

2018 SHPO AWARD SPEECH - FINAL

EDUCATION: CLARK COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

The first award presentation this afternoon is made in the Education Category.

Awards made in this category recognize individuals, organizations, and programs that have achieved success in reaching new and broader audiences about preservation techniques and the importance of preserving our heritage. This year, the award goes to the Clark County Historic Preservation Commission (CCHPC) for their outstanding efforts to connect with local leaders to keep them informed about historic preservation issues, goals, and opportunities.

In 2015, while formulating their annual work plan, the Clark County preservation commissioners discussed the need for city leaders and staff to better understand the role of the commission. From there and throughout 2016, the commissioners invited representatives of local museums and heritage organizations to present at regular commission meetings to better communicate and coordinate with fellow stewards of local heritage. In turn, commission members committed to participating at events presented by other organizations, such as lectures at the Clark County Historical Museum. Through their involvement at multiple public events, the CCHPC was able to introduce themselves to a wider audience.

Having achieved success in reaching out to the public in 2016, the CCHP commissioners were eager to expand their effort with a goal of keeping elected officials and staff apprised of the benefits and issues surrounding heritage conservation. This goal became clear when, at an August 2017 meeting, Jan Bader (the City of Vancouver's liaison to the commission) suggested that city councils throughout the county be engaged with face-to-face presentations. In this approach, commissioners would brief local leaders on the region's heritage community and how historic preservation is linked to larger governance issues. The CCHPC members enthusiastically embraced this strategy. After moving forward with the presentations, the CCHPC has been gratified by the positive responses received from city councils. They also plan to expand the outreach project to include tribal government representatives and other civic bodies such as planning commissions and neighborhood associations.

The Clark County Historic Preservation Commission serves as a model for this important activity and is honored with this award for their success in expanding their presence in the community.

EDUCATION: GRANITE FALLS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The second award in the Education category goes to the Granite Falls Historical Society for their bold effort to make their records and collections ***“available to all.”*** In fact, since 2003 making their collections “available to all” has become the Historical Society’s operating mantra by embracing the latest in technology to digitize and share information.

After having successfully opened a new museum facility in Granite Falls, the Society sets its sight on converting its collection of paper records to a digital environment. To help their docents tackle this huge task, the Society recruited local high school students to digitize over 6,000 pictures and documents. The next task the Society took-on was to scan their archived newspapers and a century of high school yearbooks. With their photos, newspapers and school yearbooks now digitized, Society members and their student volunteers got to work on their large stash of historic maps. Leveraging geographic information system technology, the teams scanned and georeferenced each map, yielding a set of county-wide maps that documented original homestead lines, mines, railroad lines, and more, all accurately aligned for easy on-screen comparison.

In keeping with their “available to all” goal, the Historical Society was not satisfied with only digitizing the records; while all of the images were placed on-line, they

also wanted the data to be text searchable. To do so, the Society obtained Optical Character Recognition software to convert the images to machine-encoded text.

As a result, names, events, teams, classes, and other fields are now all searchable by name, date, and keywords on a 24/7 basis by anyone with computer access.

In another far-sighted gesture, the Historical Society wanted to share their experience and methodology with other Snohomish County heritage organizations. As a result, at least seven organizations have also made their old newspaper collections available online. Plus, the Granite Falls Historical Society has created an online geographic information system portal to share its collection of digitized maps with other Snohomish County museums.

Years of focused work in making historical data available to the greatest extent possible has made the Granite Falls Historical Society a leader in Snohomish County heritage preservation. It is with great pleasure that I present this award for outstanding achievement in Historic Preservation Education to the Granite Falls Historical Society for their dedication to making local and regional historic records ***“available to all.”***

MEDIA: SPOKANE HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION

The next award is given in the Media Category. Awards made in this category honor outstanding efforts in which historic and cultural resources are portrayed in the media in a balanced, accurate, and engaging manner. This year, the award in the Media category goes to the City of Spokane's Historic Preservation Office and Spokane Historic Landmarks Commission for their Mid-Century Modern Inventory, Social Media and Website project.

This project was conceived by Spokane preservationists with the ultimate goal to build a preservation ethic for Spokane's mid-20th century modern architecture – while at the same time informing citizens about those architects who put their stamp on the city's built environment.

To achieve this goal, the Spokane preservation office received funding through DAHP's Certified Local Government grant program to: 1) Research and write a historic context statement on the mid-century modern theme, 2) survey and inventory buildings that best represented the theme, and 3) develop outreach activities to highlight and raise awareness of the city's achievements in modern architecture.

