

**The Denny Cabin**  
by  
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## The Denny Cabin

### Introduction

The Historical Society of Federal Way is restoring the Denny Cabin for public display at Historic Cabin Park next to the West Hylebos State Park on 348<sup>th</sup> Street and Fourth Avenue South. This paper is intended to give a brief description of David Denny, describe the building of a log cabin for use by him as a real estate office in Seattle, and discuss why the cabin ended up in Federal Way.

### David Denny Background

The Denny family came to Portland Oregon from Cherry Grove, Illinois by way of the Oregon Trail in August 1851. John Denny was the father of the clan that included five sons, Arthur, David and three others. Arthur and David decided to settle farther north while John Denny and the three other brothers decided to stay in Oregon. David Denny and John Low set out to explore the Puget Sound country going on foot north from Portland. David Denny at that time was 19. In Olympia Lee Terry joined them. From Olympia the three of them went farther north by boat. They landed at Alki on September 25, 1851. David Denny and Lee Terry started to build a cabin (not the one referred to as the subject of this paper). John Low returned to Portland to tell the others in the Arthur Denny party, plus several others who had joined with Arthur Denny, of the great opportunity available in the area around Alki for settlement.<sup>1</sup> Low carried a note from David Denny to Arthur Denny, which stated, "We have examined the valley of the Duwamish River and find it a fine country. There is plenty of room for one thousand settlers. Come at once."<sup>2</sup>

The Arthur Denny family plus the Borens, Lows, Bells and Terrys, twenty-two people in all, boarded the *Exact* which was going from Portland to the Queen Charlotte Islands off the Canadian coast. It stopped briefly at Alki on November 13, 1851 to let the party off. The two young men of their original party who had come earlier met them. "A few Indians were walking around. Some of the women miserable at finding the promised land a wet and gray wilderness, wept." The small cabin started by David Denny and Lee Terry never had the roof completed, but the families used it as their home until they abandoned the area in February 1852 and moved to the protected east shore of Elliot Bay which was to become downtown Seattle.<sup>3</sup>

Once in what was to become Seattle, Arthur and David Denny developed their extensive holdings separately. Arthur Denny, who was about ten years older than David, became the more famous of the brothers and is the one usually thought of when the name Denny is mentioned in the history of Seattle.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Roger Sale, "*Seattle Past to Present*" (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1976: 1978), pp. 7-11.

<sup>2</sup> Walt Crowley, "*National Trust Guide Seattle*" (New York: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 1998), p. 228.

<sup>3</sup> Sale, p. 7. Crowley, p. 229, indicates the cabin could be completed since Arthur Denny brought a froe with him. A froe is an L-shaped axe need to cut shingles. Later pictures of this cabin (for example Crowley, p. 228) show the roof half covered with shingles and the other half open.

<sup>4</sup> Sale, pp. 11, 13, 25.

On January 24, 1853, David Denny filed a claim on land including the southwestern slope of Queen Anne Hill and Lake Union. He married Louisa Boren, who had trekked at his side along the Oregon Trail from Cherry Grove Illinois on the same day.<sup>5</sup> Since he was now married, Denny could claim 320 acres of land. In the 1860's David Denny platted and developed the area between present Denny Way to the southern shore of Lake Union.<sup>6</sup>

David and Louisa Denny operated a family farm on 320-acres centered on what is now the Seattle Center. The crops grown there provided the fresh produce for much of early Seattle. David and Louisa were generous with their land holdings, as they donated much land for parks, schools and churches to benefit the growing city. For example they donated the land for Denny Park and the original Seattle Children's Home, which was located at the site of the current Seattle Center Fun Forest.<sup>7</sup>

In addition to farming, David Denny developed vast real estate holdings which he operated under the following names: the Washington Improvement Company for real estate development, the Western Mill, when built in the early 1880's, was the largest lumber mill in King County; waterworks operated under the name Union Water Company and an electric railway operated as the Rainier Power and Railway Company.<sup>8</sup>

