Revitalize WA Conference in Port Townsend

Building a future for Seattle’s Georgetown Steam Plant

Announcing a new grant program for historic cemeteries

VASHON ISLAND: Revisiting Japanese American Heritage
GET INVOLVED

APRIL 23-25
Revitalize WA 2018
Join us in Port Townsend for RevitalizeWA, Washington’s annual historic preservation and Main Street conference. More conference details and information can be found on pages 8-11.

MAY 12
Vintage Washington
You are cordially invited to our annual fundraiser which will take place this year at the Georgetown Steam Plant. Don’t miss this opportunity to be among the first to dine in this National Historic Landmark and be there when we announce our list of Washington’s 2018 Most Endangered Places. Tickets are available now!

MAY 31
Youth Heritage Project - Applications DUE
Experience the majestic beauty of the North Cascades, while learning about its historic built environment, this summer at the Washington Trust’s annual Youth Heritage Project. All high school age youth are encouraged to apply!

JULY 10-13
Youth Heritage Project
Youth Heritage Project is a multi-day field school that engages teens hands-on by connecting them to historic places. All high school age youth are invited to apply and join us as we venture to North Cascades National Park to explore the balance between protecting both historic and environmental resources and the role of our national parks in the field of historic preservation. See page 3 for more details. Application deadline is May 31.

OCTOBER 19
Annual Member & Business Meeting
Join the Washington Trust in Walla Walla for our annual members meeting where we will reflect on our accomplishments from the past year and announce our slate of new board members.

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

By Michael Sullivan, Artifacts Consulting

Immediately following the Nisqually earthquake in 2001, I had the ominous responsibility of visiting and assessing the damage done to our state’s historic buildings. Together with my colleagues at Artifacts, we traveled the areas of most severe destruction and counted the losses to the places that matter most. Once the adrenalin and news cycles faded, we were left with a very demoralizing new normal as far as historic downtowns and landmark buildings were concerned. The documents and photographs we made almost two decades ago still make my heart sink.

But in the eighteen years since the Nisqually earthquake, we have made some important changes to rehabilitation methods, building codes, and financial incentives for historic preservation. Maybe it’s human nature, and certainly it’s the political norm, to wait until something major happens before we work on a remedy. But right now it looks like preparing for the next Nisqually is happening. Here’s why the historic preservation community cannot just be bystanders.

Brick buildings represent the greatest risk for damage and injury from a seismic event, and based upon data from a major Seattle inventory of unreinforced masonry (URM) buildings, more than half of URMs are historic or eligible for historic designation. Put simply, remedies for earthquake preparedness are all about historic preservation.

Under way right now is a statewide inventory of URMs in Washington’s cities, towns, Main Street downtowns, neighborhoods, and streetscapes near you. The Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation is assisting with the survey, and it is reasonable to expect that meaningful preservation help is on the way. By merging our cultural mission with the important public safety goal of saving lives by saving brick buildings, we may find some valuable new tools.

Early discussions about seismically upgrading URMs are pointing toward new or enhanced financial incentives that would help historic building owners and preservationists. The importance of saving underutilized historic buildings, those with vacant upper floors for example, may lead to changes in the building codes and regulations that currently block upstairs living units and creative work spaces. In dense historic districts and historic downtowns, there is also work being done on whole block structural systems that reduce seismic upgrade costs and keep individually upgraded buildings from battering neighboring buildings that have not been structurally stiffened.

The scale of the problem in financial terms is immense, and it may require new lending mechanisms and access to capital for property owners and developers. We may even see new equity and funding partners for historic preservation projects statewide.

Almost 30 years ago, California launched an earthquake preparedness program called Bolts Plus. It established mandatory seismic upgrades for URMs, including tie backs on parapets and projecting features and through-wall connections between floors and exterior masonry. They made no provisions or exceptions for historic buildings and offered no grants or financial assistance for preservation. They enforced both a timeframe and deadlines for seismic upgrading. The result was that rather than bear the cost of upgrading their property, many building owners just walked away. There are estimates that almost 20% of the identified URMs were demolished. In all likelihood, Washington will adopt some form of mandatory earthquake preparedness in the not-too-distant future. Seattle is currently working on draft language that borrows from the Bolts Plus experience in California. What’s different in our state, is that the preservation community is involved in the process in Seattle and at the statewide level. We have the opportunity to help shape policies that will save both lives and history. But we need to pay attention to conversations about earthquakes and structural improvements for older brick buildings. We need to be engaged in conversations with building code officials, emergency service folks, and elected representatives responsible for public safety. We have a seat at the table and we cannot leave it empty.

