

## Depot Report for January 2026

The annual Holiday Bazaar, under the leadership of Jamie Whitman, was a big success, featuring all sorts of handmade crafts for sale and netting an income of \$677 during the 3-Saturday event.

Fundraising efforts for 2025 totaled over \$118,000 from 151 donors. Although our aim is to complete the train car project, the focus for 2026 will be toward the start of interior restoration and some needed site work.

We continue to seek grant assistance. A Department of Commerce application, aimed at small Washington non-profits in rural communities, is underway to support the architectural design fees for the next phase of interior restoration. We will start work on another state Heritage Grant soon. Kathleen received an email from the USDA Rural Communities grant coordinator saying some limited funds were finally released, but we just missed the cutoff point. There is a slim possibility that more funds might appear and he will let us know. That grant was for the train car project. A small grant from the Addium-Meter Foundation has funded adding mulch and rocks to the Palouse Prairie native plant hillside. Company employees moved our access railroad ties to make a retaining structure at the base of the hillside.

The Steering Committee approved a final payment of \$23,074.05 to Dan Thayer for the blasting and priming work he completed on the train cars. The Rolling Stock Committee will seek a general contractor to oversee completion of the job, including blasting, repairing, painting, and window replacement. The aim is to have “new” train exteriors by the end of summer.

Electrical Contractors NW is completing the hookups inside the building, bringing power from the new transformer to the upgraded panels in the basement. Soon the old meters on the building and overhead lines can be removed.

The 2025 Annual Report is being prepared and will be sent to over 400 households.

### **Directors report:**

We received this email from the City of Pullman thru Katy:

Good morning Katy!

Would you be able to share the below with the Whitman County Historical Society and the WSU History Department to see if they would like to be on the Planning Committee for the 250<sup>th</sup> signing. Thank you!

This summer marks 250 years since the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776, and with it, nationwide efforts to thoughtfully reflect on our past, present, and future. As part of this nation-wide celebration, the City of Pullman's Historic Preservation Commission is planning a series of events to celebrate this historic event.

**We would like you to be part of the Planning Committee for this summer's events!**

The kickoff meeting for the USA's 250th Celebration Planning Committee will be on Friday, January 16, 2026 at 3:00 PM in the Pullman City Hall, Council Chambers.

At this kickoff meeting we'll be discussing possible event ideas and setting a schedule for executing Pullman's celebration this summer. Join the Planning Committee and

RVSP to the kickoff meeting by filling out this form: <https://www.pullman-wa.gov/USA250>

If you can't make the meeting next Friday but still want to be involved, please fill out the form to get on the USA's 250th Celebration Planning Committee email list and we'll keep you in the loop.

We look forward to celebrating with you!

\*Worked with Krista to get students to the Perkins house to rack leaves. Thank you Krista!!

Trying to get the newsletter from Kathy. She can't seem to get emails to receive information. I can't seem to help her. Debbie is trying to contact her also.

### **Report from the Archive, January 2026:**

Open to Public, regular posted hours Wednesdays, 9:00 AM through 12:00 PM.

Uniontown Collection, 12 each Ledgers that go back to late 1890's that originally had a asking price of \$1,200 is now part of our collection. Previous owner was Dave Bauer, 111 Montgomery St. Uniontown WA 99179. Ph (509) 597-7220

Phone switchboard from Siesta Hotel nearly in our collection. I was pulled in by the statement from Jim Borgen with the statement "I have an original operator switchboard in excellent condition that I think would be an asset to your historical collections. It was in a motel in Colfax, Washington." After a visit to his home to view the switchboard, I learned from a phone call the next day that it was being donated to a Museum in Seattle, and his real intent from me was to track down which Hotel the Switchboard was in by the phone number on the incoming line.

Anette Pettenger, Archive volunteer, appears to be fading out of Archives, been virtually inactive at archives since her vacation to Hawaii last summer. I've felt that she should come in when she has the notion without me contacting her.

Had a visitor to look at Gladish drawings, Joe Fitzgerald <[collegerevival@gmail.com](mailto:collegerevival@gmail.com)>, who is "increasingly interested in seeing Pullman thrive and preserving its history. A few close friends and I are considering Gladish and options to preserve it since it closed. I was told that the WCHS might have original floor plans or a copy."

Regards,  
Alex