### **Construction of the Denny Cabin**

As part of his real estate operations David Denny opened a real estate office on the western boundary of his land holdings at the foot of Queen Anne Hill (at what is now Queen Anne Avenue and Republican Street).<sup>9</sup> The log cabin, which is known as the Denny Cabin, was built in the spring of 1889. In an article published in 1966, Lawrence D. Lindsley stated he was the son of the builder Edward L. Lindsley.<sup>10</sup> Lawrence Lindsley indicated he was 11 years old at the time of construction and that he participated in the construction. "I was only a boy of 11 ... I was sort of a roustabout.... I cranked the grindstone used to sharpen the axes."<sup>11</sup> At the time of the article, Lawrence Lindsley was 87.

The cabin was built at Temperance Avenue (now Queen Anne Avenue North) and Republican Street. Lindsley indicated the logs were cut and peeled far up on Queen Anne Hill and hauled to the building site by wagon.<sup>12</sup> Lawrence Lindsley had an old envelope on which he had made notes on the back. In the envelope was a negative of the cabin under construction.<sup>13</sup> (This picture is shown here as Figure 1.)

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<sup>5</sup> Crowley, p. 168.

<sup>6</sup> Crowley, p. 161.

<sup>7</sup> Paul Dorpat, *Seattle Now and Then*, vol. 1 (Seattle: Tartu Publications, 1984), story numbers 60, 63 (pages not numbered).

<sup>8</sup> Paul Dorpat, *Seattle Now and Then*, vol. 2 (Seattle: Tartu Publications, 1986), p. 144 and Paul Dorpat, *Seattle Now and Then*, vol. 3 (Seattle: Tartu Publications, 1997), second edition, p. 18.

<sup>9</sup> Dorpat, vol. 3, pp. 18, 19.

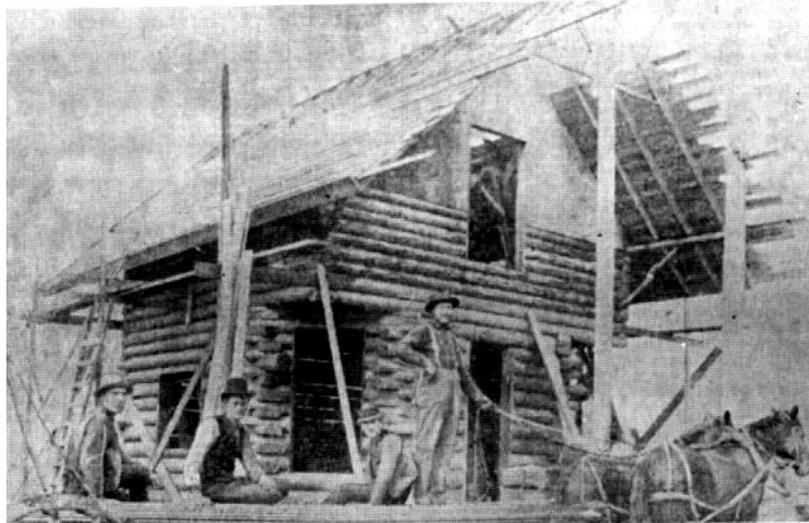
<sup>10</sup> Bob Lane, "Builder of Lower Queen Anne Cabin was Denny Son-in Law," *The Seattle Times*, 6 February 1966, p. 29.

<sup>11</sup> Lane, p. 29.

<sup>12</sup> Lane, p. 29.

<sup>13</sup> This photograph is available in the *University of Washington Special Collections Files* and appears in Kay Frances Reinartz, Historian, *Queen Anne, Community on the Hill* (Seattle: Queen Anne Historical Society, 1993), 60.

