

1. A YEOMALT PARK & CABIN HISTORY

NATIONAL HISTORIC REGISTER -- NARRATIVE OF SIGNIFICANCE

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INTRODUCTION -- SUMMARY STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Historic Camp Major Hopkins is an architecturally distinctive and unique log cabin at Camp Yeomalt Park -- Bainbridge Island's best public example of rustic log construction. It is historically significant socially and militarily.

Camp Major Hopkins was built between 1935 and 1937 by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) as a Scout Camp and park during a time of great economic hardship -- The Great Depression. It was the only building erected by the WPA on the Island. It contributed to historic events and movements that define us -- "New Deal" WPA programs (1935-1937), US military coastal defenses and US-USSR relations during WW II (1942-1945), and Scouting before and after WW II (1935-1942 and 1946-1955). Camp Hopkins' history includes three federal programs-- one social and two military. First, it was built by unemployed local craftsmen of the WPA. Second, it was part of the local US Army 202nd Coast Artillery headquarters campus. Third, the cabin played a role in US-Soviet relations when used by USSR Merchant Marines while their ship was being repaired at the US Navy-administered Winslow Shipyard.

NAMES

The WPA referred to it briefly as "Yeomalt Park. "Scouts of troop 497 named it "Camp Major Hopkins" in 1935 to honor the founder of local Scouting. 27 During WW II, it was the "US Army 202nd Coast Artillery Bainbridge Island Headquarters." 60-63 Over the years, youth groups simply referred to it simply as "Camp Hopkins." In 2000, the park district changed the name to "Camp Yeomalt Park."

YEOMALT

"Yeomalt" is a geographic place name which stems from the Lushootseed dialect of Coast Salish word "Yeboa'lt" ("ya'boq" or "fight"),

Anglicized and spelled "Yeomalt.." 20 The name refers to the legend of a fight between South Wind and North Wind that reminded canoe voyagers of the treacherous waters near the point. 23 Contemporary meteorologists describe this as a "convergence zone."

BOUNDARY & OWNERSHIP

The Scout camp boundary has never changed. Since 1935, it has been held in trust for Boy Scouts and Island youth by several owners, including (in order) Eric Pousard, Kitsap County, Chief Seattle Council of BSA, Olympic Council of BSA, Chief Seattle Council (again after Olympic Council dissolved), Camp Hopkins Youth Committee, and the Bainbridge Is. Park & Recreation District since 1987, who accepted the property with covenants acknowledging the historical significance of the log cabin. (See: Sec. No.8, Bibliography, Property Records)

AREA OF SIGNIFICANCE: ARCHITECTURE

Camp Hopkins is the most architecturally and historically significant publicly-owned log building on Bainbridge Is. It is a unique example of what was once considered to be an ideal Scout Camp. Built with local materials and with its massive, double, stone fireplaces and chimney, it is an unique and distinctive local example of WPA camp-style architecture.

AN IDEAL SCOUT CAMP

Camp Hopkins' WPA plans have not been found in federal, state, county or local government archives. However, Camp Hopkins' former resident caretaker, Ray Anderson reports having seen plans for Camp Hopkins in the 1970s: "They were published and popularized in an early (circa 1918-1934) Boy Scout Handbook for Boys and promoted as the ideal Scout Camp." 46

The camp's log construction was inspired by Scouting literature and the writings and illustrations of Dan Beard and Ben Hunt in Scouting and associated publications. Abby Van Slyke, camp architecture historian, suggests the designs for Camp Major Hopkins likely came from a 1927 Boy Scout publication, Camp Site Development Plans. 77

(A ca.1938 letter written by Major Hopkins indicates that the cabin was designed by "a crack Seattle architect" who has yet to be identified.)

This "ideal camp's" uncommon double fireplaces allowed for indoor or outdoor campfires. Its diverse stone types offer opportunities to interpret regional geology. The concrete floor tolerated rough use. An east wing opened onto the main hall and offered an elevated wooden stage for skits and programs. The cabin was sized for one or two troops-- 32 to 64 boys and their leaders. For a troop's award ceremonies, there was room for parents, too. The surrounding forest and meadow provided additional places to test camping skills and resources to heat and maintain the cabin.

