



THE WASHINGTON ARCHAEOLOGIST

WASHINGTON ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, P O BOX 84, UNIVERSITY STATION, SEATTLE 98105

VOLUME XVII

NUMBER 4

DECEMBER 1973

THE NATIONAL REGISTER: HOLDING ONTO YESTERDAY.....

Tom Herbeck

WAS COMMITTEE REPORTS.....

BOOK REVIEW: NORTHWEST COAST ARTIFACTS.....

Lee Bennett

WAS PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE.....

July, 1974

THE NATIONAL REGISTER: HOLDING ONTO YESTERDAY
by Tom Herbeck

Background and Meaning

In the January and June, 1973, issue of The Washington Archaeologist, Lee Bennett wrote of the WAS: "one of the reasons our Society was organized: to aid in the preservation of one of our country's limited resources, and through those efforts, to learn about the past." The National Register Program was organized with a similar purpose.

The National Historic Preservation Act signed into law on October 15, 1966, authorized the creation of the National Register, described as "the only official inventory of the cultural and historical resources of our nation." It is a program by which both archaeological and historical sites of importance can be nominated for preservation.

A nominated site is first reviewed by a state committee, which must include a professional historian, architect, and archaeologist. If approved it is sent to the National Park Service in Washington D.C. for final consideration. Sites that are accepted for the Register not only are additions to our "cultural and Historical resources," but also gain a measure of protection from future Federal Projects.

It must be emphasized this is not the protection of a law, but rather an understanding. Federal highways, dams, underground pipes, etc. can, if the Government so chooses, be built through National Register listings. But before a Federal Agency may "transfer, sell, demolish or substantially alter the property," their proposal must be reviewed by the Advisory Council on Historical Preservation. If the Council cannot convince the Agency to rewrite its proposal so as to avoid the National Register site it will request and is guaranteed time to salvage the area. It is unlikely, however, that the Government, who has itself recognized something particularly significant about some archaeological or historical site, would ignore the National Register listing. Its importance as a register of America's prehistory and history is constantly becoming more realized and valued.

It should be added that whereas the Federal Government can alter a National Register site, but not refuse its nomination, a private owner--state, company, individual--can both alter and refuse a potential or current Register listing. The private owners, however, have continually cooperated in both nomination and protection.

Requirements for Preservation

There is a good question that must always be asked: What is the definition of "significant?" When is a site (or a building, or a place, or an object) worthy for nomination? When should I fill the forms in, begin the write-up, take the required photos, sketch a site map and order the USGS map of the area, notify the owners, and then mail the nomination? Is there a means for determining "importance?"

The National Register divides itself into three areas: national, state, and local. From this simple division can only come a definition of significance which forces each of us to find his own. The National Register Advisory Council on Historical Preservation has no absolute standard, but only that of wanting to be convinced of the importance someone else has found. The division then is not what is of importance

here, the range of consideration allowed is the essential value. The petroglyphs on the rock behind the house deep in the woods, and the Marmes Rockshelter share equally both the possibility of nomination, and the possibility of acceptance to the National Register. I agree the range is vast, but so is the place and reach of man! And if we can put aside a sampling of all of his great variety, I believe man becomes the more amazing, and perhaps the more significant, for all of us.

This is not saying every site nominated will be accepted to the Register (there are certainly many more rock paintings than there are Marmes Rockshelters, and the policy leans toward accepting and saving a few to represent the many), but any site with the potential of helping to tell an area's story--whether or not that story extends over a great distance--is worth nomination. Local prehistory and history must be considered--and remembered.

One of the important benefits of the National Register for archaeologists, amateur and professional, is the dollar-for-dollar part of the program. Excavation can be done at Register sites. If the excavation proposes not only to dig, record, and remove the cultural material found, but also to preserve, maintain, and make available the site for the education and benefit of the public (this must, in fact, be the central purpose more than the possible gain of scientific knowledge), the Federal Government will financially aid in the excavation.