Time is running out.

By Michael Sullivan, Artifacts Consulting
Like many Japanese Americans of my generation, I come from agricultural roots. My Issei grandparents were sharecroppers in California during the Depression, and my Nisei father and his siblings grew up working in orchards. My Filipina immigrant mother also loves fruit, so I grew up with an abundance of fresh produce—peaches, pineapple guavas, mandarin oranges, among other fruits—and weekly farmers market visits.

So when the Washington Trust received a 4Culture grant and initiated a project to highlight Japanese American Heritage on Vashon Island, it was a great pleasure and privilege to learn about that history on Vashon—an island that I’d only known before as a heavily wooded place across the water from my second hometown, Tacoma. The Island has changed so much in the years since the early Japanese American farmers arrived, and cultivated the land. I don’t know if I’ll ever see the island in the same way again.

Many Washingtonians are aware of the rich Japanese American history in Seattle and Bainbridge Island, but our ‘deep dive’ into Vashon’s Japanese American heritage shows that there is a great deal of compelling history here as well. I think it’s safe to say that my co-writer Vince Schleitwiler and I were surprised and moved by the powerful stories that we found about the Island’s Japanese American families—stories of adventure, humor, resilience, dedication and persistence. These stories are now publicly accessible through revisitwa.org, a heritage website the Washington Trust launched last year based on the classic 1941 WPA guidebook, Washington, A Guide to the Evergreen State. Now, the Washington Trust is developing additional stories and sites for the new website, to bring to light histories that have not been traditionally well-represented through historic preservation in the United States. Japanese American heritage on Vashon Island is the pilot project for this additional content, and will serve as the framework for many more diverse stories to come.

It was a great privilege to speak to current Island farmers who have stewarded the land and its history, as well as the descendants and relatives of those early Japanese American farmers. I’m so grateful to all the organizations and individuals who helped us in our work, including the families of the farmers. Island historians Bruce Haulman and Alice Larsen, Densho, the Vashon Heritage Museum, UW Libraries Special Collections, and the Seattle Municipal Archives. And finally, a special thanks to 4Culture for providing the grant money that made the entire project possible.

Japanese American Heritage on Vashon Island

Though agriculture on Vashon Island began several thousand years ago with the S’Homamish people, Japanese American agriculture on Vashon began with migrant workers around 1900, when the first Japanese appeared on the Vashon census. Over the first several decades of the 20th century, Japanese American farmers created a close-knit and thriving community on the island, despite barriers to citizenship and land ownership, as well as wartime mass incarceration.

Many of these first-wave migrants were young, single, itinerant men who were students—the first population that the Japanese government permitted to emigrate. Early migrants faced several waves of anti-Japanese sentiment in the region as well as the nation, even before World War II. Laws at the federal and state levels prevented them from owning land and eventually even their American-born children. The passage of the 1907 ‘Gentleman’s Agreement’ restricted immigration from Japan. However, a few families purchased land in their children’s names before this law took effect, and some had earned enough eventually to rent or lease land of their own. After the ‘Gentleman’s Agreement’ passed, a different kind of migrant entered the United States—those who came from landed families, determined to make their new home in the United States, eager to adapt the small-scale farming practices they had learned from their own farming in Japan.

Though there was apparently some local Island resistance to Japanese workers and farmers, the Japanese Americans on Vashon formed a close-knit community, and for the most part lived integrated lives with the greater Island community. They organized growers’ associations with other farmers. They held dances, funerals, and annual picnics at the centrally located Island Club, and created political organizations such as the Vashon Progressive Citizens League. Those who were Christian attended the Methodist church. They went to the same elementary and high schools as other children on the Island. Several farmers arranged for a Saturday Japanese language school on the Island, bringing a teacher from Seattle. Two Japanese farmers donated cherry trees and evergreens to the Vashon Union High School. They participated in the Island’s annual Strawberry Festivals which began in 1909, and some probably even traveled to the Alaska Yukon-Pacific Exposition for its ‘Vashon Day’ that same year.
Crops and Cultivation

Japanese American farmers grew and raised a variety of fruit and livestock, but favored strawberries and poultry especially. Strawberries were first grown commercially on the Island in 1890. As a result of efforts by early Native Americans, European settlers, and the logging industry, a great deal of the island landscape was open to the sunlight. The middle of the island was cleared so extensively that by the 1930s, you could see “clear across the island,” as farmer Bill Mann remembered: “[it was] one big berry and chicken farm.”

