
78TH STREET HERITAGE FARM

interpretive trail plan

AUGUST 2011

CLARK COUNTY, WASHINGTON



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August 2011

Funded by grants from Clark County's Historical Promotions program and the Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation's Certified Local Government program.



This plan for the interpretive trail at Clark County's 78th Street Heritage Farm will guide development of all trail-side exhibits. The ideas and information presented here are based on material provided by Clark County. This document builds on – and is indebted to – research conducted by the county and its partners.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

As part of a master plan for Clark County's historical county farm, a pedestrian trail will wind through the 79-acre, Hazel Dell-area site. It will include approximately 10 stations that interpret the cultural, social and political history of the property.

The exhibition site will provide visitors a place to examine the experiences of local pioneer settlers and poor farm residents in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The interpretation will explore how those people's lives ultimately led to the successful growth of a local agriculture industry that continues today.

Interpretive elements and programs associated with the trail could include static displays, solar-powered audio effects, self-guided and guided tours, social media and an interactive website. These elements will be at key locations, including buildings of historical significance. The locations will be chosen by county staff with the assistance of a landscape architect, historian, archaeologist or cultural resource professional.



PROJECT PURPOSE

The county has identified the trail's main focus and theme in the following purpose statement:

The past agricultural uses of the 78th Street Heritage Farm – pioneer homestead, poor farm, and university research station – exemplify Clark County's history as the location of the first domestic agriculture in the Northwest.

PROJECT VISION AND GOALS

The 78th Street Heritage Farm Master Plan, completed in April 2010, defines the vision for the site as:

Celebrate the community, reflect the area's history, and provide a healthy and sustainable environment for future generations.

Based on that statement and the community guiding principles identified in the Master Plan, we propose the following goals for the interpretive trail exhibits:

1. Inspire lifelong learning and engage visitors in the site's history
2. Encourage community wellness and a healthy, sustainable environment
3. Commemorate Clark County's agricultural heritage
4. Build pride in the community's past, present and future





- Based on recent public comment on the concept plans, the master plan may incorporate or continue to incorporate the following elements:
- An agricultural based community learning and historic interpretation building
 - Staff offices for the WSU Extension
 - Community Gardens
 - Food Bank garden plots
 - Farmers Market
 - Certified organic garden
 - Master Gardener greenhouse and plant sales
 - Outdoor classroom
 - Enhanced wetlands
 - Living Farm
 - Pedestrian and bike trails
 - Expansion of the Hazel Dell Park
 - Site specific, local, organic restaurant
 - Enhance existing cemetery
 - View point
 - Historic interpretation
 - Demonstration areas
 - Community meeting space
 - Historic wooden stave silo and interpretive area
 - Retain existing utility easements and wells
 - Potential future cross circulation road

78th Street Heritage Farm Master Plan, completed in April 2010, shows the proposed trail.

THEMATIC APPROACH

The goal of interpretation is to reveal meanings and relationships between concepts and events in the past and present, and that requires more than simply communicating factual information. One way to ensure that visitors perceive the meanings and relationships is to use a thematic approach. People are more engaged when they have opportunities to make personal connections with the exhibit themes.

Interpretive themes

Visitor studies show that people remember themes instead of facts if they are presented in digestible segments of clearly organized information. The following interpretive themes were developed to support the exhibit’s purpose statement.

1. The three main historical uses of the site – pioneer farm, poor farm and agricultural research station – trace the history of agriculture in Clark County. These former uses and the lessons learned from them helped build and shape Clark County.
2. Agriculture is a foundation of Clark County’s early economy and it remains important today, especially on this site. The combination of good climate and fruitful land made Clark County an exceptional place to farm.
3. Today, the site remains much as it was during its early 20th century days as a poor farm and later as an agricultural extension operation.



THEMATIC CLUSTERS AND LOCATIONS

Six thematic clusters of two to five graphic panels will be strategically placed along the interpretive trail. The 3-foot by 5-foot panels that make up a thematic cluster can be grouped together or spread out depending on interpretive opportunities, vistas and site distances. Exact locations will be determined by county staff in consultation with a landscape architect, historian, archaeologist or cultural resource professional. The thematic clusters are:

1. Welcome and orientation
2. Before the farm: Forests of plenty
3. The pioneer farm (1843-1873):
 - a. The Andersons stake a claim
 - b. “Proving up” the claim
4. The poor farm (1873-1943):
 - a. County provides relief
 - b. Life on the county farm
 - c. The forgotten cemetery
5. The experimental farm (1943-2008):
 - a. Community education
 - b. Research and discoveries
6. The heritage farm: Community agriculture today

The graphic panels will be designed to incorporate elements of signs currently on the farm property (see below and left).



VISITOR TYPES AND EXPECTATIONS

The exhibit committee and development team will use the trail's purpose statement and themes to determine the type and amount of historical information featured in the exhibits. However, understanding visitor expectations and behaviors is key to planning successful interpretive exhibits.

Although the goal of most exhibits is to educate visitors, people generally visit exhibits to enjoy themselves. Museum professionals have identified three general types of visitors: streakers, strollers and studiers.