With Western Washington's rich logging history, growth in youth education in the 1920s and 1930s, and WPA projects encouraging the use

of indigenous materials, it is not surprising that log buildings were popular, especially with Scouts. The historic registered Jackson Hall Memorial Community Hall serves Scouts in Silverdale and three log cabins serve a Scout Troop and district offices in Bremerton, Kitsap County 47. In Jefferson County, a "Scout House" served Scouts in Port Townsend. The region's largest Scout campus, Camp Parsons, near Brinnon on Hood Canal, retains vestiges of rustic architecture. 78 None of these resemble the Scout Camp at Yeomalt.

ISLAND LOG BUILDINGS

An inventory of Bainbridge Is. log cabins and rustic structures by local historic preservationists lists over 40 -- in varying conditions. 9 Old growth trees were considered too large for log building construction. Most were milled into lumber for board-and-batten or wood-frame buildings. Exceptions: The 1865 Luke McRedmond cabin and barn of adzed and re-shaped cedar logs. Log construction was typically associated with the emergence of second and third growth trees more suitably sized. Tree ring counts indicate that Camp Hopkins' forest was first logged in the 1890s.

Camp Hopkins remains the prime example of public rustic log building construction on Bainbridge Island. Its log walls were saddle-notched and chinked with shipyard oakum (See: Narrative of Description). Only one other Island log building rivals it in construction sophistication-- the privately-owned, historic Osterberg residence at Port Madison. Other publicly-owned Island log buildings and structures include: two WPA open-sided pole shelters with fireplaces (1935) at West Pt. Madison Nature Preserve (also inspired by Major Hopkins); the Gideon log cabin (1949) at Gideon Park in Winslow; and the three-sided log cabin (ca. 1950) and the log lean-to shelter (1950), both at Fay-Bainbridge State Park. 9

AREA OF SIGNIFICANCE: SOCIAL HISTORY

Camp Major Hopkins is strongly associated with two significant social and community improvement efforts during a period of severe economic hardship -- federal and county government assisted community social and work programs, and youth education through Scouting.

THE WPA: 1935 - 1937

The 1930's Great Depression further depressed an Island economy whose major lumber mill had closed in 1925. Though Alien Land Laws prevented foreign-born Japanese from owning land, farmers, led by those from Japan, laboriously pioneered growing berries and specialty greenhouse crops. Work at Winslow Shipyard was sparse and sporadic. Some families maintained subsistence farms -- gardens, a few chickens, maybe a cow -- and lived off the sea. Neighbors shared. Though worse places existed to endure hard times, many had no work. Some local unemployed men were skilled wood workers-- shipwrights, mill workers and carpenters.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt's "New Deal" WPA program put over 8-million unemployed people to work nationally before it was dissolved in

1943. Elsewhere in the state, the Public Works Administration (PWA) created large projects such as Grand Coulee Dam
94 and the CCC provided rural work experience, education, room and board for unemployed youth. "New Deal" programs began on the Island in 1933 and 1934 when the USDA created jobs draining swamps for mosquito control and County welfare relief sponsored work at two local schools.
13

(It is noteworthy that the swamp drainage work was done in West Port Madison County Park, today's West Port Madison Nature Preserve, was at the urging of Major Hopkins as were later improvements there also built by the WPA, included two rustic pole shelters with fireplaces and an out house built originally as a Cub Scout Camp. That park and Camp Yeomalt were the Island's first two public parks.)

WPA projects employed adult workers at dozens of community projects in Kitsap County-- 14 on Bainbridge Is. between 1935 and 1939. Camp Hopkins was built with two of the 14 WPA grants.¹³ According to the WPA proposal description, the log cabin and Yeomalt Park were "...for the use of the community, civic organizations, and the Boy Scouts" and "...as a Recreational Park and Playfield for the young people of the community -- a much needed improvement,"¹⁴ A follow-up 1937 grant installed the cabin's cement floor and porch, dug the well deeper and completed the park.