Farm work involved everyone in the family, including young children. Farm life in the early part of the century was difficult, with only a few homes operating with electricity and indoor plumbing. Many operations on the small farms were performed by hand, including the seeding, thinning, weeding, and watering. By the late 1930s, the Japanese community on Vashon had grown to 140 people on the 1940 census, more than 5% of the overall Island population. Twelve Japanese families owned farms. The larger-scale farms employed seasonal Filipino or First Nations workers at harvest time.

Though strawberries are not a plant native to Japan, Japanese American farmers on Vashon and elsewhere on the West Coast were drawn to this crop for several reasons. Strawberries are highly profitable; they produce a high yield of product per acre. And though they are fragile, the recent invention of refrigerated rail cars around this time also permitted a greater amount to be barreled for transport. Vashon Island’s glacial soil characteristics meant that crops such as hay or corn were more difficult to grow, but crops requiring good drainage (such as berries) were easier.

During strawberry harvest, early morning harvests would go to wooden flats and shipped onto ferries to markets such as Seattle’s Pike Place Market, which opened in 1912. Harvests later in the day would go to the “canners,” or the berries used for preserves or freezing. Because strawberry plants take several years to reach their full growing potential, some families rotated their crops through different parts of their land or diversified by growing other fruits such as loganberries, raspberries, gooseberries, currants, or cherries.

Wartime Imprisonment

In December 1941, news of Japan’s attack on Pearl Harbor stunned Japanese Americans on the Island, and their subsequent eviction in May 1942 was a difficult time for many. Members of the administration for the Vashon high school and newspaper both expressed their support publicly for Japanese American families. Many Japanese American families struggled to arrange for their belongings and property in a matter of days, each family member carrying a suitcase or two in order to walk to the Island Club in Vashon town where they had held community gatherings. A few families arranged caretakers for their property. They left by jeep, which took them to a special ferry, taking them to Seattle, where they boarded trains headed for the Pinedale Assembly Center and then Tule Lake in northern California (and eventually other “camps” in Wyoming and Utah). Unfortunately, not all farms were responsibly managed and unable to keep up with taxes, land management, and harvest during the war.

Postwar and Contemporary

After the war, approximately one-third of the 140 Japanese returned. The local paper had changed ownership, and with it came a new wave of anti-Japanese rhetoric, moreover, three homes formerly owned by Japanese (where families stored their belongings) were burned down by several local teenagers in an act of arson. (Notable exceptions included the Matsuda, Mukai, Otsuka, and Takatsuka families.) Nevertheless, the families who did return were mostly successful in rebuilding their farms and their lives; a small group of descendants of the prewar Japanese American community still live on the Island. From the 1980s to the present, a new wave of Japanese Americans with historic roots outside of Vashon has settled on the Island and developed their own farms.

Read more about the rich Japanese American history on Vashon Island at revisitwa.org.
Join us April 23-25 in beautiful Port Townsend for the 8th annual RevitalizeWA! Washington State’s preservation and Main Street conference is brought to you by the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation and the Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation. A great way to both dip your toe or dive deep into preservation and economic development principles, RevitalizeWA offers more than 40 individual learning and networking opportunities through classroom sessions, tours, and social functions. We hope you’ll join us at the major events, including the opening plenary with Nina Simon, This Place Matters: About Town, our annual Excellence on Main Awards, and the sure-to-entertain closing plenary. We also hope you find many opportunities to learn through challenging sessions, like Stephanie Toothman’s panel discussion focused on the responsibility of historians and community organizers to “tell the stories of all Americans”, and inspiring case studies, such as the Prairie Line Trail Interpretive Project’s unique approach to historic interpretation and adaptive reuse. With so much to experience at the conference, you’ll want to arrive a day (or two) early to soak up all the sights, sounds, and tastes this award-winning Main Street Community has to offer!

