CHAPTER 10

HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

10 HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

INTRODUCTION

When a community preserves its historic and cultural heritage it is making a statement about itself, and about its citizens: who they are; where they have been; what they have done and are doing; and where they are going. Sequim is a friendly small town with a decidedly rural atmosphere. Its citizens desire to maintain that community character by deliberately preserving its rich and diverse historic and cultural resources that are worthy of that effort for preservation and celebration.

The City of Sequim acknowledges the wealth of historic and cultural resources, which are essential to the natural beauty and rich heritage of the Sequim Dungeness Valley. Preservation of that heritage of the community has been identified as a key component in the *City of Sequim's Comprehensive Plan* update process. The importance of Sequim's agricultural past and its contributions to future tourism-related economic development continues to be recognized through the successes of the numerous annual festivals celebrating that history and that culture.

Historic preservation has many facets. It primarily involves the identification, maintenance, renovation, restoration and re-use of buildings and sites important to the community's history and sense of place, culture and traditions. These buildings and sites may represent significant building styles or development patterns representative of a particular era, or specific periods in the community's past. Or these places could be associated with important personages and historic events.

National and State Historic Registries

The *National Register of Historic Places* is the nation's official list of buildings, districts, sites, structures and objects that are significant in American history, architecture, archaeology and culture. Under the National Preservation Act (1966), the states work in partnership with the federal government to expand the list according to specific criteria used for evaluation of the historic significance of the nominated property or place.

There is only one site and building, the Sequim Opera House, within the City and its Urban Growth Area that is listed on the *National Register*; there is an additional building (Sequim Town Hall –1914) that is listed on the *Washington State Heritage Register*.

An additional thirteen sites in the Sequim-Dungeness Valley areas are currently registered *Washington State Heritage Register* or in the *National Register of Historic Places*. The majority of the sites reflect the pioneer and agricultural activities that occurred throughout the Sequim Dungeness Valley. Several sites, however, have antecedents as pre-historic Native American places dating back many thousands of years before non-Native settlement. On-going archeological research indicates the presence of important archeological resources throughout the Sequim region. The potential for uncovering additional archeological resources is a standard consideration before site planning and development occur.

Resources of Local Significance

The Sequim community recognizes the need to identify those historical and cultural resources that are unique and important to the Sequim Dungeness region. Examples of these resources include irrigation ditches, unique views and vistas, special landmarks (such as the old barns and farmsteads), and the traditional agricultural land use patterns as well as other historical structures associated with the agricultural heritage and coastal history of our community.

Native American sites as old as 14,000 years show continuous occupation by the Peninsula's tribal communities, which are irreplaceable resources of human history. The community values that historical and cultural tradition and intends that the city create regulations that preserve sites that may be discovered as the city develops.

Incentives for Historic Preservation

The City of Sequim, with other private organizations, county and state agencies, may assist in the preservation of historic and cultural resources by providing special programs and incentives. These may include property tax credits; relief from strict application of building code requirements; and the use of conditional use permits. The City could also establish its own "Sequim Heritage Registry" honoring buildings, sites, places, and peoples with plaques and markers that briefly describe the historic and cultural significance.

RESOURCE PRESERVATION

HCR GOAL 10.1 PRESERVATION OF PLACE Preserve the history of Sequim and Sequim-Dungeness Valley by protecting the features and artifacts that help to identify 12,000 years of culture and heritage.

POLICIES

HCR 10.1.1 GROWTH / PRESERVATION BALANCE

Identify and support the preservation of sites and structures in the City and its Urban Growth Area that have archeological, cultural or historic significance, while accommodating the requirements for growth that is inevitable in attractive communities.

Discussion: The identity of communities is founded in people and places that combine, over time, to form cultures. The biggest challenge to cultural preservation is community change – growth and development are primary stimulants of change and attract the greatest attention of those who value preservation.

One of the benefits of absorbing most growth within the urban growth area where the pattern of development covers lands that are now substantially modified. While it is still possible that any infill development site could reveal artifacts, the chances are much greater that rural lands outside the UGA are venues of past human activity. Sustaining the city's adopted urban growth strategy, including its goal to preserve rural lands that is a duty of the County, provides an effective

balance between the potential impacts to settlement legacies from growth and development and the need to accommodate the changes to the community's landscape that growth brings.