The construction of Camp Hopkins represented a local response to the opportunities presented by federal work relief programs. Eric Pousard (1883-1960), a former shipyard employee and local merchant created the project to benefit the Island's Scouting program while offering much needed employment.¹⁶

THE BUILDERS & PROJECT DETAILS

"The men who built the log cabin were all in their 30s or 40s -- men out of work and needing a job," recalls Alfred Pousard, a 1935 Island Scout who visited the site regularly with his father. "These were tough times for many. The WPA didn't have a lot of money for materials. I'm sure most of the trees for the cabin's logs came right off of the land."²⁷

Work on the cabin began immediately upon federal approval. Within three months, land was cleared, the log cabin built including the 22-foot high double fireplace and chimney and a 35-foot-deep dug well for a total of \$5,178.¹⁴

Of that, \$4,195 were federal funds to hire unemployed labor consisting of a skilled stone mason, carpenter and a cement finisher; "intermediate" skilled foreman, stone mason helper, carpenter helper, and time keeper; and unskilled laborers plus \$375 for a supervisor. The US Treasury also paid \$125 for five wheelbarrows, six rakes, six axes, 12 picks, 12 shovels, plus office and first aid supplies! ¹⁴

Kitsap County paid for materials and equipment rentals for a total of \$608, including: \$84 for Portland cement, \$60 for cedar shakes, \$58 for 1,160 lineal-feet of 7" dia. fir logs, \$48 for a four-day rental of a three-ton log truck for four days, \$24 rented a horse team for two days, and \$14 went for 1,400 lineal-feet of 2" dia. fir poles. ¹⁴

Everything else that was needed was acquired by Eric Pousard, who, with his wife, Ethyl, lobbied County Commissioners for the project and enabled public acquisition of the land. Pousard had two sons in Scouting and became a Scoutmaster. He helped lobby Commissioners to sell a tax-foreclosed property at Yeomalt "for Scout purposes only." He bought it, arranged with WPA to build a log building on it, then sold the land back to the County for \$1. 16

Eric Pousard, who owned an electrical business, helped a wealthy family and the Scout camp benefited. His son, Alfred, recalls, "My dad was very fortunate -- flush with cash from helping the Westinghouse family electrify a palatial estate at Manzanita Bay. Almost every morning during the WPA cabin construction work, the project foreman would stop by our home and provide Dad with a list of needed materials that the WPA did not provide. Dad acquired or purchased all items to insure a timely completion of the job. He regularly visited the log cabin and photographed the construction as it proceeded. 27

"Camp Hopkins reflects an enthusiasm and pride of workmanship that testifies to the prevailing economic climate and the relief many craftsmen must have felt to be employed again and doing work for the public good," wrote preservationist architect John Kvapil of Jones & Jones Architects in 1988. 93

SCOUTING

Camp Hopkins is the local place most significantly associated with the history of Scouting on Bainbridge Island. The camp began as a dream of Boy Scouts and Scouting, a youth citizenship and recreational movement that began in England in 1908 under Lord Baden Powell. It spread quickly. In 1910, the Boy Scouts of America incorporated in Washington, D.C. 3 A council formed the same year in Kitsap County at Bremerton. By 1916, 100 boys were in troops there. 4

In 1912, a YWCA camp for young girls was established on the beach at Yeomalt Point.¹³ The Island's first Scout troop was sponsored nearby in 1922 by Rolling Bay Presbyterian Church under the leadership of Scoutmaster Major Maurice J. Hopkins, a retired US Army Engineer and civic leader.³⁰ Scouting emphasized community service, self-reliance and character building through outdoor recreation, hiking, camping and other adventure programs. It also valued resourceful woodcraft and promoted cabin building such as Camp Hopkins.

Socialization, merit badge work, meals, camaraderie, singing and story telling were treasured experiences around Camp Hopkins' fireplaces. This facility provided an ideal environment where young people learned and developed a broad spectrum of outdoor recreational skills before camping, hiking, biking and canoe voyaging adventures. Typically, Island Scouts gained experience at Camp Hopkins to prepare them to go to Camp Parsons and other places during the summer.

Camp Hopkins' primary users for all but four of its years have been Scouts and youth groups. It has been a center for positive and constructive activities emphasizing community service. It provided experiences which shaped lives. Scouts such as Earl Hanson from the

1930s helped found the Island's Volunteer Fire Department and emergency services.^{1, 35} They filled diverse social roles-- business leaders, skilled craftsmen, scholars, teachers, religious leaders, public servants, athletes, parents and some became Scoutmasters. One tenderfoot Scout here in 1955 became Washington's four-term Secretary of State -- Ralph Munro.