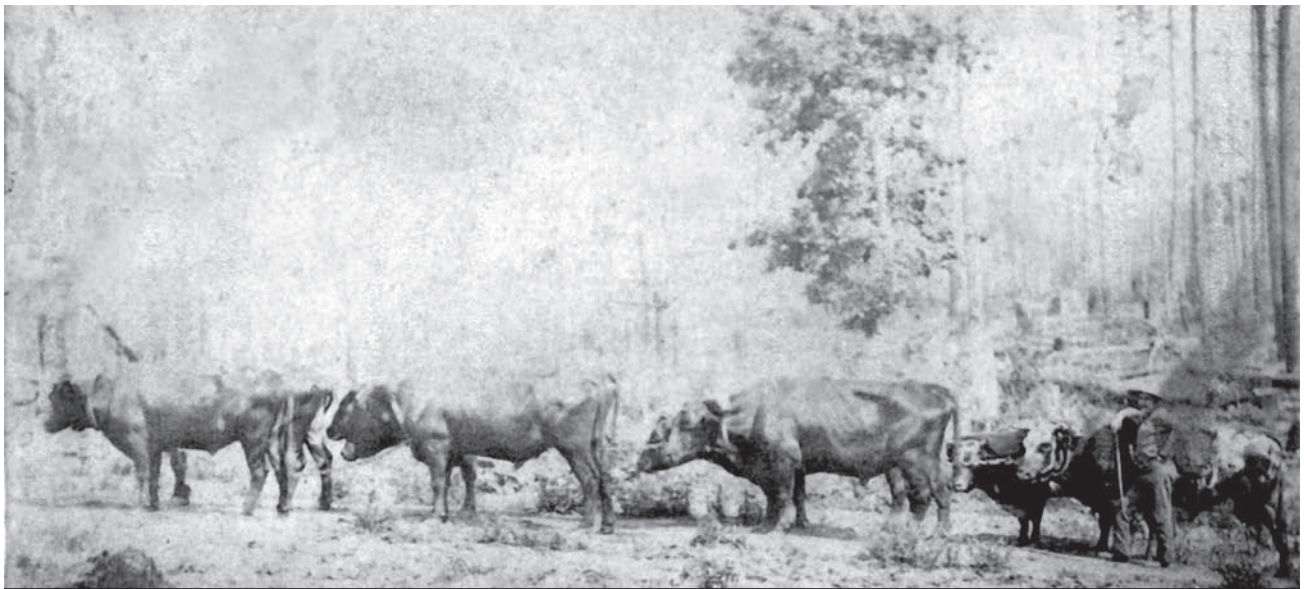
Streakers are by far the highest percentage of visitors. Often part of a group, they might read only the headlines of a few exhibits. If the basic message is not or cannot be conveyed in the headlines, these visitors might walk away without understanding the exhibit's significance.

Strollers spend more time looking at exhibits, usually reading past the headline, but rarely reading all the information.

Studiers, on the other hand, read the entire exhibit text. But they represent only about 10 percent of visitors. More importantly, the majority of exhibit developers are themselves studiers, which can mean exhibits might not be designed to meet the expectations of most visitors.

Current best practices in interpretive writing recommend organizing an exhibit's text in a distinct hierarchy of segments each no more than 75 words. Cognitive research and visitor studies have confirmed that adding more content, especially in the form of text, actually inhibits both reading and message retention.

The public has had limited access to this site since its early pioneer days. Developing the trail and exhibits and opening the property to a broad audience will provide opportunities to highlight what may be largely unfamiliar local history and illustrate how each era contributed to present-day Clark County.



welcome and orientation

Two or three graphic panels will welcome visitors to Clark County's 78th Street Heritage Farm and introduce the main themes and time periods interpreted throughout the 79-acre site.

Exhibit description When visitors enter the property, they are drawn to a pavilion.

A map orients visitors and encourages them to explore the farm. Brochures, changeable bulletin boards and possibly visitor-activated audio programs provide more information about the history, events and recreational opportunities at the 78th Street Heritage Farm.

Location The pavilion should be in a prominent place between the new parking lot and main building.

Supporting messages

1. A common theme of experimentation – the testing of new ideas – runs through the site's former uses as a pioneer farm, poor farm and agricultural research station
2. The activities and lessons learned during each period shaped Clark County and helped create the communities we know today.

Images and artifacts

1. Map
2. Images representing each time period
3. Farm equipment representing each time period can be displayed outside



before the farm

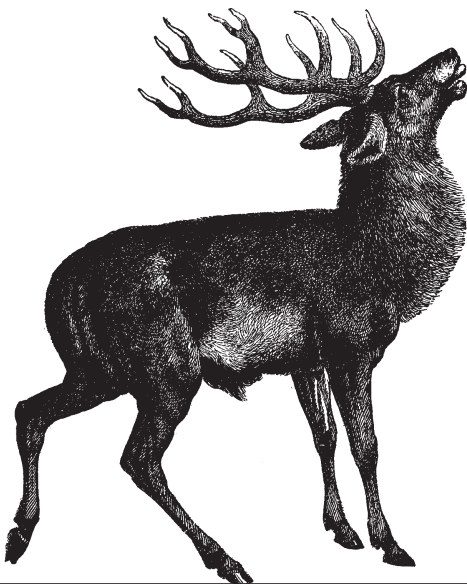
One or two interpretive panels will describe the area's original natural environment and Native Americans' use of the land.

BEFORE THE FARM: *forests of plenty*

Exhibit description An interpretive station invites visitors to imagine the area before it was developed. Visitors read descriptions of the area and compare them with the vastly different landscape they see today.

