



2023 Olympia Preservation Award Nomination

Olympia's Preservation Award supports the Heritage Commission's goal of recognizing excellence in the rehabilitation of historic objects, buildings, structures, sites and districts, as well as new construction in historic areas (OMC 18.12.055).

PERSON MAKING NOMINATION:

Name	Contact Details	Date of Nomination
Jessica Hull, Commissioner	jessy95hull@gmail.com 360-481-7015	April 19 th , 2023

NOMINATION TYPE:

- Person Project X Other: Book
 Organization Building

CATEGORY OF NOMINATION:

- Preservation X Education X Other: History
 New Construction Scholarship

NOMINEE:

Name	Address	Phone/Email
Blacks in Thurston County, Washington - 1950 to 1975: A Community Album	N/A	N/A

SIGNIFICANCE OF NOMINATION:

Brief summary of the significance of the person, organization, project or building. This text will be used by the City of Olympia in preparing and presenting the award at the City Council meeting. Attach additional pages as needed.

Blacks in Thurston County, Washington - 1950 to 1975: A Community Album captures the lives of African Americans in Thurston County through oral conducted interviews, leaving memories and stories of significance in our area for us to read and future generations. It is noted that there is a lack of documentation of Black lives from the early 1900s to the 1950s, besides the noted George Bush who settled in Tumwater year 1843. Editor Dr Thelma Jackson and contributing Editor Edward Echtle gathered important stories and experiences of the incoming Black generation from 1950 to 1975, ensuring that they are remembered and known through this book.

Stories unveil the difficulties faced by the minorities in the community as well as accomplishments and opportunities besides the many obstacles faced through discrimination. Some of these difficulties include a lack of diverse neighborhoods. A lot of African Americans that moved to the area faced discrimination through the housing process of either wanting to purchase a home through realtors or the response from neighbors received once the home was

purchased. This led to a group of people advocating for fair housing and no segregated neighborhoods leading to the implementation of the open housing ordinance.

Several notable and familiar places in the Olympia area are mentioned in the stories, such as Evergreen State College having a talented group of staff and founders including people of color who arrived between 1969-1975. Olympia Brewery was another location that is noted to have provided job opportunities during this time. And several stories mentioned the Schmidt family having been very welcoming and kind. The notable 5' o clock brewery whistle, smells of hops and feel of a connected community interweave through several stories. Leaving a memory that brightens the now abandoned brewery complex, knowing what has been before. Other mentioned employment experiences also include discrimination and actions of racism in several noted workplaces such as low pay, lower job expectations and verbal comments.

Stories of African Americans during this time mentioned the lack of churches and not feeling welcome, leading to longer commute to Tacoma, Seattle or Portland for worship. This led to a group of founders forming the New Life Bapstist church, founded in 1975. A place that has had many locations before having been located in Lacey for 23 years now. Many provided significant contributions to forming and continuing the church through leadership, labor and service.

The book documents a tremendous amount of information regarding the lives of Blacks who moved to the Thurston County area between the early 1950s-1975. Despite a lot of disparities and discrimination, many accomplishments and contributions to organizations are mentioned that have had a positive impact in our community. It is important to document the stories including difficult and positive ones, allowing a stamp in history making sure those experiences are not forgotten.

- I have attached information to support my nomination, including documents, images, & other recognitions.*
- For a project nomination, I have included "before" and "after" photos.*

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION – PROVIDE AS APPLICABLE

PROPERTY OWNER FOR BUILDING/PROJECT BEING NOMINATED (if different from above):

Name	Address	Phone/Email

ARCHITECT / CONSULTANT FOR PROJECT BEING NOMINATED (if different from above):

Name	Address	Phone/Email

BUILDING DETAILS:

Address	Historical Name
Year Built	Year Rehabilitated
Original/Early Owner	Original Architect/Builder
Original Use	Current Use
Heritage Designation Status	Other Information

Attach additional pages as needed

Please email completed form and attachments to Marygrace Goddu at: mgoddu@ci.olympia.wa.us

