



Trolley Times

North Slope Historic District Inc. Feb. 2020
501(c)(3) Organization Volume 93

County Assessor to Discuss Property Taxes at NSHD Meeting Feb. 20th

The Pierce County Assessor, Mike Lonergan, will present a program about our property taxes - and the myths that surround them - particularly the one where we believe that if our assessment goes up, our taxes go up! Mr. Lonergan was elected to serve as assessor in 2012, and re-elected in 2016; before that, he served two terms as an At-Large Member of the Tacoma City Council.

Please join us for an interesting meeting, with information on the what, how much and where our property taxes go.



**Come to the meeting on February 20th, Immanuel Presbyterian, 901 N. J.
Basement Meeting Room, Entrance on North 9th St.
Coffee Hour at 6:30, Meeting at 7 pm.**

Deborah Cade to be Ex Officio Landmarks Preservation Commissioner

The Board of Directors of NSHD, Inc. has chosen long-time Chair Deborah Cade to replace Marshall McClintock, who is term-limited out on the Landmarks Preservation Commission, as its Ex Officio Commissioner. Deborah is recently retired from her professional position as an environmental and land-use attorney, and now has more time to devote to being our NSHD neighborhood representative on the Commission. Her position will be a non-voting one, but will carry the weight of our organization behind her opinions.



Deborah's involvement with NSHD's Board goes back to the expansion of the District to her street, in 1995-6. Subsequently, her help was invaluable to the group who worked to develop a new zoning category for our neighborhood called Historic Mixed-Use Residential (HMR-SRD.) This new zoning category was the result of years of work by the North Slope Neighborhood Coalition, (the precursor of NSHD, Inc.) to change our zoning to a category that respected our single-family homes.

She will replace Marshall McClintock, who has worked on a variety of issues for NSHD, often doing extensive research of various architectural issues to make his points, and defending the NSHD Guidelines. He will remain on the NSHD Board, taking on various zoning issues.

Henry M. Jackson and the National Register of Historic Places

From: Jackson, Henry M. "Scoop"
By Kit Oldham, HistoryLink.org Essay 5516

Environmental Protection and Historic Preservation

Henry M. "Scoop" Jackson, (who was a senator from Washington State), became chair of the Senate's Interior Committee in 1963, and in that position shepherded passage of much of the significant environmental legislation of the 1960s. The Wilderness Act of 1964 protected 9 million acres of wilderness land, and created the procedure for protecting additional land by designating it as wilderness. Other bills established national seashores and protected wild and scenic rivers. In 1968 Jackson won passage of bills creating North Cascades National Park in North Central Washington and Redwood National Park in California.

It was also as head of the Interior Committee that Jackson introduced the legislation that became the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA), which established the **National Register of Historic Places**, in which his Everett home would later be listed. The act was prompted by concern that, like the natural environment, cultural heritage needed protection from the effects of America's massive post-World War II development boom in which historic buildings, districts, battlefields, archeological sites, and other landmarks were impacted or obliterated by construction of highways and other projects, often funded by the federal government.

Working with Interior Secretary Stewart Udall (1920-2010), Jackson introduced legislation creating the National Register and funding historic-preservation efforts, and then worked to integrate the bill with other proposals and win

final passage. One key provision, drawn originally from another proposed bill, became section 106 of the NHPA, which required that before funding any project, federal agencies consider its effect on properties listed in the National Register (later legislation expanded this to properties eligible for listing).

Section 106 of NHPA not only helped protect historic properties but also -- although not formally referenced in the later act's legislative history -- was a clear forerunner of what in many ways was Jackson's most far-reaching contribution to environmental protection: the 1969 National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). NEPA required preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement assessing potential impacts to the environment before any federal project was approved, and it became a model for similar legislation in Washington and other states.



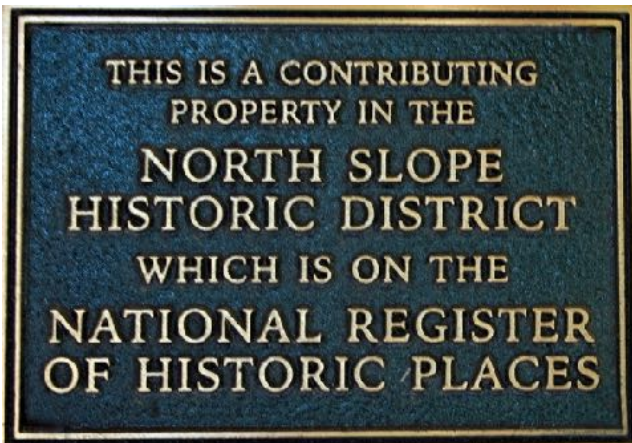
Henry Martin "Scoop" Jackson (1912 – 1983)
Served the State of Washington as
U.S. Representative (1941–1953)
U.S. Senator (1953–1983)
Jackson successfully ran for Congress as a Democrat in 1940 and took his seat in the House of Representatives with the 77th Congress on January 3, 1941. From then on, Jackson did not lose any congressional election.