The National Register and Washington

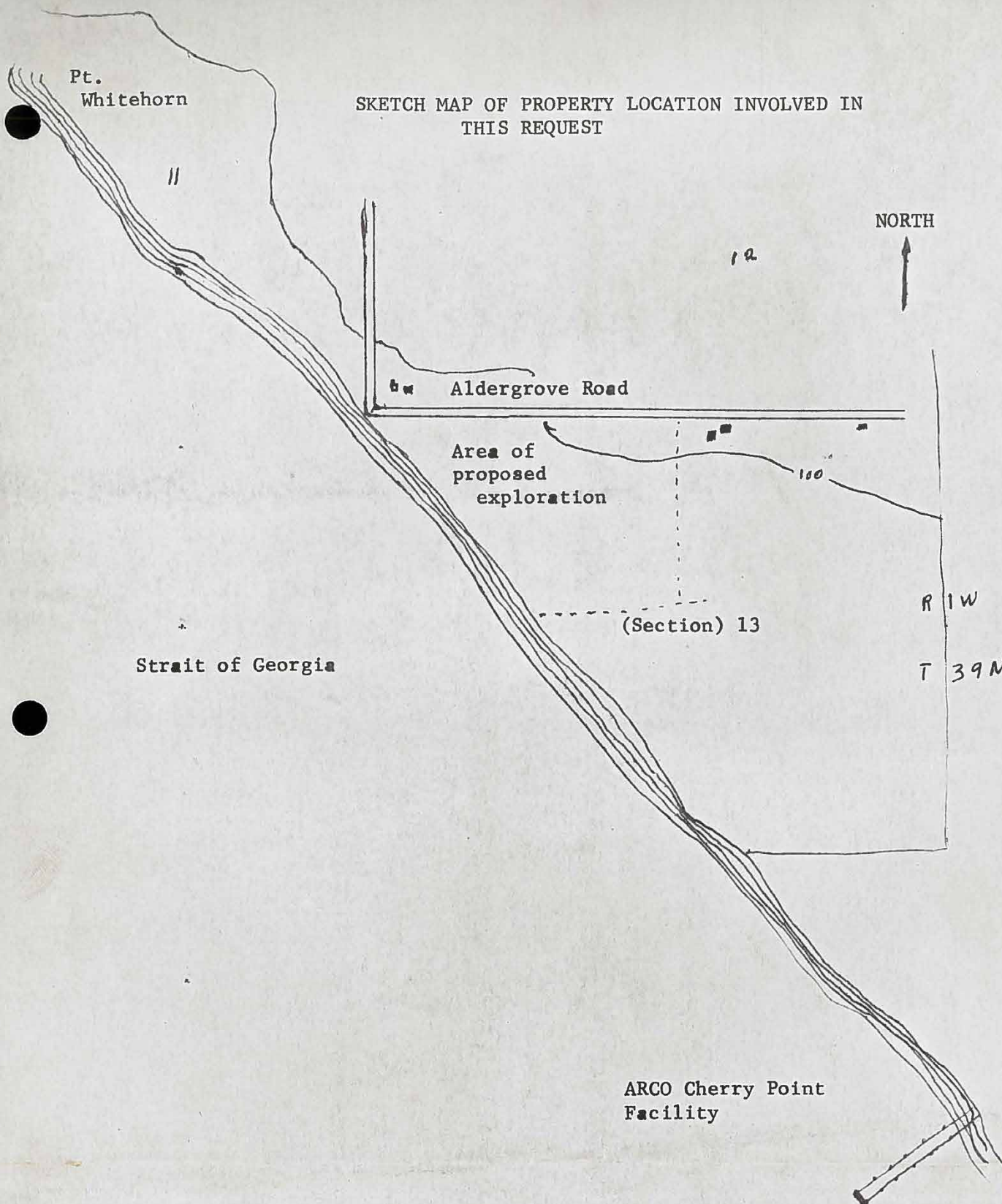
There are few National Register sites in Washington. The reason is not a lack of prospects, for the opposite is true. It is because so few have been nominated. We have only three archaeological sites in the Register: Marmes Rockshelter, Marymoor Indian Site, and Wishram Indian Village Site (Horsethief Lake State Park). There are 78 historical sites listed. Both are important, and both need adding to.

At the present time I am completing the Kettle Falls nomination. It is obvious the nomination is a good number of years late to save the area, but whether the site may be above or under water, it still must be given a place in our prehistory and history. (Granted, "a place" sounds weak, but so much of our past has been covered, lost, and forgotten, that perhaps at least Kettle Falls will have the chance of being remembered.) There is hope of someday building a visitor center near St. Paul's Mission. If the nomination is accepted, funds may be more easily raised, and the Kettle Falls' story could be continued.

Another district (simply defined as a geographical area with a concentration of related sites) to be nominated soon is the land along the 57 miles of the Columbia River flowing through the Hanford Reservation. This is a significant archaeological, ethnographical, paleontological, geological, and biological area. A recent newspaper article (Spokesman-Review, September 19) mentioned the plans for the initial survey of a possible damsite 35 miles north of Richland. This location is north of the earlier proposed Ben Franklin Dam.

