



City of Lacey, Washington Historical Commission Agenda

Refer to the bottom of the agenda for meeting information.

Wednesday, August 21, 2024

6:00 PM

Council Chambers and Online

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

3. Land Acknowledgement:

The Lacey Historical Commission meets on the ancestral land of the Tribal People of the Treaty of Medicine Creek, including the Nisqually Indian Tribe and Squaxin Island Tribe. We acknowledge and remember those Tribal People not recognized today who were absorbed or relocated into other tribes for survival. We recognize the ancestors and their descendants who are still here. We recognize and respect the Tribal People of the Treaty of Medicine Creek as the traditional stewards of this land since time immemorial and their role today in taking care of these lands in perpetuity. We recognize and have the responsibility to call attention to the histories of dispossession, forced removal, and abridged treaty rights that allowed our nation, state, and city to develop as they have today. We recommend that community members read the [Medicine Creek Treaty of 1854](#).

4. Approval of Agenda and Minutes:

- A. Approval of Agenda*
- B. Approval of May 15, 2024 Meeting Minutes*

5. Public Comment:

Please refer to the bottom of the agenda for instructions on how to provide public comment.

6. Business Items:

A. RAC Kiosk Panel Review*

Erin Quinn Valcho, Museum Curator and Dana Bowers, Associate Planner,
Thurston County Community Planning & Economic Development

B. New Acquisitions*

Erin Quinn Valcho, Museum Curator

C. **Lacey Historical Society Support Letter Request***

Erin Quinn Valcho, Museum Curator

7. Reports:

- A. Lacey Historical Society
- B. Policy StEPs Committee
- C. Commissioners
- D. Chair
- E. Museum Curator
- F. Director

8. Adjourn

*Item Action Requested

Next Meetings:

New Museum and Cultural Center Funding Strategy Committee Meeting: Thursday, August 29, 2024, 9:00am, Council Chambers and online

Historical Commission Meeting: Wednesday, September 18, 2024, 6:00pm, Council Chambers and online

Attend Remote or In-Person

There are several ways to attend the Historical Commission Meeting:

- In-Person: Council Chambers at Lacey City Hall
420 College Street SE, Lacey, WA 98503
- Zoom: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_kAHPQGyhT3ajjTtZ-Voz_w
- Website: <https://cityoflacey.org/government/public-meetings/>
- YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bT2b7ltlXL4>
- Phone: (888) 788-0099 or (877) 853-5247 (Webinar ID 857 8089 7676)

Verbal Public Comment

The opportunity for verbal public comment is available in-person or by Zoom:

- In-Person: Use the sign-up sheet in Council Chambers
- Zoom: Preregister using the following Zoom link no later than two hours prior to the meeting:
- https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_kAHPQGyhT3ajjTtZ-Voz_w



Instructions and access details will be provided once registration is complete.

Written Public Comment

Please submit written public comments to PRPublicComment@cityoflacey.org two hours before the start time of the meeting. Public comments received by the deadline will be sent to Commissioners prior to the meeting, but will not be read at the meeting.





City of Lacey, Washington
Historical Commission Minutes
Wednesday, May 15, 2024 - Council Chambers and Online

Call to Order

Chair Keogh called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Chair Jim Keogh, Vice Chair Kevin Wyckoff, Kimberly Goetz, Ed Holm, Tula'i Patane (arrived at 6:15 p.m.), and Alan Tyler.

Commissioners Excused: Jon Halvorson and Rory Line, Youth Representative.

Staff Present: Jennifer Burbidge, Parks, Culture and Recreation Director, Jenny Wilson, Senior Parks Planner.

Public: Cheryl Malkmus.

1. Land Acknowledgement:

Chair Keogh read the land acknowledgement.

2. Approval of Agenda and Minutes:

A. Approval of Agenda*

Chair Keogh proposed the addition of a new item to the agenda: 4f. Lacey Historical Society Support Letter Request.

**Commissioner Holm made a motion to approve the agenda as amended.
Commissioner Wyckoff seconded. Motion carried.**

B. Approval of April 17, 2024 Meeting Minutes*

Commissioner Goetz requested that the Policy/Steps Committee report be changed to reflect that the committee is on hiatus rather than they had no report.

Commissioner Holm moved to approve the minutes as amended.
Commissioner Wyckoff seconded. The motion carried.

3. Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

4. Business Items:

A. Utility Wrap Project Update

Sadie Siglin, Management Analyst

Management Analyst Sadie Siglin gave an update on the utility wrap art project. Commissioner Holm expressed concerns about the length of time the wraps would be installed.

The Commission made the following recommendations:

- Gene Liddell: "From Little Seeds Grow Mighty Trees," by Shekinah Lim
- Luther J. Wyckoff: Arianna Seng landscape
- Add contextual information about the theme and the artist to the utility box

Commissioner Wyckoff suggested a theme for the future related to the Lacey Fire District and the Elephant's Club.

B. May 7, 2024 City Council Meeting Debrief

Jen Burbidge, Parks, Culture and Recreation Director

Director Burbidge thanked the Commissioners for attending and gave kudos to the museum staff for their presentation.

2024 Historian of the Year Paul Webb shared his thanks by gifting a copy of his book to each commissioner.

C. New Museum and Cultural Center Funding Strategy Committee Update

Jen Burbidge, Parks, Culture and Recreation Director

Director Burbidge reported that the committee met on April 25.

- The City has contracted with the Lacey Community Foundation to develop a five-year fundraising plan for the City. Jennie Foglia-Jones, a subcontractor, will be doing the work.
- The committee discussed recalibrating the funding buckets, which will be informed by the work of Foglia-Jones.



- System-wide parks funding strategy to cover gaps in revenue to meet the needs of the growing Lacey community.
- Council directed the establishment of a Parks Improvement Funding Work Group.

