



The Barker Cabin by Dick Caster

Prepared for the
Historical
Society
of
Federal Way



Historical
Society
of
Federal Way

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Table of Contents

Acknowledgements.....	2
1. Introduction	3
2. John Barker Family Background.....	3
3. Travel to the Northwest.....	4
4. Summary of Travel to the Northwest	5
5. Homestead Act of 1862	6
6. John Barker Homestead.....	8
7. Barker Cabin Location	8
8. Debate Concerning Date of the Barker Cabin’s Construction	9
9. Method of Construction.....	11
10. Size of the Barker Cabin	13
11. Barker Family Moves out of Barker Cabin	13
12. Formal Title Obtained for Homestead	14
13. Steel Lake Land	15
14. Daily Living	16
15. John Barker’s Involvement with Early Schools	18
16. Roads.....	19
17. John Barker’s Death	20
18. Claude Barker as a Real Estate Broker	21
19. Federal Shopping Way Old Line Historic Park.....	21
20. Barker Cabin Moved to Federal Shopping Way.....	22
21. The Barker Cabin on Display at Federal Shopping Way.....	24
22. Federal Shopping Way in Financial Trouble.....	26
23. Shirley Charnell’s Effort to Preserve Cabins by Moving Them.....	26
24. Final Plans to Move the Barker Cabin to West Hylebos Wetlands	29
25. Cabin Moved to Historic Cabins Park at West Hylebos Wetlands	31
26. Concrete Foundation/Slab for the Permanent Home of the Barker Cabin	33
27. Preparing for the Restoration of the Barker Cabin	34
28. First Temporary Reassembly of Sidewalls.....	35

29. Formal Barker Cabin Restoration Project Plans	38
30. Detailed Cost Estimate to Restore the Barker Cabin	41
31. Cedar Log for Barker Cabin Roof Shakes.....	42
32. Second Restoration of the Barker Cabin Sidewalls.....	42
33. Stop Work Order Issued by the City of Federal Way	44
34. Splitting Log for Roof Shakes	49
35. Barker Cabin Roof Restoration.....	51
36. Initial Opening of the Restored Barker Cabin	54
37. Fireplace, Wooden Floor, and Loft Installation.....	56
38. Barker Cabin Sign	58
39. Donated Furnishings	59
40. HSFW Logo	60
41. Barker Cabin Fully Restored.....	61
Appendix 1 - Typed Copy of John M. Barker Homestead Title	61
Appendix 2 – “Barker Homestead” Poem by Washington Green.....	63
Appendix 3 – Barker Cabin City of Federal Way Resolution	64
Appendix 4 – 1999 Barker Cabin Restoration Cost Proposal.....	65

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The Barker Cabin

1. Introduction

Once called the “Ivied Cottage” because it was draped with ivy, the Barker Cabin is the oldest original structure in the Federal Way area.¹

The Historical Society of Federal Way (HSFW) has restored the historic Barker Cabin for public display at the entrance to West Hylebos Wetlands Park on South 348th Street and Fourth Avenue South in Federal Way, Washington. This monograph is intended to give a description of John Barker and his family, to describe the building of a cabin for use by him and his family on his homestead claim, to discuss why the cabin was moved to its present location and to describe the restoration work.

This version of the *Barker Cabin* is a completely revised and expanded version of the June 10, 2003 version previously available.

There is a great deal of inconsistency concerning dates of various events given in available source material. I have tried to provide all the information available and then present my explanation and opinion concerning correctness.

2. John Barker Family Background

John Marshall Barker was born on April 29, 1841, at New Haven, New York.² John married 21-year-old Addie Calkins, also from New York State, on February 20, 1867.³

Myrtis L. Barker was born in November 1873 in New York State.⁴ (Myrtis is spelled Myrtice in some records.) Claude S. Barker was born in 1878 in New York State.⁵ Based on 1900 United



Fig. 1 - Sketch of the Barker Cabin by Tim MacDonald, based on a photograph that appeared in the *Federal Way Review*, March 17, 1955. (Courtesy HSFW.)

¹ Leila E. Brislin, “WEBB CENTER,” *Greater Federal Way News*, June 18, 1953, 1. Nothing has been found since this 1953 article to refute the statement that the Barker Cabin is the oldest surviving structure in Federal Way.

² Ancestry.com, “1900 United States Federal Census record for John M. Barker,” Ancestry.com Operations Inc., accessed September 2, 2012, <http://www.Ancestry.com/search.ancestry.com/content/>. **Note: Some of the Ancestry.com references used in this monograph will open to the general public, while others require membership.**

³ Ancestry.com, “1900 United States Federal Census record for Addie Barker,” Ancestry.com Operations Inc., accessed September 2, 2012, <http://trees.ancestry.com/rd?f=sse&db=1900usfedcen&h=80002682&ti=0&indiv=try&gss=pt>.

⁴ Ancestry.com, “1880 United States Federal Census record for Myrtis L. Barker,” Ancestry.com Operations Inc., accessed September 12, 2012, <http://trees.ancestry.com/rd?f=sse&db=1880usfedcen&h=80002683&ti=0&indiv=try&gss=pt>.

⁵ Ancestry.com, “1880 United States Federal Census record for Claude Barker,” Ancestry.com Operations Inc., accessed September 12, 2012, <http://trees.ancestry.com/rd?f=sse&db=1880usfedcen&h=80002683&ti=0&indiv=try&gss=pt>.

States Census records, May S. Barker was born in May 1883 in Washington State.⁶ (Based on the usage in various sources it appears that May S. was her given name and Laura May was the more informal name used by the family.) It is not known if Laura May was born in Buenna⁷ on the homestead land or in Tacoma. On her grave marker she is referred to as Laura May with the birth date given as May 27, 1883.⁸ A fourth child, Eva Marion Barker, was born on October 24, 1869, in New Haven, New York and died on December 29, 1875.⁹

3. Travel to the Northwest

The HSFW has in its files a four-page typed transcript of an oral history of John Barker and his family.¹⁰ This appears to be by John Barker's son, Claude, and is dated May 30, 1958.

Claude indicated the family left Nebraska on January 1, 1883 on a train, bound for San Francisco.¹¹ Another source says that John and his wife came to Tacoma, Washington from Chillicothe, Missouri in 1880.¹² Still another source indicates the family left from Chillicothe, Ohio in 1880.¹³ Both Chillicothe, Ohio and Chillicothe, Missouri existed as small towns in the 1880s.¹⁴ Possibly the information about coming from Chillicothe is correct with the next stage being a stop in Nebraska to live for a short time and/or to catch the train. At the time of the 1880 United States Federal Census the Barker family (John, Addie, Myrtis and Claude) lived in New Haven, New York.¹⁵ I am not sure what time of year the 1880 census was taken. If the date of the census could be determined it might help determine if living in New Haven early in the year and Chillicothe later in the year was a possibility for the Barkers in 1880.

Chillicothe, Missouri is the correct Chillicothe. This is concluded from the fact that in 1955 Myrtis Barker Wells was living in Chillicothe Missouri when she died. Claude Barker went to

⁶ Ancestry.com, "1900 United States Federal Census record for John M. Barker," Ancestry.com Operations Inc., accessed September 2, 2012, <http://www.Ancestry.com/search.ancestry.com/content/>.

⁷ As discussed later, Buenna was the general term used for the area from Stone's Landing (now Redondo) bordering on Puget Sound and inland as far south and east as the Barker homestead land, and possibly beyond to what is now Pacific Highway South.

⁸ Grave marker at Mountain View Cemetery, Auburn, Washington, located and recorded by Dick Caster October 21, 2000. The date of death is recorded as December 5, 1960.

⁹ Ancestry.com, "Modified Register for Uzal Munson Barker, Second Generation Descendants of Uzal Munson Barker," Ancestry.com Operations Inc., accessed February 7, 2010, <http://www.Ancestry.com/Search>, Modified Register for Uzal Munson Barker.

¹⁰ Claude Barker, "Short Oral History of Barker Family," informally typed, May 30, 1958, 1-4, in the files of the HSFW. **The extracted and quoted material used in the body of this monograph has been corrected for spelling, grammar, and typing errors found in the transcription referenced.** This Oral History is merely titled, "Claude Barker". There is no signature, but it seems to be Claude Barker speaking in the first person and page 4 contains a photocopy of a Claude S. Barker business card. It appears someone other than Claude Barker has added the handwritten comments, as they speak of Claude in the third person. It is not known who made the handwritten comments, but the oral history was found in a file belonging to Ilene Marckx. This reference is probably based on oral history notes made by Ilene Marckx.

¹¹ Barker, 1.

¹² Leila E. Brislin, "Steel Lake," *Federal Way Review*, January 20, 1955, 15. The *Federal Way Review* was a small newspaper published for about two years in 1955 and 1956 by Federal Shopping Way.

¹³ "Federal Way Pioneer Dies," *Federal Way News*, January 11, 1967, sec. 2, 6

¹⁴ http://en.Wikipedia.org/wiki/Chillicothe,_Ohio, accessed August 7, 2012 and http://en.Wikipedia.org/wiki/Chillicothe,_Missouri, accessed August 7, 2012.

¹⁵ Ancestry.com, "1880 United States Federal Census record for John M. Barker," Ancestry.com Operations Inc., accessed September 2, 2012, <http://www.Ancestry.com/searc.ancestry.com/content/>.

her funeral.¹⁶ It is interesting that the Barker family was in Chillicothe, Missouri in 1880, then came to the northwest and that the sister Myrtis went back to Chillicothe, Missouri for the last years of her life. I do not know the family connection between New Haven, New York and Chillicothe, Missouri.

Ilene Marckx, a local Federal Way resident, indicates that in addition to John and his wife, three children (Claude, Myrtis and Laura May) also came west.¹⁷ Marckx's comment about three children coming west was probably just a generalization, since based on location references in birth records, it was only Myrtis and Claude who came west with their parents, and Laura May was born in Washington after they arrived here.

According to Claude Barker, the family arrived in San Francisco by train on January 7, 1883. They then took a boat, the *George Elder*, an old sailboat converted to steam power, to Tacoma.¹⁸

What with the stormy weather, we were 7 days getting to Tacoma. On arriving there, we stayed at the Villard House (where the Tacoma Hotel is now located) and next morning our family stood gazing at Mt. Rainier which in the clear air looked close enough to reach out and touch. My mother remarked that she was going to take us kids for a walk up to the mountain, when someone told her it was 40 miles to that Mountain she says [*sic*] "We won't go!"¹⁹

Based on the Claude Barker quote, the family arrived in Tacoma on January 14, 1883 or slightly later depending upon the time between the arrival by train in San Francisco and leaving by boat. Claude Barker's words would seem to imply a short time elapsed.

Claude Barker goes on to state that his "people" bought property in Tacoma at the corner of J and 12th. He states they built a home and lived there a short time (see below as to how this information might complicate knowing the date of when the Barker Cabin was built). Later they came by rowboat to what was then the community of Buenna [now part of Des Moines and Federal Way, and an area far beyond the boundaries of the Plat of Buenna] that he describes as "one great wilderness."²⁰

4. Summary of Travel to the Northwest

Based on the above, the scenario for the Barker family coming to Buenna would seem to be:

¹⁶ "Mrs. Myrtis Wells dies here at 81," *Chillicothe (Missouri) Constitution Tribune*, April 25, 1955, 1 and "Mrs. Myrtis Wells' rites to be Wednesday," *Chillicothe (Missouri) Constitution Tribune*, April 26, 1955, 1. The last name Wells, for her second husband agrees with the information discussed in Section 20. Barker Cabin Moved to Federal Shopping Way.

¹⁷ Ilene Marckx [appears to be author], untitled document with subsection titled "Barkers," undated, 1, in the files of the HSF. This appears to be a paragraph intended to record/summarize an area of local history prepared and typed by Ilene Marckx. It is not known who provided the information to be typed. It appears it was prepared from the same collection of information as found in footnote 10. It consists of two typed pages stapled together and found in the archives of Ilene Marckx. Ilene Marckx's name is handwritten on the top. In addition to some material on the Barker family, it contains short paragraphs on other early residents; Libo, McNulty, Gail and Beede.

¹⁸ Barker, 1.

¹⁹ Barker, 1.

²⁰ Barker, 1.

1. At the time of the 1880 United States Census, John and Addie Barker and their then two children, Myrtis and Claude, lived in New Haven, New York. (United States census records.)
2. Probably in the second half of 1880 they moved to Chillicothe, Missouri. (Newspaper articles written in 1955.)
3. They caught a train in Nebraska on January 1, 1883 and arrived in San Francisco, California on January 7, 1883. (Apparently Claude was the source of this information.)
4. They arrived in Tacoma, Washington on or shortly after January 14, 1883. (Claude was the source of this information.)
5. They bought a house in Tacoma and lived there for a short period of time. (Claude was the source of this information.)
6. John Barker filed for a homestead in 1883 in Buenna, Washington. (See later discussion in the section 'Debate Concerning Date of the Barker Cabin's Construction.')
7. Laura May Barker was born in Buenna or Tacoma, Washington on May 27, 1883. (United States census records and grave marker.)

Items six and seven may be reversed.

5. Homestead Act of 1862

The Homestead Act of 1862 gave an applicant ownership at no cost [although certain fees were imposed] farmland called a "homestead" – typically 160 acres of undeveloped federal land west of the Mississippi River. It was an expression of the "Free Soil" policy of Northerners who wanted individual farmers to own and operate their own farms, as opposed to slave owners who would use slaves.²¹

Homestead claims were made based on the rectangular survey system, which is still used in the United States today. This system surveys and organizes land based on "sections" comprising 640 acres, or one square mile. The 160-acre homestead comprised one quarter of a section. When Congress passed the Homestead Act in 1862, the technology of the day was still primitive enough that 160 acres was thought to be the maximum amount of land a family could realistically farm.²²

Under the Homestead Act any head of household or individual over twenty-one was allowed to file on a quarter section of 160 acres. The homesteader had then to cultivate and reside on the land for five consecutive years, at the end of which a final certificate and title would be granted.²³

People interested in Homesteading first had to file their intentions at the nearest Land Office. A brief check for previous ownership claims was made for the plot



Fig. 2 – Bureau of Land Management logo celebrating the one hundred fifty year anniversary of the Homestead Act, 2012. (Courtesy BLM.)

²¹ National Archives Teachers Resources, "Teaching with Documents: the Homestead Act of 1862," National Archives, accessed August 8, 2012, <http://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/homestead-act/>.

²² National Park Service, U. S. Department of the Interior, "Homestead National Monument Frequently Asked Questions," accessed August 8, 2012, <http://www.nps.gov/home/faqs.htm>.

²³ Scott, James W. and Roland L. De Lorme, "Historical Atlas of Washington," University of Oklahoma Press: Norman, OK, 1988, 31.

of land in question, usually described by its survey coordinates. The prospective homesteader paid a filing fee of \$10 to claim the land temporarily, as well as a \$2 commission to the land agent.

With application and receipt in hand, the homesteader then returned to the land to begin the process of building a home and farming the land, both requirements for "proving up" at the end of five years. When all requirements had been completed and the homesteader was ready to take legal possession, the homesteader found two neighbors or friends willing to vouch for the truth of his or her statements about the land's improvements and sign the "proof" document.

After successful completion of this final form and payment of a \$6 fee, the homesteader received the patent for the land, signed with the name of the current President of the United States. This paper was often proudly displayed on a cabin wall and represented the culmination of hard work and determination.²⁴

One of the first projects for any homesteader was the construction of a residence. The law stipulated that a domicile suitable for permanent residence of at least 10 feet x 12 feet with a minimum of one window must occupy the property. Most of these homes were built with either logs, sod or cut lumber, depending on what material might be easily at hand. Living quarters on Washington homesteads were almost exclusively built with wood. Log cabins required few tools and no nails, but needed a ready supply of logs and were better suited to smaller houses. . . .²⁵

Converting a claim into a productive farm was often one of the greatest challenges facing a homesteader. The farmer's first task, clearing the land for planting, varied greatly depending on local geography and vegetation. . . . In much of nineteenth-century America, clearing land of trees was largely accomplished by the long-standing method of "slashing and burning." This entailed felling trees with an axe, piling the debris and putting it to fire. Stumps were burned, left to rot, or pulled out with levers, mattocks, and peaveys, sometimes with the assistance of animal power....²⁶

²⁴ National Park Service U. S. Department of the Interior, "Homestead National Monument Frequently Asked Questions," accessed August 9, 2012, <http://www.nps.gov/home/faqs.htm>. The fees indicated seem to vary over the years and also vary in different jurisdictions.

²⁵ Center for the Study of the Pacific Northwest, University of Washington, "Homesteading in Washington State, Proving Up, Building," accessed August 9, 2012, <http://cpntnet.lib.washington.edu/curriculumpackets/homesteaders/build.html>.

²⁶ Center for the Study of the Pacific Northwest, University of Washington, "Homesteading in Washington State, Proving Up, Farming," accessed August 9, 2012, <http://cpntnet.lib.washington.edu/curriculumpackets/homesteaders/build.html>.

6. John Barker Homestead

In 1883 John Barker filed for a 160-acre homestead in Buenna (Federal Way.)²⁷ Brislin indicated that John Barker filed for homestead rights before building his cabin.²⁸ Claude Barker describes how his father John, Max Ketchan, George McChett and Gust Durell all filed for homestead rights and built cabins at about the same time. The four men got a map from the King County surveyor's office and with a pocket compass, located their homesteads. The state had surveyed the area a couple of years before Barker came to the area.²⁹

Claude Barker indicates the homestead was in Section 8, Township 21, Range 4E.³⁰ The Bureau of Land Management GLO Records indicates John M. Barker's claim involved 160 acres in Washington State at the following location: Aliquot Parts SE, Sec/Block 8/, Township 21-N, Range 4E, Tract. Section No. Meridian Willamette, State WA, County King, Survey Nr. Blank.³¹

Diana Noble-Gulliford has used the Bureau of Land Management Data and Google Earth data showing townships and sections to determine that the John Barker homestead land included the area now bounded by South 312th Street, Pacific Highway South, South 320th Street and approximately Eighth Avenue South.³²

7. Barker Cabin Location

The official Bureau of Land Management records only indicate the location and boundaries of the Barker homestead land. The actual location on this land of the Barker Cabin is not given. Therefore secondary sources must be used for its general location. All evidence points to the Barker Cabin being located near the northwest corner of the Barker Homestead land.

