



Snohomish, Washington

WESTERN WASHINGTON'S PICTURESQUE COMMUNITY OF REMARKABLE HISTORIC HOMES, BED & BREAKFASTS, GIFT SHOPS AND ANTIQUE EMPORIUMS



Blackman House Beauty (Snohomish Historical Society Museum) ~ 2011

The Blackman family home in Snohomish was built in 1878 by Hyrcanus and Ella Blackman. He was one of three entrepreneurial brothers with extensive business and political interests in the area - including logging, mining, fruit growing, retail and more. Hyrcanus was chief of police, city legislator, mayor and served on the Snohomish School Board. His wife was accomplished as an amateur artist and embroiderer. The family lived here until 1970 when their home was sold to the Snohomish Historical Society. When I painted this piece, it served as their museum depicting rural Victorian life. I pictured my family at the Annual Tour of Historic Homes.

Blue Birdhouse B&B ~ 2003

When I was doing research for my Snohomish Collection and walking the historic district, I came upon this lovely three-story home located at 430 Avenue B. Even though I did not see a plaque designating it as "historic," I was captivated by its expansive wrap-around porch and charming gingerbread detailing. I created the fictitious name "Blue Birdhouse B&B," and surrounded the place with pretty flower gardens and whimsical bird houses - thus the name. My husband Doug and I are pictured on the front porch, enjoying the lazy, summer day.

Brick Bungalow Beauty ~ 2010

This sweet buttery yellow bungalow was part of the 2009 Holiday Parlour Tour that Snohomish hosts annually at Christmastime. Located in the historic district in the midst of Victorians and foursquares, the craftsman-style residence provides a tidy departure. It is embellished with a multi-colored brick fireplace and front porch columns. Handsome period windows round out the charming presentation. I gave this setting a springtime theme and filled the gardens with blue hyacinths and dozens of red and yellow tulips - which I'm selling in this piece!

Crimson Castle School ~ 2008

This community is one of Western Washington's favorite destinations for antique lovers. Besides its enticing shops, you'll find charming B&Bs and eateries of all kinds. Snohomish's shining jewels, however, are the dozens of beautifully restored Victorian homes that dot the town. This three-story salt-box, painted with an autumn theme, features an unusual wood railing framing its huge front porch. When I painted the house, it housed the Madeline A. Renkens law practice. This home made me think of large old country schools, so I gave this piece a back-to-school theme and painted our granddaughter, Addison Lee, and family who were living in Snohomish when I finished this piece.

Cozy Cabbage Patch ~ 2010

Built in 1905, this two-story Victorian once served as a boarding house and an antique store filled with Native American artifacts. In 1975, it opened as The Cabbage Patch Inn, and in 1978 Sandra McCutchan purchased it and began expanding its services. At that time, her Aunt Joan was upstairs baking goodies for her niece's establishment (like raspberry cream pie) every day of the week! The building has survived a collection of ghosts and a fire that very nearly destroyed it, but Sandra rebuilt and reopened The Cabbage Patch, much to the delight of both locals and visitors. Sandra serves "comfort" homemade meals seven-days-a-week. Catering services are also available.



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Cozy Cottage on the Corner ~ 2011

This pretty two-story grey cottage with white trim is located on Third Avenue in the historic district of charming Snohomish, Washington. Home to my friend Penny and her husband Bill, the front entrance welcomes visitors with a lovely arbor, fountain, garden art and dozens of blossoming plants. You can glimpse the comfy wicker furniture on the porch behind the couple. Although the home is not as old as some others in the neighborhood, the couple spent countless hours working on the house and grounds to create this cozy, inviting setting. Too many flowers? Not possible! My mother, sister and I are bringing crates of blooms to share.



Fresh Flowers at the Wershing House ~ 2009

314 Union Street is the address of this simple, but very charming Dutch Colonial home. The clapboard and shingle Wershing House is one of a very few barn roof-style residences that I found in Snohomish. It's a particular favorite architectural style of mine as I grew up in this style of home. The theme here is the fresh new season of "spring." I've painted dozens of tulips, and daffodils in the surrounding gardens and pots that line the front walkway of this pretty house. My sisters and I are the happy gardeners.

Fine Fall Foursquare (Iverson House) ~ 2010

This is a portrait of the historic Iverson House which was built by master builder N.P. Hansen for the family in 1906 at 312 Avenue D, one of the busier streets in town. The three-story shingle construction home is a classic example of Mission-style foursquare architectural styling. It's beautifully detailed with leaded glass windows and handsome brick chimneys and columns flanking the front porch steps. Framing the setting is a charming wrought iron fence with brick columns to match those on the steps. This is a truly striking residence, clearly much loved by the owners. The Iverson House's brilliant red shrubbery in the front gardens made an autumn theme for this painting a "natural."