HCR 10.1.2 DOWNTOWN'S HISTORIC VALUE

Encourage revitalization strategies and preservation efforts for the restoration of buildings, walkways and features of the Downtown core and surroundings, which recognize, emphasize and capitalize on the historic traditions of Sequim and the Sequim-Dungeness Valley region.

Discussion: Maintaining the presence of city government and other civic and cultural functions such as the Library, Olympic Theater Arts, Museum, and Sequim Open Aire Market in the city's Downtown core helps promote community identity, cultural focus, and appreciation of local history. Buildings and locations that have played a significant role in Sequim's history are important to record in a local register, mark with a plaque or sign, and preserve through incentives provided in the city's development codes.

HCR 10.1.3 INCENTIVES FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Assist in the preservation of historic and cultural resources by providing special programs and incentives.

Discussion: The city has limited capacity to assist preservation efforts other than through regulatory mechanisms and partnering with other civic entities. Among the potential assistance to preserve properties are property tax credits (through state designation); relief from strict application of building code requirements, and the use of conditional use permits for re-use of historic structures. A "Sequim Heritage Registry" honoring buildings, sites, places, and peoples with plaques and markers that briefly describe the historic and cultural significance is one way to bring attention to community heritage without minimal public expense.

One practical step to identity a history disguised by recent "façade improvements" to appear more "modern" is to conduct an inventory through records research and, with the assistance of property owners and tenants, an examination of structures to reveal any lost original character. From this, a natural progression in preservation is to enact standards and procedures to restore heritage facades, often supported by local incentives for use or intensity of development.

HCR GOAL 10.2 HERITAGE EVENTS AND ARTS Celebrate Sequim's community heritage by continuing the local traditions of festivals, community events, and media and performance arts that contribute to Sequim's identity.

POLICIES

HCR 10.2.1 CITY SUPPORT OF HERITAGE EVENTS

Utilize city government resources including grounds, facilities and staff to sustain the legacy of community events which reflect Sequim's standing as a special place to live and visit for over one hundred years.

Discussion: The City of Sequim is the proud home of two renowned festivals and a host of events throughout the year that draw visitors to the City and enhance the quality of life for residents. The Sequim Irrigation Festival is the longest continuous running festival in the state of Washington and holds distinction as one of the best places to "escape" to experience a small town celebration. The festival celebrates the opening of the irrigation ditches in 1895 that brought water from the Dungeness River into the arid valley turning fallow fields into fertile farmlands. The Irrigation Festival takes place the first week in May and includes a grand parade, family fun day, carnival, logging show and many more events. Festival royalty serve as ambassadors for the City and represent Sequim in parades and events throughout western Washington all year.

Sequim has become internationally known as the Lavender Capital of North America® and hosts the annual Sequim Lavender Weekend the third weekend in July. The event includes the Sequim Lavender Festival® with a large street fair downtown, lavender farm tours throughout the Sequim-Dungeness Valley, and a wide variety of community sponsored events including art shows, concerts, a quilt show, and live theatre. The event draws visitors from all over the world to take in the sights, smell, and taste of this versatile herb.

Through contracts with the production organizations, these events are supported with funds from the City's Lodging Tax Fund, which is legislated to promote and support tourism efforts. In addition to the two large festivals, the City supports several smaller and new events throughout the year through the Lodging Tax funded Tourism Enhancement Grant program.

HCR 10.2.2 CULTURAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO TOMORROW'S HISTORY

Promote and support cultural events and resources such as theater, music, art and sculpture, as well as historical artifacts, that form today's culture and tomorrow's history.

Discussion: The City Council demonstrated the value of community culture when it established the Arts Commission in 2014.

JAMESTOWN S'KLALLAM TRIBE CULTURAL LEGACY

The banner of the Sequim 120 process states that the foundations for the community's growth planning are *people*, *place*, and *paths to the future*. Understanding and respecting the Native society that preceded Sequim's incorporation as a city by thousands of years and continues to thrive as part of the Sequim-Dungeness regional community are inherent to these foundations. The Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe's presence throughout the Valley is evident in the local economy, environmental stewardship, cultural traditions, and city-Tribe partnerships. The value to the Sequim community to nourish its relationship with the Tribe as partners, neighbors and friends is found in the following statement in the Tribe's Comprehensive Plan:

> "For ten thousand years, a nation of people lived and prospered on these lands of the Olympic Peninsula. These strong people of the S'Klallam tribes had a system of governance, engaged in commerce, managed natural and human resources, and exercised power over their territorial boundaries. The people created a rich culture of art, song, spirituality, traditional knowledge and social structure. They promoted leadership, self-sufficiency, self-reliance, and a code of conduct within their community that served as a basis for strength, pride and survival.
>
> This was a nation, a government and a community, independent and interdependent.
>
> It still is. "

(*Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe Comprehensive Plan*)

INTRODUCTION

For thousands of years, the S'Klallam ("strong") people lived in villages along the north coast of the Olympic Peninsula, moving with the seasonal resources and living in harmony with nature. While historians originally thought that man could be traced back 10,000 years on the Olympic Peninsula, the discovery of the Manis Mastadon in 1977 offered definitive evidence that humans, presumably Indian, hunted on the Olympic Peninsula as early as 14,000 years ago. The S'Klallam people occupied multiple permanent and temporary village sites in the Sequim-Dungeness Valley. In addition to hunting in the mountains and harvesting and fishing in the salt and fresh waters of the area, the S'Klallams maintained the Sequim prairie by burning it back each year to create habitat for berries and other edible plants, and new grass to feed the deer and elk they hunted. Their culture relied heavily on the red cedar tree, which provided wood for shelter and canoes as well as bark which was used for clothing, baskets and blankets.

In the 19th century, non-Indian settlers began to arrive in the area, desiring the same abundant lands and waters that were so important to the S'Klallam people. In 1855, the S'Klallam leaders signed a treaty with the federal government with the understanding that they would always be able to hunt, fish and gather in their "usual and accustomed" grounds. As the original inhabitants of Sequim, the S'Klallam people looked for ways to preserve their lifestyle, identity and cultural ways.

In the 1970s, the Jamestown S'Klallam people joined with Tribes across the nation in a movement to gain justice for those whose treaty rights had been ignored for more than a century by the federal government. Several key court decisions reconfirmed their treaty rights to hunt, fish and gather at their historical sites

and waterways, and it was determined that Tribes and the State must co-manage these resources. Through a long legal process, the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe was "re-recognized" by the United States government on February 10, 1981. This finally confirmed the Tribe's rights as a sovereign nation, and they formalized their government (similar to any local, state or federal government) under a Tribal Constitution.

Though much has changed since the settlers first arrived, it is as important as ever to the S'Klallam people to preserve natural and cultural resources. The Tribe balances its 21st century needs with the importance of preserving natural and cultural resources, making land use decisions that respect its traditions and look forward seven generations. The Tribe works with other governments to do the same.

The Jamestown S'Klallam Tribal government is a leader and well-respected partner in the areas of economic development, health care, natural resources, cultural preservation and the arts for the ultimate benefit of all who share the Sequim-Dungeness Valley.

There are potentially significant historical/cultural resources throughout the City and its UGA where the Tribe has a vested interest in protecting and preserving data about its heritage, culture, ancestors and lifeways. The National Historic Preservation Act contains specific regulations governing historical and cultural resources, particularly under Section 106, that must be followed by governments and individuals alike. Early identification of these sites and resources provides the opportunity to protect them in advance of development, and reduces the potential for sudden, inadvertent, and haphazard discovery and recovery. It is in the interest of Tribal people, pioneers, city and rural dwellers alike, to recognize, understand, and protect the foundations of history upon which we all stand. It is through the remnants and relics of culture that we learn who we are and who we have become.

But culture is also a living thing; we see it in the art and sculpture of totems we now carve, and in the stories we continue to write and to tell. We revere it in the form of salmon returning to our rivers and streams, around which we have woven modern tales, art, and practices. There is little difference between the historic use of native plants or the cultivation of the Sequim prairie, and the cultivation of lavender, wine, or crops for the benefit of a community. The ancient history of a Native community has become intertwined with the more recent shared and common relationships of the families and co-workers that make up the modern Sequim community.

PRESERVATION OF NATIVE HERITAGE

HCR GOAL 10.4 HISTORY AND CULTURE Preserve the history of Native culture in and around Sequim by protecting the features and artifacts that help identify 12,000 years of Native presence.

POLICIES

HCR 10.4.1 COMMUNITY HERITAGE

Protect significant Native sites and cultural resources as an integral part of the heritage of the Sequim community.

