



Trolley Times



Volume # 31

*News of Tacoma's North Slope Historic District
National Register of Historic Places*

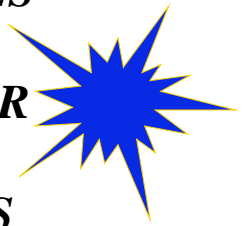
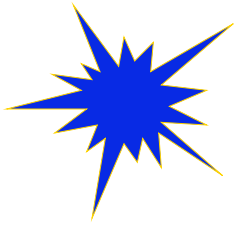
Apr.-May-June 2003

The North Slope Historic District Has It All!

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

WASHINGTON STATE HERITAGE REGISTER

TACOMA REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES



Word was received Thursday, April 17, 2003 from Michael Houser, Architectural Historian, Washington State Office of Archaeology & Historic Preservation, that our North Slope Historic District has been approved by the National Park Service and is included in the National Register of Historic Places.

We have every reason to celebrate as the hard work in obtaining this status just proves what we all know, that we live in a neighborhood of great historic homes.

Park Update

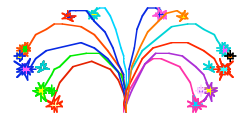
Metropolitan Park District has abandoned maintenance of NSHD Park due to budget constraints. MPD is asking for individuals and groups to officially volunteer for maintenance chores by signing a legal contract with MPD. At the current time, the NSHD park committee has concerns with the terms of this contract, and is negotiating with MPD to try to make the contract more acceptable.

In the meantime, we will need to keep the park clean and safe ourselves---litter and dog mess pickup, weeding, and lawn maintenance.

If you are interested in helping, please call Nick Kristensen at 272-2884.



Celebration!!!



North Slope neighbors will celebrate the National Historic designation with a reception from 2 to 5 p.m., Saturday, June 7. Jay Turner, who spearheaded the nomination work, will open his home at 817 North J Street for the afternoon event. City officials and historic preservation devotees will be invited to join us.

For further information, call 383-2329 or 627-4537.

Next North Slope Meeting

The next North Slope meeting will be on a Saturday morning from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. The date is May 17 at Immanuel Presbyterian Church, North 9th and J Streets. Coffee will be available after 9:30 a.m.

The program will include updates on neighborhood plans, ideas, and projects. The NSHD Steering Committee will present reports of its various committees, and solicit input from those in attendance.

Join us for coffee at 9:30, with the meeting at 10 a.m.

Tacoma National North Slope Historic District

The odyssey through the bureaucratic web began when Jay Turner completed the research, labeled the photographs, marked the maps and finished the hundreds of pages of documents to complete the nomination of our Historic District to the National List of Historic Places. Two public hearings were required prior to the nomination being forwarded to the Department of the Interior for consideration to be listed.

The first hearing was held by the Tacoma Landmarks Preservation Commission in order to take public comment on the local level. The LPC was involved because Tacoma is a "Certified Local Government" and as such enjoys many advantages but also has to follow rules and procedures set forth by the Federal government, this procedure being one of them. The commission had first to consider if the application fulfilled all the requirements set forth by the Dept. of the Interior, and second if there was any reason why the district would not qualify. Of course the second part was easy because it is already a historic district on the local register. All public testimony was in favor and strongly urged the Commission to forward the nomination to the State office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation. The commission had a long comment period, so that everyone who wished to could submit a written comment for the record. Once the comment period had expired the Tacoma Landmarks Preservation Commission unanimously passed the motion to forward the nomination to the state level!

The state office passes the nomination on to the State Advisory Council on Historic Preservation for a public hearing. In this case the hearing was held in late January 2003 in Chehalis in the restored Union Railroad Depot, a very nice restoration and adaptive reuse of a historic structure. Chehalis is a very fine example of a city that has not suffered the wrecking ball. It is worth getting off the freeway and driving into downtown!