Here is an important time for all of us. In the October, 1971, issue of The Washington Archaeologist, Del Nordquist spoke of the original intent of WAS: "to inform and alert the public to the importance of archaeology in the State of Washington and the Northwest." And preservation is the backbone of the National Register. Perhaps working together we can save this area and the 105 sites along the Columbia's shores and on her islands.

Another site to be eventually nominated should be familiar to many of the members of the Washington Archaeological Society. This is Fishtown. The site has for



Whatcom County Washington
Cherry Point-Point Whitehorn localities

- *5. Description of Property: Located on south side of Aldergrove Road at its west end overlooking Strait of Georgia in the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 13, Township 39 North Range 1 West.

Western's seventy-fifth year / 1899-1974

November 26, 1974

Sociology/Anthropology Department

Mr. J. J. Gordon, Manager
Property Management, Burlington Northern
Lobby 2, Central Building
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Mr. Gordon:

As you requested I am sending a copy of the agreement we have with Puget Power concerning property entrance and use. It is a fairly straightforward affair, and I believe should cover the company's interests reasonably well. While the specific cases cited in the Puget Power agreement may not all be applicable, certainly the format and the "hold harmless" clauses are.

Again I might note that the removal of artifacts, soil samples, etc., are to be done for purely scientific purposes. Your previous question regarding the ownership of these objects is one that can be answered only uncertainly. Those recovered from private property can be returned to the property owner; however, there is also some opinion that the title resides in the State. Some resolution of this question may occur in proposed legislation at the state level. At present I have been treating them as owned by the State, and their stewardship remaining with the archaeologist, usually associated with some state or private institution such as a museum, college or university. Unless the land owner specifically wishes them returned they are retained as study collections, with the more unusual or significant materials published, and/or placed on display in museums or at the retaining institution.

It was a pleasure to meet you on Thursday last, and to discuss the research program with you. As you no doubt observed, I'm quite enthusiastic about it. And it appears at this point that the property owned by Burlington Northern is situated in one of the more significant areas of study.

Your consideration of the matter is deeply appreciated.

Sincerely,

G. F. Grabert

G. F. Grabert
Associate Professor of Anthropology

GFG:se

Enclosure

PROPERTY MGT. SEATTLE	
NOTE	HANDLE
J.J.G.	
R.M.B.	
H.E.H.	
W.T.H.	
D.L.H.	
F.S.W.	
S.H.M.	
R.P.S.	
L.C.	
ATTACH	
PO FILE	

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
B. N. INC.

DEC 2 1974

SEATTLE, WASH.

a number of years been excavated under the direction of Astrida Onat.

A number of sites have been nominated for the National Register. Each will be reviewed by the state committee before they are sent to Washington, D.C. for the final judgment. Umtanum Creek, Wenas Creek, Government Springs and The Pines, the Spokane Rock Paintings, Ozette Indian Village, Lind Coulee, and three rockshelters in the Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge have all been nominated. These Turnbull shelters show no surface evidence of ever having been occupied, but their potential seemed worthy enough reason for a nomination. A potentially important site can be nominated for the Register. If following work there, its actual importance did not live up to its accepted potential, it can easily be removed from the Register.

Many sites are being considered--Columbia Park Island, Chiawana Parkway, Strawberry Island, Windust Caves, and a number of others.

If any of the WAS members can suggest additional sites which may be significant in adding another new page to the story of the nation, the state, or the local area (in truth to the story of man), please do not hesitate to write me. Together we can do a better job of preserving the archaeology of Washington.

In summary the National Register Program offers us a chance to save what we know to be important. There is no iron law to give it power--only the hope that the recognition of a site listed in a small book will be understood for all of its meaning. I believe it is good there is no law, with it there would be less hope people would care to sit and share together their thoughts of the future and its possibilities, the present and its necessities, the past and its meanings--and the balance to be found. Our job is to educate, which is so much harder than the passing of a law, and then perhaps in time more will know the reason why the past should live why the past should be shared.

The National Register gives us the opportunity to save sites; and gives WAS the job of answering the people's question "Why?"

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Earlier this year a request was sent to each committee chairperson asking that a brief report be submitted. The intent was to inform the membership of committee activities--to give the feeling that our Society is indeed lively. However, since only two committees supplied reports--our of some ten committees--it would appear that the WAS is not lively.

Legislative Committee, John Koruga, Chairperson:

Major legislative action on an antiquities bill is still some time away. The academic community is concerned about certain research functions and to some extent the composition of a proposed advisory board.

It would seem at present that movement will be towards a state heritage commission consisting of an advisory board representative of all those who have an interest in antiquities. We are in a situation where there is discussion, there are hearings, and that both the archeologists and historians are becoming better organized to modify certain sections of the proposed antiquities legislation. House Bill 650, introduced by State Representative O'Brien and others during the last session, was modeled after the national act and did not clear the legislature.

