Many considered the fate of the Seventh Church of Christ, Scientist’s sanctuary on Seattle’s Queen Anne Hill a foregone conclusion. Decreasing membership and increasing maintenance costs had pushed the congregation to look for a buyer to move into the historic 1926 church. The search went on for years; but when no one materialized, the church executive committee was forced to look at other options, and reluctantly agreed to sell the property to a local developer with plans to raze the church and construct four single-family homes.

But not all were ready to lay down the banner for preservation. Concerned neighbors appealed the city’s decision to issue a permit for demolition of the church, which delayed the development process. Around the same time, the Queen Anne Historical Society, along with several co-sponsors including Historic Seattle, nominated the Seventh Church of Christ, Scientist to the Washington Trust’s 2007 Most Endangered Historic Properties List with the goal of raising awareness and generating renewed publicity on the issue.

It worked. On May 22 the Washington Trust held a press conference in front of the church to announce its 2007 Most Endangered Properties List. With neighbors, preservation advocates, members of the congregation and the media present, stakeholders were able to discuss the challenges and opportunities associated with preserving the Neo-Byzantine sanctuary and reading room designed by prominent Seattle architect Harlan Thomas.

With the demolition permit tied up in the appeal process, the Seventh Church of Christ, Scientist executive committee agreed to consider viable offers from parties interested in preserving the church, while allowing a structural engineer to conduct an independent assessment of the building’s condition. The Washington Trust and its campaign partners began to spread the word in hopes of identifying a buyer.

By mid-summer, the congregation received three offers—two from church groups and one from a private individual, each with the intention of preserving the sanctuary. In the end, the $1.56 million offer from the Seattle Church of Christ was accepted.

The story comes full circle for the Seattle Church of Christ. Founded in 1989, the congregation has never had a sanctuary to call its own, relying instead on rental space at a number of locations. In fact, just a year earlier the congregation had approached the Seventh Church of Christ, Scientist about purchasing the Queen Anne church, but could not meet the asking price for the building at that time. A successful capital campaign in the interim resulted in the Seattle Church of Christ raising the necessary funds to finally purchase the historic building.

All who were involved in the successful preservation of the historic house of worship on Queen Anne Hill deserves accolades: The Seventh Church of Christ, Scientist congregation must be acknowledged for their patience and long-term commitment to the church. Their number one goal was always to preserve the building, and members were truly disappointed when the church seemed destined for demolition. Had neighbors and local preservation advocates not intervened, that might have indeed been the sad conclusion to this story. Char Eggleston of the Queen Anne Historical Society deserves special mention, as she spent countless hours following the permitting process and keeping the lines of communication open.

Continued on page 3
In 2006, the Seattle City Council approved land-use code changes that allowed significantly larger and taller buildings in most areas of downtown. At the time, preservation supporters expressed concern about the pressure this upward zoning would place on downtown’s historic buildings. To offset the risk that developers might demolish existing buildings to make way for “higher and better,” the City proactively funded a year-long survey and inventory of 387 downtown buildings.

Last month, the City announced the results of this survey, which identified more than 100 historic buildings, noting 38 of these for nomination as Seattle Landmarks over the next year. An additional 56 buildings will be nominated in 2008-09.

While preservation supporters and many downtown property owners and developers—who understand the landmark process and the benefits of historic preservation—met this announcement with applause, those less informed met it with trepidation (to put it mildly).

Fueled by articles and opinion columns that ran in local newspapers, the announcement sparked a lively debate that was positive in the sense that it got people thinking and talking about preservation, but at the same time disheartening to me because, once again, preservationists were framed by some as anti-development, anti-progress obstructionists.

I can appreciate differences of opinion and enjoy a lively discussion as much as the next person, but when one columnist resurrected that tired, old “hysterical preservation” adage, and asserted that the landmark nominations were prompted by an overactive feeling of nostalgia that government could ill afford, I drew my sword (okay, fired up my laptop) and worked to set the record straight.

In a letter to the Seattle Times Editor on July 19, I noted that historic preservation is indeed about protecting our irreplaceable past for the benefit of future generations, but it’s also about keeping historic buildings alive and contributing to the vitality of communities through rehabilitation and adaptive reuse. Historic buildings are invaluable links to the past, and they are also bridges leading to local economic development.

I cited the report released by the state Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation last year, titled “The Economic Benefits of Historic Preservation in Washington State,” which shows that rehabilitation of historic buildings in King County from 2000 to 2004 annually generated $106 million in sales of products and services, supported 1,230 jobs, and added $43 million in wages to the economy.

I also noted that the same study illustrated that, in 2004, heritage tourists, who visit a place because of its designated historic resources, spent $307 million in King County, which supported 8,470 jobs and generated $510 million in wages. Quite opposite from subsidies, these figures are direct economic infusions.

