

# Historic Snohomish

27 FINE ART "AMERICANA" PAINTINGS • PRETTY PUBLIC PLACES AND "HOME SWEET HOMES" • CHARMING COMMUNITY NORTH OF SEATTLE AND PUGET SOUND FILLED WITH RESTORED VINTAGE HOMES AND DOZENS OF UNIQUE ANTIQUE STORES

PRETTY PUBLIC PLACES • INCLUDING INVITING B&BS, A RESTAURANT SAID TO BE HAUNTED, AND A VINTAGE CATHOLIC CHURCH • ALPHABETICALLY



## *Blackman House Beauty (Historic Snohomish Museum) ~ 5.2011*

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 Snohomish County - 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 Ella was accomplished as well as an amateur artist and fine embroiderer - her work was very much admired in the community. The Blackman family lived here in this two-story cottage until 1970 when they sold it to the Snohomish Historical Society. When I painted its portrait, the house was serving the community as the Blackman House Museum - restored and depicting Victorian life when the town was in its infancy. *Highlight* - I pictured my sister Marilee and her fiancé Ron joining my husband Doug and me who were about to begin the Annual Tour of Historic Homes.

## *Cozy Cabbage Patch ~ 4.2010*

Built in 1905, this two-story Victorian beauty once served as a boarding house and an antique store filled with unique Native American artifacts. In 1975, it opened as The Cabbage Patch Inn. A few short years later in 1978, Sandra McCutchan purchased it, began expanding its services, and building the restaurant's reputation. At that time, her Aunt Joan was upstairs baking goodies for her niece's establishment (like raspberry cream pie) nearly every day of the week. Sandra became known for specializing in "comfort" homemade favorites served in cozy settings. This included the Garden Room in the rear of the restaurant, created from what had been the back porch. A fire very nearly destroyed it, but Sandra rebuilt and reopened the Cabbage Patch, much to the delight of both locals and visitors to this community known for its huge selection of antique stores and restored historic residences. *Highlight* - Rumor had it that more than one ghost haunted the building.



## *Independence Inn ~ 6.2008*

This pretty two-story Dutch Colonial-style home was built in 1900 on 304 Avenue A in the heart of the historic district in Snohomish, WA, just a short drive north of Seattle. Snohomish has always been a huge favorite with visitors as it is filled with charming B&Bs, cafes, restored vintage homes of nearly every architectural style - and best of all, a great collection of antique shops. When I visited the community for the first time in the mid-1980s, this residence was featured on their Tour of Historic Snohomish Homes. I created the fictional name "Independence Inn" for this patriotic flag-filled piece. In 2012, when I became involved with the Snohomish Historical Society researching history for my first Snohomish calendar, I met the property owners and learned that the suite over the garage was actually set up to accommodate overnight guests, so the B&B theme was actually the truth! *Highlight* - This 4th of July picnic scene pictured our son Matt, his wife Heidi and me watching Grandpa Doug (nicknamed GW) playfully toss granddaughter Addison Lee into the air.



## *Pretty Parsonage in May (Methodist Parsonage) ~ 3.2009*

During Doug and my early married life in Seattle, one of our favorite weekend getaways was a trip to Snohomish. The community beacons for two reasons - two of Doug's children and our grandkids lived there - plus the town was filled with antique stores, vintage cafes and several hospitable B&Bs. At that time, Snohomish partnered with its very active historical society and hosted two tours of historic homes - one in September and another at Christmas. The historic district was fairly easy to walk and I took dozens of photos of the pretty Victorians, bungalows, Foursquares and Craftsman's there - lots of inspiration for an artist who loves beautiful vintage homes. Located at 502 Avenue C, the remarkable three-story residence was built in 1892 to serve Snohomish as the town's original Methodist Parsonage. At the time I completed a portrait of it the second time in 2009, it was operating as the "Pillows and Platters B&B." *Highlight* - I gave this painting a "May Day" theme, picturing Doug and me delivering pots of colorful blossoms to the folks in the neighborhood.



## *Merrymaking at Saint Michael's ~ 3.2010*

This towering structure in the center of Snohomish's historic district was once Saint Michael's Catholic Church. It 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 became Saint Michael's. Located at on Avenue C, folks could see its steeple for blocks. I gave my portrait of the old church a holiday-theme, decorating it with holly garlands, evergreens, a dusting of snow and adding Christmas carolers on the sidewalk. When historic Saint Michael's closed its doors and retired as a place of worship, a community-minded couple (one was Snohomish Mayor Karen Guzak) converted the structure into a combination residence / studio / art gallery. She was serving as mayor when I painted this artwork in 2010. *Highlight* - The church was part of the Holiday Tour of Homes presented by the Snohomish Historical Society the year I painted this piece - an event that highlighted not only the community's historic settings, but over-the-top Christmas decorating as well.



