

THE PRESERVATION POST



Clark County Historic Preservation Newsletter

Secure your future, care for our past

By Andrew Gregg

As we welcome 2011, Clark County's Historic Preservation Commission looks toward a new year of caring for and promoting our area's landmark buildings, properties, and places of longstanding cultural significance. Southwest Washingtonians, like virtually every other American citizen, are concerned with an uncertain future, economic instability, and changes that cannot reliably be predicted.

In Roman Mythology, the figure called Janus watched over time, gates, doors, and thresholds. Janus was pictured as a person having two heads. One head faced the past, and the other faced the future. In modern culture, we encounter that mythological god through his namesake month of January. Just as the first month ushers in a new year, we also look back, usually with mixed emotions, as the year that has recently concluded.

The Historic Preservation Commission is a collaborative venture. In addition to the five appointed volunteer commissioners, skilled professional staff members who represent the city, county and Washington State agencies provide indispensable support and guidance for the initiatives this body seeks collectively to achieve. 2010 has been a year of gratifying accomplishments. A highlight was April's Design Competition which featured architectural drawings and models of suggested downtown Vancouver

Preserving history provides lessons from our past

By Doug Wilson

The Historic Preservation Commission is dedicated to saving our most precious historic buildings, archaeological sites, and other properties in Clark County. It is through education, however, that the real public benefits of preservation are realized. At Fort Vancouver a new program was developed this year that demonstrates how preservation and education go together.

The Fort Vancouver Village is an archaeological site that formed the heart of the Fort Vancouver community in the

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buildings. The competition illustrated the possibilities of matching contemporary design with historic surroundings. In addition, an increased number of property owners successfully joined the role of Clark County Historic Places.

Please think of historic preservation as another domain for our mythological Janus. Just as owners of eligible historic properties regard their homes, offices, and other vintage structures with respect for their place in time, so too should they look toward the future of effectively maintaining them. In so doing, historic registry pays tangible, possibly remunerative future dividends to owners who take the time to record their property's cultural significance.

2011 would be the perfect year to discover how you might secure your future as you care for our past.

Andrew Gregg is Chair of the Clark County Historic Preservation Commission

1820s through the 1840s. During that time, Fort Vancouver was the colonial capital of the Pacific Northwest, directing through its trade, establishments, and employees, the economic and cultural life of the northwest. The hallmark of its village was the cultural diversity of its inhabitants. People from all over the world, including England, Scotland, Canada, Europe, America, Hawaii, and many American Indians from across the continent worked, lived, and raised families at the Village.

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Financial incentives for history property owners

By Jacqui Kamp

Clark County believes good land stewardship should be rewarded, including the preservation of our cultural and historic assets. Preservation of significant historic structures is needed so that current and future generations can appreciate our County's rich past and invest in our promising future.

Through its *Current Use* tax reduction and *Special Valuation* programs, Clark County has rewarded citizens' commitments to a healthy community and sustainable development. These benefits reward property owners who dedicate their property to Historic Preservation by listing them on the Clark County Heritage Register.

The *Current Use* program rewards historic property

owners by lowering the tax assessment for the underlying land of the structure. The *Special Valuation* program benefits property owners who make substantial improvements to historic buildings. "Special Valuation" is the revision of the assessed value of a historic property which subtracts, for up to ten years, such rehabilitation costs as are approved by the Historic Preservation Commission.

For more information about these two tax incentive programs, please contact the Historic Preservation program manager at (360) 397-2280 or visit the web site at www.clark.wa.gov/historic.

First cemetery listed on the Heritage Register!

By Jacqui Kamp

The Clark County Heritage Register is a list of properties that are significantly associated with the history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and/or cultural heritage of the community. In 2010, the Heritage Register added its first pioneer cemetery, the Sunnyside Cemetery.

The Sunnyside district was originally a settlement of Swiss and German immigrants. This small rural community has its own cemetery dating back to 1881 where many of the original settlers of the area are buried.

