



Trolley Times



Volume # 30

News of the North Slope Historic District

Jan-Feb-Mar 2003

We're Going National

A Progress Report

by Jay Turner

Early in November the Registration Form for the National Register of Historic Places was submitted to the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation in Olympia. Michael Houser is the Architectural Historian for the state and he accepted the document for review.

Our nomination was 550 pages long. It contained two essays, one 7 pages long and the other 14 pages. It contained current information about each house in the district as well as historic information. Fifty-seven photographs were included to illustrate our resources. We submitted two boxes of slides. We submitted 5 different maps. An inventory table was required summarizing all our properties and it took 23 pages just to do this. It has taken many months to accomplish this task and get the nomination submitted.

Our nomination has been submitted, but we still have a long way to go before we can expect NPS approval and become part of the National Register of Historic Places. From now on, we must wait for the following:

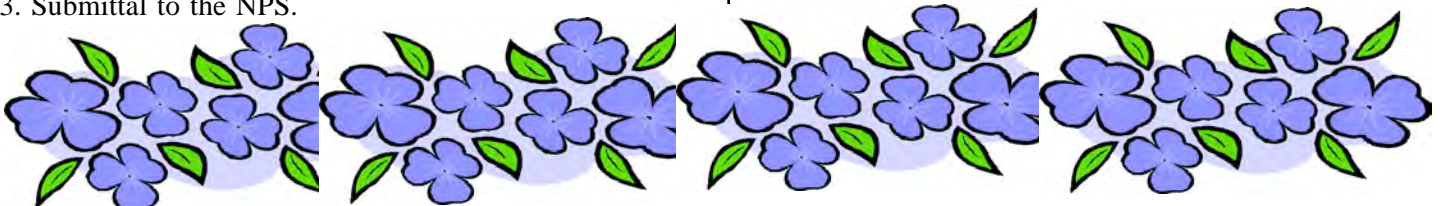
1. Because the nomination is within a Certified Local Government, (Tacoma) the nomination will be forwarded to the Tacoma Landmarks Commission for formal review and comment. About 20 North Slope residents attended the December 11 hearing before the Landmarks Commission. The Commission will vote on the designation at the January 8 meeting.
2. Our nomination will then be submitted to the Washington State Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP). The first time the ACHP can review our nomination will be January 23-24, 2003. District Nominations such as ours must be reviewed at two different Advisory Council meetings before submittal to NPS. The earliest the second review can take place is June 26-27, 2003.
3. Submittal to the NPS.

Next North Slope Meeting

The next North Slope meeting will be Wednesday, February 26, at Immanuel Presbyterian Church, North 9th and J. We'll have a dessert potluck starting at 6:30 p.m. We had a great variety of goodies when we did this last year. If you can, please bring a plate of treats to share during the social period. The program at 7 p.m. will be about Tacoma Cares. The City Council started Tacoma Cares in 1994 to work on eliminating blight and to revitalize neighborhoods. The goal is to strengthen and preserve the livability of our neighborhoods. Efforts are made in the area of code enforcement, dangerous buildings, infrastructure maintenance, drug enforcement, junk vehicles and nuisance problems. Programs include Adopt-a-Spot. Lisa Wojtanowicz from Tacoma Cares will discuss the services, and address North Slope concerns. Also, Brad Dolman, building inspector, will give more details about code enforcement. Plan to come at 6:30 for dessert, with the program at 7:00. Mark Wednesday, February 26 on your calendar now!



1018 North K Street - See story on page 2



Minnitis Move to Town!

By Holly Minniti

My husband came into our Gig Harbor waterfront home one afternoon to find me, with sledge hammer in hand, making short work of a couple of walls we'd discussed removing for a master bedroom remodel. "Gee....", he said, scrunching up his face, "I wish you hadn't done that." Little did I know that my life was about to change dramatically.

