Excellence on Main Awards

PreserveWA Fellows: young voices at RevitalizeWA

Prosser: small town, big dreams

Palouse barn restored

2018 MOST ENDANGERED
AUGUST 8
Main Street Now
Session Proposals DUE
Washington State has a rare opportunity to host Main Street Now, the National Main Street Center’s annual conference, in Seattle March 25-27, 2019. The National Main Street Center is currently seeking education session proposals; see page 17 for more details.

OCTOBER 1
Valerie Sivinski Fund Grant Applications DUE
The Sivinski Fund provides grants up to $2,000 or pro bono building assessment services to organizations engaged in historic preservation around our state. Visit our website to apply: preservewa.org/sivinski.

OCTOBER 19
Annual Member & Business Meeting
Join the Washington Trust in Ritzville 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 2019.

NOVEMBER 13-16
National Preservation Conference
San Francisco, CA
PastForward is the premier, national educational and networking event for those in the business of saving places. If you can’t make it to San Francisco, join virtually at PastForwardConference.org.

DECEMBER 4
Sivinski Holiday Benefit
Celebrate another year of preserving Washington’s historic places and support the Valerie Sivinski Fund. We’ll also announce the 2019 Sivinski Fund grant award winners at the benefit.

DECEMBER 9
Santa at the Mansion
Join us in welcoming Santa back to the Stimson-Green Mansion for cider, cookies, and festive photos!

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July 2018
A publication of the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation

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Cover photo: The last remaining building of the Bruggemann Ranch at the Manhattan Project National Historical Park - Hanford Unit headlines this year’s list of Most Endangered Places. See page 8 for more!

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MOST ENDANGERED PLACES NOMINATIONS
January 11
We accept nominations for Most Endangered Places all year round, but January 11, 2019 is the deadline to be included in the official video announcement at Vintage Washington 2019.

For more information about Washington Trust events or programs, please visit preservewa.org or call our office at 206-624-9449.
I was 12 years old when I first fell in love with a historic building. This first encounter with a historic building was something of an accident: I didn’t seek out the experience, per se. I was just a geeky sixth grader living in a small suburb outside Boise, Idaho. When my teacher assigned our class the extra credit assignment to attend a screening of Casablanca in a theater in downtown Boise, I convinced my work-weary parents that what they really needed on this run-of-the-mill weeknight was to drive me into town and take me to a movie.

Upon our arrival, however, I found a building unlike any other I had ever seen. Built in 1927, the Egyptian Theatre in Boise is huge, boasting 1,600 seats, and lavish, the screen framed by gilded columns, painted hieroglyphic murals, and a golden winged scarab on top. We sat in the center of the first row of the balcony, from which vantage point I could peer around agog at every angle. Seeing the film flicker to life in that environment, and learning more about the theatre’s history—I was hooked. For a blasé pre-teen, the theatre was a gleaming portal into the past, into an era of history that seemed so much more glamorous than the present.

Almost two decades later, and several years into a career in nonprofit fundraising, I found myself working for another historic movie palace, the Hollywood Theatre in Portland, Oregon, built in 1926. Serving as Development Director there exposed me to the world of historic preservation. I wrote grants to restore the theatre’s historic façade and roofs, took members on backstage tours to admire original building features like the proscenium and organ lofts, and researched the theatre’s history in honor of its 90th anniversary. I soon discovered, however, that the Hollywood is more than a portal into the past. It is a community hub, a place to chat up friends and fellow cinephiles over a beer, the antithesis of the cookie-cutter corporate metropolis. A historic property reinvented.

That’s why I’m excited—and honored—to join the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation as the new Development Director. I believe in the placemaking and community-building opportunities that dwell within the walls of every historic building, and I look forward to traveling across the state to learn more about how towns large and small have harnessed that potential and telling those stories to funders, sponsors, and donors in order to rally support for the Washington Trust’s statewide advocacy and education efforts. Among my many goals for the future: invigorating member and donor engagement through increased communications and events, pursuing funding for a revolving fund program, broadening foundation support for Trust programs and Stimson-Green Mansion capital projects, developing sponsorship opportunities around our Main Street program and RevitalizeWA conference, and more.

I look forward to meeting you, our members and donors, in my travels across the state and at events such as our Annual Business Meeting this October. If you have questions or concerns, or just want to say hello, please dont hesitate to email me at kconrad@preservewa.org!
Following the success of last year’s changes to Vintage Washington, the annual fundraiser of the Washington Trust, we kept with the model of announcing the year’s most endangered places over dinner in a unique historic venue. This year’s event took place May 12th at the Georgetown Steam Plant in Seattle. Holding a semi formal sit down dinner for over a hundred people in a building without reliable electricity or water is a challenge to say the least, but it makes the event all the more fun and mission-driven to host.

