

LINKING SPOKANE'S PAST & FUTURE UPDATE

THE CHANGING FACE OF SPA EVENTS

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the way we live ~ at least for the foreseeable future. SPA's methods of advancing preservation in Spokane County have had to adapt to the situation at hand. SPA members love historic architecture, but we also love to get together and have fun.

Our events have been integral to our process of advocating, educating and preserving our community's architectural heritage ~ and for raising the money to do so. Currently new methods are necessary to engage with one another while maintaining safety.

- **SPA'S ANNUAL DINNER & AUCTION "SPARKLE & SPEND"** ~ This is our largest event of the year and our major fundraiser. We rescheduled from our typical spring date to August 22nd, but have recently decided to hold a virtual event to maintain safety. Stay tuned for another new date and information about how that event will look. One thing you can count on is that it will be fun because the Auction Committee is ready for some of that! And we are planning to raise money, too!

- **SPA'S ANNUAL "2020 TOUR OF HISTORIC HOMES"** ~ The tour will also have a virtual format this year. While this is disappointing, it does offer a unique opportunity as the tour is not confined by walking distance.

We can feature residences throughout Spokane County and are looking for suggestions. Are you interested in creating a virtual tour of your historic home? Please contact Dave Shockley at preservationspokane@gmail.com or 509.344.1065.

- **"THE PUB CRAWL"** ~ This event remains a possibility this fall. We continue to plan and are hoping for an October Pub Crawl, but the health of our community will drive this decision.

While the face of our events had to adapt, the fundraising needs of SPA have not changed. Please support SPA through your membership, donations and event participation. If you have ideas, we want to hear from you!

● TRESA SCHMAUTZ • Development Chair

SPOKANE PRESERVATION ADVOCATES FUNDRAISING PAST EVENTS IN PHOTOS



SPARKLE & SPEND &
THE ANNUAL TOUR OF
HISTORIC HOMES



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GREETINGS FROM OUR VICE PRESIDENT

Like everyone else, we have been learning new "virtual" skills as we continue to meet as an Executive Committee and Board during these unprecedented times.

● **CREATIVITY** ~ With the clear challenges come opportunities for creativity. We have been actively planning replacement programs for events we missed this spring ~ with the realization that we may have to have alternative programs this fall as well.

● **PIVOTING** ~ One of the upsides of this "pivoting," as folks are saying these days, is the number and quality of lectures and other programs that are available online ~ often at no cost. I hope you have been able to take advantage of some of these events.

● **MOVING FORWARD** ~ I have also noticed the popularity of the phrase, "moving forward" lately, which strikes another positive note. We look

DIANA PAINTER
Spokane
Preservation
Advocates
Vice-President



forward to moving forward with you, our membership, over the next few months. We have new board members that are infusing new skills and energy into the organization and the board has embraced the challenges ahead. Here's to our not post-pandemic next few months!

COMING SOON ON THE WEB!

PRESERVATION & LOCAL HISTORY RESOURCES ● SPA developed a list of local websites related to our history and historic resources. Find it on our website *SOON* on our "Resources" page.

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HISTORIC CHENEY DEPOT RELOCATION



The historic Cheney Depot - up, up and away!



AN IMPORTANT DATE ● On Wednesday, June 17 the historic Cheney Depot was relocated. The 1929 Northern Pacific Railroad Depot was moved from its original site along the BNSF railway to a new, publicly accessible location along First Street. After delays due to COVID-19 restrictions, the highly anticipated move was welcome progress in the effort to save the station, as crews from DB Davis Structural Moving (Everett, WA) had been prepping the building since early May.

“SAVE OUR STATION” ● BNSF declared the depot surplus property in 2014, drawing concern for the building’s future. Rallying to save the depot from demolition, community members formed the non-profit Cheney Depot Society, mounting a campaign to “Save Our Station.”

PETER O. HANSEN ● The effort was anchored by Cheney native Peter O. Hansen’s very generous commitment to match all SOS donations up to \$500,000. Along with a Heritage Capital Grant from the Washington State Historical Society for \$366,000, the project was brought to life when Sunshine Investments, a local development group, donated a suitable relocation site.

