

HISTORIC LOEWENBERG-ROBERTS MANSION • 1923 WEST FIRST AVENUE

A STUNNING MANSION WITH A REGAL PRESENCE ~

Commanding a regal presence from spreading, manicured grounds on a high knoll, the Loewenberg-Roberts Mansion is one of the finest Queen Anne style homes in Spokane and Eastern Washington.

It rises two-and-one-half stories with a third-floor finished attic, and supports a large three-story circular tower with a bellcast domed roof.

• FINE ROMANESQUE STYLE

~ With strong influence from the Romanesque style, the house is prominently distinguished at the first floor with cut-granite cladding outlined in red brick trim, and applauds a reverse design at the second floor with brick cladding and cut-granite trim.



DESIGNED IN 1899 BY
BRITISH ARCHITECT
WILLIAM J. CARPENTER

(Photo above) Beautiful Queen Anne Mansion ~ the setting for this year's Holiday Party and Fundraiser

• **THE DETAILS** ~ Significantly characteristic of the Victorian period's Queen Anne style, the mansion is articulated with an array of decorative embellishments, including a massive segmental arched window of jointed cut-granite voussoirs, beveled bays, stained-glass windows, gable peaks with decorative shingles and ornamental plaster tracery, a second-story balcony with a wrap-around gallery, and an attached porte cochere (carport).

• **CARRIAGE HOUSE & "SECRET" GARDEN** ~ A large carriage house behind the home mimics the style and materials of the

mansion, and a walled secret garden on the property provides a venue for special tea parties.

• **WILLIAM J. CARPENTER** ~ Erected in 1889, the mansion was designed by British architect, William J. Carpenter, who designed the Miller Block (now Hotel Lusso), the historic Coeur d'Alene Hotel (offices and Boo Radley's), and a number of fine residences.

• **THE LOEWENBERGS** ~ The mansion was built for Bernhard & Harriett Loewenberg, owners and proprietors of a large dry goods store called the Loewenberg Mercantile, located in the Coeur d'Alene Hotel.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

25TH SPA ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY & FUNDRAISER

HISTORIC LOEWENBERG ROBERTS MANSION

1923 WEST FIRST AVENUE
BROWNE'S ADDITION

SAT., DEC. 9TH • 5:00 TO 8:30 PM

SPA Invites you and your guests to our festive event. Please bring an appetizer and/or dessert. Self-guided tours of the mansion are welcomed.

\$25 IN ADVANCE • 30 AT THE DOOR

Sign up at the SPA website or send a check to our PO Box.

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MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

BUSY AUTUMN ~ This has been a busy Fall for SPA and I hope you have been able to enjoy some of the activities.

CORBIN HOUSE ~ In September, we hosted the opening night of the 125th anniversary of the Historic D.C. Corbin House. It was beautifully decorated with period and contemporary furnishings to honor its history. SPA was grateful to participate.

QUARTERLY FALL SOCIAL AT THE REID HOUSE

~ In September we also held our Fall Quarterly Social. It was hosted by Rick & Julie Biggerstaff at their home in the Historic Reid House in Browne's Addition. The home was open to self-guided tours ~ and there was potluck food and wine. Members and guests gathered at tables set-up in the backyard. The weather was perfect and about 75 preservationists had a wonderful evening.

THE ANNUAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARDS ~ November brought our annual awards ceremony at the Montvale Event Center. It was a beautiful venue, the food was great, and we enjoyed honoring members of the community who have made an exceptional effort to preserve our cultural and architectural heritage. This event gets better every year!

COMING SOON DECEMBER 9TH ~ Next up is our annual Holiday Party and Fundraiser, which will be held at the Historic Loewenberg Roberts Mansion in early December. I hope you can make it. With that, we will wind down the year, and I want to thank all of you for joining us along the way.

BEST WISHES FOR THE NEW YEAR!

● TRESA SCHMAUTZ • SPA President



SPA President Tresa Schmautz

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- **THE WINTER LECTURE SERIES** ~ Three interesting lectures are being planned for 2024. One each will be held in the months of January, February and March.

The first two lectures are free and will be held in a public library. The third is a dinner/lecture at the Commellini Estate, during which we will learn about its shadowy history. There will be a spaghetti dinner buffet and the cost will be \$55 per person.

Visit the SPA website for more information and registration.

- **THE SPA PUB CRAWL** ~ The annual Pub Crawl has been pushed back into early spring 2024. The location discussed will be the First Avenue in the Downtown Spokane. Locations for the event will include both Dry Fly and the Spokane Club. Details will be worked out by the planning committee, which will need to set up a meeting sometime in January or early February. The idea of the Pub Crawl being held in late March or early April has been discussed, so the planning committee's first order of business will be to nail down an actual date, so that planning the event can begin.