preservewa.org/revitalizewa

Keynote: The Art of Relevance

We all want our organizations to be “relevant,” but what does that word really mean? In this interactive talk, author and museum director Nina Simon will share inspiring examples and practical theories on how to make your work more vital and valuable to diverse communities. She’ll share surprising lessons learned from the community co-development of Abbott Square, a new downtown plaza in Santa Cruz, CA. You’ll gain insights you can use to identify and authentically involve the communities who matter most to your organization’s future. Relevance isn’t about what’s #trending, it’s about unlocking meaning in people’s hearts. Join Nina for a thought-provoking conversation about how we can use relevance to matter more to more people.
Port Townsend and the surrounding area are known for their beautiful waterfront, breathtaking landscapes, and commitment to preserving natural and built resources. With endless opportunities to learn in the field and many generous individuals willing to lead attendees, we are happy to present a full slate of tours to conference attendees. Hop a ferry to Whidbey Island to explore Ebey’s Landing Natural Historical Reserve and historic downtown Coupeville. Get up close and personal with preservation trades such as shipwrighting, masonry, and wood window care and repair. Learn about the Adventuress, a National Historic Landmark sailing ship that now fosters youth and sustainability education. The possibilities are endless!

**Tours**

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**This Place Matters: About Town**

RevitalizWA attendees are invited to attend our annual *This Place Matters* affinity event. This year, we’re turning our traditional reception on its head and hitting the streets of Port Townsend! Enjoy local craft beverages and hors d’oeuvres as you meander between six participating venues, all located within a few blocks of each other downtown: Sirens Pub, The Old Whiskey Mill, Alchemy Bistro & Wine Bar, The Tin Brick, Port Townsend Vineyards, and Cellar Door. Maps and drink tokens will be provided.

**Intro Workshops**

- Archaeology 101
- Historic Preservation 101
- Main Street 101

**Workshops**

- Beyond the Plaque: The Prairie Line Trail Interpretive Plan
- Building Inclusive Communities
- Combining the Low-Income & Historic Tax Credits in Design & Construction
- Compatible Infill Construction in Historic Downtowns
- Creative Engagement with Young Professionals
- Experiential Retail as a Competitive Advantage
- Federal Historic Tax Credits
- From Event to Experience to Economic Impact
- Historic Preservation: Four Perspectives
- Local Investment Networks: Moving Dollars from Wall Street to Main Street
- Main Street Working 9 to 5
- Ofbyfor All: A Framework for Community Transformation
- Outreach & Engagement for Historic Preservation
- Small Town Roundtable
- Telling Difficult Stories
- The Jefferson Davis Highway Marker
- Water Street Enhancement Project

**Special Events**

- Vision 20/20 Opening Plenary: The Art of Relevance
- This Place Matters: About Town
- Young Preservationists Hop Stop
- Governor Inslee’s Results Review Excellence On Main Awards
- Closing Plenary: Race to Alaska – Like the Iditarod With a Chance of Drowning

**Tours**

- Carnegie Library & Pink House
- Ebey’s Reserve: Partnership Model of Cultural Landscape Preservation
- Fort Worden: A History
- Fort Worden: Adaptive Reuse
- Healthy People & Places
- Preservation Trades: Maritime Trades
- Preservation Trades: Masonry
- Preservation Trades: Wood Windows
- Sin At Sea Level
- Step Aboard the Adventuress
- Uptown Homes Tour

**Pre-registration AND fee required**

**Pre-registration required**

**Maps and drink tokens will be provided.**

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![Image](image-url)
Main Street Matters

PORT TOWNSEND

Washington’s seaport and arts community

By Mari Mullen, Executive Director, Port Townsend Main Street

The ghost murals may have faded since Victorian times, but the rainbows haven’t. Our seaport town, founded in 1851, is surrounded by mountains and steeped in history. Port Townsend has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to historic preservation, and we are excited to show off our National Historic Landmark District at RevitalizeWA, April 23-25! You will enjoy our walkable historic districts—Uptown and Downtown—where deer go window shopping at dawn, and eagles fly overhead. The Victorian age echoes throughout our quaint shops, diverse restaurants, and historic architecture.

