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Landmark Nomination Support

Sample Application

Applicant

Lisa Hasselman

Discipline

Preservation of Historic Place/Artifact

Project Title

Fujioka Family Farm Landmark Nomination

Short Project Description

Nominate the Fujioka Family Farm on Vashon Island for King County Landmark status with the assistance of historic preservation consultant Holly Taylor.

Project Venue Notes or Comments

We will be working with our consultant Holly Taylor to determine whether the Landmark Nomination should include the entire 23.9 acre property or just the northern 10 acres that was cleared and farmed by the Fujioka Family and where all structures both historic and current are located.

Project Description

The Fujioka Family Farm was stewarded for most of the 19th century by Sadaji and Tsune Fujioka and their eldest son, Tashio. The family with six surviving children rented one of the two residences on the property, the 1915 cedar shingled house ("Hanson Cabin") from at least 1930-1934 and then returned after incarceration during WWII to eventually purchase the property and move into the 1927 main house ("Fujioka Farm House"). In the 1950s, Tashio Fujioka won multiple awards from Washington State for growing over 5-tons of strawberries per acre on the northern 10 acres. Both residences and four outbuildings were lived in and used for farming by the Fujioka family and still maintain the overall form, massing, location and primary fenestration as when the farm was in operation. Sadaji and Tsune's youngest children, Mary and Susie sold the property to Lisa Hasselman and Chris Hedgpeth in 2014 who returned the property to farming and still harvest fuki and apples planted by the Fujiokas to sell at their on-farm farmstand and at the Vashon Farmers Market.

The 23.9 acre property was clear cut of its native evergreen forests in the 1800s and was owned at the turn of the century by the Port Blakely Mill Company. The first known structure on the property, a two-story, cedar shingled residence ("Hanson Cabin") was built approximately 1915 when the land was owned by John L. Hanson. A second residence, "Fujioka Farm House," was built in 1927. The first clear evidence of the Fujioka family residing at the property is a 1932 photograph of the family of eight in front of the Hanson Cabin. According to Martha Fujioka Nakamoto, the Fujioka's eldest daughter, after Susie Fujioka is born in 1930 at the "Lande" property, the family moved to the "Dyrness'...where Tashio [Fujioka] now lives." Martha Fujioka ~2005 autobiographical history, *The Yesteryears*, p. 2. She continued:

Our new home and place was 5 acres [the property is 23.9 acres and was that same size at that time], a large house with no electricity or running water. Dad dug a well [which still remains] so there was plenty of water. Every day we manually drew water in buckets, carried to house for use in kitchen, laundry and furo (bath). You can imagine the buckets full we had to carry. The place was rented under proxy (W. Tanamura) since Tashio was still under age.

The Yesteryears, p. 3.

The Fujioka's lease ended and they were forced to leave the property about 1934. During this time, according to later accounts by Tashio Fujioka, a midwife lived and worked out of the Fujioka Farm House and multiple babies were born in what for decades became the elder Fujioka's bedroom and is now our dining room.

The Fujioka family was the largest family, two parents and six children, to be forcibly removed from Vashon in 1942. Although most of the Fujioka's children did not return to Vashon after incarceration, Sadaji, Tsune, Tashio and their youngest daughter Susie did. In 1946, they built a three-bedroom addition onto the Fujioka Farm House and were able to purchase the property in 1951. At some point prior to their purchase, the Hanson Cabin had its front and rear porches/wings removed and it was moved about 300 feet south away from SW 140th where it currently resides. More research is needed to determine who constructed the four currently standing outbuildings (a chicken coop, a shed with the original privy, and two garages) but they all appear clearly in the 1961 aerial photograph from Pacific Aerial Surveys and appear in Fujioka family photographs from the mid-1950s.

Sadaji, Tsune and Tashio farmed the northern portion of the property mostly in strawberries and lingonberries. In the 1950s, Tashio won multiple awards by the State of Washington for growing more than 5 tons of strawberries per acre. One of the metal signs he was awarded hangs at our current farmstand. In the 1970s, Tashio Fujioka stopped farming and went to work at the post office. He planted a number of still-standing trees like red and black pines that are traditionally planted at a Japanese garden entrance and five coast redwoods that are now over 100' and are the tallest trees on the property.