We are looking for volunteers for the planning committee to organize this fun event. We also need members to help out at the Pub Crawl. If you are interested, please contact Dave Shockley at preservationsspokane@gmail.com. More info will be posted on our Facebook page, website and newsletter in the coming months.

- **QUARTERLY MEMBERSHIP SOCIALS** ~ Our SPA Socials typically occur the second Tuesday of March, June and September. These are usually held in a historic home or other venue typically not accessed by the public. The Socials are potlucks with wine and hors d'oeuvres brought by the members who are encouraged to bring friends to introduce them to Spokane Preservation Advocates. These three socials are complimentary events. The Holiday Party Social is an annual fundraiser for SPA.

● DAVE SHOCKLEY • Executive Coordinator & ● DAWN WYNNE • Events Chair



"The Christmas House" • Painting of The Loewenberg-Roberts Mansion with great grand-daughter Molly Roberts Hannan and cousin Maggie McCarthy Braeuer trimming the tree while I wave from the window below. ©2023 Patti Simpson Ward.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Unfortunately, a few years after construction of their home was completed, the Loewenbergs experienced a financial reversal during the economic "Panic of 1893."

- **THE "TRADE"** ~ With a provocative idea, the Loewenberg family "traded" their mansion a few years later for a smaller cottage on 2027 West First Avenue, owned by their friend and neighbor, Edwin J. Roberts and his wife, Mary Roberts. Roberts was a successful civil engineer for the Great Northern Railroad, served a president for the Union Iron Works in Spokane, and with his family lived in the Loewenberg-Roberts Mansion for over 60 years.

- **REMARKABLE CONDITION** ~ Today the Mansion survives in excellent condition and is well-preserved under the careful stewardship of owner Mary Moltke, who has spent over 30 years carefully restoring and furnishing the property.

- **CELEBRATED HISTORICAL LANDMARK** ~ The mansion is currently a celebrated historic landmark, the property is listed on the Spokane, Washington State and National Registers of Historic Places. It is open to the public as the Roberts Mansion Inn & Events.

● LINDA YEOMANS • Historic Preservation Planning Consultant

CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS with Spokane's most famous son at the 2023 Bing Crosby Holiday Film Festival, Saturday, Dec. 9 at the Bing Crosby Theater, 901 Sprague Ave., Spokane. Featured are two screenings of Bing Crosby's hit musical "White Christmas" and a special presentation of movies from Bing's own private collection by Robert Bader, curator of the Bing Crosby Archive. Bing Crosby Advocates will again host this day-long yuletide tribute, which will also include a screening and commentary of Bing's 1941 musical "Birth of the Blues" and live performances by The Zonky Jazz Band and The Big Bing Theory, G.U.'S a cappella group. For details and ticket information, visit bingcrosbyadvocates.org.



OVERVIEW OF THE RECENT SPA HERITAGE GRANTS



(Left) The American Legion Cenotaph at Riverside Memorial Park

(Right) Second Floor Guest Room (Chamber #12) at the Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture's Campbell House after the installation of its new reproduction wallpaper.

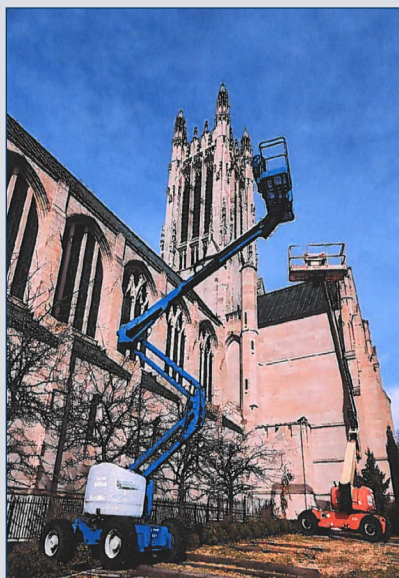


(Left) Vintage photo picturing Chamber #12 when the Campbells lived in their mansion.

(Below) Rockwood neighborhood's restored historic trolley stop.



(Below) Side view of Saint John the Evangelist Cathedral with repairs in-progress.



A BUSY MONTH ~ October was a busy month for the Heritage Grant Committee! We closed out four previously granted projects and are sending a fifth to the SPA Board for approval in November.

COMPLETED PROJECTS INCLUDE:

\$5,000 • Jonas Babcock Chapter • DAR

For the restoration of the 1930 American Legion Cenotaph in Riverside Memorial Park. The Cenotaph is a memorial honoring WWI veterans who are interred elsewhere.