In 1985, Port Townsend’s Main Street Program was honored to be one of the five pilot programs established in Washington State, and it won a National Main Street award in 2000. From a sleepy town with boarded up buildings and businesses that could not survive the winter months in the 1970s, Port Townsend has become a vibrant city and one of the most popular getaways in Washington State.

Port Townsend is also home to historic Fort Worden State Park, built in 1902. It is a gathering place and a life long learning center on 434 acres bordered by pristine wetlands, hidden trails, and miles of sandy beaches. You can find scenic vistas, a working lighthouse, fascinating museums, Centrum, and the Marine Science Center there.

The restoration of the City Hall (built 1892) and Annex Addition demonstrates the importance of preserving the past for future generations. Port Townsend’s City Hall is the longest operating City Hall and City Council Chambers in Washington State. It’s also the home of the Jefferson Museum of Art and History—a must-see on your visit. Port Townsend is also known for its rare, well-preserved Bull Durham mural, in its original 1880s condition. Look for it on the Lewis Building, adjacent to City Hall and keep an eye out for the other ghost murals around town.

The Uptown commercial district is a destination place to visit with its restored historic buildings, Aldrich’s Market, delightful restaurants, a neighborhood pub, print shop, and creative retail businesses. The Carnegie Library in Uptown is one of the 33 Carnegie libraries surviving in the state. The $6 million historic Jefferson County Courthouse Clock Tower renovation helped preserve one of the finest examples of a Victorian courthouse in the country. Don’t miss it! Visit the Fire Bell Tower in historic Uptown, one of only two known existing examples of a Victorian fire bell tower. The architecturally unique structure, restored with $300,000 in public/private investment, links uptown to downtown. Be sure to take some pictures from the plaza there.

There is a major construction project in progress, which is making much needed improvements downtown through June 2018. The Water Street Enhancement Project spans Taylor Street to the ferry dock, rebuilding cracked pavement, widening sidewalks, and replacing aging utilities. It is laying the groundwork (literally!) to put power lines underground in the near future. The project will preserve what’s special about our town for the next 50 years. The construction project was the impetus for applying for the RevitalizeWA Conference, because as we Main Streeters know, construction projects can be a challenging time for business. We are glad you are coming!

While you are here, we hope you will have some fun with our construction promotions and play the “PT Believe It or Knot!” game and the “Step It Up” promotion in the businesses. You could learn some interesting Port Townsend facts, win valuable prizes, and support our local economy—thank you! There’s also a construction coupon book with some great savings.

Port Townsend is a mecca for outdoor enthusiasts, there are colorful year-round festivals, and friendly lodgings for every taste—all reasons for visitors to return often. We invite you to come back and visit to see a brand new Water Street, the heart of our downtown. See you in PT! 🌈

dmullen@ptmainstreet.org

ptmainstreet.org

Opposite: The Port Townsend Main Street ‘Family Photo’ from their 30th Anniversary celebration. Photo by David Coulbin.
The Georgetown Steam Plant, a National Historic Landmark, stands today as a reminder of the era of electrification of America's cities and a time when industry was first attracted to Seattle by its inexpensive hydroelectric power and electric trolley car system. Built in 1906-1907 by the Seattle Electric Company on 18 acres of land along the Duwamish River, the plant was once at the center of the bustling residential and industrial activity in the rapidly growing Georgetown neighborhood of Seattle.

The plant represents an important development in the early history of electrical engineering in the United States, marking the beginning of the end of the reciprocating steam engine's domination of the growing field of electrical power generation. The plant's two vertical Curtis turbines, manufactured by General Electric in 1907, helped establish the steam turbine as a practical and compact prime mover, capable of producing large amounts of power more cheaply and efficiently than other generators of the time. Rated at capacities of 3,000 kw and 8,000 kw, these two turbines are among the last of their kind left in situ in the United States. A horizontal Curtis turbine, rated at 10,000 kw, was added in 1919 and also remains in situ. Most of the original ancillary equipment is still in place today.