One source, by Bill and Ann Ward, located it on French Lake Road, which later became South 312th Street, at the crest of the hill between what is now Sixth Avenue South and Eighth Avenue South.³³ Possibly this source's location came from a poorly copied replication of two photos apparently intended to show the condition of the site. (Because of the poor quality of the photos and the somewhat unclear meaning of the hand written material, this page has not been included as a figure in this monograph.)³⁴ The page is apparently titled "Location." Ilene Marckx's (a local Federal Way resident) name appears on the page and she was apparently the photographer or collector of the photos. No date is given on the page but based on other material collected by Marckx, I would estimate the photos were taken between 1970 and 1980. The photos themselves

²⁷ The actual records of John Barker's filing have not been found. It is assumed that the filing took place the same year as John Barker started to build his cabin home.

²⁸ Brislin, "Steel Lake," 15.

²⁹ Barker, 2.

³⁰ Barker, 1.

³¹ Bureau of Land Management GLO Records, "John M Barker Patentee," accessed November 20, 2007.

<http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov/PatentSearch/Detail.asp?Accession=WASAA++071604&Index=8&QryID=2449.278&PF=true>.

³² Email from Diana Noble-Gulliford to Dick Caster, "John Barker Homestead," November 20, 2007.

³³ Bill and Anne Ward, *Federal Way Historical Tour Brochure*, edited text, included in "Federal Way Historical Resource Manual" prepared for the HSFW, April 1993, in the files of the HSFW.

³⁴ "Location," A poorly copied page including two photos of the probable Barker Cabin site, photos probably either taken or collected by Ilene Marckx, no date provided, but estimated to be between 1970 – 1980, in the files of the HSFW.

are not helpful as they show some trees and a small clear spot that can no longer be recognized. The important information concerning the location is the comment “Barker (unreadable word) Space Discussing Marker” between the photos and near the top the comment “Off SW 312th – 6th – 8th Avenue.” (The SW 312th appears to be a mistake since it would actually be South 312 Street at this location. The 6th – 8th Avenue would agree with the Bill and Ann Ward source mentioned above.)

In the draft copy of the Ward material they indicate, “The cabin was the first house in the immediate area and originally sat further to the west at Sixth Avenue S. along what was then French Lake Road.”³⁵ [French Lake Road became South 312th Street and French Lake became Mirror Lake.] In another paragraph the Wards discuss the size of the cabin but in the following paragraph they provide the contradictory statement that, “The original location of the cabin was on French Lake Road at the crest of the hill near 8th Avenue South.”³⁶ Perhaps they had information from one source that it was at Sixth Avenue South, and another that it was near the crest of Eighth Avenue South, and decided in the final draft to merely say “at the crest of the hill between what is now Sixth Avenue South and Eighth Avenue South.”

Marie Reed, longtime Federal Way historian, in a 1994 *Federal Way News* article states, “[the cabin] belonged to a homesteader named [John] Barker who lived at Seventh Avenue South and French Lake Road.”³⁷

8. Debate Concerning Date of the Barker Cabin’s Construction

The source material available for determining when the Barker Cabin was built is about evenly mixed between the years 1881 and 1883. No day or month information is ever given.

In Claude Barker’s 1958 oral history he states, “We lived for several years in a log cabin, came in 1883, and had a garden and orchard because we were very much dependent on our own resources.”³⁸ Based on the information given above in Claude Barker’s oral history, it would appear that the family did not come to the area before 1883 and came to live in the log cabin in 1883. Therefore, the 1883 year would seem to be the correct one for the building of the cabin. Leila E. Brislin’s 1953 article is the oldest reference where the date of construction is given. She uses 1883.³⁹

The 1883 year does seem to have a contradiction, however. Claude Barker himself provides this contradiction in another source. By 1956 the Barker Cabin had been moved a short distance (see later discussion for details) to the Old Line Historic Park in the Federal Shopping Way Mall at the northwest corner of Pacific Highway South and South 312th Street. The Old Line Historic Park was dedicated on June 15, 1956.⁴⁰ The program prepared for the dedication had a short section on the Barker Cabin.

The Barker homestead cabin, built about a generation later [than an

³⁵ Ward, p. not numbered, in the files of the HSFW.

³⁶ Ward, p. not numbered, in the files of the HSFW.

³⁷ Sean Robinson, “Volunteers are needed to give historic cabins a lift,” *Federal Way News*, April 7, 1994, A6.

³⁸ Barker, 1.

³⁹ Brislin, “WEBB CENTER,” 1.

⁴⁰ Program: *FOREFATHER’S DAY IN FEDERAL WAY AND THE DEDICATION OF OLD LINE HISTORIC PARK*, Federal Shopping Way, June 15, 1956, 2, in the files of the HSFW.

alleged Hudson Bay Cabin also moved to the Old Line Historic Park site], but eight years before Washington became a state, was the first white settler's home in this immediate area and is typical of pioneer architecture. The son of the builder, Mr. C. S. Barker, is still a resident of Federal Way. The cabin is not only genuine and authentic but is in excellent state of preservation. It's original location was on the homestead of which the Shopping Center is now a part, showing graphically the remarkably rapid growth of this area.⁴¹

Note the comment about the Barker Cabin being built eight years before Washington became a state. Washington became a state in 1889, so that would mean the cabin was built in 1881. Also note the comment that Mr. C. S. Barker (Claude Barker) still was a resident of Federal Way in 1956. It would seem likely that the information used in the program for the Barker Cabin probably was provided by Claude Barker, or at least he was available for the date to be checked. This might mean that Claude Barker in 1956 believed the cabin was built in 1881. (This program has many errors not related to the Barker Cabin, so this might be another one inserted by someone who did not get all the information correct.)

Nikulla, in preparing a *King County Historic Sites Survey Inventory Sheet* in 1977 for the Barker Cabin, used a construction year of 1881.⁴² Nikulla prepared many of these historic site evaluation sheets for the southwest section of King County in the late 1970's. This reference by Nikulla seems to be the first to use the actual numerical 1881 year, although it is possible he extrapolated it from the dedication of the Old Line Historic Park brochure, which states the cabin was built eight years before Washington became a state. After 1977, references become mixed in newspaper and other accounts as to the cabin being built in 1881 or 1883. I suspect that all references to the construction date made after 1977 are based on either Brislin's 1883 year or Nikulla's 1881 year.

It is possible that the date of coming to Tacoma, and the date of building the cabin, have become confused. Reading between the lines it seems possible, but cannot be proven, that the Barkers came to Tacoma in 1881 and lived there about two years, then came to Buenna and built the Barker Cabin in 1883. That would seem to help explain the comment referred to earlier which indicates that the Barker family, when they first came to Tacoma, purchased property in Tacoma and lived at the corner of 12th and J before coming to Buenna. If they had come to Tacoma in January 1883, would they have purchased property in Tacoma and lived there for a while and still had time to go to Buenna and build the cabin the same year? The answer is yes they could have, but it does seem to open up the possibility that the 1883 references of leaving Nebraska and arriving in San Francisco should actually be 1881. This also agrees more closely with Brislin's comment that they came to Tacoma in 1880.⁴³ Based on the 1956 Old Line Historic Park Program comments that Claude Barker still lived in the area and available for input, and the possibility of the family having originally lived several months in Tacoma, it

⁴¹ Program: *FOREFATHER'S DAY IN FEDERAL WAY AND THE DEDICATION OF OLD LINE HISTORIC PARK*, 2.

⁴² Dwayne Nikulla, "The Barker Cabin," *King County Historic Sites Survey Inventory Sheet*, File No. 0007, October 12, 1977, 2.

⁴³ Brislin, "Steel Lake," 15.

seems the 1881 date is possible for arriving in Tacoma and then the cabin being built two years later, and Claude Barker over 70 years later getting the years of the two events mixed up.

Another indirect way of dating the cabin construction to 1883 involves the Homestead Act itself. Under the 1862 Homestead Act any head of household was allowed to file on a quarter section of 160 acres. The homesteader had then to cultivate and reside on the land for five consecutive years, at the end of which a final certificate and title would be granted to him.⁴⁴ John Barker was granted title to his homestead on June 28, 1890.⁴⁵

With the title being granted in June 1890 and the five-year requirement, this would seem to favor the later 1883 year over the earlier 1881 year. Of course, using this logic of five years to prove up the claim and the title being then given could imply the Barker Cabin was built in 1885. The five years were a minimum and often were exceeded for various reasons before the land patent was finally awarded. See the “Formal Title Obtained for Homestead” section below that discusses the possible reasons for some time delays in obtaining the land patent. Consider the total elapsed time from when Barker began processing the paperwork after he had proved up his claim, the time for this paperwork to get to Washington D. C., the time for Washington D. C. to process the claim and return it to King County, and the time for King County to stamp it and return the final grant to John Barker. All of these steps could have resulted in seven years transpiring, and not just five.

Until information that is more specific becomes available, about all that can be said, based on the majority of evidence, is the cabin was built in the period around 1881 to 1883, with even 1885 a possibility. The 1883 year seems more probable to me.

9. Method of Construction

The earliest residences on homesteads and farms in the Puget Sound region were once marked by distinctive slab cedar houses and rural buildings which displayed a unique regional style of architecture often copying Native American dwellings. Although building in the regional style is inherently durable, and resistant to environmental elements that promote deterioration, they have virtually disappeared from the landscape due to urban development and human action. In 1999, Artifacts Architectural Consulting indicated that of the documented examples still extant, fewer than 100 survive in Western Washington and only a small amount of those remain on or near their original location.⁴⁶ The Barker Cabin is one of these surviving examples, although it has been restored and is located a few miles from its original location.

Slab cedar buildings blend traditional elements of European and American hewn log cabins with the recognized form and scale of earlier Hudson’s Bay Company and Russian America Company fur trade

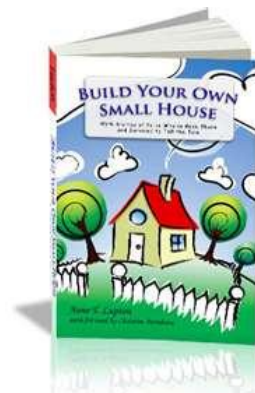


Fig. 3 – Cover of book, Anne T. Lupton, published July 1, 2011. (Courtesy www.blue-egg-farm.com.)

⁴⁴ Scott, 31.

⁴⁵ M. McKeaw, Secretary, Recorder of the General Land Office, King County Washington, *Homestead Certificate 2751, Application 5492*, conferred June 28, 1890 to grantee John M. Barker, recorded March 13, 1891, Volume 4, 445, in the files of the HSFW.

⁴⁶ Cost estimate from Artifacts Architectural Consulting, attachment “Barker Cabin Restoration,” June 1999, 3, in the files of the HSFW.

fortifications and blockhouses. The indigenous architecture had been employed for centuries by Coastal Salish peoples of Puget Sound and the First Nations people of Canada as far North as the Aleutian Islands. “The deceptively simple, yet completely functional and durable pioneer structures represent a singularly unique type of early building in the Pacific Northwest.”⁴⁷

From the earliest era of white settlement through the mid 1890’s, builders and craftsmen followed the native Salish people’s lead in using western red cedar as a preferred, almost exclusive, material for permanent shelter. Red cedar was long ago discovered by Native Americans to have natural qualities such as straight grain for true splitting and warp resistance, a natural insecticide fragrance which kept the enclosure fragrant under the most crowded of circumstances, and a very effective temperature and humidity insulation value.⁴⁸

The white settlers readily adopted the local wood and adapted it into their own building techniques and technologies. The earliest results were very crude but functional, with notched corner log pens⁴⁹ which could be built by one strong person using only an ax. As skills and available tools improved, refinements were quickly made and the overall scale of the buildings and the size of the log parts increased dramatically. By the late 1870’s logs were dovetailed at the corners and then stacked into the walls of the building that often were two stories in height. The roof shakes, roof frame, door and window trim, flooring and even ornamentation were crafted from split cedar.⁵⁰



Figure 4 - The Barker Cabin about 1929 as printed in the *Federal Way Review*, March 17, 1955. (Courtesy HSFV.)

Claude Barker indicated that there were, “lots of trees 6, 8, and even ten feet in diameter.”⁵¹

One of the principle advantages of log construction was the economy of tools required to complete a structure. A felling ax was the traditional tool for bringing down the tree and cutting the logs to length. One or more of the sides of the logs was often hewn flat with a broad-axe. Notching was done with an axe, hatchet or saw. Openings for doors and windows were usually cut after the logs were set in place. Door and window frames were put in place during construction to help hold the logs in place. A log cabin could be raised and largely completed with as few as two to four different tools.⁵²

The Barker Cabin is an excellent example of the common architecture of homes built by the first settlers in the area. The cabin was the first house in the immediate area where it was built.⁵³

⁴⁷ Cost estimate from Artifacts Architectural Consulting, attachment, “Barker Cabin Restoration,” 3.

⁴⁸ Cost estimate from Artifacts Architectural Consulting, attachment, “Barker Cabin Restoration,” 3.

⁴⁹ “Pens” in this application refers to the vertical sidewall enclosure of the cabin, Webster New World Dictionary of the American Language, College Edition, (The World Publishing Company: Cleveland, 1957), 1080.

⁵⁰ Cost estimate from Artifacts Architectural Consulting, attachment “Barker Cabin Restoration,” 3.

⁵¹ Barker, 4.

⁵² Bruce D. Bomberger, “The Preservation and Repair of Historic Log Buildings,” *Preservation Briefs*, vol. 26, U. S. Department of the Interior, National Parks Service Preservation Assistance Division, Technical Preservation Services, September 1991, 6.

⁵³ Nikulla, 1.

Mrs. Leila Brislin indicated that John Barker built a substantial log cabin with the assistance of a neighbor.⁵⁴

Claude Barker goes on to say:

The log cabin was built with a cross-cut-saw, axes, sledges, etc., to cut the logs up. The logs were chinked with thick moss held tightly into the crevices by additional smaller poles. It was very crude. It had a chimney in the corner.⁵⁵

While many of the sources refer to the Barker Cabin as a log cabin, strictly speaking it was made with logs that were hewn (made straight-sided by splitting with an ax or other tool.) Log slabs might be a better term to use.

10. Size of the Barker Cabin

Nikulla, in his 1977 *Historic Sites Survey* states, “The cabin is a 16-foot x 16-foot horizontal hewn log cabin with a high pitch shake gable roof and small plain vertical plank door with a handmade wooden handle. The cabin has one large and two very small windows.”⁵⁶ Nikulla is correct in the above statement, but some misunderstanding developed concerning the size of the cabin. Based on Nikulla’s size comment, it is possible to assume the cabin’s 16-foot x 16-foot dimensions are for the outside of the cabin. In fact, Nikulla’s dimensions are for the inside of the cabin. The outside dimensions are 18-feet x 18-feet.⁵⁷

11. Barker Family Moves out of Barker Cabin

Claude Barker indicates, “in 1890 we moved to a ‘lumber’ house.”⁵⁸ Brislin indicates this new lumber house was called the ‘Manor House’.⁵⁹ (There is some evidence that the Barkers continued to live in the log cabin even after the lumber house was built. They may have used the new house as a workshop for a few years.)

Family lived in the old Barker cabin until 1897 or 1898. Mrs. Webb told Mr. Barker “You have a better workshop than a house.” The “lumber house” was actually built for a workshop but the family continued to live in the cabin for [*sic*] sometime later.⁶⁰

⁵⁴ “Federal Way Pioneer Dies,” Sec. 2, 6.

⁵⁵ Barker, 1.

⁵⁶ Nikulla, 1.

⁵⁷ Measured by Dick Caster, September 18, 2012. This agrees with the discussion in section “Stop Work Order Issued by the City of Federal Way” that includes a report by Artifacts Architectural Consulting where they determined the cabin was 18-feet by 18-feet. The Artifacts Architectural Consulting measurements actually show it to be one to two inches greater than this depending on which side was measured.

⁵⁸ Barker, 1.

⁵⁹ Brislin, 15.

⁶⁰ Ilene Marckx [Appears to be author], Untitled document with subsection titled “Barkers,” 1.

12. Formal Title Obtained for Homestead

Claude Barker states, “We proved [up][completed the government requirements for obtaining title to the land] the homestead and Benjamin Harrison signed the deed.”⁶¹ Claude Barker’s simple statement actually involved much more. “When all requirements had been completed and the homesteader was ready to take legal possession, the homesteader found two neighbors or friends willing to vouch for the truth of his or her statements regarding land improvement and sign the “proof” document.”⁶² After developing the 160-acre homestead site for several years, John Barker indicated he had completed all the requirements for obtaining title by filing with the King County auditor. The date he informed the King County auditor to start processing his claim that he had “proved” his land is not known and the document signed by two friends has not been found.

John Barker received title to the land from the United States effective June 28, 1890. The text of this title to the land is included as Appendix 1.



Fig. 5 – Main Page Side of John Barker Patent Title to his 160 acre homestead, dated June 28, 1890, in the files of the HSFW. (Courtesy HSFW.)

⁶¹ Barker, 1.

⁶² <http://www.legendsofamerica.com/ah-homestead.html>, 1, accessed November 20, 2012.

The official final filing for title to the land through the King County auditor's office was recorded by King County for grantee, John Barker, in paperwork processed by T. A. Twichell, County Auditor at 4:58 P.M., March 13, 1891.⁶³ The Patent Title issued by the United States is on the obverse side of the document, while the King County stamp is on the reverse side of the same document.

Apparently the steps were for Barker to file first with King County, who then processed the request to the United States government, who then prepared the patent document granting title. The United States government then returned the patent document to King County, who finally entered it in the King County records. The original date that Barker filed for his claim was probably well before June 28, 1890, and it took several months to get the claim to the United States government in Washington D.C., then several more months to get it processed, and then more time to return it to Washington State. The United States government may have used the date when they processed the document. It may have been sent from Washington D. C. with the June 28, 1890 date, and not received and processed by King County until nine months later, March 13, 1891. This may help to explain why the homestead could have started in 1883 and all the paperwork was not completed for seven years (actually eight if counting the time that King County certified it) when the proving up process itself only required five years.