Munro likes to quote Washingtonian US Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas's advice to President John F. Kennedy who had never slept upon the ground, "City kids need to sleep on the ground once in a while when they are growing up. It is good for them!" Munro continues, "And that's what we did at Camp Hopkins. We slept on the ground around a campfire. I spent many a night camped both inside and outside of the Camp in the 1950s." 31

"We were a happy bunch of morons and knuckle heads," mused Ed Selfors, popular retired teacher, fisherman and carver. "I was in Troop 497 in the late-1940s. We were really young. Scouting taught us a lot!"

"We all used Camp Hopkins," Selfors continued. "It was a neat place to develop our Scouting skills. We used to have cook outs and work on merit badges there. We didn't cook anything fancy-- baked potatoes, sausage, Spam-- simple menus. We camped under the stars. I really have to take my hat off to the adult leaders who looked after all us little shavers and taught us-- Frank Gagne, Arlis Yenne, George Munro, and Ray Tudor. They were terrific and often took us to places like Lake Keechelus and into the Cascades and Olympics. We all came back safely." 43

Markers and photos attest that a third of the Scouts who first used Camp Hopkins were Japanese Americans. When Camp Hopkins needed maintenance in the early 1980s, Paul Sakai, a Nisei who was thankful that his sons had been Scouts, contributed a piece of real estate that sold for \$15,000! 42, 71 The donation enabled log cabin repairs, cedar-shake roof replacement, and a caretaker's dwelling.

Camp Hopkins has served three generations of Scouts and other organized youth groups. (In addition to Scouts, recent decades have seen use by Bluebirds, Campfire Girls, Girl Scouts, Indian Guides, Boys' & Girls' Club, park district classes and other youth groups. 74) Adult youth-leadership training has also been a part.⁵² It served the Island and others in Kitsap and occasionally King County.⁷³ Programs and former Scouts of Camp Hopkins continue to contribute to individual and community development, health, safety and welfare.

MAJOR M. J. HOPKINS

Camp Hopkins is associated with the founder of Island Scouting. It was his dream and inspiration, too. Even after he retired, he frequented the cabin to share stories with Scouts at campfires. It was a part of his and the Island's first recreational plan. It is the only building surviving with integrity that is associated with Hopkins. (Hopkins residence has been extensively remodelled.)

While Hopkins was known as a brilliant man by his former Scouts, none knew the details of his professional career. He was a scientist,

linguist, engineer and geologist. At 86, he was invited by Washington Gov. Albert D. Rosellini and US officials to the 30th anniversary of the ground-breaking of one of humankind's greatest achievements. For two years, between 1929 and 1931, Major Hopkins answered the call to help his friend President Herbert Hoover and Major John S. Butler, district head of the US Army Corps of Engineers, to help them make one of humankind's most important decisions. Major Hopkins chose the site of Grand Coulee Dam, then the largest man-made development in history.¹⁰ While doing so, he continued some community service and commitments to Island Scouts, and relinquished involvement in others because of travel associated with his work.

Major Maurice Jayne Hopkins (1877-1971) was born a US citizen in Geneva, Switzerland, during his parents' travels on a world tour with former President U. S. Grant. Grant had appointed Hopkins' father ambassador to Belgium. Maurice Hopkins' parents were American: his father was a journalist and founder of two Paris, France, newspapers-- the English language American Morning News and French language Le Matin. Maurice attended school in England, through arrangements of Lord Baden-Powell, founder of the world Scouting movement, who also attended Charterhouse. Hopkins was the only American in his graduating class at Charterhouse, a prestigious private school that trained future British leaders. He developed a strong British accent. In 1904, he graduated in engineering and geology from Royal Belgium University of Liege. He married Ethyl Menzies of Philadelphia and their three daughters were also born outside the U.S.-- in France, Morocco and Japan. Well traveled, Hopkins visited every continent except Antarctica and Australia.¹⁰

Hopkins spoke six languages and helped then President-to-be Herbert Hoover translate his "Principles of Mining" into French. He worked for several European firms including the French Mining Co. and helped locate the dam and reservoir on the headwaters of the Lez River in 1907. ¹⁰

When Germany entered WW I, he served with the French in the Red Cross Ambulance detail, and later in the US Army as a Captain of Engineers. ¹⁰

