

CULTURAL RESOURCES REPORT COVER SHEET

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Title of Report: **COWLITZ COUNTY HISTORIC CONTEXT STUDY OF HISTORIC GRANGE HALLS**

Date of Report: 9-23-2024

County(ies): Cowlitz Section: 04Township: 09 Range: 01 E/W

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PDF of Report uploaded to WISAARD report module (REQUIRED) Yes

Historic Property Inventory Forms to be Approved Online? Yes No

Archaeological Site(s)/Isolate(s) found or amended? Yes No

TCP(s) found? Yes No

Replace a draft? Yes No

Satisfy a DAHP Archaeological Excavation Permit requirement? Yes # No

Were Human Remains Found? Yes DAHP Case # No

DAHP Archaeological Site #:

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COWLITZ COUNTY HISTORIC CONTEXT STUDY OF HISTORIC GRANGE HALLS

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Cowlitz County Building & Planning

September 23, 2024

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The attached “Cowlitz County Historic Context Study of Historic Grange Halls” survey report provides the background, including relevant historic contexts, for the survey of six extant working grange halls in Cowlitz County, which are primarily located along the Interstate 5 corridor. They are the six grange halls remaining from what were – cumulatively – 28 halls over the course of Cowlitz County’s history. The historic contexts begin with a brief accounting of the county’s location and setting and the relevant Native American history. An overview of the county’s general history follows, focusing on settlement, followed by major economic and natural events. The third section focuses on the history of the grange at the national, state and local levels. The local or subordinate grange levels includes an overview of the six extant granges in Cowlitz County and the Pomona Grange, which oversees them. It begins with the founding of the first grange in 1874 and culminates with major accomplishments over time. The fourth section provides an architectural context for the granges, including their design, design guidance from the National and Washington State Grange, and other factors that determine their appearance today. The history of granges informs the significance of the historic resources, and historical research and field work, documented in the attached site forms, informs the discussion of integrity. The conclusions of the investigation are that the granges of Cowlitz County are significant for their role in the history of their respective local communities, which corresponds to Criterion A in the National Register of Historic Places, and that the buildings retain integrity if they retain the design of their central hall, which corresponds to Criterion C. The central hall is where the rituals and business of the granges take place, according to custom and practice. The six subordinate granges of Cowlitz County are historically significant and retain integrity. The Pomona Grange, which oversees the work of the local granges, does not have an associated building and was therefore not included as part of the survey.

Diana Painter is a qualified architectural historian whose credentials meet the Secretary of the Interior’s Professional Qualification Standards in the area of Architectural History (36 CFR Part 61). Ms. Painter holds a PhD in Architecture and a Master’s Degree in Urban Design/Urban Planning and has over 40 years of professional experience in historic preservation and urban design. Ms. Painter is the owner of Painter Preservation, a full-service historic preservation consulting firm established in 2002. She is listed as an architectural historian on the roster of consultants on file in numerous states throughout the west coast.

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COWLITZ COUNTY HISTORIC CONTEXT STUDY OF HISTORIC GRANGE HALLS

PART I – INTRODUCTION

This survey report for the “Cowlitz County Historic Context Study of Historic Grange Halls” project was solicited as a Request for Proposals on May 3, 2024 and was awarded to Painter Preservation on May 30, 2024. Cowlitz County became a Certified Local Government in 2016. Since then, and as a result of funding from the Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP), Cowlitz County has undertaken several important projects to increase awareness and understanding of Cowlitz County’s history, natural history, and architectural heritage. This, the county’s most recent project, documents six grange halls in Cowlitz County and the history of the grange in Cowlitz County and beyond.

Historic contexts

The historic contexts for this survey report are found in Part II – Historical Overview, which contains a brief overview of the county’s early history, beginning with its Native American history, and Part III. The latter provides an overview of the National Grange, particularly as it shaped the founding of local or subordinate granges; the Washington State Grange, which has a distinct history separate from the National Grange; and the grange movement in Cowlitz County.¹ Part IV of the report is the Architectural Context, which provides background on the guidance over time from the National and Washington State granges on the design of granges and a discussion of the granges as they exist in Cowlitz County today. A bibliography follows. The Historic Preservation Inventory (HPI) forms for the survey, along with attachments on the history of the individual buildings, where available, are found in the Appendices. Also attached is a comprehensive list of granges in Cowlitz County by Joan LeMieux organized by the date of their charter. See Figure 1 for a map of the cumulative granges over time.

This survey report meets the *Washington State Standards for Cultural Resources Reporting*, reissued on April 19, 2023 by the Washington State DAHP. It also follows guidance established in the National Park Service’s *National Register Bulletin 15, How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*.²

Location and setting

Cowlitz County is located in southwest Washington State. It shares a border with Lewis County to the north, Skamania County to the east, Clark County to the south on the east side, and Wahkiakum County to the south on the west side. Also on the southern border on the west side is the Columbia River and beyond that, Oregon’s Clatskanie County. To the east, separating western and eastern Washington, is the Cascade Range. One of the best known landmarks in the area is Mt. Saint Helens, which is just beyond the eastern boundary of the county. A major river in Cowlitz County, in addition to the Columbia River that forms a portion of its southern boundary, is the Cowlitz River, which drains from the Cascade Mountains and traverses Lewis

¹ A history of the Pomona Grange by Lila LaVerne Bebe is in the Appendix B of this report.

² Patrick W. Andrus, *National Register Bulletin 15, How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*. Washington DC: US Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Cultural Resources, 1997:46.

County before meeting the Columbia River south of Longview. The Toutle River is just south of the northern border of Cowlitz County. The Pacific Ocean is about 63 miles west of the center of Cowlitz County. Interstate 5 runs north-south within the county measuring approximately 37 miles from the north boundary with Lewis County to the southern tip of the county. The closest major city is Portland, Oregon, to the south.

The county is 1,166 square miles in size and had a population of 110,730 people in 2020. Incorporated cities are Castle Rock; Kalama; Kelso, the county seat; Longview, the largest city; and Woodland, which also extends into Clark County. There are additionally numerous unincorporated communities in Cowlitz County, among which are Pleasant Hill, Rose Valley, and Silver Lake, all of which host grange halls.

Methodology

Field work for the reconnaissance level survey that was completed as part of this project was conducted on July 9, 2024, with follow-up field checks on July 10, 2024. On July 9th, Diana Painter also met with Adam Trimble, Senior Policy Outreach Planner for Cowlitz County and the project manager for this project. We also met with members of the Cowlitz County Historic Preservation Commission and members of the various granges while visiting the granges. While in Cowlitz County Painter met with Bill Walton, Curator for the Cowlitz County Historical Museum and conducted research in the museum's archives. Research was also conducted at the Manuscripts, Archives & Special Collections archives at Washington State University, Pullman, Washington.

Additional sources of information were found in Cowlitz County, City of Castle Rock, and City of Woodland building permit records. Key sources of information on the history of granges in the Pacific Northwest were Holly Taylor's *Grange Halls in Washington State: A Critical Investigation of a Vernacular Building Type* (2012) and Tricia Canaday's *National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, The Grange in Idaho* (2012). An important source of information for Cowlitz County's granges was Joan LeMieux's article, "The Grange in Cowlitz County, A History of the Patrons of Husbandry," (2007), which provides a comprehensive list of granges in Cowlitz County and a profile of several of the extant granges at that time. Another informative publication was Gus Norwood's *Washington Grangers Celebrate a Century* (1988).

Property narratives

The Property Narrative is found in the HPI forms in the Washington State Wisaard database and in the Appendices to this survey report. They begin with a Statement of Significance. The Statement of Significance is the same for all six grange properties in Cowlitz County, reflecting their shared history and physical characteristics. This is followed by a Physical Description. This begins with a description of the individual building's location, followed by an architectural overview of the building, and then a description of the building face-by-face, walking in a counter clockwise manner. "Changes over time" follows the building description, noting changes to the exterior only. This is followed by a brief account of the building interior, noting the location of the major components. Lastly, the immediate setting or the grounds of the building are noted. The final section of the narrative is a bibliography tailored to the individual building. A comprehensive bibliography follows this survey report.

PART II - HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

Cowlitz County's first inhabitants

The Cowlitz Indians were the largest of the tribes occupying the Cowlitz County region before European contact. The Cowlitz, who traditionally occupied what is now south-central Washington State, became divided into four bands in the early 19th century, distinguished by their geographic location, language, and lifeways.³ The Lower Cowlitzes occupied the middle and lower courses of the Cowlitz River, which bordered the Columbia River, the river's tributaries, and adjacent lands. They were associated with a reliance on salmon fishing. The Mountain Cowlitzes and associated tribes lived on the upper reaches of the Chehalis River. The Upper Cowlitzes lived on the upper Cowlitz River and below Mount Rainier. They also intermarried with the Shahaptian-speaking Klickitats, whose homeland was east of the Cascade Mountains. The Upper Cowlitzes were known for traveling and hunting for mountain game and for their horsemanship, as were the Lower Cowlitzes and the Mountain Cowlitzes. The Lewis Cowlitzes, so-called because of their location on the Lewis River, were also affiliated with the Klickitats and adopted their language.⁴

At the time of first contact with Europeans and Americans, it is estimated that there were as many as 6,000 tribal members who lived in about 30 villages along the Cowlitz River and its tributaries.⁵ Tribes closer to the Columbia River were known as the Chinooks. The Cowlitzes, like other Native Americans, were decimated by diseases introduced by explorers (Europeans and Americans) and their populations dwindled in the 1830s, primarily due to exposure to smallpox in 1829-1830. It is estimated that as much as 98% of the Cowlitz population was lost at this time.⁶ In 1838 some tribal members were vaccinated by the Catholic Church Anglican minister Rev. Herbert Beaver; others were vaccinated by the Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) medical officer.⁷

The Cowlitz attended the Chehalis River Treaty negotiations with Washington Territorial Governor and Superintendent of Indian Affairs Isaac I. Stevens in 1855. They did not, however, sign the proposed treaty, objecting to being forcibly removed from their traditional territory to a federally then established reservation.⁸ Some were located on a temporary reservation on the lands of Simon Plamondon, a former HBC employee who was the first settler on Cowlitz Prairie.⁹ Others were confined at Fort Vancouver and still others were relocated to the Yakama Reservation in 1860.¹⁰ The federal government offered the Cowlitz lands for public sale on March 20, 1863 and attempted to locate the Cowlitz Indians to the Chehalis reservation. They did not, however, accept this.

³ Robert H. Ruby, John A. Brown, and Cary C. Collins, *A Guide to the Indian Tribes of the Pacific Northwest*, Third Edition. Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 2010 (1986):110.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ David Wilma, "Cowlitz County - Thumbnail History," *HistoryLink.org*, accessed July 2024:1.

⁶ Tanna Engdahl, "In the Beginning – Cowlitz," *Cowlitz Indian Tribe, The Forever People*. <https://www.cowlitz.org/our-story>, accessed July 2024. Robert Ruby, et al., estimates that the tribal population was as low as 600-700 people in the 1850s.

⁷ Ruby, 2010:112.

⁸ "Final Determination On The Recognition Of The Cowlitz Indian Tribe," (press release). Washington DC: U.S. Department of the Interior, Indian Affairs, February 14, 2000. <https://www.bia.gov/as-ia/opa/online-press-release/final-determination-recognition-cowlitz-indian-tribe>, accessed September 2024.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Ibid.

The tribe would eventually rally but was nonetheless subject to pressures resulting from White settlement, which included treaty pressures, tribal warfare, the incoming White populations, and land confiscation. The scattering of Cowlitz families disrupted the communal lifestyles that had traditionally characterized the tribe.¹¹ The tribe reorganized in 1912 and resumed some of its cultural traditions.

The tribe applied for federal recognition by US President Calvin Coolidge in 1923 but were denied. The federal government feared that acknowledgment would require reparations for the vast amount of land taken from the tribe and given to White settlers. On April 12, 1973 the Indian Claims Commission awarded the tribe \$1,550,000 for loss of their land, a claim that had first been filed in 1904, although as of 2000 it had not been disbursed.¹²

Federal recognition was finally awarded in 2000 and upheld after two years of appeals.¹³ The Cowlitz received their first reservation in March 2015, 42 years after the claim had been awarded. It consists of 152 acres near Ridgeville in Clark County, Washington. Today many of the cultural traditions enjoyed by the Cowlitz historically have been reinstated, including Smelt, Salmon and River Ceremonies and the tribe's Pow Wow is one of the largest in southern Washington.¹⁴

Today Cowlitz Indian Tribe's Cultural Resource Department houses the Tribal Historic Preservation Office or THPO, which identifies, protects and preserves historic resources and traditional cultural properties or landscapes of interest to the Cowlitz Indian Tribe. Cultural programs include a language revitalization program and oversight over other ceremonial programs.¹⁵ The tribe owns and operates the ilani casino and event space near La Center, Washington. It undertakes numerous other economic development projects and provides medical services, housing assistance, and other social services for the tribe. In 2000 the tribe had 1,482 enrolled members.¹⁶

Early exploration of the region

The first Europeans to visit what is today Cowlitz County were British seafarers, one of the first being Royal Lieutenant William R. Broughton of the Royal Navy, who was part of the Captain George Vancouver Expedition of 1792.¹⁷ The US Army's Corps of Discovery led by Lewis and Clark paddled down the Columbia River but were discouraged from going further up the Cowlitz River by a local Indian. Nonetheless they mapped the mouth of the Cowlitz River and camped near the mouth of Kalama Creek.¹⁸ The first permanent settlers were from the HBC at Fort Vancouver, who arrived in 1823. The first white man credited with going up the Cowlitz River was HBC Factor George Simpson in 1828. Nearby Canadian Simon Plamondon established

¹¹ Engdahl, "In the Beginning . . .", <https://www.cowlitz.org/our-story>, accessed July 2024

¹² Ruby, 2010:113. "Final Determination On The Recognition Of The Cowlitz Indian Tribe," (press release). Washington DC: U.S. Department of the Interior, Indian Affairs, February 14, 2000. <https://www.bia.gov/as-ia/opa/online-press-release/final-determination-recognition-cowlitz-indian-tribe>, accessed September 2024.

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Engdahl, "In the Beginning . . .", <https://www.cowlitz.org/our-story>, accessed July 2024

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ "Final Determination . . .", February 14, 2000.

¹⁷ Wilma, 2005:1.

¹⁸ Ibid.

Cowlitz Farms to support HBC employees, and in 1841 Lieutenant Charles Wilkes traveled down the river as part of the US Exploring Expedition.¹⁹

Early settlement

The maritime fur trade was at its height in the 1820s, participated in by rivals the British HBC and the Americans, both with assistance from local tribes. In Cowlitz County, furs were shipped down the Cowlitz River to the Columbia, from which they were shipped world-wide. Trappers and others were served from the Fort Vancouver subposts at Cowlitz Farms and Nisqually Farms. Cowlitz Landing was the head of navigation on the river. Shipping would stop here and resume with pack horses on a 60-mile trail to Puget Sound.²⁰

Used heavily by the HBC. Simon Plamondon, a retired employee of HBC, settled north of Cowlitz Landing on the request of HBC Chief Factor John McLoughlin and began farming in 1837. Large scale farming began when the HBC established the Cowlitz Farms east of Plamondon's property. At its peak the farm encompassed 4,000 acres, with Plamondon as the superintendent.²¹

As the fur trade declined, white settlement ascended. Settlement began in the mid-1840s as emigrants from the eastern US traveled to Fort Vancouver. The first settlement occurred along the tributaries that feed the Columbia River at Monticello, near present-day Longview. In general, however, white settlers tended to locate south of the Columbia River, in the Willamette Valley. Early settlement to the north of the river was dominated by the British.²² The area north of river was known as the Northern Oregon Territory in early days and the precincts were Clark, Lewis and Pacific Counties.

In 1852 settlers from the Cowlitz and Puget Sound regions drafted a petition calling for a separate territory north of the Columbia River and the 46th parallel, carving it out of the existing Oregon Territory.²³ The resulting territory eventually became Washington Territory, encompassing the two counties that were eventually known as Lewis and Clark county. Cowlitz County was created by the Washington territorial government from the southwestern portion of Clark County in 1854. Its boundaries that were formed at that time have remained relatively stable to this day.²⁴

Cowlitz County was one of the original counties in Washington Territory and Kelso was among the early settlements. The City of Kelso, which is the address of three of the granges documented in this survey, was platted in 1884 by the first American settler, Scottish surveyor Peter W. Crawford, who established a Donation Claim on the left bank of the Cowlitz River in 1847.²⁵ Today Kelso is the county seat, named in 1923. The largest city in Cowlitz County is Longview, with a population of 37,818 in 2020. Other incorporated cities include Castle Rock,

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ This would eventually become the route of the Pacific Highway.

²¹ Curt Cunningham, "The Cowlitz Landing," *The Historic Pacific Highway in Washington*, <https://www.pacific-hwy.net/>, accessed July 2024:4.

²² Cunningham, <https://www.pacific-hwy.net/>, 6.

