



TO: Historic Preservation Committee

FROM: Robin Bolster-Grant, Principal Planner
Planning Division

SUBJECT: Additional Information for the February 6, 2024 meeting

DATE: February 1, 2024

In preparation for our discussion next Tuesday, I had a chance to speak with Dawn Stanton, the city's historic resource staff for many years. I learned quite a bit more about the Old Ferry Landing and wanted to pass along the information to your commission before we meet.

In addition to serving the commercial fishing industry, the ferry was the entire community's link to Tacoma and the "mainland" before the Tacoma Narrows Bridge was constructed and served the famous Mosquito Fleet that ran smaller passenger and freight boats throughout the sound.

In answer to my question about why the Old Ferry Landing was deemed "ineligible" for nomination to the GH Registry, Ms. Stanton explained that the Gig Harbor Inventory (sent out as an attachment to my staff memo) was performed very quickly and without any exhaustive research by staff tasked with assessing the entire city in a very short period.

Along with this memo letter, I am providing commissioners with the photos and other documents that Ms. Stanton sent to me. The additional information should help to ensure that you have everything you need to have a more thorough discussion of the value of the Old Ferry Landing.

I also wanted to provide you with a link to the grant referenced on the agenda. This is a grant provided by the Washington State Historical Society with the purpose of providing public access to history and to support the capital needs of facilities and organizations that preserve and interpret Washington's history and heritage.

There are a number of provisions of the grant that make it a challenge for Gig Harbor to implement. It is a 2:1 matching grant, and the reimbursement is received *after* the project has been completed. However, I wanted to give your commission an opportunity to review the material and share your thoughts.

<https://www.washingtonhistory.org/across-washington/grants/heritage-capital-projects/>

Historic Property
Inventory Report for

Ferry Dock Site

at Harborview Drive, Gig Harbor, WA

LOCATION SECTION

Field Site No.: 31-08

OAHF No.:

Historic Name: Ferry Dock Site

Common Name:

Property Address: Harborview Drive, Gig Harbor, WA

Comments:

County: Pierce Township/Range/EW Section: T21R02E 08 1/4 Sec 1/4 1/4 Sec

Quadrangle: GIG HARBOR

Coordinate Reference
Zone: 10 Spatial Type: Point

Acquisition Code: Unknown
Sequence: 1 Easting: 530983 Northing: 5242285

Tax No./Parcel No.:

NA Plat/Block/Lot

Supplemental Map(s)

Acreage

IDENTIFICATION SECTION

Survey Name: Gig Harbor 2008 Update

Field Recorder: Mildred Andrews

Date Recorded: 4/24/2008

Owner's Name: NA Owner Address:

City/State/Zip:

Classification: Site

Resource Status

Comments

Within a District? No

Survey/Inventory

Contributing?

National Register Nomination:

Local District:

National Register District/Thematic Nomination Name:

DESCRIPTION SECTION

Historic Use: Transportation - Water-Related

Current Use: Vacant/Not In Use

Plan: No. of Stories:

Structural System:

Changes to plan:

Changes to original cladding:

Changes to windows:

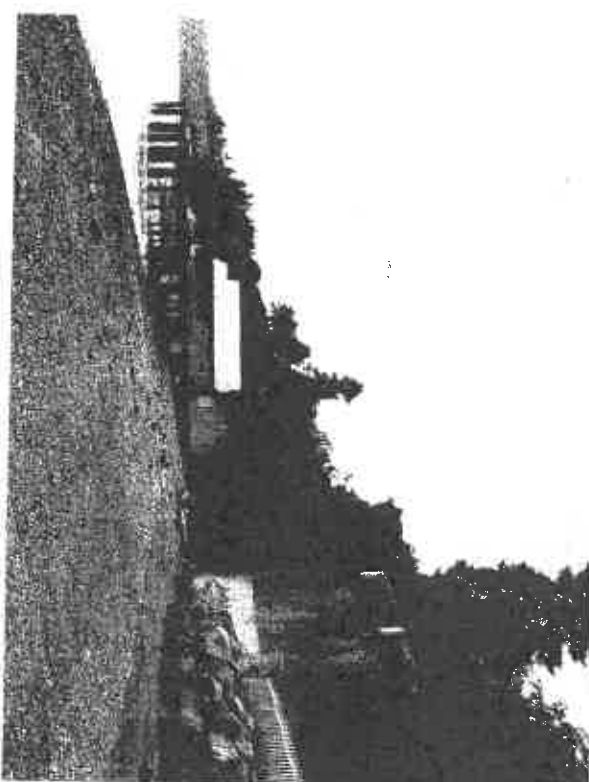
Changes to Interior:

Changes to other:

Other (specify):

Style

Form/Type



View of site looking south

Photography Neg. No (Roll No./Frame No.):

Comments:

taken 7/3/2009

Historic Property
Inventory Report for

Ferry Dock Site

at Harborview Drive, Gig Harbor, WA

Cladding

Foundation

Roof Material

Roof Type

NARRATIVE SECTION

Study Unit

Other

Date Of Construction: 1928

Architect:

Builder:

Engineer:

Property appears to meet criteria for the National Register of Historic Places: Unable to Determine

Property is located in a potential historic district (National and/or local): No

Property potentially contributes to a historic district (National and/or local):

Statement of
Significance

Gig Harbor's last ferry landing was at this site. Pilings that supported the dock in front of the landing are visible from the viewpoint at the south end of Harborview Drive. Automobile ferries ran between this landing and Tacoma from 1928 until 1940, when the first Narrows Bridge opened. At that point, the ferry landing was dismantled. The pilings are the last visible reminder of the important role that ferry boats played in the history and development of the community. The site may have significance under National Register criterion D for its potential to provide information related to the community's early transportation history; however, without further physical investigation which is outside the scope of this survey it is not possible to determine at this point.

Description of
Physical
Appearance

The site is located at the south end of Harborview Drive. Most of the original structure is gone; however, a few pilings and a high, concrete bulkhead remain in place.

Major
Bibliographic
References

"Along the Waterfront: A History of the Gig Harbor and Key Peninsula Areas." Compiled and written by Goodman Middle School students. Gig Harbor, WA: Toodman Middle School, 1974-75

J. A. Eckrom. "An Excellent Little Bay: A History of Gig Harbor." Gig Harbor: Peninsula Historical Society, 2004

"Gig Harbor Waterfront History Walk," Gig Harbor: Gig Harbor Peninsula Historical Society & Museum, ca. 1994 with updates



drives, the Cape Cod National Seashore. Stretching across forty miles of coastline beginning in Chatham and ending at the island's most northerly tip, Provincetown, the park was established in 1961 when President Kennedy signed legislation ensuring its preservation. It's worth a trip to the Cape just to meander the splendid beaches and rugged coast, stopping frequently for spectacular vistas and increasingly untamed topography. Each beach area maintains restroom facilities, and two large visitor centers offer a slew of organized walks and activities.

The park's Highland Lighthouse, originally built in 1797, is open for tours and requires a climb up a narrow, wrought-iron, sixty-nine-step stairway through the brick cylinder. At the top, the wind creates an eerie thunder that

nearly drowns out the narrative of the volunteer interpreter. Each lighthouse has its own identifying light pattern, and Highland's is a burst of white light every five seconds to alert sailors to their location on the often treacherous waters surrounding the Cape.

The weather on the peninsula can be somewhat unpredictable. Summer brings bright blue skies, warming sunshine, and a sapphire ocean that sparkles like diamonds skipping across a glassine surface. Other times, huge fogs roll in, shrouding it in mist reminiscent of the Scottish moors or an enchanted forest. Gray sky and water merge into a monochromatic palette, and pounding surf transforms the sea into an adrenaline pumping adventure.

The antidote to all this raw wilderness is an indulgent stay at

The weather on the **PENINSULA** can be somewhat unpredictable. **SUMMER** brings bright blue skies, warming **SUNSHINE**, and a sapphire ocean that **SPARKLES** like diamonds skipping across a glassine surface."