"HISTORIC CONTRIBUTING"

What does that mean?

By Jay Turner

Historic, in the NSHD, means that the house was built between 1881 and 1953. After that, the question becomes, what is an historic contributing property?



In simple terms it comes down to this: Does your house retain the exterior characteristics that existed when it was built? If it does, it is an "historic contributing" property in the designated the historic district. The most important properties in any district are the houses that are are "Historic Contributing" because they define the architecture of the period of time when these houses were built.

The NSHD is an amazing National Register residential historic district because **73%** of the historic homes are historic contributing; they still have the "as-built" characteristics and feel of what they had when they were built.

The National Park Service requires all properties in a residential historic district, such as the NSHD, to be classified in one of four possible ways: Historic Contributing, Historic Non-contributing, Non-Historic and Vacant.

There are a number of "Historic Non-Contributing" properties in the NSHD. These houses have been altered such that the original architecture is no longer visible; for example,

inappropriate dormers, additions or other alterations such as roof-line changes. They no longer have the "feel" of yesteryear, of when they were built. *They no longer make an "architectural statement."*

The North Slope Historic District was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2003, and is also on the Tacoma Register of Historic Places. The Tacoma District was formed, beginning in 1995, and expanded in 1997 and 1999. *The boundaries and inventory of the "Tacoma Register" North Slope District designation differ from the "National Register" NSHD designation.*

Properties on The Tacoma Register North Slope Historic District are subject to Tacoma Municipal Code 13.07 and the historic district inventory adopted by the Tacoma Landmarks Preservation Commission. **A set of guidelines spells out how to make changes to a contributing historic property** in NSHD that will fit with the original architecture. There are a number of instances where a home owner must present changes to the Landmarks Preservation Commission, and get approval, before doing the work.

A complete list of properties, and City classification can be found on the NSHD web page tacomanorthslope.org in "History, Articles & Photos," Chapter 2.

Please call Tacoma's Historic Preservation Officer Reuben McKnight, 253-591-5220, or Lauren Hoogkamer, Asst. HPO, 253-591-5254 for questions about the City historic district requirements.

The Tacoma Historic Preservation Office has invaluable information for all homeowners in NSHD. They respond quickly and carefully to questions our homeowners have. Use them!

FROM THE ARCHIVES...

Taken from the National Register of Historic Places

The house at 417 North Sheridan was built in 1905 in the Queen Anne Style, with the porch extending across the main floor, and the body of the house clad in wooden shingles. It was the home of Edwin R. Rau, a printer whose company was located at 113 S. 13th Street.



Rau came to Tacoma after reading a promotional letter by Allen C. Mason that had been printed in the *St. Louis Globe Democrat*. Although he was born in Tennessee in 1866, his family moved back to their home state of Kentucky when he was still a small child. Rau's father was a Baptist minister and operated a paper, *The American Baptist*. Edwin learned the printing trade in his father's office. His formal schooling cut short by illness, he would later say that the education he received in the print shop was "the best of its kind, as far as that goes."

When he arrived in Tacoma, 24 years old, he worked on the *Morning Globe*, one of Tacoma's earlier papers, but started his own print shop in 1892. He and his wife, Marguerite, had one son.

An October 1905 *Ledger* article describes an unusual burglary at the Ray home; a suspect broke into the home while the owners were out of town, turned on all the lights and then made off with such valuables as: one pair of (old) socks, two pairs of scissors, one box of tooth powder and one copy of Bryant's poems. This "plunder" was discovered a week later with a vast collection of other stolen items, including "...socks and stockings enough to start a store - hundreds of them ..." The thief had hidden everything in a "dense thicket" near L St. and S. 7th Streets.



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SHUTTERS ON HISTORIC HOUSES?

By Marshall McClintock

It may sound harsh, but faux shutters just make your house look inappropriate.

Back in medieval days folks had shutters because they didn't have glass windows. As glass became more available, shutters were used to protect glass windows because they were expensive.

After the Civil War, shutters began to be considered old-fashioned. Window screens and storm windows took their place. Storm windows were much better than shutters since they provided protection, insulation and sunlight. Of course, shutters were still used occasionally on beach houses and the like where you had serious storms or needed extra security.

Very few, if any, houses in the North Slope had them; I don't recall any historic pictures showing them. If any houses did have them, the shutters would be attached on the window frame (not off to the side) and each shutter would cover half the window, or an entire window in the case of paired windows.

In the 1950s and 1960s, aluminum, vinyl and even plastic faux shutters began to be heavily marketed. And you can still find hundreds if not thousands of real estate websites that tout them to "add curb appeal." These are the narrow ones that so obviously don't fit the window and are usually incorrectly attached to the house rather than the window frame. They simply look inappropriate on North Slope's contributing houses.