²³ "Washington Territory," *Wikipedia*, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Washington_Territory, accessed September 2024.

²⁴ Wilma, 2005.

²⁵ Ibid.

Kalama, which was established by the Northern Pacific Railroad in 1872, and Woodland. Unincorporated communities associated with this survey are Pleasant Hill, Rose Valley, and Silver Lake.

Industries in Cowlitz County

Industry in Cowlitz County was historically dominated by logging and lumber milling, and shingle production, and included two of the largest facilities in the world, owned by the Weyerhaeuser Company and Long-Bell Lumber until the 1960s.²⁶ Kelso was also known for its smelt fishing. Other industries in Cowlitz County included farming and dairying.

In early years industries in the area became associated with Portland and Astoria, rather than the rest of Washington Territory, due to the fact that steamers on the Columbia River were the main source of transportation. The Northern Pacific Railroad was connected to the transcontinental railroad through the founding of a branch line from Kalama through Kelso and on to Tacoma in 1872.

Robert Alexander (R.A.) Long established the Long-Bell Lumber Company in 1919 after buying stands of timber in Cowlitz County from Weyerhaeuser near the mouth of the Cowlitz River. He hired developer J.C. Nichols to design the planned community of Longview, which was to house 4,000 workers and their families.²⁷

What became the largest mill in the world opened in June 1924 as the Long-Bell mill. Weyerhaeuser opened a mill nearby in 1929, which became the region's largest employer. The mills suffered during the Great Depression. The economy improved briefly however during World War II. Reynolds Metal Co. founded an aluminum plant in Longview, benefiting from cheap hydroelectrical power from the Columbia River dams. The plant employed 500 people during World War II. In 1956 R.A. Long's heirs merged the company with International Paper. In 1960, however, the Long-Bell plant was no longer profitable and it was closed and demolished.

Recent history

The eruption of Mount St. Helens on May 18, 1980 was a natural disaster of the highest magnitude in Skamania County, surpassing regular flooding in Cowlitz and Skamania counties. It filled the Cowlitz River with melted ice and snow, mud, debris and silt, raising the level of the river 12 feet and impacting shipping on the Columbia as well.²⁸ Today Cowlitz County hosts the attractive Mount St. Helen's Visitor Center, a Washington State Park in Castle Rock with trails and exhibits.²⁹

Interstate 5 opened in the 1960s, facilitating Cowlitz County's new role as a bedroom community for Portland. Connected the county to the Puget Sound area to the north as well. As

²⁶ "Longview, Washington," *Wikipedia*, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Longview,_Washington, accessed September 2024.

²⁷ Wilma, 2005:3.

²⁸ Wilma, 2005.

²⁹ "Functioning as the gateway to the National Forest Service monument, Mount St. Helens Visitor Center will entice you with scientific displays, a movie theatre and educational opportunities." Mount St. Helen's Visitor Center, <https://parks.wa.gov/mount-st-helens-visitor-center>.

of 2020 the population of Cowlitz County was 110,730. The county's major city of Longview had a population of 37,818 and Kelso, the County seat, had a population of 12,720.

PART III – THE GRANGE IN COWLITZ COUNTY

PART III a – The National Grange

Founding the grange

The grange was founded in Washington DC in 1867, just after the Civil War, by seven men and one woman. Oliver Hudson Kelley, who was based in St. Paul in Minnesota Territory at the time, led the founding of the National Grange. With no farming experience, he and his wife established a farm and commenced experimenting with new crops, the latest farming techniques, and mechanical advancements in farm equipment in Minnesota. Kelley also became involved in political matters. Believing that it was important to facilitate communication and encourage alliances among farmers, he established the Minnesota Territorial Agricultural Society in 1854. In 1864 the enterprising Kelley accepted a position from the US Commissioner of Agriculture Isaac Newton and commenced a career in Washington DC, during which he occasionally revisited his farm in Minnesota.

Kelley founded the grange, which is formally known as The Order of the Patrons of Husbandry, in December 1867. The other founding members, all based in Washington DC, were William Saunders,³⁰ Aaron B. Grosh, John Trimble, John H. Thompson, Francis McDowell, and William M. Ireland, with assistance from Caroline Hall. Hall, the niece of Kelley's wife, moved to Washington DC when Kelley located there to continue helping him; she was later given the position of Ceres on the board. The strong role of women in the organization can be attributed to her involvement.³¹ The organization was the nation's first nationwide farm organization. The first two local or subordinate granges were founded in 1868 in Washington (Potomac Grange #1) and in Fredonia, Chataqua County, New York (Fredonia Grange #1). Minnesota's Northstar Grange #1 was also founded in 1868.³² Within two years, Minnesota had 40 grange chapters and a state organization.

After he lost his farm (temporarily) to foreclosure in 1871, Kelley moved to Washington, DC, to become the fulltime secretary of the grange. By 1873 the US had approximately 9,000 chapters with nearly 700,000 members.³³ In 1875 membership reached 860,000 members in 21,000 granges.³⁴ The grange's major concerns were falling crop prices and the exorbitant shipping and warehousing rates charged by the monopolistic railroads.³⁵ The grange's motto was, "In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity."

³⁰ William Saunders, a Scottish landscape designer and horticulturist, was well known for his designs for large estates, cemeteries, parks, and the Lincoln Memorial. The US Department of Agriculture appointed Saunders superintendent of its propagating gardens in Washington DC in 1862. "Pioneer William Saunders, 1822 – 1900," *The Cultural Landscape Foundation*, <https://www.tclf.org/pioneer/william-saunders>, accessed September 2024.

³¹ Joan LeMieux, "The Grange in Cowlitz County, A History of the Patrons of Husbandry," *Cowlitz Historical Quarterly*, Volume 49, Number 3, September 2007:7. Caldbick, John, "Washington State Grange," *HistoryLink.org Essay 10717*, posted 3/03/2014.

³² Taylor, 2012:30.

³³ "Oliver Kelley," *Minnesota Historical Society*, <https://www.mnhs.org/kelleyfarm/learn/oliver-kelley>, accessed September 2024.

³⁴ "History, A Timeline of the Grange," *Oregon Grange*, <https://orange.org/discover-the-grange/history-of-the-grange/> accessed August 2024.

³⁵ Ibid.

The growth of farms in the western US and increases in land under cultivation or in use as rangeland was particularly pronounced, driving the growth of granges. At the mid-19th century this was due in part to the Donation Land Act of 1850 and the Homestead Act of 1862.³⁶ An additional factor was the development of the transcontinental railroads, beginning in the 1860s, which made more land accessible and aided farmers in reaching eastern markets. The mechanization of farming also contributed to increases in production and resulted in the growth of the grange in the west.³⁷

The grange took an active role in political spheres, particularly as it affected business. In 1876, the Supreme Court ruled in *Munn vs. Illinois* that regulating railroads and other monopolies was in the public interest.³⁸ It was argued that the states may regulate the use of private property "when such regulation becomes necessary for the public good," which affected railroad shipping rates and the rates for the use of warehouses and grain elevators. The early actions centered in Illinois and came from the Illinois State Grange, the Illinois State Farmers' Association, a farmer-sponsored Producers Convention in early 1870, and *Prairie Farmer*, one of the oldest farm papers.³⁹ The 1871 Illinois law requiring grain warehouses and elevators to apply for a license and charge no more than the rates allowed made its way to the Illinois Supreme Court in 1873 and then to the US Supreme Court, where it was determined lawful and that states legislatures were within their rights to regulate railroads.⁴⁰

In general, it asserted government sovereignty at the state and federal level for the use of governmental authority to regulate business for the common good.⁴¹ This was passed into law with the Interstate Commerce Act of 1887. According to historian Gus Norwood, this constituted a tribute to early Grangers and to the spontaneous, grass-roots movement in which free Americans reasserted their sovereignty through representative governments, as well as a reassertion for the rule of law as against business monopoly.

The *Munn v. Illinois* decision became the legal foundation for the state regulation of public utilities and 'reasonable regulation for the common good.'⁴² It also was translated into law by the passage by Congress of the Sherman Antitrust Act of 1890, which states, "Every contract, combination in the form of trust or otherwise, or conspiracy, in restraint of trade of commerce among the several states, or within foreign nations, is hereby declared illegal."⁴³

The passage of the Interstate Commerce Act of 1887 was declared the Grange's greatest victory by Judge Thurman Arnold of the US Court of Appeals, who served as the head of the Antitrust Division of the US Department of Justice and advisor to President Franklin Roosevelt

³⁶ These federal acts allowed American citizens to claim up to 320 acres of land in the public domain. Many drawn to the west and to free or cheap land were immigrants and city dwellers. (Taylor, 2012:7-8.7).

³⁷ Taylor, 2012:8.

³⁸ "History, A Timeline of the Grange," *Oregon Grange*, accessed August 2024.

³⁹ Gus Norwood, *Washington Grangers Celebrate a Century*. Seattle, WA: Washington State Grange, 1998:29.

⁴⁰ Norwood, 1998:30.

⁴¹ Four law students wrote up this decision in four essays in 1966, which were presented to the National Grange in 1967 as a 100-page booklet, "Legal and Economic Influence of the Grange 1867-1967." Norwood, 1998:30.

⁴² Norwood, 1998:31.

⁴³ Norwood, 1998:32.

on antitrust matters during the Depression years. ‘Grange’s greatest victory was a victory for all Americans.’⁴⁴

Continuing into the first two decades of the 20th century, the grange secured the passage of legislation to protect the political and economic rights of farmers and consumers including: the Hatch Act creating ‘Experimental Stations’ at state colleges of agriculture (1887),⁴⁵ elevation of the U.S. Department of Agriculture to the President’s Cabinet (1889), the Sherman Anti-Trust Act (1890), rural free delivery mail service (1901), the first legislation promoting ethanol as a motor fuel (1906), the Pure Food and Drug Act (1906), direct election of U.S. Senators (1913), the Smith-Lever Act for vocational education (1914), the Clayton Anti-Trust Act (1914), and Universal Suffrage (1919).⁴⁶

Organization of the grange

Organizationally, the grange has offices at the national, state, county or regional (Pomona), and local (subordinate) levels in a hierarchal arrangement. Many of the ritualistic practices are influenced by Freemasonry; Oliver Kelley and other founding members of the grange were masons. The rituals seen in Freemasonry and other fraternal societies that were widely popular in the 1800s such as the International Order of the Odd Fellows (1819) also emulated the masons, as it was felt that the rituals and initiation practices promoted stability and social cohesion.⁴⁷ It was believed that they bound members together and provided a common basis of experience for all members.⁴⁸ The Grange differed from other fraternal organizations, as well as later service organizations such as the Rotary Club (1905), Kiwanis Club (1915) and Lions Club (1917), however, in that their goal was to serve farmers; they admitted both men and women to the organization; and they embraced a ‘multi-dimensional’ purposes that touched on social, political, economic, and educational spheres.⁴⁹ Its symbols, which included the hoe, the pruning knife, the sickle, the ax, the plow, the harrow, and the spade, were also agricultural in their origins.⁵⁰ Grange membership was restricted to farmers until the 1890s. The first non-farmers that it admitted were ministers and teachers.⁵¹

The local or subordinate grange is the basic unit of organization for the grange, which can be established where at least thirteen interested people wish to found a grange and initiates a charter. Each grange has its own officers and manages its own “community matters.” At the regional or county level is the Pomona Grange, which oversees the subordinate granges. In Cowlitz County the Pomona Grange was proposed by C.N. Hogan, the first Master of the Pleasant Hill Grange, at the Washington State Grange Convention in 1904 and organized in

⁴⁴ Norwood, 1998:29.

⁴⁵ Washington’s Land Grant College is Washington State University, which has experimental stations in Mount Vernon, Prosser, Puyallup and Wenatchee. “Office of Research,” *Washington State University*, <https://cahnrs.wsu.edu/research/centers-facilities/re-centers/>, accessed September 2024.

⁴⁶ “History, A Timeline of the Grange,” *Oregon Grange*, accessed August 2024.

⁴⁷ Others established after the Civil War included the Knights of Pythias (1864), the Ancient Order of United Workman (1868), the Ancient Order of United Workmen (1868), the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks (1868) and the Knights of Labor (1869). These were followed in the Loyal Order of the Moose (1888), The Woodmen of the World (1890), and the Fraternal Order of Eagles (1898). Taylor, 2012:11.

⁴⁸ LeMieux, 2007:6.

⁴⁹ Taylor, 2012:12.

⁵⁰ Taylor, 2012_23.

⁵¹ “History, A Timeline of the Grange”

1907.⁵² A state grange oversees the subordinate and Pomona granges. A state grange can be established if there are at least fifteen subordinate granges in the state. The next level is the National Grange. Grange meetings can only be attended by members. Seven degrees are established representing ‘stages of personal development and granting access to the Order’s secret proceedings.’ The first four degrees are conferred at the subordinate or local grange level, the fifth or Pomona degree by the Pomona Grange, the sixth degree by the state grange, and the seventh degree by the National Grange.⁵³

All granges elect thirteen officers annually at all levels (subordinate, Pomona, state and national). Five officers bear titles consistent with their masonic counterparts and six are unique to the grange.⁵⁴ The top positions, historically entitled Overseer and Gatekeeper, whose names are derived from positions found on traditional English estates, have been modernized in some granges, and the positions are called President and Vice President. Four officer positions are reserved exclusively for women, but all positions are open to women. The roles of the officers, the configuration of meeting space, and the conduct of meetings are all guided by grange ritual. The seating of officers is also proscribed by the *Grange Manual*, which accounts in part for the design of the meeting hall.⁵⁵ While in today’s world these rituals are less formulaic, each meeting of the grange still features an open Bible, the US flag, and the singing of the national anthem.⁵⁶

Legislative accomplishments

The grange initiated, supported or endorsed the following legislation in the first half of the 20th century. Between 1919 and 1941, it secured passage of federal legislation to assist farmers by strengthening their property rights and bargaining positions including: the Federal Farm Loan Act (1916), the Packers and Stockyards Act (1921), the Capper-Volstead Act (1922), the Grain Futures Act (1922), the Farm Credit Act (1933), the Produce Agency Act (1927), Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act (1930), Agricultural Marketing Agreements Act (1937), Pure Seed Act (1939), and the Livestock Theft Act (1941).⁵⁷ In the 1930s the grange initiated a Constitutional Amendment to allow for the formation of Public Utility Districts as well.

After World War II the grange continued to support national farm legislation as well as international trade negotiations and food aid programs to open foreign markets to US farmers.⁵⁸ It continued to advise Congress and support the re-authorization of national farm legislation, known as the “Farm Bill.” It also supported and advised standing US presidents on international trade agreements and food aid programs.⁵⁹ Today the National Grange operates in 37 states

⁵² Lila LaVerne Bebe, “1907 – 1977, Cowlitz County Pomona Grange No. 7, Seventy Years Anniversary,” (ms), 1977.

⁵³ Taylor, 2012:22.

⁵⁴ Taylor, 2012:19

⁵⁵ Ibid.

⁵⁶ LeMieux, 2007:6.

⁵⁷ “History, A Timeline of the Grange,” *Oregon Grange*, accessed August 2024.

⁵⁸ “About Us – History,” *National Grange of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry* (website), <https://www.nationalgrange.org/about-us/history/> accessed July 2024.

⁵⁹ These programs include the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, the World Trade Organization, Food for Peace, the Caribbean Basin Initiative, North American Free Trade Agreement, and the Central American Free Trade Agreement. “History, A Timeline of the Grange,” *Oregon Grange*, accessed August 2024.

with 150,000 members.⁶⁰ Issues of concern today include the build-out of high-speed broadband access to rural areas, affordable health care, and quality education for rural schools.⁶¹ They are also active in the areas of farmland preservation, transportation, food safety protection, the Endangered Species Act, and United Nations Climate Control.⁶²

The grange is the oldest farm organization in the US and remains the only farm fraternity in the world.⁶³ Historically the intention of the organization was to protect farmers and their economic interests, “while also affording its members opportunities for ‘social, intellectual and moral improvement.’”⁶⁴ Although the organization identifies as nonpartisan, it nonetheless remains a force as a political advocacy organization.² Its current mission statement, adopted in February 2024, is, “Strengthening individuals, families and communities through service, education, nonpartisan grassroots advocacy and agricultural awareness.”

PART III b - The Grange in Washington State

Founding the Washington State Grange

The Washington State Grange identifies itself as a “fraternal, grassroots, nonprofit organization rooted in agriculture and committed to providing the people of rural Washington a strong and respected voice among our elected officials.”⁶⁵ It operates independently from the National Grange, as do other state granges. As is the case in other states, issues and topics of discussion are raised at the local or subordinate level and generally passed on to the regional or Pomona grange level. Topics are then passed on to the state level. The Washington State Grange was organized in 1889, just before Washington statehood, and was the first state grange to have a state grange headquarters building, which was constructed in 1937 in Seattle (it is now in Olympia). Since the 1970s, Washington has had the largest number of grange members in the US.