Last year, we decided to step out of our comfort zone of the Stimson-Green Mansion and use the event as an opportunity to highlight historic resources in a new and exciting way. Preservationists, by nature, are eternal optimists in the potential we recognize in underutilized, existing buildings. New use and occupants are usually only limited by the harsh reality that money and tenants do not grow on trees. So why not spend one night helping others visualize a new use, or see a building in a new way, while raising money to help preserve other places around the state?

We welcomed nearly 120 for dinner in the upstairs boiler room at a long table where dinner prepared by Kaspars Catering & Events was served family-style. King County Councilmember and Washington Trust Board member Joe McDermott led the evening’s program as the Master of Ceremonies and kicked off the program with history about the advocacy of the Georgetown Steam Plant. The scale of the building alone warrants attention: it stands as a monument to Seattle’s coming of age in the early 20th century. The Georgetown Steam Plant endeavored to use the latest in electricity generating technology to help modernize Seattle – namely, two Curtis turbines that stand as sentinels of sorts to the operations that once took place within.

Fast forward to present day: with the Curtis turbines’ energy generating capacity no longer needed, Seattle City Light recognizes the Steam Plant’s significance and has made a renewed effort to provide stewardship for the long-term preservation needs of this National Historic Landmark. While all of Seattle City Light deserves credit for working to breathe new life into the building, at Vintage Washington we recognized Lynn Best with a Preservation Leader award for her effectiveness as City Light’s Chief Environmental Officer and her advocacy which has been instrumental in resurrecting the Georgetown Steam Plant as a vital community asset.

The evening’s program transitioned to cover the five properties highlighted on this year’s Most Endangered list. Read on to pages 8-13 to learn more about this year’s endangered places and advocacy efforts. We continued the tradition of closing the evening with a few success stories from years past and highlighted Morgan Middle School in Ellensburg. Mollie Edson spoke about the advocacy efforts that led to the school’s modernization and the good news that the school will welcome students again this fall! Kevin Daniels with Daniels Real Estate also spoke about the remarkable transformation of First United Methodist Church, which reopened this fall as the Sanctuary in Seattle, a state of the art event space in the heart of downtown.

The evening ended back downstairs as the sun began to set with dessert and the closing of the silent auction. While the stated goal of most fundraisers is to raise money and this event was no different, we took full advantage of the opportunity to turn a captive audience into enthusiastic preservation advocates. Comments throughout the evening glowed with love for the Steam Plant and the list of those ready to hold an event there next is steadily growing. We are also excited to announce that once again, we exceeded our fundraising goal of $30,000 for the evening!

Thank you so much to all who attended, donated, and helped make the evening truly magical! Special thanks to go to our partners at Seattle City Light, specifically Julianna Ross, who helped guide us through the delicate process of holding an event in a steam plant and made the entire evening possible. The heroes of the night were wait staff from Kaspars catering, who schlepped everything up and down steep steps and ladders with a smile. And of course, our event sponsors who truly make the events and work we do possible.
The Washington Trust for Historic Preservation announced our 2018 list of Most Endangered Places in May at Seattle's Georgetown Steam Plant during our annual fundraiser, Vintage Washington. In addition to bringing attention to our featured historic places, we were also thrilled to shine a spotlight on the Steam Plant as our venue. Seattle City Light recently issued a request for proposals, seeking to partner with an organization interested in managing day-to-day operations of the facility with a focus on continued stewardship and arts and educational uses. Seattle City Light has shown dedication to preservation, creativity, and public access by accommodating events like Vintage Washington.

Since 1992, the Washington Trust has used our list of Most Endangered Places to bring attention to over 160 threatened sites nominated by concerned citizens and organizations across the state. Successful preservation requires the collaborative efforts of many. The purpose of our list is to elevate the discussion, encourage partnership, and find positive, preservation-oriented solutions.

Historic places contribute to the quality of life we enjoy and shape the daily experiences of living in small towns, large cities, and rural countrysides across the state. Historic places not only represent our history, but are part of our collective cultural identity. Efforts to connect with that history and identity through the preservation and reuse of our built environment should not be confused with nostalgia for a lost past. Rather, historic preservation allows us to build our future on a meaningful identity and the rich culture and resources already at hand.

We have an obligation to respect our built environment, an irreplaceable shared resource, which was entrusted to us and must be passed on to the coming generations. Since our founding over 40 years ago, the Washington Trust's basic commitment to advocate for the preservation of historic and cultural resources has been unwavering – we remain your "Voice for Preservation in Washington State" – and our list of Most Endangered Places perhaps best exemplifies this commitment.