The one acre fenced site has 194 graves and is located about 1.5 miles from Washougal on Coffey Road at the crest of a hill overlooking the Washougal River Valley. The beautifully maintained park-like landscape resembles what the area looked like when it was first settled in the mid to late 19th century. High on the rolling hilltop, the

cemetery overlooks the past or present dairy farms of the Krohns, Kloningers, Saderwassers and Stauffers.

Many Swiss and German immigrants arrived in Washington and particularly in Washougal in the 1870s and 1880s. When they arrived, much of the land had been claimed so they moved northward to an area that was open to homesteading and settlement. As with many immigrants moving to America, they found comfort in living near and among those that shared their same language, values and culture. These Swiss and German pioneers came together and built a local dairy industry drawing on their agricultural heritage that supplied the insatiable demand for dairy products in the area.

The land for the cemetery was donated by one of the area's first settlers, Frederick Krohn. "Fritz" emigrated from Germany and came to the area in the 1870s and quickly started a family. His young children were the first burials at the cemetery.

Over time, other Swiss/German Sunnyside families asked permission to bury their kin there as well. Now, the cemetery holds 194 graves commemorating those early pioneers and their descendents. The Sunnyside Cemetery is significant for it is one of the last reminders of this Swiss/German cultural enclave in Clark County.



Sunnyside Cemetery, 2010

Historic projects win design awards

By Steve Kaiser

Two recent historical building projects were recognized by the 2010 Community Pride Design Awards program, where Clark County and the City of Vancouver annually recognize the enhanced public value of a variety of development projects. In 2010, 10 out of 17 nominated projects were recognized.

One of the top five winners was the Kiggins House Restoration. This project included the relocation of the historic Craftsman-style home, which was built in 1907, and once owned by John P. Kiggins, a former mayor of Vancouver. The home was moved in order to make way for the new public library, and was extensively re-modeled at its new location.

The awards jury was impressed that owners' Bruce and Judith Wood maintained and carefully refurbished existing historic elements of the home wherever possible, and new elements, while distinct from the original, were designed to harmonize with the original architecture.



Kiggins House, built ca 1907

Another project of historic interest, the Engage House 2 at Fort Vancouver Village, won special recognition for community pride. This project is a reconstruction of a home in Vancouver's first neighborhood, the Fort Vancouver Village. The building reconstruction is based on detailed research of traditional building practices culled from the historical record, as well as evidence from the archeological record.

According to the nomination form, "Historic accuracy is a
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Poor farm buildings evaluated, cemetery boundaries defined

By Jacqui Kamp

The Clark County poor farm and cemetery is a historic site that dates back to 1873 when a local resident settled a \$400 county judgment by deeding the county 100 acres of land. This property became the poor farm and a building was constructed to house the indigent.

Starting at the end of the 19th century, the poor farm on NE 78th Street maintained orchards, livestock and residence for the county's poor, homeless, elderly, and mildly disabled men and women until the 1940s.

An area on the west side of the property contains the remains of approximately 200 men, women and children. The cemetery accepted interments from 1913 to 1937. The 1966 plaque on the monument placed at the cemetery reads, "In life forsaken, in death forgotten, these unknown pioneers built our destiny."

This past spring, the poor farm buildings were evaluated

for National Register of Historic Places eligibility and the cemetery was surveyed both by SWCA, a Portland-based environmental consulting firm, through a grant funded by the Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation. The goal for the cemetery work was to create a clearer understanding of the physical boundaries of the burial site and its cemetery plots. The exact boundaries of the cemetery have been unclear for many years since there are no original grave markers visible on the site.

The investigation of the cemetery determined that the present chain link fence thought to surround the cemetery does not reflect the true boundaries of the cemetery in terms of the platted cemetery boundary recorded in 1913. Rather, the current fence line appears to encompass only the western half of the cemetery.

The evaluation of the poor farm buildings found that they are
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all eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places through their association with the late-nineteenth and early twentieth century poor farm relief programs maintained and operated by counties across the United States during that time. This was a system that was reorganized during the 1930s, before being largely done away with as a result of redundancy following the passage and implementation of social security legislation by the Roosevelt administration in the mid- to late- 1930s.