DONATIONS FROM OTHERS ● In addition, many gracious donations were made by Cheney community members, Cheney High School and EWU alumni. The Avista Foundation also added their support with a \$25,000 upfront grant and a commitment for another \$25,000 for use on the depot’s interior rehab. Spokane Preservation Advocates (SPA) also awarded the project a \$5,000 Heritage Fund grant and provided volunteers in February to help with demolition of two existing structures on the destination site.

THE DEPOT’S FUTURE ● Once moved and settled into its new location, the depot will be restored and given new life, providing the Cheney community with new ways to enjoy an important piece of its history for years to come. For more information on the ongoing effort to relocate and restore the 90-year-old depot, visit cheneydepot.com or [facebook.com/nprrrdepot/](https://www.facebook.com/nprrrdepot/).

● SUSAN BEEMAN • Secretary, Cheney Depot Society

AWARDED/COMPLETED HERITAGE GRANTS

THE MUSEUM OF ARTS AND CULTURE (MAC) ● The Heritage Grants committee made a recommendation to the Board at the May Board meeting to approve a grant application from the Museum of Arts and Culture (MAC) for \$5,000.00 in matching funds to help with the restoration/conservation of original Campbell House furniture that the museum had acquired.

GERMAN AMERICAN SOCIETY ● In spring 2019, the German American Society was awarded a grant of \$3,523.21 in matching funds to help with building repairs and exterior painting. Their grant completion report was approved and the grant was paid in May 2020.

CHENEY DEPOT SOCIETY ● In fall 2019, the Cheney Depot Society was awarded a grant of \$5,000 in matching funds to remove original building materials for reuse and restoration in the relocated Depot. Their grant completion report was approved and the grant was paid in June 2020.

NEXT GRANT DEADLINE • OCTOBER 1, 2020 ● Grant application forms can be found on the SPA website spokanepreservation.org. Go to the “Preserve” page, scroll down to “Heritage Fund” and at the bottom of the text click on “Heritage Fund Application.” You will find a printable copy of the Grant Application. If you have questions, call Nancy Tortorelli at **509.344.1065**.



(Above) The Campbell House and Furniture • (Below) German American Society



● NANCY TORTORELLI • Heritage Grants Chair

A LOOK INSIDE THE NORTH SIDE'S REMARKABLE 1893 EASSON HOUSE



Two seasonal views of the Easson House at 1505 East Gordon

In 1893, four years after Washington became a state, a sprawling two and a half story residence was built at what is now 1505 East Gordon in North Spokane. The future of this house is uncertain.

● **"I HATE TO SEE THIS HOUSE GO."** ~ Michael Frederick, a railroad conductor who bought the house in 1974, died in April 2020 at age 75. His relatives are emptying the pioneer house. The process is difficult for daughter Angela Frederick, who was allowed a look while clearing out family furniture and memorabilia. "I'd hate to let this house go," she said, pointing out her childhood bedroom and the secret panel where her father once stashed thousands of dollars in coins and bills.

● **POSSIBLE FATE OF THE PROPERTY** ~ Neighbor Amanda Kirk said she's worried about its fate, speculating that it might be demolished for the condominiums or other new structures. She recently contacted Spokane's Office of Historic Preservation to ask whether the structure could be saved.

● **PROTECTION?** ~ The house is not listed on the Spokane Register of Historic Places ~ limiting the city's powers to protect it, said Megan Duvall (Spokane's Historic Preservation Officer). She shared that she and her assistant Logan Camporeale have long been intrigued by the house. They are also interested in a Colonial Revival immediately to the west of it located at 1427 East Gordon, built in 1895 by Frederick Kershaw, owner of a Spokane office supply company.

"The two homes were built before the surrounding areas to the south, north and east were platted," Camporeale said. The 1893 Esson (Frederick) residence suffers from deferred maintenance ~ including a collapsed garage and old asbestos siding, but it also has flashes of elegance.