D. *Water, Woods, and Prairies* Book Memorandum of Understanding

Jen Burbidge, Parks, Culture and Recreation Director

Director Burbidge provided background on the Memorandum of Understanding with Thurston County. Once the MOU is signed, then staff will put in a budget request to fund the printing of the book.

Chair Keogh suggested creating an app that tells stories about cultural and historical information for the area.

E. Historic Preservation Consultant Update

Jen Burbidge, Parks, Culture and Recreation Director

Director Burbidge shared the project scope and reasons behind the project to complete historic preservation work on the McKinney House, the Jacob Smith House, and the Long Lake House. Five estimates were received for the project and ultimately Drayton Archaeology has been selected as the consultant on the project. Once the contract has been signed, work will begin.

F. Lacey Historical Society Support Letter Request

Jen Burbidge, Parks, Culture and Recreation Director

Director Burbidge shared a draft letter in support of a historical marker to recognize the history of the Popkes Subdivision. Commissioners would like a chance to review the accuracy of the letter so it will be added to the July agenda.

5. Reports:

A. Lacey Historical Society

No report.

B. Policy StEPs Committee

The committee is on hiatus.

C. Commissioners

Commissioner Tyler congratulated Director Burbidge on being chosen as one of



the 2024 South Sound Exceptional Women by the Olympia Soroptimists.

Commissioner Patane shared that Lacey PolyFest will be on June 28 and 29 at the Regional Athletic Complex. She also shared that they will be participating in the Stories of the South Sound with an interview.

D. Chair

Chair Keogh shared some of his interesting finds about KGY during his work on the *Lacey Leader* project.

E. Museum Curator

Director Burbidge shared the museum report:

- After painting, staff reinstalled *Journey Stories* and Lacey's 50th anniversary exhibit, and had platforms made for the upcoming *Live From Lacey* exhibit. Olivia and Felicia prepared exhibit images and mounted them on foam core.
- Fulton and Felicia completed six oral history interviews and began transcriptions for the South Sound Oral History Project.
- The final History Talk of the season was last week. Lester Dickson presented a program on the Prince Hall Freemasons. History Talks will resume in the fall.

F. Director

Director Burbidge reported:

- Staff met with Jennie Foglia-Jones, the Lacey Community Foundation representative, on May 2nd to kick off the City's contract with them. They shared information, set up monthly meetings, and discussed the timeline.
- The foundation work is complete and framing is underway on the RAC Kiosk.
- The Ken Balsley Memorial Bench Dedication has been rescheduled to May 30, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. at Civic Plaza.
- No commission meeting in June.

6. Adjourn

Commissioner Goetz made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Holm seconded. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:16 p.m.



Saint Martin's University



Saint Martin's College original building and the nun's residence, c. 1900. In 1913, a new main building, shown below, was built. The original building continued to be used until 1923. *Courtesy of Saint Martin's University Archives.*

Humble Beginnings

The monks of Saint Martin's Abbey opened Saint Martin's College September 11, 1895. Classes were offered to male students ages 10-21. Only one student, Angus McDonald, showed up on the first day of classes, but even so, he received a full course of classes until more students arrived in the following weeks. During the Great Depression, the school chose to focus on high school and college programs and no longer accepted younger students.



"Old Main" remains a symbol of the college with the iconic stairway constructed with funds raised by the Saint Martin's Mother's Club. Dedication of the building brought together the largest gathering for the small community of Woodland (now Lacey) with 500 names in the guestbook, on November 16, 1913. *Courtesy of Saint Martin's University Archives.*



Father Sebastian Ruth built a homemade radio with spare parts and tinfoil. Federal radio inspectors picked up the broadcast and ordered him to stop until he had the proper license from the Federal Communications Commission. *Courtesy of Lacey Museum, KGY Collection.*

KGY Radio

In a small cabin on the college campus, Father Sebastian Ruth began wireless broadcasting in 1914, and received the call letters KGY in 1921. It was the fourth licensed radio station in Washington state. In 1939, Thomas Olsen purchased the radio station and it moved to Olympia, first in the Rockway-Lelend building and later to Marine Drive overlooking Budd Inlet.

This important local communication tool shared news with 23 states, Canada, and Hawaii and covered important local news such as the 6.7 magnitude earthquake in 1946 and the Mount St. Helens eruption in May 1980. The station also aired local programs like Key Hunt, from which a listener could get clues to the location of a wooden key and win a box of jewelry. A popular homemaker's show shared recipes that became staple kitchen favorites.

War Effort

The onset of World War II dramatically reduced program enrollment as young men enlisted in the military. Faculty were also affected as five of the Abbey's priests served as chaplains in the U.S. Armed Forces.

In anticipation of the need for pilots for the war effort, President Roosevelt established a pilot training program in 1939. Originally requiring the enrollment of women and men in the program, Congress later banned women from participating to ensure space for men as graduates were expected to enlist following training. Over 400 students studied in the aviation program many of whom were taught by Gladys Buroker, the college's first female instructor. Many of those trained participated in combat and support services in World War II.



Saint Martin's first two pilot training programs of 10 students each, Olympia Airport, September 1939. Students learned navigation, meteorology, mechanics, and radio in "ground school" classrooms and flight instruction at the Olympia Airport. *Courtesy of Lacey Museum, Hicks Collection.*

New Era

Although women began attending classes since the 1950s, only a few were allowed to obtain degrees. The college became fully coeducational in 1965. As a result of declining enrollment, Saint Martin's High School closed in 1974. In 2005, Saint Martin's College was renamed Saint Martin's University, to more accurately describe the institution. By 2024, the University offered 40 undergraduate and graduate degree programs.