This station also briefly describes the traditional lifestyles of Chinookan-speaking people who lived along the Columbia River and its tributaries. These lifestyles include hunting, fishing and cultivating native plants. The station encourages people to visit the Cathlapotle Plankhouse at the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge to learn more about the region's original inhabitants.

Location If possible, this exhibit should be where visitors have an expansive view. If not, it could be located near a wetland to highlight the importance of native aquatic plants to the Chinook people.



Supporting messages

1. Chinookan-speaking peoples have lived along the Columbia River for thousands of years.
2. The river and its wetlands, floodplain and uplands provided the Chinook people food, clothing, tools and shelter.
3. Chinook people traveled and traded along the Pacific Coast and on Columbia River and its tributaries in canoes carved from cedar trees.
4. Chinook people wintered in cedar plank houses large enough to accommodate extended families. Winter villages, such as Cathlapotle, often were located along tributaries of the Columbia River.
5. Chinook people fished for salmon, sturgeon and other species in the Columbia River and its tributaries. They gathered wapato (duck potato) from wetlands as well as berries and camas from uplands. They also hunted deer, elk and waterfowl.
6. Historic records suggest that the houses at Cathlapotle were abandoned in the mid-1850s.

Images and artifacts

1. Illustrations of the area as it would have appeared before 1850
2. Illustrations or historic photographs of Chinook people
3. Image of cedar plankhouse replica
4. Image of wetlands containing wapato

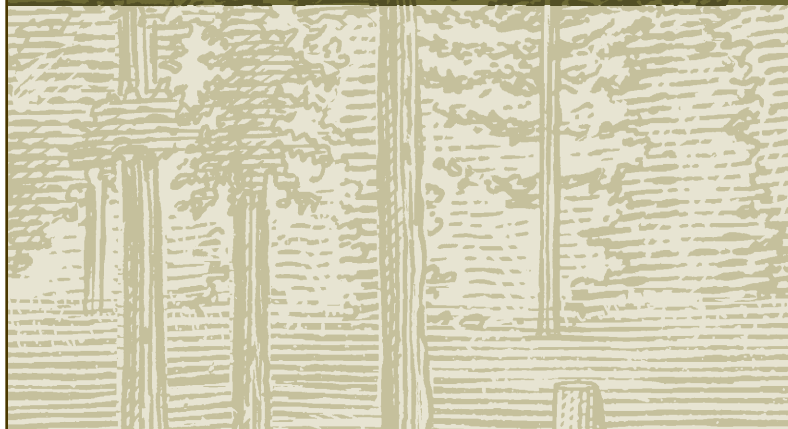
BEFORE THE FARM *forests of plenty*

Before settlers arrived, this place was a forest of massive trees and dense undergrowth.

The area's abundant natural resources drew people. Native Americans thrived on this land for millennia. They lived along the Columbia River and its tributaries, wintering in villages of cedar plank houses large enough to accommodate extended families.

The Columbia River and its surrounding wetlands, uplands and forests provided Native Americans with food, clothing, tools and shelter. Tribes fished for salmon and sturgeon, harvested wapato (duck potato) from wetlands, and gathered berries and camas from uplands. They also hunted deer, elk and waterfowl.

Wapato was cultivated by several Native American tribes in the Northwest. Its tubers, which tasted like potatoes, were eaten raw or roasted.



Above: You can visit a full-size replica of a cedar plankhouse at Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge.

Right: "Engraving of a Chinook Lodge in 1841" by Richard W. Dodson, based on a sketch by Alfred T. Agate.

Left: The great forests that once stood here were logged to clear land for farming, settlement and timber sales, transforming the landscape to essentially what you see today.



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Image captions

- You can visit a full-size replica of a cedar plank house at Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge.
- “Engraving of a Chinook Lodge in 1841” by Richard W. Dodson, based on a sketch by Alfred T. Agate.
- The great forests that once stood here were logged to clear land for farming, settlement and timber sales, transforming the landscape to essentially what you see today.
- Wapato was cultivated by several Native American tribes in the Northwest. Its tubers, which tasted like potatoes, were eaten raw or roasted.

the pioneer farm

Three to five interpretive panels will describe the history and significance of former uses of the land, including Native American uses and the pioneer homestead of William Reese and Sarah Jane Anderson. These panels set the area's history in the larger context of the Oregon Territory's settlement and Oregon Donation Land Act goals.

Because no structures associated with the pioneer farm survive, these panels can be located at viewpoints rather than interpretive sites.

THE PIONEER FARM: *the Andersons stake a claim*

Exhibit description At this interpretative station, visitors learn how the Donation Land Claim Act of 1850 spurred a rush of settlers to the area. They meet two of the Hazel Dell area's original settlers, William Reese and Sarah Jane Anderson, and learn how these Oregon Trail pioneers were part of a national campaign to promote settlement of the Oregon Territory. Land the Andersons chose along Military Road, now Hazel Dell Avenue, was rich in lumber, food and water.

Location Given its place in the chronology of the site, this panel should be near the beginning of the trail.