The Gardens at Mrs. Goff's ~ 2012

This pretty place was built by the Harris S. Hansens around 1890 on a lot once owned by E.C. Ferguson. The center of it started as one-bedroom cottage. The Hansens had seven children, so quickly outgrew the house. In 1900, Charles (lumber industry) and Lydia Goff (piano teacher) purchased it and three city lots. After losing Charles and daughter Marguerite to tuberculosis, the widow Mrs. Goff remained here, teaching piano to her. When she died, Mrs. Goff deeded her home to lifelong friend, Beatrice Fetzer of Multnomah County, Oregon for \$1.50. After several owners and renters, in January 2009, Gary and Ardie McLean purchased it and began an ambitious restoration, creating a "jewel" surrounded by charming gardens. This piece combines "old" and "new," picturing youngsters arriving for music lessons, while the McLeans transplant flowers.

The Handsome Hansen House ~ 2009

This three-story residence with the charming half-timbered top floor gable and front porch is one of the most striking homes in the community of Snohomish. Beautifully enhanced with river-rock stonework at its entrance, the owners have imaginatively landscaped this large frame house with decorative urns filled with fall foliage. The expansive lawn is framed by multi-colored shrubbery in front of the home. Built on a slight hill in 1906 at 1314 Fourth Street, the N.P. Hansen house does true justice to this town's picturesque historic district. I painted Doug and me arriving to celebrate Thanksgiving dinner.



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The Happy Holiday House (Harmon House) ~ 2003

Built in 1890, this Queen Anne-style three-story home is located in the historic district at 322 Avenue C. The home is blessed with a rambling veranda and the moldings, cornices and window frames, including the Palladian window on the third floor, are fine examples of the restricted Classical style. Ambitiously restored in the late '70s by Dave Taylor with another partner, this painting pictures the home the way it looked when the project was finished. Today the white scalloped fence has been replaced with a wrought iron one, and the green paint with yellow and beige. This holiday-themed artwork features my extended Simpson family gathering for Christmas Eve.

Hipity Hoppin' at the Hill House ~ 2009

You will find this pretty Neo-Classical-style bungalow on Avenue A in the historic district. The cottage was built in 1920, a bit later than some of the other residences in the neighborhood. It has pretty double windows on both sides of the entrance. When I painted the artwork, it was the prettiest butter yellow, the perfect color for welcoming spring - thus the proliferation of tulips and hyacinths in the gardens. Dressed in our best Easter frocks are my nieces, Isabell Simpson, Brooklynn Barton, and me. We are feeding carrots to the half dozen bunnies that dot the setting.

Holidays with the Holland Family (Harmon House) ~ 1986

This is another painting of the Harmon House above completed as Christmas card art for my friend, Penny Carleton-Holland. I changed the color of the home from green to crimson, and featured Penny's family members enjoying the beauty of the deep snowfall - and decorating for the holiday season.

Independence Inn (Matt Albert House) ~ 2008

Construction on this two-story Dutch Colonial-style home was completed in 1900 at 304 Avenue A in the heart of the historic district. The home features a distinctive pitched gambrel roof, popular between 1895 and 1915, reminiscent of early farmhouses. When I began this painting in the 1980s, the property looked as it does in the painting. Later, another structure was added behind the main house with a B&B suite on the second floor. I created the fictional name "Independence Inn" for this patriotic-themed piece. The artwork pictures son Matt, wife Heidi and me watching Grandpa Doug playing with granddaughter Addison Lee.

Knitting Club at the McKee House ~ 2013

This towering structure in the center of Snohomish's historic district was once Saint Michael's Roman Catholic Church. The building was built in the late 1800s under Pastor Michael McCauley, and although the original Snohomish mission was called Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, when McCauley left the area in 1890, the church was then known as Saint Michael's. Today it serves the creative, community-minded couple who own it as a combination residence/studio/gallery. Located at on Avenue C, it can be seen for blocks. thought that it would be the perfect setting for a holiday-themed painting and added holly garlands, evergreens, a dusting of snow and Christmas carolers to the festive scene.



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Merrymaking at Saint Michael's ~ 2010

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Making Snowmen at the Marks House ~ 2009

It seems like in the past couple of years, we've had more snow than ever in the normally mild Pacific Northwest - thus the snowman theme for this artwork. When I saw this unique frame and basaltic rock cottage, it made me think of the cozy home of "Little Women" author, Louisa May Alcott, in Concord, Massachusetts. Notions of thick quilts, cups of hot cocoa by the fire, and sleeping kitties on the hearth came to mind, as I worked on this. Located at 304 Avenue D, this home is a departure from the other colorful Victorians with its dark siding and stonework. The Tom Marks House, built in 1894, has Arts & Crafts touches like the stain glass window.

Piping Hot Pies at the Clemons House ~ 2013

The pretty two-story Clemons House, which is located at 315 Avenue C, was built in 1898. Found in the heart of the historic district of the community, this home is an example of classic Queen Anne-style residential architecture - very popular at the time of its construction. Of special note are the decorative windows and the handsome brick foundation and steps leading up to the front porch. Even though the skies are grey, the cheery bakers are offering their piping hot pies.

