

Clark County Historic Preservation Program

Culture, Arts & Heritage Commission Presentation



Alex Gall, Chair, Clark County Historic Preservation Commission

January 2020

Historic Preservation Program

Historic Preservation Act of 1966

- Established the National Register of Historic Places
- Mandates Sec 106 review process for federally funded projects
- State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPO)
- Certified Local Government (CLG)



Parkersville Site



Historic Preservation Program

- Identify, evaluate and protect historic and prehistoric resources
- Preserve and rehabilitate eligible historic and/or cultural resources for future generations.
- City/County Historic Preservation Commission created in 1981
- Intergovernmental Agreement
- County: Regulatory & Heritage Register
- City: Education and outreach



House of Providence, 1873



Nelson Farmhouse
Salmon Creek
Built 1891

Clark County Historic Preservation Commission

- Product of Certified Local Government Program (CLG)
- Oversees the Clark County Heritage Register
- Reviews Proposed Design Changes to Listed Properties
- Serves as the Primary Resource for Clark County and the City of Vancouver on Historic Preservation Issues
- Represents Two CLGs – Clark County and City of Vancouver

Clark County Historic Preservation Commission



Historic registers

- National Register of Historic Places
 - 43 properties
- Washington Heritage Register
 - 43 properties
- Washington Heritage Barn Register
 - 22 barns
- Clark County Heritage Register
 - 120 properties



Clark County Heritage Register

- Associated with history, architecture, archaeology, engineering or cultural heritage of community
- Integrity: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feel, association
- At least 50 years old
- Falls in at least one of 11 more specific categories



Farrell House, Camas, 1915



Advantages of listing a property

- More inviting for potential tenants and customers
- Free consulting advice from the Historic Preservation Commission
- Pride in your property and its history and/or craftsmanship
- Eligible for grants if a nonprofit or government entity
- Eligible for tax incentives



Kiggins Theatre, Vancouver, 1936



CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS – DESIGN REVIEW

Required for Clark County Heritage
Register properties

Changes that affect its historic
features or requires a permit except
ordinary repair/maintenance

Two types of review:

- ❖ Type I – Staff Review
- ❖ Type III – Historic Preservation
Commission review (public hearing)



Summit Grove Lodge, Design Review, 2011

Tax incentives – current use taxation



Clark County Heritage Register

Propstra House, Vancouver, 1923



Tax incentives - federal historic tax credit



Clark County Heritage Register, National Register of Historic Places, Washington Heritage Register
Farrell Building, Camas, 1924