The problem now seems, first of all, to reconcile differences between historians, archeologists, and state parks. It is my belief that some progress has been made concerning both of the other groups; however, we are still some distance from the consensus necessary to pass a major piece of legislation.

Meanwhile, the Washington Archeological Research Center is functioning and there are discussions underway to form a consortium consisting of the major universities and colleges in the state to formalize this approach towards systematically and scientifically doing the archeology of this state. At present reading there is a distinct possibility that the center at Washington State will be extended to Central and to a location on the West Coast, probably the University of Washington. However, it is a little too early to speak in definite terms.

In summation then, there is activity on many fronts. Some progress is being made and if amateur as well as professional will patiently and persistently pursue these matters, in due course we will have improved antiquities legislation.

Editorial Committee, Lee Bennett, Chairperson:

Due to rising production and mailing costs, attempts have been made to find less expensive means of publishing the newsletter. Although no one solution seems best at this time, it is hoped that further research will reveal a good method.

Of prime concern is the search for material to publish--our membership is reluctant to contribute to its newsletter. Ways of stimulating contributions are being considered by the committee. Of course this problem bears on the question of publication format too.

The committee has also dealt with the problem of storing our surplus quarterlies; one solution is contained in this issue: offering them for sale.

In the future it is hoped that these issues will be resolved.

Reports were not received from these committees:

Publicity, Colleen Hill & Renee Taylor, Co-chairpersons
Membership, Betty Cambern & Helen Stipcich, Co-chairpersons
Juniors, Monte Kielsing, Chairperson
Field, Phil Evans, Chairperson
Exhibit, John Putnam, Chairperson
Program, Del Nordquist, Chairperson
Arrangements, Helen Stipcich, Chairperson
Library, Gerda Nordquist, Chairperson

BOOK REVIEW: NORTHWEST COAST ARTIFACTS
by Lee Bennett

This review is of a recently-published book written by Hilary Stewart, entitled Artifacts of the Northwest Coast Indians, and published in Saanichton, B.C. by Hancock House (1973). It is complete with illustrations, photographs, index and glossary.

This well-illustrated book attempts to deal with the two questions most frequently asked of archeology: "How was an item made?" and "How was it used?" Ms. Stewart presents some possible answers visually, with text limited to brief descriptions of tools and conjecture on their uses. While not examining all NW Coast artifacts, the book does inspect those which are most likely to be recovered archaeologically.

Following a brief introduction to the NW Coast cultural area, the author presents a picture of the technique of archaeology. With personal insight she takes the reader through the daily routine of a dig crew, communicating the tedium of recording,

the sound of trowel on rock and the excitement of finding an artifact. Without preaching, Ms. Stewart makes it quite clear to everyone why we should be archeologists rather than pot-hunters.

Against a background of the NW Coast environment, and a brief overview of Indian life there, the author begins the real "meat" of her book: the pictures and descriptions of artifact how and why. In no time at all the reader learns how adze blades were manufactured, how mauls were pecked and slate tools shaped. Variations of the artifacts in each region are presented, giving the reader a feeling for the individual tribal "stamp" on their environment. Together with the excellent drawings (by the author herself) of artifacts, the reader catches a glimpse of the people who made and used them through photographs taken by Edward S. Curtis.

The book deals with the "pretty" artifacts coveted by relic hunters and prized by professionals: fancy mauls and adzes, slate points, chipped stone, labrets and zoomorphic bowls. It also looks at the more mundane things: blades and cores, scrapers, chipping detritus and splinter awls. The finished project is a book as useful as it is nice-looking. It is highly recommended to both the layperson and professional in archeology for its lucid, no-nonsense approach to the discipline's two most frequent problems.

Artifacts is available from Hancock House, 3215 Island View Road, Saanichton, B.C., Canada. If a check for \$12.95 is enclosed with your order, publisher pays postage.

WAS PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

Nelson, <u>Sunset Creek Site</u>	\$6.00
Onat and Bennett, <u>Excavations at Tokul Creek</u>	3.00
Rice, <u>Archaeological Reconnaissance: South-Central Cascades</u>	2.50
Bennett, <u>Effects of White Contact on the Lower Skagit Indians</u>	2.50
<u>Washington Archaeologist:</u> Volumes 13 through 16 complete	1.00 per volume
assorted volumes and incomplete sets	.25 per number

Please send your check or money order (do not send cash) along with your order to:
Washington Archaeological Society, P.O. Box 84, University Station, Seattle, Wa.,
98105