We invite you to join our efforts this year through Washington's Most Endangered Places, our central advocacy program. Throughout the year, and indeed until these places can all be counted as "saves," we will assist local advocates in developing strategies aimed at removing threats and taking advantage of opportunities where they exist. The core of any advocacy effort is partnership, and we look forward to continuing to build on the existing networks in each of these communities to find solutions based in preservation and reuse. Additionally, the success of any advocacy effort hinges on engagement. We strive to build local momentum for the preservation of our Most Endangered Places, but these resources were all selected for our list this year because they are significant to our collective, statewide heritage. We hope you will be involved, attend events, and write letters when the need arises, no matter where in Washington you call home.

Without further ado, we present Washington's Most Endangered Places for 2018.

preservewa.org/endangered

CAMP KILWORTH • FEDERAL WAY

In 1934, William Kilworth purchased 25 acres in the South Sound area and immediately deeded the property to the Tacoma Area Council of Boy Scouts. World War I veterans, who were members of the Tacoma Rotary, built the centerpiece of the camp in 1935: the Rustic-style Rotary Lodge. Over the decades, several other supporting structures were built, including an outdoor amphitheater that looks out over a dramatic view of south Puget Sound. Today, the property and its shoreline are one of only two places in rapidly growing Federal Way regarded as a highly sensitive environmental area, and the high bank coastal forest on the site also serves as a wildlife corridor.

The Scouts owned and operated the camp for over 80 years, but due to declining membership, their operations at Camp Kilworth ceased in 2016. In accordance with a stipulation in William Kilworth's original 1934 deed, ownership of the property now reverts back to the Kilworth Family Foundations. Local advocates are concerned for the site as the buildings, including the historic lodge, currently sit vacant, unheated, and unmaintained. Local advocates also feel it is important for the property to remain as open space dedicated to education, as the Kilworths always intended. The camp has provided formative experiences for many over the years, and has the potential to continue as a meaningful and historic educational environment for the community if the right stewardship arrangement can be found.

By Jennifer Mortensen, Preservation Services Coordinator
Built of clay tile with stucco and brick veneer, the 1914 Steilacoom Train Depot was designed by noted local architect Arthur Potter Merrill. The construction of the railroad connected Steilacoom to Olympia and Portland to the south, and Tacoma and Seattle to the north, making it a travel destination for those nearby larger cities. The depot closed to passenger service in the 1960s and later completely closed when freight service to the depot ended in 1972. The property had been acquired by the Burlington Northern Railroad in 1970, after which it was mainly used for storage. In recent years, the building has been unused and unmaintained but remains in remarkably good condition.

Due to the addition of a second track along the waterfront and modern regulations, the depot is currently too close to the railroad tracks to be safely utilized. Local advocates would like to see the depot moved approximately 80 feet to the southeast onto a parcel currently owned by the Town of Steilacoom.

The Town is supportive of the plan, given the local partners are able to generate enough funding and support for the move and rehabilitation. The leading voice for the project, the Steilacoom Historical Museum, successfully rehabilitated the Nathaniel Orr House in 2002 and also manages several other historic buildings in town.

The relocation of the depot would keep the building within its historic context while giving enough clearance from the railroad tracks to allow for rehabilitation and ultimately public access. Due to its proximity to the waterfront, the adaptive use potential for the depot is high. Local advocates envision the rehabilitation of the depot as the first step toward a larger reclamation and beautification of the Steilacoom waterfront.

Built in 1914, East Seattle School is the oldest public building left on Mercer Island. The school’s Mission-style architectural details remain intact, including a terra cotta roof, a curvilinear parapet, and decorative brackets. Once located at the “town center,” the school was the heart of the Island’s community life for nearly 70 years. Construction of the I-90 floating bridge, however, brought a population boom to the Island in the 1950s and the commercial center of Mercer Island gradually shifted to its current location.

East Seattle School was declared a surplus building in 1982, but continued its role as a community gathering space for nearly 30 more years as the home to the Mercer Island Boys & Girls Club and various childcare centers. In 2007, private interests acquired the three-acre property, and while many objected to the transaction, others supported it because proceeds from the sale were used to construct a new Boys & Girls Club. As part of the deal, the new owner agreed to make no changes to the property for ten years. Now that those ten years have passed, the owner has applied for a demolition permit and will likely build single family housing on the site. Community members hoping to see the school preserved are working to find a solution that will satisfy the owner’s investment goals while keeping the legacy of East Seattle School alive through adaptive use.
ARLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL • ARLINGTON

Built in 1936, the old Arlington High School has been loved by generations of students. With its grand front entrances, streamlined architectural details, balconied auditorium, and original iron and glass skylights, it is a beautifully intact example of Art Deco architecture. In addition to its clear architectural value, the building features two murals from Washington artist Richard Correll, funded by the Works Progress Administration in 1940.

