs dedicated to heritage and culture.

While at present it is impossible to know all the long-term effects this budget would have on heritage, a few impacts seem almost certain: revenue generated through heritage tourism will decline; construction jobs related to the rehabilitation of historic properties – green collar construction – will be more scarce; and the general ability of cultural workers to convey, interpret and preserve our unique story will be diminished. The following is a snapshot of the proposed budget's impact to heritage:

The Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation (DAHP)

Since 2005, DAHP has been an independent agency, enabling staff to efficiently and effectively carry out agency responsibilities. The proposed budget would merge DAHP into the Department of Natural Resources, an agency whose forestry-focused mission is in no way linked to that of DAHP.

As the agency tasked with handling many of our state's heritage-related programs, DAHP administers the following:

- inclusion of significant resources in a variety of historic registers, including the National Register of Historic Places, the Washington Heritage Register, and the Heritage Barn Register;
- review of both federal and state projects that impact significant cultural resources;
- the Certified Local Government program, which provides funding and technical assistance to communities for the purpose of establishing and enhancing local preservation programs;
- Washington's Main Street Program, a tool for downtown economic revitalization with a presence in over 90 communities statewide;
- maintenance of a database with key information pertaining to historic and cultural resources statewide;
- and numerous additional functions designed to enhance and preserve our heritage.

The merger would decrease efficiency, hinder the agency's ability to provide important services and reviews in a

timely manner, reduce funding distributed to local communities, and sever important communication links DAHP currently has with other agency directors within the executive branch.

The Washington Main Street Program

Last year, the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation, along with many partner organizations who participate in and benefit from the Main Street Program, successfully fought to move the state's Main Street Program from the Department of Commerce to the Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation. The program, which identifies historic preservation as a key element of downtown revitalization, faced possible elimination as it languished in the larger agency. By moving to DAHP, the program shares the agency's core principle of preservation.

Since 1991, the Main Street Program has helped local communities leverage an estimated \$413 million in private reinvestment, generated over 3,700 new and expanded businesses, and created nearly 12,000 new jobs. If DAHP merges with the Department of Natural Resources, the Main Street Program once again faces the dilemma of being housed in a large agency, burdened with high indirect costs and a lack of exposure. The direct impact to the Main Street Program will be felt in the downtown core of communities across Washington.

Historic County Courthouse Rehabilitation Grant Program

Beginning in 2005, the Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation has operated the County Courthouse

Program with administrative assistance from the Washington Trust. Since that time, nearly \$12 million in matching grants have been awarded to 30 projects in 21 counties statewide. This has resulted in more than \$33 million of overall capital improvements to historic county courthouses.

The Governor's budget proposes eliminating this program in 2011-13.

Heritage Barn Preservation Initiative

Established by the legislature in 2007, the initiative created the Washington Heritage Barn Register while providing matching grants for barn rehabilitation. A program of the Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation, with administrative assistance from the Washington Trust, it has been successful in listing 444 historic barns from all 39 counties in the state to the Heritage Barn Register. In addition, nearly \$750,000 in grant funds have been awarded to 32 barn rehabilitation projects in 19 counties. Grants have leveraged almost \$1.5 million in total investment to save these iconic historic structures. The connection to agriculture is clear – barns receiving grants are located on working farms comprising over 35,600 acres in agricultural use.

The Governor's budget proposes eliminating the barn rehabilitation grant portion of this program in 2011-13.

Heritage Capital Projects Fund

Since 1995, the Heritage Capital Projects Fund has awarded matching grants "to support capital needs and facilities of heritage organizations, tribal governments, public development authorities, and local government

agencies that interpret and preserve Washington's history and heritage," as stated by the legislation.

For the 2011-13 biennium, 29 projects were selected to receive \$10 million in grant funds. A sampling of projects include: funds to rehabilitate Seattle's Washington Hall, restore the Port Townsend-based Schooner Martha, stabilize the c.1850 Fort Nisqually Granary, rehabilitate the Wilkeson Town Hall, and assist with the adaptive reuse of the Naval Reserve Armory Building at South Lake Union in Seattle to serve as the new home of the Museum of History and Industry.

The Governor's budget proposes eliminating the Heritage Capital Grant Fund program in 2011-13. None of the 29 projects selected will receive funds. Furthermore, as this program requires a \$2 local match for every \$1 received in grant funds, its elimination results in a net loss of \$30 million in capital investment to resources that enable people to experience Washington's history.

State History Museums

Under the proposed budget, the Washington State History Museum in Tacoma, the Northwest Museum of Arts & Culture in Spokane, and the Capitol Museum in Olympia would be shut down. Collectively, these three institutions provide engaging, informative, and illustrative exhibitions in addition to bringing diverse educational programming to the state. It is estimated that visitation at the Washington State History Museum in Tacoma alone is 105,000 annually.