● **ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES & SOME OTHER SURPRISES** ~ A spacious porch sweeps around two sides. The main floor includes a high-ceilinged living room with a fireplace, an adjacent music room and a dining room with another fireplace. A stately, wood-paneled stairway leads to a second story with several bedrooms and views of the nearly one-acre yard. A basement hideaway contains large jugs of homemade wine that Frederick said were hidden during Prohibition.

Information on the home's early owners is sparse, but the Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) database gave a few clues.

● **OWNERS** ~ According to the database, Charles Wheelock purchased the lot in 1891, two years after the Great Spokane Fire had torched downtown Spokane. Robert Easson purchased the property in 1892, took out a \$3,500 mortgage and built the house.

In 1906, Cassius Orr, president of the Hillyard Water Company, bought the house, but filed for bankruptcy in 1916. The city of Hillyard acquired the property in 1923 and kept it until 1958. Angela Frederick said she's heard stories about some of the home's varied inhabitants, including a "famous woman journalist" and a group of recovering male addicts.

DAHP provides a brief description of its architecture: "This large vernacular house has a broad covered porch which dominates the first-floor front façade. A small corner balcony also graces the southwest corner of the second floor. All windows and doors appear to be original. The porch retains the original wood siding; however, the rest of the house is clad with asbestos siding."

● **PLEASE CONTACT SPA** ~ Spokane history buffs, if you know more about this interesting home, please contact us at SPA to fill in the details of its history.

● KAREN DORN STEELE • Advocacy Chair

THE PASSING OF TWO GREAT PRESERVATIONISTS & FRIENDS

● NANCY GALE COMPAU AND ELLEN ROBEY



Nancy Gale Compau



Ellen Robey

She loved working as historian/archivist in charge of the Northwest History Room at the Spokane Public Library's main branch until her retirement in 2004.

She wrote many National Historic Register Nominations, served as a Historic Preservation Officer for the State of Washington and helped countless people research and shape their histories, articles and books.

Nancy co-authored two local history books for children. She volunteered for the Museum of Native American Cultures (MONAC), Cheney Cowles Memorial Museum (now the MAC) and was instrumental in developing the City of Spokane Landmarks Ordinance and the Landmarks Commission.

She was pivotal in the formation of the Friends of the Davenport, Spokane Preservation Advocates, and Advocates for the Bing Crosby Theater.

Over the years she received many state and local awards and recognition for her work ~ including the Washington State Historic Preservation Officers Award for Outstanding Achievement in Historic Preservation in 1996 and YWCA Woman of Distinction Award for Arts and Culture in 2012.

Nancy Gale Compau's life's work was inspirational and will be remembered.

(Continued on page 6)

NANCY GALE COMPAU and ELLEN ROBEY both contributed greatly to the preservation of Spokane's history and its historic landmarks ~ and gave to the community in many other aspects. Nancy Gale Compau and Ellen Robey were close personal friends. They enjoyed working together on many projects as well as spending time together socially.

● **NANCY GALE COMPAU** ~ Nancy passed away on March 15, 2020 after a long struggle with progressive Alzheimer's/Dementia. She grew up in Spokane and graduated from Washington State University.

Nancy also worked for Northwest Airlines in an office in the Davenport Hotel. She came to love the Davenport, not only for its historical significance, but because it was where she and her husband Parker Compau began their courtship.

Shortly after her marriage, she returned to school to earn her teaching certificate from Whitworth University, then added a special certificate from Clarke School for the Deaf in North Hampton, Massachusetts for teaching hearing-impaired children to speak and lip read. Later, she received her Master's Degree in History from Eastern Washington University in 1985 with a thesis on Peaceful Valley.



"The Friends of the Davenport late 1980's. Ellen Robey seated right, Nancy Gale Compau behind her and Dave Shockley seated left.

(Continued from page 5)

● **ELLEN ROBEY** ~ Ellen passed on May 12, 2020 unexpectedly in her home with her sister-in-law by her side.