Tax Incentives – Special Valuation

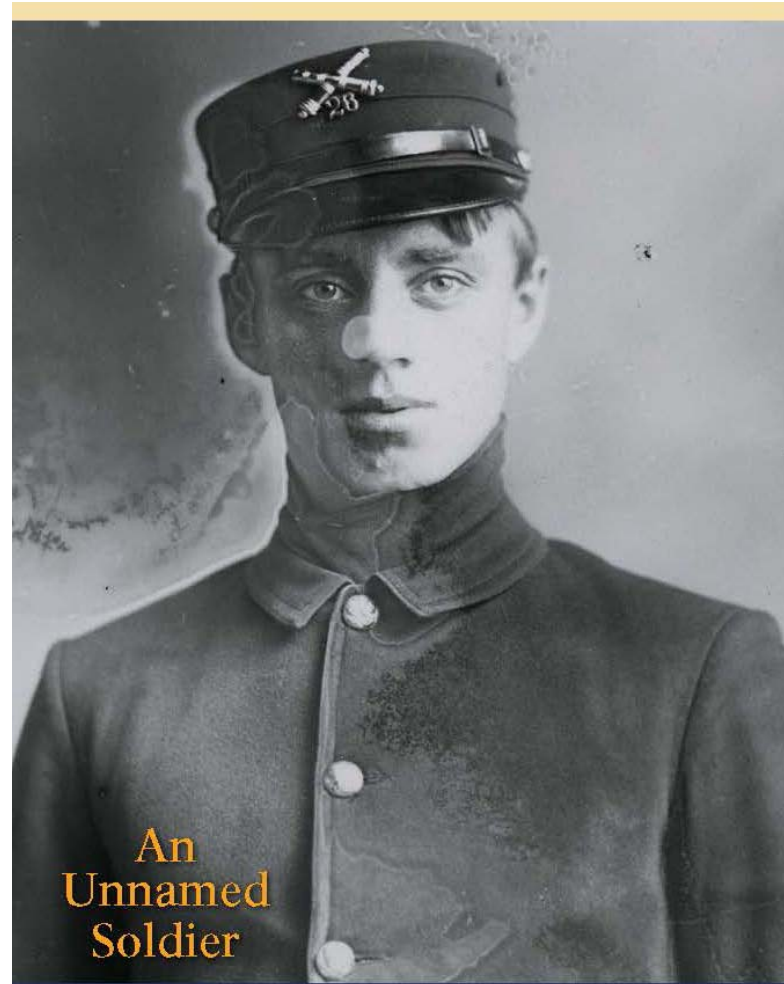


Luepke Florist
2016 Special Valuation



Historical Promotion Grants Program

- Initiated in 2006
- RCW 36.22.170 - \$1 surcharge on filing fees
- Promote historical preservation or historical programs, including preservation of historical documents
- HPC reviews applications and recommendations to BOCC



West Vancouver Barracks Interpretive Plan
2016 Historical Promotion Grant



Outreach - Historic Clark County Mobile App

Historic Clark County Mobile App!



NOW AVAILABLE



Want to know the story behind that old building in your neighborhood or near your work?

Download the free Historic Clark County app that puts that history right at your fingertips. Locate historic buildings and sites near you, anywhere in the county and share the info and your experience through social media.



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clark.wa.gov/planning/historic



Outreach – Interpretive Panels

Clark County Courthouse

The Clark County Courthouse opened Nov. 29, 1941. Although it was not the county's first courthouse, it has endured longer than the previous three.

Local architect Day Walter Hilborn designed the six-story building in the Art Deco/Art Moderne style popular for public construction projects at the time. The structure showcased the most modern developments in the building arts.

The courthouse was built of reinforced concrete to prevent fire from destroying thousands of irreplaceable documents and records, which is what happened when the county's second courthouse burned in 1890.

The courthouse originally housed all county departments, a Justice of the Peace, other agencies and a 70-inmate jail. The one windowless courtroom included separate rooms for male and female jurors.

The building now houses only Clark County Superior Court and District Court courtrooms and offices.

In 2014, it was placed on the National Register of Historic Places for its significance as the headquarters of county-level government and politics, and, architecturally, as an excellent example of an Art Deco/Art Moderne-style public building.



The First Three Courthouses



1
Clark County's first courthouse was a two-story, wood frame structure built in 1855 on West Reserve Street, near Fort Vancouver. Cost: \$1,000
CCHM Collection 01006



2
The second courthouse was a three-story brick building that stood in approximately the same location as today's courthouse. Built in late 1883, it went up in flames 7 1/2 years later, destroying a large number of public records. Cost: \$44,460
CCHM Collection 01023



3
The third courthouse was a Romanesque style, three-story brick building with a large clock tower. Built in 1892, it stood slightly to the south of today's courthouse. The county outgrew it by the late 1930s, and it was replaced by the current courthouse and demolished. Cost: \$65,000
CCHM Collection 01017

The Architect

Few people had a greater impact on southwest Washington's built environment than architect Day Walter Hilborn.

He designed many well-known downtown buildings, including the Kiggins Theatre on Main Street, the original building for *The Columbian* newspaper on Evergreen Boulevard and the homes of many of Vancouver's social, political and business elite.

The courthouse is perhaps Hilborn's greatest legacy. It assured his place in local history and brought him nationwide recognition.



The Buckskin Brigade

Architect Day Walter Hilborn also designed the original Buckskin Brigade sculpture above the front entrance of the courthouse.

Executed by architectural sculptor Vic Schneider, the bas-relief work was poured as part of the wall. It depicts an Iroquois man with two fur trappers and symbolizes the role the fur trade played establishing Clark County as a center of government and business.