Numerous colleagues joined me in my quest to quell the tide of misinformation and raise awareness of the very real benefits of historic preservation by submitting enlightened and eloquently written letters to editors of local newspapers and participating on segments devoted to this discussion on Seattle’s National Public Radio affiliates. (If you are interested in viewing both sides of the debate, related columns and letters are posted on our website, www.wa-trust.org.)

While there is some satisfaction in having the opportunity to address the public in response to certain views that gained media coverage, it is clear to me that we need to be doing a better job at being proactive and getting our positive message out in front.

As preservation advocates, it is our responsibility to educate and raise awareness of the benefits of preservation. Every time a historic building where you live is preserved and brought back to life through rehabilitation, let the media know! Let’s all work on cultivating positive relationships with members of our local media so that preservation success stories replace misguided opinion pieces and fill the pages of our local papers with news of our good work.

Jennifer Meisner, Executive Director
jmeisner@wa-trust.org
Where in WA Is Your Trust?

Once again, congratulations go to Kelsey Doncaster of Yakima who was the first and only person to correctly guess where Trust Field Director Chris Moore was standing in the photograph from the Summer 2007 issue. In his email, Kelsey wrote: “Well I certainly can guess where Chris Moore is as I saw this sight last year myself during the PNW Preservation Field school at North Cascades National Park. Chris is standing in front of Diablo Dam on the Skagit River, which was the largest thin-arch dam when built in 1930. It’s really cool too. Here is a picture I took.” The picture he emailed us, included below, shows a portion of the road across the dam and the lake behind it. Honorable mention goes to Roger Johnson of Tacoma who was very close with his guess, Ross Dam.

Part of Seattle City Light's Skagit Hydroelectric Project, Diablo Dam was completed in 1930 but did not produce electricity until 1936, when the first of two massive 78,000 kilowatt generators was installed. Diablo, together with the other two Skagit Hydroelectric Project dams, the 1924 Gorge Dam and the 1952 Ross Dam, currently supply nearly 20 percent of the electricity used in Seattle. Although access to these dams has been restricted in recent years due to security concerns, Seattle City Light still offers guided boat tours of Diablo Lake. For more information, visit their website at www.seattle.gov/light/Tours/.

For your next challenge, we have a photograph of Trust Program Associate Cathy Wickwire posed at another of our state's scenic locations. Email us at info@wa-trust.org with the location pictured in the photo. The first five readers with correct answers will receive a token of our esteem. If you have your own photo of the location, send that to us too. Good luck!

Valerie Sivinski Washington Preserves Fund Continues Assisting Local Groups With Rehabilitation

Knights of Pythias Temple—Tacoma

In collaboration with the Tacoma Knights of Pythias, Historic Tacoma has embarked on a project aimed at repairing damaged plaster and restoring the decorative murals within Castle Hall, the remarkable, voluminous temple interior designed by noted Tacoma architect Frederick Heath.

Vineyard Christian Fellowship Church—Seattle

The 1906 church edifice, a designated City of Seattle Landmark, serves as the home to Seattle's Vineyard Christian Fellowship congregation. As part of the Centennial Project celebrating the building's 100th anniversary, the congregation conducted a comprehensive site survey to determine the church's rehabilitation needs. The survey concluded that a new roof was most critical for the structure. A Valerie Sivinski grant from the Washington Trust assisted the congregation with making the repairs, and the new roof was completed in July 2007. Congratulations to the Vineyard Christian Fellowship and kudos for its continued stewardship of the 100-year-old Seattle Landmark!

St. Urban Settlement Foundation—Winlock

The nearly 120-year-old St. Urban's Church near Winlock, originally part of the Cowlitz Mission of the Catholic Church and known as Our Lady of the Assumption, is now firmly situated atop its new foundation. A grant from the Washington Trust's Sivinski Fund helped to pay for a restoration architect, who developed the plans and drawings for the critical foundation work. The church's substantial lean evident in the 2004 photo at left demonstrates the urgent nature of this work. With the stability of the structure now achieved, community members and church advocates are moving forward with painting and other exterior work in preparation for winter. St. Urban's was included in the Washington Trust's 2004 list of Most Endangered Historic Places.

SEVENTH—Continued from front cover

Recognition must also go to David Fletcher, the developer who had planned to construct four residences on the site. When his plan met with opposition, Fletcher stated that he would walk away from the project if a buyer interested in saving the church could be found. He kept his word. Todd Perbix, of the structural engineering firm Perbix Bykonen, deserves special thanks—he provided a pro bono assessment of the church's structural integrity.