Washington State Parks

The Governor's proposed budget includes merging the State Parks and Recreation Commission into a newly formed Department of Conservation and Recreation. The result would be a \$67 million reduction in the State Parks General Fund, along with over \$10 million in capital budget reductions. Furthermore, to remain open, state parks will need to be self-sustaining, meaning a restructured fee system for park users. Those parks that do not generate the revenue needed to sustain operations will be mothballed, closed, or transferred to other interests.

The impact for historic preservation statewide is monumental: State Parks is one of the single largest owners of historic resources in Washington.

Building for the Arts

Created by the legislature in 1991, Building for the Arts awards grants to 501(c)3 nonprofit performing arts, art museums, and cultural organizations for costs related to the acquisition, construction, and/or major renovation of capital facilities. Since being established, the program has provided nearly \$69 million to over 175 arts-related projects throughout the state. Awards can cover up to 20% of eligible costs, meaning that grants work to leverage an additional \$4 or more for every \$1 awarded.

As numerous recipients of Building for the Arts grants operate within historically significant buildings, the program has been a vital tool for historic preservation. Historic resources benefiting from the program include Bellingham's Mount Baker Theatre, the Maryhill Museum in Goldendale, and Seattle's Fifth Avenue Theatre.

The Governor's budget proposes eliminating the Building for the Arts program in 2011-13.

Washington State Arts Commission

The Governor's proposed budget calls for the elimination of the Washington State Arts Commission as an independent agency. As an agency, WSAC is involved in a broad range of arts-related issues, provides grants to organizations designed to increase access to the arts, supports arts in education, and administers the Art in Public Places program. While a few core agency programs would be shifted to the Department of Commerce, overall state funding for arts programs would be cut to \$250,000, an 80% reduction from current funding levels. Such a reduction also means the loss of hundreds of thousands in federal matching funds.

The Washington Trust pledges its support during the 2011 legislative session for those programs directly related to historic preservation and heritage. Follow us on Facebook and Twitter for updates on legislative action related to these important issues!

Social Media & Online Photo

Archive On the bottom of each page of the new website, there are quick links to our social media accounts. Social media is an easy way to stay in touch and updated! Please comment on posts you like, or share interesting links on our wall for others to see. Also, we have already populated our Flickr account with some photos, but we want more. We want to turn our Flickr into a member supported photo archive – please contact us to submit photos!



Our current Flickr page features Most Endangered properties, Washington Preserves grant recipients and event photos. Help us create a more complete photo archive!

Membership Survey & Email Drive

This seems a fitting time to ask for feedback from our supporters through a membership survey! Everyone interested in historic preservation is welcome to take the survey, current Washington Trust member or not. Also, in an effort to better stay in touch, we would like to take this opportunity to have an email drive. If you would like to receive updates and invitations from us via email, please provide your email address at the end of the survey. As a little incentive, we will draw a prize winner from the submitted emails who will win two tickets to Vintage Washington 2011! (To read about Vintage Washington 2010, see page 14.) Be sure to provide an active email address, as it is how we will contact you if you are the winner! To find the survey, click the "News & Events" module on our new homepage; it will be the first link! If you would prefer us to mail you a survey, please call to request a hardcopy. We value your input!

Please contact Jennifer Mortensen at jmortensen@preserewa.org or 206.624.9449 with any questions regarding the new website, our social media accounts, or the photo archive.

The icons in the bottom-right corner will take you to our social media accounts: Facebook, Flickr, and Twitter.



Historic Tacoma: Learning and moving forward

By Sharon Winters, Board President

Spawned by a comment from Tacoma's Historic Preservation Officer, Reuben McKnight, and informed by the experiences of a small group of preservationists, Historic Tacoma was founded in 2006. Former landmarks commissioners, preservation professionals, and community activists saw the need for an independent group that could increase awareness of the unique character of Tacoma's architectural heritage, educate property owners on rehab options, and advocate for changes in public policy.