Supporting messages

1. Settlers of European descent first came to the area via the Oregon Trail during the Great Migration of 1843.
 2. Early on, Fort Vancouver was the end of the Oregon Trail and the site of the first significant large-scale agricultural enterprise in the Northwest.
 3. The Donation Land Claim Act, passed on Sept. 27, 1850, allowed a husband and wife to homestead 640 acres of free land in the Northwest. As a result, more than 50,000 people are estimated to have moved along the Oregon Trail in 1852.
 4. The first settlers in Vancouver described expanses of "great forest and dense undergrowth" to the north and west.
 5. Many pioneers who arrived in what is now Southwest Washington took up their donation land claims along the military road that ran north from Fort Vancouver.
 6. Authorized by Congress in 1853, the military road was built along an old Native American trail. Completed in 1860, it ran from Fort Vancouver to Seattle. Today it is Highway 99 and Hazel Dell Avenue.
 7. Sarah Jane and William Reese Anderson were among the Hazel Dell area's first settlers. They married in 1851 and had 14 children, one of whom died in infancy. Their 640-acre Donation Land Claim property included what is now the Heritage Farm.
 8. William Reese Anderson was born in Marion, Va. in 1822. A trapper in his youth, he came to the Oregon Territory with the U.S. Army in 1849.
-

9. Sarah Jane Sturgis (or Sturgess) was born in New York State in 1837 and came across the Oregon Trail with her parents in 1847.
 - a) Her father, Moses, drowned in the Snake River. Once in the Oregon Territory, Sarah and her mother, Elizabeth, stayed in Portland for two months before moving to Oregon City.
 - b) In spring 1848, Sarah and her mother moved to Vancouver. They lived there until moving to The Dalles, Ore. in 1850.
10. Travelers often stopped for food, overnight rest and supplies at homes along the military road north of Fort Vancouver.
11. Early pioneers, who were primarily millers, farmers and carpenters, recognized the land adjacent to Military Road as bountiful sources

of lumber, food and water power. The streams teemed with fish. Nuts and berries grew wild, and the woods were home to fur-bearing animals that provided food, clothing and items to sell or trade. The proximity of other settler families increased the chances of survival and offered a social life.

Images and artifacts

1. Photographs of William Reese Anderson, Sarah Jane Anderson and their children
2. Letter from Marilla Anderson Gardner, oldest daughter of William Reese and Sarah Jane Anderson
3. Letter from Marilla's grandson, Charles William Gardner



As the Patent states the Anderson Donation Land Claim was granted by President Andrew Johnson on Dec. 22, 1865

THE PIONEER FARM *the Andersons stake a claim*

This 78th Street Heritage Farm was once a part of the 640-acre Donation Land Claim owned by Sarah Jane and William Reese Anderson.

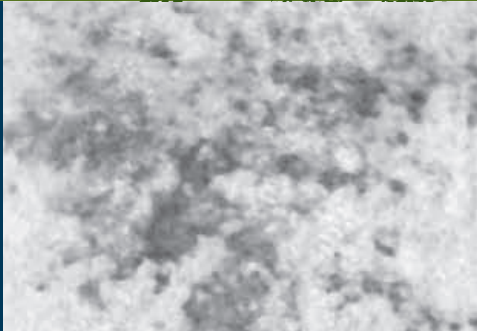


Descendants of the Anderson family in 1900.



William Reese and Sarah Jane Anderson.

Among the first settlers in the Hazel Dell area, Sarah Jane and William Reese Anderson reared 13 children on this land. As other early settlers, they chose a location along the military road that ran north from Fort Vancouver. Once a Native American trail, parts of this road became Highway 99 and Hazel Dell Avenue.



Born in Clark County in 1860, Marilla Anderson Gardner recorded her experiences on the family's pioneer farm in her memoir Reflections on Pioneer Life in Hazel Dell, WA, completed in 1935. She died in 1954 at age 94 and is buried in Vancouver's Old City Cemetery.

"The brush and young fir trees were so thick that wild animals could stand 75 feet from you and couldn't be seen and the big firs was from 10 to 16 feet through. Just as thick as they could stand & grow.... I look over the old donation claim and think you people that live here now can't realize the hard work it took to make those lovely homes, all done by hand labor. If both [my parents] could see the old claim, what would they say? Mother knew Portland when only seven little huts, as she called them."

— Marilla Anderson Gardner, oldest daughter of William Reese and Sarah Jane Anderson, 1935.



The Anderson family. From left to right, back row: Edward, Charles, Asa, Marilla, William, Fannie, George, Estelle and Jennie. Front row: Kate, Robert, William Reese, Sarah Jane, Audrey and Minnie.



Sarah Jane Anderson holding a spotted horse and foal. Her husband was fond of Appaloosas.



William Reese Jr. and a large team of oxen he used for logging.

THE PIONEER FARM: *the Andersons stake a claim*

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– Marilla Anderson Gardner, oldest daughter of William Reese and Sarah Jane Anderson, 1935.

Image captions

- Born in Clark County in 1860, Marilla Anderson Gardner recorded her experiences on the family’s pioneer farm in her memoir *Reflections on Pioneer Life in Hazel Dell, WA*, completed in 1935. She died in 1954 at age 94 and is buried in Vancouver’s Old City Cemetery.
- William Reese and Sarah Jane Anderson.
- Descendants of the Anderson family in 1900.
- The Anderson family. From left to right, back row: Edward, Charles, Asa, Marilla, William, Fannie, George, Estelle and Jennie. Front row: Kate, Robert, William Reese, Sarah Jane, Audrey and Minnie.
- Sarah Jane Anderson holding a spotted horse and foal. Her husband was fond of Appaloosas.
- William Reese Jr. and a large team of oxen he used for logging.

the pioneer farm

THE PIONEER FARM: *“proving up” the claim*

Exhibit description This exhibit explains the “settlement and cultivation” the Andersons were required to perform to prove their claim, including building a home, clearing the forest and planting crops. Through their story, visitors will understand the significance of the aggressive conversion of local native forest lands to agricultural lands.