The envelope contained notes, which indicated that Edward Lindsley used 35 gallons of boiled linseed oil to treat the logs. These notes also preserved the names of the builders in addition to Edward Lindsley. They were M. M. Lemon, contractor; Harry Denny, lather; William R. Lindsey (Edward's brother), carpenter, and Theron Bosworth, carpenter. Avis Cook indicates in a letter to Sue Floyd that Theron Bosworth was her father and is the young man in the derby hat in the construction picture.<sup>14</sup>



**Figure 1 - The Denny Cabin under construction in 1889 (courtesy University of Washington, Special Archives.)**

Lawrence Lindsley had old newspaper clippings, which indicated the cabin was built, originally for David T. Denny as a real estate office when he sold lots in his North Seattle plot. David T. Denny began dealing in real estate in the 1870's.<sup>15</sup> Edward Lindsley came to Seattle in about 1875. He became a son-in law to David Denny when he married David's daughter, Abie Denny.<sup>16</sup>

Mrs. Ross Merrill is quoted as saying, "The building had many uses. It had been a tavern many years. It also was occupied by a kindergarten class and a men's church group."<sup>17</sup> Mrs. Ethel Grant, 4502 S.W. Austin St., Seattle, lived in the cabin in 1907 and 1908 with her parents Mr. and Mrs. Robert Howland and her brother and sister. Mrs. Grant said that others had used it as home before they moved in.<sup>18</sup>

The cabin was finished five weeks before the Great Fire destroyed much of downtown Seattle in 1889. "I sat on Denny Hill and watched the old town go," Lindsey recalled. "I was scared to death."<sup>19</sup> The cabin while built shortly before the great Seattle fire of 1889 was in no danger from the fire. Its location was several blocks northwest of any damage done by the fire.

The cabin is a one and one-half story horizontal hewn log cabin with a medium pitch, gable shake roof. The dimensions are 22 feet by 22 feet with the front half bayed to give

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<sup>14</sup> Letter, Avis J. Cook, Oak Harbor, Washington to Sue Floyd, Federal Way, Washington, no date, in the files of the Historical Society of Federal Way.

<sup>15</sup> Lane, p. 29.

<sup>16</sup> Kay Frances Reinartz, Historian, *Queen Anne, Community on the Hill* (Seattle: Queen Anne Historical Society, 1993), p. 60.

<sup>17</sup> Lane, p. 29.

<sup>18</sup> Lane, p. 29.

<sup>19</sup> Lane, p. 29.

the cabin six sides.<sup>20</sup> Photographs of other structures in the general area<sup>21</sup> show them to be built of lumber rather than logs, so this must have been one of the few log cabins constructed in 1889. It was probably built of logs to make the real estate office more distinctive.

### David Denny's Final Days

When Seattle started to spread, David Denny thought he could use some of his land holdings as a basis for a transportation system. In 1891 he built the Rainier Power and Railway Company.<sup>22</sup> This operated single electric railway trolley cars from his holdings near the present Seattle Center and Lake Union to what is now known as Wallingford and the University District. Unfortunately riders were few. David's financial holdings collapsed with the panic of 1893 that hit the entire nation. The value of land in the Seattle area depreciated by as much as eighty percent making David's real estate holding almost worthless. He was unable to repay the loans he had financed for his railway and he faced the nightmare of bankruptcy.<sup>23</sup> Dorpat quotes Gordon Newell's biography of David Denny, *Westward to Alki*, as saying:

It was all the long-remembered Panic of 1893 that wiped out the fruits of more than four decades of privation, danger and toil . . . Everything he owned was soon swept into the financial whirlpool that rose around him.<sup>24</sup>

Sale quotes Roberta Frye Watts description of David Denny's financial collapse from her book *Four Wagons West*:

He grew to be a rich man but he did not stop there. He was in every way big city enterprise. He helped install the water system, the electric lights, and the street railway. To all these things he pledged himself and his fortune, that he might do greater things for his beloved city.

And then the crash came, the financial panic of '93', and David lost everything that he had crossed the plains to win. In terms of money he died a poor man. Every penny of his hard-earned wealth, which more than paid his obligations, was extracted from him.