Nationally only forty percent of homesteaders "proved" up their land and earned the deed from the federal government.⁶⁴

13. Steel Lake Land

When John Barker moved into the area, the United States government owned much of the land. After the land was surveyed in the early 1880's, the title to the area around Steel Lake and surrounding acreage was transferred to the Northern Pacific Railway Company as a land grant in payment for bringing the railroad into Washington Territory. The Northern Pacific Railway Company subdivided their land sections and sold tracts, most of which were 40 acres in size, to

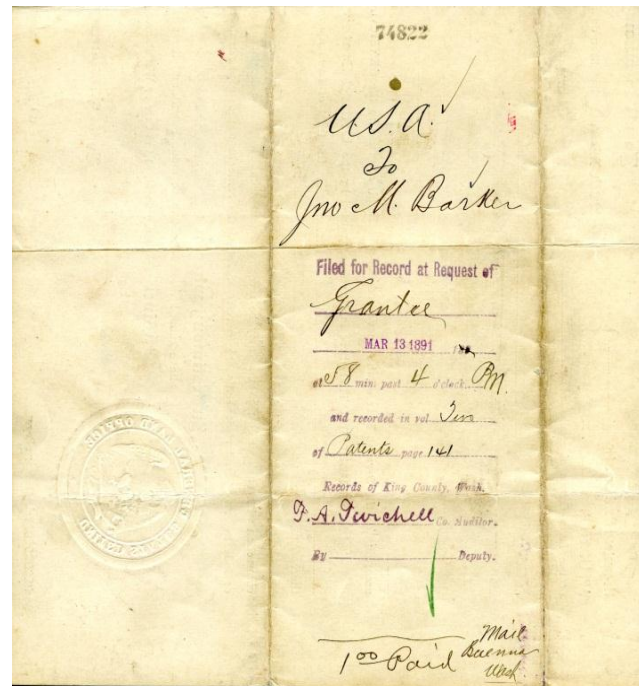


Fig. 6 – Cover Side of John Barker Patent Title to his 160 acre homestead, recorded King County March 13, 1891, in the files of the HSFW. (Courtesy the HSFW.)

⁶³ M. McKeaw, Secretary, Recorder of the General Land Office, King County Washington, *Homestead Certificate 2751, Application 5492*, conferred June 28, 1890 to grantee John M. Barker, recorded March 13, 1891, Volume 4, 445, in the files of the HSFW.

⁶⁴ <http://www.nps.gov/home/historyculture/bynumbers.htm>, 1, accessed November 20, 2012

private individuals. The last two 40-acre tracts were located at Steel Lake. These were sold to Mrs. John Barker in 1902.⁶⁵

It is not known why this land was purchased in the name of Mrs. John Barker rather than John Barker himself. Indications are that John and his wife, Addie, did not get along. Ilene Marckx, a local Federal Way resident, indicated: "J. M. Barker and his wife separated about 1906-1907. He was a mean old devil and drank prune wine which may have caused much of his trouble."⁶⁶

Claude Barker, the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Barker apparently inherited these two 40 acre plots. Mrs. Leila Brislin recalled in a newspaper obituary that after Claude Barker's death in 1967: "following his [Claude's] retirement in 1930 from the Seattle Post Office he sub-divided 40 acres of timberland on the north and south shores of Steel Lake, which had belonged to the Barker family since the early 80's." Claude Barker, on one of the lots at Steel Lake, had a rustic cabin erected and made it his home. From this Steel Lake home he conducted the first real estate business in what is now the Federal Way area until 1960.⁶⁷ (There seems to be a contradiction here between Brislin's 1955 *Federal Way Review* article that Mrs. John Barker obtained this land in 1902 and Brislin's 1967 *Federal Way News* article that the Barker's had owned it since the 1880s.)

14. Daily Living

The Barker family first obtained their water from what is now called Easter Lake on the north side of South 312th Street. Even after the family obtained a well, they used the lake water for irrigation and washing clothes. Early maps refer to Easter Lake as "Mcachem's Pond" or "Shorty's Pond." Shorty Mcachem was known for hiring out his large team of horses to clear stump land.⁶⁸

Claude Barker adds that they dug a well at the edge of Max Metchan's⁶⁹ swamp and used it for two or three years. They then dug a well 31 feet through the hardpan right at the house. Claude Barker indicates that Max Metchan's cabin was just about where the Fisher House now stands. [The Fisher House was torn down in 2009 and the site is undeveloped City of Federal Way property.] Metchan was a tinsmith and a carpenter who worked in Tacoma. Barker, Metchan, McChett, and Durell all came in and took up homesteads at the same time. They obtained properties, which were quarter-sections, and lived near the same adjacent corner so they would reside near each other as neighbors. All of them proved up their homesteads. "As for their livelihood, no one had much income." All helped each other with their problems such as digging wells, raising cabins, etc. Claude stated, "things got pretty thin sometimes." George McChett was

⁶⁵ Brislin, "Steel Lake," 15.

⁶⁶ Ilene Marckx [appears to be author], untitled document with subsection titled "Barkers," 2, in the files of the HSF.

⁶⁷ "Federal Way Pioneer Dies," sec. 2, 6.

⁶⁸ Ward, *Federal Way Historical Tour Brochure*.

⁶⁹ At first I thought Mcachem and Metchan were different spellings for the same person, because they were both sources of the Barker's water supply, but the locations given are over a mile apart, and one person is called "Shorty" and the other "Max".

a carpenter. “George Durell was a sea-faring man – went out to sea, but came back often enough to hold his homestead.” Each of the neighbors got his patent deed.⁷⁰

The population in the area was sparse, so learning of new neighbors was a happy occasion and often came as a surprise.

One day we [Barker, Ketchan, McChett and Durell] saw a smoke coming up from the far corner (N. E.) of what is now Steel Lake. We were not sure whether someone had come in there but we fired three shots and received three shots in answer. We knew we had a new neighbor.⁷¹

Many of the trees were six, eight and even ten feet in diameter. Logging was done by small companies, three or four of them often doing a 160-acre quarter-section. There was a narrow gauge railroad that used a wood burning steam engine. In 1890 the Carlson brothers had a mill at Steel Lake. This was one of the first mills in the area. It used timber found immediately around the mill. The crew was David Carlson, manager; Olaf Carlson, engineer; August Johnson, sawyer; and Charlie Johnson, teamster.⁷²

I recall playing on the boom logs as a kid. They made a road from the mill to Stone’s Landing [now Redondo], which was later taken over by the county – roughly followed the route of the present canyon road.⁷³

The present canyon road mentioned would probably be today’s Redondo Way South that runs down the hill and comes out at Redondo at Beach Drive South near Salty’s Restaurant. Claude Barker referring to Redondo as “Stone’s Landing” is interesting, since the name “Stone’s Landing” was officially changed to “Redondo” in 1907. This shows that since Claude grew up in a time when it was called Stone’s Landing he still referred to it as “Stone’s Landing,” rather than the correct name “Redondo.” Similarly, a current example of this type of “memory recall” to determine how long someone has lived in Federal Way, is by asking them the name of the local shopping mall. Is it SeaTac Mall or The Commons at Federal Way?

There were many loons on the lakes as the Barker children were growing up but hunters reduced their numbers considerably. Cougars, black bears and deer were also present. “The most I ever shot was a bob-cat.” Lakes with no connection to Puget Sound or a tributary river had no fish. “Steel Lake had no fish but later on someone introduced carp. These persisted until the lake was stocked by the state about 30 years ago [about 1928].”⁷⁴

⁷⁰ Barker, 1. While they may have had adjoining homesteads, the limited information available indicates their cabins could not have been in close proximity to each other. Of course, in the rural area of 1883, a half mile or a mile of separation may have been considered as “close” neighbors.

⁷¹ Barker, 2.

⁷² Barker, 4.

⁷³ Barker, 4.

⁷⁴ Barker, 3.

15. John Barker's Involvement with Early Schools

Based on handwritten comments added to the Claude Barker-typed document, it appears the first school that the Barker family children attended was in a small cabin that operated in 1888 in conjunction with the Taylor Webb family. There are seven students listed: Alemanda (difficult to read) Webb, Chas. Webb, Mabel Webb, Herman Webb, Claude Barker, Myrtice Barker and Laura May Barker.⁷⁵

Arthur⁷⁶ Steel (the e was dropped from the original spelling, Steele, during the platting of Steel Lake), Taylor Webb and John Barker were directors of the first Steel Lake School.⁷⁷ Ilene Marckx, a local Federal Way resident, indicates the Steel Lake School District was organized about 1892 with directors Taylor Webb, A. R. Steele and John Barker, with Frank Dolloff as clerk.⁷⁸

A six-foot x ten-foot shake-roofed bachelor's cabin already on Steel Lake property and donated by the Carlson Company Mill, was fixed up and roughly furnished to serve as a school while a more permanent school structure was being built.⁷⁹ Claude Barker made several comments about the permanent school:

The school was taught by Mr. Olson. It was an 18 foot x 20 foot room and had 13 students. As I [Claude Barker] recall no grades were differentiated – we were taught the three R's. The teacher was boarded by Mrs. Jennie Webb as were nearly all the teachers. . . .

Steele wanted the school built north of Steel Lake near his property, but the two others [Barker and Webb] prevailed in their opinion and the location finally selected was more in the geographical center of the then population. . . . He [Steele] never did own property on the lake and probably those who feel it is a historical injustice to call it Steel Lake are right. Others wanted it called Silver Lake . . . when it was to be platted the name Steel Lake was too well known by then . . .

We [Claude Barker commenting] went there for several years, then a nice school was built at Buenna which had about 50 students. We went as far as we could at S. L. [Steel Lake] then continued grammar school at Buenna. After that my grandmother went [with] me and my sister to the Acme Business School. This helped me pass the Civil Service exams for the Post Office. Only 23 out of 167 passed the exams. They were very difficult in that they asked questions on obscure places and things, things that you would never need to know in actual practice on the jobs they were filling.⁸⁰

⁷⁵ Barker, 3. It is not known who made the handwritten comments, but the oral history was found in a file belonging to Ilene Marckx.

⁷⁶ "Arthur" is typed in the source document, but it has been crossed out and above it the name "Orville" is written.

⁷⁷ Barker, 3. 'Arthur' has been changed by a handwritten entry to 'Orville'. It is not known who made the handwritten comments, but the oral history was found in a file belonging to Ilene Marckx.

⁷⁸ Ilene Marckx, "Mabel Webb Alexander," Unorganized typed notes, June 3, 1958, 1, in the files of the HSFW.

⁷⁹ Marckx, 2.

⁸⁰ Barker, 3.

Additional information on these early schools and the political infighting between the directors can be found in Dick Caster's "Federal Way Area School History" available at www.federalwayhistory.org.

Claude Barker's mention of his grandmother is interesting as it is the only time there is an indication that some of John or Addie's parents came west and lived here.

16. Roads

The first roads in the area were built by the early settlers themselves. John Barker and Taylor Webb were leaders in getting roads built. John Barker was involved with much of the early road building in the area. One road was developed for use by the four families needing to go from what is now South 312th Street to Buenna.⁸¹ [The four families are probably the Barker, Ketchan, McChett and Durell families mentioned above who developed their homesteads on adjoining land.] There are several additional documents from 1890 and 1891 in the files of the HSFW that discuss the building of this road. These are handwritten records filed with the county. They locate the road by section numbers, and being hard to read and analyze, will not be discussed here. This road probably started near the Barker homestead. This road was known as the Barker Road for many years.

A handwritten comment on a section of a USGS map of the area indicates the Barker Road was platted in 1891.⁸² An undated, unsigned, one and one-half page-long, typed document titled 'BARKER ROAD' describes the Barker Road.⁸³ Ilene Marckx, a local Federal Way resident, did some research to try to find the Barker Road. Probably this investigation was in the 1970s.

The Barker Road was [built] in the 1890s. Homesteaders up on the top, that is, where 312th is now, had to have a way of communicating with the beach for passenger service, for services, and supplies, for mail and in reverse, markets for their products via the steamers that plied between the various docks and other stopping places.

So – the Barker Road was a well-known trail, probably more of a rudimentary road – at least. My husband says in 1941 [when] we first bought the property at 312th and Hy [*sic*] 99 we drove over the length of it – it may well have extended on the south side of the Barker homestead, to communicate with the other homesteaders Webb and Libo.

Up on 312th it is bisected by the stub of 7th Ave. So., a private road. From 4th Ave. it proceeds west for a couple of blocks as an easily identifiable pattern across the back of several properties. It is again bisected at 6th avenue by a blind street, then proceeds in a manner not known to me at least without the platting map, or more detailed historical maps.

⁸¹ Barker, 2.

⁸² Photocopy of a section of the March 1890 USGS map of the Puyallup to Federal Way area, in the files of the HSFW.

⁸³ No author, "Barker Road," undated, in the files of the HSFW. This one and one-half page typed document was found in a file belonging to Ilene Marckx and it refers to the author and her husband buying land in 1941 at the corner of 312th and Highway 99; it is therefore assumed the author was Ilene Marckx.

The time for saving the entire trail or road is past. When the plat came up for approval in March 1976, council women Beatrice Stern tried to save something of the road. According to information of her secretary reaching me, she first tried to require the developer to leave the corridor as a bicycle path. But no one supported her from this community so she finally had to give up and let the developer (Douglas Webb) have the plat as he wanted it.

. . . [In trying to ascertain the location of the old school and the road] I stopped in again but no one was home in any of the homes between 4th and 6th. On another late day coming back from the Rogers' Mrs. Wise was home and she affirmed that it [the Barker Road] did run across the back of their property and others. I asked her if she would show it to me the next day with Marie Reed. She showed it to me. It continued for a couple of blocks west. About half of the way west (to 6th) stakes had been driven into the path [these belonging to] the developer who intends to put through a 60 foot road following the existing King County Barker Road corridor to serve his plat.⁸⁴

The author, obviously Marckx, goes on to say she tried to get others, including Councilman Paul Barden, interested in saving the remnant of the road, but found no one had any interest. The developer reworked the remnant of the road to meet his purposes.⁸⁵

The road from the Barker homestead to the location of the current Highway 99, was built by Metchan and Barker in 1890.⁸⁶ An Affidavit of Publication indicates a request was made to extend this road to Slaughter (now Auburn). The request was by Barker and eleven others (none of whom were Ketchan, McChett or Durell).⁸⁷ There are several additional documents from the 1890s in the files of the HSFW that discuss the proposed building of this road extension. They are hand written records filed with the county, locate the road by section numbers, and being hard to analyze will not be discussed here.

The difficulty of building roads through the area can be seen from the comment, "Barker and Webb predicted the builders of 99 would never get through the swamp for hy."⁸⁸

17. John Barker's Death

As with other events in John Barker's life there is some confusion about the date of his death. The *Historical Gazette* indicates John Barker died on his Federal Way farm on October 6, 1928.⁸⁹ A much better source concerning his death is available at the cemetery where he is buried. John Barker is buried at Mountain View Cemetery, Auburn, Washington. His headstone credits him with being a 'Washington Pioneer.' The dates given on the headstone are 1841-

⁸⁴ No author, "Barker Road, 1, 2, in the files of the HSFW. In this case, Ilene Marckx is obviously making the comments.

⁸⁵ No author, "Barker Road, 2.

⁸⁶ Barker, 2.

⁸⁷ *Affidavit of Publication*, Requested by M. L. Sherpy, publisher of *Slaughter Sun*, May 2, 1891, witness by 'unreadable signature', for Clerk Board King County, State of Washington, in the files of the HSFW.

⁸⁸ Barker, 2.

⁸⁹ "Barker Cabin," *Historical Gazette*, HSFW Newsletter, December 1998, 1.

1929.⁹⁰ Records in the card file of Mountain View Cemetery indicate his death was on October 5, 1929 from senility. He was buried on October 8, 1929.⁹¹

18. Claude Barker as a Real Estate Broker

Claude Barker went to work with the Seattle Post Office and retired from this job in 1930.⁹² Claude Barker evidently then began selling real estate. The business card he was using in 1958 indicates he was a broker for a company called “SUBURBAN PROPERTIES between Seattle and Tacoma”.⁹³ Claude Barker apparently got his start in real estate by selling the two 40 acre plots of land around Steel Lake he inherited from his mother (see the earlier section “Steel Lake Land.”) Claude Barker is also buried at Mountain View Cemetery, Auburn Washington. His headstone only gives his name, but the records of Mountain View Cemetery indicate Claude was born in 1878 and died on December 20, 1966 and was buried on December 22, 1966⁹⁴. His death occurred in Seattle.⁹⁵

19. Federal Shopping Way Old Line Historic Park

J. R. Cissna developed Federal Shopping Way, the first shopping complex in the Federal Way area, in 1955.⁹⁶ Cissna selected 20 acres of land at the southwest corner of the key intersection of Pacific Highway South/ U.S. Highway 99 and South 312th Street. Construction began in 1954, with the opening of the first stores in 1955.⁹⁷

In addition to stores and shopping, Cissna developed SantaFair⁹⁸ a large amusement area with carnival rides, circus acts, a skating rink, a bowling alley, and many different types of museums and exhibits.⁹⁹

Cissna felt that an additional way to draw customers to Federal Shopping Way was to establish a collection of historic buildings and historical exhibits. Old Line Historic

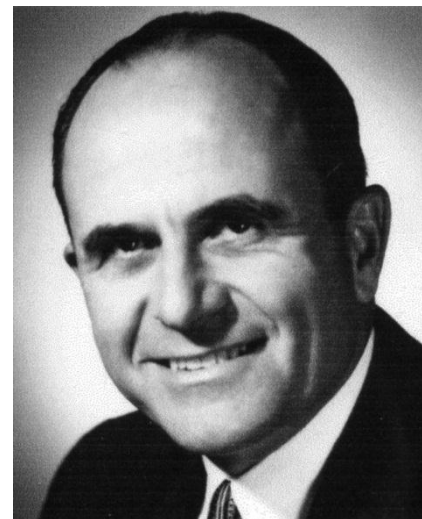


Fig. 7 – J. R. Cissna, Federal Shopping Way developer, circa 1960. (Courtesy HSFW.)

⁹⁰ Located and recorded by Dick Caster, at Mountain View Cemetery, Auburn Washington, October 21, 2000.

⁹¹ Card file and log book kept at Mountain View Cemetery, Auburn, Washington, October 21, 2000.

⁹² “Federal Way Pioneer Dies,” sec. 2, 6.

⁹³ Barker, p. 4.

⁹⁴ File card in records of Mountain View Cemetery, Auburn Washington and headstone, located by Dick Caster, October 21, 2000.

⁹⁵ “Federal Way Pioneer Dies,” *Federal Way News*, January 11, 1967, sec. 2, 6.