Finally, Congratulations to the Seattle Church of Christ. The congregation's perseverance and dedication has resulted in a permanent home for their members and in the preservation of a neighborhood landmark that will continue to serve as a community icon for years to come. This is a success story that all involved in historic preservation can embrace—and it stands as testimony that through the Most Endangered List program, the advocacy efforts of the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation and our local partners can truly pay off!
The guide is a multimedia update of the book that was first published in 1941 as "Revisiting Washington: A Guide to the Evergreen State." The guide contains original historic text blended with current field notes and updates from the intrepid reviewers who followed the original 23 routes from 1941. It also includes a "scrapbook" containing original and modern photographs, 1940s-era radio clips, videos, and other historical ephemera; a trip planning tool kit; and interactive digital tools, such as GPS coordinates marking historic points of interest and geocaching games.

The update, packaged into a CD with extras such as hard copy historical and modern maps, was launched this summer and is available through local heritage and historic museums, state parks and visitor centers for free, while a new website, revisitingwashington.org, aims to make the guide even more widely available.

Revisiting Washington contains original historic text blended with current field notes and updates from the intrepid reviewers who followed the original 23 routes from 1941. It also includes a "scrapbook" containing original and modern photographs, 1940s-era radio clips, videos, and other historical ephemera; a trip planning tool kit; and interactive digital tools, such as GPS coordinates marking historic points of interest and geocaching games.

The Washington Trust produced 4,000 limited-edition CDs for public distribution (visit revisitingwashington.org for a list of locations) and created a companion website with funding from Washington State Tourism that will extend the project's reach. On revisitingwashington.org, visitors can download the full program, learn more about the project and read and comment on the Revisiting Washington Blog.

The blog is the highlight of the website, spotlighting particular points of interest, such as great roadside eateries, and promoting historic places important to the preservation community, such as county courthouses (most of the state's 39 counties still have their original courthouses) and heritage barns. The public can add their own comments, citing personal travel experiences on the WPA guide tours.

The CD launch party was held at the end of July, in Issaquah's Hailstone Feed Store and Gasoline Station, a restored site that looks like a 1940s gas station. Ultimately, the Trust hopes that the updated guide inspires travelers to take the slow roads to appreciate Washington's natural beauty, history and many still-thriving historic resources.

Revisiting Washington: A Guide to the Evergreen State was funded by a Federal Transportation Enhancement Grant and supported by underwriting from the Washington State Department of Community Trade and Economic Development, Tourism Office; the National Trust for Historic Preservation; and the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission. The Washington Trust continues to look for additional project underwriters and sponsors to produce more CDs and to create a dedicated Mac version. The Trust also envisions the possibility of adding specialized content tailored to birders, bicyclists, motorcyclists, classic car enthusiasts or any kind of group that enjoys touring our beautiful state.

Restoration of Tacoma's Knights of Pythias Hall to Begin—
Tacoma Historic Preservation Group Awarded Two Grants

By Sharon Winters, Historic Tacoma

Historic Tacoma recently received grant funding to begin restoration of the Knights of Pythias Hall in downtown Tacoma. Prominent local architect Frederick Heath designed the 1906 structure, listed on the Tacoma Register of Historic Places. The building interior offers a rare example of a well-preserved, and virtually untouched, example of Heath's finest work.

Historic Tacoma received a $1,000 grant from the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation's Valerie Sivinski Washington Preserves Fund and a $2,000 grant from the Colonial Dames of Washington's new Historic Preservation Grant Program. The Tacoma Lodge of the Knights of Pythias is providing $3,000 in matching funds for the demonstration project.

Restoration of the most damaged parts of Castle Hall, the large Italian Renaissance space on the second floor, will begin late in August. Working in the southeast corner of the balcony, local artisans will clean and restore painted panels, restore water-damaged plaster, clean one of a series of murals that circle the upper level of the balcony, restore the 1920s scaglioli, and re-paint surfaces. The first phase of this effort will serve as a demonstration project to support fund-raising and grant-writing to complete the more than $50,000 Castle Hall restoration.

Historic Tacoma and the Tacoma Lodge of the Knights of Pythias entered into an agreement through which Historic Tacoma seeks grant funding for rehabilitation of the building in exchange for use of the facility for Historic Tacoma events. This past May, Historic Tacoma hosted a series of lectures in Castle Hall, addressing historic housing styles, window restoration, period landscaping, and period-appropriate lighting. More than 200 people attended the series, which was capped by a panel discussion and community forum on preservation of neighborhood landmarks.