Location This panel could be located on the west side of the site in visual proximity to forested and cultivated areas.

Supporting messages

1. Clark County’s excellent soils and moderate climate create ideal conditions for agriculture.
2. When Sarah Jane and William Reese Anderson moved to the Hazel Dell area, the land was densely timbered.
3. Sarah Jane Anderson helped saw the lumber used to build the first steamboat that traveled the Columbia River.
4. Sarah Jane Anderson is believed to have named the area Hazel Dell after its many hazel nut trees.
5. In 1871, the Andersons forfeited to the county a 100-acre tract following a judgment for defaulting on their property taxes. Two years later, the poor farm would be established on that tract.

Images and artifacts

1. Photographs of Anderson family
2. Handwritten judgment against the Andersons



the poor farm

Three to five stations will interpret the history of the Clark County poor farm, which was part of a national attempt to address the needs of poor, homeless, elderly and disabled men and women in local communities.

The history of people who lived and worked at the poor farm – inmates, staff and superintendents – and the site’s built environment link Clark County to the nation’s history as the United States enacted reforms to care for those most in need.

THE POOR FARM: *the county provides relief*

Exhibit description A series of graphic panels interpret the purpose and founding of the Clark County poor farm. Visitors learn how the local community provided assistance to the poor.

Location This panel should be near the administrative building. Smaller panels scattered throughout the site will identify specific buildings and activities.

Supporting messages

1. Before programs such as the The New Deal of the 1930s and Great Society of the 1960s, federal aid to the poor and ordinary citizen did not exist. Local communities and families cared for local people.
2. Almshouses, where the elderly or poor could go, were a tradition in England dating back to the 10th century. They were run by private charitable organizations or monastic orders and were privately financed.
3. One of the first major attempts to legislate relief for the poor began in the 1500s with the English Poor Laws. Poor farms in the United States followed many traditions established by these English laws, including:
 - a) Care for the poor was administered at the local level and paid for by local taxes.
 - b) An Overseer of the Poor was appointed to provide care.
 - c) The poor were considered deserving of assistance if they became poverty-stricken through no fault of their own, or undeserving of assistance if they became poor through idleness or another personal flaw.
 - d) The deserving poor were given “outdoor relief,” such as money, food, clothing, fuel, medical treatment and/or other necessities if their situation seemed temporary. They received “indoor relief,” which was being sent to a poorhouse, if they were unable to support themselves long-term.
4. In 1854, Congress passed “An Act Relating to the Support of the Poor.”
 - a) The law made counties responsible for caring for all poor, sick and homeless people whose relatives could not support them. No territorial money was dedicated.

- b) The act noted that relatives had primary responsibility for people in need, and granted county governments the right to fine relatives for non-support.
 - c) Counties were authorized to build workhouses, contract for care of adults, and arrange apprenticeships for pauper children.
5. When family, friends and faith-based support were exhausted, people in need applied for assistance. Some were sent to a poor farm, which also were called poorhouses, workhouses or almshouses.



the poor farm

THE POOR FARM: *Life on the county farm*

Exhibit description A series of graphic panels interprets the history of the Clark County poor farm and its daily activities. Visitors learn what it was like to live and work in an institution that cared for people without resources.

Location The panel could be placed near the administrative building. Smaller panels scattered throughout the site will identify specific buildings and activities.



OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY - IMAGE No. bb001471.

Supporting messages

1. In 1873, Clark County founded a farm on this site to provide relief to the poor and food for local hospitals. Rules were strict and accommodations were minimal.
2. Before providing indoor or outdoor assistance, every effort was first made to find relatives to take in or assist poor Clark County residents. But in some cases, the county paid to return recent arrivals to their former states, including people who came from the Midwest during the Dust Bowl of the 1930s.
3. The poor farm had room for 30 residents.
4. In 1898, the farm was run by Superintendent John Eddings. It had 16 residents, including nine children. None of the older residents was able to work, so the farm was not self-supporting.
5. Residents provided farm and housekeeping labor, and cared for other residents.
 - a) They grew crops, maintained orchards, and raised livestock. Some products grown onsite were passed to the county-financed hospital and some were sold.
 - b) At least 50 acres were cultivated and crops typically included hay, wheat, potatoes, carrots, berries and prunes. Livestock included beef and dairy cattle, hogs and chickens.
 - c) Other activities included canning fruit and vegetables.
6. The original house, built for \$3,000 in 1895, was destroyed by fire in 1922. The poor house was rebuilt and opened to residents in mid-1926, although farming at the property had continued. The new building was representative of Italian Renaissance architecture, a distinctive and relatively rare style in rural, farm-based

Clark County. It was designed by DeYoung and Roald, a Portland architectural firm that was at its height in the 1920s. Other Portland-area buildings designed by DeYoung and Roald now are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