Another interesting and historically significant piece of information uncovered was that the main building was designed by the architectural firm of DeYoung and Roald, an important design firm in the Portland area during the 1920s. The building is contemporary with other Portland-area buildings which they designed, and are listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Such buildings include the new Heathman Hotel and Paramount Theater, both in downtown Portland.

The information derived from this historical documentation project has been critical in initiating future plans to



Main building, front entrance, facing NE 78th ca 1940

preserve and protect the history of this site. The county hopes to one day provide an interactive experience for the public to learn and experience the history of the Heritage Farm by exhibiting historic information along a pedestrian trail around the perimeter of the site.

Clark County hopes to preserve and enhance this irreplaceable historic heritage as a matter of public interest and general welfare so that its vital legacy will be maintained and enriched for present and future generations.

On the roofs of Officer's Row

By Doug Wilson

A recent presentation at the Historic Preservation Commission noted that, with the exception of the Grant House, roofs on Officers' Row had recently been replaced with three-tab asphalt shingles instead of restoring them to wooden or slate roofs, as might originally have graced them. Why? Why did the City and Fort Vancouver National Trust replace these roofs with a possibly less historically-correct type of roof instead of restoring the roofs to their likely original materials?



The Marshall House on Officer's Row, built ca 1886

The answer lies in the way in which historic preservation is defined. Many years ago, the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the National Park Service, developed the guidelines for the treatment of historic properties. There are four options that guide how we treat historic properties – **preservation**, which focuses on retaining as much original “fabric” (original materials) as possible through conservation, maintenance, and repair; **rehabilitation**, which is like preservation, but provides greater flexibility for replacement since the property is more deteriorated; **restoration**, which focuses on the retention of materials from the most significant time in the structure’s history, and **reconstruction**, which recreates non-surviving elements of the site, landscape, building, etc.

The houses on Officers' Row are a rehabilitation which facilitates the new uses of the buildings as offices and rental properties while preserving the historic fabric of the original buildings. For deteriorated roofs and other architectural elements, “replacement in kind” is the

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Summit Grove Lodge, once a popular rest stop for rich and famous

By Jacqui Kamp

The property on which the Summit Grove Lodge stands today was purchased in 1840 by Tom Headley. Shortly after purchasing the property, Headley turned the twenty-five acres into an eating house that included: wagon repair, feed sales and a small mill. **Headley's Camp** became the first established eatery in Washington Territory. Travelers stopped to rest and eat before crossing the Lewis River by barge.



Headley's Camp ca 1920s

Soon the automobile became a popular mode of transportation along Old Pacific Highway and for this reason a single gas pump was installed at Headley's Camp. In 1923, the name changed again to Headley's Auto Camp and Service Station where Headley served Shell gasoline to customers until 1924 when he sold the camp to Mr. and Mrs. William Marshall. William had previously been the Clark County Auditor and knew the area very well. William and his wife Mary had big dreams for the twenty five acre piece of land and in 1926 plans were completed for the Summit Grove Tavern and Park which included fifteen acres of park land.

Construction began in 1927 for the Tavern and its surrounding eight cabins. Each cabin built by the Marshalls had hot and cold running water, a fireplace, a bathtub and indoor plumbing. In 1931 another gas pump was added to the Shell Station. Also added, was a large gazebo used to host bands on the 4th of July.

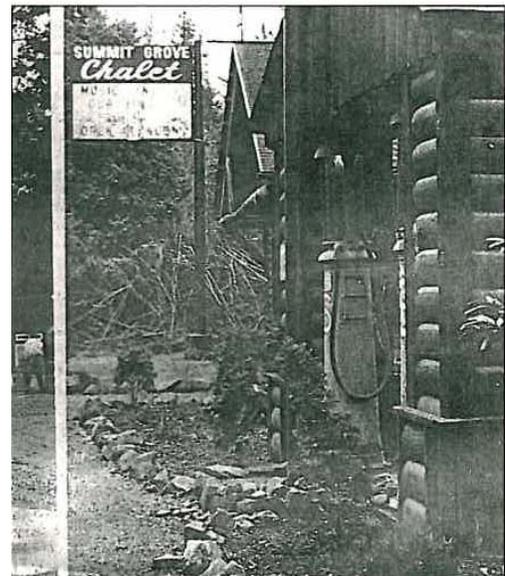
The Columbus Day Storm of 1962 crushed the cabins and repairs were made only on the main lodge. After William's death, Mary Marshall ran the Summit Grove Tavern until 1968 when she sold the twenty five acres to Mr. and Mrs. Carl Gardner. The Gardner's renamed it the Summit Grove Inn. In 1970, Roy and Byron Griffin bought the Inn and renamed it the Summit Grove Chalet. The Griffins owned the Chalet until 1982 when a fire caused severe damage to the inside of the