Washington’s first grange was established during the territorial period in 1873 in Waitsburg, then part of Walla Walla County, and was called Waitsburg #1.⁶⁶ On September 10, 1889 delegates from sixteen granges met at a lodge hall in Camas in Clark County to form the Washington State Grange, just two months before Washington was accepted into the union as a state on November 11, 1889.⁶⁷ This was to allow the grange a greater say in the formation of Washington’s constitution, to which it had objections, particularly with respect to the proposed constitution’s favor toward the railroad’s interests.⁶⁸

A driving force was the need to protect the farmers’ economic interests. In early years, farmers in Cowlitz, Clark, Skamania, and Klickitat, all of whom were affected by the Oregon Steam Navigation Company’s monopoly on Columbia River transportation, were drawn to the nascent

⁶⁰ “About Us – History,” *National Grange*, accessed July 2024.

⁶¹ *Ibid.*

⁶² Michelle Dennis and Liz Carter, *National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*, November 1, 2008:Section 8, Page 6.

⁶³ Taylor, 2013:7.

⁶⁴ *Ibid.*

⁶⁵ *The Washington State Grange*, <https://www.wa-grange.com/#gsc.tab=0>, accessed September 2024.

⁶⁶ All subsequent granges in Washington are sequentially numbered after this first grange.

⁶⁷ The required number of delegates to create a state grange is 15. Taylor, 2012:54.

⁶⁸ John Caldbick, “Washington State Grange,” *HistoryLink.org Essay 10717*, 3/03/2014:1-2. Before statehood, Washington’s territorial chapters operated under the umbrella of the Oregon State Grange.

movement. In general the counties where early granges were organized included some of the earliest settled farming areas that had supplied the HBC, first at Walla Walla and Vancouver, in the early 19th century.⁶⁹ “By 1900, the Order had established a presence in Walla Walla, Whitman, Yakima, and Lincoln Counties, as well as those counties bordering on Puget Sound.”

The formation of the Washington State Grange allowed for aggressive organizing throughout the state. The growth of granges in Washington State coincided with “a record expansion in the state’s farming sector.”⁷⁰ The 1880 census lists the number of farms in Washington as 6,530. Completion of the transcontinental railroads - the Union Pacific, the Northern Pacific, and the Great Northern – also led to increases in the number of farms and by 1900 the number had grown to 32,956. The number nearly doubled again by 1910.⁷¹ In 1900 there were 23 granges in Washington with 656 members and by 1910 there were 260 granges with over 13,000 members. Gains in population were responsible in part for the growth, but so were other factors, including “strong ties to the progressive political movement that dominated state politics from the 1890s through the 1910s.”⁷² Historian Taylor characterized the political scene as follows:

*The Progressive Era, like the brief Populist Movement that preceded it, manifested somewhat differently in Washington State than elsewhere in the country. In Washington, as on the national level, Populism fed on agrarian as well as industrial discontent amplified by the Panic of 1872 and a similar economic collapse in 1893. Also mirroring the national situation, the People’s Party or Populist Party in Washington, with strong participation from the radical Farmers’ Alliance, fielded candidates for numerous state and federal level elections in the 1890s. Because Washington attained statehood in 1889, progressive principles favoring open government and public ownership of resources were enshrined in Washington State Law, thus giving progressive values a stronger basis in public policy than in much of the rest of the country.*⁷³

The Washington State Grange’s purpose was to promote farmers’ agricultural interests and to provide education and recreation for farmers and their families. It was also a means for raising awareness of farmers’ issues and for advancing legislation to “ease farmers’ problems associated with the high cost of goods and services, and the low prices received for commodities.” In later years the grange became one of the principal general farmers’ organizations, in addition to being the only fraternal organization of farmers, and as such has since functioned as a public and legislative spokesman for agricultural interests. The grange also takes public positions of advocacy of or opposition to a variety of issues concerning general economic policy, transportation issues (such as the non-partisan Farm-to-Market roads movement), and public works and infrastructure projects. Formation of the state grange allowed for a more active participation in state politics until World War I.⁷⁴

⁶⁹ Taylor, 2012:54.

⁷⁰ Ibid

⁷¹ Taylor, 2012:56.

⁷² Taylor, 2012:56, quoting Gus Norwood.

⁷³ Taylor, 2012:56, referencing John M. Findlay, *History of Washington State and the Pacific Northwest* “Lesson Seventeen: Reform and the Pacific Northwest, 1880-1920,” *Center for the Study of the Pacific Northwest, University of Washington*
<https://sites.uw.edu/cspn/resources/history-of-washington-state-and-the-pacific-northwest/>, accessed September 2024.

⁷⁴ Taylor, 2012:53.

The 20th century

When farmers ceased to be the majority in the state population, ca 1910, the grange's standing was no longer based on population, but rather strategic alliances. They did not endorse candidates by party, but by common interests, including those of organized labor at this time. The Washington State Grange advocated for universal suffrage, direct legislation and public ownership of utilities.⁷⁵ Between 1905 and 1917, under the leadership of State Grange Master Carey B. Kegley of Whitman County, Washington led the nation in the number of new granges organized. Kegley has been called "perhaps the most dynamic and effective leader in Washington Grange history."⁷⁶ Major periods of growth in both members and number of active granges occurred between 1902 and 1921, and 1926 and 1937. By 1935 there were subordinate granges active in all 39 counties in Washington State, with an all-time peak of 1937 with 490 granges.

Cooperative programs undertaken by the grange included Grange Fire Insurance Association, which was established in 1894. Access to cooperative purchasing was also very attractive to grange members. They formed a Grange Cooperative Wholesale Company in Seattle to serve as a buying agent for small, independent grange supply stores; by 1920 there were 60 local co-ops in the state.⁷⁷ Grange wholesale purchases included grain and feed, hardware, farm machinery, groceries and dry goods. Beginning in 1933, they also formed gasoline distribution stations. Other cooperatives were formed for the purpose of marketing poultry, eggs, dairy products, wheat, cattle, and other commodities. By 1942, when the National Grange conference was held in Wenatchee, the Washington State Grange led all other states in the number and success of its cooperatives.⁷⁸

One of most significant advocacy issues that brought in many new members to the grange in the late 1920s was the discussion around the formation of public utility districts and rural electrification or the construction of rural electrical distribution lines. The Washington State Grange advocated for public ownership of utilities and creation of public utility districts, which was approved by state voters as Initiative #1 in 1930. Five years later this was advocated for at the National Grange level, ultimately leading to the 1935 Rural Electrification Act, a New Deal program. An incredibly important program at the National and Washington State Grange level during the Depression was the Columbia Basin Reclamation Project, which supported irrigation and hydroelectric power from the construction of Grand Coulee Dam, which began in 1933. This had an huge effect on the amount of viable cropland in Washington State through irrigation.⁷⁹ In the midst of the Depression, in 1937, the Washington Grange constructed the first state grange headquarters in the nation, in Seattle.

Farming has continued to be a robust sector in Washington State's economy, due in part to its diversification, which includes wheat and cattle ranching in the southern and eastern parts of the state, planting orchards in the central region, and running dairies in the western region, along with a "wide variety of row crops grown throughout the state."⁸⁰ The number of farms in Washington State continued to grow until 1940, peaking at 81,686. After that period the number

⁷⁵ Taylor, 2012:58.

⁷⁶ Caldbick, 2014:4.

⁷⁷ Taylor, 2012:62.

⁷⁸ Ibid.

⁷⁹ Taylor, 2012:64.

⁸⁰ Taylor, 2012:69.

declined, although the number of acres in production increased due to consolidation of small holdings into large farms and ranches and the expansion of arable land due to reclamation projects.⁸¹ The number of active granges also declined during this period, although the number of grange members increased, peaking at 73,000 in 1981. The numbers of granges was above 400 until the end of the 1980s. Nationally Washington State typically ranked fourth in overall grange membership in these years, behind Ohio, New York and Pennsylvania.

In 1973 the Washington State Grange became the largest in the country. This large membership allowed the state grange to build a new \$2 million dollar headquarter building in Olympia in 1991. It was able to attract new members due in part to the campaign for Initiative #59, the Family Farm Water Act of 1977, which tied water rights to land ownership and favored independently owned family farms by placing restrictions on water use by conglomerate corporate farms. As a result, the grange gained over 4,500 new members in Washington during a two-year period.⁸² Membership remained at over 50,000 through the 1990s but has declined in the 21st century, according to historian Holly Taylor.

The Washington State Grange today

The Washington State Grange today has members in 29 Washington counties and is composed of numerous volunteer committees (see below); 17 officers, whose names reflect both traditional and modern titles; and five staff persons. It comprises the following departments, staffed by volunteers:

- the Legislative Department, which establishes the priorities and positions for annual legislative activities and is chaired by a member of the Sunnyside Grange today;
- the State Lecturer and Program Director, which is led by three volunteers;
- the Family Living Department, which is similar to the historical Home Economics department, and is led by five volunteers, including one from the Sunnyside Grange today;
- the State Community Service Director, whose department includes numerous programs;
- the Grange Youth Program, which is led by one member and includes one Cowlitz County team member from Pleasant Hill Grange today;
- a Youth Fairs Department, which was historically the Agricultural Education program and offers activities for participants aged 5 through 19;
- a Youth Grange Program, which is led by four volunteer directors and includes numerous activities;
- and a Junior Grange Camp Program, which is oriented toward children aged 9 through 14.⁸³

The “Washington State Grange Legislative Policy Handbook, 2024” lays out legislative priorities for the year, as it does every year. It articulates numerous policy statements in the areas of agriculture, conservation and ecology, education, fish and wildlife, health care and safety, state and national issues, taxation, and transportation. The state and national issues section, for example, addresses such wide-ranging topics as voter registration, cooperatives, the criminal justice system, and welfare reforms.⁸⁴

⁸¹ Ibid.

⁸² Taylor, 2012:71.

⁸³ *The Washington State Grange*.

⁸⁴ “Washington State Grange Legislative Policy Handbook, 2024,” <https://www.wa-grange.com/downloads/24%20leg%20policy%20Handbook.pdf>, accessed September 2024

The “Washington State Grange Program Handbook, 2024” explains the grange’s wide variety of annual programs from scholarships to educational programs, contests and awards, and public and community service programs. It provides programming for the youth and family living departments. It also lists 20 reasons to belong to the grange.⁸⁵

In Washington State, representatives of the grange are present in Olympia during legislative sessions to explain the grange policy as it relates to bills under consideration. The grange also prepares and presents testimony to various commissions and at special hearings throughout the year.⁸⁶

Part III c - The Grange in Cowlitz County

Historical overview

The first grange in Cowlitz County was Sandy Bend, which was organized on May 8, 1874, and the second was the Rising Sun Grange, which was organized on October 10, 1874. Twenty-eight granges were established in Cowlitz County over time; today there are six. Some were closed, some were closed and re-opened, and some were consolidated with other granges.⁸⁷ Historically a grange would be built where members could easily, with the means available, reach the grange for meetings.⁸⁸ This would change over time, as automobile use became more prevalent, among other reasons. By 1928 the total county grange membership had reached over the 500 mark. In 1931 there was a Pomona Grange in Cowlitz County (founded in 1907), eleven subordinate granges, and three junior granges (junior granges cater to participants aged 5 through 14).⁸⁹ In 1967 there were eleven granges.⁹⁰ There were no junior granges in recent years until 2007, when a junior grange at the Pleasant Hill Grange was re-activated.⁹¹ As of the writing of Joan LeMieux’s 2007 article “Still Clinging to the Dream: Cowlitz Granges,” there were seven granges, the six subordinate granges plus the Pomona Grange. The six subordinate granges that are extant today are Silver Lake, Pleasant Hill, Sunnyside, Catlin, Rose Valley, and Woodland.

While the value of farm goods in Washington as a whole was on the ascent in the post-World War II era (1948-1966), more recent reporting indicates that farming activity in Cowlitz County has been on the decline.⁹² A 2002 report from the US Department of Agriculture revealed that farm land in Cowlitz County decreased 13 percent from 1992 to 1997. The average size of

⁸⁵ “Washington State Grange Program Handbook, 2004,” <https://www.wa-grange.com/downloads/secretary/24%20program%20handbook.pdf>, accessed September 2024.

⁸⁶ “The Democratic Process in The Grange,” *The Washington State Grange*, <https://www.wa-grange.com/#gsc.tab=0>, accessed September 2024.

⁸⁷ Joan LeMieux, “The Grange in Cowlitz County, A History of the Patrons of Husbandry,” *Cowlitz Historical Quarterly*, Volume 49, Number 3, September 2007:4.

⁸⁸ Interview with Butch Ogden by Diana Painter, July 9, 2024.

⁸⁹ *Roster of the Washington State Grange, 1931*. On file, Cowlitz County Historical Museum, accessed September 2024. After the age of 14, future grangers can join a subordinate grange.

⁹⁰ Lila LaVerne Bebe, “1907 – 1977, Cowlitz County Pomona Grange No. 7, Seventy Years Anniversary,” (ms), 1977.

⁹¹ LeMieux, 2007:19.

⁹² The value of crops in Washington State was \$625,964,000 in 1948 and \$820,503,000 in 1966. *Washington Agricultural Statistics, Annual Crop Report, 1966*. Seattle, WA: US Department of Agriculture Statistical Reporting Service. Olympia, WA: State of Washington Department of Agriculture, 1966. The value of crops in Washington State was \$625,964,000 in 1948 and \$820,503,000 in 1966.

farms decreased 9 percent during the same period, and the market value of agricultural products decreased 7 percent.⁹³ Quoting from this same report, author Joan LeMieux noted that Cowlitz County ranked 26th out of 39 Washington counties for market value of crop and livestock products. In just one example, in 2002 there were 1,900 dairy cows in Cowlitz County, whereas in 1947 there were 8,000 dairy cows.⁹⁴

Cowlitz County granges

In her 2007 article, “Still Clinging to the Dream: Cowlitz Granges,” Joan LeMieux explains how the granges’ traditional values have played out in the granges in Cowlitz County, both historically and today. In terms of the value placed on education, historically the granges have had an educational component in their policies and their meetings. A State Lecturer position is one of the positions that is part of the regular meetings. Today the position at the state level is called the State Lecturer and Program Director. The Cowlitz Granges have been active historically and currently in educational causes, from supporting the Smith-Hughes National Vocational Education Act of 1917, which supported agriculturally oriented vocational courses, to providing scholarships today and hosting summer camps.

In terms of the value placed on community, historically the Cowlitz County granges *were* the community, as pointed out by LeMieux.⁹⁵ Historically the grange held dances, dinners, and fund-raising events that were very social in character and had an entertainment component.

Community service has always been a foundational value of the grange. Beginning from before World War I, grange community service activities that continued to grow before and during the Great Depression, when farmers in Cowlitz County and elsewhere organized Farmers’ Markets, Victory Gardens, established during World War II, benefited troops overseas as well as locals.

The cooperatives organized by the grange in Cowlitz County and granges throughout the country assisted farmers with procuring the services and goods necessary to support their farms. They included fire insurance, initiated in 1893 by the Washington State Grange, which is still in place today as the Grange Fire Insurance Association. They also included automobile insurance. Co-ops were established in Cowlitz County and elsewhere, including credit unions and cooperatives that sold feed and gas (still in place). In the past a creamery in Castle Rock and a feed store in Kelso was also established.⁹⁶

Political advocacy has always been an important activity for the grange, not the less so in Cowlitz County. In general, the granges’ activism has led to national legislation of value to the entire country. For example, the National Grange in their activism regarding the railroad’s monopolies ultimately led to the 1890 passage of the Sherman Anti-Trust Act. A result of activism by the Washington State Grange more recently changed the primary system in Washington State by advocating for an open primary, beginning in 1935.⁹⁷ Political activism typically occurs at the state level, rather than the subordinate grange level. A number of Cowlitz County grange members currently serve on important committees at the state level and

⁹³ LeMieux, 2007:19.

⁹⁴ Ibid.

⁹⁵ LeMieux, 2007:11.

⁹⁶ Credit unions were also created but have since been replaced by local businesses. LeMieux, 2007:14,

⁹⁷ Note that changes to the primary system have since been ruled unconstitutional. See LeMieux, 2007:15.

contribute to the Washington State Grange's positions on issues of statewide (and beyond) importance. For example, a member of the Sunnyside Grange chairs the Legislative Advisory Committee within the Legislative Department of the Washington State Grange.

Cowlitz County actively supported the creation of Public Utility Districts (PUDs), which the Washington State Grange advocated for in cooperation with organized labor. This legislation alleviated the high cost and irregular service by private electricity companies in Cowlitz County and throughout the state. The state grange drafted a public power bill in 1929 calling for the operation of publicly owned providers. It was finally passed in 1930. A commensurate bill in Cowlitz County was passed in 1936, for which the Cowlitz County Grange was a signee on the original petition. The first PUD pole in Cowlitz County was placed at the intersection of Carnine Road and Spirit Lake Highway.⁹⁸

In 1974 there were 1,762 registered grange members in Cowlitz County; by 2006 that number had declined to 414.⁹⁹ According to Joan LeMieux, in general the drop in membership can be attributed to what were historically small family farms giving way to corporate agriculture. It can also be attributed to the loss of farmland to suburban development. In general, the decline in membership in the grange may also be due to competition from other sources for entertainment and community, such as “television, I-Pods, cell phones, and the Internet” rather than on potlucks and dances. Despite this competition for membership, the Washington State granges continue to thrive.