Nisqually Tribe



Canoe Journey 2016 - Paddle to Nisqually took place July 30 through August 6, 2016. Canoe Journey was reestablished in 1989 after it was banned for decades under federal law. *Courtesy of Nisqually Tribe Archives.*

Squalli-Absch

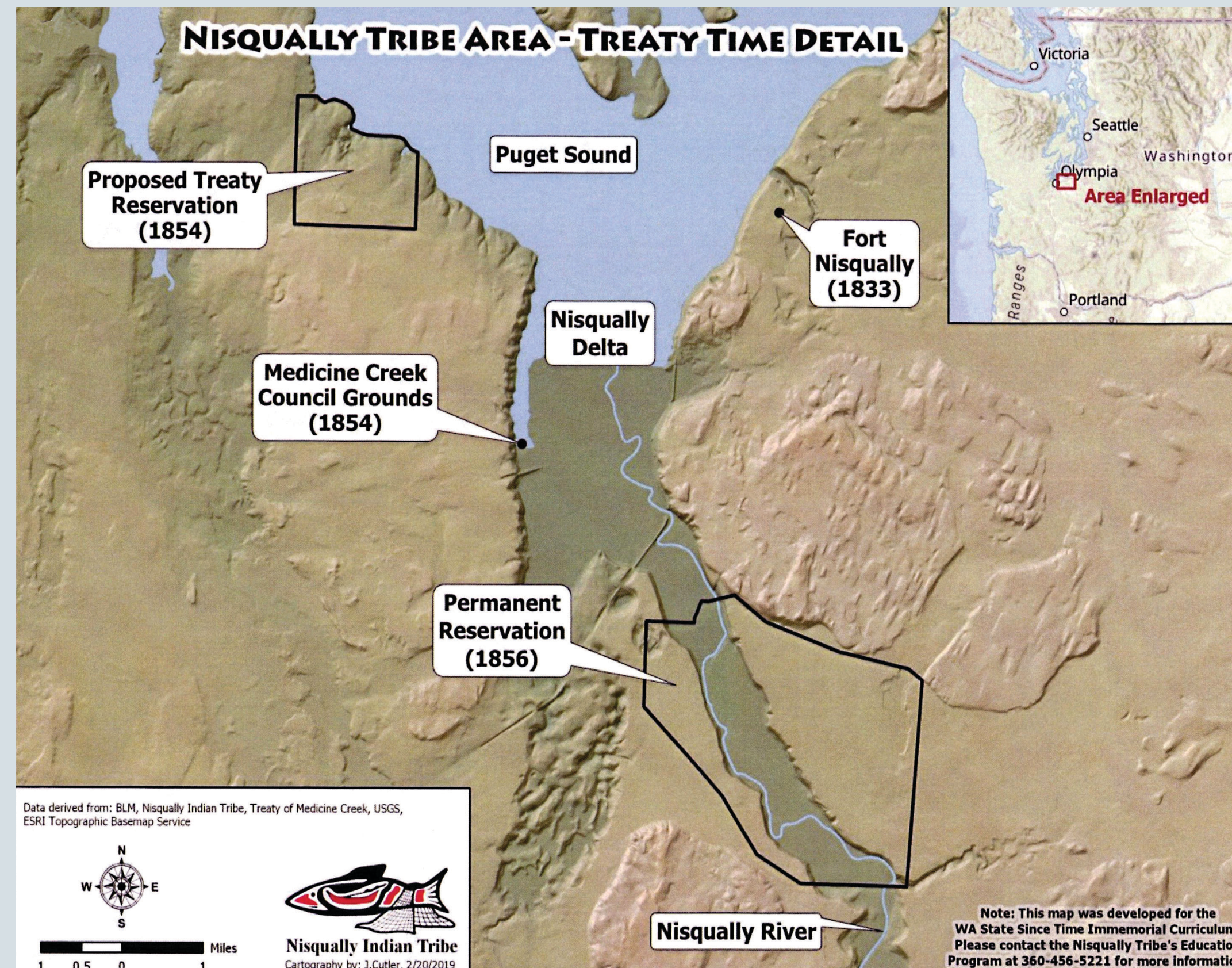
The Nisqually people call themselves *Squalli-Absch*, which means, "People of the River, People of the Grass." The Tribe is a steward of the land, dedicated to preserving salmon and the environment.

Thousands of years ago, the *Squalli-Absch* journeyed across the Cascade Mountains to inhabit the vast watershed of the Nisqually River. They followed the river from the foothills downstream to where it emptied into Puget Sound.

Today the Nisqually Indian Tribe is one of the largest employers in Thurston County.



Children dance at the annual Kalama Heritage Festival. *Courtesy of Nisqually Tribe Archives.*



A map demonstrating the proposed treaty area and the current permanent reservation established in 1856. *Courtesy of Nisqually Tribe Archives.*

Reservation Establishment

On December 26, 1854, ancestors of modern-day Nisqually, Squaxin Island, and Puyallup people signed the Medicine Creek Treaty and reluctantly ceded 2.5 million acres of homelands in Western Washington.

The Nisqually Reservation was established by the Medicine Creek Treaty. The Reservation today is land that was never ceded to the United States; it has been in Indian hands for thousands of years.