Summit Grove Lodge ca 2009

house.

In 2009, the Colf family of Woodland, Washington purchased the property and has been remodeling the historic structure. According to the property's web site, the family's roots in the



Summit Grove Chalet (gas pump) ca 1970s

area go back to 1870 when Andrew Jackson Birt settled in the Lewis River Valley. The family has long taken an active interest in bettering the local community through historic preservation projects that are in North Clark County and plan to re-open the Lodge to once again be a destination in Clark County.

The property has hosted some famous travelers during its time, which include President Roosevelt, Ulysses S. Grant, Shirley Temple, Jack Benny, Stan Laurel, Oliver Hardy, John Dillinger and Clark Gable.

Opening in 2011, the Lodge will host conventions, weddings, anniversaries and other celebrations. For more information, visit their web site www.summitgrovelodge.net

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hallmark of this building's construction, and it leaves very few signs of contemporary construction practices or material's". Special recognition was given owing to the fact that the project was completed through the volunteer work of more than 50 members of the community.

For more information about Clark County's Community Pride Design Awards, please visit:

<http://www.clark.wa.gov/commdev/prideawardsN.html>

Steve Kaiser, an architect and historic property owner, is a member of the Historic Preservation Commission.



Re-construction of Engage House 2 at Fort Vancouver Village

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preferred way to treat the building.

In the case of the Officers' Row houses, the replacement followed asphalt roofs that had been put on by the Army or Veterans Administration many years ago. The goal was to not create a false historical appearance, while maintaining the buildings' roofs compatible in size and scale to the original. Replacement of the roofs with a more historically-appropriate material would require a somewhat different philosophy, that of restoration.

Restoration would seek to accurately depict the form of each of the structures as it appeared at a particular period of time and would require additional historical, architectural, and perhaps even archaeological research and analysis to reconstruct the roofs the way they were in say the 1880s or 1910s.

"Preservation, which is our way of keeping our history alive for future Americans, deserves no less than our full support and dedication"

While each decision on preservation is inherently unique, in the absence of research, and if roofs are so deteriorated that they must be replaced, replacement in kind is the most appropriate way to treat historic buildings for preservation and rehabilitation.

In the instance of Officers' Row, the roofs had long been replaced and there was no existing original fabric left, making the obvious, appropriate decision one of rehabilitation of these magnificent homes which are made available for public use through adaptive reuse.

However, if you have sufficient information on the history of the house and it is fitting to recognize a particular historic time period over others, then you might entertain restoration or even elements of reconstruction. Preservation can take a number of forms and decisions on how to preserve must always be considered carefully. Preservation, which is *our* way of keeping *our* history alive for future Americans, deserves no less than *our* full support and dedication.

For more information on the web:

<http://www.nps.gov/hps/tps/standguide/>

Doug Wilson, an archaeologist with Fort Vancouver National Historic Site, is also Vice-Chair of the Historic Preservation Commission

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It is interesting to note that Clark County recorded history began with a very ethnically-diverse village that lived in relative harmony, and quite literally was instrumental in opening the floodgates of immigrants, industries, and all the other hallmarks that led from the industrial revolution to our modern world.

This year's program was tied to our archaeological field school, a partnership between the National Park Service, Portland State University, and Washington State University Vancouver. The field school uses science to inquire into the unique nature of this "first neighborhood" of Vancouver, while training a cadre of undergraduate and graduate students in the techniques of historical archaeology. This year's program was different from previous years, as Park interpretive and archaeology staff brought in disadvantaged and non-traditional youths to learn about the fort and its village.