The Georgetown Steam Plant represents an early example of reinforced concrete construction using the "fast track" process advocated by the project's lead engineer and designer, Frank B. Gilbreth, which emphasized the value and efficiency of reinforced concrete over structural steel, in combination with efficient construction techniques. The plant is a significant example of Neo-Classical architecture, common among federal, municipal, and industrial structures of the 1890s-1910s, with an emphasis on monumentality, scale, and structural expression. However, some of the typical Neo-Classical stylistic elements, such as exterior surface ornamentation, were subdued at the plant to account for the practical needs of an industrial building.

In 1912, Puget Sound Traction, Power and Light purchased the Seattle Electric Company and consolidated all of the electric companies in the Seattle area except for the municipal utility. In the process, the Georgetown Steam Plant was relegated...
to a minor role in the system, primarily serving as a standby, or “peaking,” facility to provide a supplemental source of power only during periods of highest demand. In 1951, the City of Seattle Department of Lighting—today’s Seattle City Light—purchased the plant, but with City Light’s existing steam plant on Lake Union and its major hydroelectric project on the Skagit River, the need for power from the Georgetown facility was reduced even further. Nevertheless, City Light continued to operate the plant on a very limited basis until the 1970s.

Today, the Georgetown Steam Plant is a unique surviving representative of the history of electricity’s expansion into the everyday lives of Seattleites. The plant provides a great current and historical vista and can still be seen from the core of Georgetown along 13th Avenue South. The plant is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is a designated National Historic Mechanical Engineering Landmark, a National Historic Landmark, and a City of Seattle Landmark.

In recent years, City Light staff and volunteers have been working to restore the plant and each piece of equipment. Tours and open houses of the plant have been made available to the community, and it continues to be used as a teaching facility to train the next generation of steam power engineers and hobbyists. More than 7,000 guests have visited the historic building since City Light began opening it to the public at least once a month in 2014.

In March of this year, Seattle City Light announced that it is searching for a nonprofit organization to operate a self-sustaining center for STEAM education—science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics—and expand public tours at the historic Georgetown Steam Plant. City Light plans to maintain ownership of the steam plant and provide maintenance of the building, but the nonprofit partner would take over daily operations of the building, including tours, events, and the development of a museum/cultural center focused on STEAM education.

Statements of interest and qualifications are due by July 3 with a partner selection expected by the end of the year. For more information on submitting a proposal, please visit our website.

Above: Seattle Electric Company workers at the Georgetown Steam Plant, May 1, 1909. Photo from Seattle Municipal Archives.
Right: View of the Georgetown Steam Plant looking east by northwest from what is now approximately Ellis Avenue and Alhore Place, April 24, 1916. Photo from Seattle Municipal Archives.

A very special thanks to our Vintage Washington sponsors:
SPANNING GENERATIONS AT THE EBERLE FARMSTEAD

It is not uncommon for barns in Washington to span many decades of family ownership. Tracing a barn back three, four, and even five generations adds to the lore of our agricultural heritage. The Eberle Barn in Sequim’s Dungeness Valley represents this and more: in addition to a rich local family history, the Eberle story connects two continents as well.

After arriving from Switzerland in 1915, Joe Eberle settled in Sequim and started working for Captain Elijah McAlmond, one of the area’s earliest pioneers. Through hard work coupled with frugality, Joe purchased land for his own farm in 1922. The impressive barn—one of the largest in the Dungeness Valley—was completed in 1926.

Not entirely trusting the trappings of modernity, Joe reportedly held off purchasing a tractor until 1947, well after most of his farming neighbors. He preferred Belgian draft horses, stating, “In the morning, when I wake up, I am ready, the horses are ready, but the tractor may not be ready.”

Joe and his wife Elizabeth had five children, the oldest of whom was Edwin. In 1948, Joe wrote to his sister Klar, still in Switzerland as head mistress of an all-girls school, asking her to find Edwin a proper Swiss wife. In 1950, after two years of correspondence by mail, Edwin arrived in Switzerland to meet Idy Fuchs in person. After two and a half months of courtship, the couple married in Idy’s hometown of St. Gallen.

The pair returned to Sequim and soon moved into a house Joe built for the newlyweds at the edge of the farm. At this time, the Eberle Farm milked about 70 cows. According to Idy, as each cow entered the barn, they knew inherently which stanchion was theirs, heading there without prompting to wait for the morning milking.

Joe passed away on Labor Day in 1964. Edwin and Idy continued to work the farm with their own children and grandchildren until Edwin’s death in 1997. He and Idy had been married 47 years. Idy continued to care for the property and oversee haying operations until her passing several years later.

