

3.12 Cultural Resources

3.12.1 Affected Environment

Current Plan Area

Sumner's history and cultural features provide a context for understanding the current plan area. This section summarizes several references from the Sumner Historical Society (Ryan and Sumner Historical Society 1988; Conner 1992), the Puyallup/Sumner Area Chamber of Commerce, Pierce County (Heritage League of Pierce County 1990), and the Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP).

Native Americans

The American Indians were the first inhabitants of the area that later would become known as Pierce County. The Indian people of the Puyallup and Nisqually tribes established and maintained many villages along the two main river basins, the Puyallup and the Nisqually. The smaller Steilacoom band lived at the mouth of Chambers Creek. Native Americans of the Green and White (Stuck) River valleys, now known as the Muckleshoots, were also present in the local vicinity.

The Puyallup Indians whose ancestors came to the Puget Sound region several thousand years ago had already occupied the Puyallup Valley for centuries when the first Europeans arrived. The predecessors of the Puyallup Tribe of Indians inhabited a variety of environments, ranging from the base of the Cascade Foothills to the Puyallup River and its tributaries, to the salt water shoreline and islands adjacent to the mouth of the Puyallup River. Because of the Indians' long presence in the area, the valley now contains archaeological resources of major value to the study of these inhabitants. The name "Puyallup" is derived from a Yakama Indian word meaning "Friendly People."

The Treaty of Medicine Creek, between the Puyallup, Muckleshoot, Nisqually, and neighboring tribes and the United States in December 1854 resulted in the ceding of certain Indian lands to the United States and establishing reservations for the major tribes. The Puget Sound Indian War of 1855-56 which followed the treaty making, brought about larger and better reservations for the Puyallup and Nisqually, both located on their respective rivers, and the tribes of the Green and White (Stuck) River valleys.

The major portion of the Nisqually Indian Reservation, the segment located on the Pierce County side of the Nisqually River, was condemned by the United States Army to become a part of the Fort Lewis Military Base in 1917. While the remaining part of the Nisqually Indian Reservation lies in Thurston County, the Nisqually historical interests remain in southern Pierce County.

The Puyallup Reservation, now at the edge of the Tacoma tideflats, began as a 1,280-acre strip along the bluffs south of Commencement Bay (including Point Defiance). This land was small and ill suited to the tribe's needs, as Governor Isaac Stevens acknowledged in 1856 by designating 23,000 vaguely defined acres east and north of the bay. In 1857 President Franklin Pierce invoked a treaty condition that allowed him to assign tribes to land other than what was originally agreed upon.

Individual land speculators, the city of Tacoma, and the Northern Pacific Railroad Company all tried to get Puyallup land, and, for a while, legal status as a tribe seemed threatened. Negotiations leading

to the Puyallup Tribe Indians Settlement Act of 1989 resolved disputes. The emphasis is now on joint city and tribe development of industrial and port facilities, together with improved fisheries and an environmental clean-up at the mouth of the Puyallup River. The settlement lands total approximately 921 acres plus some submerged land of the Puyallup River, and the properties have “on-reservation” status. Funds were paid to members of the tribe. Funds were also given for economic development and land acquisition.

Natives who lived in the Green and White (Stuck) River valleys were scheduled to move to the Nisqually Reservation. In 1857, however, the federal government set aside land for them on Muckleshoot Prairie. White farmers subsequently bought or leased much of that land. The present reservation, enlarged from the original designation, forms an awkward diagonal string of sections touching only at their corners, a configuration that has caused conflicts between tribal members and their non-Native American neighbors.

Founding of Sumner

The first EuroAmerican settlements in the Puyallup River valley were established in the early 1850s. Prior to this time, the region was subject to explorations sponsored by the Hudson’s Bay Company and the United States government. These included Lieutenant Robert E. Johnson’s documentation of the Naches Pass during a United States Exploring Expedition in 1841. Traveling from the west, the expedition followed an existing Indian trail around the northern flank of Mount Rainier and over the pass in an effort to establish a viable transportation route over the Cascade Mountains.

Settlements in the area were slow to develop in part due to the lack of adequate wagon roads. Emigrants using the Oregon Trail to reach Puget Sound, for example, had to first travel to Portland then up the Cowlitz River and overland into western Washington. When Washington Territory was established in February 8, 1853, one of the first tasks taken by the territorial government was to commission the construction of a wagon road over the Cascade Range.