Historic Tacoma and the Knights of Pythias are committed to preserving and rehabilitating Tacoma's architectural heritage and hope to see this impressive facility more widely used by the community.
Washington’s Historic County Courthouse Rehabilitation continues
By Chris Moore, Washington Trust Field Director

With diverse features such as clock towers, cupolas, domes and dentil courses, our county courthouses represent a diverse range of building styles and architectural elements. During the inaugural biennium of the Historic County Courthouse Rehabilitation Grant Program, thirteen counties received grant funds resulting in projects ranging from the comprehensive rehabilitation of the 1912 Beaux Arts courthouse in Pasco to the historically appropriate restoration of the front doors on the Spanish Mission-esque gem in Waterville. All told, grant awards from 2005–2007 leveraged nearly $18.5 million in overall capital improvements. Thanks to the support of Governor Chris Gregoire and the state legislature, the program is presently in its second biennium and will continue to assist counties in efforts to preserve the unique, character-defining features of thirty-two historic county courthouses found across Washington.

In July, the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) announced the 2007–2009 grant recipients. Eleven counties submitted applications requesting nearly $7 million in grant funds for a variety of rehabilitation projects. Despite requests exceeding available funding, the Courthouse Steering Committee judiciously awarded grants to each county that had submitted an application. Grant recipients include: Ferry, King, Klickitat, Mason, Pacific, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, Stevens, Spokane and Wahkiakum counties.

At one million dollars, Spokane County received the largest grant of those awarded. A key feature of the rehabilitation project is a scope of work aimed at stabilizing the iconic clock tower featured on Spokane's Willis Ritchie-designed courthouse. Completed in 1895, the structure stands as the last courthouse credited to Ritchie over the course of an illustrious career, one that also included designs for courthouses in King, Thurston, Jefferson, Clark, and Whatcom counties. Only the Jefferson and Spokane County Courthouses continue to be used in the manner originally intended (the Thurston County building is the present office of the State Superintendent of Public Schools, while the others have been demolished). Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, Ritchie looked to the Loire Valley of France as inspiration for the Spokane edifice, which is built in the Chateauesque style.

In a collaborative effort, King County will work to restore the historic entryway of its courthouse in Seattle. Currently used as a loading bay for service vehicles, the altered entrance retains the Alaskan marble so prominently featured when the courthouse was constructed in 1916. Restoration of the historic entryway would also serve to reconnect the courthouse with the city park immediately adjacent to the building. The result will create a civic public space that the courthouse embraces rather than turns its back upon, as has been the case since unsympathetic alterations to the building were implemented decades ago. Restoration of the south entryway will build upon recent work King County has completed to restore and enhance other areas of the courthouse.

The Washington Trust is pleased to once again be working with DAHP to administer the courthouse program. Washington's courthouses weave a rich narrative about our state's history and development, and the courthouse program works to ensure that the stories these buildings tell continue to be heard.

Left: The Pacific County Courthouse in South Bend shows off its newly rehabilitated windows, which provide uncompromising views of the Willapa River.
Right: Art Deco-inspired spandrels ornament the Klickitat County Courthouse in Goldendale.

“The challenge is to figure out how, amid such great affluence, we can evolve a place that recognizes that the 21st century is different from the 19th and 20th, and doesn’t pretend to be either of those times—but is willing to learn from those times, and wants neither to reject all of what has come before, nor to imitate it in a way that is glib and shallow.”—Architecture critic Paul Goldberger to the Nantucket Preservation Trust in July, on balancing preservation, affordability and livability in the increasing number of upscale historic U.S. resort areas.
Preserve America Grant funds Bellingham Historic Neighborhoods Survey
By Katie Franks, City of Bellingham

On July 12 in a ceremony on Capitol Hill, in the other Washington—D.C.—the City of Bellingham was designated as a Preserve America Community and awarded the maximum allowable $150,000 Preserve America Grant from First Lady Laura Bush. Bellingham, a Certified Local Government (CLG), will hire a historic preservation consultant to lead a citizen-based survey and inventory of historic resources in three of the Bellingham’s centrally located neighborhoods—York, Lettered Streets, and South Hill.

The grant will be used over two years and will be matched with staff time from Planning and Community Development and the Whatcom Museum of History and Art. The preservation consultant will lead the survey and coordinate training for student and neighborhood volunteers to photograph, describe architectural elements and complete historical research. Information and photos from the survey will be entered into the state’s Historic Property Database, the city’s Geographic Information System, and the Whatcom Museum/Bellingham Public Library online database of historic images. The project will also involve staff from partnering agencies, including the Bellingham Public Library, Western Washington University’s Center for Pacific Northwest Studies, the Washington State Archives and the State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation.

As is the case in many other cities, Bellingham very much needs basic survey and inventory work done, since the city has experienced steady growth over the last decade, with a particularly major increase in development starting in 2001. Its growing popularity, coupled with the need for urban infill, has placed pressure on the city’s oldest areas, which are increasingly experiencing tear-downs, incompatible new construction and oversized homes that diminish the historic character of neighborhoods.

