



Chapter 7

HISTORIC PRESERVATION ELEMENT

A. Introduction

Many of the historic structures from the early days of Colville are still standing, adding character and charm to the community. There is a reflection of the diversity of the individuals that give Colville its stronghold; a variety of architecture that illustrates a collection of styles imported from around the world, just as our forefathers were. Even in the district that provides a look at post World War II housing for returning soldiers, we see individuality in each home and not 'cookie-cutter' tract housing.

Being a community of visionaries, the early residents established the first Civic Center within the State of Washington. At the intersection of Astor Avenue and Oak Street, you will find three government agencies represented; City Hall (local), the Colville Public Library (local and county), the Stevens County Courthouse (county), and the U.S. Post Office (federal). All of these buildings were constructed between 1932 and 1938, using a simple, yet classic, art deco moderne architecture. Each of these buildings has additional embellishments or artwork that was handcrafted by local artists.

In 1996, the City formed the Historic Preservation Committee (HPC). This committee has established the current inventory of Historic Properties, as noted below, and awarded these sites with a copper plaque that displays the year the structure was built. A self-guided tour has been created and revised on a couple of occasions. It is now available in two forms; a single sheet, double-sided brochure, or a several-page booklet that includes photographs of each site. The committee was also instrumental in assisting Barman's (Rickey Block) with receiving a 10-year property tax credit for the extensive renovations done on the property.

The HPC continues to solicit public participation to provide direction. The committee participates in monthly open meetings at City Hall. In September 2007, an Open House was conducted to obtain input from the community to gauge their current level of interest in local preservation. The HPC has attended a couple of Chamber of Commerce meetings in recent years to obtain feedback from Colville's business sector. Since the consensus indicated positive support for historic preservation, efforts have been made to increase the public's recognition of the program. It is agreed that this will promote tourism in the area as well as identify potential sites for recognition.

Historic districts are in the process of being evaluated; none have been formally adopted at this time.

In 2009, the committee was replaced by a newly-designated Historic Preservation Commission, which will pursue local preservation to a greater extent.

The City has recently gained status as a Certified Local Government through the state Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation. The primary functions of the Historic Preservation Commission will be to monitor and update the inventory of historic resources; designate historic district(s) to monitor construction activity and perform design review on building permit applications; and review applications from historic properties for special tax status.

B. Historic Resources

Figure 8.1 shows the location of historic sites within the city. These properties are either listed on the National Register (NR), on the Washington Heritage Register (WHR), are local plaque recipients by the City (LPR); or a combination of these. The sites listed below (Table 8.1) are listed in the order shown on a local self-guided tour brochure and booklet, prepared and maintained by the Historic Preservation Commission.

Table 8.1
Historic Properties in Colville

Description	Address	Year Built	NR	WHR	LPR
Stevens County Courthouse	215 S. Oak Street	1938			X
Colville Public Library	195 S. Oak Street	1932			X
Colville City Hall	170 S. Oak Street	1937			X
United States Post Office	204 S. Oak Street	1938	X	X	X
Rickey Block/Barman's	230 S. Main Street	1892	X	X	X
Acorn Saloon	262 S. Main Street	1892	X	X	X
Douglas/Skidmore Building	226 S. Main Street	1903			X
Collins Building	200 S. Main Street	1937	X	X	X
Bank of Colville/Hallmark	173 S. Main Street	1907			X
Alpine Theater	112 N. Main Street	1936			X
IOOF Lodge/Opera House	151 W. 1 st Avenue	1911	X	X	X
Colville Flour Mills	466 W. 1 st Avenue	1905	X	X	X
Keller House/Museum	700 N. Wynne Street	1910	X	X	X
American Legion, Frank Starr Post	103 E. 6 th Avenue	1934			X
W. Diffenbacher House	145 E. 6 th Avenue	1907			X
Charles Mantz House	408 N. Main Street	1899			X
Queen Anne Victorian Shingle	357 N. Elm Street	1890			X
O.F. Vinson House	510 N. Maple Street	1918			X
Lon Johnson House	462 N. Maple Street	1928			X
E.M. Heifner House	459 N. Maple Street	1890			X
M.A. Rodman House	404 N. Maple Street	1900			X
Earl Strong House	443 E. 4 th Avenue	1916			X
M.R. Strong House	449 E. 4 th Avenue	1904			X
Boyd House	512 E. 2 nd Avenue	1900			X
Cobe W. Winslow House	458 E. 2 nd Avenue	1906	X	X	X
James Stitzel House	416 E. 1 st Avenue	1899			X
Warren B. Lane House	453 E. Astor Avenue	1914			X
W.H. Bronson House	615 S. Cedar Street	1910			X
Dupuis House	300 E. Birch Avenue	1897			X