The founding members made a con-

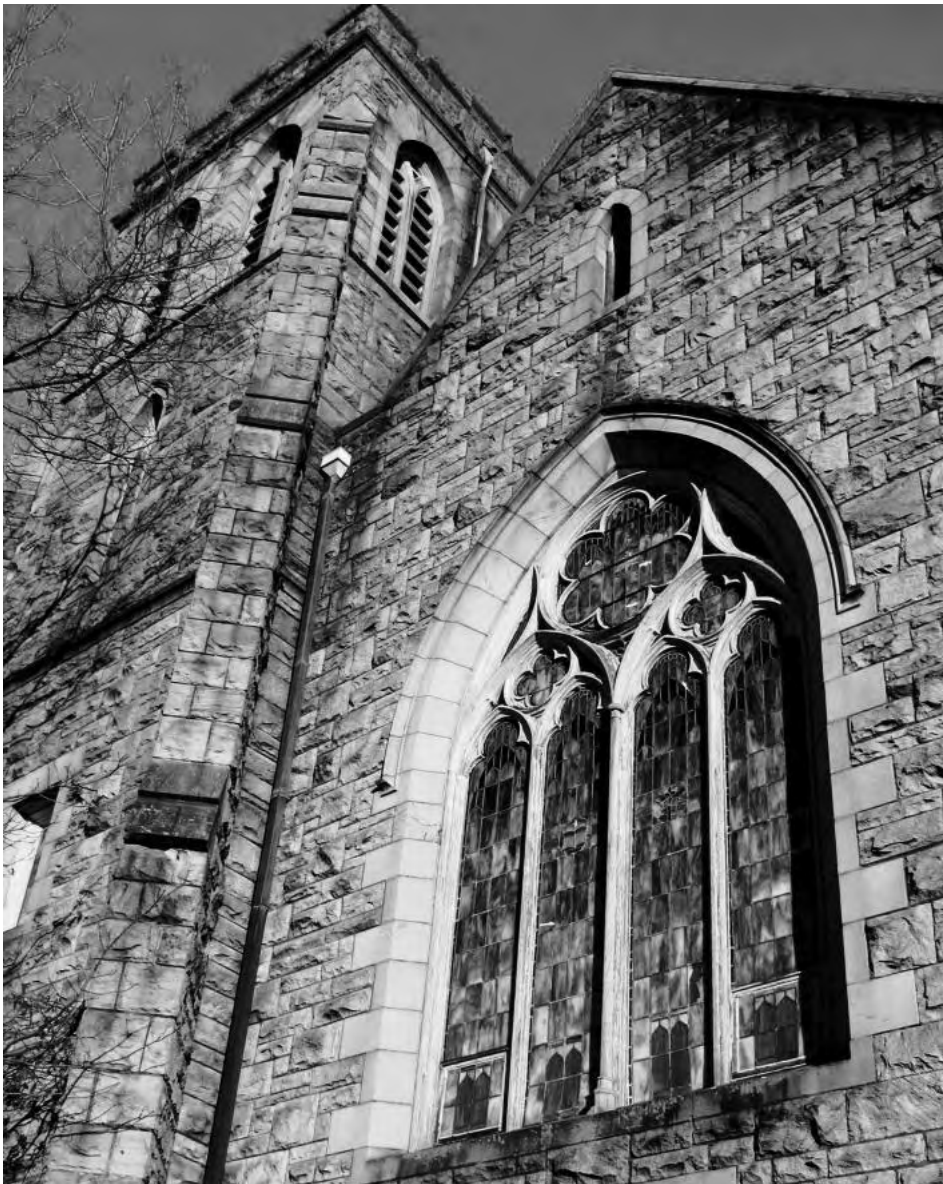
scious decision to establish relationships with potential organizational and individual partners across the city, meeting early on with groups like the Cascade Land Conservancy. They made the decision to recruit a diverse board, which included several young tech-savvy guys, a professional architectural historian, a community activist, and two board members with strategic planning and organizational development experience. Because of the tech capabilities, the organization quickly established a website and regular email communications, operating on a paper-

less basis except for membership renewals and annual meeting announcements.

During our first three years, we hosted two style-specific historic home tours, two workshop series, and a number of lectures. We received grants from the Washington Trust and the Colonial Dames for a pilot preservation project at the 1906 Knights of Pythias' Castle Hall and two collaborative projects. "Preserving Tacoma's Sacred Places," with the City of Tacoma and 15 congregations, resulted in a comprehensive inventory, print & web-based publications, and a 2009 open house event. "Preserving Tacoma's Historic Schools," with the Tacoma School District, produced a detailed inventory, publications, and resulted in the nomination of six schools to the Tacoma Register (see page 8). We also made good progress in establishing relationships across the City, forwarding our public policy agenda at City Hall, and adding several significant properties to the Tacoma Register. We played a key role in establishing an annual urban design lecture series, Conversations RE: Tacoma, in collaboration with AIASWW, the City of Tacoma, City Club, and the Jim Harris Architectural Trust. This year's final lecture was entitled "A Model for Sustainability: Adapting Old Buildings to New Uses."

In late 2009, we realized that our effectiveness and our sustainability were in question. It was time to re-examine our organizational model: a small all-volunteer board where work and life realities were changing dramatically for the key players. With the support of a small grant from the Greater Tacoma Community Foundation and the services of consultant Lisbeth Cort, we embarked upon an organizational redesign effort to reexamine our mission and goals. In the early spring of 2010, we engaged over 40 community members, representing all of our constituencies, in a conversation about our future.