The Council consisted of seven preservation experts and three state Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation employees. They considered many nominations besides our North Slope District. All nominations were a verbal description and a short slide presentation of the property. Among others, the council heard about a very large stately hillside barn that is now within a park and is an attraction in its own right. There is only one other example of this type of barn in Washington. The council heard about the abandoned railroad yard at Cle Elum. At one time the rail lines going East and West were electrified and the distribution center, maintenance yard and a classic station were at Cle Elum. All the beautiful brick buildings are still standing and hopefully have a future. One of the highlights of the hearings was the application of Gaffney's Lake Wilderness Lodge. The "lodge" was built in 1952 and was awarded state and national acclaim (along with the Lever Bldg. in New York City) for its innovative design and use of materials including a three story totem pole that the stairs wrap around! It is now included in a King County park. The Council heard the nominations for several historic districts, one of which is in Vancouver. It is approximately one half the size of the North Slope district and has less than 60% contributing structures; the North Slope has approx. 75% contributing. The Vancouver district is much like ours in that it was the working man's neighborhood during the city's major development years. Unlike our district though, there are very few large homes and no "grand homes". Just like the North Slope, renovation and restoration have again made this neighborhood a much-desired place to live!

The Council heard the Tacoma North Slope Historic District Nomination and was very impressed with not only the size but also the quality of the district. We have a high percentage of contributing structures and many original secondary structures still intact. The council was also very impressed by the nomination documents themselves. The thoroughness and professionalism made a very good impression and made their task much easier. The process consists of two steps; first the district had to be listed in the Washington Heritage Register and then approved for forwarding the nomination to the Keeper of the National Register in Washington D.C. They quickly voted 100% in favor of listing our historic district in the Washington Heritage Register and for passing the nomination to the Department of Interior for inclusion (after a small review) on the National Register of Historic Places.

Allison Brooks, the State Historic Preservation Officer said recently in a letter to Jay, "Having a property listed in one or both of these registers is an honor. The benefits of State and National Register listing include potential tax credits, property tax deductions and code waivers to protect the integrity of the resource. Listing of a property does not impose federal or state restrictive covenants or easements nor will it result in taking. However, listing in the National Register of Historic Places and/or the Washington Heritage Register does assure protective review of a property should a federal or state action have a potential adverse effect to the property's historic values."

Jay and Julie Turner deserve a 100% vote of Gratitude & Thanks for writing and organizing the nomination and documents! Without them this would not have happened! The city had already said they did not have the resources to take on such a BIG project nor did they want to...

Article by Roger Johnson

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The oldest house still standing in the North Slope was built in 1881 at 714 North M Street. John Geehan, a car inspector for the N.P. Railroad,

was the original owner, whose family lived there at least 45 years. In 1883 a house was built at 802 North L, and in 1885 a house at 718 North M. Two houses built in 1888 are at 1201 North 11th and 419 North J.

These five buildings may not look original, as modifications may have been made over the last century.



National Register Celebration
June 7, 2 to 5 p.m.
817 North J Street

Adopt-a-Spot News

Ten volunteers picked up litter on North I on Mar. 1. We welcomed three new helpers: Kristin, Geoff, and Marshall! There has been more trash the last few months. People walking don't seem willing to wait until they see a garbage receptacle. Children drop papers to and from school. Litter falls from open trucks driving by.

The next litter pickup will be after the May 17 Saturday morning meeting. If you would like to help collect trash, please stay when the meeting adjourns at 11:00. If it is raining, we'll plan for the next Saturday, May 24, at 10 a.m., at the church parking lot.

Thanks again to John, Jerry, and Julie who have adopted J and L Streets.

How about calling the city for one of your two free yearly pickups of three large appliances, carpets, mattresses, or boxes from your front planting strip? Call 573-2468 to arrange a time. Let's keep the North Slope free of blight!



Dates to Remember

May 11 Mothers' Day
 May 17 Armed Forces Day
 May 17 Next North Slope meeting at 10 a.m. at
 Immanuel Presbyterian
 Adopt-a-Spot litter pickup, 11 a.m
 May 26 Memorial Day
 June 7 National Historic District celebration, 2-5 p.m.
 June 14 Flag Day
 June 15 Fathers' Day
 June 21 Summer begins
 July Next newsletter

Police/Community News

Sector 2 Tacoma Police report that the North Slope, especially around M Street, has been targeted for burglary the past few weeks. Unsecured windows on homes and garages are points of entry. CLO Kothstein reminds us that, "It's real important to be security conscious and keep windows locked at night or when away."