Until the completion of a new high school in 2007, this building was the hub of the Arlington community. Over the past decade, the school has housed a few community organizations, but now sits mostly vacant. There is an active need for a community center in Arlington, and with the school’s proximity to downtown and public transit, local advocates see the school as a perfect candidate for just such an adaptive use. Still in its historic configuration, the former school could easily accommodate Arlington’s non-profit and arts communities with studio and makers spaces, meeting and office spaces, educational and training spaces, and even a large performance venue.

BRUGGEMANN RANCH • HANFORD

After immigrating to the United States from Germany in 1926, Paul and Mary Bruggemann purchased a large ranch along the Columbia River in 1937. Agriculture flourished in the towns of White Bluffs, Hanford, Fruitvale, and Richland as large-scale, privately funded irrigation canals were constructed and thousands of acres of farmland were created. The Bruggemans became one of the most successful farming families in the region, but were evicted by the US Government in 1943 to make way for plutonium production. The copious supply of water from the Columbia combined with cheap, reliable power made the area an ideal location for the development of the Manhattan Project.

The pre-Manhattan Project history of the Hanford Reach area was nearly erased over the ensuing decades, but with the recent establishment of the Hanford Unit of the Manhattan Project National Historical Park, a new interest in uncovering the layered history of the site has developed. Only four structures remain from the pre-Manhattan era: Hanford High School, the White Bluffs Bank, the Allard Pumphouse, and the only privately built structure remaining, the Bruggemann Ranch cook house.

The Bruggemann site was once a substantial ranch with multiple structures and around 2000 acres of orchards, but now, only the cook house remains. The building is constructed of river cobbles and is the last surviving example of this once common architectural technique in the area. The cook house is currently unsheltered from the elements with no clear plan for preservation, and advocates are seeking to bring more attention to the importance of preserving the little physical history that remains. The nearby White Bluffs Bank was recently restored, and advocates would like to see the cook house also restored and used to interpret the pre-Manhattan Project history.

Because of its proximity to the Vernita Bridge, the northernmost access point to park, a restored cook house could logically serve as an entry point and interpretative space that could communicate the significance of the pre-Manhattan Project history to park visitors.
Another record-breaking RevitalizeWA is in the books! With 120 registered attendees, our 2018 preservation & Main Street conference was our largest yet. Our sincere thanks go out to the Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation, our partner in hosting the event, and especially to our local hosts at the Port Townsend Main Street Program, the City of Port Townsend, and many others in Washington’s charming Victorian seaport.

Port Townsend provided us with a unique opportunity to highlight preservation success stories, such as Fort Worden and Ebey’s Landing National Historical Reserve (on nearby Whidbey Island), as well as maritime history and trades. We stepped aboard the historic schooner Adventuress, toured the frozen-in-time upper floors of the Hastings Building, and walked the downtown district while learning about creating healthy places and people. Port Townsend was experiencing a major street rebuild during the conference, and we are proud to note that RevitalizeWA brought an influx of nearly $40,000 in local economic impact.

Additional highlights included Governor Inslee’s ResultsWA event; keynote speaker Nina Simon from the Santa Cruz Museum of Art & History; an ‘About Town’ version of the Monday night This Place Matters reception; our annual Excellence on Main Awards; and welcoming seven PreserveWA Fellows, young professionals and students interested in preservation and community revitalization, to participate in the conference. Thank you to the many sponsors, speakers, tour guides, and volunteers who contributed tremendously to the conference. We invite you to join us at the National Main Street conference, Main Street Now, taking place in March 2019.

Above: The Healthy People & Places tour, led by Samantha Thomas, included a walking audit of downtown Port Townsend.

Right: Nick Vann from the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation leads a tour to the Hastings Building in downtown Port Townsend as part of his session about Historic Tax Credits.

PreserveWA Fellows

For the second year in a row, the Washington Trust was proud to offer the PreserveWA Fellowship, which supports first-time attendance at RevitalizeWA. The Fellowship covers the cost of registration and travel assistance for students and young professionals with interest in gaining professional exposure to the fields of historic preservation and downtown revitalization.

This year we were pleased to extend the Fellowship to seven budding preservationists and community leaders with a wide range of interests including marketing, law, architectural design, community planning, and public history:

- Katlin Bowers, Spokane
- Katie Enders, Spokane
- Patrick Hanley, Cheney
- Adrianna Horsey, Spokane
- Victoria Peters, Bremerton
- John Rodezno, Seattle
- Alex Zeiler, Seattle

Each Fellow was matched with a professional in a field related to their interests to serve as a mentor throughout the conference. Fellows are encouraged to stay involved with the Washington Trust after RevitalizeWA, and we look forward to seeing where their educational and professional pursuits take them. The Washington Trust has also asked each Fellow to write an article for this publication either about what they learned as a first-time attendee of RevitalizeWA, or about a topic relevant to preservation or downtown revitalization. Read the first two articles by Katie Enders and Adrianna Horsey on pages 18-19 of this issue!