Fred had met with Irma Cole, owner of several properties in Tacoma. She wanted to sell something and when Fred walked into 1018 North 7th Street (built in 1893) – he told her that we'd be buying it. It was absolute torture to wait the two weeks it took for me to get inside the house. But then, I too, was smitten.

This house was like a siren's song to us. Our friends and family thought we'd completely lost our minds. In fact, my step-mother's first visit had her repeating "more guts than Dick Tracy" over and over as she toured our house with a look of bewilderment on her face. And I still have a sister-in-law who refuses to step foot in the house – convinced that it is haunted!

We closed the deal in October of 1998, and the first time it rained we got water pouring into all four floors of the house. That was the one and only time I really feared that we'd bitten off more than we could chew! Yes, it has been a lot of work and we have learned more than we'd ever dreamed, but slowly and surely our house is being transformed from an abandoned shell to a haven of warmth and comfort.

Fred is the one with vision. Since I can't foresee the end product – each finished project has been a pleasant surprise for me. The house hadn't been lived in full time for about eight years, so just cleaning it went a long way. And each room has presented its own challenges. We've logged over 1000 hours of stripping woodwork alone, and we're still not finished!

Today, one of my favorite rooms is the kitchen. It had rusted white metal cabinets with red countertops complimented by a drop ceiling and walls covered with baby blue formica (from the house's private school days). We restored the original ceiling height and had spectacular custom alder cabinets installed. The countertops are tile and my Viking stove is an absolute pleasure to cook with. The floor refinishers apologized for the dark marks and imperfections on this room's fir floors, but I wouldn't have them any other way – they give the room character!

We knew we weren't alone in our project when our landmark "blue tarp" no longer differentiated our house on the corner. This neighborhood has been a blur of activity from the beginning and what a neighborhood it is. In Gig Harbor we knew our neighbors in passing. My best example of community there was when I had a flat tire about three miles from home. I was missing a part of my jack and counted 45 cars that passed without stopping before I gave up waiting for help. Here I know my neighbors – really know them. We visit each other's homes, drive kids to band practice, and of course, commiserate and compare notes on all of the projects our older homes dictate. I have to honestly say, that while I sometimes miss my view of the water – we've never regretted our move to Tacoma!

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The following was obtained from the archives of our nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

1224 N I St.

Home of Mrs. Margaret Hall, widow of Frank Hall. Built originally in Gig Harbor's Millville (Harborview Drive), it was considered that city's "largest and most pretentious dwelling". But Margaret Hall, desiring to be closer to her daughter, Mrs. W.W. Powell (who lived at 1118 North I), and convinced that her home "could not be disposed of to good advantage where it stood", decided to move her house by barge from Gig Harbor to Tacoma in 1904. As the structure was being shifted onto two scows for transportation, "a portion of the building dropped off into the water and the house was badly wrecked." The portion lost was a woodshed and upper apartment and James M. Nichols, "...a member of the contracting firm, stated last night that while the house was seriously injured, he thought he could repair it and set it together so that it would be all right." The contractors had initially attempted to move the house with the furniture inside, however, after the accident, which did not damage any of the furniture, it was decided to send all the furnishings over by steamer separately. The transportation of the house was completed successfully.



1224 North I Street

A Big Thank You!

The North Slope Steering Committee thanks Pat Krueger and her husband for the cash donation to help pay for the plants in our park. We appreciate their generosity.

Thank you, Thank you!
Their green helped our green!

Adopt-a-Spot News

The North Slope has been collecting litter on North I Street for four years. It is done at least three times a year in coordination with Tacoma Cares Adopt-a-Spot program. John Sandstrom has volunteered to pick up litter on North J. Jerry Turner and Julie Turner will take care of North L. If you and some of your neighbors would like to adopt the street where you live, call Tacoma Cares coordinator Mike Teskey at 591-5634 for information. Thanks to John, Jerry, and Julie for helping to keep our neighborhood cleaner!