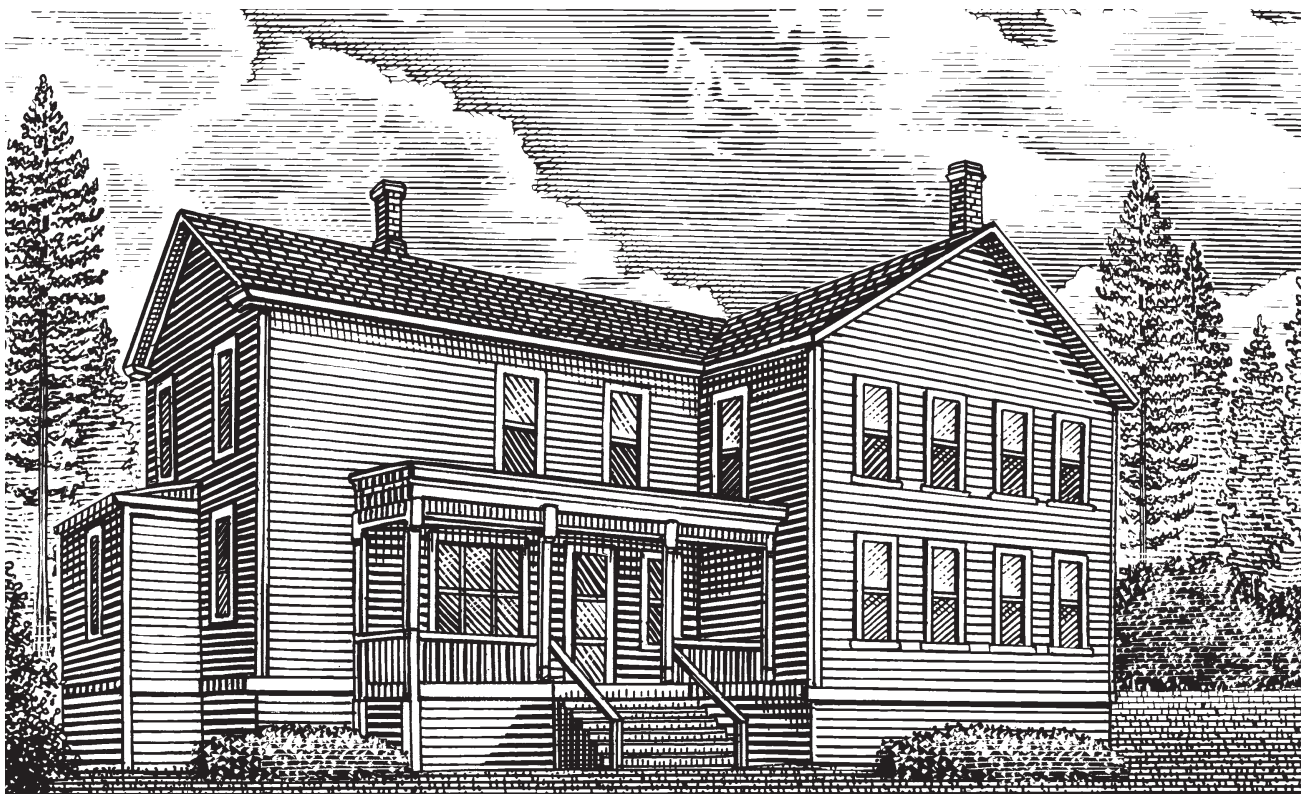
7. Many people became impoverished in the Great Depression of the 1930s. By 1935, half of Washington's population had received some form of government assistance.
8. In 1936, several improvements were made to the poor farm, including construction of a separate milk house east of the main building and northeast of a 1926 garage.
9. In 1938, management of the poor farm was reorganized and its operation moved from the former Clark County Indigent Department to the newly formed Clark County Welfare Department. The department was under the supervision of the County Institutional

Manager, who oversaw operation of the poor farm, county hospital and county medical clinic.

- a) From Jan. 1, 1938 to May 1, 1938, the farm had 12 cows, 21 pigs, 100 chickens, 350 chicks and two horses.
 - b) In 1939, four full-time and one part-time employee cared for 30 residents. The farm operated at a cost of 70 cents per inmate per day.
10. Several buildings remain, including a c. 1920 livestock barn, c. 1920 bunk house and 1930s machine shed.

Images and artifacts

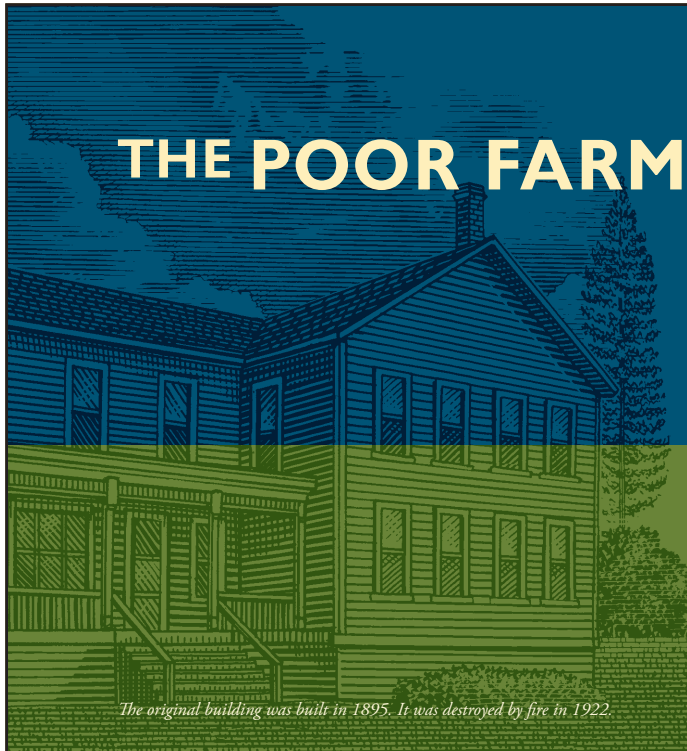
1. Illustration of the original building
2. Photograph of a homeless camp under the Interstate Bridge
3. Photographs of residents, if available



THE POOR FARM

life on the county farm

Founded on this site in 1873, the Clark County poor farm housed some of the community's poorest residents who grew food for local hospitals.