The Pomona Grange¹⁰⁰

Pomona Grange No. 7 in Cowlitz County was proposed in 1904 at the urging of the State Deputy Master C.H. Hogan at the annual Washington State Grange Convention. Hogan was the First Master of the Pleasant Hill Grange. The Pomona Grange provides the leadership for educational, legislative, and business interests of the subordinate granges in its jurisdiction, as well as assistance with rituals. The Pomona Grange in Cowlitz County was formally organized on February 26, 1907, with an official name of “Cowlitz Pomona Grange.” The organization was to meet four times a year for two days, depending on the location and travel time. Once the use of automobiles was common, it met every other month, and then once a month.¹⁰¹

There were eleven subordinate granges in the Cowlitz Pomona District, although in later years some granges disbanded or consolidated with others. The meetings were hosted by the subordinate granges or at the Grange Supply Hall in south Kelso. The Washington State Grange annual meeting was held in Longview, Cowlitz County, in 1951, with about 1,000 attendees, and again in Cowlitz County in Longview again in 1971.

Some of Cowlitz County's Pomona Grange's activities were as follows.

⁹⁸ LeMieux, 2007: 16.

⁹⁹ LeMieux, 2007:19.

¹⁰⁰ Note that because the Pomona Grange does not have a dedicated building, it was not part of the architectural survey conducted for this project. Pomona Grange met at the Catlin Grange until 1952 when Pomona began taking turns traveling among the 11 subordinate granges. Mrs. Amon Bebe, “Catlin Grange celebrating 60 years of progress,” *Longview Daily News*, February 18-19, 1967.

¹⁰¹ Lila LaVerne Bebe, “1907 – 1977, Cowlitz County Pomona Grange No. 7, Seventy Years Anniversary,” (ms), 1977.

- During the Great Depression in the 1930s a Farmers Market was organized in Kelso and then in Longview. The Farmers Markets were held in buildings that were then divided into individual stalls and open on Saturday mornings.
- The Cowlitz Pomona Grange was the second grange in Washington to organize a credit union, although it was closed down during World War II.
- In 1930 the grange founded a youth organization. Three granges had Junior Granges, Sunnyside and Woodland. The Pomona Grange also supported the projects of 4-H Clubs, the FFA Chapters, Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Camp Fire and Blue Birds.
- The grange led in the promotion in Cowlitz County for public power. The first pole was set in 1937 at Spirit Lake Highway and Carnine Road.

The following description of the legislative process at the subordinate and Pomona Grange level is from the Washington State Grange website.¹⁰²

Grangers assembled for their subordinate and Pomona meetings on debate matters of common concern. Topics range from the need for a local traffic signal to school levies; from nuclear disarmament to hunger relief in Third World nations; from public power to state and national social programs.

After debate, the Grange members draft and vote on a resolution concerning the issue. If the problem is a local one, the Grange officers and legislative committee members often pursue solution options such as visiting local government officials, writing letters or testifying at hearings.

Resolutions covering issues of statewide or national concern are forwarded from the subordinate Grange to the State Grange. Eventually, the resolution is brought to the delegates assembled for the State Grange convention, usually held during the third week in June. Committees discuss it and delegates debate it. When adopted, it becomes State Grange policy.

The resolutions passed at the State Grange convention that concern national matters are referred to the National Grange convention for consideration. Resolutions adopted there become National Grange policy.

¹⁰² The Washington State Grange, <https://www.wa-grange.com/#gsc.tab=0>, accessed September 2024.

PART IV – ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT

In this chapter an overview of the grange halls of Cowlitz County is presented with respect to previous documentation. This is followed by a brief discussion of historic preservation practice in Cowlitz County. Historic design guidance from the National and Washington Granges is provided with a discussion of how the design of grange halls in Cowlitz County reflects that historical model. Finally, the factors that play out in the design of grange halls in Cowlitz County and elsewhere in terms of the design integrity is discussed. This leads to the conclusions of this survey and historic context that the grange halls of Cowlitz County are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A at the local level and Cowlitz County's local register as historic resources.

Previous surveys

In her 2012 thesis, *Grange Halls in Washington State: A Critical Investigation of a Vernacular Building Type*, author Holly Anne Taylor documented all six of the grange halls in Cowlitz County that are recorded in the present survey.¹⁰³ She also wrote a historic context for the grange halls in the State. As is the case with all the grange halls recorded by Taylor, a photograph is provided with the date the grange was organized, a date of construction for the hall, and a note as to whether the hall was purpose-built for the grange or adaptively re-used from its original or early use. The building's location, setting, and dimensions are provided, as well as basic information about the building form, materials, and other physical characteristics. In Cowlitz County four of the six remaining grange halls were purpose built and two were re-used. The Silver Lake grange was formerly a school gymnasium for the Toutle Silver Lake school. The Woodland grange was previously a hotel.

Two of the Cowlitz County grange halls were recorded previously in greater detail and their Historic Property Inventory forms entered into Washington State's WISAARD database. These are the inventory forms for Woodland, which was completed by Cowlitz County staff, and for the Sunnyside Grange. The latter was completed for compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and is more detailed.

Grange hall design guidance

Guidance was not usually supplied on the part of the Grange as to what the subordinate grange halls should look like. A committee was formed at the national level in the late 1880s to consider this question but decided that the individual subordinate granges should be left to their own devices in terms of design and construction of their halls, as they would know best what their needs were.¹⁰⁴ Additionally, many the subordinate granges borrowed meeting places in their early years and only later might construct a new hall to meet their needs or buy and renovate an existing building to serve as their permanent meeting place. In Washington State, of the 218 grange halls surveyed in 2012, 143 or 65% were purpose-built for the grange, while 76 or 35% were buildings that were adaptively re-used from an existing building.¹⁰⁵ Of the six grange halls surveyed for this project, four were custom built for the local grange, while two were adaptively

¹⁰³ Taylor, 2012.

¹⁰⁴ Canaday, 2012:Section E, Page 31.

¹⁰⁵ Taylor, 2013:123. The author of this study also found in 2012 that 34 subordinate granges did not have their own buildings. Taylor, 2012:351.

reused from other buildings for the grange. Statistically, this makes the Cowlitz County granges similar in profile to granges in the state as a whole.

Despite the initial lack of design assistance, in 1928 the National Grange published a booklet called, “Grange Hall Suggestions.” At this time, the grange was undergoing considerable growth nation-wide and no doubt some felt that they might develop a more “aesthetic” or uniform appearance for the grange. Reflecting their practice of not dictating from the top down and allowing the individual grange and grange members to design or renovate their own buildings, “. . . the booklet gently provides ‘suggestions’ rather than strict directions, repeatedly deferring to local preference.”¹⁰⁶

However, granges were encouraged to construct or renovate their own hall as soon as was feasible. It was felt that the organization would be strengthened by having their own hall. The camaraderie of working together to build and pay for a hall was viewed as “helping to build the foundation of the local organization.” Additionally, if they borrowed money to build a hall, having a mortgage to pay would guarantee that members “must stick together and work together” to fulfill their responsibilities.¹⁰⁷

In preparing this guidance, a number of grange halls around the country were visited by the National committee, who selected 14 to illustrate with photos and floor plans for most. A discussion of overt architectural detailing was avoided, but the booklet emphasized the importance of landscaping, signage and maintenance, “indicating a desire to ensure that each Grange Hall was an attractive and welcome element in the community.” The booklet also emphasized that a grange hall should be designed such that it could also be used as a community hall. The local granges were encouraged to rent out their hall at a reasonable rate to local organizations.¹⁰⁸ Priorities were that the hall be ‘a modest building, attractively built, and well maintained.’

The typical plan, endorsed by the National Grange, consisted of a simple, one-story building with an exposed basement. “Optimally the first floor would house the hall/auditorium with a stage opposite the entry and these elements consumed the bulk of the space. The basement would house dining and kitchen facilities, bathrooms, utility space and a Juvenile room.”¹⁰⁹ This configuration is found in the Sunnyside and Rose Valley granges in Cowlitz County. The only feature that is specifically required is the anteroom, which is just inside the main entrance. This room “holds a special ritualistic significance as the location where the Gatekeeper is stationed while the Grange meeting is in session.” The Gatekeeper ensures that only the grange members enter the hall during the meeting, which maintains the secrecy of certain details of the meeting. The National Grange also encouraged subordinate granges to design the hall to suit the ritualistic work of the organization and to have raised stations for the officers. The ritualist furniture was usually designed to be mobile so that it could be moved when the hall was rented out for community functions.¹¹⁰ Another note was that bathrooms should be provided and they should be accessed off an alcove or hallway and not directly from the hall or dining room.

¹⁰⁶ Ibid.

¹⁰⁷ Ibid.

¹⁰⁸ Ibid.

¹⁰⁹ Canaday, 2012:Section E, Page 32.

¹¹⁰ Canaday, 2012:Section E, Page 33.

The booklet also addresses adaptive reuse, in the sense that it mentions that rural churches and schools that are no longer utilized due to school consolidation or other factors might be good candidates for conversion to a grange hall.¹¹¹ In Cowlitz County, the Silver Lake Grange Hall was formerly a school gym, whereas the Woodland Grange was formerly a commercial building, specifically a hotel. All six extant grange halls in the county, both purpose-built and adaptively reused, retain their meeting halls as specified by the grange, with all their component parts and characteristics.

Grange hall design in Cowlitz County

Granges are rarely designed by an architect and no granges designed by an architect were identified in Cowlitz County. Even a recognized builder would be relatively rare. Granges are typically vernacular buildings, rarely displaying any architectural forms or details that would identify them with a particular style. An exception in Cowlitz County is the knee brackets and exposed rafter ends that were built during the era when the Craftsman style was popular.

The buildings also might have been built in phases or have additions, the most common addition being a kitchen wing, increasing their utility. Further, approximately one-third of granges in Washington State are adaptively reused from other buildings, according to architectural historian Holly Taylor, increasing their chances of differing in appearance from each other.

The interior of each grange hall, however, follows a particular layout with specific furnishings that accommodate the ritualistic functions of the grange hall. Even buildings that have been retrofitted to accommodate a grange hall exhibit this layout. Holly Anne Taylor in her 2012 survey of the 218 granges in Washington State extant at that time outlined the common exterior and interior characteristics, building forms, building materials, and the features of the common settings for the grange halls of Washington State.¹¹² She notes that the grange provided little guidance as to desirable exterior features for the granges but that the 1950 *Washington Granger's Guide* did publish an axonometric break-away drawing of a prototypical grange hall interior. She explains:

*The drawing depicts a two-story building, or more precisely a one-story building with a full basement, with an elongated rectangular plan of a width of approximately thirty feet and a length of approximately sixty feet. The building design includes a central recessed entryway, flanked on the main or first floor by two small anterooms. The remaining portion of the main floor (approximately eighty percent of the square footage) is shown as an open meeting room, with a stage at the far end, opposite the main entry. The lower or basement level is shown with a dining room and kitchen and with secondary building services and related uses also noted.*¹¹³

This is the same arrangement of spaces that can be seen in the Sunnyside and Rose Valley granges in Cowlitz County.

¹¹¹ Ibid.

¹¹² These were documented in her thesis entitled, *Grange Halls in Washington State: A Critical Investigation of a Vernacular Building Type*. MS thesis, University of Washington, 2013.

¹¹³ Taylor, 2013:111.

Cowlitz County’s grange halls

Of the extant granges in Cowlitz County, the one with the oldest building is Pleasant Hill, with a construction date of 1892 (an addition is dated 1914). The grange with the newest building is Catlin, with a construction date of 1964. As might be expected, the older grange halls tend to display more changes than the newer buildings and the range of ages make it unsurprising that they display a range of materials. The variety of conditions – both historical and architectural – in Cowlitz County typify the history and building forms of granges. Many reflect the case that grange organizations typically did not have large budgets that they spent on their buildings. The following conditions are reflected in the granges of Cowlitz County.

- The buildings display a range of cladding materials, from corrugated metal to vinyl, modern board and batten, and synthetic fiber cement cladding to concrete block. Only the 1953 Rose Valley Grange Hall retains its original cladding on the exterior. The board and batten siding on the Catlin Grange was replaced in October 2024.
- The buildings display a range of window materials, including aluminum, vinyl, wood and steel. The wood windows on the Sunnyside Grange and the steel windows on the Rose Valley Grange are original. The aluminum windows on the Catlin Grange were replaced just in October 2024.
- The buildings display a range of construction dates from 1892 (addition 1914), 1908, 1920, 1939, 1950, to 1965.
- The buildings typically have a rectangular or L-shaped footprint. They are often one story, as noted below.
- Kitchen and dining areas are often at the lower level, in the case of granges that are one story over a raised basement, such as is the case with the Rose Valley and Sunnyside granges. The Woodland Grange’s kitchen and dining room are on the main level of that multi-story building and the hall is on the second floor.
- Kitchen and dining areas might also be in a building wing, which may have been built at the same time as the hall, such as the likely case of the Pleasant Hill Grange Hall or may have been built later, which apparently is the case with the Catlin Grange Hall.

Building integrity

A building is eligible for listing in the National or other historic registers if it is significant and retains integrity. It is significant if it meets one or more of the criteria established for that purpose by the National Park Service or another organization, including Cowlitz County. In order to be listed, a building must also retain integrity. Integrity is a function, at the National Register level, of a building’s location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. A building is eligible for listing in the National Register if it retains most of the aspects of integrity, and will ideally retain those aspects that are most relevant to the resource.¹¹⁴ For example, for the granges of Cowlitz County, which are eligible for listing under Criterion A, for their association with events that are important to local history, the aspects of location, setting and feeling are most important to a rural resource such as this. If the building retains its form (design) or its form within its historic era, the building might also be said to display integrity. In other words, the grange halls might retain integrity if they retain their location, design (building form), setting and feeling. The integrity of the main interior space, the hall, is of particular importance.

¹¹⁴ Andrus, 1997:44.

There are numerous reasons why buildings such as the grange halls in Cowlitz County do not or might not exhibit the level of external integrity commonly found in other resource types.¹¹⁵

- The grange donates a significant amount of money to their programs, such as scholarships, and may not place a priority on investing in the buildings, which could impact both integrity and condition.¹¹⁶
- The grange may not be knowledgeable about or prioritize traditional historic preservation practices.
- The building may have been built in phases for financial reasons, and as a result may not display the traditional level of integrity as buildings that are planned and built at one time.
- The building may have been adoptively converted to a grange from another use, and as a result may not display the traditional level of integrity of purpose-built buildings.
- The building may have been damaged by fire or another natural occurrence and as a result may not display its original appearance.
- The building may not have been repaired or maintained in a manner that would preserve its design integrity for financial reasons or for maintenance reasons.
- A building might be moved from another location and exhibit changes for that reason.

Summary

Historical guidance from the National Grange and Washington State Grange make it clear that the interior design of the main hall, along with its furnishings, is of prime importance to the grange. The survey and historic context for granges in Washington State, Holly Taylor's *Grange Halls in Washington State: A Critical Investigation of a Vernacular Building Type* (2012) and Tricia Canaday's *National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, The Grange in Idaho* (2012), both demonstrate the deviations from traditional historic preservation practice that can make sense for buildings such as grange halls and other vernacular structures. Taylor goes to the length of proposing that it may be appropriate to add criteria stressing long-term use and/or evolution as a character-defining feature when evaluating buildings such as granges for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.¹¹⁷ Although not used in this project, since this concept is not yet considered accepted practice, it is worth considering.

Grange buildings are typically located on donated land and designed, built, and maintained by the grange members themselves. The vernacular nature of the exterior of the buildings and alterations that may have been done for expediency and/or with cost restraints can further demonstrate the values or restraints emblematic of their appearance. However, without exception, the interior halls in which the rituals of the grange, which are at the heart of their practices, and their importance are demonstrated by their careful design without exception in Cowlitz County. This fact emphasizes the importance of this feature to the grange as an organization and why the design of this feature is of overriding importance in analyzing the integrity of the granges and why they are eligible for listing in historic registers.

The Cowlitz County granges are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A, for their association with the grange movement in Cowlitz County. They are

¹¹⁵ For an excellent discussion of these factors, see Tricia Canaday's *National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, The Grange in Idaho*.

¹¹⁶ Interview with Butch Ogden by Diana Painter, August 9, 2024.

¹¹⁷ Taylor, 2012:252.

the local manifestation of a nation-wide, grassroots movement and fraternal organization that gave a voice to farmers on a wide range of public policies. The history of grange halls locally and beyond is also noteworthy for the sense of community the organization fosters among its members through the use of ritual and providing common experiences, in addition to shared interests and cooperative programs. The granges of Cowlitz County are eligible for listing under Criterion C when their internal halls reflect the character-defining features that are most representative of the organizations' values, teachings, and practices.