When we purchased the property in 2014, we mainly focused on returning the area around the house to farmland in order to support ourselves as organic farmers and to forest stewardship so we could restore the majority of the property to native evergreen forest. We did so in order to find a fulfilling and healthy profession, connect more with the land and address climate change. We have added permanent farming beds, three green houses and a covered wash station in the past 10 years. As farmers, we still benefit from the Fujioka's farming efforts. We harvest and sell Fuki, a traditional Japanese vegetable that the family planted near the irrigation pond. We harvest and sell King apples from a tree they planted near the Hanson Cabin. Our efforts to work in the soil are easier because they removed large amounts of rocks from the glacial till soil.

We feel incredibly lucky to have discovered the rich cultural history of the property and the connections the Fujioka family descendants still have to the place where the family would gather for the holidays every winter. We have made minimal changes to the structures on the property - in order to preserve them until we had the time and resources to begin restoration. We put metal roofs onto the Hanson Cabin and one of the small sheds to replace dilapidated tarps. We added structural supports inside the Hanson Cabin to support the new roof and in one of the garages in order to support the solar array we installed in 2015.

At this point, we are able to earn a basic living by farming and are turning to needed repairs and restorations on the structures. We have just begun working with an architect, Hoshide Wanzer, who is concurrently working on restoration of the Mukai Fruit Barrelling Plant and a structural engineer to move forward with returning the Hanson Cabin to a functioning residence and then make improvements on the Fujioka Family House so that it can survive another 100 years. Having two residences on the property would allow us to have seasonal farm interns who otherwise would not be able to find affordable housing on Vashon.

We want the historic value of these resources to be preserved and shared and that is why we are embarking on this landmarking process. This nomination feels urgent as Mary and Susie Fujioka have passed away and none of the Fujioka descendants now live in the State of Washington. The Fujioka family was not well recognized on Vashon due to a number of reasons including that their family name was mis-dictated in every U.S. census. The descendants, especially Martha's grandson Trent, have brought their history to life by continuing to visit and share photographs and documents to tell their family's incredible story of resilience and environmental stewardship. As the buildings are in disrepair, we hope to preserve them before they and their stories slip away.

September - November 2024: Conduct research on the history of the property, related historical themes, and physical changes over time to buildings and landscape, examining physical and digital collections including the Vashon Maury Island Heritage Association, Vashon Library, Washington State Historical Society, Pacific Lutheran University Archives, King County Archives, Puget Sound Regional Archives and other regional repositories;

November -December 2024: Prepare King County Landmark Nomination Form, including property data, physical description, and statement of significance;

November - December 2024: Prepare associated photographic documentation, maps and other required nomination attachments;

January 2025: Revise and amend nomination submission as needed, based on feedback from King County Historic Preservation Program staff and other reviewers.

Project Impact

As a commercial produce and flower farm, Forest Garden Farm, the property and what is happening on it have high public visibility for a privately owned parcel. Our nearly year-round on-farm farmstand sees a few thousand visitors a year. We have used it as a medium of communicating the continuity of farming efforts from the Fujioka Family Farm to Forest Garden Farm. See photograph of farmstand history display and brochure. We also sell at the Vashon Farmers Market every season, May through October, in the center of town. We have our farm brochure at our market booth, and we have discussed our farm's history with many community members while they shop.

Multiple times a year, we welcome community members on farm tours. The largest to date was our participation in 2023 in the Vashon Center for the Arts Garden Tour. Over 1200 attendees walked

our farm in a weekend and they had our farm brochures laminated as guides discussing the Fujioka's farming history and a small display with more information about the property's history. We also regularly host farming workshops for new farmers.

We look for partners to help us share the history of the property. Holly Taylor has offered to expand the presentation she will make at the King County Landmarks Commission designation hearing, and turn it into a public presentation. Bruce Haulman and Elsa Croonquist at the Vashon Heritage Museum have stated they would welcome a zoom talk or some other to-be-determined format as part of their lecture series in the fall or next spring. Other possible partners, with whom we have previously worked, are Mukai Farm & Garden and/or the Vashon Island Growers Association for collaborating on something with a broader focus. We have previously collaborated in other projects honoring the Fujioka's family history in the [Revisiting Washington project](#) that is a tour of Japanese American Agricultural sites and in a [two-part documentary](#) on the Japanese American presence on the island.