Then, broken and sick and old, he turned again to the forest. All that he had left was a place in the wilderness that he had given to his daughter, where Washelli is now. When he left his city home for the last time he said as he paused at the door, and looked sadly about, "I'll never look upon Seattle again." Then, like a sorrowing father turning his back upon an ungrateful child, he went out of the city to his humble home in the woods.<sup>25</sup>

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<sup>20</sup> Dwayne Nikulla, "Old Seattle Cabin," *King County Historic Sites Survey Inventory Sheet*, File No. 5000, 10 December 1977, p. 1.

<sup>21</sup> See Reinartz (for example photographs on pages 61, 63, 65 and 73.)

<sup>22</sup> Crowley, p. 204.

<sup>23</sup> Dorpat, vol. 2, pp. 144, 145.

<sup>24</sup> Dorpat, vol. 2, p. 145.

<sup>25</sup> Sale, p. 25, quoting from Roberta Frye Watt, *Four Wagons West: the Story of Seattle* (Portland: Metropolitan Press, 1931).

Excellent pictures of the Denny Cabin at the foot of Queen Anne Hill showing its use over the years can be found in *Queen Anne Cabin*, Story 3 in Dorpat's Volume 3.<sup>26</sup>

### **Removal of the Denny Cabin from Queen Anne**

The last business use of the cabin was as Green's Log Cabin Tavern. Green had originally opened Green's Tavern in 1927 in a building across the street where the present Uptown Theater is located but later moved to the cabin and used it as a tavern.<sup>27</sup> David Denny was a very religious man and a strong believer in temperance so he would not have been pleased with the use of the structure for a tavern.<sup>28</sup> He hated to see liquor sold to anyone and especially to Indians. Denny felt so strongly about temperance that in platting the streets in the area he named four in a row, Temperance, Banner, Light, and Victory. He also named what is now Fairview Avenue, Prohibition Street.<sup>29</sup>

After the tavern closed, the building sat unoccupied on a lot that was being cleared for an International House of Pancakes in 1966. John McFarland, who had a contract from the pancake house to tear down or remove the building tried to keep it in the Queen Anne area. He worked with Queen Anne activist, Mrs. Ross Merrill to move it to Kinnear Park or some other area on Queen Anne Hill or maybe to Alki Point at the site of the original Denny cabin.<sup>30</sup> They could not find a suitable place or arrange for the estimated \$2,500 required to move it. Ron Agostinelli, the real estate agent for the California firm developing the cabin site for the restaurant offered to keep the pioneer building at the restaurant location if individuals or groups from the community would maintain it.<sup>31</sup> Officials of the International House of Pancakes reluctantly decided they could not keep the building on its original site as it would occupy too much of the parking space and no one had come forward to guarantee maintenance.<sup>32</sup>

Jack Cissna, Federal Way attorney and president of the Federal Way Commercial Club indicated he would pay expenses to move the cabin to the Federal Shopping Way Mall.<sup>33</sup> It became part of the Heritage Village pioneer theme of the mall in 1966, although it actually was never placed on the grounds of the Heritage Park. It was placed on an empty space on the south end of the mall. Heritage Park was located on the north end. Cissna was experiencing financial problems at this time so did not have the finances to place it properly in Heritage Park. In the mid 1970's the mall went out of business. Nothing was done with the Denny Cabin from that time until the 1980's. It of course suffered damage from vandals as well as the elements.

In 1985, the Issaquah City Council decided to allow the Issaquah Historical Society to move the cabin to Issaquah and use a city owned site near the freeway for the cabin.<sup>34</sup>

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<sup>26</sup>Dorpat, vol. 3, pp. 18, 19.

<sup>27</sup> Reinartz, p. 165.

<sup>28</sup> Margaret Pitcairn Strachan, "D. T. Denny," *Seattle Times*, 8 October 1944, p. 2.

<sup>29</sup> Strachan, p. 2.

<sup>30</sup> Lane, p. 29.

<sup>31</sup> "Cabin May Remain On Queen Anne," *Seattle Times*, 22 February 1966, page not known.

<sup>32</sup> "Q. A. Log Cabin To Be Moved South," *Seattle Times*, 4 March 1966, page not known.