⁹⁶ For a detailed history of J. R. Cissna and Federal Shopping Way, see Dick Caster, “Federal Shopping Way”, www.federalwayhistory.org.

⁹⁷ Dick Caster, “Federal Shopping Way,” 5 – 23.

⁹⁸ SantaFair is the way J. R. Cissna preferred to spell this amusement area, Evelyn Cissna discussion with Dick Caster, March 12, 2003.

⁹⁹ Dick Caster, “Federal Shopping Way,” 40, 43 – 54.

Park¹⁰⁰ was the general term used for the historical exhibit established at Federal Shopping Way. The original plan was to use the space at the northwest and southwest corners of the complex (bordering South 312th Street and South 316th Street, respectively). The northwest area became fully developed, but the southwest area was mainly just a storage area for cabins waiting restoration. Sometimes the name Heritage Park was used in place of Old Line Historic Park. The more specific name for the northwest portion was Flags West Village. All these terms were used interchangeably, so some confusion exists as to exactly which area is being discussed.¹⁰¹

Federal Shopping Way, and therefore Historic Cabins Park, were on the northeast corner of the Barker Homestead claim.

20. Barker Cabin Moved to Federal Shopping Way

The Barker Cabin was the original inspiration for Old Line Historic Park when J. R. Cissna built Federal Shopping Way in the mid-1950s. This park was to be one of the many scenic attractions in association with the shopping complex. John Barker's children, Claude Barker and Myrtice Barker Wells, still owned the Barker Cabin in 1955, and sold it to Cissna.¹⁰² In 1955 the cabin was moved from its original site a short distance to the Old Line Historic Park. Nothing is known as to how the cabin was actually moved to the new location. It appeared to be mostly restored at this new location but it is not known who did this.

In preparation for the opening of the Barker Cabin to the public, a poem titled "Barker Homestead" was written by Washington Green and promoted in Federal Shopping Way's *Federal Way Review* (See Appendix 2.)¹⁰³ This poem was republished several times in the *Federal Way Review* and the *Federal Way News*.

On June 15, 1956 the Old Line Historic Park was formally dedicated. It had items from the frontier period, from the blockhouse period, the homestead period and era of early industrial development. The program for the June 15, 1956 opening of the Old Line Historic Park indicates the Barker Cabin was initially one of three structures available at the Old Line Historic Park.¹⁰⁴ The dedication program provided the following information.

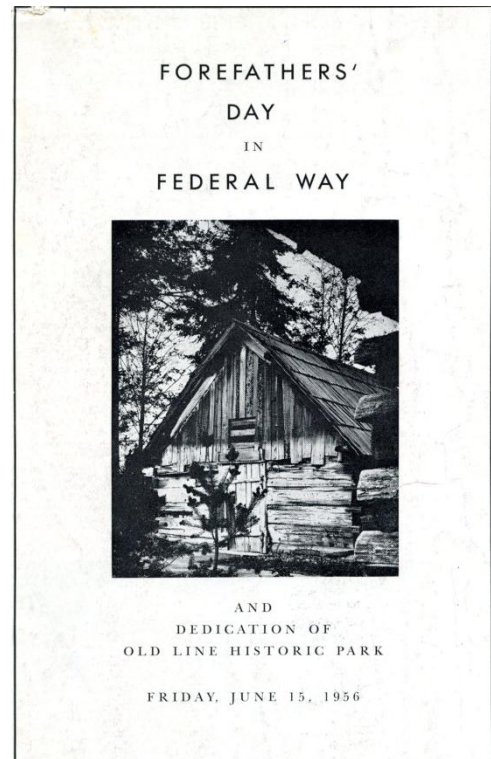


Fig. 8 – Forefathers' Day in Federal Way, Program Cover, June 15, 1956. (Courtesy HSFW.)

¹⁰⁰ The term "Old Line" comes from Federal Old Line Insurance, the insurance company Cissna founded in 1937 in Seattle, Dick Caster, "Federal Shopping Way," 6 - 10.

¹⁰¹ Dick Caster, "Federal Shopping Way," 30.

¹⁰² "Barker Cabin," *Historical Gazette*, December 1998, 1.

¹⁰³ Washington Green, "Barker Homestead," *Federal Way Review*, March 17, 1955, 12.

¹⁰⁴ Program, *Forefathers' Day in Federal Way and Dedication of Old Line Historic Park*, June 15, 1956, 2, in the files of the HSFW.

The observation of Forefathers' Day in Federal Way, which is expected to be continued as an annual celebration, marks the 110th anniversary, this year, of the fixing of the northern boundary of Washington at the 49th Parallel. This is the occasion of the formal opening of the Old Line Historic Park, a feature attraction and patriotic memorial in Federal Shopping Way.

The [Old Line] Historic Park includes a group of buildings typical of pioneer days—some original and others that are replicas of historic structures. As the visitor enters the main court of the Park, he feels that he has stepped backwards a century to the frontier days of this territory. . . .

The Barker homestead cabin, built about a generation later [comparing it to a supposed Hudson's Bay Company Cabin also in the park¹⁰⁵], but eight years before Washington became a state, was the first white settler's home in the immediate area and is typical of pioneer architecture. The son of the builder, Mr. C. S. Barker, is still a resident of Federal Way. The cabin is not only genuine and authentic but is in an excellent state of preservation. Its original location was on the homestead of which the Shopping Center is now a part, showing graphically the remarkably rapid growth of this area.¹⁰⁶

[The text concerning the replica of the San Juan Blockhouse discussed in the program is not included here.]

Other features in the [Old Line] Historic Park that are attracting special attention from the children are the Water Wheel, a reminder of the part played by waterpower in the development of this region, and a covered wagon, one of the early ammunition wagons used by the Army trains. The ox yoke hanging above the park entrance is one that was actually in use here in this area.¹⁰⁷



Fig. 9 – Barker Cabin, on the left, at Old Line Historic Park, Federal Shopping Way, circa 1956. (Courtesy Evelyn Cissna.)

As part of the dedication Jackie Souders' Band from Seattle presented a short concert and the Campfire Girls gave tours of Old Line Historic

¹⁰⁵ Dick Caster refutes the assertion that this "Hudson's Bay Company Cabin" was actually built by the Hudson's Bay Company, Dick Caster, "Federal Shopping Way," 32, 33.

¹⁰⁶ Program, *Forefathers' Day in Federal Way and Dedication of Old Line Historic Park*, 2.

¹⁰⁷ Program, *Forefathers' Day in Federal Way and Dedication of Old Line Historic Park*, 2.

Park.¹⁰⁸ See the monograph on Federal Shopping Way for additional information on other structures and activities involved with the Old Line Historic Park not related to the Barker Cabin.¹⁰⁹

An edition of the Washington State Historical Society's Newsletter mentioned that the opening of Old Line Historic Park was a plus for historic preservation.

FEDERAL WAY'S PRESERVATION OF HISTORY WILL PAY DIVIDENDS
A unique and most interesting historical spot was dedicated in the Federal Way Shopping Center June 15. The center is for business but in the heart of it is a bit of history – blockhouse restoration, a couple of original log houses [one of which was the Barker Cabin], water wheel, etc. This bit of Washington history will pay dividends, a lot more than its sponsors realize today. Congratulations to the Federal Old Line Insurance Co.¹¹⁰

Each year a Forefather's Day celebration was held at Old Line Historic Park. H. O. Stone, President of Federal Shopping Way, Inc., restated at the 1962 Forefathers' Day observance that the site of Flagg West Village (Old Line Historic Park) was a fitting location for the historic attractions since the Barker Cabin was located within the boundaries of the original Barker homestead grant.¹¹¹ The location of the Barker Cabin in Old Line Historic Park was about six blocks east of the cabins original location.

Many other activities were held at the historic area over the years, often centered on the Barker Cabin.¹¹²

21. The Barker Cabin on Display at Federal Shopping Way

Over the years from the dedication of Old Line Historic Park in 1955 to the mid-1960s the Barker Cabin was a center of attraction. Typical of many mentions is this 1960 *Tacoma Sunday Ledger-News Tribune* article:

In the midst of the rapid growth and development of the interurban area between Tacoma and Seattle, a shrine in the memory of the early history of this region is being preserved at Federal Way. This is [Old Line] Historic Park maintained in one section of the shopping center at the intersection of Highway 99 and 312th Street South.

. . . .

The land where the [Old Line] Historic Park now stands was homesteaded by the Barker family, and its original homestead cabin now is one of the attractions of the park.

¹⁰⁸ Program, *Forefathers' Day in Federal Way and Dedication of Old Line Historic Park*, 4.

¹⁰⁹ Dick Caster "Federal Shopping Way", 30 -36.

¹¹⁰ "Federal Way's Preservation of History Will Pay Dividends," Chats with the Editor, *Washington State Historical Society Newsletter*, June 1956, 2.

¹¹¹ "Forefathers' Day Observance Fixing of U. S. Boundary," *Federal Way News*, June 13, 1962, page number unknown.

¹¹² Dick Caster, "Federal Shopping Way," 34 – 36.

It typifies [the] important period of homesteading and settlement. Along with [the cabin] are a covered wagon and ox yoke that symbolize the emigrant days.¹¹³



Fig. 10 – Ox Cart in front of Barker Cabin, circa 1962. (Courtesy Evelyn Cissna.)

Special activities were often held that centered on the Old Line Historic Park and the Barker Cabin. Each year a Frontier Days celebration was held in July. Free stagecoach rides were offered with the main stop being in front of the Barker Cabin. Native Americans from throughout the Northwest were invited to perform ceremonies. Special events such as weddings were held in the Old Line Historic Park.¹¹⁴

A narrow gauge railroad was built to circle the grounds of Federal Shopping Way. The railroad opened for business on May 10, 1963.¹¹⁵ This railroad served both as a free ride attraction and as a way to help people traverse the several-acre complex. The presence of the railroad track in front of the Barker Cabin is a good way to determine if photos date before or after this time. The tracks were removed sometime in the 1980s.



Fig. 11 – Small-scale replica train that encircled Federal Shopping Way, with the Barker Cabin on the left, circa 1964. (Courtesy Evelyn Cissna.)

¹¹³ Harold Otho Stone, “Federal Way Park Recalls Historic Past,” *The Tacoma Sunday Ledger-News Tribune*, May 22, 1960, page number unknown. Stone was at the time the President of Federal Shopping Way, Inc. He also had a local reputation of being a historian.

¹¹⁴ Dick Caster, “Federal Shopping Way,” 36.

¹¹⁵ “I [Have] BEEN WORKING ON THE RAILROAD,” *Federal Way News-Advertiser*, May 8, 1963, 1.

22. Federal Shopping Way in Financial Trouble



Fig. 12 – Barker Cabin at Federal Shopping Way, circa 1980. (Courtesy HSFW.)

Federal Shopping Way was in financial trouble by 1966. Little attention was paid to the Old Line Historic Park structures after this. From the late 1960s until the late 1980s little was done to preserve or use the Barker Cabin.

Occasionally events were held to try to revive interest in the Barker Cabin. One example is an Open House held August 19 and 20, 1972. The Federal Way Historical Society (the predecessor to the HSFW), as its first event after formation, used the Barker Cabin Open House to draw attention to the new organization, as well as a way to bring attention to the public and make restoration needs for the deteriorating Barker Cabin known. Pioneer furniture was borrowed from the White River Historical Society. A historic brochure was prepared for the event that included a historic map of the area and a few notes briefly describing the history of the area

when black bear, homesteaders and Indians all shared the area.¹¹⁶

23. Shirley Charnell’s Effort to Preserve Cabins by Moving Them

In 1990, the City of Federal Way purchased four acres of land adjacent to land owned by the State of Washington on which was situated the West Hylebos Wetlands State Park, on the south side of South 348th Street at its intersection with 4th Avenue South. The purchase was part of King County’s 1989 open space bond issue.¹¹⁷ This four-acre parcel later would be referred to as the City’s “Hylebos Property” and the “Historic Cabins Park.” Eventually, the state would transfer the deed for its park property to the city in 2007.¹¹⁸ Today, the former City of Federal Way’s Historic Cabins Park and the former West Hylebos Wetlands State Park have been combined into the City of Federal Way’s West Hylebos Wetlands Park.

In April 1991, Shirley Charnell, President of the HSFW, wrote a letter to Cheri McCabe of the Federal Way Parks Department and to Federal Way City Council members.

Re: Moving and Storage of Historic Cabins

....

Since the Historical Society of Federal Way’s organization was incorporated in October 1988, we have been very concerned with the preservation and

¹¹⁶ “Barker Cabin: Open house planned for pioneer cabin,” *Federal Way News*, August 16, 1972, B2.

¹¹⁷ Sean Robinson, “Old cabins may find new home at Hylebos,” *Federal Way News*, June 17, 1992, A1.

¹¹⁸ <http://waymarking.com/waymarks/WM1CQ7>, accessed November 20, 2012.

protection of historic cabins presently standing on the Federal Way Shopping Center grounds. . . .

These cabins are in jeopardy now and the new owner, Peter Jouflas has asked the Historical Society of Federal Way to remove these cabins from the site. There is a constant problem of vagrants camping in the Denny Cabin and starting fires on the concrete floor inside the cabin while sleeping there. . . . The other cabin is the Barker Cabin which is located on the north side of Cerbone's. This is an original Federal Way cabin. In fact, it is presently located on its original homestead [although not at its original location.] It is in delicate condition and needs to be removed and restored in a better location.

The Federal Way Shopping Center is sending us a letter giving the cabins to the Historical Society and also a written appraisal of the value of the cabins. The Historical Society is asking the City of Federal Way to assist us in the removal, storage and future restoration of these cabins. We request that the city council declare by resolution that these cabins are of historical significance to the City of Federal Way and that they should be moved and preserved for a future historic park to be incorporated in the city parks plan.

The Historical Society appreciates any assistance the City of Federal Way can give us in this important project.

Sincerely yours

Signature

Shirley Charnell
President¹¹⁹

On May 21, 1991, Charnell wrote a letter to Ken Brossel of the Rotary Club of Federal Way. The letter thanked the Rotary Club for listening to her May 16 presentation, and requested a donation of \$3,000 to help move the two cabins to a new location.¹²⁰

On May 21, 1991, the City Council of Federal Way adopted a resolution that the Denny Cabin and the Barker Cabin "have special historical significance."¹²¹ The text of this resolution is included as Appendix 3.



Fig. 13 – Shirley Charnell, longtime community activist one of the original founders of the HSFW, and a primary force in preserving the Denny Cabin and the Barker Cabin, circa 1992. (Courtesy HSFW.)

¹¹⁹ Letter from Shirley Charnell, President of the HSFW to Cheri McCabe, Parks Department and Federal Way City Council Members, "Moving & Storage of Historic Cabins," April 29, 1991, in the files of the HSFW.

¹²⁰ Letter from Shirley Charnell, President of the HSFW to Ken Brossel, Rotary Club of Federal Way, "Historic Preservation and Restoration of the Denny Cabin and Barker Cabin, presently at the Federal Way Shopping Center," May 21, 1991, in the files of the HSFW.

¹²¹ Debra Ertel, Mayor, *City of Federal Way Resolution No. 91-60*, May 21, 1991.

In June 1991 the public was made aware of the need to do something concerning the Barker Cabin, as well as the other cabins at the former Federal Shopping Way's Old Line Historic Park. Charnell stated that moving the Denny Cabin and the Barker Cabin from behind the old shopping center would be worth the cost and effort. The figure of \$3,000 was mentioned to move the cabins.¹²²

Otherwise, the community may lose the aged cabins altogether, perhaps to another community that could move and maintain the buildings. . . .

It is essential that we move them soon to keep these historic cabins in our community. Otherwise, we lose them. . . .

The HSFW had applied for a grant from the City of Federal Way's Arts Commission. . . .

The cabins had been an enigma and sometimes a headache to Federal Way since they were parked at the Federal Way Shopping Center in the mid 50s. . . .

They [the Barker Cabin, the Denny Cabin and two others] were to be the centerpiece of a historic theme park at the Federal Way Shopping Center, one of several grand plans launched by shopping center creator J. R. Cissna.

The operation and ownership of the center at Pacific Highway South and South 312th Street came into question, however, and most of those plans were ditched.

The cabins remained, however, and history-minded organizations have on occasion pondered the possibility of moving or using them.

Charnell says the time is at hand.

What the society needs, is permission to move [the cabins] to a park, a safe place to eventually store or rebuild . . .¹²³

In a June 1991, Charnell wrote a memo to Federal Way City officials, including City Council members, suggesting that the site of the old caretaker's house that was being demolished at Steel Lake Park would be a good site to which to relocate the two cabins. The cost could be split between the City of Federal Way and the HSFW.¹²⁴ The city apparently felt this was not a suitable location.

In June 1991, the Federal Way City Council appropriated \$6,000 to the HSFW toward moving and storing one of the two historical cabins. The request had been for \$3,000. Unfortunately for the Barker Cabin, it was the Denny Cabin that the city grant covered. Since its relocation was not funded, the Barker Cabin would have to remain at the shopping center for the time being. It was

¹²² Melodie Steiger, "Time-worn cabins need a new home," *Federal Way News*, June 12, 1991, A1.

¹²³ Steiger, "Time-worn cabins need a new home," A1, A6.

¹²⁴ Letter from Shirley L. Charnell, President of the HSFW to Joe Stevens, Park Director; City Council Members; Brent McFall, City Manager; Steve Anderson, Assistant City Manager; Jenny Schroeder, Parks Department; and Cheri McCabe, Parks Department, "Permanent Location for the historic Denny Cabin and Barker Cabin," June 4, 1991, in the files of the HSFW.

decided not to move the Barker Cabin until September 1992 when the La Petite Floral Shop lease ran out.¹²⁵ Apparently the La Petite Floral Shop was using it at the time.

In January 1992, the Board of Commissioners of the Federal Way Water and Sewer District considered a proposal to move the Barker Cabin from the Federal Way Shopping Center to its Well Site 25.¹²⁶ Bert Ross, who helped with the design and construction at this water tower site at South 310th Street and Eight Avenue South in the early 1990s's, does not remember this site being considered for placement of the Barker Cabin.¹²⁷ The idea must not have been accepted at the Board of Commissioners meeting and there was no further follow-up.