She was a prolific volunteer for more than four decades, helping lead numerous community groups while working as the business manager for a large local architecture firm.

Ellen was a tenacious advocate for the arts and historic preservation and a talented consensus builder who never sought the spotlight. For many years she was the longtime leader of the Friends of the Davenport, a nonprofit founded in 1986 that fought to save the historic downtown hotel from demolition.

But that was never her only focus. She chaired the local Goodwill Industries board and spent 37 years on the board of the Spokane Civic Theatre ~ including two terms as president.

She lent her expertise to help preserve the Bing Crosby Theater in 2008 when it was at risk of being demolished or repurposed.

Ellen also volunteered as a docent at the Bing Crosby House Museum, served on the Rockwood Neighborhood Council and helped with the bookkeeping for Cataldo Catholic School.

Other groups she supported include the Spokane Symphony, the Spokane Lilac Festival, the Spokane Art School, Spokane Preservation Advocates and the local Junior League.

In 2017, Ellen Roby was granted a lifetime achievement award from the Spokane chapter of the YWCA.

At that time, she traced her community spirit to her childhood. She recalled that when she was 13, she watched as a group of men, including her father, rebuilt the Lutheran church in Ritzville. "Nobody got paid, Farmers used their own equipment, their own trucks," Robey said. "They just tore it down and built a new one."

That sense of duty extended through her own volunteer work. "These things that I do," she said, "I do because I think they need doing."

● **THE COUPLES WERE FRIENDS** ~ Parker Compau and Charles Robey, Nancy and Ellen's husbands, became friends while attending Wilson Elementary School in Spokane. When they married, the two couples lived in Spokane and became great life-long friends. Nancy and Ellen were always close and worked on many civic projects together including the Friends of the Davenport and the Advocates for the Bing Crosby Theater.

I'm proud to say I knew and worked with them both and considered them my friends also. These two women were amazing ~ and I for one greatly admire and respect their selfless life accomplishments. They were an inspiration for us all to contribute to our community however we can.

● **DAVE SHOCKLEY** • SPA Executive Coordinator

• With excerpts from obituaries published in the *Spokesman Review*

SPA

STATEMENT ● "THIS PLACE MATTERS"

SPA was founded to celebrate and preserve the places that matter in our region.

We recognize, however, that preservation is a dynamic process. It can't simply be tethered to a particular era or style of building. Preservation must be broader and more inclusive than that. It must reflect the contributions, the stories, and the struggles of all of us, including those whose voices are often not heard.

Preservation allows us to celebrate our successes as a community, but it also forces us to face some painful moments. It also requires an ongoing dialogue with all of the diverse communities that comprise Spokane, a task in which we have sometimes fallen short.

Preservation means more than preserving the grand buildings of Spokane's Age of Elegance, as important as these are. It also means protecting warehouses and industrial buildings, simple bungalows, and humble homes.

The slogan "**THIS PLACE MATTERS**" guides our work. Each of us has different places that matter ~ places that connect us to Spokane and to one another. As we move forward SPA will strive not just to tell our community what matters, but rather to ask the community what matters ~ and why. We look forward to hearing from you.

● THE SPA BOARD OF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE ● UPDATE

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The Historic Preservation Office, like most other City Departments, has been telecommuting since the middle of March 2020 in response to the COVID-19 crisis.

While working from home, we are continuing to review changes to historic buildings, list properties on the Spokane Register of Historic Places and administer Special Tax Valuation incentives to eligible properties.

● CANNON HISTORIC DISTRICT ~

We are continuing our work to create another large historic district in the lower South Hill neighborhood ~ the Cannon Historic District between 6th and 13th, Lincoln and Walnut.

This district includes nearly 500 properties and public hearings with the Plan Commission and Spokane Historic Landmarks Commission began this July. The voting period is expected to take place from September to November with final City Council action by the end of 2020.

● WEBEX-BASED PUBLIC HEARINGS ~

While we canceled Spokane Historic Landmark Commission meetings in March, April and May, we had our first WebEx based public hearings on June 17th and addressed five agenda items.