If you want to increase the curb appeal of your historic house, skip the shutters and buy a couple books on historic paint schemes or hire a colorist to develop one for you. Our houses may not have had shutters, but they sported an array of deep, rich colors.



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Renovate, Remodel, Restore

Keep Plants Low for Visibility

By Angie Clark

Tacoma's "Right-of-Way Landscape Standards" from the Traffic Department reminds us that our planting strips at corners and roundabouts should be no more than **2 feet tall**. Such control of plant height improves the visibility of pedestrians and drivers for their safety.

Check the visibility on your property and, if necessary, get out your clippers and/or shovel and trim or replant with some of the following plants that don't need a lot of care.

Ceanothus, ground covers (NOT shrubs) or California Lilac. There are several varieties that usually grow between 1-2 feet tall which have glossy green leaves and bluish blooms loved by the bees.

Ericaceae, or Heath or Erica. Most provide winter and early spring color of shades of pinks, red and white.

Mahonia repens, Creeping Mahonia. Has great winter color, dull blue-green leaves turn bronzish or pinkish in winter. Blooms in spring followed by bluish berries.

Vinca Major, Periwinkle, grows 1-2 feet with blue flowers most of the summer with leaves edged in white.

Ophiopogon japonicus, Mondo Grass grows 6-8 inches with dark leaves, has tiny light lilac-colored flowers followed by a blue ¼" fruit.

Check local nurseries like:

- Garden Sphere, 3310 North Proctor
- Portland Avenue Nursery, 1409 East 59th ST.
- Vassey's 2424 Tacoma Road E.
- Watson's 6211 Pioneer Way E.

Happy gardening in 2020 from Angie Clark, WSU Pierce County Master Gardener. Information from Sunset Western Garden Book.



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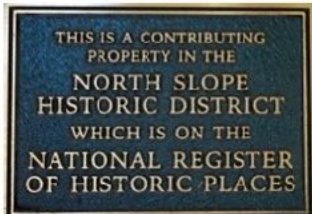
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FOR SALE NSHD BRONZE PLAQUE

Want a Plaque for Your House?

If you would like a bronze plaque to mark your house as part of the NSHD National Register of Historic Places, the NSHD, Inc. Board has them for sale. Plaques are 5 x 7 and cost \$80 each.

To purchase, contact Karen May
253-779-0160, or klmay@wamail.net



NSHD BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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TacomaNorthSlope.org the NSHD web page

TROLLEY TIMES. The NSHD newsletter, published Feb., May, Aug., and Nov. Delivered to all single family homes in the NSHD. The current edition can always be found at:

<https://goo.gl/5sdbHq>

North Slope NEWS. Sign up on NSHD web page, and have items of general NSHD news, events, and the on-line *Trolley Times* sent to you.

Send your questions, comments and remarks to
news@TacomaNorthSlope.org

Team Tuttle Helps Home Sellers!

Deciding to list your home is a significant decision, and we understand the weight that it carries.

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NSHD BOARD NEEDS COMMITTEE HELP

The Board of Directors of NSHD, Inc. has openings for new committee members. We *urgently* need volunteers who have time to devote a few hours each quarter to helping on one of our Committees:

1. Beautification - Traffic circle clean-ups, litter pick-ups, management of Annual Clean-Up, special projects.
2. Communications - Newsletter production, MailChimp notices, website updates.
3. Historic Preservation - Ex-officio member of Landmarks Preservation Commission. Commissioner is Deborah Cade. Need people interested in Commission issues who can attend a meeting now and then downtown.
4. Neighborhood Outreach - New-owner material, newsletter delivery help, special projects.
5. Fund-Raising - Projects designed to raise funds for NSHD operation, securing sponsors for newsletter.
6. Programs - Selection and management of quarterly programs for NSHD residents.

To volunteer, call or write the Secretary,

*Julie Turner, Secretary: 253-383-2329
juliejayturner@gmail.com*

To be on a committee does not obligate attendance at Board Meetings unless you are a Chair.

Board Meetings are held once a quarter in members' homes. We discuss issues we need to address, upcoming projects, subjects for programs.

Program Meetings for all NSHD residents are once a quarter, with website and newsletter notice of the date. They are held in the basement meeting room of Immanuel Presbyterian Church, 901 N. J St.

YOU AND THE *TROLLEY TIMES*

1. Do you read the paper version of the *Trolley Times* that is delivered to your front door?
2. Do you receive the *Trolley Times* in your email? Sign up on the bottom right hand side on the NSHD web site, TacomaNorthSlope.org and follow the directions.
3. Do you look at the *Trolley Times* on the NSHD web page? The current version is available just by clicking on it at the top of the home page.
4. Which version of the *Trolley Times* do you prefer? What do you like? What would you like to see? Let us know, please.

Of course, if you would like to contribute to the *Trolley Times*, we are looking for ideas and authors.

Please send comments to:
Julie Turner, Editor
juliejayturner@gmail.com

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