Source: Colville Historic Preservation Commission, 2009

The Stevens County Historical Museum in Colville maintains an extensive reference library and sells a variety of books, maps and pamphlets that describe the history of the area and lists historic resources open to the public. They have an impressive display of artifacts and goods depicted within still scenes that give the museum patrons a glimpse of Colville's progression over time.

The Heritage Network is a group of individuals representing personal or organizational interests that were successful in obtaining national historic recognition for our region. Stevens County was designated as a Preserve America Community in 2007, a program championed by former First Lady Laura Bush. This recognition will put northeast Washington 'on the map' for those who pursue historic interests. It will also enable the network to seek funding in the areas of research, interpretation, marketing, planning, and training. Members of the Heritage Network promptly began the task of enhancing the regional archives through expansion, reproduction, publicizing, and protection of historical documentation.

During the planning process, Colville residents and members of the Colville Planning Commission identified preservation of the historic lands, sites, and structures as a goal.

C. Goals

1. Develop and enhance the central business district to retain the atmosphere of a small town.
2. Identify and encourage the preservation of lands, sites, and structures that have historical or archaeological significance.
3. Promote the restoration of high quality structures within the community whenever possible, as opposed to demolition.
4. Establish historic district(s) that encompass a large number of potential sites to provide monitoring of construction activity and assistance in restoration and preservation.
5. Continue in the acquisition of data and accumulation of collections that have relevance to our local heritage.
6. Promote the recognition of local artists and artisans.
7. Provide regional support of other like-organizations; recognizing that Colville is a part of a broader realm of historical relevance.
8. Provide public awareness and education relating to the functions of the committee through participation in local events.
9. Provide a contact list of resources for city residents to use in researching historical data for their properties.
10. Become an integral part of the government's course of business to promote consideration of historical issues in their decisions.

D. Policies

- Policy 1 Recognize and preserve the historic elements of the community, i.e. cemeteries, buildings, trees, and relevant sites; including the diverse trades and cultures that contributed to Colville's identity.
- Policy 2 Work with property owners, government agencies, and other resources, as available, to identify, document, restore, and preserve historic resources.
- Policy 3 Maintain an inventory of historic resources, including architectural styles, continually striving to expand the data available and validate its accuracy for the benefit of the community.
- Policy 4 Provide access to historic information for the benefit of the public through various resources.
- Policy 5 Retain the historic appearance of the community, and encourage businesses and residents to take pride in their own and the city's history.
- Policy 6 Review land use and building permit applications relating to recognized sites. Enforce historic property maintenance and construction standards, per the Secretary of the Interior's "Standards and Guidelines for Archaeology and Historic Preservation." Issue a Certificate of Appropriateness or provide a response outlining reason(s) for denial of a certificate.
- Policy 7 Establish archives of data and photos for historical information and collections of pieces crafted by local artists and artisans.
- Policy 8 Participate in local events to enhance public relations, provide awareness of historic preservation and restoration, and provide community support.
- Policy 9 Periodically attend city council and planning commission meetings to present updates of HPC's activities to integrate our mission into the actions of our local decision makers.