A special thanks to 4Culture for funding to support our King County Fellows and another special thanks to Spokane Preservation Advocates for funding support for our Spokane-area Fellows.
Washington State has a rare opportunity to host Main Street Now, the National Main Street annual conference, in Seattle next year! We will be taking a one-year hiatus from our own annual conference, RevitalizeWA, to host this national event. Main Street Now will bring valuable economic development and preservation resources to our backyard, as well as allow us to shine a bright light on the many exciting projects and initiatives taking place right here in Washington State.

The National Main Street Center is currently seeking education session proposals to showcase time-tested solutions and innovative ideas from our national network of practitioners, as well as those in adjacent fields who share in the goal of creating economic and social prosperity in downtowns and neighborhood commercial districts. The conference will be exploring three major themes: Managing Main Street, Elevating Local Leadership, and Celebrating Third Places.

Excellence on Main

The Excellence on Main Awards are organized by the Washington State Main Street Program to recognize communities, organizations, and individuals who are helping to create sustainable communities and economic vitality through downtown revitalization and preservation. Applications by Main Street Communities and Affiliates are accepted starting in February of each year and are awarded at RevitalizeWA.

BRICK & MORTAR REHABILITATION

The Polson Building, Mount Vernon

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

Historic Plaques & Wraps Project
Historic Downtown Chelan Association &
Lake Chelan Historical Society

SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Concerts on the Dock “Goes Green”
Port Townsend Main Street Program

OUTSTANDING PROMOTIONAL EVENT

Bunny Daze, Langley Main Street Association

ECONOMIC VITALITY

Salud! Wine Bar, Camas

ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR

Justin Dennis, Gig Harbor

OUTSTANDING SPECIAL PROJECT

Inside Out: Love Where You Live, Yakima

LEADERSHIP ON MAIN

Mari Mullen, Port Townsend

EXCELLENCE ON MAIN

Heritage Distilling, Gig Harbor

Congratulations to all our 2018 Excellence on Main Awardees! To view additional photos and read detailed descriptions of all our 2018 Excellence on Main Award-winners, please visit: facebook.com/WashingtonMainStreet

Upper: Port Townsend Main Street with the steel and clay reusable cups they made for their concerts on the Dock.
Middle: Justin Dennis, age 9, Washington Main Street’s Entrepreneur of the Year.
Lower: Justin and Jennifer Stiefel of Heritage Distilling won top honors at this year’s Excellence on Main Awards.
COMMUNITY THROUGH SHARED SPACE AND SHARED EXPERIENCES

By Adrianna Horsey, PreserveWA Fellow

My time in Port Townsend began on a ship. Monday morning, with local coffee in hand, it only seemed fitting for participants of the RevitalizeWA conference to begin our time in Port Townsend on the century-old National Historic Landmark sailing ship named the Adventuress. The Adventuress is only one of two historic sail boats still actively operating on the West Coast, and it lives into its adventurous name as an experiential-education ship for youth. Through day and overnight educational programs, students learn about marine life, marine ecosystems, and how to sail on the Pacific Ocean.

During the morning, we stepped into the shoes of crew members as we explored the characteristics of the ship, including the newly repaired deck and the impressive, sturdy sails, and learned what it’s like during an Adventuress excursion. Crammed below deck, the ship houses a kitchen (or galley), marine toilets, storage, and two cabins allowing for 28 people to sleep on the ship. Our tour guide (a crew member) walked us through the history of the ship, showing us pictures, and describing the voyage. After the tour, we had a chance to eat lunch on the ship and engage with the crew members. The Adventuress provides a sense of community created through shared space and shared experiences. It is that sense of community that leaves a lasting impact on all who board the ship.

As a student studying conflict resolution, I understand the influence that a sense of community can have on the ability for individuals, communities, and economies to thrive. A sense of community can build trust and value and can cultivate engagement. I traditionally view community development through lenses of my discipline, such as lenses of poverty, of minority population experiences, and of policy. However, I have rarely, if ever, viewed community development through the lenses of historic preservation or the Main Street Approach.

How helpful it is to do so!

Through the RevitalizeWA conference, I was exposed to many approaches various places have taken to allow their communities to thrive. I was particularly struck by the opening plenary speaker, Nina Simon, who directs the Santa Cruz Museum of Art and History. Simon extends the reach of her museum through recognizing her community’s demographics, exploring possible interests, and expanding the traditional role of museums. Through revamping and reaching beyond the traditional guise of the Santa Cruz Museum of Art and History, a downtown plaza was created alongside the museum which includes restaurants, a play area for families, and spaces for live music. The museum, which once struggled to remain relevant to its community, now thrives and engages Santa Cruz’s diverse population through creative approaches to community development.