<sup>33</sup> "Q. A. Log Cabin To Be Moved South," page not known.

<sup>34</sup> Donna Seese, "Mystery cabin moving to Issaquah," *Federal Way News*, 3 October 1985, p. A-1.

After much initial planning the funding and details for moving the cabin to Issaquah were never completed.

In 1985 the King County Landmarks Commission examined the cabin for including it on the list of King County Historic Landmarks.<sup>35</sup> Apparently because of many other possible additions for that year no finalizing action was taken to place the Denny Cabin on the King County Landmarks list. (Current rules require a building such as this to still be on the original site before it can be placed on the King County Historic Landmarks list, so it may be no longer eligible.)

In May 1987 the Federal Way Shopping Center donated the Denny Cabin to the Federal Way Junior Chamber of Commerce with the understanding that the Junior Chamber of Commerce would arrange to move the cabin.<sup>36</sup> The Federal Way Jaycees took possession of the Denny Cabin with the understanding they would move it to a new location,<sup>37</sup> but they found they were unable to accomplish this and the cabin was unused and vacant and it appears the shopping center under new ownership assumed ownership of the cabin again because of the Jaycees not living up to their agreement to move it.<sup>38</sup>



**Figure 2 – Sketch of the Denny Cabin at Federal Shopping Way. In the files of the HSFW.**

In 1989, proposed construction of a road where the cabin stood forced some sort of action to be taken to save the Denny cabin standing in the south end of the Federal Way Shopping Center. Two other cabins left over from the Heritage Village Park sat at the north end of the shopping mall. These were the Barker cabin (built by a homesteader to the area in 1883<sup>39</sup>) and a cabin Cissna claimed was built by the Hudson's Bay Company (although most think this was only a replica). Several members of the Historical Society of Federal Way proposed saving the cabin by linking it to the upcoming Washington State Centennial celebration. Doug Peffer, a Federal Way chiropractor and member of the Historical Society, said, "the campaign to save the cabin could be linked to Washington's centennial, which had spurred dozens of historical projects throughout the state."<sup>40</sup> Frank Mudrovich, manager of the Federal Way Shopping Center, said that he would give one of the cabins to anyone who was able to move it.<sup>41</sup>

<sup>35</sup> Herb Belanger, "Log cabin may become landmark," *Seattle Times*, 12 June 1985, p. H2.

<sup>36</sup> Letter, Frank Mudrovich, Regional Manager, Federal Way Shopping Center to Dr. Peffer, Federal Way Junior Chamber of Commerce, *Denny Cabin*, 11 May 1987, in the files of the Historical Society of Federal Way.

<sup>37</sup> Letter, Arthur Braden, President Federal Way Jaycees 1987-1988 to Robert Mudrovich, Regional Manager Winston Management, Inc., Federal Way, WA, 7 August 1987, in the files of the Historical Society of Federal Way. Actually Attachment 1 of the Braden letter indicates the official possession belonged to the organization holding the IRS 509(a)(1) designation, which was the Washington State Jaycee Charities, in the files of the Historical Society of Federal Way.

<sup>38</sup> Letter Ted Joufflas, Western States Realty & Development, Inc. to Shirley L. Charnell, Historical Society of Federal Way, 29 July 1991, in the files of the Historical Society of Federal Way.

<sup>39</sup> Dick Caster, *The Barker Cabin*, 10 June 2003, in the files of the Historical Society of Federal Way.

<sup>40</sup> Michele Matassa Flores, "Group plans to save three historic cabins," *Seattle Times, South Times Today edition*, 18 January 1989, p. H2.

<sup>41</sup> Flores, p. H2.