The Washington State Liquor Control Board has revised penalty guideline rules effective May 5, 2003.

Sector 2 staff are Lieut. Ruiz, 591-5697, CLO Stark, 594-7837, CLO Rush, 594-7961, and CLO Kothstein, 591-5290.

Interested in establishing a neighborhood watch program in your block? Call Safe Streets at 272-6824 for information on starting a block watch.

The Master Builders Association of Pierce County (272-2112) has the following suggestions for homeowners planning repairs or renovation:

- (1) ask friends for references,
- (2) get at least three bids,
- (3) hire licensed and bonded companies,
- (4) get proper permits, and
- (5) understand the contract before signing.



FREE TO A GOOD HOME

Would you like to have a little piece of Tacoma's history? The garage accompanying our 1890 home is due to be replaced, and we'd like to offer the existing structure (for free), to someone who would like to re-assemble it on their own property. This building would make an ideal garden/potting shed, or be the perfect spot for parking your new "Mini-Cooper". If you are interested please call Paul to arrange a tour at (H) 272-6654 or (C) 253-405-3073.

The Back Page...

North Slope Historic District Steering Committee:

Victoria Hankwitz	404-1061
Thomas Hudson	973-3700
Brian & Betsy Johnson	
Bill Johnston	627-6860
Dan & Angie Klein	272-0938
Chuck & Stacy Kahler	779-8757
Nick Kristensen & Patty LeBlanc	272-2884
Kathryn Longwell	627-0423
Bev & Charles Lord	572-5742
Velda McDonald	627-4192
Judy Martin	572-3059
Mitch Robinson	272-0165
Barbara & Ralph Tomberg	572-1532
Marilyn Torgerson	627-4537
Julie Turner	383-2329

Meeting Idea:

We have an opportunity to host a seminar with master horticulturalist and arborist Don Stewart. He has the ability to clearly (and humorously) compress a great deal of knowledge about the care and pruning of fruit trees and ornamentals, as well as, insect, weed and disease control. He has up-to-date information and experience with using new, highly effective, injectable inoculations for woody plants against damaging insects and many diseases such as Dutch Elm Disease which has recently arrived here. If you can't be at our next meeting when we will discuss setting up this opportunity, please call Julie or Nick. If you have an idea for a meeting topic, please call one of the steering committee members.

Mark Your Calendar!

Next North Slope Meeting
Saturday, May 17
9:30 a.m., coffee
10:00 a.m., meeting
Immanuel Presbyterian
Church
North 9th & J Streets

Thank you to:

Tacoma Cares

for the printing of the newsletter. We appreciate your support.

Recycling Tips....



TAGRO Mix for your lawn and garden is available free at the self-load area at Tacoma's Central Wastewater Treatment Plant. For information call 502-2150, or visit www.TAGRO.com.

Many of our North Slope neighbors have beautiful gardens. Some are fenced, so are not visible to passers-by. When out walking on sunny Spring and Summer days, let's take time to enjoy the lovely flowers, trees, and landscaping that our "green thumb" friends have planted!

Are there weeds and plants in your yard that may be harmful? Pierce County Noxious Weed Board can help identify potentially dangerous weeds. Call 798-7263.

Are you doing spring cleaning? Here's a "green" way to wash windows. In a spray bottle, mix 2 cups water, 1/4 cup white distilled vinegar and 1/2 teaspoon liquid soap. Spray on window. Use a clean cloth or a natural cellulose sponge to wipe the window clean.

Try www.cityoftacoma.org/greenercleaners for more earth-friendly tips.

If you don't have the 90 gallon brown container for yard waste, or the blue container for recycling, call Solid Waste Management at 591-5543.

February Meeting

About 40 North Slope residents attended the February 26 meeting when Tacoma Cares staffers Lisa Wojtanowicz and Brad Dorman discussed building code violations, abandoned vehicles, nuisance and blight conditions. Thanks to all who brought treats to share for the dessert potluck!



The North Slope Historic District is made up of the people living between "I" and Grant Streets from Division to Steele.