Today, Edwin and Idy’s grandson, Derrick, remains the owner and steward of the barn, along with his wife BriAnne. By 2015, while still strong, stout, and standing proud, the barn nonetheless needed some care. Derrick and BriAnne tackled the project head on, just as Edwin and Idy, and Joe and Elizabeth before them would have done. With the help of family and friends, they repaired deteriorated windows, replaced siding where needed, and painted the massive structure. And now, with the recent birth of their first child, a fifth generation of the Eberle Family will experience the joy of farm life and the privilege of caring for the historic barn known by all in the Dungeness Valley.

Grant funds through the state’s Heritage Barn Preservation Initiative were provided to support rehabilitation of the Eberle Barn during the 2015-17 biennium. Fortunately, grant funds are once again available to owners of Heritage Barns. But act quickly—the deadline to apply for grant funding is Thursday, May 17, 2018! The Heritage Barn Initiative is a program of the Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation. Funding from the program has worked to preserve 83 barns across the state. For more information, including application materials, visit the DAHP website.

dahp.wa.gov/heritagebarngrants
Rafn Company is currently well under way with a major seismic retrofit and renovation of Town Hall Seattle in collaboration with owners representative Point 32, architect BuildingWork, and engineering consultants Magnusson Klemenc Associates, Mazzetti, and Stantec.

Founded in 1998, Town Hall Seattle (not to be confused with Seattle City Hall!) is a nonprofit cultural and performance venue which hosts programs spanning the arts, civics, and sciences; all the while making these productions accessible and very affordable to everyone.

Town hall is housed in an iconic and historic building at 8th and Seneca on First Hill, which was formerly the Fourth Church of Christ Scientist. Designed in a Neoclassical Revival style by George Foote and constructed between 1916 and 1922, the exterior terracotta cladding, cornices, columns, and porticos recall Roman stylistic details popularized by Beaux-Arts Classicism. The building is remarkable in that its interiors and exteriors have remained virtually intact over almost 100 years.

The goal of the work currently in progress is to take the building well into its next 100 years and in the process transform Town Hall into a first-class performance venue. The building is being substantially strengthened with large concrete shear walls being added to the four corners, and steel bracing to keep unreinforced masonry walls safely standing in an earthquake event. The HVAC system is being replaced with a quiet high volume/low velocity system. All electrical systems will be brand new, as well as the theatrical lighting and audio/visual systems. A new wood acoustical reflector will be suspended over the Great Hall stage to improve acoustics. Stained glass windows are being restored, and insulated exterior windows will both protect the stained glass and reduce exterior traffic noise. Then there are new restrooms, food and drink amenities, carpet, paint . . . and did I mention a new roof?

The irony is that when we are done, people will say, “This looks the same as before!” And that is indeed the magic of a successful renovation. The same as it ever was. The same as it ever was!
ANNOUNCING GRANTS FOR HISTORIC CEMETERIES

One of several important heritage-related benefits that came out of the recent Washington State Capital Budget was funding for a new historic cemetery preservation capital grant program! Created in 2016 with enactment of House Bill 2637, the program is intended to support the preservation of outstanding examples of historic cemeteries across the state. Enable historic cemeteries to continue to serve their communities, and honor the military veterans buried within them. Funding for the program is allocated to the Washington State Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation (DAHP) with the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation providing support for management of the program under contract with DAHP. Grant funds will target capital projects at historic cemeteries, including but not limited to monument repair, interpretive displays, and increasing accessibility of the cemetery to the public. Washington has more than 1,700 known cemeteries potentially eligible to take advantage of this new grant program. Overall, the program seeks to assist small and rural communities with cemetery stewardship responsibilities in addressing projects that will make a lasting, positive impact by reducing overall maintenance and operations costs in the future.

DAHP has convened the Historic Cemetery Advisory Committee, tasked with reviewing applications and awarding grants of up to $50,000 with no matching funds required. Projects will be reviewed for their relative historic significance (listing on a historic register is not required); the relative percentage of military burials in the cemetery; the project’s impact on future maintenance and operation costs and provisions provided for long-term preservation; the urgency of the project; accessibility of the cemetery to the public; and the extent to which the project leverages community and volunteer support.