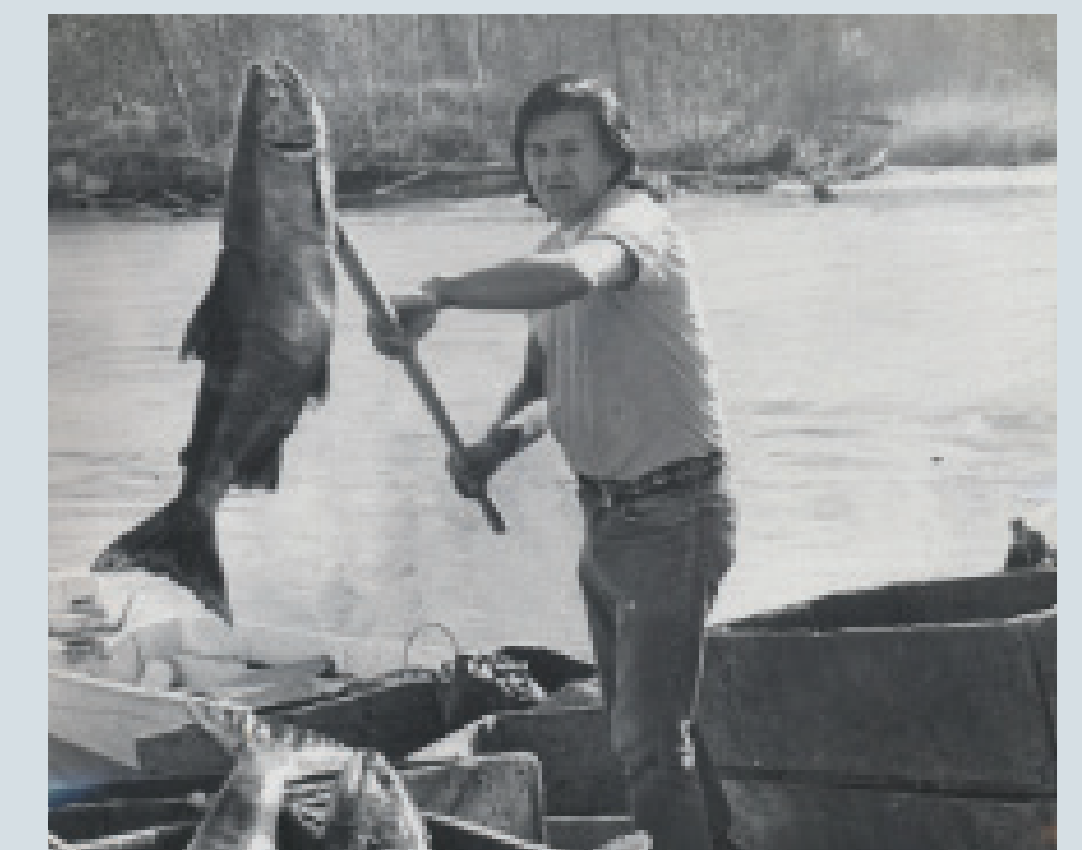
Nisqually Chief Leschi protested the original treaty which placed the Nisqually people on a rocky ledge with no access to the Nisqually River, gathering sites for food, or access to grazing for their horses. This led to the Puget Sound War of 1855-1856. For the death of an enemy soldier, Chief Leschi was tried and hung in 1858 and exonerated in 2004 as a legal enemy combatant.

Fish Wars

After several decades of tolerating violations of the rights outlined in the Medicine Creek Treaty, Nisqually Tribe members organized protests in the 1960s and 1970s. Members would fish on lands not on the reservation, but were their "usual and accustomed fishing grounds" as guaranteed in the treaty. Enforcement officers would arrest fishermen who had not purchased licenses or used traditional nets which, illegal under state law.

Boldt Decision

After many years of fishing protests, several advocacy groups filed a lawsuit against Washington State. On February 12, 1974, U.S. District Court Judge George Boldt ruled that treaty tribes were allowed to take up to 50 percent of the fish harvest from their traditional lands and made tribes co-managers of the state's fisheries.



Billy Frank Jr. led fish-ins modeled after civil rights movement sit-ins to advocate for treaty rights to be upheld. *Courtesy of Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission.*

Nisqually Delta



Three hikers at Nisqually Glacier, Mt. Rainier National Park, c. 1890. Meltwaters from this glacier feed the Nisqually River. *Courtesy of Asahel Curtis/Curtis & Miller care of Washington State Historical Society (2005.0.340.24)*

Delta Bounty

The Nisqually River flows 78 miles from its headwaters at the Nisqually Glacier on Mt. Rainier to the Nisqually Delta. The vital waters are even referenced in a Nisqually creation story where the Mother Mountain reminds the Boy Mountain to bring the water with him on their journey to the North Cascades.

This water carries with it rich sediment that it deposits only when the water slows down at sea level. Because of the geography, this area is unique in its abundant sea life and supports many aquatic and land-based ecosystems.

When the Nisqually people migrated to this area 10,000 years ago, they actively managed the land, cultivating camas and using controlled burning to keep forests at bay. They also harvested and managed fisheries with sustainable practices.



A.L. Brown built a four-mile dike which drained a salt marsh to establish his farm. Dike construction was completed in 1914. *Courtesy of Asahel Curtis/Curtis & Miller care of Washington State Historical Society (1943.42.30559).*

Settlement

Settlers filed the first land claims on the Nisqually Delta in 1846. In 1904, A. L. Brown, a lawyer from Seattle, purchased a parcel in the delta hoping to farm it. Using the most modern methods and equipment at the time, Brown's experiment with farming became a major supplier of produce, dairy, and poultry products to the Puget Sound region.



Brown established his farm in 1904 on 2,300 acres between McAllister Creek and Nisqually River at nearly \$60 per acre. *Courtesy of Rebecca Sanchez for Thurston Talk.*



Boardwalks allow recreation and tidewater flow through the delta at the Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge. *Courtesy of Rebecca Sanchez.*

Reclaimed Land

Costs to continue removing salt from the soil made farming less profitable over the long run. Brown went bankrupt and sold the farm, valued at \$300,000, in 1919 for only \$26,766.18. Afterward, the land changed ownership several times until 1966.

The Port of Olympia partnered with the Port of Tacoma to propose a deep water port project claiming Nisqually Delta was a perfect place for it. However, plans came to a halt after the public staunchly opposed the proposal during a public hearing.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recognized the property's value as an ecological preserve and began to buy sections in 1966.

After Fish and Wildlife removed most of the Brown farm dike in 2009, they added a two-mile dike behind the old one, which allowed 762 acres to return to the estuary.