In 1853, the U.S. Congress appropriated funds to build a road for safe passage for settlers and traders traveling from Fort Walla Walla on the Oregon Trail over the Cascade Mountains to Fort Steilacoom at the south end of Puget Sound, southwest of present-day Tacoma. Captain George B. McClellan was put in charge of surveying and building the road, as well as searching for possible passes appropriate for railroads. McClellan considered Naches Pass impractical for a railroad, but began building a wagon road there instead. Largely completed through the efforts of local settlers, the road was finished in time for the arrival of a wagon train led by James Longmire in 1853.

The Longmire wagon train carried 150 settlers, who soon joined other land claimants in the Puget Sound region, and began to settle the Puyallup River valley. Isaac Lemon and Addison Perham signed for donation land claims on September 20, 1853, followed by Charles Bitting, George D. Heyward, Abial Morrison, William M. Kincaid, Robert S. More, Jonathan W. McCarty, Thomas Owens, and Abram Woolery. Other future residents of Sumner on that first wagon train were Isaac and James Woolery, John Van Ogle, and Albert Lane. The Homestead Act of 1863 brought the arrival of even more EuroAmerican settlers and many small towns were established in the region.

Many of these early settlers played an important part in Sumner’s settlement, but particularly the Kincaids. William Kincaid and his wife’s family, the Woolery’s, settled adjoining donation land claims (DLCs) in the vicinity of what is now the city of Sumner. Kincaid’s wife died prior to the move out West, and because he was a widower, he could only claim 160 acres. Kincaid chose to homestead a claim along what was then called the Stuck River in 1855.

Kincaid and his oldest son John initially came to the Puyallup River Valley by canoe, traveling up the Stuck River. They learned from the Indians to call it the Stuck as the Indians spoke of it as “Stuchum” meaning “big fish.” Stuck was the nearest spelling they could produce. In 1913, the White River was diverted into the Stuck River.

Following the Treaty of Medicine Creek, the eruption of the Puget Sound Indian War compelled many settlers, including the Kincaids, to seek refuge at Fort Steilacoom in 1855. They returned to the valley in 1859. Although they found all of their homes burned and livestock carried away, they began to rebuild the settlement. By 1860, a small settlement first known as Stuck Junction was well established on the Kincaid DLC.

In 1869, William Kincaid sold 40 acres of the DLC to Fred C. Seaman. Seaman was married to Kincaid’s daughter Laura, the area’s first school teacher. Laura Seaman later sold the 40 acres to George H. Ryan after the death of her husband. Mr. Ryan would prove to be an important leader in the growth of the town. Ryan raised fruit, vegetables, and hops on the land; he owned a sawmill and established businesses, and constructed the first railroad depot.

The Railroad

The extension of railroad lines into the region spawned even more growth during the 1880s and 1890s. In 1877, the Northern Pacific built a railroad line from Tacoma to Wilkeson, Washington, for the transportation of coal. The railroad provided local residents access to goods and services and was instrumental in transporting the region’s local timber and agricultural products to the Seattle and Tacoma metropolitan markets.

For the emerging community of Sumner, however, Northern Pacific officials said they could not stop along the line until a depot was erected. To remedy the situation, George Ryan built a depot (south of Maple Street where the Sumner Station is today) at his own expense and paid the salary of the agent for a year. He was reimbursed later and Northern Pacific took over the station.

The advent of the railroad did much to stimulate the growth of the town. In 1883, after the railroad came through, the city of Sumner was formally platted on the 160-acre Kincaid DLC by William Kincaid. A clause was included in all deeds executed on land originally part of the Kincaid DLC, which prohibited the manufacturing, sale, or giving away of alcohol and any other intoxicating drinks.

The railroad directly influenced the pattern of land development. An urban nucleus of land use developed around and spread out from the railroad passenger terminal. Until 1962, Sumner city limits coincided with the urbanized area located within a 15-minute walk of the terminal. Since 1962, the city limits have continued to expand north and east.

Industries sought sites along the railroad to take advantage of accessible railroad sidings. Food-processing plants that canned and treated the agricultural products of the river valleys located near the railroad. Other industries established themselves in proximity to existing industries and railroads creating the present pattern of industrial land uses in the northwest corner of the city limits. Since large acreage of undeveloped land was available to industries, a natural development pattern took place.

The railroads continued to play a critical role in moving people and freight through Sumner, although few of the new industrial users actually used the rail. There were no new rail spurs constructed in the city’s new industrial area. State and federally funded programs to improve freight

mobility have improved at-grade crossings and separated other crossings. Through these programs, improvements to Main Street, Puyallup Street and 8th Street East were intended to improve freight train speeds and safety.