### **Cabin Moved to Near Brooklake Community Center (Well Site 12)**

In April 1991, Shirley Charnell, President of the Historical Society of Federal Way, wrote a letter to Cheri McCabe of the Federal Way Parks Department and to the Federal Way City Council members requesting the city council “declare a resolution that the Denny Cabin is of historic significance to the city of Federal Way and that they [also the Barker Cabin] should be moved and preserved for a future historic park to be incorporated in the city parks plan.” She also requested the city help in the removal, storage and future restoration of the cabin.<sup>42</sup> In July 1991, Ted Jouflas, representing the shopping mall officially transferred the ownership of the Denny Cabin to the Historical Society of Federal Way.<sup>43</sup> In July 1991, the Federal Way City Council gave the Historical Society of Federal Way \$6,000 toward moving and storing one of the historic cabins (the Barker Cabin being the other possibility).<sup>44</sup> Shirley Charnell, President of the Federal Way Historical Society indicated she had an estimate from a professional mover for \$6,500.<sup>45</sup> The Federal Way Water and Sewer District gave approval the Historical Society of Federal Way to use for one-year land near the Brooklake Community Center on South 356<sup>th</sup> Street.<sup>46</sup>

The Denny Cabin was moved Saturday December 14, 1991 to a temporary location near the Brooklake Community Center on South 356<sup>th</sup> Street.<sup>47</sup> The site belonged to the Federal Way Water and Sewer District and was known as Well Site Number 12, which was no longer using it as a water source.<sup>48</sup> Deb Barker, a Planning Technician for the City of Federal Way inspected the Denny Cabin at the new location and declared the cabin to be an “attractive nuisance”. She recommended a no trespassing sign be posted and the gravel roadway adjacent to the cabin be secured with logs.<sup>49</sup> On February 15, 1992, Shirley Charnell responded that the Historical Society had complied with most of Deb Barker’s requirements but because they only had a one-year use permit for the site planning was required for another move to the final permanent site.<sup>50</sup>

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<sup>42</sup> Letter, Shirley Charnell, President of the Historical Society of Federal Way, to Cheri McCabe, Parks Department and Federal Way City Council Members, *Moving & Storage of Historic Cabins*, 29 April 1991, in the files of the Historical Society of Federal Way.

<sup>43</sup> Jouflas.

<sup>44</sup> Linda Elliot, "City aids in historical cabin rescue," *Federal Way News*, 19 July 1991, p. A1.

<sup>45</sup> Elliot, p. A1.

<sup>46</sup> Letter Herbert Freeze, to Federal Way Historical Society, 13 September 1991, in the files of the Historical Society of Federal Way and Letter James W. Miller, General Manager, Federal Way Water and Sewer to Shirley Charnell, President, Historical Society of Federal Way, *Denny Cabin – Temporary Use of Well #12 Site*, 11 December 1991, in the files of the Historical Society of Federal Way.

<sup>47</sup> Dave Weaver, "This Old House," *Federal Way City Herald*, 18 December 1991, p. A9.

<sup>48</sup> Letter, Shirley Charnell, President, Historical Society of Federal Way to Jim Miller, Manager, Commissioners, Federal Way Water & Sewer District, 6 January 1992, in the files of the Historical Society of Federal Way.

<sup>49</sup> Letter, Deb Barker, Planning Technician, City of Federal Way to Robert A. Wood, President, Historical Society of Federal Way [note: responses indicate Shirley Charnell was president at this time and Robert Wood was a Director], *91-1724OT, house moving permit, Historic Denny Cabin*, 30 December 1991, in the files of the Historical Society of Federal Way.

<sup>50</sup> Letter Shirley Charnell, President Federal Way Historical Society, to Deb Barker, Planning Technician, City of Federal Way, *91-1724OT – House Moving Permit, Historic Denny Cabin. Your letters of Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> and Dec. 30<sup>th</sup>, 1991*, 15 February 1992, in the files of the Historical Society of Federal Way.