In 2015, President Obama signed a law redesignating the wildlife refuge to honor Nisqually treaty rights activist Billy Frank, Jr. *Courtesy of Sabrina Case.*

Evergreen Ballroom



The Evergreen Ballroom, shown here in 1933, was one of the many pre-electric highway roadhouses. They were known by the slang term “kerosene circuit” because public rooms were lit by lanterns. Other stops included the Tropics Ballroom at Steamboat Island Road, Dreamland Dance Hall near Tenino, and Playquato in Lewis County. *Courtesy of Washington State Library.*

Dance Hall Era

In the 1920s during Prohibition, dance halls were a form of inexpensive entertainment that brought young people together. Through the Great Depression and the next several decades, rural dance halls peppered Thurston County and its neighboring communities.

Conveniently located between Portland and Seattle, by 1940 “The Green” was attracting a large audience and nationally known orchestras. For seven decades many outstanding musical performers from across the country graced its stage.

Accommodating the area’s changing tastes and diverse population, the ballroom welcomed musical acts from country, rock, and soul. Soldiers stationed at nearby Fort Lewis were drawn to the nationally-known performers they could find at The Green. The owners even arranged transportation to and from several stops in Tacoma to bring youth to their shows.



Built in 1931, the Evergreen Ballroom mysteriously burned to the ground, but owners rebuilt it shortly after in 1932. Since locals complained about the diversity of groups that were booked, speculation rose about the possibility of arson at the hands of the Silver Shirts, a pro-Nazi group active in the area. *Courtesy of Washington State Archives.*



In 2000, shortly after a new investor purchased the dance hall, a fire consumed the Evergreen Ballroom for a second and final time. *Courtesy of Lacey Fire District 3.*

Mom and Pop Shop

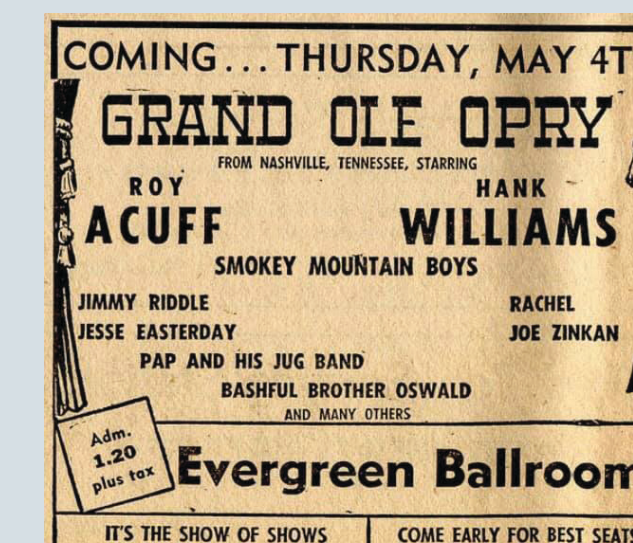
The ballroom featured a 10-piece orchestra, which included the founder, Walter Sholund, and his three sons, trumpeter Irving, clarinetist/saxophonist Ronald and drummer Vernon. Mary, Irving’s wife, ran the restaurant portion. Another trumpeter, Archie Watson, remembered, “Mrs. Sholund and the kitchen crew who served up good food at prices you could afford.” The Sholund family ran the business until they sold it in 1963.



Jerry Lee Lewis poster, July 28, 1958



James Brown and the Flames poster, December 10, 1961



Advertisement for Hank Williams and Roy Acuff, May 4, 1950



Ike and Tina Turner poster, November 27, 1964

Posters courtesy of Eric Predoehl, PNW Band.com

Performers

Besides a house band, Sholund also booked diverse talent and notable acts to attract the growing population of servicemen at Fort Lewis. Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, Count Basie, and Benny Goodman led orchestras in the early days. Bluesy artists Ray Charles, Etta James, B.B. King, Sugar Pie DeSanto, Jackie Wilson, the Drifters, and Marvin Gaye also played shows at the ballroom. Other notable performers included Johnny Cash and Janis Joplin.

Many Northwest performers such as George Barner and the Corvettes, and Merrilee Rush and the Turnabouts were also featured. Portland’s The Kingsmen, and Boise’s Paul Revere and the Raiders are a few that went on to national fame.

Regional Athletic Complex



Lacey Grade School at Carpenter Road and Pacific Avenue. Prior to the creation of the Regional Athletic Complex, school grounds in the area like this one hosted athletic events and tournaments. *Courtesy of Lacey Museum, Homann Collection.*



The King and His Court, a touring fastpitch team, was a popular attraction at the Lacey Grade School field. This photo is from a 1973 appearance. *Courtesy of Lacey Museum, Ken Balsley Lacey Leader Collection.*



The Seattle Seahawks football team played an exhibition softball game at Bucknell Field in 2008. *Courtesy of the Olympian, Tony Overman.*

Lacey's Boom

A housing boom in the 1960s, partially as a result of an influx of military families, provided new opportunities for Lacey. The growing needs of the community created the push to get sports associations off the ground. In 1970, Bernie Keller and Pat Bucknell formed the Lacey Athletic Association, adapting a field and grandstands at the former Lacey Grade School.

In 1979, the association moved to two new fields north of Nisqually Middle School and named them Bucknell Fields. Between 1985 and 2008, the association added two more fields and artificial turf. As population increased and interest diversified to include a wider range of sports, a larger facility was needed.

Working Together

The Regional Athletic Complex (RAC) was the result of a partnership between Thurston County and the City of Lacey. In 1998, officials made a joint decision to purchase a 68-acre site from Ostrom's Mushroom Farm. In 2002, voters in the City of Lacey approved a bond issue for development of the RAC; additional monies came from an inter-local agreement between Lacey, Olympia, Tumwater, and Thurston County.



