



To preserve, protect, interpret and increase awareness of the architectural and cultural history of the City of Washburn and its surrounding area.

Winter 2015

President's Letter

Many people inquire about Washburn's historic preservation organizations – why are there so many? What is the difference between them? Which groups should we support?

The four groups in question are the Washburn Area Historical Society, the Washburn Cultural Center, the Historic Preservation Commission and the Washburn Heritage Association. These groups share common goals related to preservation and education, and currently collaborate on some projects such as the Tony Woiak History Festival. Below is an explanation of what differentiates us from each other.

The Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) is a state-mandated, city commission with five-seven members appointed by city council. It was organized in 2003 as a part of our historic preservation ordinance. The commission reviews and studies Washburn buildings for local historic designation and approves exterior modifications of buildings on the register. It is not a non-profit, and operates with a small budget provided by the city.

The Washburn Area Historical Society (WAHS) was started in 1980 by Ruth Harnois and others interested in preserving Washburn's history. The primary mission of WHAS is to collect and preserve artifacts, documents, photos and other historic memorabilia. They now run an excellent museum located on the second floor of the Cultural Center. Members are currently revamping all the exhibits. The WAHS is a separate organization from the Cultural Center, the only affiliation being that the organization rents space from WCC.

The Washburn Cultural Center (WCC) came into being in the early 1990's, when Skip Ungrodt restored the old bank building. WCC is a hub for Washburn's cultural life, a gathering place for people of all ages for many types of artistic and cultural events. It also serves as a meeting headquarters for many non-profit groups.

The Washburn Heritage Association (WHA) was founded by a group of citizens in 2009 to stop demolition of the DuPont Club/Civic Center. Now a primary focus is the built environment:

protecting, preserving and promoting Washburn's historic buildings. To this end, the WHA worked with the HPC to establish the historic district, consults with building owners on restorations, conducts an annual home tour, provides historic city tours during Brownstone Days, publishes historic maps, books and notecards and collaborates with WAHS to present the Tony Woiak History Festivals.

Because these groups have so many common interests, we are working to form a consortium of the non-profits: WAHS, WHA and WCC. The consortium plans to meet regularly - perhaps quarterly - to review goals for project activities, explore collaboration opportunities, discuss mutual working relationships, set calendars, etc. We expect our individual groups will gain strength from this consortium and we will provide more information as we move along.

Carla Bremner, President

Visit Our New Website!

www.washburnheritage.org

The WHA has an all new website with many features. Mary Nowakowski, WHA Community Outreach Director, designed the site to include information on the East Third Street Residential Historic District, Facade Improvement Awards, a map that locates historic structures in the city, a bicycle route map that includes the new historic district, videos, past newsletters, brochures, membership information and much more. Visit it soon!

WHA Pledges Funds to the Historic Civic Center Foundation

The WHA Board is pleased to announce that, between the association treasury and private board member donations, they have pledged \$10,000 to the Historic Civic Center Foundation. WHA was originally formed to save this historic building, which has played such an important architectural and cultural role in the history of Washburn. Portions of the building will be open for Homecoming in July.

WHA Board of Directors

Carla Bremner; Sharon Stewart; Ken Weiler; Kimberly Christensen; Don Ekstrom; Mary Nowakowski; Dora Kling; Jill Lorenz; Sandy Johnson; Patra Holter; Cam Wilcox. Thank you to outgoing WHA board members Irene Blakely, Dick Johnson and Jane Weiler for their substantial and valuable contributions on the board over the past five years.

Washburn Buildings Notecards

Cathy Lange, a professional graphic artist, offered to work “gratis” with the WHA to produce historical notecards as a fund raiser. She worked with volunteers Sharon Stewart, Patra Holder, Jill Lorenz and Carla Bremner to come up with an artistic cohesive group of historical images that would appeal to the public and represent Washburn’s past. After months of meetings and reviewing pictures to find those suitable for reproduction, the following images were chosen:

DuPont Center at Christmastime – circa 1932 – courtesy of the Historic Civic Center Foundation, Inc.

Walker High School – Found in the museum, courtesy of the Washburn Area Historical Society.

Washburn Public Library – The image of the original, colored, architectural drawing hanging on the wall of the library was taken out of frame, scanned and reframed using acid-free matting and backing to prolong its life.

Bayfield County Court House – The original, hand-colored architectural drawing of the Bayfield County Courthouse was found by Ron Maassen in an antique shop in California and given to the WHA, who then presented it to the Bayfield County Commissioners.

The cards are being sold in packs of four or as singles. Outlets are Washburn Cultural Center, Chequamegon Book and Coffee, Dick’s Clipper Shop, Karlyn’s Gallery, Washburn Library and Lake Superior Drifting Stone Jewelry. They are also available at the Tony Woiak History Festival presentations at Stagenorth. Prices are \$10.00 for a four-pack and \$3.00 for singles. Proceeds go to future WHA projects.

Art Show Focuses on Historical Connections

WHA is partnering with the Chequamegon Bay Arts Council to sponsor an art exhibit at the Washburn Cultural Center in March. The theme, *Historical Connections: Our Past in the Present*, is intended to evoke historic images. To encourage local views, three regional organizations — Ashland Historical Society, Bayfield Chamber of Commerce, and the Washburn Heritage Association – will each award \$50 to a work that reflects their community. A People’s Choice award will be selected by those who attend the show. Attend the public reception from 5-7 on Thursday, March 5 to see if your historical connections to the past are shared with our local artists. Entry forms are available at local libraries.



Index of the historical notecards now available from WHA

WHA is partnering with the Chequamegon Bay Arts Council to sponsor an art exhibit at the Washburn Cultural Center in March. The theme, *Historical Connections: Our Past in the Present*, is intended to evoke historic images. To encourage local views, three regional organizations — Ashland Historical Society, Bayfield Chamber of Commerce, and the Washburn Heritage Association – will each award \$50 to a work that reflects their community. A People’s Choice award will be selected by those who attend the show. Attend the public reception from 5-7 on Thursday, March 5 to see if your historical connections to the past are shared with our local artists. Entry forms are available at local libraries.

Join us for the two final presentations in the **Winter Tony Woiak History Festival**
Stagenorth at 7:30 p.m.

February 17 - Irene Blakely will talk about Influential Washburn Women

February 24 - John Foltz will give a presentation on Chick Sheridan Legends and History of the Apostle Islands

Historic Home Tour Held During Homecoming Weekend

The second annual historic home tour will be held this summer during Homecoming on Saturday, July 25 from 9:00 a.m. to noon. It will again be in the vicinity of the historic district but will also move further up East Third Avenue. These tours provide a rare opportunity to see some of Washburn’s older, historic homes.

Last year’s tour was a big success. Participants were delighted with the variety of architectural styles and with the homeowners’ hospitality. The WHA was fortunate to have wonderful and knowledgeable hosts in the homeowners and the volunteers who worked with them. It was interesting to discover the details many of these owners knew about the history of their home.

Homeowners who are interested in information about putting their home on a tour this year or in future years should contact Sharon Stewart – 715-373-2556 or Carla Bremner – 715-373-5212. People interested in volunteering in one of the homes or some other aspect of the tour should contact Patra Holter - 715-373-2404 or Ginny Pedersen – 715-612-3581.