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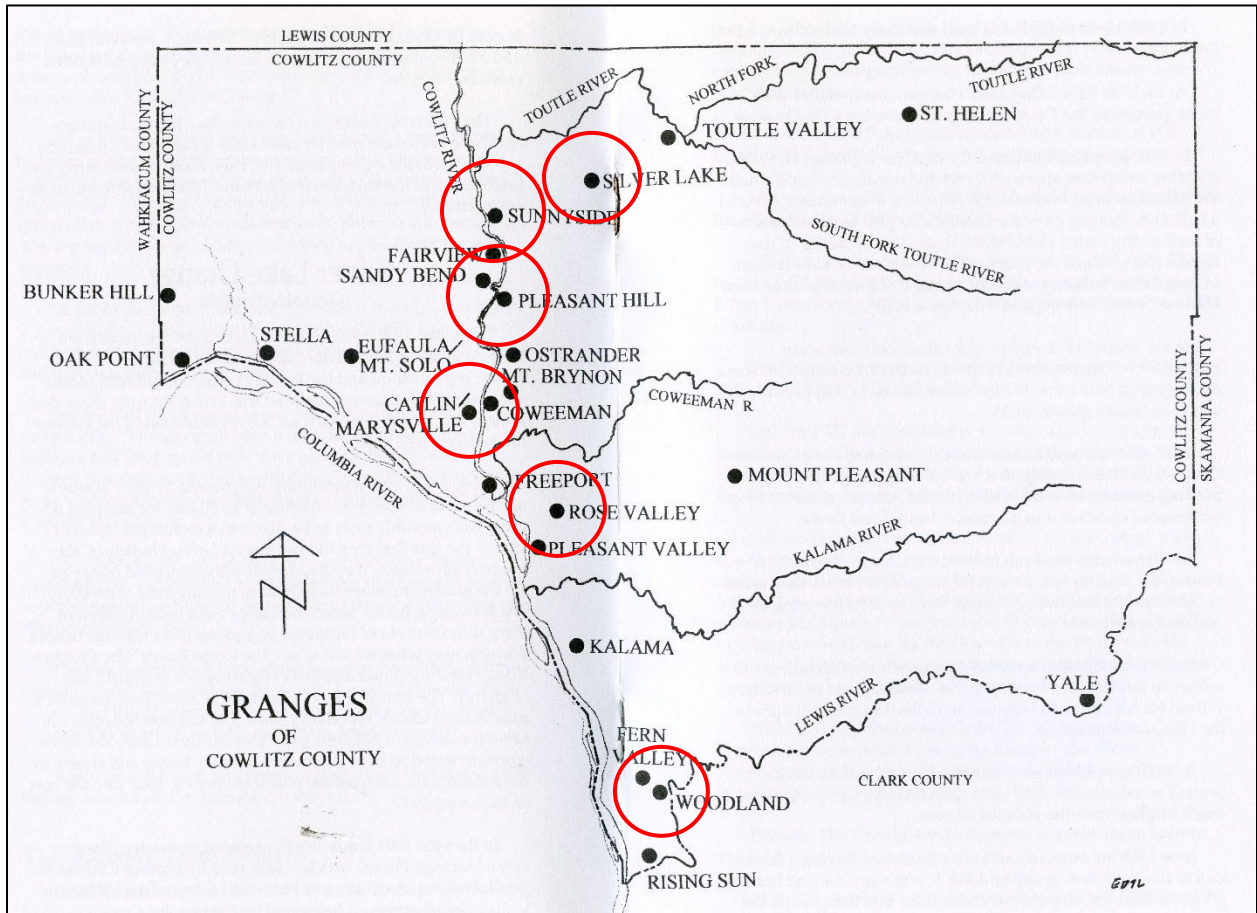
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FIGURES

Figure 1 – Granges in Cowlitz County; extant granges in red



Granges: Silver Lake, Sunnyside, Pleasant Hill, Catlin, Rose Valley & Woodland

Figure 2 – Washington State Counties; Cowlitz County in red

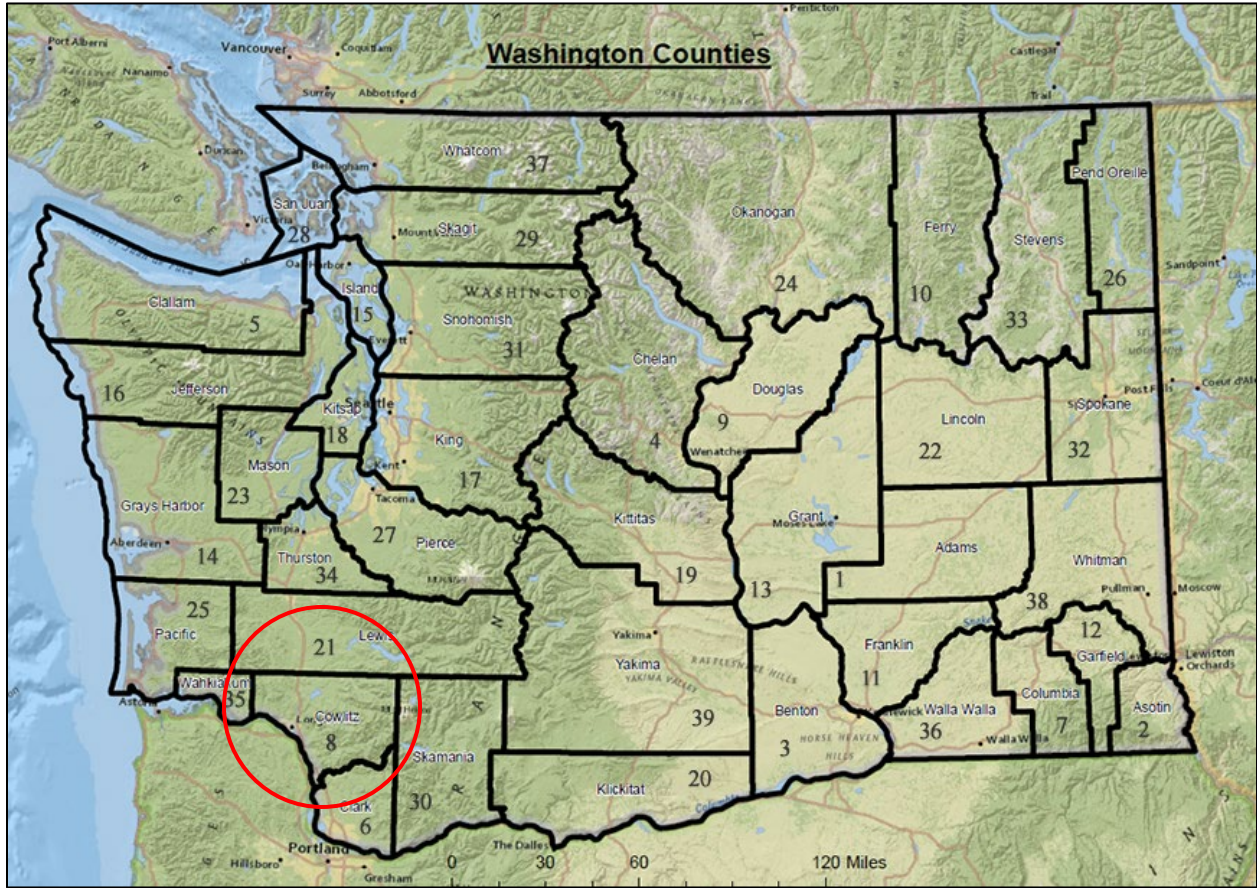


Figure 3 – The Cowlitz and Toutle Rivers in Cowlitz County

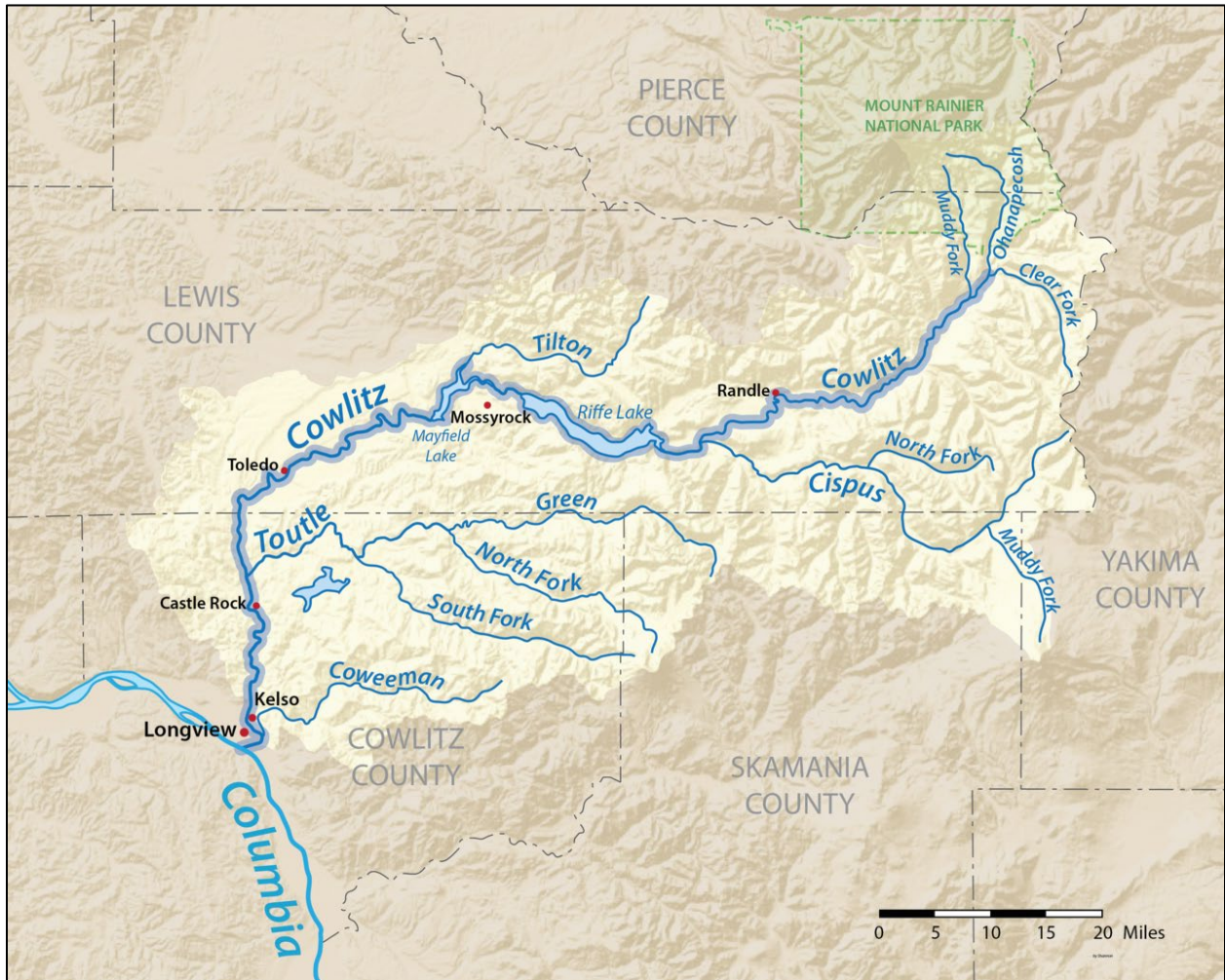


Figure 4 - Patrons of Husbandry Logo



Figure 5: National Grange marker on Washington DC capital mall



Figure 6 - Washington State Grange Hall in 1939 when it was in Seattle

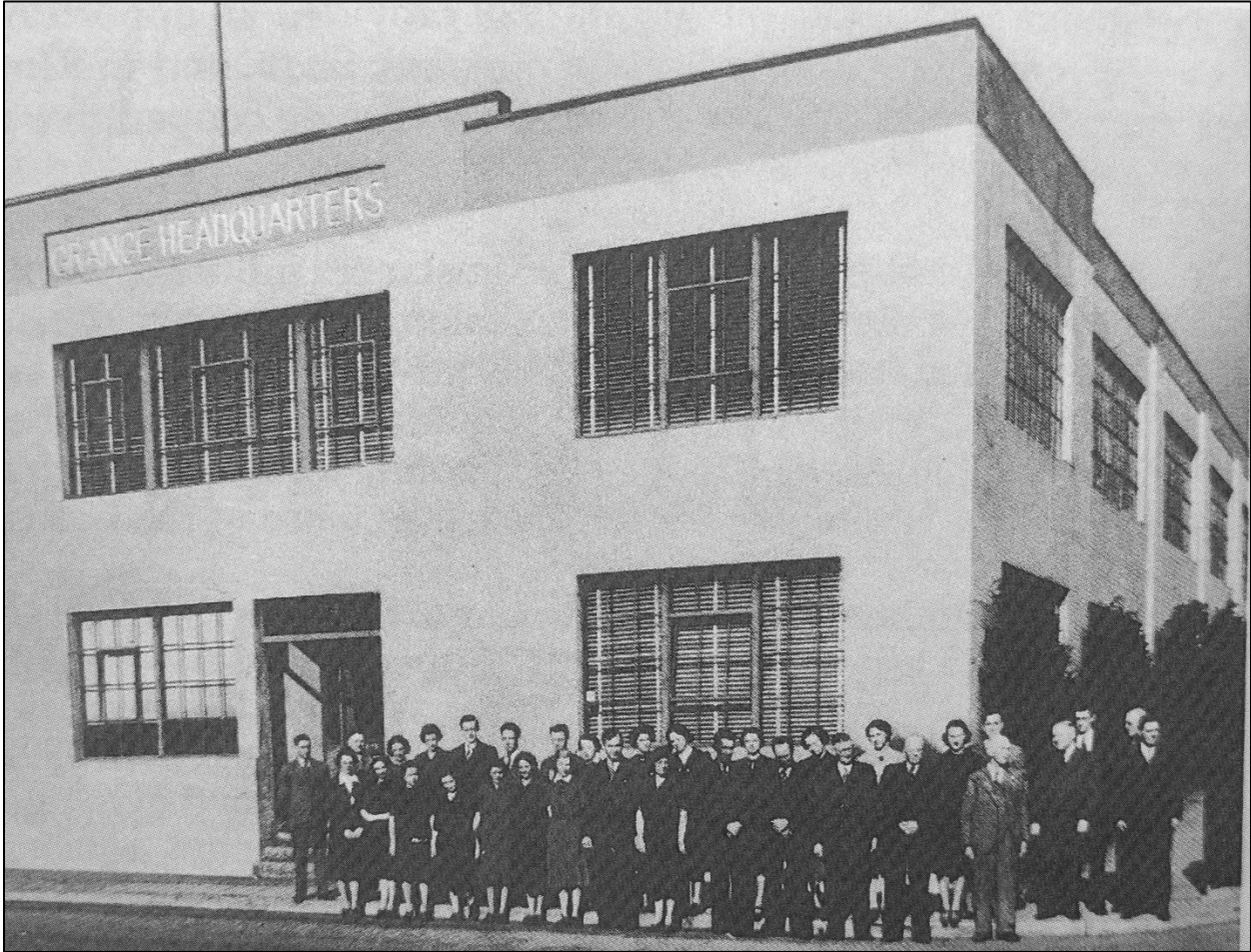
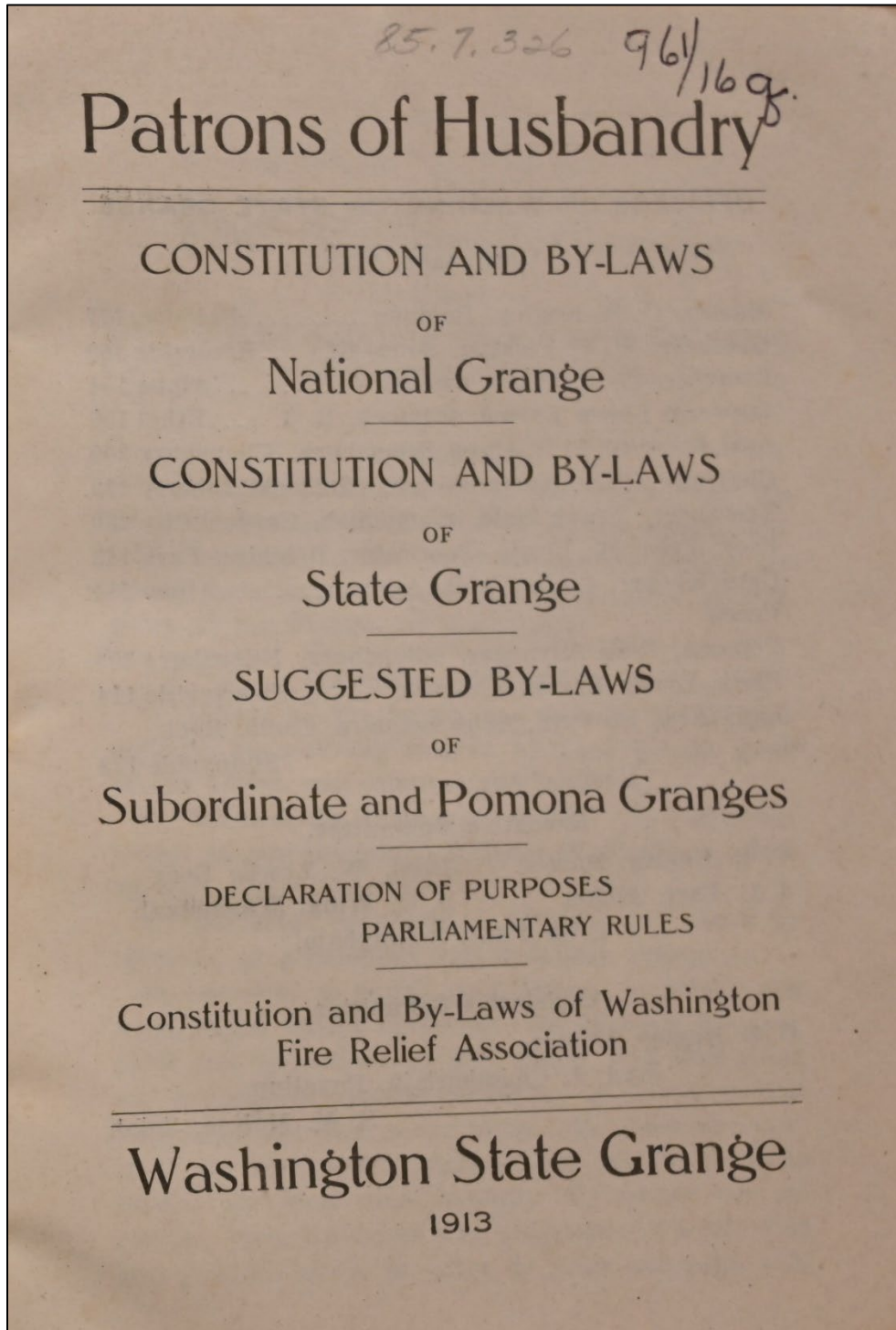


