

SECTION VII

OUTREACH AND PARTNERSHIPS

Helping local residents understand the city's past

Public outreach by the Olympia Heritage Commission has focused mainly on educating residents about local history and the city's historic sites. These efforts include:

Individual Property Markers

Properties listed on the Olympia Heritage Register are identified for the public with simple bronze markers that tell the historic name of each building, the date of its construction and a brief summary of its importance to local history. The cost of manufacturing and installing these markers—currently about \$300 apiece—is underwritten the City of Olympia.

Interpretive Signs and Markers

City-funded interpretive markers with photos and text have been placed at Sylvester Park, Priest Point Park and Percival Landing. The Heritage Commission has also collaborated with other community groups (including the Olympia Area Chinese Fellowship, the Locke Family Association, Olympia Masonic Lodge, Daughters of the American Revolution and the Washington State Department of General Administration) to produce and install additional interpretive markers.

Public Art Projects

The Heritage Commission has provided historic research and background materials to City-funded public art projects at the Park of the Seven Oars, the Olympia Custom House site and along the Yashiro International Friendship (Fourth Avenue) Bridge. The historic Emma Page Fountain, a popular feature in State-owned Sylvester Park, was also saved and rehabilitated through the efforts of the Olympia Heritage Commission, Page Family and General Administration.



Chinese Heritage Marker installed in 2004 through the efforts of the Locke Family Association, the Olympia Area Chinese Fellowship, and the Olympia Heritage Commission.

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K-12 Education

While there is no formal relationship between the City preservation program and the Olympia School District, City staff and volunteers provide historic walking tours for students on request. Videos and slide-tape presentations produced by the Heritage Commission are made available to area teachers through Education Service District 113. In 1996 staff also produced a curriculum guide for Olympia’s historic Bigelow House Museum using the National Park Service model for “Teaching With Historic Places.”



Restored Emma Page Fountain in Sylvester Park.
Olympia Heritage Commission photo.

Holiday Tour of Homes

For nearly 15 years the Heritage Commission has sponsored an annual tour of important historic properties, most of which are listed on the Olympia Heritage Register. Since 1995 proceeds from this tour have benefited programs and operations at the Bigelow House Museum.

Guided Walking Tours

Commission members and staff have offered free public walking tours periodically since 1986—especially in May, which is National Historic Preservation Month.

Workshops

Over the past 22 years the Heritage Commission has repeatedly offered workshops on how to retain the historic character of a property, how to work with contractors and artisans and how to research the history of a house.

Preservation Awards

Since 1986 the Commission has recognized recent accomplishments in local historic preservation with annual awards presented to individuals and businesses in front of the City Council each May.

Banners

Vinyl banners promoting Olympia history are flown from downtown light poles each May to increase public awareness during Preservation Month.

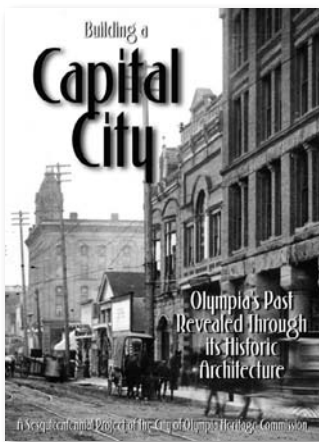
Heritage Commission Publications

Building a Capital City: Olympia’s Past Revealed Through Its Historic Architecture

An illustrated 135-page book published by the Commission to celebrate Olympia’s sesquicentennial in 2000.

How to Identify the Historic Character of Your House

A pocket-sized guide to recognizing local historic house styles.



Cover, *Building A Capital City: Olympia’s Past Revealed Through Its Historic Architecture*

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Historic Preservation in Olympia

An informational flyer describing local historic preservation programs and services.

Walking Tour Brochures

Historical walking tour brochures have been developed on a wide range of local subjects, including:

- Downtown Olympia
- South Capitol Neighborhood
- West Side Neighborhood
- East Side Neighborhood
- Bigelow Neighborhood
- Bigelow Highlands Neighborhood
- Southeast Olympia Neighborhood
- Women's History in Olympia

These brochures, which have been funded primarily with federal grants, are available free to the public at the State Capitol Visitors Center, the Olympia Chamber of Commerce or by phone request from staff.

Web Site

A Guide to Olympia's Past

is a "virtual tour" of 35 local historic buildings and sites (<http://trpc.org>).

Olympia Downtown Historic District

provides general and individualized information on the district with historical background and permitting guidelines (<http://trpc.org>).

Video Programs

- Olympia, the Capital
30-minute program chronicling Olympia's role as state capitol
- Building a Capital City
20-minute companion video to book of the same title

Slide/Power Point Programs

- Women's History in Olympia
- Women's Suffrage in Olympia
- Cultural History of Olympia
- Olympia's Capitol Architecture
- West Bay History
- West Olympia History
- The Olympia Downtown Historic District

Outreach and Partnerships

Partnerships

The Heritage Commission has partnered with the groups listed below in previous or ongoing historic preservation projects. Recognizing the importance of these partnerships, the Heritage Commission plans to continue to build on these relationships and create new partnerships as outlined in the Historic Preservation Priorities section (see pages 70-72).

The Washington State Historical Society
The Bigelow House Preservation Association
Olympia Visitor and Convention Bureau
Daughters of the American Revolution, Sacajawea Chapter
Olympia Masonic Lodge #1, F and A M
Olympia Area Chinese Fellowship
Locke Family Association
Olympia Downtown Association
Woman's Club of Olympia
Olympia Historical Society
The Page Family
BJSS/Duarte Bryant Architects, now Ambia
AIA Washington
Washington Department of Community Trade and Economic Development
Washington Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
Washington Department of General Administration
Olympia Neighborhood Associations
The Olympia Parks and Recreation Department
The Olympia Arts Commission
The Olympia Public Works Department
Olympia Community Planning and Development Department
National Trust for Historic Preservation
Washington Trust for Historic Preservation

Outreach and Partnerships

South Sound Heritage Association

Thurston County Historic Commission

Lynn Erickson, Sylvester's Window Project

Olympia Federal Savings

South Sound Maritime Association

Sand Man Foundation

Washington State Legislature

The Nisqually Tribe and Squaxin Island Tribe enjoy rights afforded them by treaty and federal law related to the Olympia area. The Heritage Commission and City of Olympia collaborate with area tribes on matters of mutual interest.

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