To start, the local design firm, Helveticka, teamed with Architectural Historian Diana Painter of Painter Preservation, to complete an inventory of 53 carefully selected properties and then write the historic context statement. This work was essential to document and research the wide variety of modern-style properties spread across the city.

In order to take Diana's work to a much larger audience, Helveticka was tasked to create a website. The site highlighted 53 inventoried properties, one for every week of 2017. In addition, the Historic Landmark Commission's Facebook page featured weekly posts to engage the public and encourage discussion of these resources; every Thursday afternoon a new property was added to the website, followed by the Facebook post. Facebook analytics indicated that over 275,500 people were reached during the campaign. And the Facebook page grew from 3796 Likes to 5155 Likes during 2017.

What sets this preservation project apart is the impressive social media strategy. By taking this "mid-century- building-a-week" approach, Spokane has devised an innovative way to deliver preservation information to the public and inspire new appreciation for the city's modern architecture achievements.

PLANNING: JANET ROGERSON

Now we move to our award for Outstanding Achievement in Historic Preservation Planning. This award acknowledges achievement by individuals or organizations for their efforts in laying the groundwork for the long-term preservation of important historic resources. Recipients in this category have established and maintained effective protective mechanisms such as preservation plans, programs, or processes. This year the preservation planning award is made to Janet Rogerson, now retired in Bellingham.

Throughout her career, historic preservation has been Janet's passion. Whether working as an architect, elected official, planner, project reviewer, grants manager, or community activist, historic preservation has been the lens through which Janet views the world.

From her training as an architect, Janet has a keen awareness of how the quality of our built environment shapes community character. She quickly grasped the benefits that a community can gain by preserving and reusing historic places.

Living in Shelton, she joined with fellow preservationists to establish the local Historic Preservation Commission. Janet's leadership in that effort eventually led her to make a successful run for elected office as a Shelton City Commissioner.

Following the 2001 Nisqually Earthquake, Janet moved to work with our agency, then the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation. Using her architecture skills and preservation experience, she reviewed restoration plans to repair the heavily damaged State Legislative Building. Her review made sure that plans met historic preservation standards in order for the State to receive critical federal funds. From our office, Janet was recruited to the State's Growth Management Division. There, she provided technical expertise on design and historic preservation for communities planning under the Growth Management Act. As the former manager of the Heritage Capital Projects program at the State Historical Society, Janet re-invigorated a key state heritage funding resource that channels substantial capital dollars to rehabilitate historic properties and build heritage facilities.

Throughout her career, Janet has demonstrated the rare quality of a community leader who understands the big picture while minding the details. Her legacy of building and maintaining bridges and relationships between agencies and communities is widely admired by her peers. In all her endeavors, Janet never loses sight of the connection to, and importance of, historic preservation as ending with a "win-win" for the communities she serves.

CEMETERY PRESERVATION: MALACHI SIMPER

We now turn to the award for outstanding achievement in historic cemetery preservation. Awards given in this category recognize individuals and organizations having made an extraordinary commitment to the recognition and protection of cemeteries and burial sites. This year, the award for Cemetery Preservation goes to **Malachi Simper** for leading a comprehensive restoration effort at the **Washington Lawn Cemetery** in Centralia.

Leading off with a little history, the Washington Lawn Cemetery began as a burial ground for the First Baptist Church of Centralia. In 1875, George Washington (an African American pioneer and founder of Centralia) set aside two acres of his own land to establish the Baptist cemetery. The earliest burials in the cemetery date to the 1880s and include the burial of George's wife Mary Jane in 1889. George Washington and his only child were buried in the cemetery in later years.

Now encompassing nearly four acres, the cemetery contains approximately 1400 burials. It has been maintained by the City of Centralia since 1937. However, the

City regularly needs volunteer assistance in order to complete more thorough work to maintain the cemetery.

Thanks to the efforts of Malachi Simper, Washington Lawn Cemetery has received a much needed facelift. Last year he organized a cemetery cleanup as part of an Eagle Scout project for Centralia's Memorial Day and George Washington celebrations. Following his call for assistance, Malachi inspired more than 75 volunteers to come out in wet weather and work to clean headstones plus trim overgrown bushes and trees. In addition, Malachi, his fellow Eagle Scouts, and his grandfather restored the cemetery's retaining wall, cleaning it of moss and painting over graffiti. These efforts saved the City of Centralia tens of thousands of dollars in repair and maintenance costs.

At this time, join with me in recognizing Malachi's amazing generosity, community service, and dedication to preservation of historic cemeteries. Malachi, please step forward to receive your award.

SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT: PATRICK NEAL

We now turn to awards for special achievement in historic preservation. Awards given in this category recognize individuals, organizations, programs, or special efforts that do not quite fit into the other award categories but have made a significant impact toward the preservation of cultural or historic properties. This year, Pat Neal of Clallam County is recognized for his many years of recording, writing about, and advocating for cultural and historic properties in Clallam County and the Olympic Peninsula.

While many persons can say that they “live-in” or, are “from” a certain place, there are fewer persons who can say they truly “inhabit” a place. Pat Neal is one of those rare persons who can claim that he *inhabits* the Olympic Peninsula.

Besides historian and preservationist, Pat is known locally as humorist, fishing guide, and outdoorsman. For years he has recorded his keen observations about life in Clallam County in his weekly Peninsula Daily News column.

Pat’s involvement in historic preservation dates to the early years of the profession, soon after passage of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and establishment of the National Register of Historic Places. In the 1970s, the State Historic Preservation Office contracted with county governments to begin the massive and ongoing effort to inventory historic properties. In Clallam

County, this job came to Pat who went on to spend 3 years working to identify, photograph, and research historic sites, buildings, structures, and landscapes. From remote valleys in Olympic National Park to the Strait of Juan de Fuca, he recorded archaeological sites, traditional cultural places, homesteads, logging camps, railroads, mines, fire lookouts, trail shelters, trails, resorts and more. The paper records of Pat's work are still housed and used at the County Historical Society in Port Angeles. Pat's work also served as the basis for cultural resource work at Olympic National Park. His history and site records represent the first comprehensive documentation of the Park's built environment. Paul Gleeson, former NPS Archaeologist, noted that Pat's work "...put park administration on notice as to the community interest in protecting local heritage." Tangible evidence of this is seen in the threat to demolish Rosemary Inn. Pat had documented the inn's historic significance that in turn led to its listing in the National Register and a successful effort to prevent demolition.

In recognition of this enduring legacy of preservation work and his ongoing writings that capture the essence of the Olympic Peninsula as a special place, it is an honor to present this award to Pat Neal.

CAREER ACHIEVEMENT: MELISSA MCGINNIS

The Award for Career Achievement recognizes the outstanding contribution of an individual over a substantial span of time to the general practice of historic preservation. Recipients in this category have been involved to a significant degree in activities large and small that have helped protect and/or secure public attention on National Register or National Register-eligible properties. Recipients may include those whose commitment to preservation is either professional or avocational. This year, there are two presentations made in this category. The first award for outstanding Career Achievement in Historic Preservation is made to Melissa McGinnis of Tacoma.

For most of Melissa McGinnis's 27-year career with Metro Parks Tacoma, she has served as the voice for the park district's many significant cultural and historic properties. During that time she oversaw the restoration of two National Historic Landmarks: the Chief Factor's House and the Granary at the Fort Nisqually reconstruction at Pt. Defiance Park. Melissa understands the important role that interpretation plays in helping the public understand and appreciate historic places; and her success in interpretation planning has made Ft. Nisqually a regional heritage tourism destination.

In 2011, after an arsonist nearly succeeded in burning down the iconic Pagoda at Pt. Defiance, she tirelessly advocated for the building's meticulous restoration. It is worth noting that in 2013, the Pagoda restoration project received an outstanding achievement in historic preservation award.

Outside of her day-to-day work of contract management, project reviews, event planning, and more, Melissa has co-authored three history books and conducted innumerable oral histories. She is also a photo archivist and a successful grant writer—bringing in well over one million dollars in funding to preserve historic structures in the Metro Parks system. Her historic preservation successes are well known throughout the northwest and her expertise is sought after by several heritage organizations including the Tacoma Landmarks Preservation Commission, the Heritage League of Pierce County, Tacoma Cemetery Board, the Tacoma Historical Society, and Tacoma City Council.

About Melissa, Tacoma preservationist and consultant Susan Johnson says:

“Managing the preservation of the landscapes, buildings, structures, objects, and districts of one of the largest park systems in the state...is more than a fulltime job, yet Melissa always does it with thoroughness, grace and passion.”

CAREER ACHIEVEMENT: JUSTINE JAMES

It is a distinct honor to present the second award in Career Achievement to Justine James of Taholah. Justine, a member of the Quinalt Indian Nation, has a long and distinguished career of over 30 years involving the tribe's cultural resources program plus spiritual traditions and cultural activities. He is currently the tribe's representative on the Timber Fish and Wildlife Program Cultural Resources Committee and staff to the tribe's Cultural Resource Program. He is also a recognized and highly respected Elder.