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"HOME SWEET HOMES" • ALPHABETICALLY BY SEASON

SPRINGTIME BEAUTIES IN ALL STYLES AND SIZES

## *Blue Birdhouse B&B ~ 3.2003*

Although this house was clearly a perfect example of vintage Victorian Queen Anne-style architecture when I discovered the two and one-half story in the early 1900s, surprisingly, there was no evidence that it have been registered as one of Snohomish's historic homes. At the time, this clapboard beauty was pristine white with a blue roof as pictured in this artwork. Its wood siding and decorative "gingerbread" detailing really made it stand out on its corner lot that bordered the community's historic district on the northeast side. Because it was "off the beaten path," I stumbled upon it accidentally, but found it to be so beautiful that I added it to my collection of Snohomish home portraits. I gave the piece an imaginary B&B theme even though it was a single-family dwelling at the time I painted it. I added several whimsical birdhouses and lots of blossom-filled gardens to complement the grounds around the home. I pictured my husband Doug relaxing on its expansive wrap-around porch, reading the newspaper in a large comfy wicker chair. I'm carrying an al fresco breakfast on a tray for both of us to enjoy. *Highlight* - This pretty painting was featured for years in my booth at the September Snohomish Tour of Historic Homes.

## *Brick Bungalow Beauty ~ 3.2010*

This delightful yellow bungalow was part of the 2009 Holiday Parlor Tour that the charming community of Snohomish hosts annually at Christmastime. Located in the historic district in the midst of Victorians and foursquares, the craftsman-style cottage provided a tidy departure for the neighborhood. The little single story home was embellished with a multi-colored brick fireplace and handsome front porch columns. Beautiful period windows round out the charming presentation. I gave this setting a Spring theme and filled the gardens with blue hyacinths and dozens of red and yellow tulips. I pictured myself selling flowers in this painting with my two kitties Andy and Sophie keeping me company. *Highlight* - During a visit to a favorite Snohomish gift shop where my friend Penny O'Connell worked part time, she introduced me to the owner of this cozy cottage.

## *Hippity-Hoppin' at the Hill House ~ 2.2009*

The charming little community of Snohomish, just an hour's drive north of Seattle, has always been a charming "destination" for folks who like to get away for the weekend. It's home to dozens of darling gift shops, antique stores, restaurants and B&Bs. This pretty, single-story cottage with its scalloped picket fence on Avenue A was built at the turn of the last century in the heart of the Snohomish historic district. When I painted its portrait, the house was this pretty shade of soft daffodil yellow - the perfect harbinger of spring - thus the proliferation of tulips and hyacinths dotting the front gardens. *Highlight* - I pictured my nieces Isabell and Brooklynn with me dressed for the Easter "hols" in pretty floral frocks, feeding carrots to half a dozen bunnies tucked throughout the scene.

## *Pretty Purple Palace ~ 5.2009*

The delightful Allen House, located at 224 Avenue A in Snohomish, shines as a magical study of how to create intricate detail in a beautiful, unique way. Built in 1856, this two-story was one of the earlier constructed Victorians that I found in the Snohomish Historic District. Embellished with ornamental wrought iron marching across its roof-line and second-story balcony, the home featured an imaginative color scheme of unexpected purple and Ceylon green with touches of cream. Later, this residence was given with a new color scheme, but I've always loved this unusual one - therefore, my inspiration to paint its portrait. A brick and masonry wall framed the garden, which was in full spring bloom at the time I was working on this artwork. *Highlight* - I included my dear friends Robin Westbrook, Marcia Naeseth and sister-in-law Holly Ward decorating the Victorian with a garlands of hearts to honor of Valentine's Day.

## *Fresh Flowers at the Wershing House ~ 4.2009*

This simple, yet very pleasing Dutch Colonial home was built on 426 Union Street in the early 1900s at the turn of the last century. It was located a couple of blocks from the cottage where our oldest son Matt and his wife Heidi began their married life, so I was lucky to stumble across it. Although slightly off the beaten path of the area known as the Historic District in picturesque Snohomish, the clapboard and shingle-construction Wershing House was one of a very few barn roof-style homes located there. Its crisp green and white color scheme and front porch that spanned the entire front of the cottage stood out on the block and inspired me to paint its portrait. *Highlight* - I pictured my sisters Marilee and Peggy hard at work helping me transplant dozens of tulips and daffodils into the surrounding flower beds and pots that lined the front walkway. I created this artwork over a decade ago to honor Spring and sisterhood!

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