The SHLC recommended three properties for listing on the Spokane Register. These included two downtown buildings:

- 1904 Washington Machinery & Supply Building at 1012 West Railroad Alley Avenue
- 1926 Pacific States Electric Building at 112 South Monroe Street

A residential property was also included:

- 1936 Kirk Thompson House at 1430 East Overbluff

● **OLD HOLY NAMES BUILDING** ~ We also reviewed a nearly \$3M renovation of the old Holy Names Academy building for Special Tax Valuation and two applications for Certificates of Appropriateness for properties that are working on new garages.

● **JULY WEBEX MEETING** ~ Scheduled on July 15th.

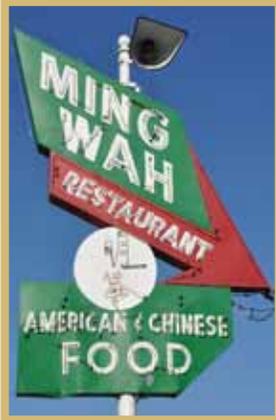
● MEGAN DUVALL • Historic Preservation Officer

(Top to Bottom)

- Logan Camporeale at the Cannon Historic District
- Washington Machinery & Supply Building on Railroad Avenue
- Pacific States Electric Building on South Monroe
- Kirk Thompson House on East Overbluff
- Old Holy Names Building on Superior Street



HELP SAVE THE MING WAH SIGN • ONE OF SPOKANE'S CLASSIC VINTAGE NEON SIGNS!



(Left) The Ming Wah Restaurant's neon sign in better days and (Right) Spokane's Riverside Avenue with its prolific parade of neon signs during the 1940s.



NEON WAS "KING" ● There was a time in Spokane when neon was "king" - especially on Riverside Avenue circa 1940's. When we walked down the street, the signs were classic, bold and distinguished. Slowly, as it became more expensive to provide upkeep for these vintage signs, they began to disappear - and up went the box signs. We grew up with these signs and icons - always engraved into our collective memories. As these classic pieces of art keep disappearing, I can't help but feel we are also losing a piece of ourselves.

CHALLENGES FOR THE MING WAH SIGN

● Ming Wah was an example of this remnant of another time - until it rotted and fell over in a windstorm - smashed to pieces. The owner Kam Kwong stated it would be restored. Little did he know the real cost of bringing the sign back to life. The insurance company would only cover \$10,000 - \$15,000, but the actual cost to resurrect it was \$26,000. Kam Kwong would love to see it brought back to life, but is not able to make this kind of expense work for him.

HELP SAVE THE SIGN ● Unless we help raise the extra funds, we will lose this piece of Spokane History forever. Please visit the link here to donate:

https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=MENG7QKH5VF32&source=url



● CHRIS BOVEY • Vintage Prints

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MEMBERSHIP STATUS?

NOTE: You may check your membership status by going to the SPA website at spokanepreservation.org. Click on "Participate" and scroll down to "Renew Membership." Click on "Renew" and you may either log in to your existing account or create a login for your account - **OR** You can email Dave Shockley at preservationspokane@gmail.com, and Dave will email you the status of your membership.

UPDATE

LINKING SPOKANE'S PAST  FUTURE • PUBLISHED QUARTERLY • SPOKANEPRESERATION.ORG



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SPA MISSION STATEMENT

THE MISSION OF SPOKANE PRESERVATION ADVOCATES IS TO PRESERVE AND ENHANCE THE HISTORIC CHARACTER OF SPOKANE AND SPOKANE COUNTY THROUGH ADVOCACY, EDUCATION AND PRESERVATION.



JOIN US AT SPOKANEPRESERATION.ORG OR FILL OUT AND RETURN THIS FORM WITH YOUR CHECK TO: SPA • PO BOX 785 • SPOKANE, WA 99210

JOIN SPOKANE PRESERVATION ADVOCATES NOW!

SPA IS A 501 C3 NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION • YOUR SPA CONTRIBUTIONS ARE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE

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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**