Figure 7 - Washington State Grange Mission Statement



Source: Washington State Grange website

Figure 8 - Washington Patrons of Husbandry By-Laws, 1913



Source: Cowlitz County Historical Museum

Figure 9 – Feature on Cowlitz County granges

COWLITZ HISTORICAL QUARTERLY

September 2007

Volume 49, Number 3

Still Clinging
to the Dream:

Cowlitz Granges



Source: *Cowlitz Historical Quarterly*

Figure 10 - Woodland Grange Hall dedication



Source: Woodland Grange Hall

Figure 11 - Poster for dance at Rose Valley Grange



Source: Cowlitz County Historical Society

Figure 12 - Parade float, Woodland Grange



Source: Cowlitz County Historical Museum

Figure 13 - Grange exhibit at Evergreen State Fair, 2010



Source: Holly Anne Taylor, Grange Halls in Washington State

Figure 14 - Illuminated sign for Grange Insurance Association



Source: Woodland Grange Hall

Figure 15: Diagram of grange hall plan, 1873

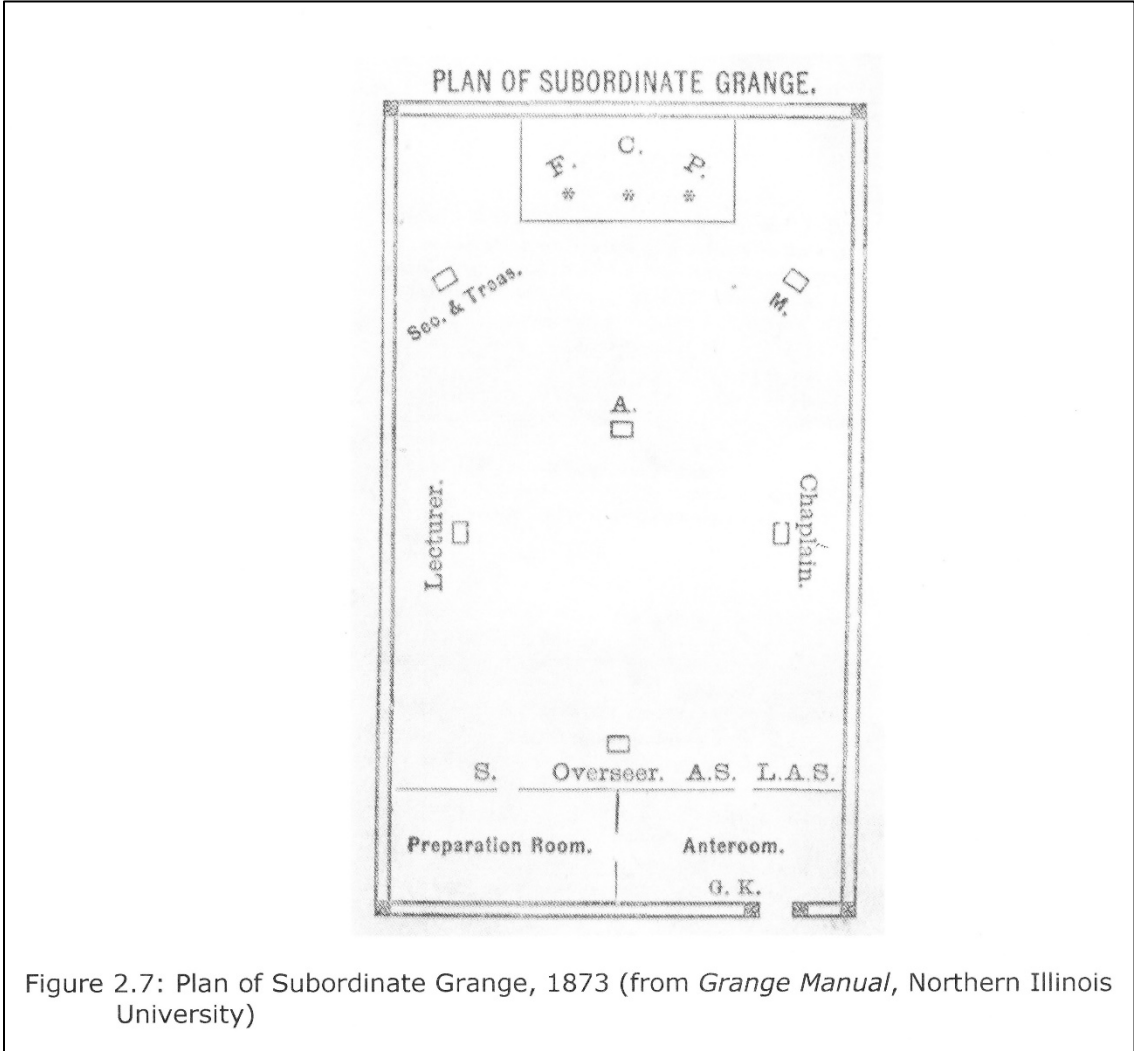
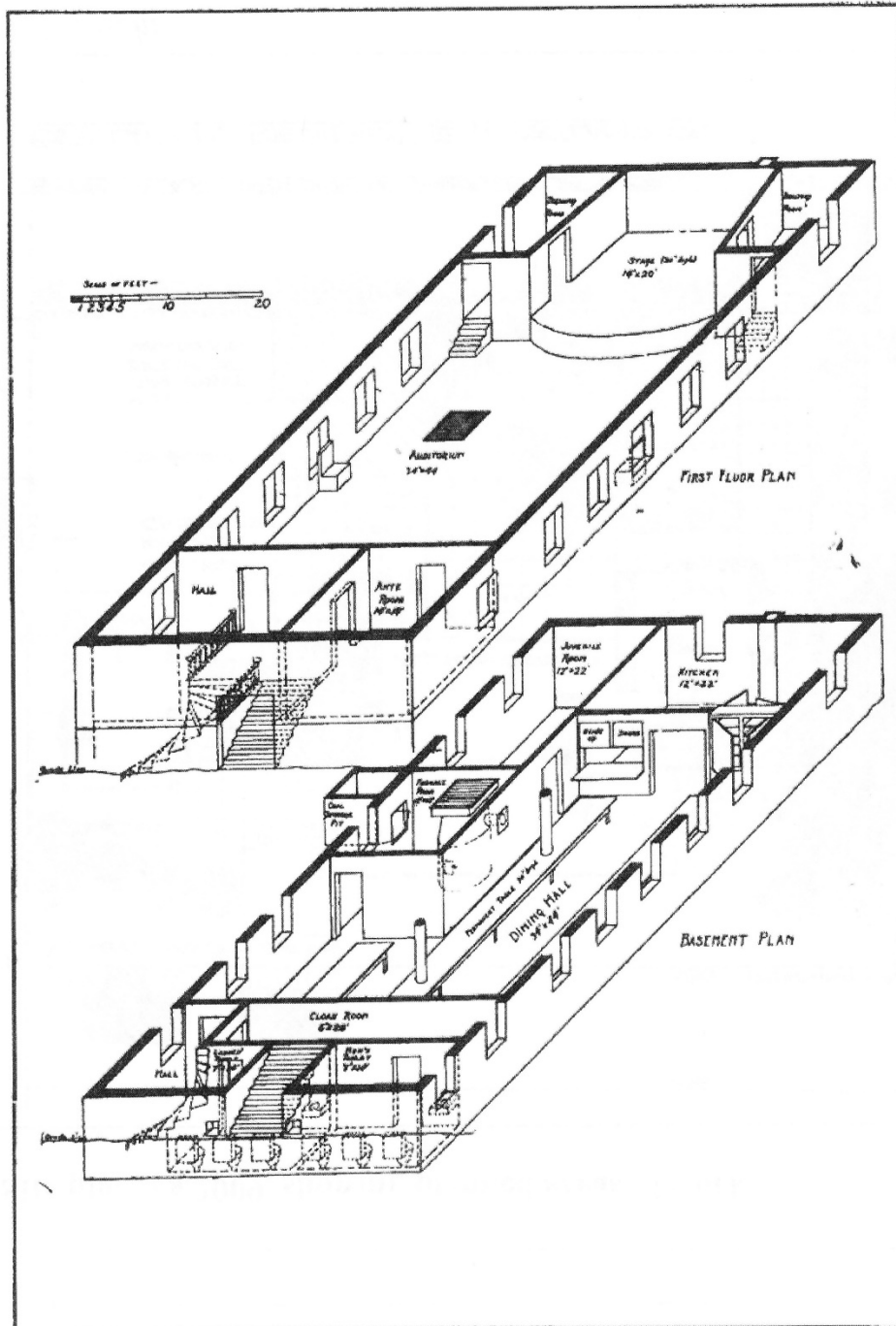


Figure 2.7: Plan of Subordinate Grange, 1873 (from *Grange Manual*, Northern Illinois University)

Source: Holly Anne Taylor's *Grange Halls of Washington State*

Figure 16 – Grange Hall diagram, 1928

Proposed Grange Hall Plan



Source: Grange Hall Suggestions

Figure 17 - Catlin Grange Hall, 2024



Photograph by Diana Painter

APPENDIX A – GRANGE HALLS IN COWLITZ COUNTY

GROWING A CROP OF GRANGES

Joan LeMieux¹

During the 1800s, geography, climate, finances, and poor road conditions - the same factors that made life difficult for farmers - posed challenges for those attempting to establish and maintain Granges. That's why it's remarkable that so many Granges were organized in the local area.

Cowlitz County Granges are listed below in the order they received their charters. This list was compiled in 2007 by Joan LeMieux.

Sandy Bend #35. Organized May 8, 1874, by E.L. Smith. Later closed, though the year this occurred is not clear. Reorganized as the "Cowlitz Grange" by F.R. Cook on February 11, 1911. Closed in 1993.

Rising Sun #58. Organized October 10, 1874, in the Town of Pekin (near Woodland) by John A. Bozarth. Closed in 1878.

Freeport #59 . Organized October 10, 1874, in the Town of Freeport by John A. Bozarth. Closed in 1878.

Coweeman #100. Organized May 20, 1891, in Kelso by Nicholas Ennis. Closed in 1892.

Pleasant Hill #101. Organized March 22, 1891, in the Town of Tucker by Nicholas Ennis. Remains active.

Marysville #102 . Organized May 27, 1891, in the Town of Freeport by Nicholas Ennis. Closed in 1892.

Silver Lake #105. Organized October 26, 1891, in the Town of Silver Lake by James Nevin. Reorganized January 25, 1900. Remains active.

Fairview #106. Organized March 7, 1892, in the Town of Jackson by Mr. Hayden. Unknown closure date.

Ostrander #111 . Organized May 25, 1895, in the Town of Ostrander by James Nevin. Closed in 1897.

Stella #120 . Organized May 20, 1901, in the Town of Stella, by Nicholas Ennis. Closed in 1917.

St. Helen #123. Organized December 14, 1901, in the Town of St. Helen by C.N. Hogan. Closed in 1913.

Toutle Valley #127. Organized February 20, 1902, in the Town of Toutle by C.N. Hogan . Closure date unknown. Reorganized March 30, 1912, under the name of "Toutle" by F.R. Cook. Closure date unknown.

Sunnyside #129. Organized February 28, 1902, in Castle Rock by C.N. Hogan. Remains active.

¹ LeMieux, Joan, "The Grange in Cowlitz County, A History of the Patrons of Husbandry," *Cowlitz Historical Quarterly*, Volume 49, Number 3, September 2007, pp. 1-44.

Woodland #178 . Organized March 24, 1906, in the Town of Woodland by S.G. Schoonover . Remains active.

Pleasant Valley #185 . Organized June 2, 1906, in the Town of Carrollton by C.N. Hogan. Closed in 1910. Reorganized in 1913. Closed in 1922.

Mount Pleasant #186 . Organized June 16, 1906, by C.N. Hogan . Consolidated with Rose Valley #953 in 1963.

Fern Valley #187. Organized June 30, 1906, in the Town of Woodland by C.N. Hogan. Unknown closure date.

Kalama # 197. Organized January 17, 1907, by N.G. Schoonover. Consolidated with Woodland #178 in 2002.

Catlin # 199. Organized February 8, 1907, in Kelso by S.G. Schoonover. Remains active.

Oak Point #400 . Organized March 25, 1910, in the Town of Oak Point by R.H. Mitchell. Closed in 1913.

Yale #589. Organized October 9, 1915, in the Town of Yale by William Rundall. Closed in 1931.

Eufala #659 . Organized September 28, 1917, in the Town of Mount Solo by L.L. Snow. Closed in 1925.

Bunker Hill #676. Organized March 5, 1918, by O.C. Musgrove. Consolidated with Pleasant Hill in 2003.

Rose Valley #953. Organized July 25, 1930, by O.C. Wisner. Remains active.

Mt. Solo (Lone Oak) #967 . Organized February 12, 1931, in the Town of Ostrander by L.J. Perry. Consolidated with Catlin #199 in 1990.

Mt. Brynon (Mt. Brynion) #1042. Organized July 14, 1934, by F.P. Waters. Remains active.

Not only have many of the Granges closed, their locations have also disappeared from today's maps.

APPENDIX B – COWLITZ COUNTY POMONA GRANGE

1907-----1977

COWLITZ COUNTY POMONA GRANGE NO. 7

SEVENTH YEARS ANNIVERSARY.

1907-----1977

70 th ANNIVERSARY PRAYER

OWLITZ COUNTY POMONA GRANGE NO.7

By Lila LaVerne Bebe

.....

ALMIGHTY GOD, FATHER OF ALL LIVING:

WE MAKE OUR EARNEST PRAYER, THAT YOU WILL KEEP
THIS POMONA GRANGE UNDER THY GREAT PROTECTING
WINGS ,AS YOU HAVE KEPT THIS GRANGE FOR THE
PAST SEVENTY YEARS OF ITS ORGANIZATION.

INCLINE THE HEARTS OF EACH PATRON OF HUSBANDRY
TO CULTIVATE THE SPIRIT OF LOVE AND DEEP
UNDERSTANDING, SO NEEDED THROUGH THE CHANGING YEARS.
GIVE US THE STRENGTH OF UNITY AND THE WISDOM
TO KNOW THE PURPOSE OF YOUR GREAT PLAN OF THE
BROTHER AND SISTERHOOD OF AND FOR MANKIND.
TEACH US TO BE KIND, HONEST AND JUST IN ALL
OUR DEALINGS ,AND IN ALL OUR WORKS ,LOOKING TO THE
GUIDING HAND OF OUR CREATOR. IN THE NAME OF OUR
LORD WE HUMBLY PRAY. _____ AMEN.

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COWLITZ POMONA GRANGE HISTORY.

By Mrs Amon(Lila)Bebe

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In the year of 1904 at the Washington State Grange Convention, C.N.Hogan, the first Master of Pleasant Hill Grange, introduced a motion to organize a Pomona Grange, The motion carried and on February 26 1907 Cowlitz County Pomona Grange NO. 7 was organized by State Deputy Master C.N. Hogan.