We have and will share the history we are collecting through our social media channels. We regularly post on Instagram including about historical aspects of the farm:

www.instagram.com/forestgardenfarm. We wrote a short biography of Tsune Fujioka for the Vashon Heritage Museum's Women's History Month social media campaign.

Long term, landmark designation will support our stewardship efforts through access to the technical assistance offered by the King County Historic Preservation Program to landmark property owners.

Relevant Expertise / Experience / Accomplishments

While we have not pursued Landmark status previously, my husband and I have years of experience in managing grant-funded projects in order to build out our farm infrastructure, achieve and maintain WSDA organic and Real Organic certifications and return the surrounding forest, which had areas overgrown with invasive plants, into a healthy native forest. These rehabilitation projects received grant funds from the Tilth Alliance, King Conservation District, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Washington State and private donors.

We have maintained the architectural and physical integrity of the structures on the property for the past ten years.

For this project, we are working with historic preservation consultant Holly Taylor, who has successfully nominated many historic properties to the King County Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places. Prior to establishing Past Forward in 2003, she served as a cultural resources specialist for the King County Historic Preservation Program. She holds degrees in cultural anthropology and architecture history and theory, and is currently working to complete an Interdisciplinary Ph.D. in the Built Environment at University of Washington. She also serves as an affiliate instructor in the UW Department of Urban Design and Planning where she teaches a graduate course in historic preservation planning.

If we are not fully funded, we will seek funding from other sources and contract with Ms. Taylor on a phased schedule until all funds are raised.

Advancing Equity

Our buildings are primarily associated with the Island’s Japanese American and Agricultural communities. The research we conduct through this project may reveal additional historical relationships to marginalized or underrepresented communities, and we are particularly interested in documenting how agriculture has intersected with immigration and race in our island’s history.

This project seeks to preserve the history and resilience of a Japanese American family who immigrated in the early 1900s and began farming on Vashon Island. They faced barriers to land ownership forcing them to rent and move multiple times on Vashon and were forcibly imprisoned in the 1940s during World War II. Despite these injustices, in 1951, the family returned and purchased the property on which they had formerly lived and farmed in the 1930s and stewarded this land into the 2000s. My husband and I purchased this property from the Fujioka family in 2014 and are returning it to native evergreen forest and organic farming. The family is still connected to and visits the property a few times a year. This project seeks to honor the Fujioka’s legacy here on Vashon by researching, preserving and communicating it to the community.

Project Budget

Expenses	Amount
Planning	\$0
Design	\$0
Construction	\$0
People	\$8,000
Soft Costs	\$0
FacilPurchase	\$0
Fundraising	\$0
Services	\$0
Promotion	\$0
TranspShipping	\$0
Document/Assess	\$0
EquipFixtures	\$0
In-kind Expense	\$0
Other Expense	\$0
Expense Total:	\$8,000
Income	Amount
Applicant	\$0
Foundations	\$0
Corporations	\$0
Government	\$0
IndivDonors	\$0
Earned	\$0
In-kind Income	\$0
Other Income	\$0
4Culture Request	\$8,000
Income Total:	\$8,000

Project Budget Notes

The expenses associated with this Project are all devoted to Consultant Holly Taylor's fee. If we do not receive full funding from 4Culture, we will apply to the National Trust for Historic Preservation as well as other sources.

Consultant Estimate Uploaded

Dated and written estimates are required if hiring a historical consultant or other professional to help with your landmark nomination. Estimate 1: PDF from Holly Taylor, PastForward NW Cultural Services.

Support Materials

Support materials may include letters of support, drawings, reports, images or audio/video to help illustrate your proposal, no more than 2MB each. Externally Hosted Audio/Video URLs may also be submitted in addition to other attachments.

Image Descriptions

- The front and back of our 2023 farm brochure that includes some Fujioka family history.
- The current history display in our on-farm farmstand that includes photographs of Tsune and Sadaji Fujioka and Chris and I standing in the same spot 45 years later and Tashio Fujioka on his tractor in his strawberry fields.
- The short biography we wrote about Tsune Fujioka for the Vashon Heritage Museum's women's history month social media campaign.