\$5,000 • Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture

For reproduction and installation of wallpaper for Chambers 10 and 12 in the Campbell House, which is celebrating its 125th year.

\$5,000 • The Rockwood Neighborhood Council

For grading and restoration of one of three historic brick trolley stops.

\$5,000 • Saint John the Evangelist Cathedral

For repairs on the gutter and downspout to mitigate water intrusion and resulting damage to the structure.

The Heritage Grant Committee is also recommending approval of \$5,000 toward replacement of failing double-hung, single-pane windows in the 1926 administrative addition to Westminster Congregational Church.

SPA's Board will consider approval of this at their November meeting.

● KEVIN BROWNLEE • Heritage Grants Chair



HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE UPDATE

● **TWO LARGE GRANT SURVEYS** ~ The Spokane Historic Preservation Office completed two large grant projects in September of 2023 ~ the East Central Historic and Cultural Survey and a Spokane County Markers, Monuments and Objects Survey. Both projects are available on our website (historicspokane.org) under the "Projects" tab if you are interested in seeing the full details.

● **THE EAST CENTRAL STUDY** ~ This study documented over 800 properties between Liberty Park and Thor, and 4th Avenue to the bluff at the south. Our goal was to document this neighborhood by discussing the different eras of development from the initial early days of settlement through the period when the neighborhood was divided in two by the construction of Interstate 90.

● **THE SPOKANE COUNTY MONUMENT, MARKER & OBJECT CONTEXT AND SURVEY** ~ This survey is a written and pictorial context of historic monuments, markers, and objects in Spokane County. These objects, constructed as early as 1893, represent and interpret some of the most significant and controversial historic sites in the county. They include battlefield sites, the sites of war crimes against local tribes, a controversial statue to a U.S. Naval Officer, historic trails, tribal villages, and location markers for significant buildings or remnants.

● **SPECIAL FUNDING** ~ Historic Preservation is excited to have received funding from the Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation to prepare two nominations to the Spokane Register for underrepresented resources associated with Spokane's Black community.

● **ADDITIONS FROM THE LANDMARKS COMMISSION** ~ The Spokane Historic Landmarks Commission has listed a few additional buildings on the Spokane Register of Historic Places this year. This list was previously updated in May 2023. Those listings include The Parkade at 511 West Main Avenue and the Alex and Fanny Ritter House at 702 West 21st Avenue. We are currently reviewing the Arthur and Florence Davis House at 306 West Graves Road (November) in Spokane County. The end of the year is busy with Special Valuation application reviews. This year will end with 13 applications totaling \$12.5M invested in historic properties in Spokane.

● MEGAN DUVALL • Historic Preservation Officer



(Left) Photo of the Parkade facing south.

(Above) Image of the Alex and Fanny House on 702 West 21st Avenue.

ADVOCACY UPDATE

● **A GOOD THING** ~ Things continue to be relatively quiet on the Advocacy front ~ a good thing! Although there are no immediately pressing advocacy issues on our radar at the moment, we are keeping our eyes on a few items that may come to the forefront soon ~ plus one old friend, The Chancery Building. No news continues to be good news with respect to it ~ at least for now. The development plans that were floated last year by the property owners have yet to move forward. It is still abandoned, however, and is likely to continue to decay without action from ownership, which doesn't appear forthcoming. SPA continues to try to locate a preservation-minded buyer for this important building.

● **STATE POLICY UPDATES** ~ While much attention over the past few years has focused on housing policy, those codes have been adopted at the state and local levels with numerous preservation-friendly elements.

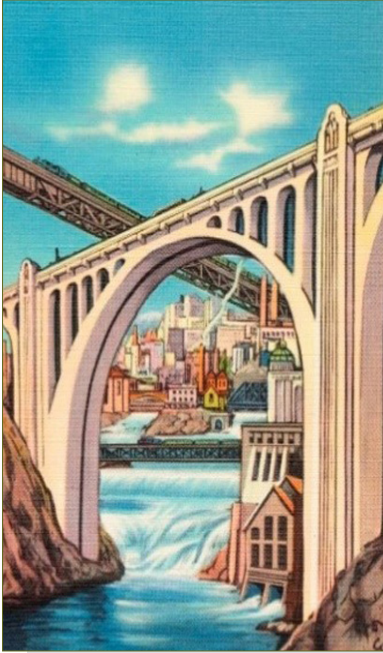
● **NEXT FRONTIER** ~ The next major frontier from a policy perspective will be energy codes, which have been passed by the Legislature and are in the rule-making process now.