At the May 7, 1992 City of Federal Way Parks and Recreation Commission meeting, Barbara Simpson, the City Parks Planner, presented a plan for an approved site on city property for the Barker Cabin and Denny Cabin. It was recommended that this plan be approved to provide a permanent location for the HSFW cabins, pending appropriate review processes. Public comment would be allowed until June 4, 1992. It was pointed out that an obstacle would be the identification of a funding source prior to any implementation of the plan.¹²⁸

By June, 1992 Charnell, the then Past President of the HSFW, finally began to see the result of all her efforts come to fruition. Charnell indicated that much of any future progress would depend on donations and volunteer help. Charnell indicated,

The Barker Cabin . . . is a homegrown building, erected in this area before Washington became a state.

We felt that this [the placement and restoration of the Barker Cabin and the Denny Cabin] would be a first for Federal Way, and it would be quite an attraction [in an orchard at the entrance to Hylebos Park.] It'd be a nice place to go.¹²⁹

In August 1992 Charnell, now with the title "Project Coordinator," wrote a letter to the Federal Way Arts Commission requesting the \$5,500 funding granted to the HSFW in 1991, but not expended. The grant was intended for the relocation of the cabins, but because this had not yet been accomplished, it was argued that the grant should be reinstated for use in 1993, "when, hopefully, the Historic Park will have [a] permanent home and the Society can begin the restoration project."¹³⁰

24. Final Plans to Move the Barker Cabin to West Hylebos Wetlands

In preparing to move the Barker Cabin, Shirley Charnell, Project Coordinator for the HSFW, had requested input from experts. Samuel Duff Combs, an experienced log structure restorer, gave

¹²⁵ Linda Elliot, "City aids in historical cabin rescue," *Federal Way News*, July, 19, 1991, A1.

¹²⁶ "Wellsite may be home to Barker Cabin," *Federal Way News*, January 29, 1992, A6.

¹²⁷ Bert Ross proofreading comment in Barker Cabin Draft, November 12, 2012.

¹²⁸ City of Federal Way Commission Action Form, "Historical Society Cabins," Item 4D, May 7, 1992, in the files of the HSFW.

¹²⁹ Robinson, "Old cabins may find new home at Hylebos," A4.

¹³⁰ Letter from Shirley L. Charnell, Project Coordinator Federal Way Arts Commission, "Deep concern regarding proposed Historic Cabin project for the city of Federal Way], August 12, 1992.

his opinion as to how the Barker Cabin could be moved. He felt the lap-jointed structure would be easy to dismantle for a move. He indicated the Barker Cabin would require:

1. The documentation of the building by photographs. [Presumably inside and out.]
2. Recording of the structure with measured drawing to Historic American Building Survey Standards.
3. Removal of the roof (it will collapse with any move)
4. Dismantling of the stone fireplace or disengagement from the logs if it is decided not to utilize the fireplace
5. Disengaging the sill logs from the foundation
6. Placing the structure on a flatbed truck to move it to a temporary site.¹³¹

Before any work could begin at the site, the HSFW embarked on a complex administrative process. The City of Federal Way Parks Department staff reviewed the site plan and made several revisions. Parks Director Joe Stevens indicated, “there is a lot of work to do on it. It is not really our [the City of Federal Way’s] project. We’re helping out the historical society.”¹³²

In February 1993, Londi K. Lindall, Deputy City Attorney for Federal Way, sent a memorandum to Stevens concerning the proposed location of historical cabins on the Hylebos Open Space



Fig. 14 – The Barker Cabin at the Federal Way Shopping Center, circa 1993. (Courtesy Federal Way News.)

Property. The issues covered in the memo concerned legal aspects of moving the Barker Cabin and the Denny Cabin, and constructing parking facilities and an interpretive center on the Hylebos Property pursuant to the terms of two documents: King County Ordinance No. 9071, and the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement between King County and the City of Federal Way regarding open space acquisition projects. Lindall’s review indicated that while the cabins were not specifically listed in the documents submitted to King County for development of Hylebos Park, the Ordinance stated in nonspecific terms that the purpose generally stated that some improvement work would be done for educational and interpretive programs and to improve trails. Lindall concluded:

¹³¹ Letter from Samuel Duff Combs, AIA, Architect Shirley L. Charnell, President of the HSFW, “Denny and Barker Cabins,” March 14, 1991, in the files of the HSFW.

¹³² Robinson, “Old cabins may find new home at Hylebos,” A4.

Therefore, the Ordinance does not contain a categorical exclusion for the location of historic cabins or for the construction of parking facilities, an interpretive center or trails. The purpose of the Ordinance is to improve “public green spaces, greenbelts, open space, parks and trails,” which is consistent with the City’s proposed improvements. . . .

It is the City Attorney’s opinion that the Parks Department’s proposed project for the Hylebos Property which will include the relocation of two historical cabins to the site does not violate the provisions of the Ordinance or the Interlocal [Cooperation Agreement].¹³³

This legal opinion removed the final legal barriers to relocating both cabins to the entrance to West Hylebos Wetlands Park on South 348th Street and Fourth Avenue South.

Since a fire had gutted the southern end of the shopping center in December 1992, major owner Peter Jouflas had been making plans to renovate the site. He intended to demolish six buildings, including Old World Square, the crumbling concrete hulk in the middle of the complex. Because the Barker Cabin would interfere with this renovation effort at the northern end of the shopping center, the cabin had to either be torn down or moved.¹³⁴

In February 1993, Peter Jouflas, a representative of the new shopping mall owners, gave permission for the HSFW to move the cabin from the shopping mall property.¹³⁵

This letter will act as our permission to you to remove the Barker Cabin from the Federal Way Shopping Center site. We are happy to cooperate [with] the Historical Society and only request that you send us a letter of imputed value and coordinate the removal with Kelly Voeller at Federal [Way] Shopping Center.

Peter T. Joufla

25. Cabin Moved to Historic Cabins Park at West Hylebos Wetlands

On Saturday September 18, 1993, volunteers from the HSFW and other organizations disassembled the Barker Cabin.¹³⁶ Volunteers were recruited from the HSFW, the Federal Way Kiwanis Club, the Federal Way Stake of the LDS Church, the Friends of the Hylebos Wetlands, and others.¹³⁷ Ed Opstad of the HSFW took a sledge hammer to the chimney and destroyed it piece by piece.¹³⁸ The logs in the side wall were numbered to be individually moved to and reassembled at the new site. Figures 15 and 16 show the white tags with numbers on them

¹³³ Memorandum from Londi K.Lindell, Deputy Federal Way City Attorney to E. Joe Stevens, City of Federal Way Parks Director, “Proposed Location of Historical Cabins on Hylebos Open Space Property,” February 4, 1993, 1, 3.

¹³⁴ Robinson, “Historical society moves 1880s-era cabin,” A1, A8.

¹³⁵ Letter from Peter Jouflas, Federal Way Shopping Center to Shirley Charnell, Greater Federal Way Chamber of Commerce, “Federal Way Shopping Center – Barker Cabin,” February 10, 1993. (The letter referring to Shirley Charnell as affiliated with the Greater Federal Way Chamber of Commerce seems to be a mistake on Jouflas’s part.)

¹³⁶ Sean Robinson, “Historical society moves 1880s-era cabin,” *Federal Way News*, September 23, 1993, A1, A8.

¹³⁷ Lee Bedard, “Rain or shine, this picnic goes on,” *Federal Way News*, September 4, 2002, 1

¹³⁸ Bill Winchell, DVD, “HSFW – Events 1989 – 1998, HSFW, no date, in the files of the HSFW. This video shows about four minutes of material relating to moving the Barker Cabin and about one minute of material showing the Barker Cabin parts at the new site.

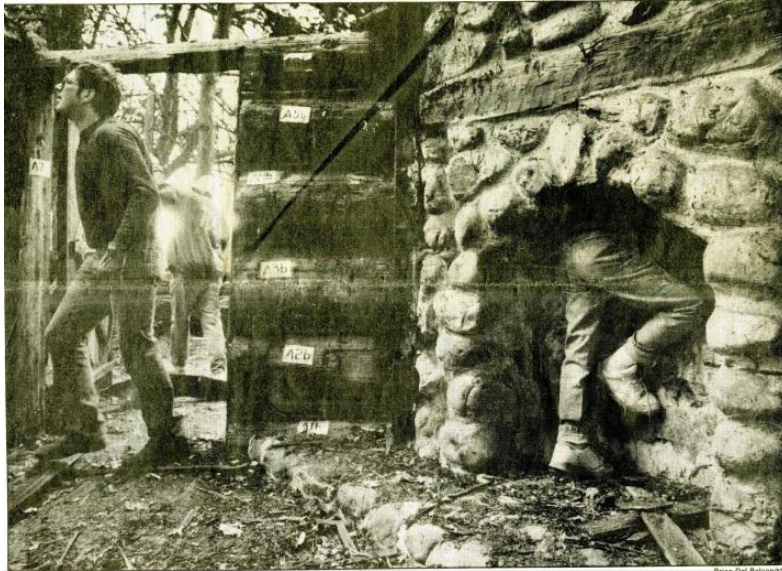


Fig. 15 – Zachary Priest, 9 (right) son of City Councilman Skip Priest, climbs up the chimney of the Barker Cabin’s fireplace during disassembly. To the left is Doug Pfeffer, President of the HSFW in 1993. (Courtesy *Federal Way News*.)

attached to the walls. Dietrick Jones of the HSFW attached the white tags to the walls and produced drawings of how the numbered logs were to be reassembled at the cabin’s new location.¹³⁹ These drawings are in the files of the HSFW.

The roof structure was found to be too deteriorated to move and was left behind. Only the disassembled logs and parts of the end gables were actually moved to the new site. The remnants of the demolished fireplace were left behind. They left behind an aging retail center that was proceeding toward redevelopment.



Fig. 16 - Don Miller, bottom, removes nails from the components of the Barker Cabin during disassembly in preparation for the move. On the roof is Doug Pfeffer, President of the HSFW in 1993. (Courtesy *Federal Way News*.)

¹³⁹ Don Miller, comment at the HSFW Annual Meeting, September 8, 2012.

The same day, September 18, 1993, the Barker Cabin components were moved by the volunteers from the shopping center to an area near the West Hylebos Wetlands Park at South 348th Street and 4th Avenue South.¹⁴⁰ New Lumber and Hardware provided a flatbed truck to move the components.¹⁴¹

On December 6, 1993, the City of Federal Way and the HSFW entered into an agreement regarding the historical cabins. The document was signed by J. Brent Mcfall, City Manager of the City of Federal Way and Douglas H. Pepper, President of the HSFW. The HSFW agreed that it would restore the Denny Cabin and the Barker Cabin within two years. The HSFW would provide security fences and be responsible for all costs and expenses in connection with relocation and restoration. The HSFW would be responsible for all future maintenance and repair of the cabins necessary to preserve them. The HSFW would acquire the necessary permits and comply with applicable codes. The City of Federal Way would provide parking, landscaping and sanitary facilities.¹⁴² This document has been amended several times since its original execution.

26. Concrete Foundation/Slab for the Permanent Home of the Barker Cabin



Fig. 17 – J & K Foundations pouring Barker Cabin slab, May 24, 1994. (Courtesy HSFW.)

At about the time of the move, the City of Federal Way Parks Department staff provided grading and filling for the foundation/slab where the Barker Cabin was to be placed.¹⁴³

In October 1993, Dietrick Jones, President the HSFW, received a bid from J & K Foundations to form and pour concrete foundations/slabs for both the Barker Cabins and the Denny Cabin. The total cost was \$2,220.00. The bid does not show separate bids for each cabin but only the total amount for both.¹⁴⁴

The foundation/slab for the Barker Cabin was poured on May 24, 1994.¹⁴⁵

¹⁴⁰ Robinson, "Historical society moves 1880s-era cabin," A1, A8.

¹⁴¹ Winchell.

¹⁴² "Agreement Regarding Historical Cabins," signed by J Brent Mcfall, City Manager, City of Federal Way and Douglas H Pepper, President of the HSFW, December 6, 1993, ten pages, in the files of the HSFW..

¹⁴³ Project Description, Grant Application, HSFW to City of Federal Way, no date, 15, in the files of the HSFW.

¹⁴⁴ Price quotation from Jack C. Holgenson, J& K Foundations, Sumner WA to Dietrick Jones, Auburn WA, October 11, 1993, in the files of the HSFW.

¹⁴⁵ Date on back of three photos showing the event, in the files of the HSFW.

In March 1994, Hovland Architects, Ltd. was contracted to produce drawings for the foundation/slab for the Barker Cabin, and said drawings were subsequently prepared. When the contractor poured the foundation/slab to his interpretation of the specifications on the drawings, it was discovered the method used to dimension the drawings was so misleading that the contractor built the foundation/slab two feet smaller than it should have been. As a consequence, it was necessary to remobilize the contractor to build the required addition onto the already completed foundation/slab. The extra cost was \$497.02. Dietrick Jones indicated he would deduct this amount from the amount owed to Hovland Architects.¹⁴⁶



Fig 18 – Barker Cabin slab, October 21, 1994.
(Courtesy HSFW.)

As of November 15, 1994, no agreement had been reached concerning the disputed payment for drawings for the Barker Cabin foundation/slab. Hovland Architects continued to bill the HSFW for the full amount of \$1,000.00. Hovland eventually indicated the unpaid portion of the full contact amount was past due.¹⁴⁷ (Nothing was found in the HSFW records that indicated how this issue was settled.)¹⁴⁸

The finished concrete foundation/slab had to season and strengthen before work to reassemble the Barker Cabin components could begin.¹⁴⁹

27. Preparing for the Restoration of the Barker Cabin

In 1994 the City of Federal Way contracted for a topographical survey and wetland delineation at a cost of \$2,912.00.¹⁵⁰

In 1995, the Roper Company was hired by the City of Federal Way to prepare a site plan and construction drawings for the entire area where the Barker Cabin and Denny Cabin would be on

¹⁴⁶ Letter from Dietrick Jones, President of the HSFW to Hovland Architects, Ltd., Fife WA, May 20, 1994, in the files of the HSFW.

¹⁴⁷ Invoice from Tamara Bolton, Accounts Manager, Hovland Architects, Ltd., Fife WA to HSFW, November 15, 1994, in the files of the HSFW.

¹⁴⁸ Nikulla's 1977 dimensions indicated 16-feet by 16-feet. It is now realized this represented the inside dimensions, rather than the 18-foot by 18-foot outside dimensions. I believe the person making the drawings may have been influenced by Nikulla's comment. At the time the drawings were produced, the cabin was disassembled and may have caused the confusion.

¹⁴⁹ Sean Robinson, "Volunteers are needed to give historic cabins a lift," *Federal Way News*, April 7, 1994, A6.

¹⁵⁰ Project Description, 15.

permanent display.¹⁵¹ At the time this portion of the West Hylebos Wetlands Park was called Historic Cabins Park.

At this point, it was planned to use a professional roofer to construct the roofs for both the Denny Cabin and the Barker Cabin. A December 1996 cost estimate, prepared by Dietrick Jones, indicated an unnamed contractor had provided a bid of \$15,690.00 to obtain material and install roofs for the two cabins. Both Puget Sound Power and Light and the Weyerhaeuser Company were asked to donate cedar logs.¹⁵² This cost estimate to hire a professional roofer was deemed too expensive, so plans were developed to do most of the work with volunteers and donated material.

In December 1996, the HSFW ordered \$4,992.91 worth of lumber, decking, medium shakes and ship lap sheathing from New Lumber and Hardware.¹⁵³ This material was delivered to the site of the cabins, and it appears most, if not all of this material was used for the Denny Cabin's roof and gable ends.¹⁵⁴

28. First Temporary Reassembly of Sidewalls

The sidewalls were temporarily rebuilt on the concrete foundation/slab sometime between 1994 and 1997. I have titled this section "First Temporary Reassembly of Sidewalls" to acknowledge that these walls were later disassembled and reassembled in a complete one hundred eighty degree rotation orientation, as will be discussed in the "Second Restoration of the Barker Cabin Sidewalls" section below. Very little material in the HSFW files addresses this original sidewall orientation, and current HSFW members or contacts do not seem to know who did the work and exactly when (in fact, no one remembers the original orientation and the subsequent change made thereto.)



Fig. 19 – Original logs placed on ground by the side where they would be erected for the temporary reassembly. Door opening can be seen in the sidewall closest to the camera. In this orientation door would be on east side of the cabin, Circa 1994. (Courtesy HSFW.)

¹⁵¹ Project Description, 15 and Landscape Architecture Site Planning Drawing, Historic Cabin Park, date not visible, in the files of the HSFW.

¹⁵² Estimate for Cabin Roof, DCJ [Dietrick C. Jones], December 16, 1996, in the files of the HSFW.

¹⁵³ New Lumber and Hardware Invoice, December 14, 1996, in the files of the HSFW.

¹⁵⁴ Bert Ross proofreading comment in Barker Cabin Draft, November 12, 2012.

Figure 19 shows the original logs placed on the ground around the concrete foundation/slab by the side where they would be erected. The neighboring Puget Sound Energy substation across Fourth Avenue South can be seen in the distance, indicating the camera was aiming westward. The cabin's side nearest the camera, based on the view of the logs on the ground, is the side with the door opening. This would indicate the door was originally situated in the east wall, rather than in its present west wall location. The "BARKER AND DENNY CABIN PROJECT" document discussed in the "Formal Barker Cabin Restoration Project Plans" section below implies the sidewalls in this temporary orientation may have been in place as early as late 1994 or early 1995.¹⁵⁵



Fig 20 – Temporary reassembly of sidewalls, with the large double window opening on the south side of the cabin, Circa mid 1990s. (Courtesy HSFW.)

There are a series of six photos in the files of the HSFW that show the cabin as the sidewalls were initially installed.¹⁵⁶ While these photos are marked as to which side is nearest the camera, they are undated and there is no identification of the photographer. Using these photos, one can see that the cabin was originally oriented on the foundation/slab one hundred and eighty degrees from its current orientation. The walls were then temporarily installed with the door on the east side of the cabin, exactly opposite to what it is now.



Fig. 21 – Temporary reassembly of sidewalls, with the small single window on the north side of the cabin, Circa mid 1990s. (Courtesy HSFW.)

Figure 20, one of the six above-mentioned photos, shows a view taken of the south wall aiming northward, as can be interpreted by the relative location of the overhead utility wires and the house across South 348th Street. This photo confirms the then orientation as being completely opposite from what it is today, which is one hundred eighty degrees from its current orientation. The large window opening shown here as being in the south wall, is actually now the double window in the north wall.