Pat Bucknell, baseball enthusiast and manager of the Lacey A's fastpitch team at his retirement from the Lacey Athletic Association in 2003. *Courtesy of the Olympian, Tony Overman.*



As of 2024, the RAC serves more than 1.2 million patrons annually. This family-friendly park features picnic tables, playgrounds, concession stands, restrooms, and two miles of walking trails. The all-weather surfaces also host weekly tournaments for a variety of sports including soccer, baseball, and rugby. *Courtesy of City of Lacey.*

Joint Base Lewis-McChord



Liberty Gate, 1930s. Camp Lewis construction workers donated money to build this gate which resembles Northwest block houses. In 1956, to accommodate the new interstate, the gate was moved stone by stone to a new location. The gate is no longer in use but is now a part of the Visitors Center attractions. *Courtesy of Lewis Army Museum.*

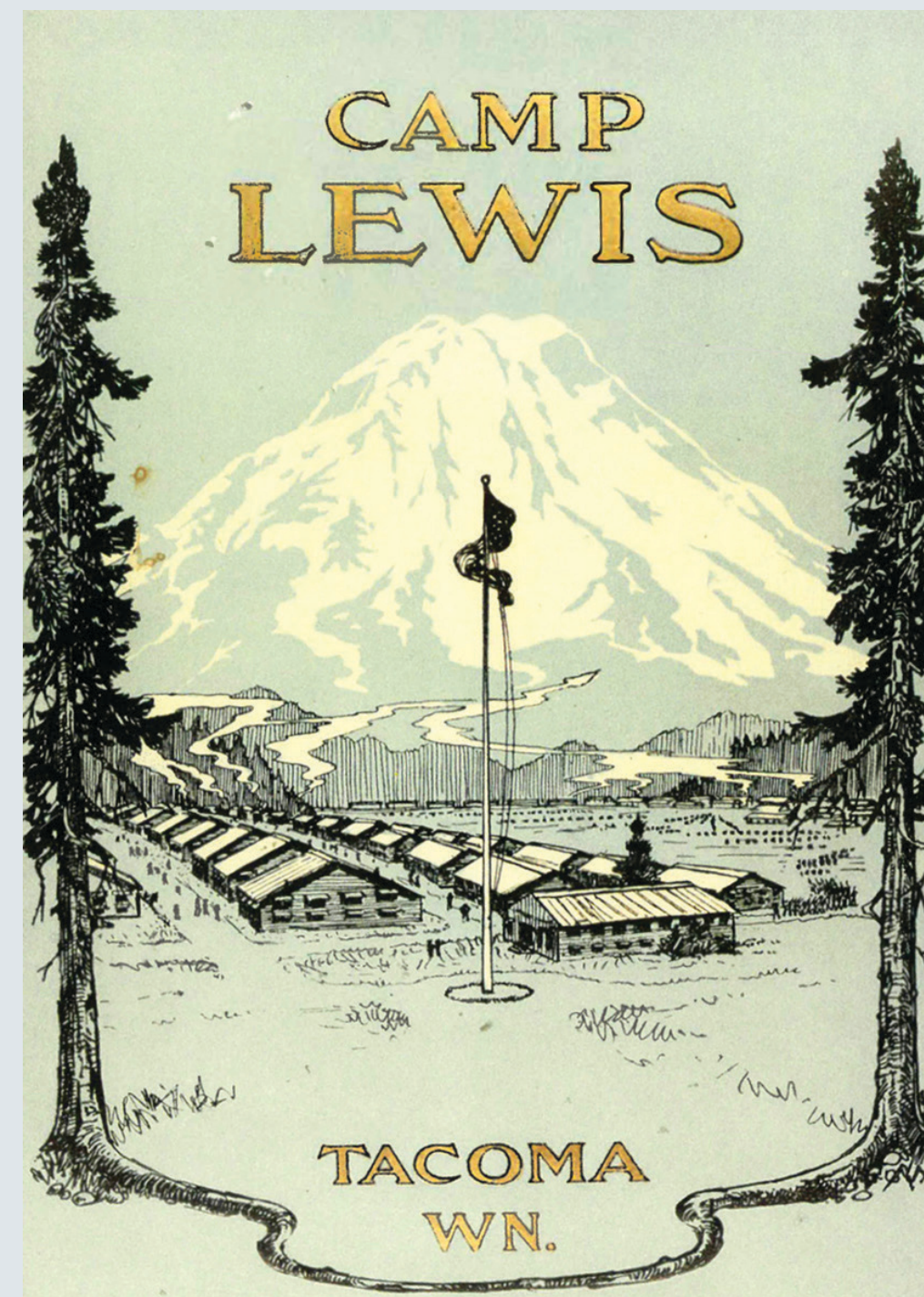
Fort Established

At the height of World War I, the War Department was searching for more training locations. Tacoma leaders travelled to Washington, D.C. to advocate for building a camp in Pierce County. To get the land for the new fort, residents passed a bond to purchase 70,000 acres for the installation. Camp Lewis opened September 5, 1917, for housing and training troops. After the war, the Camp was falling into disrepair and the people of Tacoma were concerned that the Army was going to abandon it. After hearings in the House and Senate, the federal government passed a bill to commit funds to rebuild and revitalize the post. On September 30, 1927, it was redesignated as a Fort.

Displacement of Tribal Members

Unfortunately, 3,353 acres of the Camp Lewis property contained 71 percent of the Nisqually Reservation and not Pierce County's to donate or condemn. Nevertheless, a judge ruled in the County's favor, and Nisqually Tribe members were forced to leave with only two weeks notice and an unfair settlement check.

Over several decades of persistent protests and fish-ins, the tribe won back access to their usual and accustomed lands at Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM). In an effort to correct past mistakes, the base now hosts an annual Honor Walk for tribal members to visit ancestral lands and harvest heritage crops.



Cover illustration for the 13th Field Artillery Brigade booklet, 1918. This recruitment brochure for Camp Lewis shows a sketch of iconic Mt. Rainier in the background. *Courtesy of Lewis Army Museum.*



The 91st Division, known as the Wild West Division for their green fir-tree insignias, mobilized from June 21 to June 24, 1918. *Courtesy of the National Archives.*

Seeing Action

An important training base since World War I, units from Fort Lewis served with distinction in the Pacific and European theaters in World War II. Many soldiers trained at JBLM have since participated in the Korean Conflict, Vietnam War, the Gulf War, and more recently, the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars.

