

2021 Heritage 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
Susan Rohrer	srohrer@ci.olympia.wa.us	1/27/2021

NOMINATION TYPE:

Person

Project **X**

Other:

Organization **X**

Building

CATEGORY OF NOMINATION:

Preservation **X**

Education **X**

Other:

New Construction

Scholarship **X**

NOMINEE:

Name	Address	Phone/Email
Thurston County Historic Commission	2000 Lakeridge DR SW, Building One Second Floor, Olympia, WA 98502 [TCHC]	

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.

Thurston County Water, Woods & Prairies, Essays on the History of Washington's Capital County is the most inclusive book ever written on Washington's Capital County, and the first published in 100 years. The entire project was conducted with unpaid volunteers starting in 2012. Featuring the work of nine local and regional noted historians and five essayists, this publication adds new information to the historical record of our region. The extensively researched and indexed information provide valuable sources, including a wealth of historic images, drawings and maps for historic preservationists and community historians. It was published in 2019 with support and from the Thurston County Commissioners.

X I have attached information to support my nomination, including documents, images, & other recognitions.

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

Name	Address	Phone/Email
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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

SEE ATTACHMENTS

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

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Thurston County Historic Commission for Coordination and Publication of

Thurston County Water Woods and Prairies

Thurston County Water, Woods & Prairies, Essays on the History of Washington's Capital County originated with the Thurston County Historic Commission in 2012, under the guidance of commissioner Sandra Crowell, a regional historian and editor of the publication. The idea was to fill a gap in the historical record of Thurston County and its communities. It is the most inclusive book ever written on Washington's Capital County, and the first published in 100 years. The entire project was conducted by unpaid volunteers with unpaid volunteers starting in 2012. It was published in 2019 with support and from the Thurston County Commissioners.

Thurston County Water, Woods & Prairies is not a traditional nomination for a historic preservation project. It is an education project focused on community history.

The publication is a valuable research resource for historians and preservationists, including historic home and business owners, due to the following:

- a wealth of well-researched and newly uncovered local historical information
- a large collection of historic images, maps and documents
- a professionally prepared index

A professional indexer was brought on to create a searchable history database. According to well-known local historian and historic preservationist Shanna Stevenson "The book has enduring value because it is thoroughly footnoted and has an extensive bibliography...and [includes] an extraordinary number of historic and contemporary images of the county-not done before."

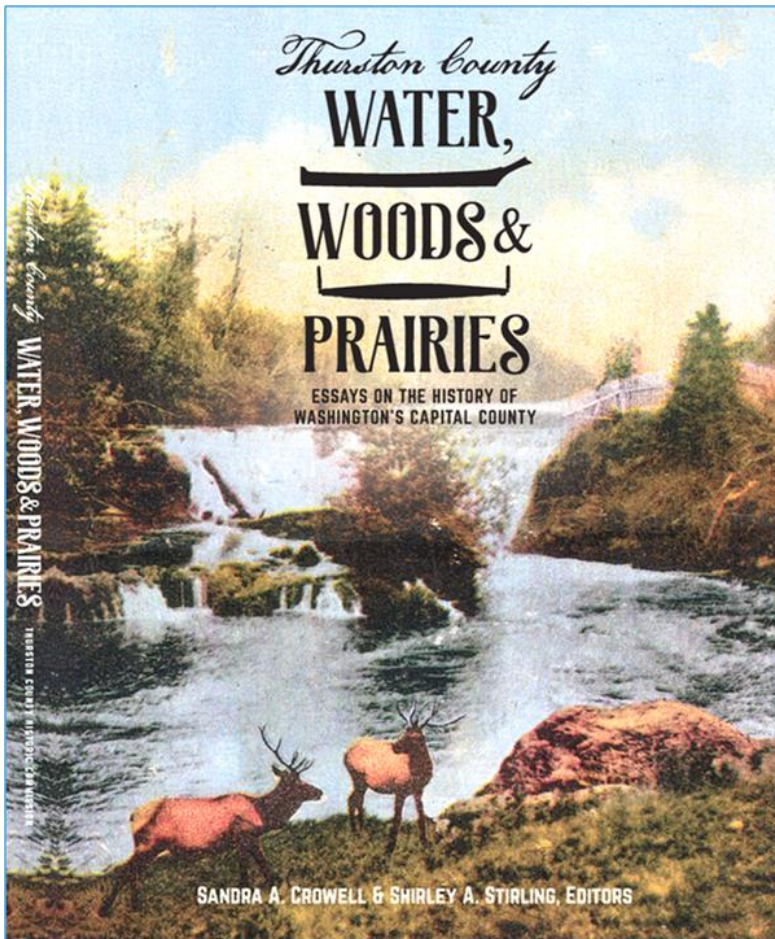
The book contains more than 250 images, original scanned documents and 12 maps, many which have never been published. There are 25 "sidebars" or short essays that include the Olympia music scene 1983 to 1999, and the 1860 establishment of the Pacific Restaurant and Hotel by Rebecca Howard on Main Street [now Capital Way].

Community history and historic preservation go hand in hand. The National Park Service, which owns and maintains historic properties across the country, has stated "Historic structures can serve to define a community, it is a way to tell our history. They connect us to specific times, places and events that are significant milestones to our past. Historic Preservation and the study of history go hand in hand and enrich and enhance our knowledge appreciation of our collective history."

The book originated with the Thurston County Historic Commission and the expertise of well-established historians, including Gerry Alexander, Drew Crooks, Jennifer Crooks, the late Les Eldridge, Dr. James Hannum, Karen Johnson, Shanna Stevenson, and Don Trosper. Other contributors include co-editors Sandra Crowell and Shirley Stirling. Chris Colton provided copy-editing while Tumwater resident David Nicandri, former director of the Washington State Historical Society, introduced the work. Proceeds from the sale of the book have been given to Arts and Heritage based organizations across the entire county.

Members and Former Members of the Thurston County Historic Commission who provided support for this project
Charlie Roe, Rob Kirkwood, David Shipley; County staff, Cami Petersen; Jeremy Davis. Sonja Cady, Sandra Crowell, Shirley Stirling.

Thurston County Board of County Commissioners
Carolina Mejia, Gary Edwards, Tye Menser



Olympia, Washington Territory, in 1857 by James M. Alden. One of the earliest views of Olympia Looking north toward the waterfront. (Washington State Historical Society)