The original building was built in 1895. It was destroyed by fire in 1922.

In the 1800s and early 1900s, charity really did begin at home. Social Security, unemployment insurance, Medicare/Medicaid and food stamps did not exist.

Beginning in the mid-1850s, people who could not rely on family and friends for help had to apply to the county for assistance. If their situation seemed temporary, they were given money, food, clothing, fuel, medical treatment and other necessities. But if they seemed unable to support themselves long-term, they might be sent to the poor farm.



Poor Farm building, 1944.

No one wanted to go to a poor farm. The rules were strict and accommodations were minimal. Able-bodied residents were expected to work on the farm and care for other residents.

The county poor farm had room for 30 residents. They grew crops, maintained orchards, and raised livestock. Some farm products grown onsite were given to the county-financed hospital and some were sold to help cover cost of running the farm. In 1939, the farm operated at a cost of 70 cents per resident per day.



Over the hill to the poor-house I'm trudin' my weary way –
I, a woman of seventy, and only a trifle gray –
I, who am smart an' chipper, for all the years I've told,
As many another woman that's only half as old.

What is the use of heapin' on me a pauper's shame?
Am I lazy or crazy? Am I blind or lame?
True, I am not so supple, nor yet so awful stout:
But charity ain't no favor, if one can live without.

I am willin' and anxious an' ready any day
To work for a decent livin', an' pay my honest way;
For I can earn my victuals, an' more too, I'll be bound,
If any body only is willin' to have me round.

–“Over the Hill to the Poor House,” by Will Carleton, 1872



In the 1930s, many people became impoverished by the Great Depression. By 1935, half of Washington's population had received some form of government assistance.

Left: a homeless camp beneath the north end of the Interstate Bridge, c. 1930.



THE POOR FARM: *life on the county farm*

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Image captions

- The original building was built in 1895. It was destroyed by fire in 1922.
- Poor Farm building, 1944.
- In the 1930s, many people became impoverished by the Great Depression. By 1935, half of Washington's population had received some form of government assistance.
Left: a homeless camp beneath the north end of the Interstate Bridge, c. 1930.

the poor farm

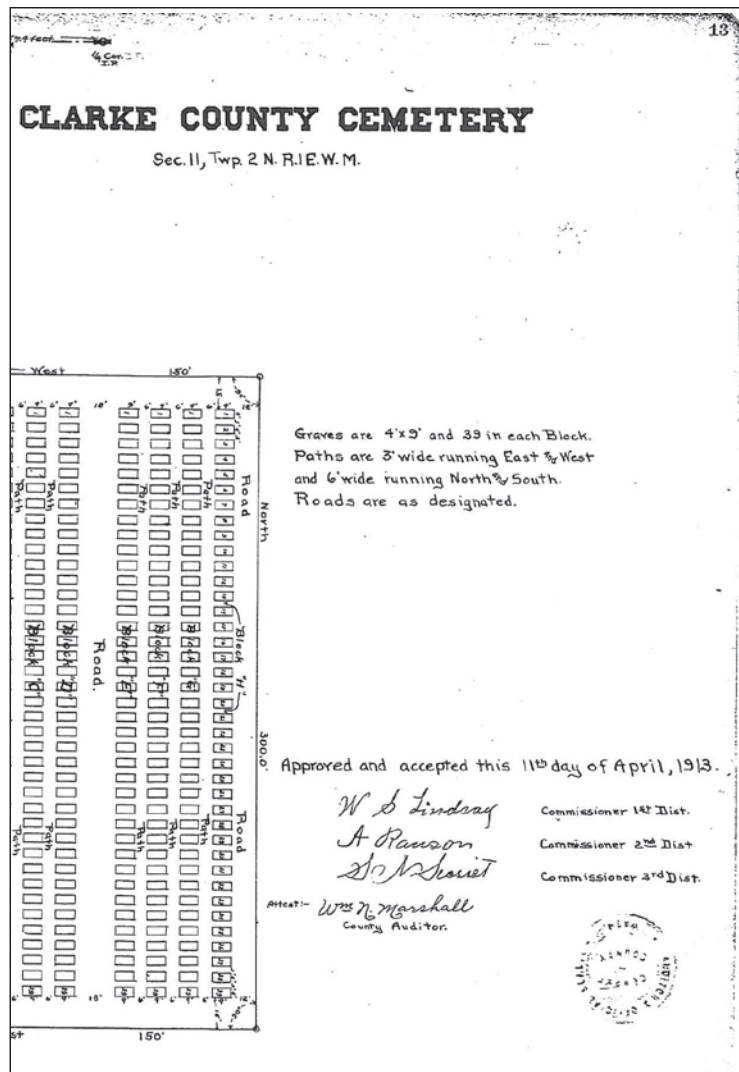
POOR FARM: *the forgotten cemetery*

Exhibit description Depending on the availability of photographs, two or more graphic panels will memorialize some people buried in the county poor farm cemetery.

Location The panel should be installed near the cemetery.