Discussion: Cultural resources are oral and written histories, genealogies, personal names, songs, dances, cultural artifacts, as well as both marine and terrestrial traditional and contemporary resource harvest areas and sites. Natural resources crucial to tribal identity such as shellfish, shellfish beds, salmon streams, and kelp beds qualify as cultural resources, due to their

connections to tribal history and both historic and contemporary hunting and fishing practices. Archaeological resources such as shell middens, village sites, intertidal fish traps, culturally modified trees, homesteads, historic buildings, graveyards, and historic harvest sites provide detailed examples of tribal culture and history. Sites of 12,000 years of continuous Tribal occupation are irreplaceable resources of human history.

The Sequim-Dungeness Valley is rated as moderate to high probability for the presence of cultural resources using the predictive model developed by the Washington Department of Archaeological and Historic Preservation (DAHP). The identification of presence or absence of archaeological resources in the landscape is essential prior to development activities; site assessments and consultation with Tribes and DAHP are important steps in such identification. The objective of identification is data recovery and resource conservation.

HCR 10.4.2 FLORA AND FAUNA IN CULTURAL TRADITIONS

Utilize growth policies and an ethic of environmental stewardship to preserve the presence of native flora and fauna that are inherent to the traditions and lifestyles of the S'Klallam people.

Discussion: Native plants and vegetation, such as cattail, eelgrass, hazelnut, nettles, salmonberry, Western Red Cedar and Garry oak, were traditionally used by Indian people of the Olympic Peninsula for a variety of purposes, including clothing and medicine. The right to gather such vegetation is reserved by the S'Klallam people in the Treaty of Point No Point. Preservation of these resources and habitat in which they grow is essential to ensuring the ability to practice the treaty right. The ability to fish, hunt and gather are guaranteed by the United States government as a fiduciary responsibility, and Sequim has a role to play in ensuring that the United States is able to fulfill that trust responsibility.

The city's Urban Growth policies (see Chapter 2 Urban Growth) express the need to stop the conversion of rural lands and activities in the Valley to non-rural uses. This is a primary means to maintain native flora and fauna in the Valley – the continued growth of non-rural / semi-urban development outside designated urban growth areas decades after the advent of statewide Growth Management laws no only threatens Sequim's vision as the center of a rural valley but puts species and resources inherent to the Tribe's history and future at great risk. The city's development policies (see Chapter 3 Land Use) reinforce rural preservation by insuring that urban land resources are used efficiently to accommodate the bulk of Valley growth. Further, the city recognizes its responsibility as a provider of urban services to apply good management and stewardship to minimize impacts on the surrounding natural environment (see Chapter 9 Energy and Environment).

The treaty rights of the S'Klallam Tribes reserve the use of usual and accustomed places for the harvest of finfish and shellfish. Tribal citizens exercise this treaty right on the waters and tidelands of Sequim and Dungeness bays and their tributaries. Maintaining the ability to harvest these cultural and economic treaty resources relies on the health of the aquatic habitat of our streams and bays. Projects such as the replacement of the roadway at Gibson Spit benefit both the City and the Tribe's interest in a healthy aquatic habitat; extending municipal wastewater service to the Tribal administrative campus in Blyn ensures that the environmental quality of Sequim Bay meets standards to support continued health and harvestability of treaty resources into the future (see CFU 5.2.3).

HCR 10.4.3 TRIBAL PRESENCE

Partner with the Tribe to maintain the visibility and prominence of indigenous culture and identity; and on projects that benefit economic health, recreational opportunities, and quality of life in the community.

Discussion: The contemporary presence of the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe in relation to the city of Sequim is manifest first and foremost by the Tribal people who reside within the City limits. The shared heritage of pioneer and Native extends to our neighbors, friends and co-workers. Second, the Tribe is a property owner within the City, managing apartment units on Bell Street and contributing to available affordable housing. More visibly, the Jamestown Family Health Center is a beneficial provider serving citizens of Clallam County both Native and non-Native, of all income levels. As a sovereign nation, the Tribe is a leader in providing recreational, environmental, service and economic opportunity that benefits the entire community.

The Tribe's presence in and connection to the civic and social life of the Sequim community is also experienced visually by citizens and visitors. The iconic totem in the Community Plaza that is a landmark for the Civic Center and another totem in Pioneer Park are just two of several Tribal contributions to the community that tie the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe and Sequim community. Through consultation with the Tribe the city has opportunity to increase tribal historic and contemporary contributions to the iconography of Sequim's facilities and streetscapes.