Justine is a co-author of the chapter on the Quinalt in the authoritative book *Native Peoples of the Olympic Peninsula*. He has assisted in the crafting of the Quinalt Indian Nation's Cultural and Historic Resource Protection Act protecting the tribe's cultural resources

Justine's life and career in cultural resources are closely intertwined and exemplify his passion and commitment to Quinalt cultural heritage; Washington's deep archaeological and cultural heritage; and Native American rights and education across multiple venues.

Justine has been instrumental in the creation and articulation of tribal cultural perspectives on the Olympic Peninsula and has been working with multiple federal, state, local agencies as well as tribal governments. He has played a key role in the education about federal laws to protect archaeological sites, Native American burials, religious freedom, and Native American Treaty rights along with environmental and endangered species protections.

Justine has a profound depth of knowledge and is persistent in his effort to incorporate a tribal perspective in the work of government.

It is with a deep sense of honor that I ask Justine to receive this award.

HERITAGE BARN PRESERVATION: KRAMLICH BARN

The Heritage Barn Preservation Category recognizes individuals and organizations having made a significant contribution to the preservation and awareness of Washington's historic barns. The 2018 award recipient in this category is Paul Cocking and his daughter Penni for preservation of the Kramlich Barn near Colfax in Whitman County.

Built in 1919, the picturesque Gothic-arched Kramlich Barn lies in the scenic, rolling hills of the Palouse. First settling in North Dakota after immigrating from Russia, William Kramlich and his family arrived in eastern Washington in 1912. Here they farmed over 200 acres raising the grain crops of the Palouse region. With so many acres to farm, the family relied heavily on their prized team of horses and mules, for which the Kramlich Barn was built.

By the time the Cocking family purchased the property in the late 1960s, the barn had seen its fair share of use. They actively used the barn for another 50 years; but by then, time and weather had taken its toll. Wooden shingles had blown off, the south wall began to lean, and the exposed roof rafters were deteriorated.

Preserving the legacy of her family history and the picturesque architecture of the barn became a calling for Paul's daughter Penni. She convinced her dad to invest

in the barn, nominate it to the Washington Heritage Barn Register, and to apply for a rehabilitation grant from DAHP.

The barn's multi-phase rehab effort began in 2015. Master barn contractor Jon Skoglun was hired to straighten and stabilize the building. He installed a series of metal rods and cables to keep the barn in plumb position. Jon was then hired to complete carpentry work in order to ready the barn for a new roof. Going the extra mile in preservation, the Cocking's decided to return the barn to as close to its original look as possible by installing a wood cedar shingle roof.

The project has been a labor of love for the family. Through their dedication the barn will stand for another 50 years as a prominent local landmark and attraction for photographers and barn lovers. Work continues at the barn and in coming years the Cockings will tackle window and siding repair as well as a new coat of paint.

At this time, it is truly an honor for me to recognize the work of the Cocking family to preserve the Kramlich Barn. Penni Cockling is not able to make the ceremony today; she has provided the attached remarks (next page)

STEWARDSHIP: QUILCENE HISTORICAL MUSEUM

The next award category is “Stewardship.” Award recipients in the Stewardship category recognize persons and organizations that have made a long and distinguished commitment to preserve a historic place. In 2018, we recognize the Quilcene Historical Museum for their heroic effort to restore the Hamilton-Worthington Mansion in Jefferson County. Built in 1892 by pioneer Millard Filmore Hamilton, the home was later purchased by William Jenner Worthington for his wife and 8 children.

In 1991, the Quilcene Historical Museum was formed by 12 citizens in order to preserve the region’s rich history. Founding member and local philanthropist, Eilleen Worthington, donated a piece of her land for the museum site. In July 2011, nearing the end of her life, Worthington offered the Museum a two-year purchase option to buy her family home, the Hamilton-Worthington mansion. With this incentive the Museum launched a capital campaign to raise \$300,000 needed to purchase the estate. The funds were raised by July 2013. Following acquisition, the Museum then kicked off a 5 phase – \$1.4 M development and restoration effort. Restoring the house to its original condition meant using

historic images as a guide to reconstruct the missing third floor. Additional extensive research has also allowed volunteers to identify appropriate furniture choices and paint colors, as well as uncover intriguing stories of the home's past. Throughout the fund-raising and restoration process, the Museum's board, members, and volunteers have shown determination, ingenuity, and passion for preservation. They have also effectively used the opportunity to teach preservation skills to their community and instill preservation values to a new generation of Quilcene residents. It is obvious that the community's connection to this place matters, and it shines through Quilcene's astonishing philanthropy and volunteer efforts. For example, volunteers have clocked nearly 6000 hours of donated labor, including hand-dipping 9,000 cedar shingles for the restored mansard roof.

