



CITY OF ST. HELENS PLANNING DEPARTMENT

MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council & Historic Landmarks Commission
FROM: Jacob A. Graichen, AICP, City Planner
RE: 2013-2014 Historic Preservation Rehabilitation Grant program cycle
DATE: November 3, 2014

As a Certified Local Government (CLG), a designation given to St. Helens from the National Parks Service in January of 2009, the City has access to certain grant funds. One use of those funds is to pass on that money to citizens to help preserve or restore their federally recognized historic buildings. Luckily in this regard, the City has a federally listed St. Helens Downtown Historic District with several eligible properties.

For this CLG grant cycle the City conducted its second pass-through grant program (the first was during the 2011-2012 cycle). The City helped fund four projects with CLG money. Below summarizes the program as a whole for this grant cycle and the individual projects funded.

- Total money received by private property owners after completion of their respective projects: **\$10,859.25.**
- This money came from CLG funds; there was no direct cost to the City other than incident expenses such as staff time. Staff time during the formal grant cycle timeframe (March 2013 to August 2014) included approximately **34.25 hours** of the **City Planner** and **3.75 hours** of the **Planning Secretary.**
- The largest grant award to any one project was **\$3,250.** These were matching grants which means the grant does not pay for all expenses, but does make projects easier to do (i.e., created financial incentive or “seed money” for projects).
- This program funded two residential projects and two commercial projects as follows in order of grant award selection by the Historic Landmarks Commission:

165 S. 3rd Street

This dwelling was built in 1910 and is of the Queen Anne Victorian Style. The owners have been working on restoring this for years. The grant from the city was a catalyst to the latest efforts consisting of restoration and repair of multiple exterior features. Already an important cultural asset for the city, the ongoing restoration helps further the importance and significance of this asset.



165 S. 3rd Street

Far left: Before picture of dwelling.
Left: After picture showing the “in-process” status of this ongoing restoration.

212 South 1st Street

This is the Columbia Theatre built in 1928. The grant funded two awnings for the street façade of the building, which had been absent for years, but evident in historic photos.



Columbia Theatre

Above left: Before picture.

Left: After picture showing the new awnings. **Above:** Looking south on S. 1st Street from St. Helens Street (c. 1930). The Columbia Theatre (with awnings) can be seen on the left side of this historic photo.

130 Columbia Boulevard

This dwelling built in 1912 is the former parsonage for the Plymouth Congressional Church. The grant help fund roof replacement, which will help ensure preservation of this cultural resource for years to come. This property owner applied for the grant during the first grant cycle (2011-2012) but was not selected. They applied again for this cycle and were selected this time around.



130 Columbia Boulevard

Above left: Before picture. **Above left:** After picture showing the new roof. What these pictures don't show are the multiple layers of shingles from past roof work where old shingles were not removed before installing new. Thus, not only did this project replace the roof, but also lessened the excessive roof load to a more reasonable weight.

261/267 South 1st Street

This commercial building was built in 1921 and has been used as a printing business for years. The grant helped fund repair of decay on the building's exterior, providing better resistance to the elements. Its appearance is also much improved.



261/267 S. 1st Street

Above left: Before picture. **Above right:** Before picture showing a better view of some of the exterior decay. **Below left:** After picture. **Below right:** After picture.