In 1978, workers preparing to paint the building noticed the sculpture was damaged, and it was taken down. Local citizens raised money to recreate the sculpture in bronze, and it was installed on Sept. 13, 1990.

Discover the history all



2016 Interpretive panel



Outreach – National Register plaques



Bronze plaques for properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places,



Recent Projects – De-listing J. Davis Marker

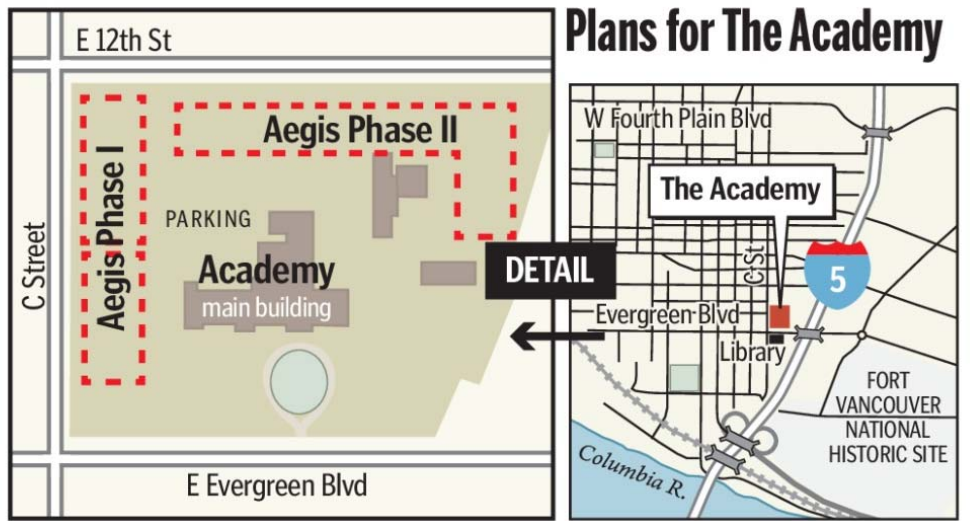


Reasons for removal from CCHR:

1. 2002 motion to approve by the CCHPC was contingent upon additional biographical information on May Avery Wilkins of the DOC being added later, but was never received.
2. The 2017 HPC independently reached the conclusion that integrity of location had been lost.
3. The 2017 HPC independently reached the conclusion that the Jefferson Davis Highway Marker nomination did not satisfy the significance criteria of the Heritage Register ordinance.



Recent Projects – Concerns Over the Aegis Development Review Process



“Site plan for Vancouver’s Providence Academy moves forward intact”

“City official shrugs off criticism by preservation group”

By Calley Hair, Columbian staff writer

Published: January 3, 2020



Historic Property Demolition:
Clark County and
The City of Vancouver

The Problem:

Except for properties listed on the
Clark County Historic Register (CCHP),
There is NO REVIEW for historic properties as part of
the permitting process
for demolitions

Presentation by:
Alexander Gall, M.A., RPA
Historic Preservation Commission, Vice-Chair



Recent Projects – Intangible Cultural Heritage Register

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) introduced the Convention for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2003. It now includes an inventory of the intangible culture heritage within their member countries and works with the people maintaining these cultures to ensure that they are recognized, protected, and preserved. It also provides funds to support the maintenance of these living cultures. 168 of the world's 198 countries signed the UNESCO Convention for Intangible Cultural Heritage, but the United States has not.

Inspired by UNESCO's model, and cognizant of the fact that the Clark County Heritage Collection is only reflective of the built environment, the Clark County Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) is exploring the creation of an Intangible Cultural Heritage Register at the county level, separate from the Clark County Heritage Register, which is a "list of properties (buildings, objects, sites or structures) that have been designated to be representative of Clark County's rich history" (CCC 40.250.030.C).



It has been said that, at its best, preservation engages the past in a conversation with the present over a mutual concern for the future.

– William Murtagh, first keeper of the National Register of Historic Places