Supporting messages

1. A small cemetery on the property's south side contains the remains of at least 312 men, women and children who were buried between 1913 and 1937.
2. Long neglected, the cemetery now only has two grave markers, and they were installed in recent years by family members. All metal plate markers the county used for interments are gone.
 - a) Simple, county-issued metal plate that reads: Lee Anderson / Died 1932.
 - b) A traditional headstone flush to the ground that reads: Elias Koser / 1857-1929.
3. In 1966, Clark County added a plaque to honor those buried here. It reads: In life forsaken / In death forgotten / These unknown pioneers / Built our destiny.
4. Not all who were buried here were residents of the poor farm. Clark County provided funerals and burial in the poor farm cemetery for anyone who had no family or whose relatives could not pay for the services.



Images and artifacts

1. Historic photos of the cemetery
2. Photographs of those interred here, if available

the experimental farm

A state agricultural experiment station, the farm became part of a national movement attempting to address a growing demand for agricultural and technical education.

THE EXPERIMENTAL FARM: *community education*

Exhibit description This exhibit describes why and how the county poor farm became an agricultural research and extension unit of Washington State University (WSU) and the purpose and history of the WSU's extension services.

Location The exhibit should be placed near former or present WSU research or extension activities.



Supporting messages

1. Congress passed the Morrill Land Grant Act of 1862 and Morrill Act of 1890, establishing land-grant colleges and making higher education available to agricultural and industrial workers.
2. Washington Agricultural College and School of Science, now WSU, opened as a land-grant college in 1892, three years after Washington became a state.
3. In 1943, Clark County set aside 28 acres of the poor farm for Washington State College, which became WSU, to use as an agricultural experiment station to help former World War II shipyard workers become successful farmers.
4. The main building was renovated as staff offices and administrative space on the main floor and indoor experimental laboratory space in the basement.
5. In 1949, Clark County retained the small county cemetery and 20 acres of the poor farm for Hazel Dell Community Park, but deeded the site's remaining 79 acres to WSU. Facilities included:
 - a) Greenhouses
 - b) Poultry diagnostic clinic
 - c) Entomology laboratory
 - d) Testing of underground irrigation systems

Images and artifacts

1. Historic images of early WSU extension and research activities on the site
2. Superintendent Dr. David F. Allmendinger

the experimental farm

THE EXPERIMENTAL FARM: *research and discoveries*

Exhibit description This exhibit focuses on the activities and accomplishments of the WSU Vancouver Research Extension Unit.

Location The exhibit should be placed near former or present WSU research or extension activity sites.

Supporting messages

1. From 1949 until early 2008, Washington State University operated an experimental agricultural station at the property.
2. Research included experimenting with a wide range of crops, including berries, tree fruits, vegetables, livestock forages and grains, and testing fertilizers and chemicals.
3. The first research on vegetable irrigation done in western Washington was done here, revealing potential for increased production.
4. Water consumption patterns were established for alfalfa, raspberries, bush beans, sweetcorn, cucumbers, cauliflower and strawberries.
5. The cause of severe blossom blast and die-back problems in pear orchards was diagnosed as boron deficiency.
6. Numerous tomato varieties were tested and recommended for western Washington.
7. Research into the successful use of cinnabar moths and tansy flea beetles as biological controls for the invasive, toxic weed, tansy ragwort.
8. Over time, agriculture became more specialized, with greater emphasis on high-yield crops. Today, environmental health and sustainability are important concerns.

Images and artifacts

1. Historical images of early WSU extension and research activities on the site
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the heritage farm

THE HERITAGE FARM: *community agriculture today*

Exhibit description The interpretive trail will conclude with a panel that explains the current purposes and uses of the 78th Street Heritage Farm and encourages the community to become involved in the many activities here.

Location This panel should be at one of the proposed community areas or where visitors can see mountain views.



Supporting messages

1. In 2008, Clark County resumed ownership of the property. It still maintains a partnership with Washington State University.
2. The site is the only large, open, single-owner parcel in the heart of the Hazel Dell area with views of Mount St. Helens, Mount Rainier and Mt. Hood.
3. The site integrates a variety of activities and resources that provide community access, including:
 - a) Community gardens
 - b) Plots where volunteers grow food for local food banks
 - c) Master Gardener greenhouses
4. The main purposes of the site are historic preservation, community learning, sustainable practices and environmental stewardship, and are guided by the following principles:
 - a) Commemorate Clark County's agricultural heritage.
 - b) Showcase and promote sustainable agricultural and building practices.
 - c) Support agricultural research that encourages sustainable farming practices.
 - d) Enhance community wellness and inspire lifelong learning.

Images and artifacts

1. Community members enjoying activities at the site
2. Volunteers engaged in various community projects

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Credits

- Photographs on Pages 3, 7, 11 and 12 and the cover, courtesy of Suze Hammond, Anderson family descendant.
 - Photographs on pages 4 and 18, courtesy of Washington State University.
 - Fold-out graphic interpretive panel opposite Page 8: Photograph of three people cutting down a tree, courtesy of Clark County Historical Museum (cchmo5534).
 - Fold-out graphic interpretive panel opposite Page 10: *Reflections on Pioneer Life in Hazel Dell, WA* by Marilla Anderson Gardner 1934-35, and all the images used, courtesy of Suze Hammond.
 - Page 15 and the fold-out graphic interpretive panel opposite: Photograph of a homeless camp beneath the north end of the Interstate Bridge, 1930s. *Oregon Historical Society, image no. bb001471*.
 - Page 17: Image of cemetery plat from Clark County, Washington records.
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