Passenger rail service returned to Sumner in 2000 when the Regional Transit Authority (Sound Transit) constructed a commuter rail station at the location of the prior passenger terminal at Academy and Narrow. The station, with its unique architecture to symbolize many of the icons from Sumner's history, provides access to the Sounder commuter rail line running to Seattle and Tacoma.

Sumner's Name

The village was first called "Stuck Junction" and later "Franklin." Local resident J.P. Stewart was instrumental in establishing a post office serving the area now governed by Puyallup and Sumner, and he named the area "Franklin" after his hometown in New York State.

When the nearby post office relocated, another post office was needed in the Sumner area. The new post office in town was located at the Ryan's home with Mrs. Ryan as the first post-mistress. The U.S. Postal Department requested a new name for the post office since there were so many places named Franklin and delivering mail became confusing. Three townsmen, John F. Kincaid, L. F. Thompson, and George Ryan could not agree on a name, and each placed a name on a slip of paper and put it into a hat. A boy was called into the store to pick one of the slips and it came out "Sumner," the name suggested by Thompson.

Charles Sumner was a Senator from Vermont and a popular statesman of the last century who had died one year before. He was honored throughout the nation for his efforts before and during the Civil War toward the abolition of slavery and emancipation of slaves, his promotion of the Republican Party, and for his influence in getting other members of Congress to approve the purchase of Alaska from Russia. The name of Sumner went on the railroad depot after the town incorporated in 1891.

Commerce

Agriculture

The fertile valley soil has been very profitable for many Sumner farmers. The first major commercial crop was hops, which reached a peak in the 1880s. About ten years later, an infestation of plant lice caused crop failures and farmers began growing other crops. One hop barn can still be seen near Alderton (Artifacts Architectural Consulting 2010).

One of the early crops was field rhubarb, which was being grown as early as 1893. The Sumner Rhubarb Association was formed in 1908 to market it. Bill Dobson developed a method for forcing rhubarb in 1915. To this day, a few Sumner farmers continue to ship hothouse rhubarb to many parts of the country in early spring.

In addition, raspberries, blackberries, and strawberries were important crops for the farmer and for school children needing pocket money. The farmers organized cooperatives to market and process their produce. These were combined into the Puyallup-Sumner Fruit Growers Association in 1900. W.H. Paulhamus was president. Paulhamus's jams and jellies made from Sumner berries became famous all over the country. Russell Cannery was built in Sumner in 1907 and the Washington Berry Growers Cannery in 1920.

Flower bulb farming in Pierce County started in 1907, but it was 1923 when Senator W.H. Paulhamus was visited by an old school friend, Dr. David Griffith, who ran the U.S. Department of Agriculture Bulb Station in Bellingham. Impressed with the soils and growing possibilities of the Sumner and Puyallup Valley, Dr. Griffith recommended testing of bulb crops. Senator Paulhamus wrote a letter in the Puyallup Valley Tribune on April 21, 1923, advocating the growing of bulbs.

In 1924 Senator Paulhamus's advocacies lead to the creation of the Northwest Bulb Growers Association. That same year, Paulhamus, along with other farmers Ed and Charles Orton and Frank Chervenka ordered thousands of flower bulbs to plant. As bulb farming grew, the Western Washington Experiment Station (the current Puyallup satellite location of Washington State University) held a Bulb Short Course in 1926. That same year 95 tons of bulbs were imported for planting.

By 1928, 150 acres of bulbs, mostly daffodils had been planted. During the Depression bulb growing slowed but families like the Staatzes and VanLierops started in the valley. By 1948, 111 railcars were needed to ship the bulb harvest. Over one-half of the state's flower bulb crops came from Pierce County by 1955.

Although the early start of the bulb industry was prompted by the desire to have durable cut flowers, the value of the bulbs quickly became important. That continued until 1948 when Northwest Airlines began air transport of daffodils to the east coast. Richard Fryar, who managed the Puget Sound Bulb Exchange, developed new markets for flowers. By 1976, 22 million flowers were sold from Pierce County. The farming industry had changed to again value the cut flowers. Seventy percent of the return for flower farmers came from cut flowers and 30% from bulb sales.

The urbanization of Pierce County, the failure of farmland preservation programs, and the gradual loss of farming infrastructure has slowly diminished the role of flower bulbs in the county. Beginning in 1969, experts and farmers were forecasting the end of bulb growing in the county. By 1989 only 13% of the state's flower bulbs came from Pierce County. In 2007, the number of cut flower farms equaled 12 in Pierce County down from 25 in 2002. Two local cut flower farms include Knutson (formerly the Orton farm) and VanLierop—two of the original five daffodil farms in the County.