Community development is a creative art. Through the integration of walking spaces, local shops and restaurants, public art, annual events, preserving historic buildings, and even ships, communities are creatively improving opportunities for shared spaces and experiences. As the historic and active Adventuress creates shared space and experiences, so may our communities do the same for all who enter our places.

PRESERVE PRESERVATION: ENCOURAGE YOUR LOCAL HISTORY MAJOR

By Katie Enders, PreserveWA Fellow

“Katie, you’re about to graduate with your bachelor’s degree. What was it in? Oh, History... What do you think you’re going to do with that?” If you majored in anything other than business, computer science, or engineering in college, then you have probably encountered this question before. As a non-STEM major, you become painfully familiar with the inside expression that crosses an inquisitor’s face when they are trying to decide if they should make the joke about majoring in underwater basket weaving or not. Honestly, I think underwater basket weaving sounds pretty cool, and I am done apologizing to people for my talents, interests, and career goals.

I am about to graduate from Eastern Washington University with a bachelor’s degree in history and an additional certificate in public history. My roommates are about to graduate with degrees in studio art and theater—let’s just say that our household is very familiar with the “what are you going to do with that useless degree?” question. Normally when people ask me this question, my eyes glaze over, and I robotically sputter out anything that sounds like a legitimate career. Archival work. Museum studies. Historic preservation. Maybe that’s a lie. I am interested in those fields, but mostly I’m just trying to avoid a fight, or worse yet, a lecture on how it will never get a job. These conversations are why including young professionals at events like RevitalizeWA is crucial for the future and success of the preservation field.

Getting the chance to attend RevitalizeWA as a fellow was exactly what I needed to complete my degree feeling inspired and excited about my future career. It was encouraging to see such a wide variety of people and projects all coming together for the sake of preservation. There was so much diversity at the conference. Even amongst the fellows, we had people with backgrounds in architecture, urban planning, marketing, and more. Seeing all of the different ways that a passion for preservation can translate to the job market was eye-opening. There were a lot of people I met that had jobs I didn’t know existed before the conference and hearing the stories about how they got to where they are today made me excited to have a story of my own someday.

My dream is getting to use the unique set of skills and knowledge I have acquired to connect a community of people to the history that surrounds them. I don’t know exactly what that looks like for me yet—and that’s okay. I’m not afraid to graduate. RevitalizeWA showed me that there is a vibrant and welcoming community of people that values preservation throughout my state and across the country. You have made me more determined than ever to work hard, preserve history, and connect my community to important stories in their past. Perhaps even more important than being determined, I am genuinely excited to see what the future holds for me. Thank you for inspiring me and allowing me to be a part of RevitalizeWA 2018!”

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Aboard the Adventuress at RevitalizeWA. Photo by Adrianna Horsey.
Main Street Matters

PROSSER

Small town, big dreams

By Jesalyn C. Cole, Executive Director, Historic Downtown Prosser Association

Nestled between the Horse Heaven Hills and the Rattlesnake Hills along I-82, you’ll find the distinct little town of Prosser, Washington. We are a community built on generations of hard work, loyalty, integrity, and pride. A few of our claims to fame include our wineries, Chukar Cherries, and our mighty Mustang High School athletics.

In 1882, Colonel William Farrand Prosser (who later became a Washington State Historical Society forefather) settled in the Yakima River Valley where he founded the town of Prosser. In 1893, an irrigation system that served 2,000 acres was built; and dry land wheat farming commenced in the Horse Heaven and Rattlesnake Hills. One year after that, the Northern Pacific Railroad laid tracks through the area. The City of Prosser was officially incorporated in 1899, and Prosser continued to grow. The irrigation system was increased by 12,000 acres and, in 1905, Benton County was formed with Prosser as its seat. In 1908, the Sunnyside Canal was extended to bring water to another 5,000 acres.

Today, Prosser thrives on an economy rooted in agriculture and tourism, boasting over 300 days of sunshine each year. The Historic Downtown Prosser Association (HDPA) was established in 2006 by community members dedicated to the preservation, enhancement, and revitalization of Prosser’s historic downtown core. There is always something going on downtown: live productions at the historic Princess Theatre, community Easter egg hunting and trick-or-treating, art and wine walks, Old Fashioned 4th of July celebration, States Day parade and festivities, Hot Air Balloon Rally and Harvest Festival, Streetscapes Classic Car Show, Pumpkin Palooza, and so much more! Our little town keeps active.