That work resulted in our 2011-12 Strategic Plan and a new focus on working closely with three neighbor-



*Sixth Avenue Baptist Church, part of Tacoma's remarkable Sacred Places Program.
Photo by Gerry Sperry.*

hood groups/business districts to develop grassroots preservation and advocacy skills and to identify Watch List properties. This new focus recognizes that the places that matter to each of us are the places that are anchors in our neighborhoods, be they iconic buildings like Tacoma's Elks Lodge or the commercial structures, schools and sacred places at the heart of our residential neighborhoods. By working at the neighborhood level, we believe we can have deeper and more sustained impact. By partnering with property owners, residents, and community leaders in three distinct neighborhoods, we hope to jointly develop grassroots leadership & advocacy skills and strengthen ownership of what our City will look like in the future. We believe that the most credible advocates for the conservation of neighborhood character & historic structures are the people who live in their midst.

What have we learned from four years of experience?

Board recruitment is a challenge.

No surprise there – it has been particularly difficult to recruit and retain younger board members, typically due to job changes and family commitments. Because our board remains a small, working board of 6-10 and the monthly time commitment currently varies from 4-20 hours a month, many potential candidates are unwilling to make the commitment. We have learned that asking potential board members to work with us on a short-term project brings benefits to both parties and sets a good foundation for a long term relationship. Over the past two years, board retention has been high; we attribute this to focused recruiting of people who not only bring valuable expertise but who will contribute to the working dynamic and mutual respect our board members have developed.

Effective marketing is critical.

We've worked hard to deliver high-quality events but our marketing efforts have too often been to blame for lower than anticipated turn-out. We hope that by partnering closely with neighborhood groups in the design



Tacoma's historic Elk's Lodge is slated for major renovation. Photo by Gerry Sperry.

and delivery of events and by recruiting a marketing expert to our board, we can do better in the future.

Catching the sustained attention of city officials and staff is a challenge.

While we are well-known in City Hall, part-time City Council members with no staff have hotter issues before them. We've found that one-on-one conversations and site visits are more effective than attending committee meetings and believe that the neighborhood/business district approach outlined above will allow us to gain more traction.

Taking the long view is a good thing. We have a long-term vision and try to remain patient, persistent

and diplomatic in our dealings. When we take a loss, we try to turn it into an opportunity to heighten awareness and push for policy changes. After the demolition of the iconic Luzon building last year, a group of artists stepped forward to host an art exhibition and sale to benefit Historic Tacoma, as well as an anniversary event mourning the Luzon's destruction this fall. By partnering with the artists on both events and working with and applying pressure on City staff to tighten ordinances regarding at-risk historic structures, we hope to prevent another Luzon. We believe that such partnerships are key to our long term success.

For more information on Historic Tacoma's work, visit www.historictacoma.org or contact them at info@historictacoma.org

See next page for an update on Tacoma's six newly registered historic schools!

Tacoma's six newly registered historic schools

By Caroline Swope, Kingstree Studios

Like many communities, Tacoma is home to a number of historic schools, each a significant neighborhood landmark. In 2008 Historic Tacoma initiated a dialogue with the Tacoma Public School District to identify and preserve the city's historic schools. The district agreed to fund a survey of twenty-four schools dating from 1908 through 1958. Conducted by Caroline Swope, Ph.D. of Kingstree Studios, the inventory helped the district classify structures for landmark status as high priority, mid-level priority, or low priority/ineligible. The high priority structures included buildings designed by Frederick Henry Heath, architect for the school district between 1902 and 1920, five of the city's original middle schools, and two post-World War II schools designed by Robert B. Price in conjunction with the American Plywood Association.

Built in 1912 the Collegiate Gothic Central Elementary School was described by a local newspaper as "One of the Finest Public School Buildings in America." The first floor held a large domestic science department and woodworking area. Classrooms were connected to the principal's office via telephone, a modern marvel at the time. A special open-air room, located on the top floor, was for students with Tuberculosis. The tower contained school board offices, and a space for the district's architect, Frederick Henry Heath. In 1967 a Neo-Formalist addition by Robert A. Parker was added. In 1969 with declining enrollment in the inner city, the decision was made to convert the structure to administrative uses exclusively.