Hopkins married his second wife, Ida Mae, in Casper, WY, in 1921 and moved to Bainbridge Is. The Hopkins home was north of Rolling Bay (at today's Walter Thomas residence, 12202 Sunrise Dr.). It has been extensively remodeled, island old timer, Bill Weld observed and photos indicate. Just north of his home are two log cabin residences built about this time. ³⁰

Weld was a member of Hopkins' and the Island's first Scout troop, Rolling Bay #1-- "RB1"-- founded by Hopkins in 1922 and sponsored by Rolling Bay Presbyterian Church. "The Scouts met at the church and in Hopkins' home," Weld recalled. "The first project Hopkins had us do was to cut a fir pole, de-bark, paint and erect it as the first flag pole for the church. We camped out-- hiked somewhere on the Island and after cooking dinner, Major would throw more logs onto the fire. He was a good storyteller around the campfire, told about the Army-- pretty fascinating for a 12-year-old who'd never been off the Island." ³⁰

Maj. Hopkins was a consulting geologist with an office in Seattle. He had investigated the 1928 failure of the St. Francis Dam in Los Angeles which killed 500 people when approached, soon after, by Maj. John S. Butler, Head of the Army Corps of Engineers, to serve on the Grand Coulee Dam site investigation committee. Maj. Butler left the organizing of the dam and reservoir investigation to Hopkins who spent two years on it. He knew you couldn't build a dam on basalt and that the four miles of granite in the canyon was the only place for the construction. He didn't waiver in his conviction. His old friend-- and by that time President-- Herbert Hoover was also on the committee. The final Corps reports favoring dam construction with Hopkins' choice of location went to the 73rd Congress in late 1931. 10

For five years, he served in Alaska as part of a US Bureau of Entomology scientific team studying animal parasites and the mosquito menace. He'd done similar studies in Spain. 10

Though investigations for Grand Coulee were stressful and time consuming, Hopkins still took Island Scouts camping and to the Boy Scouts' Camp Parsons on Hood Canal. Arthur Barnett, famous civil rights attorney (Hirabayashi vs. the US) was on the staff there in the 1930s. His wife, Virginia, recalls her husband describing the Major, "Hopkins took troops to Parsons each summer. Arthur described him as a very pleasant man." 56

Historian Elsie Frankland Marriott wrote, "'Captain M. J. Hopkins was a prominent member of the Island's first Chamber of Commerce when it was established in the late 1920s." 13

In the 1920s and 1930s, he served on many committees. His Scouts assisted at civic events. He was a Port Madison Republican precinct committeeman 5, a Rolling Bay Port Commissioner and an officer in the Bainbridge Is. Community Club. In 1935, Scouts of Troop 497 named the WPA-built Scout Camp in honor of their aging founder. Major Hopkins retired from being a Scoutmaster and continued to visit the Camp and to tell campfire stories. 27

In Kitsap County-- A History, Brian Roberts listed Hopkins as an "Island author ... a lecturer and writer on scientific subjects." 17 Hopkins loved hunting and fishing and wrote two books about Fishing in the North Pacific and Secrets of Sea Fishing. 10

In the late 1930s, the Major was a co-founder of the Sportsman's Club and served on the Island Recreation Committee with State Sen. Gertie Johnson (the Island's first woman legislator), School Board Chair Mrs. Frank Mariner; Lt. A. L. Gemme, Navy Recreation Officer for Fort Ward; P. F. Ruidl, Supt. of Schools; and E. A. Black, Winslow Shipyard. Hopkins inventoried recreational opportunities and drew a 1940 map for their "Bainbridge Recreational Project"-- the Island's first recreational plan. On it was included "Camp Hopkins"-- the Island's second park. 79

In Sept., 1941, Major Hopkins, 64, was appointed chairman of the Island's Civil Defense Committee. In the middle of WW II's pain, Hopkins' made prejudicial anti-Japanese statements at a public meeting and in a letter to the Bainbridge Review. 5, 11 They echoed Washington State's 1920's racist Alien Land Laws. The statements were heart-

breaking to Island citizens of Japanese ancestry who read news reports while uprooted and forced to live in internment camps. 37

The comments were confronted by community leaders such as Rolling Bay Presbyterian Church Minister, Rev. T. Murdock Hale; educator Malcolm Moran; and Bainbridge Review editors, Walt and Milly Woodward. Their stand was an affirmation that America, its Constitution and Bill of Rights were created equal for all. 5, 21