We may be small in population, but we dream big! Over the course of two years, HDPA and community members were involved in a large-scale visioning process that yielded specific project ideas involving art and downtown beautification with plants and landscaping. One project has already been completed through our mini-critter installments of small murals painted in thirteen locations throughout the downtown. Animals native to the area were selected and then painted in whimsical scenes by local artists for passersby to enjoy.

Other projects necessitate funding and so began the search for grant opportunities. We were excited to receive notification on May 11 that we were selected as a National Main Street Center ‘Made on Main’ $25,000 grant recipient! OneMain Financial funds six national grants annually to Main Street communities to complete specific projects within the town. We are very excited and thankful for the opportunity to see more visioning projects come to fruition because of this funding! From this grant, we will be investing in planters and native grasses for downtown and trash receptacles to finish a streetscape project begun years ago. Also included are new planter and banner brackets for our light poles to hang our flower baskets and start a banner program.

All of the ideas from the visioning process are meant to draw attention and investment into our historic downtown district, which is home to a high concentration of independent small businesses, such as Horse Heaven Saloon, Brewminatti, Sixth Street Art & Gift Gallery, and many more. Big things are happening in Prosser and we’d love for you to come and see!

Above: The Hot Air Balloon Rally and Harvest Festival. Photo by Brian Dewey.

historicprosser.com
Barns that have stood for a century or more hold a place of special esteem in the hearts and minds of barn lovers. And rightfully so. To be 100 years old means something. It means you are sturdy: the elements have a unique way of aging historic structures, and a barn that stands in the middle of a field for over a century is well built. It means you are resilient: livestock leans on you, maybe even chews you up a bit. You are flexible: uses vary over time, and additions may have been unceremoniously attached to you. Yet, you always come back to your original role of being a barn. Perhaps most importantly, it means people have cared enough to keep you around for 100 years.

This longevity of purpose and form on the landscape feeds into the pastoral mystique we share regarding our rural heritage. So when the opportunity arises to preserve a centennial barn for another hundred years, it is good fortune when those with stewardship responsibilities step up to accept the challenge. The historic Paquet Place barn in Columbia County exemplifies this good fortune.

Sitting just outside Dayton in the beautiful, rolling hills of the Palouse, the Paquet Place barn represents a transitional phase in Washington’s barn building history. Built around 1910, it is a Dutch barn in form with a broad, sweeping gable roof extending just beyond the vertical plane of the side walls. Structurally, it consists of a series of bents: wooden members connected to form the primary building block of post and beam structures. Where barns dating to the 19th century are often true timber-frame buildings, the Paquet Place barn is a mixture of peeled half-round logs and saw cut dimensional timbers combined to form truss-like elements supporting the roof.

Architectural jargon aside, the owners knew they had something special. Hoping to extend the life of the barn, they applied for funding through the state’s Heritage Barn Grant program in 2015. After successfully receiving a grant award, they got to work. Unfortunately, midway through the project a windstorm, not uncommon to the area, swept through. Work at the time involved replacing structural posts, leaving the barn at its most vulnerable; it essentially crumpled on itself.

Stricken but undeterred, the owners kept faith that the barn could be re-built. Fortuitously, they found a new contractor who shared their belief in the resiliency of hundred-year-old buildings. The contractors meticulously salvaged what they could, marking where specific structural elements needed to be placed as part of the reconstruction. Where replacement material was needed, the contractors utilized material salvaged from other area barns that could not be saved. Slowly but surely, the Paquet Place barn, known today as the Bar Z Ranch, assumed once again the form and shape it has held for the past 100 years. With continued care from the owners, a conscientious touch from the contractor, and support from the state’s Heritage Barn Grant Program, the Bar Z Ranch is poised for a bi-centennial celebration in about 90 years or so!

Grant funds through the state’s Heritage Barn Preservation Initiative were provided to support rehabilitation of the Paquet Place barn (Bar Z Ranch) during the 2015-17 biennium. The Heritage Barn Initiative is a program of the Washington State Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation (DAHP). Funding from the program has worked to preserve 83 Heritage Barns across the state. For more information, visit the DAHP website.
HERITAGE BARN GRANTS

Heritage Barn Preservation Initiative funds another round of rehabilitation projects for the 2017-2019 Biennium

The 2017-2019 biennium marks the 10th anniversary of the state’s Heritage Barn Preservation Initiative. Since establishment of the program back in 2007, over 720 historic barns across Washington have been designated as official Heritage Barns. There is at least one Heritage Barn in each of the state’s 39 counties (and over 60 in Skagit County alone). Collectively, these barns represent our state’s agricultural heritage and are beloved icons dotting our rural landscape.

Thanks to the legislature, since the 2007-2009 biennium, matching grants to support rehabilitation projects have been available to owners of designated Heritage Barns. Over 450 applications have been submitted to date, with just over 100 barns selected to receive funding. Total grant awards top $2.3 million – all to support preservation of Heritage Barns.