World War I brought significant changes to Tacoma including increased population from the newly created Fort Lewis and expansion at the port due to the opening of the Panama Canal. By 1920 the school system was strained by a 22% increase in student population from the previous five years. The district decided to adopt a new educational

model: intermediate (middle) schools as a bridge between elementary and high schools. This plan required the construction of six new schools. Tacomans gave the district tremendous support, authorizing a \$2.4 million building program. Five of the original six schools are still standing including Morton McCarver. Designed by the architectural firm of Hill & Mock in 1925, this Collegiate Gothic building won an honorable mention from the Washington State Chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

The culmination of this project was the district nominating six of the schools to the Tacoma Register of Historic Places, joining three other historic schools that were already on the historic register. The Tacoma Landmarks Preservation Commission formally approved the nomination of the schools in October of 2010, Tacoma City Council approved all the nominations in December, and all six buildings are now on Tacoma Register of Historic Places. Additional components of this project have included the Historic Tacoma-funded design and publication of a booklet highlighting many of the historic schools. A pdf of the publication is available through their website (www.historictacoma.org) as well. Historic Tacoma, Kingstree Studios, and former Historic Tacoma intern Kelly Smith have agreed to fund and complete the nominations of these struc-



Central Elementary School (Administration) by architect Frederick Heath. Photo courtesy of Caroline Swope, Kingstree Studios.



Morton M. McCarver Intermediate School (previously McCarver Elementary) by Hill & Mock architects, shown under construction in 1925. Photo courtesy of Tacoma Public Library.

tures to the Washington State and federal registers. The final stage of the project is expected to conclude in spring of 2011. Upon completion, this will bring more than forty percent of the district's historic schools onto the historic registries, a monumental step in preserving our historic schools.

BOARD UPDATES

Not goodbye, only auf wiedersehen!

Thanks to all our extraordinary board members

At the close of 2010, the Trust said goodbye to five longtime board members and very good friends of the organization: Michael Flannery of Spokane, who most recently served as our Treasurer; Tom Bassett of Wenatchee; Senator Ken Jacobsen of Seattle; Joanne Moyer of Spokane; and Susan White of Des Moines. Our special thanks and utmost appreciation goes to each one of them for six years (or more!) of service during a period of great transition for our organization. Their many contributions have truly helped position us to strengthen and expand our programs toward ever more effective delivery of our statewide mission to preserve the places that matter to all Washingtonians. It's not so much goodbye, but *auf wiedersehen* since we don't let our former board members get too far away and try to continue their involvement at the committee level until we can lure them back into service (as you'll see below).

The Washington Trust recently elected three new members to our Board of Directors: Kris Bassett of Wenatchee, Jon Campbell of Walla Walla and Betsy Godlewski of Spokane. Although it may seem like it's the case, there is no *ex-officio* position reserved for a Bassett from Wenatchee. We are just happy to have Kris back with us for her second stint on the Board. We invite you to read all of their stories.



Kris Bassett was born in Stockton, California, grew up in Spokane, Washington, graduating from Lewis & Clark HS and attended Spokane Falls Community

College and Central Washington University. She retired from the City of Wenatchee in December 2009 after 22 years, with the past 16 as the city's Historic Preservation Officer and Arts Administrator to the Wenatchee Arts Commission and Projects Coordinator for the Wenatchee Valley Museum & Cultural Center. This work also involved staffing advisory boards for both preservation and the arts commission and related duties. Kris developed both the preservation program and the arts commission work and administered their programs and projects. Both she and her husband Tom have served on the Washington Trust Board, and Kris has continu-

ally served on the Valerie Sivinski Washington Preserves Fund grant committee.



Jon Campbell AIA, has a diverse architectural practice in Walla Walla, a community known for its pioneer history and architectural heritage. Licensed in Washington

and Oregon, Jon has been involved professionally in historic preservation and adaptive re-use projects for nearly 20 years. After receiving his B.A. of Architecture from Washington State University, Jon and his wife Mary moved to Portland where he worked on buildings designed by noted architects Pietro Bellushi, A.E. Doyle, and Ellis F. Lawrence. After returning to Walla Walla in 2002, he became involved with the growing local wine industry with numerous winery facility design commissions.

He served on the Board of Directors of the Downtown Walla Walla Foundation for 6 years and the State of Washington Main Street Advisory Committee, now part of the department of Archeology and Historic Preservation, where his interest and enthusiasm for public service has kept him involved in many community and statewide programs.



Betsy Godlewski has been interested in historic preservation since she was a small child growing up in the South. Her early career as an exploration geologist brought her

to the Pacific Northwest, where the historic architecture, particularly Art Deco, continues to fascinate her. Betsy worked as Development Director of the \$31 million capital campaign for the renovation of the historic Fox Theater in Spokane. She secured a Save America's Treasures grant and a National Endowment for the Arts grant for the theater, and was instrumental in bringing the historic tax credits and New Markets Tax Credits to the renovation, marking the first time of the NMTC's use in Spokane.

Betsy served on the Spokane City / County Historic Landmarks Commission from 1992-1997, and is currently on the boards of Spokane Preservation Advocates, the historic Campbell House, Friends of the Moore-Turner Heritage Gardens and Connoisseur Concerts, which presents musical performances to heighten community appreciation of classical music. The Northwest Bach Festival occurs each winter while the Mozart on a Summer's Eve series takes place in historic Manito Park each July. Betsy is employed as Director of Development for the YWCA of Spokane.