The next pick-up on I will be Saturday, March 1, at 10 a.m. Meet in the parking lot behind Immanuel Presbyterian Church, North 9th and J. Those participating will have a 3-4 block area that will take less than one hour to cover. We have a core of regular volunteers, but are always happy for new recruits! Meanwhile, let's all continue to keep our own yards and sidewalks picked up of litter from people and pets



Dates to Remember

February 2---Groundhog Day
 February 12---Lincoln's Birthday
 February 14---Valentine's Day
 February 17---Presidents' Day
 February 22---Washington's Birthday
 February 26---Next North Slope mtg.: 7 p.m.
 March 1---Litter pick-up, 10 a.m.,
 Immanuel parking lot
 March 17---St. Patrick's Day
 March 20---Spring begins

Police/Community News

Tacoma Police Department Sector 2 has a third community liaison officer. CLO Pamela Rush may be reached at 594-7961. The other two officers are CLO Gordon Stark 594-7837, and CLO Eric Kothstein 591-5290.

The Historic Preservation Office has filed documents listing all North Slope properties for the Assessor's Office. Now, when title companies do searches, "HISTORIC DISTRICT" will appear on the title. Therefore, new property buyers will be aware of the North Slope designation. For further information, call Jennifer Schreck at 591-5220.

Over 40 neighbors attended the October 16 NSHD meeting about historic preservation. Tacoma's Historic Preservation Officer, Jennifer Schreck, spoke about our ordinance, and what her office can do to help us with remodeling and restoration projects. Her telephone number is 591-5220.

Jay Turner informed us of his work in presenting our district for national recognition. That process will probably be completed in January.

Tips to avoid car theft

1. Lock windows and doors
2. Take keys.
3. Don't leave car unattended with keys in ignition.
4. Don't hide spare key in car.
5. Don't leave valuables in sight.
6. If leaving car parked while out of town, remove distributor cap or coil wire.

Need Info?

A number of North Slope houses have sold in the past few months. We have a packet of information about the North Slope available for new owners. Please phone 383-2329 or 627-4537 to request the material.

The Back Page...

North Slope Historic District Steering Committee:

Victoria Hankwitz	404-1061
Thomas Hudson	973-3700
Brian & Betsy Johnson	274-9344
Bill Johnston	627-6860
Dan & Angie Klein	272-0938
Chuck Kohler & Stacy Schell	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

Handy Phone Numbers

Abandoned auto hotline	591-5926
Building permits	591-5030
Garbage	591-5543
Historic Preservation	591-5220
Metro Parks	305-1000
Police non-emergency	798-4721
Recycling hotline	565-5955
Streetlights (outage)	591-5287
Street repair	591-5495
Utilities customer service	383-



Recycling Tips....

Would you like to reduce the amount of junk mail delivered to your house?

Send a postcard with your full name, telephone, address, and signature requesting your name be removed from national mailing lists to:

Mail Preference Center
Direct Marketing Association
P.O. Box 9008
Farmington, NY 11735-9008

To decrease telephone solicitations, send the same information to:

Telephone Preference Service
Direct Marketing Association
P.O. Box 9014
Farmington, NY 11735-9014

To reduce offers for credit cards and other financial products, call 1-888-567-8688.

Water Quality

City of Tacoma Public Works Department suggests ways you can make a difference in protecting water quality.

Commencement Bay is being polluted by lawn fertilizer, chemicals, sediment run-off, faulty septic systems, boat waste, agricultural run-off, spilled toxins, pet wastes, auto wastes, as well as storm drain contamination.

What can we do? Fertilize less at the right time. Put wastes in proper receptacles. Take hazardous wastes to collection centers. Be aware of what you put on lawns, driveways, and down storm drains. The health and fate of our aquatic animals are dependent upon clean water. For further information call 591-5588, 591-6439, or log onto www.wa.gov/ecology or www.ci.tacoma.wa.us.



Thank you to:

Tacoma Cares

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

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