McChord Consolidation

Tacoma Field was built in 1927 as a municipal airport. It became McChord Air Force Base, named in honor of Colonel William McChord, when the United States government purchased it in 1938. McChord has functioned as a strategic airlift base since the end of World War II, providing transport for operations such as Desert Storm, as well as humanitarian relief during natural disasters throughout the world. Fort Lewis and McChord Air Force Base were consolidated in 2010 to form Joint Base Lewis-McChord.

JBLM in Thurston County

Although the major portion of JBLM's operations are in Pierce County, Thurston County also contains large tracts of undeveloped military land associated with the base. Off base, the presence of such a large installation has had a huge impact on the economy and population. North Thurston County especially has experienced major residential growth since the expansion of JBLM following the consolidation.



Lewis Army Museum, 2012. The museum building is on the National Register of Historic Places. It was originally the Red Shield Inn, operated by the Salvation Army. *Courtesy of Lewis Army Museum.*

City of Lacey



The Kenney family managed the Woodland Hotel in the early 1900s, shown here in 1902. The post office was also in the hotel, and two of the Kenney daughters, Grace and Eveline, were postmasters from 1905 to 1912. *Courtesy of Lacey Museum, Michael Wood Collection.*



Foy Stop 'N' Shop, c. 1930. Gordon Foy built his mercantile at the junction of Pacific Ave. and Lacey Blvd. in 1929, offering a wide variety of products. *Courtesy of Lacey Museum, Foy Collection.*



First three city employees in front of Lacey City Hall, April 1, 1967. This building was formerly the Russell House, then became the city hall, fire and police departments, then was moved to become the museum. *Courtesy of Lacey Museum, City of Lacey Collection.*

Work Hard, Play Hard

Lacey has been a community of hard-working folks since the late 1800s. By 1895, Woodland, as it was known then, had a newly-platted neighborhood, numerous farms, a train station, hotel, general store, post office, Saint Martin's College, and even a horse racing track.

By the 1920s, with more than 19 resorts gracing the shores of Lacey's five lakes, Lacey became a vacationing hotspot for visitors from all over the region.

A housing and commercial boom in the 1960s saw the Lacey community grow to more than 8,000 residents.



Toboggan chute at Dick's Place on Pattison Lake, c. 1920. By the 1920s, Lacey became a resort destination with 19 resorts at its five lakes. *Courtesy of Lacey Museum, Hicks Collection.*

Incorporation

Lacey's neighbor Olympia was growing, too, and when that growth began to encroach on what residents saw as Lacey, they stood their ground. The Lacey Area Chamber of Commerce, Thurston County Fire District 3, and the North Thurston School District organized an incorporation effort. It took two hard-fought campaigns, but residents voted for Washington state to recognize Lacey as a city on December 5, 1966.

The new city, presumably named after O. C. Lacey, an Olympia judge, began with just over \$9 in its accounts, and it would be at least six months before taxes would come in. The Fire District offered to share its headquarters with the fledgling city.

A Home for History

The city quickly outgrew the space and in 1979 a new Lacey City Hall was built on College Street. The 1920s city hall was slated to be torn down when a group of interested citizens joined together to save it. Their success became the Lacey Museum, which opened to the public in 1981.