Correction: In our last issue, we printed a photo in our Local Partnerships article, featuring Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve, with an inaccurate caption. The photo of the 1860 Ferry House should have been credited to Denis Hill, whidbeypanoramas.com. We would like to thank Mr. Hill for his contribution and apologize for the mistake! We are grateful to all our supporters, members and affiliates who contribute to make our newsletter possible!

A Roslyn Renaissance

Northwest Improvement Company Building: A potential key for Roslyn's future

By Kevin Kane, Principal, SHKS Architects

The City of Roslyn, which contains a national, state and local historic district, is planning a renaissance. The district is listed on the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation's 2010 Most Endangered Properties List, and the city is working with the Roslyn Downtown Association (RDA) to develop a series of small but strategic development projects building on the city's historic district to enhance livability and economic vitality in the former coal mining community.

Situated above a deep reserve of coal, the City of Roslyn was planned to efficiently extract and transport that

coal. The Northwestern Improvement Company (NWIC), the mining and land investment branch of the Northern Pacific Railway, built an infrastructure of mining facilities in Roslyn including the NWIC Building in 1896. Often referred to as the NWI Store, the company store supplied most of the food, clothing and hardware needs of the people living in the Roslyn area. Similar NWIC company stores in Ronald and Cle Elum have been demolished. The Roslyn NWIC Building, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is known for being the filming location for the KBHR radio scenes featured in the television show *Northern Exposure*.

In the current economic climate, threats to Roslyn's historic character have shifted from historically incompatible new development to rising vacancy rates resulting in empty buildings and deferred maintenance. Partly as a result of the recession, several historically significant properties, including the Northwest Improvement Company Building, are currently on the market.

Following on Washington Trust Executive Director Jennifer Meisner's Master of Architecture thesis on Roslyn, several potential public space improvement opportunities were identified through a community visioning and design process facilitated by University of Washington architecture students enrolled in the Storefront Studio in 2009 and 2010. Organized by faculty member Jim Nicholls, Storefront Studio is an experiential learning program for undergraduate architecture students in their final quarter. Students gain experience working with local communities and clients on tangible projects. The City of Roslyn hopes to extend the successful relationship with the University of Washington, leveraging the academic resources of related departments in a coordinated effort to establish a framework and foundation to guide future growth in this historically significant community.

Community ownership and re-use of the NWIC Building would be the most ambitious undertaking in the Roslyn Renaissance program. As the largest, most visible and historically



Roslyn's Northwest Improvement Company Building with the original arched windows it had before being altered to the present-day cast iron structure. There is no credible date or reason for the change in the building's facade. Photo courtesy of Roslyn Public Library.



Storefront of the Northwest Improvement Company Building on Pennsylvania Avenue. Photo courtesy of Kevin Kane, SHKS Architects.

significant commercial building in Roslyn, the NWIC Building is centrally located, making it well-suited for a range of community and commercial uses. The Roslyn Downtown Association recently leased space in the building for a visitor's center with funding support from the Washington State Main Street B&O Tax Credit Incentive Program. The Roslyn Visitor's Center, staffed by RDA volunteers, provides a place to introduce visitors to Roslyn's varied activities and storied past.

The existing building contains approximately 12,600 square feet of leasable retail space, 3,500 square feet of office space and 1,350 square feet of storage space. The building's location, size and configuration make it suitable for a wide range of potential uses. Proposed community uses include the recently opened visitor's center, a potential location for Roslyn's coal mining museum and a community kitchen for events. Creative conversion of the old company store into an innovative small business incubator could encourage the development of local startup companies. A satellite educational center would provide outreach opportunities for regional colleges and universities. Classroom and instruction space equipped with internet capabilities could link Roslyn to resources and information in urban areas through distance learning and digital conferencing. As a center for the nascent local arts community, the NWIC Building could house working artist's studios, housing and galleries.

One of the most compelling and poetic re-use ideas to emerge would transform the building into a regional center for renewable energy. Roslyn's central location and proximity to several locally based renewable energy projects, (the Teanaway Solar Reserve, the Kittitas Valley Wind Power Project, the PSE Wild Horse Wind and Solar Facility and the Ellensburg Community Solar project) make it an ideal location for a Northwest Center for Renewable Energy. A public education or training center with class-



Detail of the NWIC Building doorway showing an interesting cast iron structural storefront framing system that replaced the building's original arched windows (see historic image at left). Photo courtesy of Kevin Kane, SHKS Architects.

room space could be combined with leased office and shop space serving regionally based renewable energy companies.