While SPA wholeheartedly supports efforts to reduce the energy use of buildings, we do have concerns that the retroactive way in which these codes are written could lead to large-scale demolition of older buildings as they are often prohibitively expensive to bring into conformance with the new code. Look for more information to come on this important issue soon.

● **INSURANCE INDUSTRY** ~ As building costs continue to skyrocket, we are hearing that some insurers are beginning to balk at covering historic buildings due to untenably high replacement costs. This too is a developing issue and will receive more coverage from SPA in due course.

● JESSE BANK • Advocacy Chair

OVERVIEW ● SPA AWARD EVENT RECIPIENTS



One of Spokane Preservation Advocates most important annual events is the Historic Preservation Awards ceremony, where we have the honor to show gratitude to individuals and organizations who have dedicated time, talent and money towards an effort to preserve the historic physical and cultural heritage of Spokane County. Over 100 individuals attended the ceremony representing a broad spectrum of regional support for our historic properties and culture. City Councilmember Ryan Oelrich gave the welcoming speech and Spokane Historic Preservation Officer Megan Duvall updated everyone on the Spokane Historic Preservation Office and Register of Historic Places. SPA Board Member, Marc Anthony, presented the awards and Paul Mann, Advisor Emeritus/Past President gave the closing remarks.

SINCERE CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2023 AWARD RECIPIENTS!

- Preservation and Education Award ~ Shawn Brigman, PhD, Tribal Art and Heritage Recovery and Revival.
- Preservation Media Award ~ KSPS Production Staff
- Urban Residential Rehabilitation Award ~ Jordan Tampien
- Urban Commercial Rehabilitation Award ~ Sheldon and Melanie Jackson
- Rural Restoration Award ~ Shirlee Hachman Chatterton
- Stewardship Award ~ City of Spokane Parks and Recreation Department
- Neighborhood Advocacy Award • Cannon Streetcar Suburb Historic Neighborhood Subcommittee of the Cliff-Cannon Neighborhood ~ Ability Bradshaw and Melissa Flynn
- Cultural Award • Highland Park United Methodist Church ~ Patty
- Compatible Infill Award ~ Andy and Liz Barrett and Cody Coombs
- Ann Price Advocacy Award ~ Jesse Bank
- Legacy Award: Chris Batten
- Joanne Moyer Award ~ Megan Duvall

A huge 'thank you' to our Awards Committee and volunteers who made the evening a great success: Sandra Freeman, Dave Shockley, Paul Mann, Joanne Moyer, Bridget Piper, Linda Milsow, Kelly Lordan, Suzanne Markham, Corbet Abrahamson, Tina Wynecoop, Diana Painter and Linda Yeomans, and to the SPA Hospitality Committee: Dawn Wynne with Suzi Hokonson and many other volunteers.

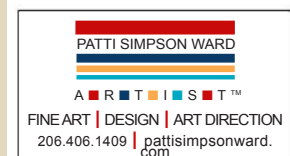
● JACQUI HALVORSON • Awards Chair

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UPDATE

LINKING SPOKANE'S PAST



FUTURE



PUBLISHED QUARTERLY



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SPOKANE PRESERVATION ADVOCATES



Advocate - Educate - Preserve

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SPA

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JOIN SPOKANE PRESERVATION ADVOCATES NOW!

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CHOOSE YOUR LEVEL OF MEMBERSHIP ✓

- ☐ STUDENT.....\$10
- ☐ INDIVIDUAL.....\$30
- ☐ FAMILY.....\$50
- ☐ CENTURION.....\$100
- ☐ PRESERVER.....\$250
- ☐ PATRON.....\$500
- ☐ BENEFACTOR.....\$1000
- ☐ I would like to make an additional contribution of \$_____ to the **HERITAGE FUND**, SPA's fund for local preservation projects.

GREAT BENEFITS FOR BEING A MEMBER OF SPA

- **QUARTERLY SPA UPDATE** newsletter by email and/or U.S. Mail
- **UPDATES** on critical preservation issues
 - **MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS** held in unique historic buildings
 - **INVITATIONS** to special events throughout the year
 - **GREAT OPPORTUNITIES** to join a _____ committee and volunteer
- **COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS** with civic-minded folks in our community

SPA VOLUNTEER COMMITTEES ✓

- **LET US KNOW** if you want to volunteer on one of our SPA committees:
 - ☐ **ADVOCACY**
 - ☐ **COMMUNICATIONS**
 - ☐ **DEVELOPMENT**
 - ☐ **DOING-IT!**
 - ☐ **EDUCATION**
 - ☐ **SPECIAL EVENTS**
 - ☐ **HERITAGE FUND**