

# Contact at Priest Point: Archaeological Salvage at the Catholic Mission in Olympia A Talk at the State Capital Museum

## **When**

Monday, October 19, 2015  
12:00 noon

## **Where**

State Capital Museum Coach House  
211 – 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue SW  
Olympia WA

\$2 Suggested Donation

During environmental restoration of Mission Creek at Priest Point Park, archaeological remains were encountered. Initial excavations suggested potential for a Contact Era site with potential to inform on Native American and Mission cultures.



Although the regulatory agencies determined the site did not meet eligibility criteria for National Register significance, local archaeologists organized and salvaged artifacts from a 10 cubic yard sample of the site.

The resulting finds show a mixture of Salish and Euro-America artifacts dating from the 1840s-1870s. These, along with historical research, indicate that the site was likely associated with the tribal settlement that sprang up around the mission's school for Squaxin and other tribal children. The project also provided information about the historic alteration of the Budd Inlet shoreline.

Project director Maurice Major will describe the findings, and local archaeologists who participated in the volunteer project will also be on hand.