Major Hopkins and his wife sold their Island home in November, 1945. Few knew of his professional life as engineer, geologist and entomologist. He left a legacy of civic dedication, service to youth, memories of fishing and campfires (many at the cabin which bears his name) and an echo of painful war-time words. The Hopkins moved to Brinnon, WA, (on Hood Canal south of Camp Parsons) and to LaJolla, CA. Their final years were spent in Medford, OR, where Major Hopkins assembled his autobiography and was an American Legion member. He died there at age 93 in 1971.10, 57

AREA OF SIGNIFICANCE: MILITARY HISTORY-- WORLD WAR II

ARMY COAST ARTILLERY

Camp Hopkins is associated with another challenging time in US history -- WW II and the defense of the west coast from attack following Pearl Harbor. In 1942, Scouts were evicted so an anti-aircraft unit of the 202nd Army Coast Artillery could set up headquarters. 60-63

For the first two years of the war, anti-aircraft gunners, airplane spotters and trackers, searchlight operators and their transportation and communication support teams were stationed around the Island at Country Club, West Port Blakely, New Brooklyn Road, New Sweden, Wing Point, and other sites. Their headquarters at Camp Hopkins were hastily erected buildings used for administration, mess hall, barracks and bath house. The WPA-built log cabin was their recreation hall. Ping-Pong and sounds from a few scratchy 78 rpm phonograph records on a windup Victrola replaced Scout songs, campfire stories and the unison recitations of oaths. 60, 63, 66

Elroy Stewart, Eddie Rollins, Jim Dillon, and Bill Fogli served in the anti-aircraft unit and returned to live on the Island after the war. Stewart noted the office, barracks and small field kitchen building were erected west to east in the field south of the cabin. The bath house was north of the cabin where (extensively remodeled into a classroom and kitchen with bathrooms) it still stands. 60-63

Men were rotated to the camp by Fogli and the motor pool. "...Once a week to shower," Rollins said, "and meals were prepared there and taken to men in the field-- often cold." 62, 63

Airplane tracking crews initially had a difficult task. In difficult conditions-- cloudy, rainy, windy, foggy and black of night-- they used mounted pairs of giant parabolic dishes as sensitive "ears," plus binoculars and powerful searchlights to try to locate enemy planes. Fifty caliber anti-aircraft machine guns in sand-bagged log bunkers stood ready to destroy them. Later they learned to use two

large "268" radar units-- some of the first deployed. By the end of 1943, threat of attack subsided and men, new radar, searchlights and guns were sent overseas. 60, 63

SOVIET MARINERS

Toward war's end, a ship entered Eagle Harbor. On its gray sides were painted huge white letters -- "USSR." 89 Its sailors were Soviet merchant marines-- Russian men and women. The ship had been ordered to Winslow Shipyard for repairs. Russians rested sea legs ashore and were billeted at Camp Hopkins, only 1-1/2 miles away.64, 65 Bill Weld from Major Hopkins' first Scout troop, became the Navy's official Shipyard photographer and took photos of the ship.89

Wing Point's Medalia family recalled "It was a messy ship. The crews were glad to come ashore. The men played games, maybe soccer, on the Wing Point Golf Course. It was a short walk to the Camp."64, 65

Joan Wilt remembered, "More than one Russian ship came into the Winslow Shipyard during WW II. One came at the start: A larger ship came in towards the end. I was working in the shipyard at the time. The Russians had women in the crew. To us, that was a terrible idea! We invited them ashore and asked them to bring an interpreter. He wasn't much help. Mostly we all sat down in a room, facing each other. No one spoke. It was fascinating. We just sat there looking at one another -- amazed!" 66

Unsubstantiated folklore persists that Camp Hopkins was a brief home to foreign POWs during WWII. Former camp caretaker, Ray Anderson, described once finding foreign objects -- "...and weird shoes"-- in the camp's aged garbage pit.46 No written record of this has been found. No survey of this archeological resource has been made.

CONCLUSION

Camp Major Hopkins, today's Camp Yeomalt Park, has made and continues to make significant contributions to the historic, cultural, social and architectural fabric of Bainbridge Island and our nation.