Figure 21, another one of the six above-mentioned photos, also shows the sidewalls in place. The view is from the north looking

¹⁵⁵ Barker and Denny Cabin Project, A project designed to provide an historic interpretive center in the city of Federal Way, HSFW, February 18, 1999, in the files of the HSFW.

¹⁵⁶ Six photocopied photos of sidewalls temporarily assembled in a 180 degree rotation from its current orientation, photos are marked as to which side faces the camera, no date, in the files of the HSFW.

southward, as can be interpreted by the red private house in the background. The small single window opening now in the south wall, is shown here as being in the north wall.

The photo used for Figure 22, not one of the six above-mentioned photos, was taken from the north looking southward, as can be interpreted by the red house in the background. This photograph has a Seattle

Filmworks stamp on the back that gives the date October 2, 1997.

The small single window opening shown here as being in the north wall is now in the south wall. The Bill Winchell DVD “HSFW – Events 1989 – 1998” has a three minute section showing the four sides of the cabin.¹⁵⁷ There is a September 26, 1998 date that the movie camera embedded into the video footage. Figure 23 and the Winchell DVD both confirm this first temporary orientation was in place at least between October 2, 1997 and September 26, 1998. The cost estimate of June 1999,



Fig. 22 – The small single window is shown here on the north side of the cabin. This window is now on the cabin’s south side, October 2, 1997. (Courtesy HSFV.)

discussed in the “Detailed Cost Estimate to Restore the Barker Cabin” section below, implies “the pen [the four assembled walls] was standing on the poured concrete [foundation/]slab” in June 1999.¹⁵⁸

To remove a Stop Work Order and to extend a building permit in April 2000, as discussed in the “Stop Work Order Issued by the City of Federal Way” section below, Michael Sullivan, Historic Preservation Specialist with Artifacts Architectural Consulting, prepared a detailed report for the City of Federal Way.¹⁵⁹ In this report he discusses the work that had been done to date. This included the first temporary installation of the sidewalls being disassembled, and then after a period of time being reassembled. Under the completed work section, his items b., c. and e. state:

- b. Roof sections, trusses and building parts scattered around the site and standing pen [the four assembled walls] were inventoried, documented and organized as patterns
[This would be the first temporary installation of the sidewalls.]
- c. The pen was disassembled and the condition of each [cedar] log slab was assessed
- e. The walls (pen) were reassembled in an opposite orientation with

¹⁵⁷ Winchell.

¹⁵⁸ Cost estimate from Artifacts Architectural Consulting, “Barker Cabin Restoration,” June, 1999, 4.

¹⁵⁹ “Barker Cabin Scope of Work,” included as part of fax entitled “Barker Cabin Reconstruction,” from Michael Sullivan, Artifacts Architectural Consulting, to Deb Barker, Community Development Services, City of Federal Way, April 12, 2000, nine pages, in the files of the HSFV.

replacement cedar [log] slabs where necessary due to deterioration or for structural integrity [This would be the current orientation of the sidewalls.]¹⁶⁰

Sullivan's comments represent the only definitive material I found in the HSFW files concerning the two different orientations of the sidewalls.

I am not sure why the original orientation was thought to not be suitable and the walls disassembled. My best estimate is that the City of Federal Way was developing a comprehensive plan for the city park and required the HSFW to make some changes. Up to this point the work may have been done without a permit. As discussed in the material relating to the second assembly of the cabin, many of the hewn wood logs were replaced due to the deteriorated condition of some of those used in the first temporary assembly. Possibly the city considered the cabin unsafe with these deteriorated cedar log slabs. Because the city was also working with the Friends of the Hylebos to build a segment of trail to connect to a trail being constructed in the adjacent West Hylebos State Park, perhaps the city desired the cabin door face the city's trail segment. If this were the case, the cabin would need to be rotated one hundred and eighty degrees so the door would be on the west side of the cabin.

Obviously, this matter concerning the temporary sidewall orientation deserves more research. See the section below titled "Second Restoration of the Barker Cabin Side Walls" that discusses the complete restart of sidewall restoration.

29. Formal Barker Cabin Restoration Project Plans

In February 1999, the HSFW initiated a formal Barker and Denny Cabin restoration project. Below are summarized some of the key elements of the project.

BARKER AND DENNY CABIN PROJECT

PROJECT OBJECTIVE

The Barker and Denny cabins restored to an 1880s status suitable for the presentation and display of historic information to citizens of and visitors to Federal Way.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Barker and Denny cabins were moved from the Federal Way Shopping Center in the early 1990s and placed on concrete pads on the city-owned land adjacent to the West Hylebos State Park on South 348th. The plan at that time was to make these cabins an interpretive center for a heritage park to be developed by the City of Federal Way. The vision was for a comprehensive park incorporating the heritage park, West Hylebos State Park, and the Brooklake Center.

To bring this plan to fruition, a concerted effort must be made now to restore these two cabins before further deterioration occurs and they become unrestorable. Through the efforts of volunteers on behalf of the Historical Society of Federal Way, the Denny Cabin is now intact but needs repair

¹⁶⁰ "Barker Cabin Scope of Work,"

of some it its exterior logs and installation of doors, windows, and interior appointments. The Barker Cabin, an authentic Federal Way artifact, requires replacement of its roof structure as well as doors and windows. Both cabins should be restored to a condition appropriate to the 1880s—the Barker Cabin was built in 1883 . . . and the Denny Cabin in 1889 as a real estate office on Queen Anne hill. . . .

When completed, the cabins will be an excellent teaching tool for school children effectively demonstrating the ways our pioneers lived. These will be opportunities for classes to tour the cabins as well as the adjacent parks. . . .

TARGET DATE

Target date for completion of the project objective is August 1, 1999. [This target date of six months seems unrealistic for completing the project. Perhaps something else was intended.]

ACTION PLAN

. . . .

The first step in the project was to identify and engage an architect and consultant skilled in the restoration of log cabins. The Society is pleased to announce the selection of Ms. Valerie Sivinski and Mr. Michael Sullivan of Artifacts Consulting of Tacoma. They were highly recommended and their credentials and records of accomplishment are impressive. They will develop master plans and programs for this project as well as prepare construction documents and specifications for the repair and reconstruction of the cabins. . . .

Fundraising to support this project has also begun. The Historical Society has received a \$10,000 challenge grant making all initial contributions worth double their apparent value. In addition to this generous donation, the project will require approximately \$45,000 to complete the project as described above. . . .

Earlier this decade, the city of Federal Way prepared draft site plans for the eventual opening of an historic park adjacent to the West Hylebos State Park. In addition to the two cabins in this project, their plan included a number of trails, parking areas, and other amenities consistent with a passive park. . . .

Concurrently with this project of the Historical Society, the Friends of the West Hylebos Wetlands have embarked upon an effort to update the city's plan and to feature the opportunities available in the city's park, the cabins, and the state park. The Historical Society and its consultants will cooperate in this venture in order to assure an integrated plan.

When Artifacts Consulting has submitted their plans and necessary coordination, permits, and approvals have been secured, the Historical Society, assisted by their consultants, will oversee the actual restoration work. A contractor will be selected, one experienced in historic restorations. Opportunities are anticipated for volunteers, both skilled and unskilled, to augment the contract workers. Original materials will be secured where the originals are not available. Care will be exercised to minimize anachronisms -

those late twentieth century innovations found to be necessary (for example, a security system) will be placed as unobtrusively as possible. Research is continuing on both cabins to determine original furnishings and other details.¹⁶¹

As part of the restoration project the HSFW began soliciting funds by sending out mailings. The first mailing was a small five inch x seven inch brochure titled, "You are invited to. . ." The text of the mailing stated,

Bring the past into the 21st Century!

You have an opportunity to participate with the Historical Society of Federal Way to restore two historic relics. The Barker Cabin, sketched above, was built in 1883 near Mirror Lake. The Denny Cabin dates from 1889 in Seattle and from 1966 in Federal Way. Both are now located on South 348th Street and Fourth Avenue South and are awaiting restoration.

When restored, the cabins will be furnished in a manner consistent with their origins. They will demonstrate to school children and other citizens the way our pioneers lived and worked. They will be an invaluable asset to our community.

Join with us, the Historical Society of Federal Way, in this venture to preserve our past for the next century!¹⁶²

Also inserted was a post card to be returned with financial donations and/or to volunteer one's services.

On Saturday May 22, 1999 the HSFW, Friends of the West Hylebos Wetlands and the Friends of the Federal Way Library held a program at the Federal Way Regional Library to promote the restoration of the Barker and Denny Cabins. The program was titled, "Is time travel impossible?" The program's flyer stated, "Of course it is! But we've got the next best thing. Find out how you can travel more than a hundred years into Federal Way's past at a special public program." The speaker was Michael Sullivan, an architectural consultant and historian, who spoke about the history and restoration of pioneer era cabins.¹⁶³

¹⁶¹ Barker and Denny Cabin Project, A project designed to provide an historic interpretive center in the city of Federal Way, HSFW, February 18, 1999, in the files of the HSFW. Much of the written material was prepared by Ed Opstad during this period and intended for grant applications, for presentations to the City of Federal Way, or for general promotion purposes.

¹⁶² "You are invited to. . .," Four page brochure requesting financial and volunteer assistance for restoring the Barker Cabin and the Denny Cabin, no date but appears to be related to the Barker and Denny Cabin Project document previously mentioned; it is surmised that the date would be around February – March 1999, in the files of the HSFW.

¹⁶³ "Is time travel impossible?" HSFW Flyer, May 1999, in the files of the HSFW.

30. Detailed Cost Estimate to Restore the Barker Cabin

To assist in determining how much money was required to complete the restoration of the Barker Cabin, Dietrick Jones of the HSFW obtained from Artifacts Architectural Consulting a detailed cost estimate in June 1999, for the necessary material, labor and other resources for the project. The total cost estimated amounted to \$68,420.00.¹⁶⁴ The details are shown in Appendix 4. The cabin condition was described as:

Present Condition - Dismantled split cedar log house. Pen [the four assembled walls] standing on poured concrete [foundation/]slab. Gable assembly-ends, ridge and framing ribs - separated and in storage or covered on site. The primary building parts are sound based upon field inspection. The condition is aggravated by continued exposure.¹⁶⁵



Fig. 23 – Dietrick Jones, one of the original founders of the HSFW and a longtime advocate to preserve the Denny Cabin and the Barker Cabin, circa 2000. (Courtesy HSFW.)

The cost estimate was based on a plan to restore the Barker Cabin for educational purposes to be illustrative of the character and life style of homesteaders of the area in the 1880s. Historical accuracy rather than contemporary construction standards were to determine restoration. An attempt would be made to incorporate current building code and life safety code requirements in a way that they would be without visible intrusion. Building elements would be replicated as needed based upon physical evidence and established research methods and findings. Material and fabrication methods should repeat the original nineteenth century precedents. Reconstruction would use suitable replication of secondary elements such as split window and door framing, windows, roofing and plank flooring on stringers over concrete.¹⁶⁶

¹⁶⁴ Cost estimate from Artifacts Architectural Consulting, “Barker Cabin Restoration,” June, 1999, 2.

¹⁶⁵ Cost estimate from Artifacts Architectural Consulting, “Barker Cabin Restoration,” 4.

¹⁶⁶ Cost estimate from Artifacts Architectural Consulting, “Barker Cabin Restoration,” 4.

31. Cedar Log for Barker Cabin Roof Shakes

In 1997 Puget Sound Power and Light donated some cedar poles for making roof shakes. Some shakes were manufactured by hand-splitting.¹⁶⁷

On September 11, 1999, Ed Opstad of the HSFW and other volunteers travelled to the Darrington Ranger District of the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest to obtain a cedar log to use for the roof shakes for the restoration of the Barker Cabin. The Darrington Ranger Station issued a permit to obtain a salvage log, one that had fallen in a recent storm.¹⁶⁸



Fig 24 – Selecting a cedar log in the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, September 11, 1999. (Courtesy HSFW.)

32. Second Restoration of the Barker Cabin Sidewalls



Fig. 25 – Original sidewall logs and new cedar log being sorted prior to Barker Cabin restoration, September, 1999. (Courtesy Lynda Jenkins, HSFW.)

On September 7, 1999, the HSFW applied for a building permit to restore the Barker Cabin. On September 13, 1999, the City of Federal Way issued a building permit to restore the cabin.¹⁶⁹

¹⁶⁷ Letter from Dietrick C. Jones of the HSFW to Honorable Peter von Reichbauer, Metropolitan King County Councilman, [Re: Request for information on restoration of Barker Cabin], February 24, 1997, in the files of the HSFW.

¹⁶⁸ USDA-Forest Service-Purchase Permit T-06-1180696, IllaBot Salvage Log, Darrington Ranger District, Mt. Baker Snoqualmie National Forest, Darrington, WA, destination City of Federal Way, September 11, 1999, in the files of the HSFW.

¹⁶⁹ Letter from Deb Barker, Associate Planner, City of Federal Way to Ed Opstad, HSFW, “Barker Cabin Work Proposed – ESA Code Changes and the Historic Cabin Park File Nos: PRE99-0070 & BLD99-0564,” November 24, 1999, in the files of the HSFW.

Work on reassembling the pen (the four assembled walls) began immediately after the permit was issued in September 1999. Vernon Jenkins, who began his long-term involvement in the restoration of the Barker Cabin, reported that when the work resumed on the sidewalls, the individual logs were on the ground and reassembly had



Fig. 26 –The original sidewall logs for the Barker Cabin arranged and in place for the second restoration, September 23, 1999. (Courtesy HSFW.)



Fig. 27 – Unidentified person, left, Jim Cron, center and Vernon Jenkins replacing the original logs onto the sidewall pen of the Barker Cabin, October, 1999. (Courtesy Lynda Jenkins, HSFW.)

numbered logs next to the side of the foundation/slab where they would be reassembled.¹⁷²

to start from scratch.¹⁷⁰ The site was first cleaned and cleared of debris and brush. Next, the concrete foundation/slab was cleaned and its structural condition and perimeter drainage system assessed.¹⁷¹

The individual logs that resulted from the disassembly of the Barker Cabin were sorted as to required installation location and laid accordingly on the ground. The individual logs for the sidewalls and other building components scattered around the site were inventoried, documented and organized into patterns. The condition of each log was assessed.

The next step was to place the

¹⁷⁰ Vernon Jenkins, discussion with Dick Caster, September 9, 2012. Jenkins had not been involved with earlier work on the Barker Cabin.

¹⁷¹ “Barker Cabin Scope of Work,” Artifacts Architectural Consulting, 1, undated but from its contents, the date would be between the completion of the sidewalls in October, 1999 and the start of roof restoration in July, 2001.

¹⁷² Unless otherwise stated, all dates used in the figures are the dates written on the back of the photos.

The sidewalls were reassembled in an opposite orientation from that discussed under the “First Temporary Reassembly of Sidewalls” section discussed earlier. Figure 27, shows the cabin’s sidewalls being assembled in its current orientation, with the small window opening in the south wall and South 348th Street in the background. All subsequent photos of the cabin included in this monograph show the sidewalls in their current orientation. Replacement cedar log slabs were used where deemed necessary due to deterioration or for structural integrity. Figure 28 shows some of the original, as well as the replacement cedar log slabs. In photos of the

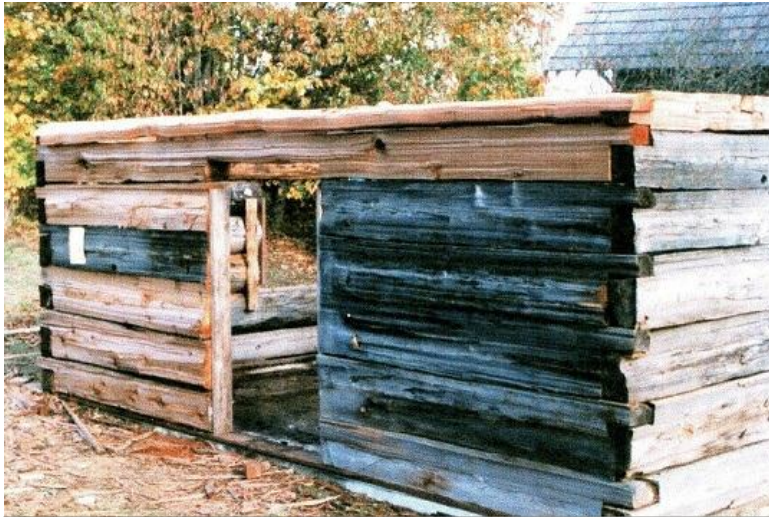


Fig. 28 – Barker Cabin sidewalls restored, but roof not yet installed, with the Denny Cabin in the background, October, 1999. (Courtesy HSFW.)

original temporary reassembly of the sidewalls, no replacement cedar log slabs were shown as being used, so the need to insert replacement cedar logs slabs may have been another reason for the second installation.

Corner notches were secured by the use of wood pegs to strengthen corner joints and sidewall ties. North-south oriented wooden cross members were placed on the top course of logs to support the interior loft and to further tie the sidewalls together.¹⁷³

Corner notching was

characteristic of log construction from the log cabins built during the earliest era of white settlement. Notching provides structural integrity by locking the log ends in place and gives the sidewalls rigidity and stability.¹⁷⁴

33. Stop Work Order Issued by the City of Federal Way

On November 12, 1999, the City of Federal Way placed a stop work order on the Barker Cabin restoration. City staff had determined that the recent work performed on the Barker Cabin (the sidewall construction) and the plans for a roof, exceeded the threshold of work approved under permit BLD99-0564 issued on September 13, 1999. Additional information about the work that was intended for the Barker Cabin under this permit was required for the work to proceed and the building occupied or used by the public. Three sets of plans would be required to address structural details about the roof, loft, and wall constructions. The plans were also required to provide a detailed scope of work for the cabin, including the type of wall and loft construction, the proposed systems for doors and windows, and special methods of construction. A HSFW contact person and/or responsible party, etc. were also required to be identified. No work could resume on the Barker Cabin until the required information was submitted, reviewed and

¹⁷³ “Barker Cabin Scope of Work,” 2.

¹⁷⁴ “The Preservation and Repair of Historic Log Buildings,” *Preservation Briefs*, vol. 26, September 1991, 5.

approved. In addition, a new restoration element that had been proposed, a fireplace, would require an additional building permit and inspection.¹⁷⁵

In November 1999, the sidewalls of the Barker Cabin, without the protection of a roof, were covered with a tarp for protection through the winter. In Figure 29 the ‘Stop Work Order’ can be seen on the left front of the cabin to the left of the door.