The Planning and Community Development Department has been working with citizens to address these issues through changes in zoning, land use, and building code to ensure that historic character—as well as the economic investment of property owners—is not lost.

Additionally, as a Community Development Block Grant entitlement community, Bellingham encourages the rehabilitation and adaptive reuse of older properties to preserve the historic character of target low- and moderate-income neighborhoods. Through outreach programs the city has begun educating city planners, elected officials, and the general public of the intrinsic and economic value of Bellingham’s historic resources, and providing guidance on the actions necessary to preserve them.

Information from the survey will be used by Bellingham city planners to inform land use and zoning decisions, building code amendments, and design review standards, and will also be used to build a collection of graphic illustrations and historical research that can be used by project partners for heritage tourism and educational materials. The consultant will conclude Year I with a summary report, public presentation of findings, and identification of areas eligible for National Historic Districts and/or Multiple Property Listings in each neighborhood.

Year II of the project will involve more intensive inventory and research of each of the recommended district areas. The objective will be to submit up to four National Register District and/or Multiple Property nominations, which will be highlighted through media coverage, tourism and business websites, local television productions, and public presentations. Ultimately, the project’s goal is to create a model for neighborhood character preservation that can be duplicated in Bellingham as well as by other communities across the nation.

The project will also help strengthen the city’s partnership with Bellingham Whatcom County Tourism, which has targeted the growing “geo-tourist” market—this type of tourist prefers to travel to locales where tourism sustains or enhances the character of a place (environment, culture, aesthetics, heritage and well-being of residents). Identifying cultural and historic resources is the first step in developing a sustainable, low-impact heritage tourism model for the city.

The underlying concepts and benefits of heritage tourism are not well understood by the general public, and many citizens fear that any promotion will bring adverse effects. A primary goal of the project is to reveal the positive effects of heritage tourism activities and its ability to enhance economic vitality while leaving a lighter footprint on the environment.

Heritage tourism promotion is even more important today, as Bellingham becomes increasingly popular, something that is expected to increase as the 2010 Olympics in Vancouver B.C. (located just one hour north of Bellingham) approach and more people “discover” Bellingham.

Bellingham prides itself on being pedestrian- and bike-friendly, and since the 1970s has actively developed a vast network of urban trails—many of which run directly through historic neighborhoods. This system presents an excellent opportunity to link the abundant natural beauty of the city with cultural and historic resources, forming a connection between the natural environment and the historical development of neighborhoods. By illustrating this connection, the project will model sustainable heritage tourism practices.

For more information on the Historic Neighborhoods project, go to www.cob.org/pcd/cd/historic/index.htm

Thanks to a $150,000 Preserve America grant, Bellingham’s historic resources will be surveyed and inventoried in an effort to better care for them amidst the city’s rapid growth.
Moore-Turner Heritage Gardens Restored

By Lynn Mandyke, Project Manager, Heritage Gardens Restoration, City of Spokane Parks and Recreation Dept.

AFTER BEING LEFT UNTENDED FOR 75 YEARS, SPOKANE’S MOORE-TURNER HERITAGE GARDENS WERE OPENED TO THE PUBLIC FOLLOWING A 9-YEAR RESEARCH, MASTER PLAN AND PRESERVATION PROCESS. Located on Spokane’s lower South Hill, the 2.9-acre Heritage Gardens are part of the Marycliff/Cliff Park Historic District—one of two historic properties purchased by the Spokane Park Board in 1945 to form Pioneer Park. Extensive restoration of the Moore-Turner site was completed in August, returning the gardens to the time-frame when they flourished—between 1911 and 1914.

The former residential gardens were established in 1889, owned by Frank Rockwood Moore and U.S. Senator George Turner, prominent pioneers in the development of the city of Spokane and Washington state. Moore commissioned Kirtland Cutter to design his home along Seventh Avenue, at the time one of Spokane’s fashionable neighborhoods. The house was constructed at the base of the steep north-facing hillside, with a basalt cliff at the top of the property and massive basalt outcrops, which was retained with a series of basalt-faced terraces forming the framework for the gardens.

The year after Moore’s death in 1895, Turner and his wife Bertha purchased the home and spent the next 36 years expanding the gardens to encompass 2.9 acres of hillside. In 1911 the Turners hired Portland landscape architect Hugh Bryan, who added prominent features constructed of native basalt rock and timber in the Arts and Crafts style to the garden’s original, Victorian-influenced design. The Turners incorporated a rose arbor, teahouse, 75-foot, two-tiered pergola, 70-foot pond, reflection pool, conservatory and greenhouses, while the upper areas of the garden retained native vegetation and dirt trails.