## Present Location of Cabin

The Denny Cabin was later moved to its present location on city property at 348<sup>th</sup> Street and Fourth Avenue South, near the entrance of Hylebos State Park. Slightly later the Barker cabin was moved to this same location. The City of Federal Way Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services is working with the Historical Society of Federal Way to develop the location as a historic site park to be known as Historic Cabin Park. Starting in 1995 restoration was begun on both cabins.<sup>51</sup> (See the separate article on the Barker Cabin for the status of its reconstruction.<sup>52</sup>) In 1997 the Denny Cabin roof structure was rebuilt, with structural repairs to rafters and gable ends and replacement of the roof. Split shakes were provided and attached to the roof.<sup>53</sup> Currently plans are being made to install special windows that have the appearance of the original cabin and also provide security to the cabin and contents. A door resembling the original door will also be installed.

Both cabins are now on public display although considerably more reconstruction work needs to be done.

## Signs on Cabin

In 1939 the Seattle Times stated that Chief Seattle originally built the Denny Cabin and that it later was the Mercer home from 1850 – 1855.<sup>54</sup> Rumor also had suggested that it was built for Chief Seattle's daughter, Princess Angeline possibly by the chief himself.<sup>55</sup>

From the time the Denny Cabin was moved to Heritage Village until 1999 a sign reading as follows was on the front of the cabin:

THE OLDEST EXISTING LOG HOUSE  
TO SURVIVE SEATTLE'S GREAT FIRE (1889)  
"THE MYSTERY CABIN"  
ORIGINALLY ERECTED NEAR SEATTLE  
CENTER. IN 1939 A SEATTLE NEWS  
STORY SAID THE CABIN WAS BUILT BY  
CHIEF SEATTLE (1827-1866). IT WAS  
BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN THE MERCER  
HOME (1850-1855). PICTURES AND  
RECORDS INDICATED COMPLETION IN  
ITS PRESENT FORM BY DAVID DENNY  
AS A REAL ESTATE OFFICE (1889).  
THIS OLDEST STRUCTURE HAS ALSO BEEN  
A CHURCH, A SCHOOL AND A TAVERN.

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<sup>51</sup> "Historic Barker cabin resurrected," *Tacoma News Tribune*, 26, October 1995, page number not known.

<sup>52</sup> Dick Caster, *The Barker Cabin*, pp. 10-13.

<sup>53</sup> Invoice to King County Cultural Resources Division, Seattle Washington, By Dietrick C Jones, Past President, Historical Society of Federal Way, 16 July 1997, in the files of the Historical Society of Federal Way.

<sup>54</sup> Nikulla, p. 2.

<sup>55</sup> Dorpat, vol. 3, p. 18.

All now accept the fact that the portion relating to Chief Seattle and the Mercer family is false and the cabin was not built until 1889.

A new temporary sign is now in place reflecting a more accurate short description of the Denny Cabin. This sign reads:<sup>56</sup>

#### The Denny Cabin

The Historical Society of Federal Way is restoring this historic building. Built on Seattle's Queen Anne Hill in 1889 as a real estate office for David Denny by his nephew [sic], the cabin has served as a school, a church and a tavern. In 1966, when it was about to be razed, J. R. Cissna, the visionary developer of the Federal Shopping Way moved the cabin to Federal Way as part of a planned historic park. This plan never came to fruition. In 1992 the cabin was moved to this site.

The cabin was never intended as a rustic frontier building. When first built, it was surrounded by frame buildings built with lumber from Yesler's mill, among others. Rumors about it having been built by Chief Seattle or that it survived the 1889 Seattle fire are patently absurd. Nevertheless, it is an interesting artifact of the late nineteenth century in Seattle.

The Historical Society of Federal Way intends to restore the cabin to its 1889 condition. It will be used as an interpretive center in the Historic Cabin Park. Plans for this park are being developed as a cooperative effort with the city of Federal Way, the state of Washington, the Friends of the West Hylebos Wetlands, and the Historical Society.



Figure 3 - Denny Cabin today (Courtesy Ed Opstad, HSFW.)<sup>57</sup>

<sup>56</sup> Prepared by Ed Opstad, President Historical Society of Federal Way, 2000, in the files of the Historical Society of Federal Way.

<sup>57</sup> Photo of the Denny Cabin used on the cover sheet of this article is also courtesy of Ed Opstad, HSFW.