



State Parks and Recreation Commission

100 DEXTER AVENUE
SEATTLE 9, WASHINGTON
ELLIOTT 2248

Dear Members and Friends of the Advisory Board on Historic Sites,
Consultant to the State Parks and Recreation Commission:-

We are drawing to the close of this biennium and the Commission is in the process of preparing the budget that will be submitted to the 1953 Legislature. In 1949, you will remember, \$50,000 was ear-marked in our budget for the acquisition and preservation of historical sites. This was the first program of its kind to be undertaken by any State agency in the State of Washington.

In 1951, \$30,000 was set aside to continue this work. We are again asking the Legislature for that amount.

We all realize that our work is a long range program which will take many years to complete. We trust all future Commissions will carry on with the Advisory Board's work.

First, I want to thank you in behalf of the Commission which is most appreciative of the fine work the Board members have done. You have been untiring in your efforts, cooperative in each undertaking, and certainly the State of Washington should be very proud of your work. To those of you who are friends of the Advisory Board and may not know exactly how our Board functions or why it was set up, I am giving you this brief resume.

In the study of parks and parkways by the Washington State Planning Council submitted to the Legislature in 1941, there was this recommendation: "Through negligent and careless handling many historical sites and archeological treasures have been lost to the state for all time. No organized effort has ever been made by the state to inventory its archeological objects and historical sites or to study their relative worth for preservation. As a result of vandalism or decay the remaining sites are becoming increasingly invaluable. It is recommended that a program be formulated by a state agency for the proper study and care of historical sites and objects of historical or scientific interest."

The Commission, consisting of seven lay members, did not feel we should assume the responsibility of doing this all important work alone. Thus the Advisory Board on Historic Sites was set up. The Board is composed of fifteen members whose names had been recommended by the presidents of our Universities and colleges, by representatives of the Pioneer and D.A.R.

Societies, and the directors of both the State Historical Society and the Eastern Washington Historical Society.

This Advisory Board has met quarterly in communities throughout the state. The meetings have included field trips, committee reports, research, recommendations to the Commission and a long range program has been started. There have been thirty-three historical sites marked in some manner. Some have been purchased while others were given to the Commission. It was found that some of these sites were already in possession of the state but in the hands of an agency which had no funds to develop or mark them. To date 59 sites that deal with exploration, discovery, struggle for national possession and development have been inventoried and appraised.

The following are 15 of the major sites and the work accomplished:

No. 1. SPOKANE HOUSE. (Partially on Riverside State Park land.) First business established in Northwest Territory. Little or nothing was known as to the exact location of the old stockade. Money was appropriated and under the direction of Dr. Louis Caywood, noted archeologist of the National Park Service, the archeological digging has been completed and the entire outline of the first trading post uncovered. A parking area has been developed and a large interpretive sign will be placed at this site in the next few months. In addition to this, \$1,000 in matching funds was contributed to the Spokane Pioneer Society to place an imperishable monument on the road near the site.

No. 2. FORT COLUMBIA. The acquisition of this historic camping grounds and fort was acquired by the Commission through the Army Surplus for \$1.00 because of its historic significance. Mr. John McClelland, Commission member of the third district, spearheaded this long before he became a Commission member. A large interpretive highway marker is being placed at the entrance to the fort and an interpretive museum is being installed in one of the fort buildings which will depict the early history of the mouth of the Columbia River. Over 1000 attended the dedication ceremony at this historic site in the summer of 1951. The D.A.R. served a tea in the commanding officer's home. A beautiful historical pageant was put on by the Pacific County Pioneer Society.

No. 3. FORT OKANOGAN. This area, the second trading post for Americans and British, was in the hands of the State Historical Society. Under the law governing the Commission it is possible for us to cooperate and advance funds to state and federal agencies. This site, where the American flag was first flown, has played an important part in our historical sites program. Again Dr. Caywood of the National Park Service and his crew of archeologists have uncovered both the sites of the Hudson's Bay Company and the Astor Post. Flag poles have been erected and pennants floated. The highway is now being prepared for a turn off on the hill overlooking the sites where a large interpretive sign for the public's enjoyment will be erected.

No. 4. ENGLISH AND AMERICAN CAMP. Although we have been unsuccessful so far in acquiring English Camp on San Juan Island, which without question is one of the most important historical sites in our state, we have purchased

the American Camp site close by, and have appropriated funds for a large interpretive marker.

No. 5. ST. PAUL'S MISSION AT COLVILLE. This Catholic Mission was given to the State of Washington by the Spokane Diocese after the Jesuits had completely rebuilt the mission with the exception of puncheon floor, shuttered windows and hand split door. Acceptance of this site on October 26, 1951, was one of the outstanding meetings of the Historical Board; 271 persons from all parts of the state gathered to take part in the services. Two markers, one on the highway and the other at the site of the mission are being installed, and the door, shutters and floor have been replaced.

No. 6. FORT SIMCOE NEAR YAKIMA. Last intact fort of territorial conquest. Although Ft. Simcoe has not been entirely accepted we have had the full support of all of our national representatives in Washington, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the National Park Service and the Yakima Tribal Council. There are still a few details to be worked out in regards to the highway leading to the fort which we hope will be accomplished soon. We have had splendid cooperation with the Yakima Tribal Council members and the delay is not the fault of the Council.

