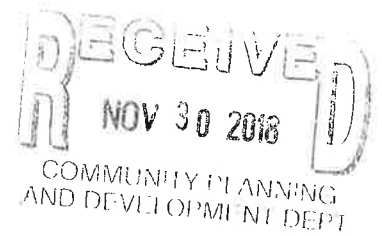


Handout 2

November 26, 2018

Caleb Maki, Executive Secretary  
Washington Committee on Geographic Names  
P O Box 47030  
Olympia, Washington 98504-7030



Dear Chair Maki:

I am writing in support of the naming of the point of land on the east shore of the East Bay Channel of Budd Inlet after Alexander and Rebecca Groundage Howard, prominent African American pioneers. I am a researcher and writer who became familiar with the Howards more than thirty years ago. As the years have passed and I continue to acquire more information about them, I have come to appreciate their significance to the history, culture and economy of Olympia during the territorial period.

The Howards are two examples of early settlers who were well known to their contemporaries, but awareness of their presence and contributions has disappeared from common knowledge.

Because of their civic and business activities the location of their home site has significance both locally and statewide. During their lifetimes at the nominated site their neighbors and townspeople were readily familiar with them and their agricultural successes which ranged from bountiful crops, samples of which were exhibited at Thurston County fairs, to Mrs. Howard's sale of dried vegetables to San Francisco markets processed on a newly-invented produce drier in which she was partial investor.

Practically everyone in town knew of their hosting of territorial legislators and national officials including President Rutherford B. Hayes, the first sitting president to visit Washington Territory, at their Pacific House Hotel. Visiting clergy at the St. John's Episcopal Church found lodging with the Howards, parishioners whose generous monetary donations, and near-famous ice cream for the church's Ladies' Society fundraisers, were much appreciated.

Like other residents of similar circumstances during the Civil War, they paid a luxury tax for valuables, in their case, for Mrs. Howard's watch. She was counted among the supporters of the campaign for women's suffrage. When the proposal for a railroad to Olympia was introduced the Howards joined the effort without hesitation, donating land for a railroad right of way. They also purchased goods and services from local vendors and employed local people at the hotel.

Though a small site, formal designation of Howard Point has the potential to inspire African American children and people of all races to further their awareness of the contributions of the Howards and people of all races to the growth and development of our state. Such recognition is an important step towards a lasting connection to this couple and a more representative history of Washington State.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Esther Mumford".

Esther Mumford

Cc: City of Olympia Historic Preservation Office