

WCHS Monthly Reports July 2023

Depot Report for July

- All reports for the 21-23 Heritage Capital Projects grant have been completed and a request to expediate the writing of a contract for the 23-25 grant has been submitted.
- The Restoration Committee has begun work to define parameters for the bid packages to be compiled by Design West for windows, doors, and soffits.
- Pioneer's work is completed and final payments to them made; CMR is operating under a 5% hold back, awaiting the completion of gutters and tile trim for one of the dormers.
- About 20 volunteers helped to clean up the grounds on Saturday, July 9 – pulling weeds, weed eating the hillside, window washing, etc.
- The Fundraising Committee has proposed plans and a budget for hosting gatherings at the depot to inform potential donors about the progress made so far and plans for the future. A four-page document to hand out was prepared by the Marketing Committee, along with a single-page sheet breaking down all costs and projected costs. (See attached)
- The Events Committee is finalizing plans for Depot Days – August 18-19. The theme is based on local agriculture – titled “Tractors, Grains & Trains”. The passenger car will be set up like a WSU demonstration train; groups are bringing antique tractors for the parking lot.
- The Historic Preservation Commission's annual walking tour, July 21, will start at the depot. There will be a commission member at each stop to explain this year's theme which centers around underserved and underrepresented populations.

Director's Report

- Got a large donation of items from the Paddock and Dolittle family. Alex will go through the items, they are at the Perkins House right now.
- Received a coverlet that was made between 1846 and 1856. It was owned by the Blount family. They would like it to be housed at the Perkins house. That is where their grandparents met and fell in love. They were friends of Perkins family.
- Attended ice cream social.
- Put ads in the paper and social media for ice cream social.

Museum Report July 2023

Work continues on various projects at the Roy Chatters Newspaper & Printing Museum. Work is focused on the Colfax and Palouse newspapers by volunteers Alex Otero and Don Myott. Rarely a Saturday happens without visitors. Janet Barstow is working with Wil Smiley to offer letterpress printing classes.

Report from the Archive, July 2023:

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

Staff have been present throughout working the following:

Collating and cataloging donated collections and entering data into PastPerfect.

Notables: Accomplishing online requests, research, and responses, heavy this past month as well, seems to be more Genealogy than historical.

Chapel Report

HTC had a small group come to visit the chapel and then on to the museum. They came from Spokane after following information from the web site. They gave a generous donation to WCHS after their two tours. The family across the street from the chapel continue to mow and have sprayed for bugs around the base of the church foundation -- mostly ants.

Perkins report

June-July 2023

June's main attraction was the Ice Cream Social. Leading up to the day, volunteers came in on an individual basis to clean and work in the yard. The event took place on June 17th. We had a great showing of community members and quite a few members from the Perkins family. They made a generous donation and are interested in helping move forward with any major projects. We discussed how wood repair and painting is the next big project; grants are needed.

In July we had a few issues with the sprinkler system. Twice, a gauge within the sprinkler boxes has been leaking. We have had to turn off the water while repairs are being made. We are currently waiting on the second repair.

We have continued to have visitors, along with a few requests to open the house outside of regular hours. Sundays continue to be slower, with some days having no visitors.

Talks are continuing with the Swoope family about the property next door. The Perkins house would greatly benefit from purchasing the house and property. Potential benefits:

1. Develop property line and have influence over the immediate surrounding area of the house (you never know what kind of neighbor you may have)
2. Parking possibilities
3. Storage! The house comes with a large garage that would be extremely helpful
4. Possible Colfax museum. The Perkins House receives a lot of items that aren't related to the Perkins' or the time period we have focused on. However, the items are still of value and interesting to the area of Colfax. The house is pretty full now--having an extra space would be a great addition. We could coordinate hours with the Perkins House on weekends.
5. Office space for the Historical society (will free up space in Perkins house that is currently being used)