It's Official, Now What?

by Velda McDonald

In December 2003 the North Slope Historic District incorporated as a nonprofit in the state of Washington. This year the NSHD was recognized as a 501(c)(3) organization by the Internal Revenue Service. This means that donations made to the NSHD are tax deductible, depending on the donor's tax status.

For about ten years the NSHD had operated with an informal steering committee. Various participants during those years had discussed the advantages of a more formal organization. It was decided that the time had come to admit that the NSHD neighborhood would benefit as a recognized nonprofit, thus allowing the Board of Directors to involve the NSHD in more activities for the neighborhood. As a legal entity and 501(c)(3), the NSHD is eligible for grants, but the application process must still be completed by an individual.

Members of the Steering Committee were identified as the organizing board of directors for the corporation and served for a year. An election was held in February 2005 to determine who will serve on the board for the two-year term. All residents and property owners in the NSHD are voting members of the organization. Any resident or property owner is eligible to run for a seat on the board. As a resident or owner you may bring concerns or possible projects to the board. If you wish to attend a board meeting, or be on the agenda, call the president. The meetings are at 7 p.m. the fourth Wednesday of odd-numbered months.

One reminder about the rules for a 501(c)(3) organization: the organization may not participate in political campaigns. This does not mean that individuals who are members of the board can not participate and support candidates of their choice. Members of the Board must make it clear that they are not representing the NSHD, but are presenting their own views. This is an important point for the NSHD because it is established to promote, educate others, and support historic preservation in the NSHD, Tacoma, the state, and in general. The organization is allowed to hold candidates' forums for all candidates running for a specific office.

FROM THE ARCHIVES . . . .

of the National Historic Register

In 1892 builder Lemuel Root planned to construct eight 2-story residences on North K Street, and two on North J for $2700 each. Two houses remain, at 903 and 911 North K. The Queen Anne homes have a front facing gambrel roof extending over a front balcony. The upper level has dual multi-paneled transoms over picture windows.

To look up data in the National Register Archive book, please call Ralph Tomberg at 572-1532

Zoning Update

The Public Works Committee is working to remove a few leftover pieces of the old R4-L zoning which are still in the new zone, MR-SRD, so the Historic District can be under ONE zoning category, not the two we currently have. One zone, with the wording that recognizes and supports our historic status, is the request the Board has made in our 2005 application to the City for a zoning change. One zone cannot be accomplished without two modifications to the current MR-SRD.

Property owners in the North Slope Historic District will be receiving notification of the Planning Commission hearing in July; the hearing will be on August 3, at 5 pm in the City Council Chambers. The Board urges all residents to attend to support the unification of the District; residents need not speak, just attend and be counted as supporters.

The new zone, with "historic" protections, now covers only North I, J, K, L and M Streets; the Board is asking the City to extend coverage to the rest of the NSHD. The zone is called Mixed Residential Special Review District. It was developed last year by City planners and our committee, and went into effect on 12/31/2004. It prohibits new construction of more than 2 units, (three if a large enough lot is available), and includes wording that requires the City to consider the historic nature of our structures when making decisions related to zoning.

Currently, in the MR-SRD area, a list of larger special-needs