The permit issue was further complicated on November 27, 1999, when the Federal Way City Code concerning Environmentally Sensitive Areas became effective. This established larger buffer areas and intrusion setbacks that needed to be explained and defined for the Barker Cabin. Ed Opstad of the HSFW was requested to submit eight copies of a revised SEPA (State Environmental Policy Act) checklist, along with a then-current wetland delineation,



Fig. 29– Partially restored Barker Cabin covered with a blue tarp for protection from the weather, November, 1999. (Courtesy HSFW.)

and documents to address a complex Process III submittal process.¹⁷⁶

On April 12, 2000, Michael Sullivan with Artifacts Architectural Consulting, provided Deb Barker of the City of Federal Way’s Department of Community Development Services with revised roof sketches and two perspective drawings of the Barker Cabin as it would appear when completed. This material and a new scope of work were proposed as an amendment to the existing building permit.¹⁷⁷

The Status Report by Artifacts Architectural Consulting contained an update for the restoration work done on the sidewalls and described how the roof would be restored.¹⁷⁸ The report addressed three topics: a brief summary of the proposed use of the Barker Cabin and how it was generally being restored; the work that had been completed to date under the existing building permit; and the proposed work still to be done under the existing work permit. In summary, the cabin restoration was described as:

¹⁷⁵ Letter from Deb Barker, Associate Planner, City of Federal Way to Ed Opstad, HSFW, “Barker Cabin Work Proposed – ESA Code Changes and the Historic Cabin Park File Nos: PRE99-0070 & BLD99-0564,” November 24, 1999, in the files of the HSFW.

¹⁷⁶ Deb Barker, “Barker Cabin Work Proposed – ESA Code Changes and the Historic Cabin Park File Nos: PRE99-0070 & BLD99-0564.”

¹⁷⁷ Fax from Michael Sullivan, Artifacts Architectural Consulting to Deb Barker, Community Development Services, City of Federal Way, “Barker Cabin Reconstruction,” April 12, 2000, nine pages, in the files of the HSFW.

¹⁷⁸ “Barker Cabin Scope of Work,” included as part of fax entitled “Barker Cabin Reconstruction,” from Michael Sullivan, Artifacts Architectural Consulting, to Deb Barker, Community Development Services, City of Federal Way, April 12, 2000, nine pages, in the files of the HSFW.

The Barker Cabin is a century-old primitive split log structure. The planned use of the structure does not include occupancy or continuous use. The structure will serve as an educational museum and backdrop for historical programs, site tours and school visits. Under the supervision of interpreters, small groups will be admitted to the building for short periods of time.

The restoration and replication work being done on the 18' x 18' building will include the reassembly of the interlocking pen walls, the reconstruction of a simple gable roof, the installation of a plank front door, interior floor and wood casement windows into existing openings and the reconstruction of a shed roof front porch. Based upon early photographs and descriptions, historical research and physical evidence such as remnants and building parts, the cabin is being reconstructed with the intent of creating a credible replica of an early pioneer dwelling.

The work is being done largely by hand using historically accurate hand tools for most of the visible sections of the building. The foundation [of] concrete, and sections of the trusses, that will be milled lumber, will not be completely accurate to the original construction, but most of the completed structure will be of split Western Red Cedar construction and replicate in detail the appearance and construction methods of early Northwest slab cedar cabins.

The construction and replication work is being done by skilled volunteers working primarily on weekends and holidays. There is no power drop to the site and most of the work is being accomplished with axes, frowns, wedges and hammers, drawknives, handsaws, and augers. Assembly has been done with team hoisting and no mechanical lifting equipment has been employed. Because each piece of the building is individually shaped and crafted there are no detailed plans or specifications for the work. Instead, there are diagrams and basic building techniques from the 19th century which have been used as guidelines for the work in the field.

When work is completed under the current phase the building will not be serviced by electricity, sewer or other utilities.¹⁷⁹

The Artifacts Architectural Consulting Status Report continued with a detailed list of the work completed to date under the existing building permit. Only the pertinent items f. through l. are shown.

- f. The site was cleaned and cleared of debris and brush
- g. Roof sections, trusses and building parts scattered around the site and standing pen were inventoried, documented and organized as patterns
- h. The pen was disassembled and the condition of each [cedar] log slab was assessed
- i. The concrete [foundation/]slab was cleaned and its condition and drainage assessed

¹⁷⁹ "Barker Cabin Scope of Work," included as part of fax entitled "Barker Cabin Reconstruction," from Michael Sullivan, Artifacts Architectural Consulting to Deb Barker, Community Development Services, City of Federal Way, April 12, 2000, 1.

- j. The walls (pen) were reassembled in an opposite orientation with replacement cedar [log] slabs where necessary due to deterioration or for structural integrity
- k. Corner notches were wood pegged to strengthen corner joints and wall ties
- l. Cross members were placed on the top course of logs to support an interior loft and to further tie the walls together¹⁸⁰

Note item h. refers to the pen being disassembled and the condition of each log assessed. This would be the disassembly of the sidewalls that had earlier been temporarily reassembled on the Hylebos property. Item j. refers to the walls being reassembled in the opposite orientation. Because the building permit was being re-addressed, it can be surmised that the City of Federal Way may not have been confident that the first assembly would be structurally safe.

The Artifacts Architectural Consulting Status Report continued with a detailed list of further work proposed under the existing building permit:

- a. Complete roof trusses, assembly members and cedar shakes
- b. Install split cedar frames in window and door openings
- c. Fit window openings with simple light salvaged casement windows, single pane glazing, top or side hinged
- d. Fit original heavy plank door
- e. Construct front porch on block foundation with milled lumber flooring and split cedar posts and roof
- f. Install milled plank flooring over furring strips and vapor barrier on [foundation/]slab concrete
- g. Install milled lumber or split cedar plank loft over front 50% of interior area
- h. Organize unused cedar log material for further work and clean the site¹⁸¹

On April 27, 2000, Joan Hermle, the City of Federal Way's Assistant Building Official, issued a Development Review Committee Transmittal that indicated further work on the Barker Cabin would still be out of compliance with the cabin's building permit. The additional drawings submitted for the future scope of work were still inadequate for the purpose of review and inspection. The city would require a roof framing plan that could be inspected to confirm compliance with applicable building codes. This would require a plan view of the roof framing layout dimensioned to show spans, framing member sizes, species, grades, etc. Any insulation would have to be identified on the plan. There were no construction details provided for the loft planned by the HSFW. According to the Transmittal, the existing permit could be extended if the proper information was provided.¹⁸²

On May 4, 2000 Barker faxed to Opstad the following material: Sullivan's plans; the November 24, 1999 letter indicating the additional information that was needed; and a copy of the April 27, 2000 memo from the City of Federal Way Building Department. In addition to the typed text, the fax had hand-written comments on the cover sheet by Barker stating: "No work

¹⁸⁰ "Barker Cabin Scope of Work," 1, 2.

¹⁸¹ "Barker Cabin Scope of Work," 2.

¹⁸² Letter from Joan Hermle, Assistant Building Official to Deb Barker, Associate Planner, "City of Federal Way Department of Community Development Services, Development Review Committee Transmittal," April 26, 2000, in the files of the HSFW.

can proceed on the cabin without better plans and an extension of the permit.”¹⁸³ This fax implied the drawings submitted by Sullivan were not satisfactory.

On May 4, 2000 a meeting was held with members of the Community Development Review Committee regarding the proposed Historic Cabins Park project. This covered the development of the area for both the Denny Cabin and the Barker Cabin. Those in attendance included representatives from the Lakehaven Utility District; Federal Way Fire Department; staff from the City of Federal Way’s Planning Division, Building Division, and Public Works Department; Dale Roper a local landscape architect; and invited representatives of the Friends of the Hylebos Wetlands and the HSFW. Opstad, the then President of the HSFW, represented the HSFW. The meeting discussed parking, structures, fire protection, park use, garbage disposal and landscaping. Because there was now an official City of Federal Way plan being developed for the Historic Cabins Park, more attention was being paid to building permits and the need for more details from the HSFW regarding the restoration of the two cabins.¹⁸⁴

Within a few days of the May 4 meeting, the City of Federal Way issued a revised Stop Work Order for the Barker Cabin restoration, based on the fact that the 1999 building permit number BLDG99-0564 had now expired and an extension was required to continue work. The city acknowledged considerable work had been done, with the permitted installation of the sidewalls, but work would continue to be suspended pending submission of drawings and a complete scope of work. Based on the revised Stop Work Order and discussions between the city and HSFW since it was issued, Opstad agreed on May 23, 2000, to provide the required documents before any additional work would resume on the Barker Cabin.¹⁸⁵

Several drawings and sketches were prepared around this time that seems to have been made in response to the City of Federal Way’s two Stop Work Orders. These sketches show various aspects of the roof structure such as how the trusses would be pinned to the roof and how collar beams supporting the trusses would be assembled. These drawings are not included in this monograph.¹⁸⁶

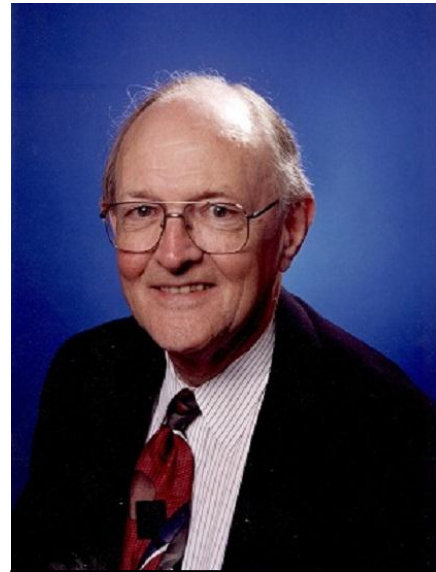


Fig. 30 – Ed Opstad, one of the founders of the HSFW and a driving force to preserve the Barker Cabin and the Denny Cabin, circa 2004. (Courtesy HSFW.)

¹⁸³ Fax cover sheet from Deb Barker, Associate Planner City of Federal Way to Ed Opstad, HSFW, “Cabin Work (Barker Cabin),” May 4, 2000, 13 pages, in the files of the HSFW.

¹⁸⁴ Document from Deb Barker, Associate Planner City of Federal Way to Ms. Jennifer Schroeder, Director City of Federal Way Parks Department, “Report: 00-102316-00-PC, Historic Cabin Park Preapplication 411 South 348th Street, Federal Way, WA,” May 11, 2000, 16 pages including drawings, in the files of the HSFW.

¹⁸⁵ Letter from Ed Opstad, President HSFW to Mary Kate Gaviglio, Building Official, City of Federal Way, May 23, 2000, in the files of the HSFW.

¹⁸⁶ These drawings are in the files of the HSFW.

34. Splitting Log for Roof Shakes



Fig. 31 – Jim Cron and Ed Opstad, with sledge hammer, splitting the cedar log for use on the Barker Cabin restoration, July, 2000. (Courtesy Tacoma News Tribune.)

In July 2000, the physical restoration of the roof began with the cedar log obtained from the woods being split. Ed Opstad, President of the HSFW, and Jim Cron, President of the Friends of the Hylebos Wetlands, split the 20-foot long Western red cedar log that had been obtained at Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest on September 11, 1999 (refer to section “Cedar Log for Barker Cabin Roof Shakes” above).¹⁸⁷

Ed Opstad brings the head of a large sledgehammer down hard into a steel wedge stuck into the side of the prone log on the ground in front of him.

The ping resounds, and the wood crackles as a split opens at one end of the 20-foot-long Western red cedar.

“Smell that?” Opstad asks as the fresh, sweet aroma of the exposed wood begins to waft into the air. “That’s one of my favorite smells. You just can’t beat it.”

Opstad is president of the Historical Society of Federal Way. Sunday, he and Friends of the West Hylebos Wetlands president Jim Cron, split cedar logs that will be used to restore the Barker Cabin. When finished, the Barker Cabin – and the nearby Denny Cabin – will be central attractions at the planned Historic Cabins Park that will be built at South 348th Steet and Fourth Avenue South.

“We think it’ll be a great place, a well-used place where school kids come and learn more about local and regional history,” Opstad said. “And it will be a place where history is preserved.”¹⁸⁸

It was announced that after the cabin obtained a new roof and various other renovations were completed, the HSFW would furnish it with period furniture and implements and open it for public viewing.

¹⁸⁷ “Cabin fervor fuels historic restoration,” the *Tacoma News Tribune*, South King County Edition, July 12, 2000,

1.

¹⁸⁸ “Cabin fervor fuels historic restoration,” 1.

During the log splitting process:

Cron struck a pine wedge into the narrow end of the lengthening split in the log and he and Opstad were working together. He took the hammer from Opstad and swung it down onto the head of the wedge. With each swing, the split crept its way down to the other end of the log.

“Western red cedar is great for what we’re doing,” Cron said. “Early pioneers learned that from the Indians. The wood splits long and easy and has fire-and insect – and weather – resistant properties.” He said the Barker Cabin construction style, with logs that dovetail at the corners instead of stacking “like Lincoln Logs,” is unique to the western side of the Cascades.

He and Opstad use old-time tools such as a broad ax, froe, peavey and draw knife to split the cedar logs and shape the planks they harvest. “We want to stay true to the way it was originally built,” Opstad said.

But at one point they did use Cron’s 4-wheel-drive truck to haul a new log from the brush to the patch of grass in front of the cabin.

“I wish we had a horse or some oxen,” Opstad said.

“Yeah, we’d hitch up the team and yank that sucker out of there,” Cron said.¹⁸⁹

This July 2000, log splitting was allowed under the Stop Work Order since it was done outside of the cabin proper and did not require engineering specifications.

The HSFW and the Friends of the Hylebos Wetlands were working together on the Barker Cabin restoration project because the proposed Historic Cabins Park was situated adjacent to the existing Hylebos Wetlands Park. The Hylebos Wetlands Park was at the southerly terminus of the dead-end Fourth Avenue South, south of South 348th Street. The road at that time was a short narrow driveway that led to the park’s grassy parking lot in the Hylebos Wetlands and provided access to three private homes.¹⁹⁰

By May 2001 the grass that was previously very tall around the Barker Cabin had been trimmed. A new trail that would meander from the Denny Cabin and the Barker Cabin through a serene meadow to the head of the boardwalk trail in West Hylebos Wetlands State Park was scheduled for completion in June.¹⁹¹

Also scheduled for the summer of 2001, was work by the City of Federal Way to install a “grasscrete” parking lot in front of the cabin area. Grasscrete is a network of concrete blocks held together by a lattice of steel rods. Sand is poured into the spaces between the blocks, and when seeded with grass, the slab creates an environmentally friendly parking lot surface that will absorb and filter storm water before it seeps into the Hylebos watershed and wetlands area.¹⁹² The grasscrete parking lot still had funding issues so was not completed on schedule.

¹⁸⁹ “Cabin fervor fuels historic restoration,” 1.

¹⁹⁰ “Cabin fervor fuels historic restoration,” 1.

¹⁹¹ Bill Hutchens, “Work progressing on Barker Cabin,” *The Tacoma News Tribune*, South King County Edition, May 2, 2001, p. not known.

¹⁹² Hutchens, p. not known.

35. Barker Cabin Roof Restoration

I am not sure when the Stop Work Order was removed, but by 2001, work had again commenced.¹⁹³ Most of the original logs and the replacement logs that make up the Barker Cabin's four sidewalls were in place and one roof trestle erected in July 2001.¹⁹⁴

In the second half of 2001, work parties were being scheduled for installing a new roof. At the time, Ed Opstad, President of the HSFW, predicted work would be completed in a couple of months.¹⁹⁵ This optimistic estimate is similar to the six month figure given in the Barker and Denny Cabin Project, discussed previously in section "Formal Barker Cabin Restoration Project Plans" above.¹⁹⁶ The estimate again proved too short for the



Fig. 32 – Barker Cabin showing the start of its roof replacement, July 2001. (Courtesy HSFW.)

full restoration of the cabin that eventually took several more years.

On July 28, 2001 a work party installed the trusses. The majority of the truss work was done by Vernon Jenkins, Doug Peffer and Jim Cron.¹⁹⁷



Fig. 33 – Doug Peffer, Vernon Jenkins and Jim Cron, left to right, working on the Barker Cabin roof in July, 2001. (Courtesy Lynda Jenkins, HSFW.)

¹⁹³ I have seen the Stop Work Order document placed on the Barker Cabin, but was unable to recover it in the HSFW files for this monograph. I was unable to recover any document in the HSFW files that indicated when the Stop Work Order was removed and work was allowed to resume. Documentation related to the Stop Work Order may still be on file with the City of Federal Way.

¹⁹⁴ Hutchens, p. not known.

¹⁹⁵ Hutchens, p. not known.

¹⁹⁶ Barker and Denny Cabin Project.

¹⁹⁷ Handwritten material on back of a series of photos of the event, in the files of the HSFW.

The Barker Cabin sat for another year without the end gables, purlins and shakes installed.

It is surmised that around this time, steel tie rods now present in the cabin were fabricated and installed between the tops of the northerly and southerly sidewalls at each truss location. These appurtenances were probably required by the building permit to provide a greater degree of safety and lateral tension support for the structure than was provided by the wooden cross-members already present. Structural steel components were not incorporated into a pioneer cabin due to its cost and virtual unavailability.



Fig. 34 – Barker Cabin partially restored, July 1, 2002. (Courtesy HSFW.)



Fig. 35 – Vernon Jenkins, right, and unidentified person installing roof purlins on the Barker Cabin, July 2, 2002. (Courtesy Lynda Jenkins, HSFW.)

On July 2, 2002, a work party installed the purlins that would provide support for the shakes.¹⁹⁸

¹⁹⁸ Handwritten material on back of a series of photos of the event, in the files of the HSFW.



Fig. 36 – Vernon Jenkins, left, and Don Hagen install the last shake on the Barker Cabin roof, July 30, 2002. (Courtesy Lvnda Jenkins. HSFW.)

On July 30, 2002 a work party completed the installation of the shakes.¹⁹⁹ Don Hagen had split about 1,000 cedar shakes for the roof to recapture the original look. (The HSFW has referred to these roof components as “shakes” but technically they should be referred to as “shingles.” The term “shingle” should be used to refer to historic wooden roofs, whether split or sawn, and the term “shake” should be used only when referring to a commercially available product.²⁰⁰)

The end gables were finished shortly thereafter. One of the end gables had been moved to the site when the cabin components were transported from Federal Shopping Way in September 1993. Because this old end gable was determined too deteriorated to use, it was discarded. It also appears from the available evidence that the wooden door had been fabricated and installed about this time.