The last criteria, community support, aims to increase awareness for cemeteries and engage communities across the state in preservation-related activities. Beyond providing grant funds to complete projects, this program has incredible potential for fostering a renewed appreciation and stewardship of these sacred places and the important family memorials contained therein. At present, it often falls on the shoulders of family and friends of those buried at the site to tend to historic cemeteries—a responsibility taken seriously, despite the cost and time commitment. Through this new program, the hope is that grant funding will spur projects of all sizes, and that the impact of the investment will have a ripple effect in communities to renew interest and appreciation in these important places.

Grant applications are available on DAHP’s website, as well as on the Trust’s website: June 29th, 2018 is the deadline to apply. For questions about this grant program, contact Julianne Patterson at the Washington Trust.

dahp.wa.gov/historiccemeteriesgrant

WHERE IN THE WA

We received two correct guesses for the place featured in our January 2018 issue of This Place. Larry Vogel of Edmonds was the first to guess the light standards atop Diablo Dam in Seattle City Light’s Skagit Hydroelectric Project in North Cascades National Park. Larry worked for Seattle City Light for 25 years and managed the Skagit Tour program for about seven of those years in the late 80s and early 90s. Our other correct guess came from Gretchen Luxenberg of Freeland.

The North Cascades National Park, called ‘a wilderness mountain kingdom’ by the National Park Service, features majestic mountain scenery, glaciers, a wide variety of wildlife, archaeological sites, and historic buildings, as well as a network of hydrologic resources along the Skagit River and adjacent lakes. Indigenous people used the land seasonally; 270 archaeological sites trace human presence back nearly 10,000 years. The first non-native settlement of the Upper Skagit River Valley came in 1877 on rumors of gold, but because of the rugged terrain and harsh winters, the difficulties of transporting workers, equipment, and ore negated any potential profits.

Seattle City Light Superintendent James Ross saw the potential for power production and built three dams along the Skagit: Gorge Dam in 1934 (replaced in 1961); Diablo Dam in 1935 (tallest in the world at the time at 389 feet), and Ross Dam in 1953. Costs of the entire Skagit River project totaled some $250 million over 50 years, and from the 1920s to 1941, the Skagit Project became a popular tourist attraction. City Light accommodated visitors with special facilities, tourist trains and boats, and gardens of exotic plants, trees, and animals. By 1942, well over 100,000 people had viewed the Upper Skagit and seen City Light’s dream of the future with electricity. World War II and more construction ended the program, and while tours were resumed in the 1950s, it was not on the scale of earlier years.

After decades of political negotiations, the North Cascades National Park Complex was created in 1968, including the Ross Lake and Lake Chelan National Recreation Areas. In 1973, the North Cascades Highway was opened allowing auto travel across the Cascades and completing a project nearly 80 years in the making. Today, the park is popular for a wide range of recreational opportunities, and Seattle City Light offers tours of the still operating hydroelectric resources. The area is also home to the North Cascades Institute’s Environmental Learning Center, which provides educational programs to help people understand, care for, and enjoy the natural and cultural wonders of the region.

Where in the WA • April 2018

For your next challenge, can you identify the structure detail seen here? Email us at info@preservewa.org or call us at 206-624-9449 with the answer.

Send us pictures of yourself in your favorite places around our beautiful state, and we might be able to feature them as a “Where in the WA” in the future.

preservewa.org/yhp
Revisit Washington along roads less traveled

The updated version of that guide, Revisiting Washington: An Interactive guide to historic places in the Evergreen State, is now available. This guide is the result of a collaborative effort involving photographers, mapmakers, and researchers. These roads wound by family farms and through historic downtowns. This is the

revisitwa.org

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We write to properly print names for all donations we receive each quarter but are not always able to print names for donations that come in as one undesignated check at the end of the quarter. If you have donated recently but don’t appear listed, we are happy to check the list next.

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Before there were interstate highways, Washington had a system of roads that connected real places. Almost forgotten today, a diary of these routes was published in 1941 after years of dedicated work by hundreds of writers, photographers, and mapmakers. These roads wound by family farms and through historic downtowns. This is the updated version of that guide, Revisiting Washington: An Interactive guide to historic places in the Evergreen State.
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