Archaeology was a key component of this program because most of the people who lived in the Village were illiterate and left no written stories about their lives. Archaeology literally recovers that story through bringing

the tools, architecture, and other remains of the village back to the present and interpreting the context of these finds to discover past ways of life.

The Village is a critical lesson in the notion that history involves both the important leaders who were faced with difficult decisions and the people who toiled, lived, and worked to create the vision of the west. Making sure that people know that lesson is a goal of the staff of the fort.

So while you consider the preservation of a house or barn, archaeological site or cemetery, remember that your properties, whether an 1860s settlers house, a turn-of-the century barn, or a World War II bungalow, holds important lessons about the events, people, architecture, and history of the immense changes that have occurred over just 200 years, and the uniqueness of life and culture here in Clark County. Our preservation of these kinds of properties holds in trust these testimonials of our past for future generations of learners.

Doug Wilson, an archaeologist with Fort Vancouver National Historic Site, is also Vice-Chair of the Historic Preservation Commission

Places to visit, things to do

Discover Clark County's rich cultural heritage by visiting these sites of interest. For more information about hours of operation or tours, please see their web site.

Pomeroy Living History Farm 20902 NE Lucia Falls Road
Yacolt, WA

Experience 1920's farm life at the Pomeroy Living History Farm. Period dressed interpreters help visitors participate in farm activities such as grinding grain, washing clothes, feeding livestock and making rope at this farmstead registered on the National Register for Historic Properties.

www.pomeroyfarm.org/

Clark County Historical Museum 1511 Main Street
Vancouver, WA

The history of Clark County is on display at this Vancouver museum, which is housed in a former Carnegie Library. Built in 1909, this building is on the Clark County Heritage

Register and National Register of Historic places. Museum programs include changing exhibits, "First Thursday Museum After Hours", seasonal walking tours and annual family-friendly events. Also visit the Brautigan Library Collection, which includes nearly 400 unpublished manuscripts by multiple people and was inspired by the late author Richard Brautigan.

www.cchmuseum.org

North Clark Historical Museum 21416 399th Street Amboy,
WA

The North Clark Historical Museum shares the area's historical legacy through educational exhibits on American Indian culture, pioneer heritage & logging. The museum is in the old Amboy United Brethren Church, a beautiful church dedicated in 1910, and listed on both the National Register of Historic Places and Clark County Heritage Register.

www.amboywa.com/museum.htm

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**Clark County Historic
Preservation Program**

1300 Franklin Street
Vancouver, WA 98666

Phone:

360-397-2280

Fax:

360-759-6762

E-Mail:

Jacqueline.kamp@clark.wa.gov

Visit us at:

www.clark.wa.gov/historic

Cedar Grist Mill 43907 NE Grist Mill Road
Woodland, WA

The picturesque Cedar Creek Grist Mill is the only grain-grinding mill in Washington that has maintained its original structural integrity, grinds with stones, and is water-powered. Built in 1876, the mill has been fully restored as a working museum and is registered as a National Historic Site. www.cedarcreekgristmill.com/

Pearson Air Museum 1115 E 5th Street
Vancouver, WA

Aviation history is on display at Pearson Air Museum. Exhibition areas offer a stunning collection of vintage airplanes, interpretive displays, an interactive children's center, theater presentations and gift shop. Located at the oldest continually operating airfield in the U.S., the main exhibition area hosts special events and dances. www.pearsonairmuseum.org

Two Rivers Heritage Museum 1 Durgan Street
Washougal, WA

Located at the confluence of the Columbia River and Washougal River, this historical museum features the heritage of the Camas and Washougal area. Located across the street from the Pendleton Woolen Mills, a visit can be combined with a mill tour and shopping trip to the company store.

Clark County
Historic Preservation Program
c/o Community Planning
1300 Franklin Street
Vancouver, WA 98666



Resident
Street Address
City, ST ZIP Code