Ed Opstad’s comments indicated the casement windows had not yet been fabricated by the

September 2, 2002 Annual Meeting but Figures 39 and 40 show they were in place by July 2003.

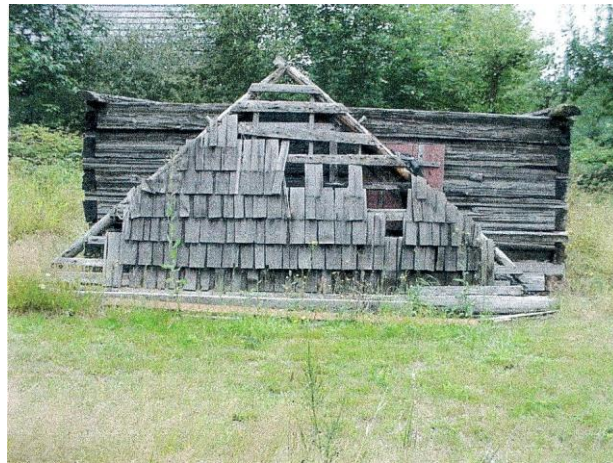


Fig. 37 – End gable condition at the time of the Barker Cabin’s move from Federal Shopping Way, circa mid-1990s. (Courtesy HSFW.)

¹⁹⁹ Handwritten material on back of a series of photos of the event, in the files of the HSFW.

²⁰⁰ Sharon C. Park, AIA, “The Repair and Replacement of Historic Wooden Shingle Roofs,” *Preservation Briefs*, vol. 19, U. S. Department of the Interior, National Parks Service Preservation Assistance Division, Technical Preservation Services, no date, 1.

36. Initial Opening of the Restored Barker Cabin

By September 2002, the Barker Cabin was essentially restored and enclosed from the weather. The shed-roof front porch had also been constructed by this time. The HSFW celebrated this occurrence by having an open house and potluck on Saturday, September 7, 2002, at the Barker Cabin, in conjunction with the HSFW's Annual Meeting. There were still no furnishings inside and the floor was not in place.²⁰¹ The fireplace and chimney would take another six years to finish.



Fig. 38 – The Barker Cabin when essentially restored, after roof construction but before window installation, August, 2002. (Courtesy HSFW.)

The Barker Cabin and the Denny Cabin were now in the process of final restoration. The two cabins would make up Historic Cabins Park. At the HSFW's Annual Meeting, Ed Opstad, President of the HSFW, made the following comments about the restored Barker Cabin:

After dozens of work parties over the past several years, the cabin has finally passed city building inspections and is nearing completion. Key assistance in the completion of the cabin came from the Federal Way Kiwanis Club. About a dozen members volunteered to work on the cabin on ten or a dozen occasions. These volunteers completed the cabin roof with Don Hagen splitting all the shakes, totaling over a thousand. Future work to be done includes fabrication of windows, installation of a fireplace, and placing a wooden floor over the concrete pad. We will then outfit the cabin with period accurate furnishings.²⁰²

²⁰¹ Lee Bedard, "Rain or shine, this picnic goes on," *Federal Way News*, September 4, 2002, 1 and Pat Jenkins, "Barker cabin ready for visitors," *Federal Way Mirror*, September 4, 2002, A1, A2.

²⁰² Ed Opstad, "Annual Report 2001 – 2002," HSFW, September 7, 2002, 2, in the files of the HSFW.

In cabins of this type, the horizontal spaces or joints between logs are usually filled with a combination of materials that together is known as “chinking” and “daubing.” Originally chinking and daubing completed the exterior walls of the log sidewalls (pen) by sealing them against driving wind, rain and snow, and helping to prevent the entry of vermin. The chinking process consists of two steps. During the first step, a dry, bulky, rigid blocking, such as wood strips or stones, is inserted in the joint. The following second



Fig. 39 – The Barker Cabin as viewed from southwest, with the chimney not yet in place, July, 2003. (Courtesy of the HSFW.)

step entails the installation of a soft packing filler, such as oakum, moss, clay, or dried animal dung. Daubing, which completes the system, is the outer wet-troweled finish layer of varying



Fig. 40 - The Barker Cabin as viewed from northwest, with the chimney not yet in place, July, 2003. (Courtesy of the HSFW.)

composition, such as a mixture of clay and whatever was available. Chinking and daubing are the least durable part of a log building. It is susceptible to cracking during temperature changes, structural settlement, drying of the logs and a thermal expansion-contraction rate that differs from the logs themselves. Seasonal deterioration of chinking necessitated continual inspection and regular patching or

replacement by the pioneers.²⁰³

In August 2007 Doug Pollard of Triple S Construction, submitted a bid for the labor and material to “tuck” paint the Barker Cabin logs, to “chink” the sidewalls inside and out, and to clean up all material related to the project.²⁰⁴ The work was completed shortly thereafter.

²⁰³ Bomberger, 5.

37. Fireplace, Wooden Floor, and Loft Installation



Fig. 42 – The metal firebox for the fireplace in the Barker Cabin, 2008. (Courtesy HSFW.)



Fig. 41 – Preparing to install the fireplace in the Barker Cabin, 2008. (Courtesy of HSFW.)

Doug Pollard, an experienced masonry restorer, volunteered to reconstruct the fireplace and chimney.²⁰⁵ No material from the old fireplace in place when the cabin was situated at Federal Shopping Way was used.

Since it was planned that a fire would occasionally be built, a special permit from the city was required to construct the fireplace and chimney. The building code required that a metal firebox be incorporated into the fireplace.



Fig. 43 – Rick Reese cleaning up area around the recently installed fireplace, chimney and wooden floor in the Barker Cabin, March 22, 2008. (Courtesy HSFW.)

By March 2008, the fireplace and chimney construction was completed in the northwest corner of the cabin.²⁰⁶

After the fireplace was completed, the wooden floor was installed over the concrete foundation/slab and also completed by March 2008. Figures 43 and 44 show the completed wooden floor. The ends of the floor planks were cut around the profile of the stonework, the floor came after the fireplace. The loft deck consisting of split cedar planks was completed by March 2008, and covers the easterly half of the cabin's floor area.²⁰⁷

²⁰⁴ Bid proposal from Doug Pollard, Triple S Construction to Diana Noble-Gulliford, HSFW, August 1, 2007, in the files of the HSFW.

²⁰⁵ Ed Opstad, "Barker and Denny Cabins Making Progress," press notice, no date.

²⁰⁶ Date is based on date embedded in photos.

²⁰⁷ Bert Ross proofreading comment in Barker Cabin Draft, November 12, 2012.

After the fireplace was completed, the wooden floor was installed over the concrete foundation/slab and also completed by March 2008. Figures 43 and 44 show the completed wooden floor. The ends of the floor planks were cut around the profile of the stonework, the floor came after the fireplace. The loft deck consisting of split cedar planks was completed by March 2008, and covers the easterly half of the cabin's floor area.²⁰⁸



Fig. 44 – The restored fireplace and chimney in the Barker Cabin, March 22, 2008. (Courtesy HSFV.)



Fig. 45 – Andrew Reese cleaning up the recently completed loft area in the Barker cabin, March 22, 2008. (Courtesy HSFV.)

²⁰⁸ Bert Ross proofreading comment in Barker Cabin Draft, November 12, 2012.

38. Barker Cabin Sign

THE BARKER CABIN

Living in the Past

"We abuse the land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we begin to use it with love and respect."
—Aldo Leopold,
A Sand County
Almanac, 1949

This cabin is the oldest original building in the Federal Way area, built by John Barker (1840-1929) an early settler who filed a homestead claim in 1883 on 160 acres north of the present day South 320th Street just west of Pacific Highway.

Barker built this cabin on the homestead near South 312th Street and Seventh Avenue South, and lived here with his wife and three children—Claude, Myrtis and Laura May—for seven years until 1890 when he "proved up" his claim and built a frame house with milled lumber.

There were only three other families nearby, so each built their homes at the point where the four properties joined in order to share the work of digging wells, clearing trees and raising the cabins. At the time Barker's son Claude described the area as "one great wilderness."



A typical Federal Way homestead (above).

Barker's homestead grant, (right) signed by President Harrison in 1890.

HOW WAS IT BUILT?

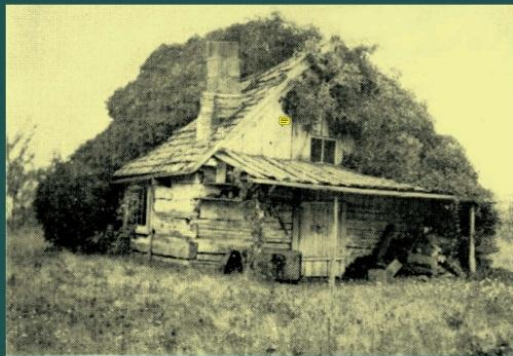
The 16 x 16 foot cabin was built by hand, using a cross-cut saw, axes and sledges. The crevices between the logs would have been chinked with thick moss. Its simple form and log slab construction are typical of the first homestead cabins that settlers built when they arrived in this area.

Sometime around 1956 the cabin was moved a short distance to be part of a historic feature at a shopping center in Federal Way. In 1993 it was moved to its current location by volunteers and has been restored by the Historical Society of Federal Way.



WHAT IS HOMESTEADING?

Homesteading was a common practice whereby settlers could gain ownership to 160 acres after occupying and working the land for five years. Here in the Northwest, homesteading was first authorized under the 1850 Donation Land Claim Act for the Oregon Territory and later expanded under the national 1862 Homestead Act until its repeal in 1972.



Hey Kids!
Imagine what it would be like to live in this cabin with a family of five. How would it be different or the same as life in your home? Can you guess why it was called "the Fished Cottage?"

For more information visit:
www.federalwayhistory.org



Two-man crosscut saws have been used in the Pacific Northwest since the early 1800s.

Fig 46 – The present Barker Cabin Sign located outside the cabin, 2008. (Courtesy of the HSFW.)

A sign providing basic information about the Barker Cabin was fabricated and installed in 2008, and is currently located outside the cabin near its southwest corner.

39. Donated Furnishings



Fig. 47 – The interior of the Barker Cabin, ready for furniture, circa 2008. (Courtesy HSFW.)

Several items have been donated over the years to make the interior of the cabin appear as it may have in the 1880s. Scott and Susan Stevens donated a hay rake that now hangs on the interior surface of the sidewall of the cabin.



Fig. 48 – Scott and Susan Stevens, doing imitation of American Gothic, with hay fork they donated, 2009. (Courtesy HSFW.)



Fig. 49 – Scott and Susan Stevens, pictured, donated the hay forks hanging on the Barker Cabin wall. The period bed was fabricated and donated by Don Hagen. The quilt was donated by Diana Noble-Gulliford, 2009. (Courtesy HSFW.)

Diana Noble-Gulliford donated a quilt for the bed.

Using locally-available wood products, Don Hagen skillfully fabricated several examples of period replica furniture, including a “double” bed (with a rope lattice to support a straw-filled mattress), an end table, a wall-hung kitchen cabinet, a kitchen table and five three-legged stools.



Fig. 51 – The period bed in the Barker Cabin, fabricated and donated by Don Hagen, circa 2008. (Courtesy of HSFW.)



Fig. 50 – The period kitchen table and stools in the Barker Cabin – fabricated and donated by Don Hagen. (Courtesy HSFW.)

Don Hagen also made the log benches that sit outside the front door of the cabin.

In 2011, Ray Rodgers, a long time Federal Way area resident, donated a

cider press that is now kept as part of the Barker Cabin historic display.



Fig. 52 – Ray Rodgers by the apple cider press he donated in 2011. (Courtesy HSFW.)

40. HSFW Logo

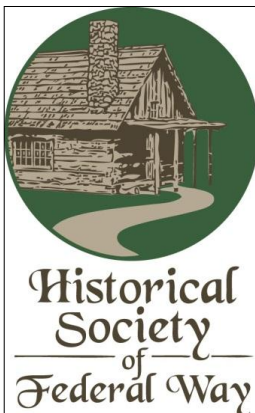


Fig. 53 – Revised HSFW Logo, 2010. (Courtesy HSFW.)

In 2010 the HSFW decided to revise its logo. The image of the restored Barker Cabin was selected as the primary element to represent the HSFW, and is now used on all HSFW related material.

41. Barker Cabin Fully Restored



**Fig. 54 – The restored Barker Cabin, 2012.
(Courtesy HSFW.)**



Fig. 55 – The restored Barker Cabin, 2012. (Courtesy HSFW.)

Appendix 1 - Typed Copy of John M. Barker Homestead Title²⁰⁹

Cover Side

74822

USA²¹⁰

To Jno[John]. M. Barker

Filed for Record at Request of Grantee

MAR 13, 1891

At 58 min: past 4 o'clock PM

And recorded in vol. Two at Patents page 141

Records of King County, Wash.

T. A. Twichell Co. Auditor

[\$] 1.00 Paid

Mail (to) Buenna Wash

Main Page Side

The United States of America

To all to whom these presents [sic] shall come, Greeting [sic]:

Homestead Certificate 2751

Application 5492

Whereas There has been deposited in the GENERAL LAND OFFICE of the United States a Certificate of the Register of the Land Office at Seattle Washington Territory, whereby it appears that, pursuant to the Act of Congress approved 20th May, 1862, "To Secure Homesteads to Actual Settlers on the Public Domain," and the acts supplemental, thereto, the claim of John M. Barker has been established and duly consummated, in conformity to law, for the South East quarter of Section eight in Township twenty-one North of Range four east of Willamette Meridian in Washington Territory containing one hundred and sixty acres.

According to the Official Plat of the Survey of the said Land, returned to the GENERAL LAND OFFICE by the Surveyor General: *Now know ye*, That there is, therefore, granted by the United States unto the said John M. Barker the tract of land above described: To Have and to hold the said tract of Land, with the appurtenances [sic] thereof, unto the said John M. Barker and to his heirs and assigns forever; subject to any vested and accrued water rights for mining, agricultural, manufacturing, or other purposes, and rights to ditches and reservoirs used in connection with such water rights, as may be recognized and acknowledged by the local customs, laws, and decisions of courts, and also subject to the right of the proprietor of a vein or lode to extract and remove his ore therefrom, [sic] should the same be found to penetrate or intersect the premises hereby granted, as provided by law.

In testimony whereof I, Benjamin Harrison, President of the United States of America, have caused these letters to be made Patent, and the seal of the GENERAL LAND OFFICE to be hereunto affixed.

Given under my hand, at the City of Washington, the twenty eighth day of June, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ninety, and of the independence of the United States the one hundred and fourteenth

By the President: Benjamin Harrison

By M. McKeaw, Secretary.

(Unreadable first initial) Townsend, Recorder of the General Land Office.

Recorded, Vol. 4, Page 445

²⁰⁹ The original document is in the files of the HSFV.

²¹⁰ Items underlined are handwritten in the original document.

Appendix 2 – “Barker Homestead” Poem by Washington Green

Vanished are the stately firs;
Long dead, lush orchid grass;
Decayed and dying, the lilac bush,
Unseen by those who pass
in modern cars, where oxen trod
To till the deep rich loam
Providing full, the table needs
in the old John Barker home.

Oh, what a tiring task to build
That home of log and shake
Hand-hewn, with keen-edged axe and saw
Determined to create
For future sons and daughters fair,
Too, for a loving spouse,
This refuse in the wilderness
Fulfilling marriage vows.

Gone – days when the pioneer,
Through early springs and late
Toiled manfully through sun and shower,
Creating an estate
Which a reluctant son and daughter
With eyes tear-filled a father’s dream
Of a future Federal Way.²¹¹

²¹¹ Washington Green, “Barker Homestead,” *Federal Way Review*, March 17, 1955, 12. The poem has been typed as it appeared line by line.

Appendix 3 – Barker Cabin City of Federal Way Resolution

CITY OF FEDERAL WAY
RESOLUTION NO. 91-60

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF FEDERAL
WAY DECLARING TWO CABINS THE DENNY CABIN AND THE
BARKER CABIN AS HAVING HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes the importance of cultural heritage and historic preservation: and

WHEREAS, adequate proof of historic significance has been provided for the “Barker Cabin”, currently located on the Northwest Corner of the Federal Shopping Way Center and the “Denny Cabin”, currently located on the Southwest Corner of the Federal Way Shopping Center by the Historical Society of Federal Way; NOW THEREFORE,

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FEDERAL WAY RESOLVES: that the “Denny” Cabin and the “Barker” Cabin have special historical significance.

RESOLVED by the City Council of Federal Way, this 21st day of May, 1991.

_____signature
MAYOR, Debra Ertel

ATTEST:

_____signature
CITY CLERK, Maureen M. Swaney, CMC
APPROVED AS TO FROM:

_____signature
CITY ATTORNEY, Sandra Driscoll

FILED WITH THE CITY CLERK: May 16, 1991
PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL: May 21, 1991
RESOLUTION NO. 91-60

Appendix 4 – 1999 Barker Cabin Restoration Cost Proposal²¹²

Dismantle and relocate pen and parts		\$2,700
Storage space rental		900
Documentation, photographs, drawings, condition assessment		1,250
Foundation clean and seal, porch foundation and drainage		2,300
Haul out and dump fees		1,000
Site preparation and staging labor		800
Rental of porta potty		600
Construction labor		
Log preparation	2,200	
Rough	2,400	
Framing	2,000	
Finish carpentry	3,600	
Roofing/shingle work	2,300	
Hardware and finishes	1,400	
Miscellaneous	2,500	
Subtotal		16,400
Stone/Cement Fireplace and Chimney		13,500
Shake roofing and shingles		4,100
Doors and frames		1,500
Windows and frame		800
Hardware, doors and window		400
Plank flooring		
Material	1,100	
Labor	1,900	
Subtotal		3,000
Wood preservative and stains		1,300
Accessories		500
Security system		1,500
Electrical		
Interior	2,200	
Exterior	1,500	
Service	6,700	
Subtotal		10,400
Interpretive costs, printing and signage		250
Subtotal		62,200
10 percent contingency		6,220
Total Cost Estimate		68,420

The HSFW would provide logs, planks, porch framing design, framing lumber, fees and permits.

²¹² Cost estimate from Artifacts Architectural Consulting, “Barker Cabin Restoration,” 1999, 1, 2, in the files of the HSFW.