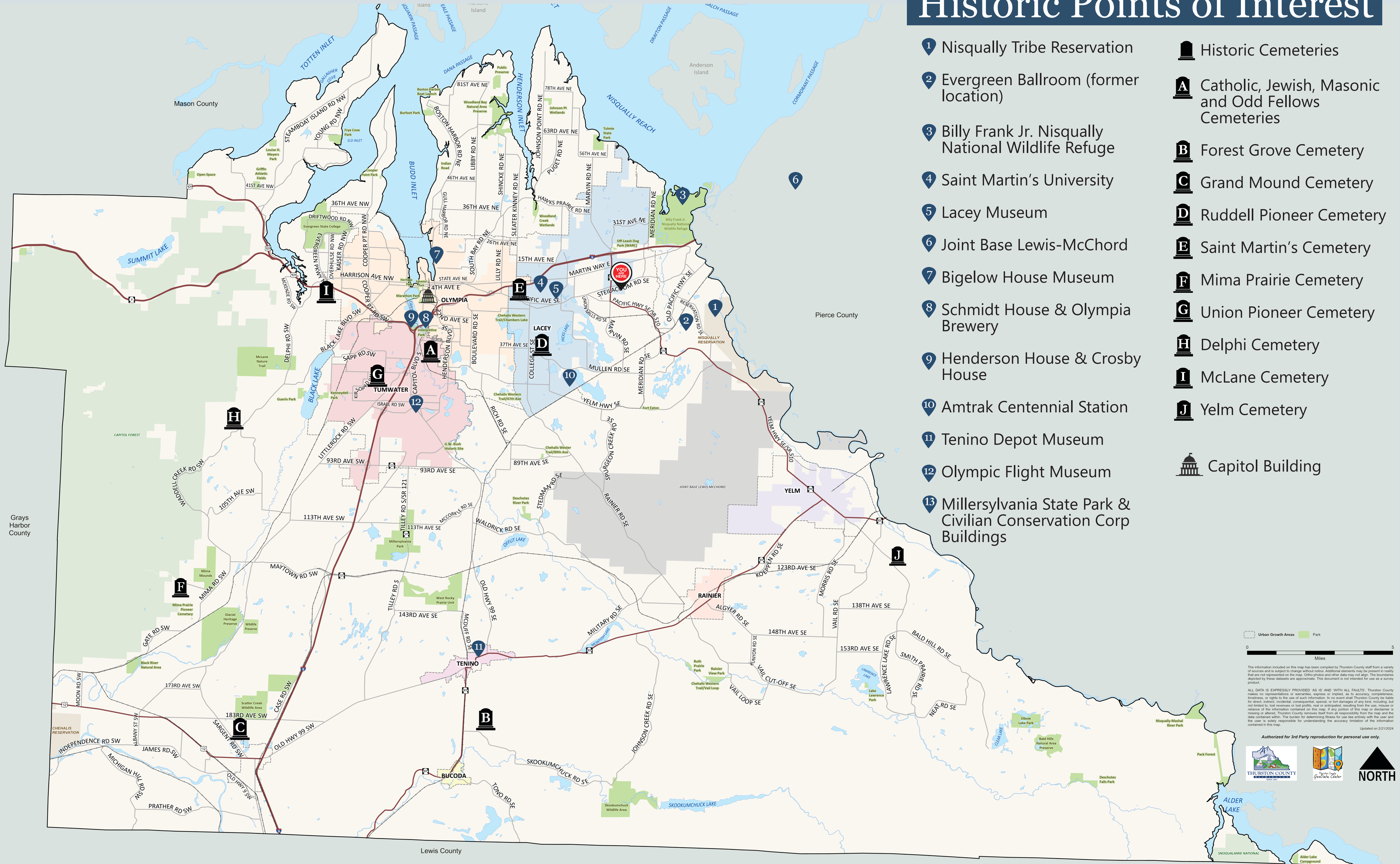


In 1979, a new city hall was built at 3rd Ave. and College St. to accommodate the needs of the booming community. *Courtesy of Lacey Museum, City of Lacey Collection.*

Historic Points of Interest

- 1 Nisqually Tribe Reservation
- 2 Evergreen Ballroom (former location)
- 3 Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge
- 4 Saint Martin's University
- 5 Lacey Museum
- 6 Joint Base Lewis-McChord
- 7 Bigelow House Museum
- 8 Schmidt House & Olympia Brewery
- 9 Henderson House & Crosby House
- 10 Amtrak Centennial Station
- 11 Tenino Depot Museum
- 12 Olympic Flight Museum
- 13 Millersylvania State Park & Civilian Conservation Corp Buildings

-  Historic Cemeteries
-  Catholic, Jewish, Masonic and Odd Fellows Cemeteries
-  Forest Grove Cemetery
-  Grand Mound Cemetery
-  Ruddell Pioneer Cemetery
-  Saint Martin's Cemetery
-  Mima Prairie Cemetery
-  Union Pioneer Cemetery
-  Delphi Cemetery
-  McLane Cemetery
-  Yelm Cemetery
-  Capitol Building





Recent Acquisitions Review March 2024 Lacey Historical Commission

According to LMC 2.4.050, the Historical Commission has the supervision, along with the Museum Curator, of accepting gifts of property for historical purposes. To that end, the listed items have been accepted by the Museum Curator for inclusion into the Lacey Museum collection subject to the review of the Commission.

Commissioners should consider the museum mission, the museum acquisitions policy, and the usefulness of the item(s) for display and research.

ACCEPTED FOR THE PERMANENT COLLECTION

2024-002 Pam Shaffler McAferty

- Lacey Burger Bar menu and certificate of membership from the Chamber of Commerce.

Relation to Mission: This was a well known and beloved restaurant in Lacey.

Relation to Collection: We do not have any documents related to the Burger Bar so this is a great addition.

2023-007 Ken Balsley

- First page of the first edition of the Lacey Leader newspaper, October 4, 1967, framed, belonged to former owner Ed Bagley, who hung it in his home.
- 3 copies of *Lacey: True Stories of Those Who Built a New City*

Relation to Mission: The Lacey Leader was Lacey's first and only newspaper. Balsley's memoir includes stories of Lacey's early days as a city.

Relation to Collections: These will be added to the Ken Balsley and Lacey Leader Collections.

2022-020 Ed Echtle

- Four *Ramblers* yearbooks for North Thurston High School, 1958-1961
- Two programs, NTHS Class of '61 Reunions, 35th and 40th

Relation to Mission: North Thurston High School was the first high school in North Thurston School District.

Relation to Collections: These will fill gaps in the local school yearbook collections.

DECLINED

Kathy Kidwell, Poster, Lacey 20th Anniversary

Reason: Duplicative

The Lacey Museum enriches our community and engages visitors by sharing vibrant stories of the past through the preservation and celebration of Lacey and the South Sound region's cultural heritage.



LACEY

Parks, Culture and Recreation Department

LACEY CITY COUNCIL

Mayor Andy Ryder
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CITY MANAGER

Rick Walk

August 21, 2024

Lacey Historical Society
P.O. Box 3324
Lacey, WA 98509-3324

SUBJECT: Popkes Subdivision historical recognition

To Whom it May Concern:

The Lacey Historical Commission would like to express their support to the Lacey Historical Society in their efforts to recognize the historical significance of the Popkes Subdivision, including Selma Street (originally Selma Avenue), in Lacey.

Weco Baron "Buster" and Selma (Löflying) Popkes were married in Seattle in 1931 and were residents of Lacey from 1942 until their deaths, respectively in 1979 and 1994. They were active in local construction and development as well as community affairs, including the Lacey Lions, the Winifred Schmidt Orthopedic Guild, Lacey Historical Society, and the Olympia Eagles (Lodge and Auxiliary). Their son, Lester, attended Lacey Grade School.

Buster worked in construction and real estate. In 1947, the Popkes developed several subdivisions in the Lacey area, including the Popkes Subdivision, which had ten residential lots facing Selma Street, named to honor Selma Popkes.

The Lacey Historical Commission wholeheartedly supports the Lacey Historical Society's development of a historical marker or equivalent on or near Selma Street and the former Popkes Subdivision to recognize the Pokes and their contribution to Lacey.

Sincerely,

Jim Keogh
Historical Commission Chair

