



Historic Preservation Commission
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**CITY OF WALLA WALLA
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**

2013 PRIORITY REPORT

A. ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2011-2013

Cemetery Fence

Reinstall historic fence at cemetery.

Project elements included sandblasting, powder coating, and installation. The Commission worked with the City's Parks and Recreation Department in 2012 to see the fence reinstalled.

Other Key Stakeholders

In 2011, the group proposed a representative of the Downtown Walla Walla Foundation (among other groups) sit on the Historic Preservation Commission. This was partially accomplished in 2012 with the appointment of Elio Agostini (Executive Director) and Alex DeMambro (member of the DWWF Design Committee).

CLG Grant Award

In 2012 the Commission submitted a grant application for the CLG FY2013 program. Former member Blayne Barnhart worked with staff to prepare the grant application. The application was for \$11,000 to conduct a reconnaissance-level historic survey of 100 properties in three of Walla Walla's oldest neighborhoods. The following neighborhoods were suggested in the grant application: Cain's Addition, Green's Park Addition, Robert's Addition. All three of these neighborhoods were platted between 1865 and 1903.

Mr. Barnhart volunteered his time to present the application to the Grant Panel in Olympia. In the end, the panel awarded the Commission \$15,000 to complete a reconnaissance-level survey of 125 properties in the Green's Park neighborhood and prepare a context statement describing the history of residential development in Walla Walla.

B. ACTIVE PROJECTS

Green Park Windshield Survey/Context Statement **\$15,000**

Conduct a reconnaissance-level survey of 148 properties in the Green's Park Addition neighborhood; project will require public outreach and meetings. CLG grant award (awarded in 2012) also requires that a context statement regarding the history of all residential development in Walla Walla. The City contracted with Sally Donovan from Donovan and Associates to complete the project. The survey forms for all properties completed in September 2013 and the context statement will be finalized by October 2013.

Sally Donovan was able to leverage research done on several properties in the neighborhood to increase the total number of surveys to 148. The grant award and initial budget only provided for 125 forms.

The City will have to determine how to proceed next with this project. Future projects could include completing a reconnaissance-level survey on remaining Green's Park properties, conducting additional reconnaissance-level surveys for other residential neighborhoods or pursuing an intensive-level survey and historic district nomination. The residential context statement and final project report will include a set of recommendations.

Historic Public Infrastructure – Maintenance

Develop guidelines or best practices for public works staff to be used in the maintenance and/or preservation of historic public infrastructure. The City has begun the code amendment process, under the direction of Brian Walker with City Development Services to add a section to the Municipal Code addressing the preservation of historic public infrastructure.

Public Outreach

Public outreach and education is of the utmost importance to the success of the City's historic preservation program. As stated in the municipal code in Chapter 2.27, the Commission shall "participate in, promote and conduct public information, educational and interpretive programs pertaining to historic and prehistoric resources." Further, one of the primary duties of the Commission is to "raise community awareness of the City's history and historic resources."

Specific outreach has included several pieces in the WWJCDA quarterly newsletter on a range of topics and distributing handouts to the Kirkman House Museum.

Downtown Second Story Residential Handbook

In 2013 the Commission contributed \$1,000 to the Downtown Walla Walla Foundation to assist with the preparation of a handbook for property owners considering developing second story residential units downtown. When completed, the handbook will provide information to property owners on tax incentives, permitting and code requirements.

Ghost Signs

Develop standards that regulate ghost signs. In 2013, the WWJCDA prepared background information on ghost signs, including an inventory of some Walla Walla signs. Brian Walker with City Development Services has included proposed regulations to address ghost signs in draft code amendments that were prepared in the summer of 2013. These will be considered by the HPC, the Planning Commission and City Council.

This project may also include preparing a more detailed inventory of these resources.

HPC Notification

Develop a process for the Commission to be notified of projects (e.g. building permits) for modifications to *unlisted* historic buildings. Currently, the Municipal Code only required that the Commission be notified of demolition permit application. The City has included draft regulations to address this issue in proposed code amendments currently under consideration.

C. FUTURE PROJECTS

Hire Consultant or Historic Preservation Staff

Hire consultant or staff with expertise in historic preservation to support the work of the Historic Preservation Commission.

Design Review Process

Implement a design review process for building activity (new development and remodels) in downtown historic district(s). Establish guidelines and/or standards for design review. Example: establish a process of mandatory review but voluntary compliance.

Downtown Historic District(s)

Define and establish the Downtown Walla Walla Historic District(s), and place on National/State/Local registers. This may include sub-areas of western, central, and eastern downtown districts, as suggested in the Phase I inventory. This project would use the results of the Phase II inventory (intensive survey effort). A block-by-block approach may be an option. One challenge is gaining property owner buy-in. This may first require completion of Phase II inventory and is a high priority insofar as it may be a prerequisite to establishment of design review standards and/or securing grant funding for future projects.

Downtown Inventory: Phase II

Evaluate downtown resources through an “intensive survey” effort that builds upon and enhances the Phase I reconnaissance level survey. Phase I included a list of construction dates for all downtown properties, a map of properties listed on local/state/national registers, and identified properties with potential for future listing.

Approximately 190 properties were included in the Phase I inventory. The Phase II inventory could be an in-depth study of the same properties, or just a selection or representative sample of those properties.

Downtown Lighting

Preserve/refurbish existing historic lighting and/or re-establish historic lighting (if utility owner replaces with standard stock). Challenges to address in preserving historic lighting include safety issues such as wiring, as well as mixed ownership (PPL and City). The consensus among the commission members is that retaining existing historic lighting whenever possible is of greater importance than installing new lighting that echoes the historic style.

Historic Public Infrastructure – Capital Improvements

Restore and/or replace historic infrastructure such as hitching rings, sidewalk stamps, street lights and trolley tracks.