Senator Turner’s untimely death in 1932, which coincided with The Great Depression, caused the property to be foreclosed and acquired by the deed-holding mortgage company. The house was demolished in 1940, after attempts to sell and auction the property failed.

The remaining site, untended and unaltered since 1932, was rediscovered in 1997 following an ice storm that cleared off the hillside. Researchers dug up Mrs. Turner’s scrapbooks, photographs and journals detailing her husband’s political career from Washington State University Libraries Manuscripts, Archives and Special Collections. The Turner photographs, recovered site plans, and other documents, along with Spokane-area plant lists from the Olmsted Archives, informed the Cultural Landscape Report that guided the gardens’ restoration.

In 2006, vegetation and debris that threatened the integrity of historic character-defining features, such as basalt dry-stack retaining walls, mortared-stone staircases, concrete pool basins, and rock foundations, was removed. Next, workers stabilized the stonework—a seven-month process. The original carriage road surface and adjoining basalt retaining wall were found intact and recovered after nearly 1,000 cubic yards of soil was cleared. That same year, the subsoil was prepared, irrigation installed and the planting plan completed and approved by the Spokane Landmarks Commission. In 2007 the garden structures were reconstructed and plant material rooted, obtained from specialty nurseries throughout the United States. Plants used prior to 1915 were given priority.

The Moore-Turner Heritage Gardens were listed on the Spokane Register of Historic Places in May 2000 as a Cultural Landscape (the first), and added to the Washington Heritage Register in January 2004. The site is awaiting a pending National Historic Register listing.

A matching grant from the Capital Projects Fund for Washington’s Heritage, along with money from the Spokane Parks Foundation, Spokane Preservation Advocates, National Trust for Historic Preservation and private donors funded the restoration project. The Washington Trust for Historic Preservation awarded the City of Spokane Parks and Recreation Department a 2007 Valerie Sivinski Washington Preserves Fund grant to produce a pamphlet to promote preservation and restoration of the site.

The Moore-Turner Heritage Gardens is a unique site in an urban setting. The southern hilltop, near downtown Spokane, affords visitors panoramic views of the city, in addition to an opportunity to get in touch with history.

Mrs. Bertha Turner strolls along the carriage road. She and her husband, Senator George Turner, owned the property from 1896 to 1932. The house was demolished and the gardens fell into disrepair—they were rediscovered in 1997.
Much of the information we unearthed was found through the diligent review of newspapers and periodicals, business records, and manuscript collections. Many organizational and individual artist and craftsman records and documentary photographs simply do not exist or have not been found. We traveled to visit local collections and archives, and spoke with people whose interest in the period might reveal more sources. Admittedly, there were gaps in our research of certain geographic areas in favor of others. After all, Glenn and I both had “day jobs” and commitments that forced us to table this three year all-consuming project every once in a while.

When we started our research, little was known about artisans in the fine, applied, and decorative arts in Washington and Oregon and how many areas felt the impact of Arts and Crafts teachings. Glenn and I are pleased to have made significant inroads in answering the question. Our hope is that the effort we have made in seeking out the role of the Arts and Crafts Movement in the Pacific Northwest will stimulate discoveries in basements, in attics and in museum storage that will bring to light more of the exceptional work of Washington and Oregon art workers.
Most Endangered Properties Update

Washington's Historic Barns
The newly established Heritage Barn Initiative is up and running! Owners can now nominate their historic barns for listing in the Washington Heritage Barn Register. The first round of barn nominations has been received, and the next round has a December 21, 2007 deadline. Eligible barns include those that are over 50 years old and that retain a significant degree of historic integrity. Nomination forms can be downloaded from the Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation website at www.dahp.wa.gov. Owners of designated Heritage Barns will be eligible to apply for matching grants to assist with stabilization and rehabilitation projects with grant applications due January 8, 2008. The Washington Trust is working in conjunction with DAHP to administer the Heritage Barn Initiative. For more information on the program, please contact Chris Moore at 206-624-9449.

National Guard Armory—Bellingham
Western Washington University (WWU) is moving forward with plans to conduct a structural assessment of the National Guard Armory in an effort to better understand the needs of the building. Purchased from the National Guard for $1 in 1972, the university wants to see preservation play a key role in future decision-making regarding the armory.

LaFramboise Farmstead
As part of its requirements under the Growth Management Act, Yakima County has conducted an analysis of the City of Moxee’s Urban Growth Area. The staff report forwarded to county officials recommends expanding Moxee’s UGA along with re-zoning existing agricultural land surrounding the National Register-listed LaFramboise Farmstead to industrial development. Mitigation proposals to offset the negative impact that industrial-zoned land would have on the historic farm setting include a landscape buffer. The Washington Trust will advocate for the implementation of more substantial mitigation measures to help protect the historic farmscape constituting the LaFramboise Farmstead.