In addition to a strong development plan, the structure is in need of life safety improvements, including structural repairs and seismic retrofitting needed to meet current building codes. The brick walls require extensive re-pointing; the building requires both thermal insulation and window restoration. The basement foundation and slab need significant repairs. Foundation drainage and waterproofing systems are needed to address water intrusion problems in the basement caused by a shallow seasonal

spring. Building repairs would be designed for a 20-30 year lifecycle as funding for future phases and maintenance is uncertain.

Renovation of the Northwest Improvement Company Building represents a singular opportunity to preserve an important historic and cultural landmark, transforming Roslyn from a former coal mining company town into a potential regional center for renewable energy. Investment in a Roslyn Renaissance will reduce energy use, conserve material resources, create local skilled jobs and inspire continued sustainable economic development, preserving Roslyn's past to secure its future.

Guardian angels bring new life to Roslyn's cemetery

By Richard "Dick" Watts

In May 2008, I was shocked to find myself as one of only four volunteers who answered a call from the Roslyn Cemetery Commission to help clear 15 acres of historic cemetery, overgrown with hazelnut brush and weeds. It was immediately clear that four volunteers working one day could not adequately fulfill the needs of this cemetery. Artifacts were deteriorating from neglect and the elements, monuments had fallen from bases, fences were broken, roads were full of pot holes and some were impassible. Many gravestones had been vandalized; drug syringes and beer cans were evident. It is said there are over 5,000 people interred in these cemeteries, and only 4,000 markers.

I joined the cemetery commission that year, and as a commission we discussed the kind of process required for restoring and maintaining these grounds and protecting the cultural diversity found there. Community education and participation were critical elements in our long range planning for cemetery care, because community engagement would help restore local pride and respect to the cemetery. Communications with the community were improved through a series of cemetery related articles in the local newspaper, and a power point presentation shared the importance of our project with the Roslyn Heritage Club, various civic organizations and the high school. The community was encouraged to visit the cemetery and follow the progress of working volunteers.

Our first volunteers were juniors from Cle Elum-Roslyn High School. Ten students worked 2.5 hours per day for three days in adverse weather conditions, and at day's end, we shared history and drank hot chocolate. The Upper Kittitas Valley Rotary Club brought 15 members that were able to run heavy equipment, like chain saws, and haul large quantities of brush to the transfer station. We have even benefitted from sup-



The National Croation Cemetery, formed by Matt Radosevich on November 14, 1912, hidden by overgrowth.



The Upper Kittitas Rotary Club sponsored the clearing of the historic National Croation Cemetery and volunteered their time and equipment for the project.

port from as far away as Issaquah. Father Ilija Balach of St. Sava Serbian Orthodox church brings about 20 of his parishioners to clean, restore and bless our Serbian Cemetery each year. None of the folks have family buried in this cemetery; they simply volunteer for faith and country. During the first year, our volunteers donated over 1,400 hours and hauled over 100 tons of brush from the cemeteries.

To honor our cemetery, we created an annual three-day event over Memorial Day weekend. We purchased two tents and served hot refreshments to families who came during the weekend to decorate graves. Visitors signed a guest register, shared family history and donated \$1,200. In addition to making cemetery information avail-

able to visitors and allowing them an opportunity to share their collective history, this event has also helped identify 14 unmarked graves and compile a mailing list for an annual newsletter. Each spring, a newsletter outlining some of the planned projects and a proposed work schedule is drafted and is presently being mailed to about 200 families. The newsletter has brought many suggestions and comments from the public and helped increase the number of volunteers. Our annual Memorial Day event in 2010 brought in over \$6,000 and our newsletter another \$1,200.

This year, a local contractor donated his crew and equipment to remove over 100 small trees from cemetery grounds. More volunteers built a large

French drain to control spring runoff that has flooded roads and family plots in the past, and a volunteer with road building experience removed stumps and rebuilt lower cemetery roads. Donations were used to rent equipment, purchase crushed rock for the new roads and post new signs with cemetery rules at each entrance.

At the close of 2010, all 26 cemeteries had a maintenance program and community volunteers had donated over 2,200 hours to the restoration program. Plans for 2011 include a 300 foot long, two foot high retaining wall to be built around the Dr. Starcevic

Croatian Cemetery. The wall must be finished prior to resuming work on adjacent roads. The bid for the wall is \$12,000, and our local Croatian Lodge has agreed to contribute \$6,000 to the project if we can find matching funds from other donors. Also, Ellensburg Cement Products has donated 44 truckloads of crushed rock, and volunteers will provide the talent needed to complete the continuing road project.

Today the brush is gone and trees trimmed, revealing a serene beauty our ancestors must have intended for their cemeteries. We continue to strive for the preservation of the unique

cultures and their characteristics. The activities of our volunteers have quietly provided the kind of respect and pride our cemeteries so richly deserve.