No. 7. OLD MAN HOUSE. The home of Chief Sealh, for whom Seattle was named, at Suquamish. Part of the site has been purchased and the University of Washington Archeological Department has uncovered the house posts and a few artifacts. Material has been cataloged and a permanent interpretive marker overlooking the bluff is being installed. Through the efforts of Mr. John Blume, Park Commissioner of the 1st. Congressional District, a cooperative agreement has been reached with the Tribal Council and Catholic Church to care for the grave of Chief Sealh who is buried nearby on reservation ground.

No. 8. STEPTOE BATTLEFIELD. Near Rosalia, on a beautiful landscaped hill, where the battle of Captain Steptoe took place and which was the deciding factor in our territorial treaties with the Indians, stands a very imposing monument which was erected by the D.A.R. several years ago. This has been deeded to the State Parks & Recreation Commission by the D.A.R. Under our program a fence has been erected around the monument, grass seeded, water piped to the site for the trees, and a public parking area created. The road to the monument has been repaired and two markers are in the process of being installed, one at each entrance to the town of Rosalia.

No. 9. JACKSON HOUSE. On Highway 99 that part of the old Jackson Court House where the first territorial court proceedings were held, still stands. The existing building has been completely restored and the grounds improved. This was in possession of the State Parks and Recreation Commission, a gift from the Donahue family in 1919.

No. 10. GINKGO PETRIFIED FOREST MUSEUM, Vantage. One of the geological wonders of the state is being fully developed by the Commission on the recommendation of the Historical Board. One of the rarest petrified wood collections in existence has been purchased and is being housed in the newly completed wing of the museum on the bluff overlooking the Columbia River.

As this is the largest petrified forest in the world, a large marker will be installed on the highway and a curator will give lectures on the geology of the area during the summer months.

No. 11. MONTICELLO CONVENTION SITE. Near Longview. The acquisition of the site where the second Territorial Convention was held, was given to the state by Lynch Lumber Company. An appropriate interpretive marker at the site and a parking area is in the process of being completed and will be ready for the Centennial opening.

No. 12. INDIAN PICTOGRAPHS, Yakima. A gift of 18 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres by the County Commissioners of Yakima County was given to the state. This is where the talus slope of the cliff held some of the oldest Indian picture rocks in the Northwest. These paintings have been cleaned and glazed for preservation by the University of Washington Archeological Department. A trail and steps have been built so that the public might view these historic writings.

No. 13. INDIAN PAINTINGS on Little Spokane River. Near Riverside Park are unique Indian paintings, a gift from Dr. Hart, whose meanings are obscure and perhaps dated back for centuries. An iron grill has been placed over the grotto and a roadside parking area and trail has been erected.

No. 14. Klickitat Valley Block House. With the assistance of the American Legion and local civic organizations at Goldendale, the Klickitat Block House was moved from a farm where it was about to be torn down. It has been rebuilt by these organizations at the entrance to Brooks Memorial State Park. A small marker gives the history of this blockhouse that played an important part in the days of the Indian Wars.

No. 15. RANALD McDONALD'S GRAVE, near Toroda and Curlew. Buried in an unmarked grave, this great explorer, the first to invade Japan when it was a closed country and the forerunner of Admiral Perry, was the son of the Hudson's Bay factor, Archibald McDonald and Indian Princess, Raven, daughter of Chief Comcomly. From a small appropriation of money local citizens of Colville erected an imposing marker.

Sites not included in above listing:-

Old Fort Walla Walla
Kamiak Butte
Steptoe Butte
Colonel Wallace's Grave
Copalis Beach
Walla Walla Valley
Okanogan Smith
Steven's Pass Highway
Whidbey Island Blockhouse

Point Roberts
Medicine Creek Treaty
Mima Mounds
Usk Caves
Sacajawea Museum
Cleft Rocks
Mattoon Cabin
Site of first lumber mill
St. Michael's Mission

Members of Advisory Board on Historic Sites:-

Dr. Keith A. Murray, Chairman

Professor George F. Beck

Mrs. Mary W. Avery

Dr. Herman Deutsch

Dr. Robert G. Comegys

Dr. Erna Gunther

Mrs. Florence D. Reed

Mrs. Margaret Huntington

Professor R. Fenton Duvall

Professor C. Frank Brockman

The Reverend Father William Bischoff, S.J.

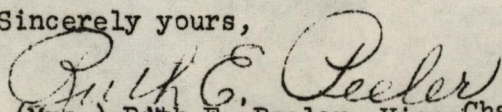
Chapin D. Foster

E. T. Becher

Judge William C. Brown

[Walter J. Purdin]

Sincerely yours,



(Mrs.) Ruth E. Peeler, Vice-Chairman
State Parks and Recreation Commission
Chairman, Historical Sub-Committee

The next meeting of the Advisory Board on Historic Sites will be on
October 31, 1952, at 9:30 A. M. in the Marcus Whitman Hotel, Walla Walla,
Washington.