By 2010, the remaining agriculture in and around Sumner includes some turf farming, daffodil farms south of the city limits, and nursery stock in the valley to the south.

A review of local agricultural conditions in *The Suitability, Viability, Needs, and Economic Future of Pierce County Agriculture* found the following:

Pierce County provides excellent climate and soil conditions for successful agriculture. But growing urbanization and fragmentation of the agricultural land base is forcing the local agriculture industry to change. Pierce County agriculture is in transition – moving away from the traditional industrial, wholesale model of agricultural business and toward a more intensive, value-added, direct market urban edge model. This approach holds great promise for a successful future for local agriculture... (American Farmland Trust 2004)

The Williams Family

In 1883, Frederick S. Williams purchased the Morrison and Hayward claims from those two original settlers, (immediately north of the William Kincaid claim upon which the town was platted). Frederick Williams transferred ownership of part of his property to his two sons, Herbert and Sidney, who became joint owners.

Herbert was the manager of the brothers' hop business while Sidney oversaw the actual agricultural operations. Their hop farm became one of the largest in a county renowned for its hop production.

The Williams brothers' property served as a kind of barrier between town development on the south and agricultural activity along the Stuck River to the north. In-town plats had deed restrictions prohibiting owners from any association with alcoholic beverages, a factor which no doubt determined where the producers of a major ingredient of beer could live.

In 1890, both Herbert and Sidney Williams built large homes on Elm Street. The homes are only about a 0.125 of a mile apart. As a result of the economic collapse following both the plant lice and the 1893 Depression, many of the farmers of the Stuck Valley lost their property or divided it into smaller holdings for sale as either farm land or as platted additions to the town of Sumner.

Sidney Williams sold his house after the hop failure and moved into Sumner. His property was divided and ultimately ended up in the hands of subsequent farmers, of whom the Moser family was the most long-lasting.

Herbert Williams' home is far more ornamental than the home of his brother. Local folklore maintains that Herbert built such an extravagant house to please his new bride, Lola. She was not impressed, however, and left him near the time when Herbert, bankrupt, was forced to sell the house to the Kirkwood family. The property was divided, and ultimately ended up in the hands of subsequent farmers of whom the Perfield family was the most long-lasting.

Business Ventures

George Ryan was instrumental in developing business ventures such as the first general store, which was located in a room adjoining his hop-house. In 1883, through a joint venture between Ryan, E.T. Everett and W.J. Madden, the Sumner Lumber Company was established. The company owned 5,000 acres of land, mostly on the hill east of Sumner. A plank road about 2 miles long extending to town was built by the company, and called the "Boulevard de Plank" by some people jokingly. Unfortunately, the mill burned in the early 1890s.

Hewett Lee Funk Company opened a lumber operation in 1914. This became the Pacific Lumber Company and Pasquier Panel Products.

Fleischmann Yeast Company was looking for a good location to build a plant in the Pacific Northwest. After drilling and bringing in an artesian well in 1911 and finding it to be an abundant source of pure water, a yeast plant was built the following year. The Dieringer power plant was completed in 1911, the source of water being the White (Stuck) River, which was partly diverted, forming the present Lake Tapps. Due to the good water available, Mr. Steele built the Northern Board mill in Sumner in 1914. This was the beginning of the Fireboard mill, which is now owned by Sonoco Products Company.

A testament to the strong business community, the Sumner Commercial Club, later the Chamber of Commerce, began in 1895. Sumner Downtown Association, incorporated as Sumner Promotion in 1991, addresses business interests. The Puyallup/Sumner Chamber of Commerce also addresses the needs of business in Sumner.

Downtown/Main Street

Main Street in the 1890s was quite different from the Main Street of today. There may have been just as much activity of a different sort: wagons drawn slowly along, sometimes runaways, teams tied to

the hitching racks in front of the livery stable or the blacksmith shop after the horses were given a drink from the watering troughs. Main Street was very muddy and the local newspaper suggested the planking of about three blocks of the business section of the street.

Stores were established and lasted a few weeks; they were then sold to others or burned out or they failed. In June 1890, George Ryan constructed the first two-story brick building on his property along Main Street. All buildings before this were constructed with lumber.

In August 1895, a fire swept the north side of Main Street and demolished all of the buildings. The whole inside of the brick block was ablaze when the wall fell in. If this had not happened, more of the town may have burned. The origin of the fire was unknown.