(An item from the 70 years ago Cowlitz County Advocate states:)
"Feb. 21,1907 -A meeting will be held in the Strain Hall in Kelso on Tuesday February 26 at 10:00 A.M, for the organization of a Pomona Grange , All patrons of Husbandry in good standing are invited. signed-- C.N. Hogan , Wash. State Deputy Master.

An item in the same paper on Feb.28 1907 further stated in the News
"A Pomona Grange was organized on February 26 1907 with ~~XXXXXX~~
R.H. Mitchell elected Master for the ensuing year.the Grange has been named "Cowlitz Pomona Grange " and dates of meetings are to be; The Saturday before the full moon in February,May, August and November ." Later the Pomona dates were changed to Friday the nearest nearest the full moon at 11:00 A.M. "The Old Timers" stated the "Full Moon" as it provided light for the horses to travel at night and for those members who had to cross over the Cowlitz River by Boat.

Pomona Grange convened after the train arrived from the North if the meetings were held in the Southern part of the County, or if it was in the Northern part for the meeting the meeting was held after the Train came in from the South.

It was a two day session starting at 2:00 P.M. on Friday if the Trains were on time , and ended on Saturday at 4:00 or 5:00 P.M. When Pomona Grange met out at Stella Grange NO. 122 it was a three days affair; Two days for going and coming and one for the meeting This was changed when the convenience of the automobile made it possible to meet every other month.

1977
POMONA GRANGE HISTORY
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These were usually day or night sessions, later it was decided to meet once a month in order to keep on current affairs.

There are eleven Subordinate Granges in the Cowlitz Pomona District, namely they are; Sandy Bend #35. Pleasant Hill # 101 .Silver Lake #105 . Sunnyside # 129. Woodland # 178. Kalama # 197. Catlin #199; Bunker Hill #676 . Rose Valley #953 . Lone Oak # 967 .Mt. Brynion # 1042.

Subordinate Granges organized and disbanded during the past were Stella # 122 . Mt. St. Helens #123. Toutle, Yale , and Mt. Pleasant #186 . Mt. Pleasant Grange members consolidated with Rose Valley Grange after their hall was destroyed by the Wind Storm "Freida " in 1962 .

Cowlitz Pomona Grange has been a "Grange In A Suit Case" as the meetings are held the first Saturday in the month , with each Subordinate Grange taking their turn as host Grange. the Fifth Degree and Special meetings are held in any hall in the County that is available . For a number of years the Pomona Grange met where the Catlin Grange met in the Grange Supply Hall in Kelso . Located near the railroad track in South Kelso and though it was up stairs, Trains switching and traveling created a rumble and vibration hard to compete with in holding a meeting.

In 1928 Ernie and Dora Anderson from Bunker Hill were applauded for making the difficult journey from Bunker Hill to Sunnyside Grange over extremely bad road.

Cowlitz Pomona Grange was not yet organized when the Washington State Grange held a Convention at Tucker ,(now Pleasant Hill) in the year of 1900.

In the year of 1927 Cowlitz Pomona Grange invited the State Grange to meet in Cowlitz County for the 1928 Convention , But Lewis County 's invitation was accepted.

In 1928 the Delegates in session at Chehalis were invited to be guests of Pomona Grange for a Day. The Delegates arrived at about 11:00 A.M. They drove through the Planned City and assembled at the Longview Auto Park for a Lunch which was contributed by the Subordinate Granges. In the afternoon the group toured the New Long-Bell Mill.

In 1951 the Washington State Grange held the State Convention in Longview and around 1000 candidates took the sixth degree of the Grange in the R.A. Long High School Gymnasium. Henry P. Carstenson was the State Grange Master. and Hershel D. Newsome the National Master came West to be a guest speaker.

The State Grange was hosted again in Cowlitz County at the Mark Morris High School in June 1972 and many Delegates attend the State conventions in other Counties of the State each year in June.

During the Depression years, the farmers had difficulty selling their produce. A resolution was adopted at Mt. Pleasant Grange to create a "Farmers Market", this took place in Nov. 1930.

The first one was erected at 3rd and Oak Street in Kelso, and the second was in Longview across the street from Bobs Surplus. The inside of the building was divided into stalls and the Farmers rented these stalls. These Markets proved real popular with the city folks, They were in line early on Saturday morning s (Market Day) to purchase, Fresh vegetables, meat, baked pies, cakes as well as Dairy Products. In fact most of the market owners had steady customers and were usually sold out by noon.

Cowlitz Pomona was second in the County to organize a Credit Union It was successful, but soon Industries began organizing Credit Unions. Then came World War 2 there was Temporary prosperity and it was impossible to make loans. The Credit Union liquidated and paid its members 21% dividends.

In 1930 Cowlitz Pomona Grange sponsored a Juvenile Fair and the Board of County Commissioners appropriated \$750.00 premium money. From the time it was organized Pomona Grange has extended a hand to the help of all youth.

It is interesting to note the friendly relationship between the Grange and some of the business firms in the 1930 s .

For Serveral years J.C. Penny Store in Kelso furnished watermellos for the Pomona Grange Picnic s. The Picnics were not held on Sundays very often ,in factmany members were opposed to picnics on the Lorde Day and prefered them on a week day.

Pomona Grange does not drape the Charter for departed members The Chaplain does hold a Memorial Service in May for the year. and in the Earlier years a resolution of condloance was sent to the bereaved family and also to the newspaper where the member resided. Also the officers reversed their badges for one hour after dinner in memory of the departed member.

Badges were wore untill the Grange could afford sashes.

A collection was taken up for the first set of Sashes ;Two of the best looking ladies in the grange were selected to pass the hat and it resulted in about \$11.00 .

In 1930 a new committee was appointed; Trials and Grievances "

There was a grievance that "The Pomona Master had failed to attend the meeting which was a special one , He pleaded guilty and was sentenced to refrain from chewing gum for the balance of the year This was considered a rather stiff sentence , as the Brother IKE" I.C. Chuinard did enjoy his chewing gum.

The Cowlitz County Pomona Drill Team was organized in 1946 and they have exemplified the fifth degree many , many times.

Herbert and Sue Carroll were long and faithful members of this Team .

POMONA GRANGE HISTORY

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Cowlitz Pomona Grange led in the promotion in this County for Public Power and sponsored the first pole setting program back in 1937 on the Farm at Silver Lake situated on the corner of the Spirit Lake High Way and Carnine Road.

Through seventy Years Pomona Grange has fought for and very vigorously for Legislation ,ordinances, and regulations for the welfare of all the people .

For many years Pomona sponsored traveling gavel programs these were competitive in both ritualistic and Lecturer work and Program, Many of these home talent shows were far superior to the variety shows on T.V. today.

The State Master of the Grange appoints the State Grange Deputies today for each County , Some of the earlier day records show that a certain brother was nominated as a deputy and this recommendation was forwarded to the State Grange Master for his approval or disapproval.

The Grange from the bottom to the top^{is} a family organization and Cowlitz County has two Junior Granges ,Sunnyside # 257 and Woodland #288 also ,The Cowlitz Pomona Youth Group. The Junior Granges have members in ages from 5 to 14 years they carry on their own ritualistic floor work and degree work have art and hand work , take part in Programs entertain and have items in Fairs , parades they have outings and picnie's Hikes and go swimming and Grange Camp . Adult Granges take part in making all this possible by supporting Youth Projects.

Pomona Grange also supports the projects of 4-H Clubs , F.F.A. Chapters , BoyScouts ,Cub Scouts, Camp Fire and Blue Birds. also the Schools Youth have places on the Lecturers Program.

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 PAST MASTERS OF THE COWLITZ POMONA GRANGE NO. 7

R.H. Mitchell the first Pomona Grange Master, spent the most years as Master of any Past Master ever to serve in that office.

Elected in the year 1907 Brother Mitchell was Master until 1911 . William Randall was Master through 1912 . Mitchell was elected again in 1913 then Brother William Randall was re-elected for the 1914 to the fall of 1916 ,when Ernst Doble was Master for the next four years . In 1921 R.H. Mitchell was re-elected serving four more years.

In 1925 Flora Hoyer was elected Pomona Master ,being the first woman ever to serve as Cowlitz Pomona Master. She served four years Mrs Hoyer was the first Home Economics Chairman of State Grange and was also State Flora and aPast Master and Home Ee Chairman of Sunnyside Grange.

In the fall of 1928 I.C. Chuinard was elected and served the nextfour years as Master. PaulW. Wooley was Master through 1933. L.Clair Stock was elected Master in 1934 and served through 1938. (Brother Stock later served as State Grange Master in Alaska.)

R.E. Shinn was elected and served through 1939 and through the fall of 1942. Wayne Bozarth was Master in 1943 and 1944 .and George Lund Sr. was elected and served 1945 and 1946.

Arthur M. Titus was Pomona Master in 1947 and 1948 and Don R. UdeII served through 1949 and 1952 . Melvin Kayser Sr. was elected Master in 1953 and 1954 . L.H. Skinner was elected Master in 1955 . John Closner was Master 1956-1957- 1958-

In 1959 G.H. (Herb) Carroll was elected and served six years 1959 through 1964. Oren Wise was Pomona Master , he served in the Masters office 1965 -1966-1967-1968;

Robert Cochran of Pleasant Hill was Master 1969 -1970-through 1974 . In 1975 the second woman to become Pomona Master was electd when Eleanor Dudonsky became Master for 1975-76- 77 and 78.

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The Pomona Grange Officers are elected every two years instead of each year as the Subordinate Granges do.

Eleanor Dudonsky is a past State Grange officer a past Master of Sandy Bend Grange and served many years as Pomona Grange Secretary Sister Dudonsky is active in Fairs on the Fair Board and in charge of Grange Fair Booth Exhibits. (signed -Lila Bebe)

SIXTY YEARS NOW TEN YEARS GONE:

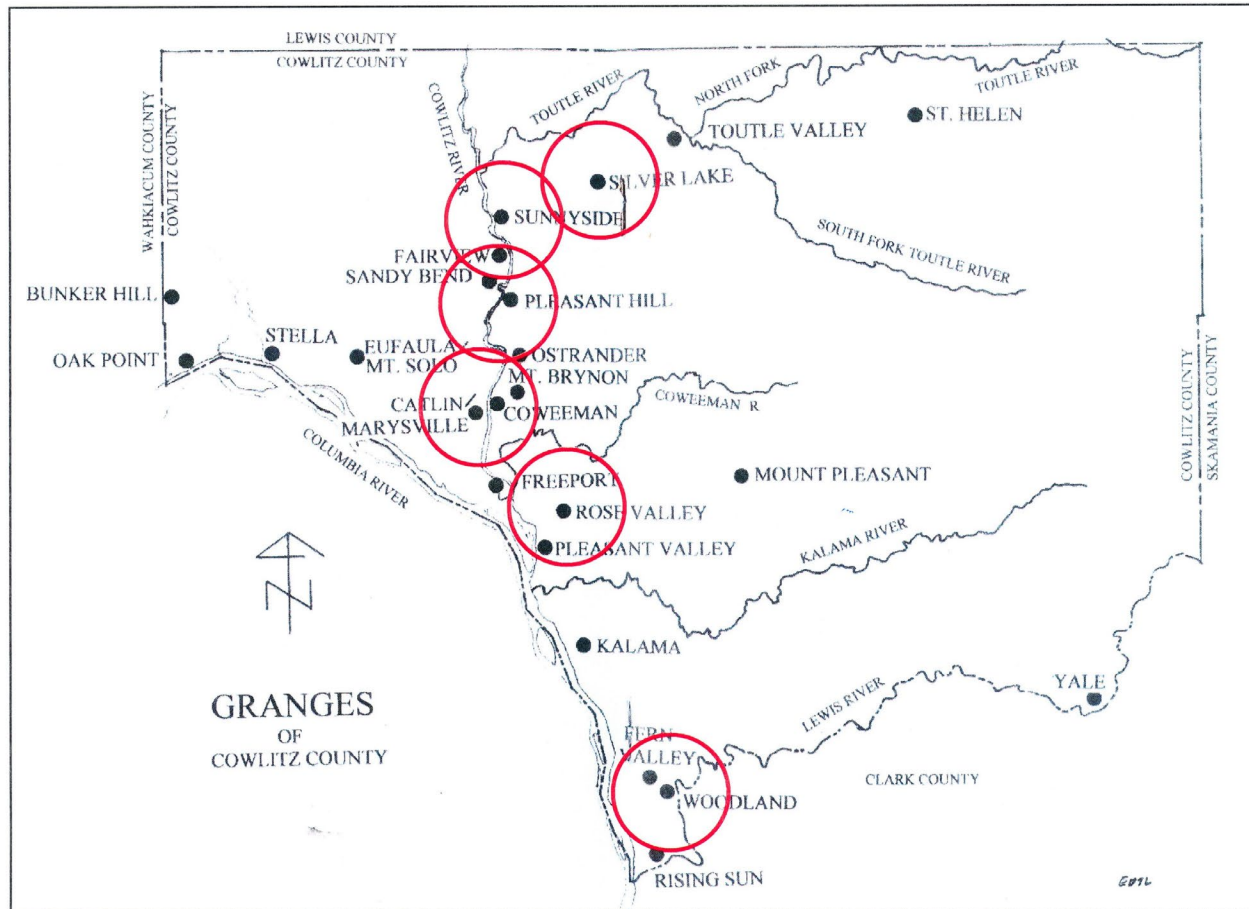
On April 29-1967 Cowlitz Pomona Grange NO. 7 held the Sixty years of organization anniversary at the Silver Lake Grange Hall. Grace Young Pomona Grange Lecturer from Rose Valley Grange gave the Anniversary Prayer prepared by Lila Bebe and the program announcements including ;Welcome by Master Oren Wise. Brother Wise introduced the State Grange Master A.Lars Nelson, who talked on Public Power Blessings," and other visitors. Other entertainment included; "Heirtage of Our Flag" by the Cub Scout Pack #309 Their Master Jack Malone and Den Mother Mrs M. McCracken , displaying 31 forms of the American flag; Mrs George (Esther) LundA past Master of Catlin Grange and Silver Star member read the Pomona Grange History; A skit by Pomona Members; Mrs L.H. (MARCIA) George entertained with two Novelity Numbers. Music by Mrs Shelton; Mrs George Koehmstedt Pomona Home Ec. Chairman and Silver Lake Grange served the Sixty year Anniversary Cake and refreshments and Mrs Arthur (Mildred) Titus was in charge of the Guest Book.

APPENDIX C – PROJECT POWER POINT, 10-10-2024

Cowlitz County Granges – Survey and Historic Contexts



Granges in Cowlitz County



Granges: Silver Lake, Sunnyside, Pleasant Hill, Catlin, Rose Valley & Woodland

Setting

Counties



Major rivers



The Grange Halls

- Silver Lake, Castle Rock
- Sunnyside, Castle Rock
- Pleasant Hill, Kelso
- Catlin, Kelso
- Rose Valley, Kelso
- Woodland, Woodland

Silverlake Grange, 1920



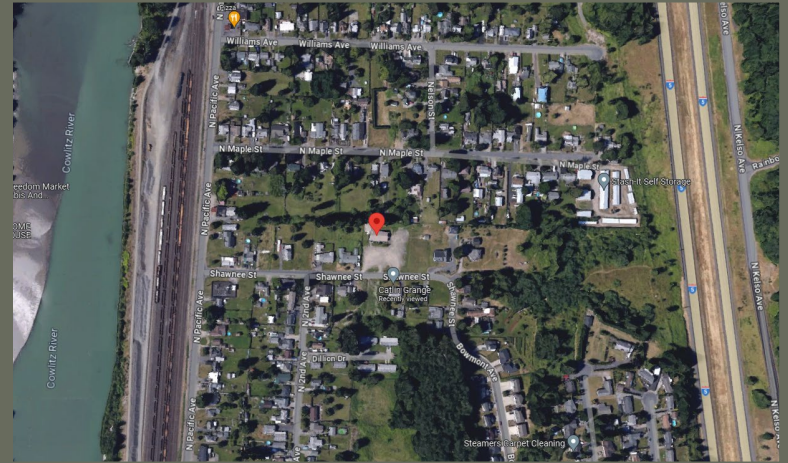
Sunnyside Grange, 1939, 1945



Pleasant Hill Grange, 1892, 1914



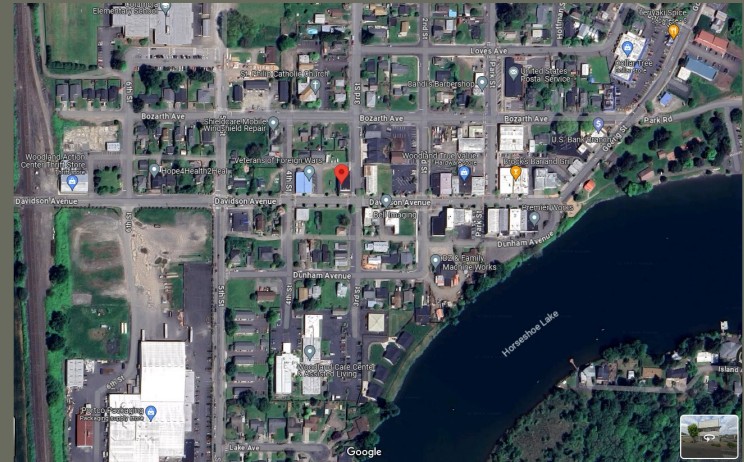
Catlin Grange, 1964



Rose Valley Grange, 1950

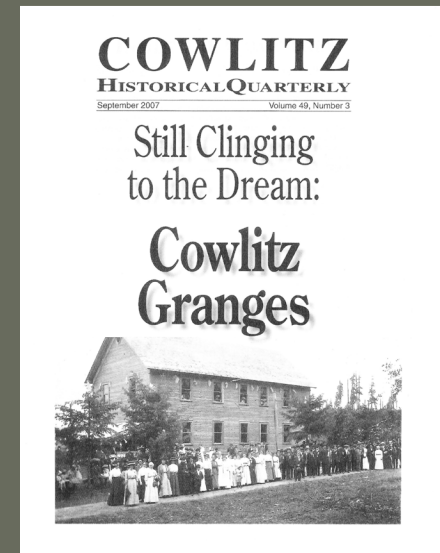
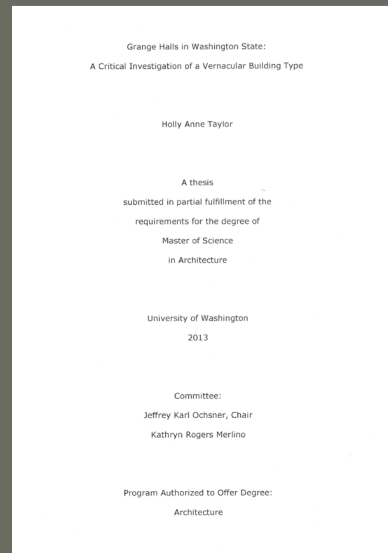


