

Clark County Historic Preservation Program

City of Vancouver

Culture, Arts and Heritage Commission



Jeanette (Jan) Bader
Commission Member

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Discussion items

- Program overview
- Preservation Commission
- Historic registers
- Advantages of listing property
- Tax Incentives
- Grants
- Outreach projects and other Initiatives



Yale Bridge, Battle Ground, Built 1932



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)



House of Providence, Built 1873

Historic Preservation Program

- Protect historic and prehistoric resources
- Preserve historic and/or cultural resources for future generations.
- Combined City/County Historic Preservation Commission- created in 1981
- County- Regulatory & Heritage Register
- City- Education & Outreach



Parkersville Landing, Washougal, Circa 1845

Clark County Historic Preservation Program

Commission and Staff Roles:

- Preservation Commission consists of seven members:
 - Five Clark County Appointees
 - Two City of Vancouver Appointees
- Commission has Chair and Vice- Chair
- Members serve three-year terms (two max)
- County Staff administers the program and processes project in unincorporated Clark County and cities other than Vancouver
- Vancouver Staff process COV projects



Venersborg School, Battle Ground, Built 1912



Historic Registers

- National Register of Historic Places
 - 43 properties
- Washington Heritage Register
 - 43 properties
- Washington Heritage Barn Register -26 total
- Clark County Heritage Register
 - 80 properties
- Commission reviews all nominations for the Clark County and National Registers
- National & State registers offer no protection against alteration or demolition
- County register does offer some protection



Nominating a structure, site, object or district



Clark County Courthouse, Built 1941

- Meet the register criteria
- Requires owner consent for listing
- City/County staff assist with nomination packet
- Approved by Commission
- Future changes to character defining features may require approval by Commission



Clark County Heritage Register

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



Farrell House, Camas, Built 1915



Advantages of listing a property

More inviting and interesting for potential tenants and customers.

Free consulting advice may be provided by staff and the Historic Preservation Commission.

Pride in your property and its past history and/or craftsmanship.

Eligibility for certain tax incentives.



Kiggins Theatre, Vancouver, Built 1936



Environmental Benefits of Historic Preservation

Reuse of existing buildings preserves energy and resources invested in construction rather than producing new materials.

Historic buildings often designed to maximize natural light, air flow and natural heating.

10-80 years of operation for a “green” building to recoup negative impacts of construction.



Luepke Florist, Vancouver, Built 1937



Tax Incentives

- Current Use Tax (property valued at current use rather than market value)
- Special Valuation for rehab costs equal to at least 25% of value of structure (reduction on property tax for 10 years)
- Federal Historic Tax Credit for rehabilitation of income producing properties (20% income tax credit)



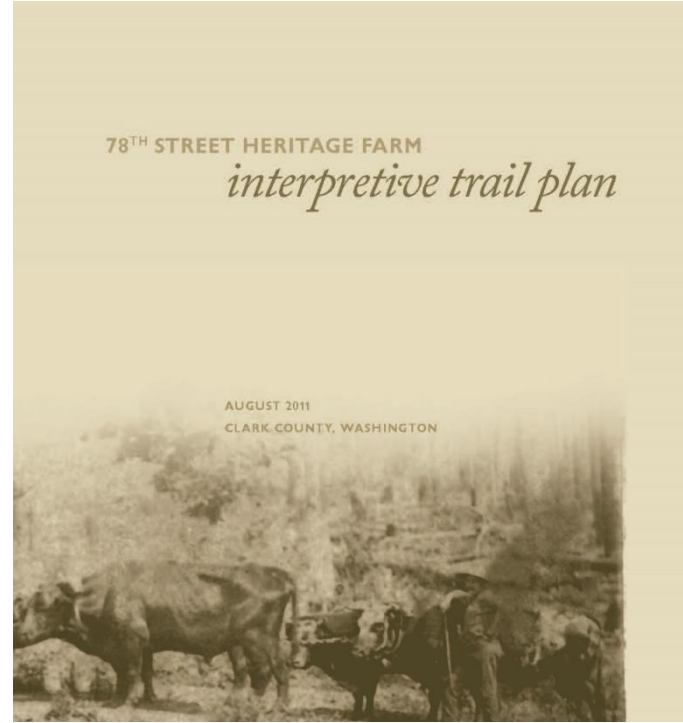
Propstra House, Vancouver, Built 1923



Certified Local Government Grants



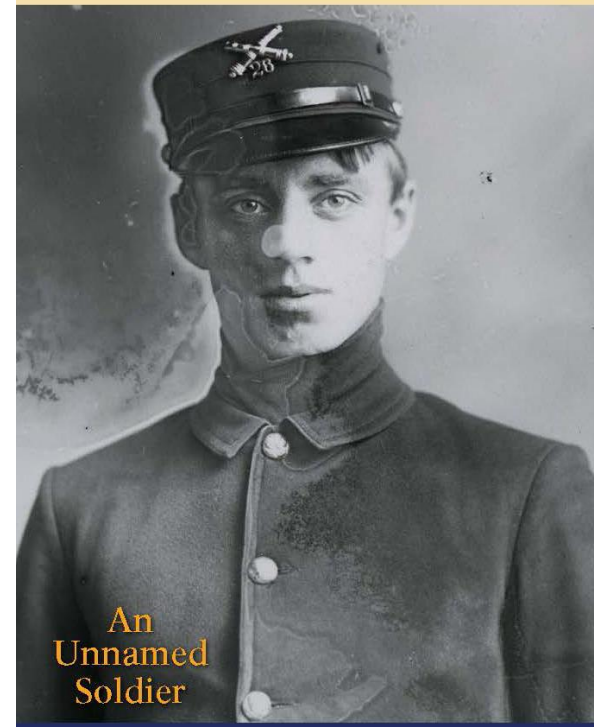
Clark County Poor Farm and Cemetery
Documentation and Remote Sensing
Report



78th Street Heritage Farm Interpretive
Trail Plan

Historical Promotion Grants

- 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 makes recommendations to County Council



West Vancouver Barracks Interpretive Plan
2016 Historical Promotion Grant



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.



Interpretive Panels

The First Three Courthouses



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



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



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



Outreach and Other Initiatives

Outreach

- Website Update
- Lending Library
- National History Day
- Sponsorships

Other Initiatives

- IBRP Mitigation Recommendations
- Demolition Procedures
- Design Guidelines
- Professional Training



Farrell Building, Camas, Built 1924



“It has been said that, at it’s 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