The enthusiasm, diligence, and insistence on accuracy exhibited by the Quilcene Historical Museum to restore the Hamilton-Worthington House, is an outstanding example of stewardship. At this time, I invite representatives from the Quilcene Historical Museum to step forward and receive your award.

REHABILITATION: WHITE BLUFFS BANK

We now turn to awards in the Historic Rehabilitation Category. Awards in this category recognize projects resulting in exemplary rehabilitation of historic buildings or structures. Award-winning projects must demonstrate that completed work meets, if not exceeds, the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. Of note is that this award is named in fond memory of Valerie Sivinski, a talented Tacoma architect, dedicated preservation advocate, and good friend. The first presentation in this category is to the U.S. Department of Energy for restoration of the White Bluffs Bank on the Hanford Site near Richland.

The White Bluffs Bank is the sole remaining building of the small farming community of White Bluffs. In 1943, history intervened when the Federal government took control of the entire region to construct the top secret Manhattan Project at what is now known as the Hanford Site. This action removed the population, cleared the town, and closed the area to the public,...until now.

Constructed in the early twentieth century, the bank building ruin had been a longtime focal point for the local community's desire to preserve the last vestiges

of White Bluffs and nearby Hanford. However, support for preserving the building was hard to find. Most people considered it too far gone or not worth the effort. Undeterred, Hanford Site cultural resource managers and local preservationists were persistent in advocating for restoration and public access. Working in partnership with the National Park Service and in consultation with DAHP, these efforts have resulted in a remarkable preservation success.

The restoration required a tremendous amount of research and scientific analysis. Tiny remnants of original paint were analyzed to produce original colors. Plaster was reattached to the lath and recreated where missing. But the highlight of restoring missing features was certainly re-casting an exact replica of the original bank vault. An identical vault to the original one was found in New York and it was digitally scanned to produce plans for the White Bluffs vault re-creation.

Today, the White Bluffs Bank stands ready to greet visitors to the recently established Manhattan Project National Historical Park and to remind them that the first act of the Manhattan Project at Hanford was the displacement of tribes and communities that were told they would never return. The Department of

Energy will welcome them back in 2018 to hang the National Park Service emblem: a fitting new chapter for a remarkable and symbolic facility.

REHABILITATION: CHENEY HIGH SCHOOL-SCHOOLHOUSE LOFTS

The second award in this category goes to collaborating partners Eagle Rock Ventures and Eastmark Capital Group, both of Seattle, for their outstanding rehabilitation of the former Cheney High School into the School House Lofts apartments.

Designed by Spokane architect George Rasque and completed in 1931, Cheney High School featured modern classrooms, gymnasium, auditorium, and accented by high quality materials including brick, terra cotta, and terrazzo flooring. The building remained the high school until 1967 and ended its service in education as the School District's administrative offices in 2013. At that time, the district sold the property to the Eagle Rock-Eastmark partnership. By taking a preservation approach, the development team, led by Sean Barnes and Scott Shapiro, reversed conventional thinking by turning what most developers would consider unusable space into the development's greatest asset. Their innovative concepts included subdividing the gymnasium and theater into halves and then reserving the public half of each space as a game room and study lounge. Other spaces became bike

storage, tenant storage, and the nicest apartment laundry lounge you've ever seen.

To create an exceptional living experience for residents, the developer retained the high school feel, keeping an unusual amount of the original interior with the objective to create unique living spaces while emphasizing the building's historic architecture. To maximize floor area, loft sleeping areas were constructed with study nooks on top of closets and bathrooms to capitalize on the 12 foot ceilings.

Mahogany wainscoting, trim and chalk boards were retained or repurposed.

Salvaged gymnasium flooring was repurposed elsewhere in the project. Original 8 foot tall steel sash windows were refurbished. Wide hallways, lockers and terrazzo floors were all retained.

Redevelopment of the high school to apartments resulted in 36 residential units with 118 beds, comprised of studios, plus 2, 3 and 4 bedroom units. To ensure financial feasibility, the developer adhered closely to preservation standards in order to receive Federal Historic Tax Credits as well as the state's Special Valuation for Historic Properties program administered by the City of Cheney.

Cheney High School has been a community icon since it was built; now School House Lofts provides contemporary and fun living spaces within a cherished historic building,...once again beautifully demonstrating that preservation *pays*.
Welcome Sean Barnes and Scott Shapiro and step forward to receive your award.