Fowler House—Port Townsend
Sale of the c. 1865 Fowler House was pending in August. A local contractor in partnership with a developer has put forth a plan that would restore the Greek Revival house while reorienting the structure to sit on a single lot, freeing the two other lots associated with the property for development. Taking advantage of Port Townsend’s cottage ordinance, the new owners would construct up to three infill residences that honor the scale and character of the residential neighborhood in the city’s uptown historic district while returning the Fowler House to its former splendor as one of the earliest residences in town.

Waldo Hospital—Seattle
Although the Seattle Landmarks Preservation Board voted 7–0 to accept the nomination of Waldo Hospital as a City of Seattle Landmark, at a subsequent meeting held on June 20, 2007, the board voted against designating the 1924 hospital building to the city’s list of historic landmarks, despite a staff report recommending it. The board did not feel that Dr. Waldo, the osteopathic physician after whom the hospital is named, played a significant enough role in the history of Seattle to warrant landmark status for the building. The decision essentially clears the path for the proposed development of 40 townhouses on the 1.6-acre site. Although designation was denied, the Maple Leaf Community Council should be heartily congratulated for the efforts its members put forth in seeking landmark status for Waldo Hospital. While the building is likely to be demolished, MLCC’s hundreds of volunteer hours, and the exhaustive research invested in the campaign to preserve the hospital, has resulted in a much more comprehensive understanding of Dr. Waldo’s importance as a practicing physician in Seattle and an evolution of the perception and acceptance of osteopathic medicine in the Pacific Northwest. The Washington Trust, along with the MLCC, will continue to work with the developers of the proposed project to retain as much of the mature landscape surrounding the hospital grounds as possible.

City of Ellensburg
By Fennelle Miller, Historic Ellensburg

The Trust may soon be able to remove the historic Ellensburg Train Depot from its list of endangered properties. As of August 21, ownership of the 1910 Mission Revival-style Northern Pacific Train Depot was transferred to the City of Ellensburg. It has been a long time coming. In 1999, the non-profit group Historic Ellensburg wrote a TEA grant on behalf of the City of Ellensburg to acquire and weatherize the dilapidated building. Unfortunately, a series of roadblocks arose—including City leadership balking at the required match (which Historic Ellensburg raised instead), difficult sellers (who wanted far more than the building was twice appraised for), a complex railroad lease and a lawsuit between the owners—stalling the purchase of the depot for eight years.

Per the grant terms, the City of Ellensburg must weatherize the building with the few remaining grant funds, and then the City will turn the depot over to Historic Ellensburg. The organization has millions of dollars in rehabilitation costs ahead of it, but the 100 members have had incredible patience and perseverance so far, and know that this building can once again rise to its original majesty. “While the building is in disrepair on the outside, the main portion of the interior of the station is in remarkably good shape, with intact original woodwork and Tiffany tile,” says President Joe Bach. “We also are happy to see that the palazzo floor in the lobby and the original marble in the restrooms are in good condition. I know we have a lot of work to do, but there is an enormous amount of community support for this historic preservation project.” Indeed, the community came through before, when Historic Ellensburg was told in February of 1999 that it would have to raise the local federal grant match: $39,000, a seemingly daunting task. But quarter by quarter, money came pouring in from community members, and by August of the same year, Historic Ellensburg had the required money in hand. It was clear to all that rehabilitating this wonderful building was truly important.

This year, Historic Ellensburg will be turning back to the community for help in weatherizing the building, whose open softis and broken windows have allowed a sizeable pigeon population to gain entry and wreak havoc inside. Historic Ellensburg expects to own the building by late next spring, beginning the process of rehabilitation that will allow the depot to function as a multi-modal transportation hub, office space, and community hall—perhaps even a restaurant.
New Life For 1909-built Gotchen Creek Ranger Station
By Rick McClure, Heritage Program Manager, Gifford Pinchot National Forest

A ranger raises the flag at the Gotchen Creek Ranger Station. This outpost has been continually used since it was built in 1909 and is now ready for a long-term preservation plan.

In the coming year, national forests throughout the Pacific Northwest will celebrate centennials. It was in 1908 that executive orders created the Columbia, Chelan, Snoqualmie, Wenatchee, and Okanogan National Forests in Washington. Management of national forests became the responsibility of the Forest Service, an agency created in 1905 under the U.S. Department of Agriculture and headed by Chief Forester Gifford Pinchot. Pinchot established a decentralized organization that relied upon forest supervisors and forest rangers to manage the national forest lands. Rangers were to establish field headquarters for administrative purposes, but initially, they used existing facilities, such as abandoned homesteads, squatter’s cabins, and even their own homes.