Last summer, Humanities Washington awarded Richard "Dick" Watts, Chair of the Roslyn Cemetery Commission, the 2010 Humanities Washington Award celebrating achievement in the public humanities for his work to restore, protect, and promote the importance of Roslyn's historic cemeteries. The Washington Trust congratulates Dick on his well-deserved award!

The future of Roslyn's landmark Old City Hall: Up in the air

By Holly Taylor, Past Forward

The future of Roslyn's Old City Hall is up in the air – in a good way! The 1902 building that is the center of Roslyn's civic life is jacked up on cribbing while stabilization work is underway.

The Old City Hall, rechristened the Roslyn Community Hall & Library, made the Washington Trust's list of Most Endangered Historic Properties in 2005. Damage from the Nisqually earthquake brought attention to the building's unreinforced concrete foundation, among other structural problems, and a group of dedicated volunteers and city leaders established a Building Renovation Committee to assess preservation options.

Roslyn was long on commitment to save the beloved landmark, but short on cash – a familiar problem especially acute in small towns. Cost estimates for comprehensive rehabilitation exceeded \$2 million, a daunting goal for a community with approxi-

mately 1,000 residents and a city staff of 6 full-time employees.

After many years of fund raising, Roslyn has secured over \$1.8 million for the project, and Phase I of the building's renovation is underway to address critical stabilization issues. Major grants came from Kittitas County, the Washington State Heritage Capital Projects Fund, and the Department of Housing and Urban Development, thanks to Senator Patty Murray. Additional funds came from several foundations, including a notable grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Hart Family Fund for small towns, and individual donors who contributed to the project through the nonprofit Friends of the Roslyn Library.

Project architect Matt Hamel of BOLA Architecture + Planning in Seattle explained that the stabilization work in Phase I "is mostly invisible, but will help to ensure that the building will stand for another hundred years." Next, Phase II will focus

on the rehabilitation of interior spaces, with improvements to the library, and transformation of a cavernous former gymnasium into a community hall for public meetings, performances and special events.

Past Forward is a cultural resources consulting company based on Vashon Island.



A rendering of the fully rehabilitated Old City Hall. Image courtesy of BOLA Architecture + Planning.



Roslyn's Old City Hall under construction. Photo courtesy of BOLA Architecture + Planning.

EVENTS AT THE TRUST

Wine isn't the only thing that improves with age . . .

By Kelly Hufty

At the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation, one of our primary goals is to be good stewards of the landmark Stimson-Green Mansion. For those of us lucky enough to work in this beautiful building, good stewardship means not only caring for the structure, but also sharing the house with our members, friends, and the community at large. On September 30, 2010 we accomplished our goal in spectacular fashion! Vintage Washington was a festive evening of wine tasting which celebrated Washington wine, artisan chocolates, and the places that matter in Washington State.

The event drew wineries (and guests!) from across the state, and featured Seven Hills and Reiningner Wineries of Walla Walla, Walter Dacon Wines of Shelton, and Thurston-Wolfe Winery of Prosser. In addition to exceptional

wines, our guests enjoyed generous hors d'oeuvres, as well as delectable chocolates from two remarkable Seattle chocolatiers: My Divine Chocolates and Theo Chocolate.

King County Executive, Washington Trust Board Member, and longtime preservation advocate, Dow Constantine, was the evening's special guest. Dow's elegant remarks about his experiences growing up in West Seattle reminded us historic preservation is not only about buildings; it is about people.

As preservationists, we believe adaptive reuse is a wonderful way to preserve historic structures, but our hearts truly sing when we see an historic building used for its intended purpose. Quite frankly, it's difficult to imagine a better purpose for the exquisite Stimson-Green Mansion than

to host a gathering of friends enjoying Washington's fine wines, and raising a toast to all things vintage.

The Trust extends a special thank you to our Vintage Washington sponsors: SHKS Architects, Swenson Say Fagét, Foster Pepper, Daniels Real Estate, Coughlin Porter Lundeen, Hillis Clark Martin & Peterson, The Fearey Group, Rejuvenation, Marpac Construction, and the Heritage Collection. We are delighted to report Vintage Washington raised over \$10,000 for the programs of the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation!

If you missed Vintage Washington this year, hold on to your wine glasses, we have had such a wonderful response from our members, we are already planning for Vintage Washington 2011!



Our fabulous Membership & Events Coordinator, Kelly Hufty, greets friends arriving at the Stimson-Green Mansion.



Guests enjoy a taste of wine in the parlor! A big thanks to Walter Dacon Wines, Seven Hills Winery, Reiningner Winery, and Thurston-Wolfe Winery for hosting our tables.



A fitting gift for special guest, King County Executive, Dow Constantine from Executive Director, Jennifer Meisner!

The Washington Trust would like to take a moment to thank the generous sponsors who contributed to the success of Vintage Washington"



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