The Heritage Barn Preservation Initiative is a program of the Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation (DAHP) and for the sixth biennium running, DAHP has provided matching grants for barn rehabilitation projects. In June, the Heritage Barn Advisory Committee met in Olympia to review applications. Out of 66 applications, 21 projects were selected for funding:

- Old Owen’s Place, Benton County
- Hansen Homestead, Clallam County
- Lavender Connection, Clallam County
- Sherman Hog Barn, Island County
- Quaale Farm, King County
- Carlson Farm, Kitsap County
- Zuke Barn, Kittitas County
- Miles Barn, Klickitat County
- Frase Farm, Lewis County
- John R. Jackson Farm, Lewis County
- Phillip M. Mellott Homestead, Pend Oreille County
- Cox Farm, Pierce County
- California Ranch, Spokane County
- Hyslop Barn, Spokane County
- McDowell Farm, Spokane County
- Hahn Farm, Walla Walla County
- James Seitz Farm, Walla Walla County
- Curtis Ranch, Whitman County
- Old Sheep Camp, Whitman County
- William Cook Barn, Whitman County
- Marble Ranch, Yakima County

The Zuke Barn (Dunford Barn) in Kittitas County received funding for a full rehabilitation including drainage, structural stabilization, a roof replacement, and foundation repair.

Above left: The Hansen Homestead in Clallam County (now the Louella N. Lawrence Historic Organic Farm) received a grant to replace the shingle roof.

Right: The Old Sheep Camp in Whitman County, owned by McGregor Land and Livestock, received funding for the rehabilitation of the walls and roof of the Main Barn.
For your next challenge, can you identify the object it is from a boat. Simply Bridge 14, the structure crosses the mouth line that goes around Point Defiance near Tacoma’s and much of the steel work in 2004. Railway in 1913-1914 from designs by the Strauss York constructed the bridge for the Northern Pacific fame. The American Bridge Company of New York, New Heckscher submitted the vertical lift bridge as a This Place. Ken identified it as the railroad Renton who was the only person to submit a correct According to the website Former Washington Trust board member Gee & Janet Heckscher were discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility operated by a recipient of Federal assistance should... Opportunity Program, U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20240.

WHERE IN THE WA

We stumped everyone except Ken Johnson of Benton who was the only person who submitted a correct answer for the structure featured in our April 2018 issue of This Place. Ken identified it as the railroad bridge on the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) line that goes around Point Defiance near Tacoma’s Titlow Beach. Known as the Chambers Bridge or simply Bridge 14, the structure crosses the mouth of Chambers Bay, which separates University Place on the north and Steilacoom on the south. If you’ve ever taken the train from Seattle to Portland, you’ve crossed it, but about the only way to get a good look at it is from a boat. Former Washington Trust board member Gee Heckscher submitted the vertical lift bridge as a potential “Where in the WA” subject after discovering it while in search of the Steilacoom Train Depot on Google Maps. Through further online research, he learned that it’s a hybrid bascule and direct lift bridge designed and patented by Joseph B. Strauss of Golden Gate Bridge fame. The American Bridge Company of New York, New York constructed the bridge for the Northern Pacific Railway in 1913-1914 from designs by the Strauss Bascule Bridge Company of Chicago, Illinois. After 90 years of service, BNSF rebuilt the bridge’s foundations and much of the steel work in 2004. According to the website Historicbridges.org, the bridge is nationally significant as the only remaining Strauss Direct-Lift bridge in the United States with the only other known example of this type located in Canada at Prince George, British Columbia. This type of vertical lift bridge avoids the use of traditional towers and cables by combining the technologies of the bascule bridge with that of the lift bridge. The movable truss span rises up like any vertical lift; however, the lifting motion is controlled by two bascule-like counterweighted arms that are linked to the lift span and rotate around trunnions. A video posted by Rich Clark to the Railroad Photography group’s Facebook page shows the bridge in action. It turns out to be a fortunate coincidence that Gee found the Chambers Bay Bridge while looking for the Steilacoom Train Depot because their histories are intimately connected. The original route of the Northern Pacific Railway from Tenino to Tacoma traveled inland across the prairie east of the Nisqually River delta. Although the Prairie Line, as it was known, was a shorter and more direct route, it terminated in a steep grade down to Tacoma’s waterfront. Construction of the Point Defiance line along the edge of Puget Sound bypassed this difficulty with a water level route completed in December 1914. Both the Chambers Bay Bridge and the Steilacoom Depot were completed the same year as part of the new line. While the depot no longer serves passengers, the bridge continues to function as an engineering marvel.

View of the Chambers Bay railroad bridge from Chambers Creek Road with the Olympic Mountains in the distance.
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