With the creation of the National Forests in 1908, the Forest Service distributed a standardized plan book to guide forest supervisors in designing new facilities; it included 29 plans for ranger cabins, bunkhouses, storehouses, and barns. A century later, few of these “first generation” administrative facilities survive.

Gotchen Creek Ranger Station, located on the southern slopes of Mt. Adams, within the present-day Gifford Pinchot National Forest, may be the only surviving building in Washington based on those early standard plans. The station consists of a small, three-room frame cabin, nestled at the edge of an aspen grove, along what was once a wagon road leading into the national forest from the east. Built in the summer of 1909, the cabin served as headquarters for the Mount Adams Ranger District, Columbia National Forest until 1917, but continued to be used as an outpost for horseback rangers in the years that followed. The cabin was occupied almost continuously by Forest Service personnel, including fire patrolmen and recreation guards (at least seasonally), until 2001, and the building’s excellent condition is due largely to its consistent use. Now that the building is vacant, the Forest Service is exploring options for long-term preservation.

The option most favored by agency staff would see the historic cabin added to the Forest Service’s popular Recreation Rental Program. More than 60 cabins and fire lookouts throughout Washington and Oregon are available for the public as daily rentals through this program. The majority are historic buildings, including many no longer needed by the agency for administrative purposes. In many cases, rental use fees are the only source of funding for maintenance, rehabilitation, and preservation efforts. Fire lookouts tend to have the highest occupancy rates, and are often reserved months in advance. For more information on historic cabin rentals in Washington and Oregon, visit the program website at www.fs.fed.us/r6/recreation/rentals/.

Gotchen Creek Ranger Station is the oldest building within Gifford Pinchot National Forest. Its significance was recognized in April of this year with formal listing in the National Register of Historic Places. If funds can be secured for a new toilet, bunk beds, and stove repairs, it may be possible to add the cabin to the rental program in 2008, a fitting Forest Centennial preservation objective and appropriate follow-up to National Register listing. Forest visitors wishing to see the historic ranger station are encouraged to check in at the modern-day Mt. Adams Ranger Station, 2455 Highway 141 in Trout Lake, Washington. Gotchen Creek Ranger Station is nine miles north of Trout Lake by unimproved Forest Service roads and three miles west of the Yakama Indian Reservation.

Camp Yeomalt Update
By Gerald Elfendahl

During a recent visit to Camp Yeomalt Park (home of Bainbridge Island’s historic WPA-built, NHR log building—Camp Major Hopkins) we were making a few preparations for the cabin restoration and unlocking the construction fence around the building. Suddenly, enthusiastic park district summer day camp kids burst from their classroom next door and headed off into the woods on a hike.

“How’s the project coming?” asked the camp director. Before I could answer, 7-year-old Addison Taylor huffed, “We’re sure getting tired of that fence!”

Well, little lady, we are, too! As the “fir tree” project progress thermometer, hanging from the rafters beside the cabin’s stone chimney, indicates, we have most of our funds collected: $180,000 of the $200,000 goal. Some of that remaining $20,000 will be in-kind donations. And there will always be things that probably will have gone up in price as we fundraised and as folks tweaked our design plans. We are thankful that so many people have contributed in so many ways. It all helps! Please keep dropping your coins in the replica cabin banks around town or mail them to: “Yeomalt Cabin Fund” c/o Bl Parks Foundation, POB 10010, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110.

All the materials are ready to go. David Kotz and I have made a run to the coast to pick up roofing material. Conrad Mahnken, Bob Cederwall and Bob Senji Kanaeda each donated more than a cord of cedar for bartering material with our shake maker. The plans have gone to the City where they received priority treatment per ordinances for historic preservation projects. The plans, drawn by historic preservation carpenter Mike Brundige, are beautiful and up to the Historic American Building Survey (HABS) standard. They are frameable art and have been on exhibit!

Soon we will break ground. We recently received films and photos of Southwest Seattle Historical Society’s 1997 restoration of a log house, now the Log House Museum, thanks to Andrea Mercato. We are confident that we are on the right track. We have been fortunate in getting superior replacement logs and having the time necessary to allow them to dry before they are installed. A “special” gift beyond the project is stimulating and inspiring us to make this a truly memorable restoration and community project.

So, Addison, soon we’ll all be enjoying the sculpting of logs and the renewal of our log cabin treasure—and an even larger fence in the meantime. Then the ugly fences will be gone and you and your friends and families will be able to share the cabin’s stage and hearth. It’ll be worth the wait.
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