Woodland Grange, 1908



Research resources

- Previous surveys & studies
- Cowlitz County Historical Museum
- National & state grange records
- Newspapers
- Historic maps
- Historylink.org
- Nominations



Historical overview

- Founded in Washington DC in 1867
- Only agricultural fraternal society
- Accepted both men & women
- Provided education & recreation
- Provided business support
- Active in politics
- Nonpartisan



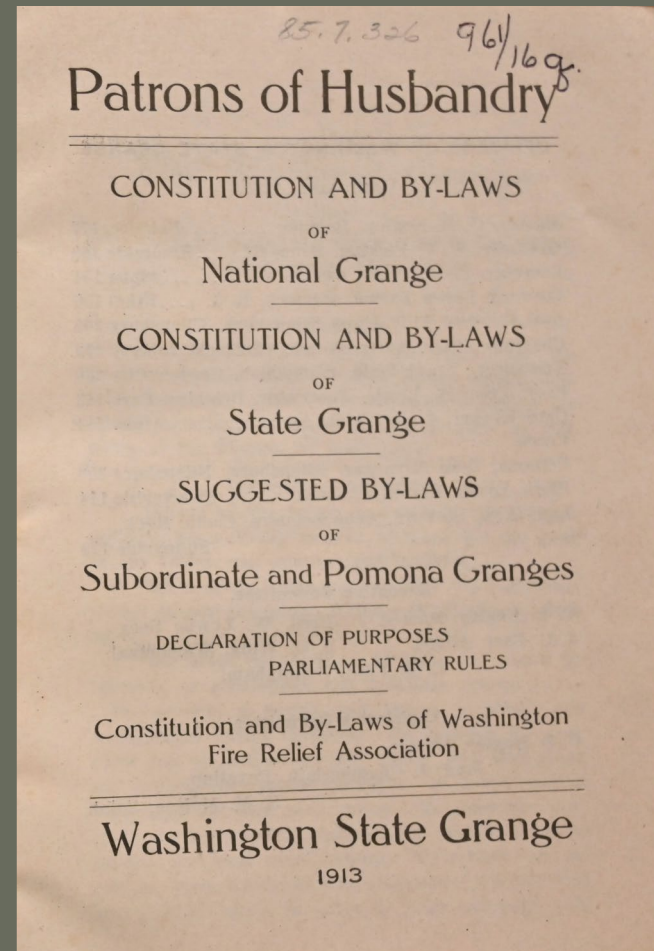
Historic contexts

- Native American history
- Early settlement & industries of Cowlitz County
- National & Washington State granges
- Accomplishments
- Organization & practices of the grange
- Local granges
- Architecture & integrity



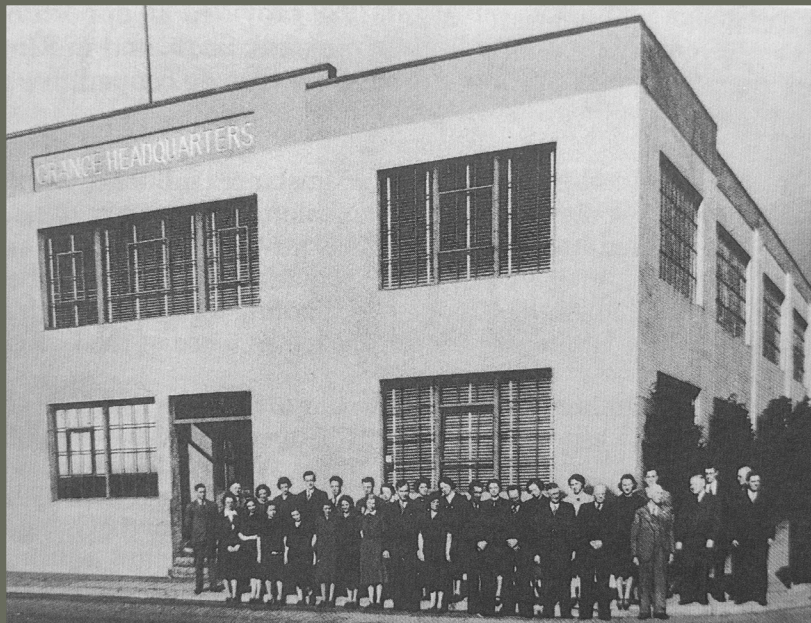
Organization

- National Grange
- Washington State Grange
- Pomona (county) Grange
- Subordinate (local) Grange

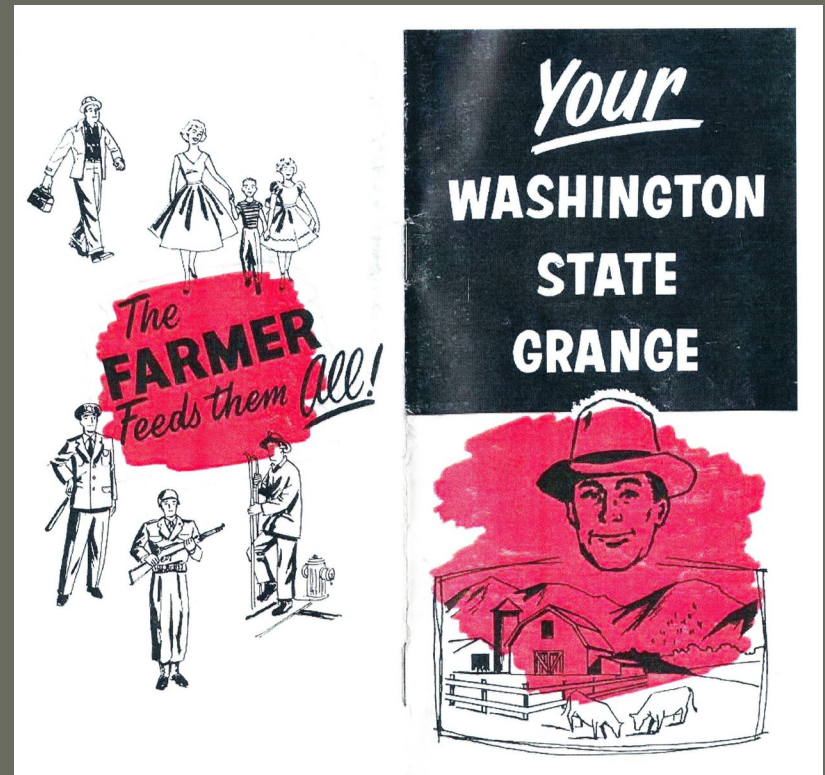


Washington State Grange

Washington had the first state grange headquarters (1939)



And has the largest number of grange members



Accomplishments

- Prevailed in *Munn v Illinois* (1876)
States may regulate monopolies
- Passed into law with Interstate Commerce Act (1887) & Sherman Antitrust Act (1890)
- Initiated rural free delivery of mail (1901)
- Supported Universal Suffrage (1919)
- Founded Public Utility Districts in WA
With passage of Initiative No. 1 (1930)
- Enacted Family Farm Water Act in WA
With passage of Initiative No. 59 (1977)

Local granges



Cowlitz Co-op Ad, 1951

WE INVITE YOU TO MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS
AND FRIENDS AT YOUR FRIENDLY
"CO-OP" STORE
WHILE ATTENDING
THE STATE GRANGE CONVENTION

Cowlitz Co-Operative Service

A CONSUMER OWNED STORE SERVING YOU WITH
MEATS, GROCERIES, GASOLINE AND OILS

403 Allen St.

Kelso, Wash.

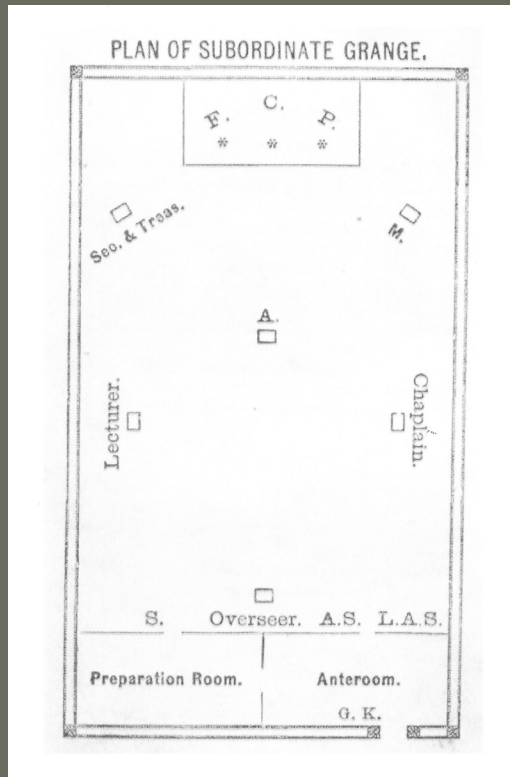
The Cowlitz Co-Operative Service sought grange business during the 1951 state convention. This building eventually became the Cowlitz County Historical Museum

Characteristics

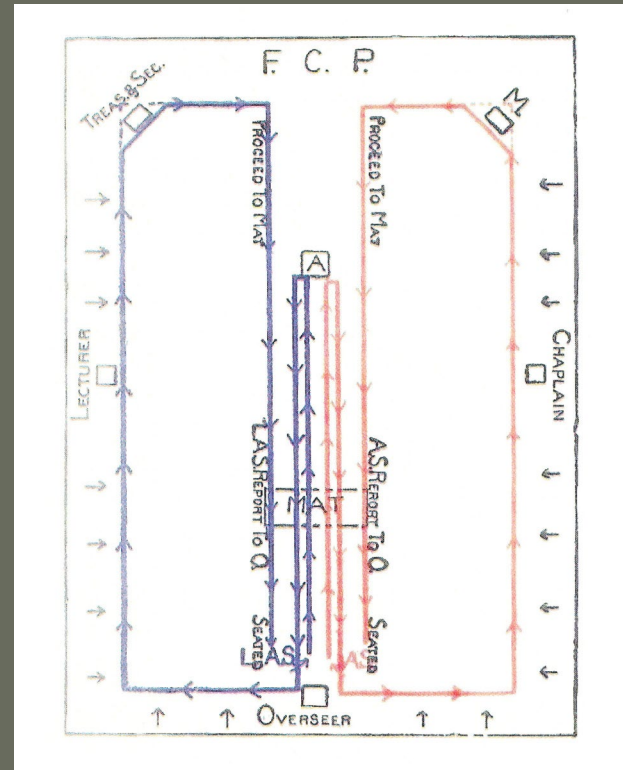
| Name | Const 1 | Const 2 | Height | Basement? | Cladding | Roof | Windows | Foundation | Original use | Changes | Notes | |
|---------------|---------|---------|--------|-----------|----------------|----------|---------|------------|--------------|------------------------------------|-----------------|--|
| Silver Lake | 1920 | | 1 | N | Metal | Comp | Alum | Post&Pier | School | Windows & siding | | |
| Sunnyside | 1939 | 1945 | 1.5 | NA | Fiber cement | Comp | Wood | Concrete | Grange | Siding | Raised basement | |
| Pleasant Hill | 1892 | 1914 | 1 | N | Vinyl | Comp | Vinyl | Concrete | Grange | Windows & siding, moved + addition | | |
| Catlin | 1964 | | 1 | N | B&B | Comp | Alum | Concrete | Grange | Addition | | |
| Rose Valley | 1950 | | 1 | Y | Concrete block | Comp | Steel | Concrete | Grange | Stairs enclosed | Raised basement | |
| Woodland | 1908 | | 3 | Y | Fiber cement | Built-up | Vinyl | Concrete | Hotel | Siding, porches, windows | | |

Design

Room diagram, 1873

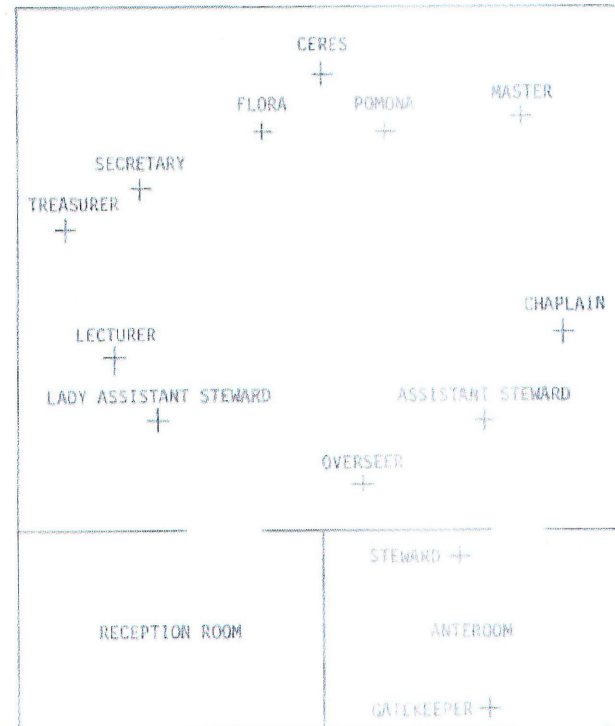


Processional, 1915



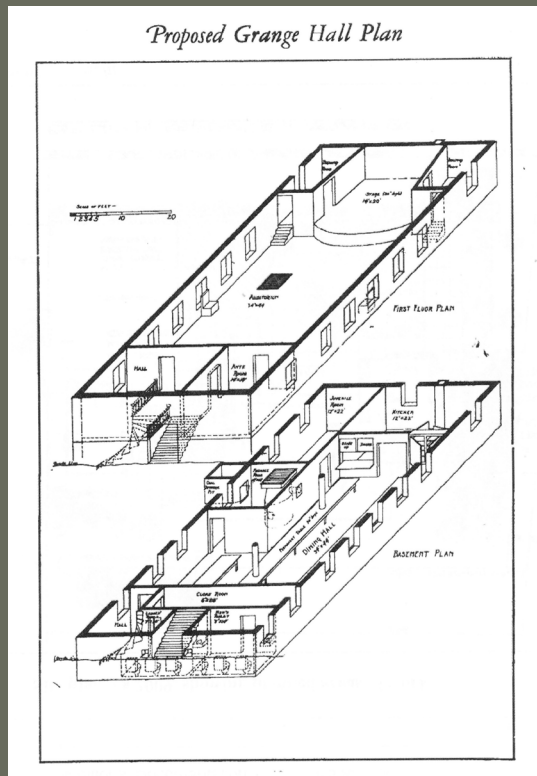
Design

Room diagram, 1873



Design

Grange Hall
Suggestions, 1928



Rose Valley Grange,
constructed 1950



Grange halls



Sunnyside



Catlin



Silverlake



Rose Valley

Integrity

- Location is the place where the historic property was constructed or the place where the historic event occurred.
- Design is the combination of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure, and style of a property.
- Setting is the physical environment of a historic property.
- Materials are the physical elements that were combined or deposited during a particular period of time and in a particular pattern or configuration to form a historic property.
- Workmanship is the physical evidence of the crafts of a particular culture or people during any given period in history or prehistory.
- Feeling is a property's expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period of time.
- Association is the direct link between an important historic event or person and a historic property.

Thank you! Questions?



Diana Painter, Painter Preservation