Pretty Parsonage in May (Old Methodist Parsonage) ~ 2009

A visit to Snohomish, Washington is a treat! It's easy to walk around the historic district for hours, shooting one photo after another of the dozens of charming Victorians there. When I painted this beautifully detailed three-story, it was open as the "Pillows and Platters" Bed & Breakfast. Notice its unusual windows with squares of tinted glass. Located at 502 Avenue C, this house was built in 1892, and was the community's original Methodist Parsonage. I gave the painting a friendly "May flowers" theme and pictured my husband and me with a red wagon full of friendly flowers to deliver.

Pretty Purple Palace (Allen House) ~ 2009

The remarkable Allen House, located at 224 Avenue A in Snohomish, is a delightful study in intricate detail. Built in 1856, this is one of the earlier Victorians that I found in the neighborhood. Embellished with ornamental wrought iron marching across its roofline and second story balcony, the home features an imaginative color scheme of lush purple and ceylon green with touches of cream. A pretty brick and masonry wall frames the garden, which is filled with flowering pots. I'm shown here with my girlfriends, Robin, Holly and Marcia, decorating the house with hearts for Valentine's Day.



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Pussycats @ Pumpkins (Jordan House) ~ 2009

The Jordan House, a fine example of the American Homestead style, was constructed in 1890 at 326 Avenue C. In November 2008, looking for subjects to add to my Snohomish Collection, I met the owner of this pretty shingled two-story. He was sprucing up the yard in the front of his home which his wife had embellished with bright orange pumpkins and other seasonal decorations. He shared that, like so many other folks who make this picturesque community their home, they were true lovers of vintage architecture, and had relished the hours of careful work they had put into their property. I pictured myself by the back gate arriving with a piping hot pumpkin pie.

Quilting Bee at the Buttercup Cottage ~ 2013

This modest two-story cottage is tucked among several imposing residences in the center of the historic district of Snohomish, Washington. Nonetheless, I thought the owners, who clearly loved the little property, had very creatively made the most of the simple structure. The cheery buttercup yellow paint enhanced by periwinkle and lavender trim made it just "shine." I gave this piece a quilting bee theme. You can glimpse the busy ladies inside hard at work.

Snohomish Silver Lining Inn (Old Methodist Parsonage) ~ 2003

A visit to historic Snohomish, Washington is always a treat! It's easy to walk for hours shooting one photograph after another of the dozens of charming Victorians there. I was attracted to this "buttercup beauty" and painted her with an April showers theme - one of a very few of my paintings featuring gray skies. "Snohomish Silver Lining Inn" is a fictitious name for the original Methodist Parsonage which was built in 1892 and is located at 502 Avenue C.

The Spooky Stevens House ~ 2012

Built in 1887, the Stevens House is a classic beauty in the center of Snohomish's historic district. Owner John F. Stevens was a famous engineer who worked for James J. Hill, CEO of the Great Northern Railroad. Known as "The Empire Builder," Hill dominated his industry. Stevens' considerable accomplishments include building a thousand miles of railroad for the Stevens Pass Highway, including the original Cascade Tunnel. Stevens Pass was named for him, but he also discovered Marias Pass over the Continental Divide. Later, with James Hill's recommendation, Stevens was hired by President Theodore Roosevelt to finish the Panama Canal after the work there foundered, building the infrastructure necessary to complete that project. The Stevens House stands in the shade of two enormous trees in the front yard, presenting the perfect setting for a Halloween-themed painting.

Stars @ Stripes in Snohomish ~ 2010

In 2007, when my stepson and his family moved to Snohomish, I decided to expand my Snohomish collection and create a calendar highlighting its beautiful homes. I spent several weekends walking the historic district, snapping photos of every setting that "spoke" to me. This green and white clapboard home at 314 Union Street with its crisp white picket fence caught my eye. Even though the month was October, the home was decorated with dozens of little waving American flags. It inspired this work which carries through the theme of celebrating Independence Day with an old-fashioned picnic. My husband and I are bringing the cherry pie!



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Sunflowers in Snohomish (Blackman House) ~ 2008

Built in 1898 and located at 330 Avenue D, this house was once owned by Elhanon Blackman (his brother Hyrcanus lived in the building that currently houses the Snohomish Historical Society Museum). Elhanon was the first Snohomish postmaster. With his other brother Alanson, he invented and patented a machine that manufactured shingles. To advertise their new product, the brothers used it on Elhanon's beautiful Victorian, as it had a unique roofline featuring not one, but two cupolas. I've pictured my husband, Doug, and me amid lots of friendly sunflowers on a lovely autumn afternoon.



Treehouse Treasure at Tea Time (Vestal House) ~ 2011

This Victorian on Union Street is especially remarkable because of its companion treehouse (on the left) and gazebo (on the right). Built by State Senator Samuel Vestal for \$2,000 in 1889, it had 23 doors, 44 windows (many with colored panes), two staircases and two coal stoves. He needed a very large home to accommodate his wife and eight children. It remained in the Vestal family for decades until 1967. In 1988, the Jeffy Moyers purchased it, upgrading the property with insulation, new paint (77 gallons!), plumbing, etc., - while keeping its authentic vintage feel. When I painted this, a lovely elderly lady lived there. Frances is pictured on the porch welcoming her neighbor Penny and me for afternoon tea. Our kitties have tagged along.

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