After the fire, temporary buildings were erected or hop houses were moved in until other permanent structures could be built. The buildings were not uniform; a livery stable might be found beside a grocery store. There was no planning for unanimity. Main Street had a poor appearance for many years because of the fire.

Other Streets

In general, streets were muddy, there were few sidewalks, and if there was one in front of one building, the one in front of the next might be a foot higher.

In 1875, few of the donation claims were fenced. Since the claims were irregularly shaped, it was difficult to tell where one piece of land touched another. The roads meandered along wherever it was easiest to travel.

When the city of Sumner was platted in 1883, a standard grid pattern of streets, blocks, and lots was established for the town. Originally, Main Street began at the Presbyterian Church (the Main Street/Traffic Avenue intersection today) and followed a line of least resistance and cut through the 40 acres George Ryan had bought. It followed a ravine to Abram Woolery's property, which is now Wood Avenue.

George Ryan coordinated with other property owners so that Main Street could go to Meeker Avenue. Men worked on grading and raising the height of the road until it was even and the ravine could be fenced. Many streets and other improvements were made by property owners without any supervision from city officials. In approximately 1906, with the changed courses of the rivers, a river bed dried and became what is now Wood Avenue.

Today, as then, the railroads and the White (Stuck) River inhibit east-west crossings of the valley and this can be seen in the road system. In 1968 the Valley Freeway was completed and extensions through the Sumner area were completed in the 1970s. This new freeway replaced what had been the West and East Valley Highways as the connection to the north. In approximately 1974 the by-pass of State Route (SR) 410 opened, markedly shifting traffic patterns. The highway-oriented commercial development in east Sumner is a remnant of the old SR 410 route through town.

Several city-sponsored capital and improvement projects changed the face of Main Street during the early twenty-first century. Responding to a desire to have the downtown area be more attractive to pedestrians, the city initiated an improvement to sidewalks, street trees, and street lighting in the historic downtown in 2004. On East Main Street, the city adopted a design strategy to change the character of the street and development from the strong auto-orientation that remained from the

days of the street being the state highway to being more amenable to pedestrians. The Fred Meyer complex and the Mount Rainier bank were the first developments to implement those concepts.

Other Facilities

Other facilities for public use were also put in place privately. In 1864, the Pioneer Cemetery began on 2 acres of land donated by Isaac Woolery. There were two or three faucets bringing water from the Puyallup water system to the cemetery.

In 1902, the “town” section of the cemetery was added. Bill Woolery, the son of Isaac Woolery, acted as sexton for the pioneer part until the two sections were united and the city took over management. A 6-inch water main was laid from the city limits along the Milwaukee train right-of-way and into the cemetery, a distance of about 0.50 mile. A well has since replaced the pipe for a consistent source of water.

In 1885, a wooden pipe water system was built to supply water to the town. In 1889, the Sumner Light and Water Company was formed. In 1897, the town’s second water system, the Spring Branch Water Company was installed by Wh. H. Paulhamus.

In 1887, the first telephone was installed from Ryan’s Mill to his home. In 1904, the Sunset Telephone Company was granted a franchise to supply telephone equipment to the town.

Governance

Agitation for incorporation began in Sumner in early 1889 prior to the admission of Washington into the union. An election was held in Sumner in the fall, resulting in a favorable vote. The legality of this incorporation was questioned after Washington Territory became a state. Statehood imposed the necessity of meeting other requirements.

To overcome this situation, another election for the purpose of re-incorporation was held on May 10, 1890. The proposition failed to carry, so Sumner ceased to be an incorporated town. Many people in the town believed the voters had not understood the question and wanted another election. This did not come about for almost another year when the election was considered a landslide. On February 7, the Washington State Secretary of State registered the incorporation.

In 1891, with Sumner’s incorporation, George Ryan was elected Sumner’s mayor. The boundaries of the original incorporation appear on Figure 3.12-1. In 1896, Town Ordinance 54 was passed to reduce the town limits. Sumner then extended as far as the east bank of the White (Stuck) River. For several decades, the town limits remained essentially the same.

The original size of the city was less than 1 square mile at 557 acres in 1896. Annexations over the next 80 years eventually took the city to 2.35 square miles by 1982. Annexations of east Sumner and the eventual northern industrial areas took the city limits to 7.2 square miles in 2004. As of 2010, the city limits equal approximately 7.57 square miles. There is another 1.45 square miles in the Sumner Urban Growth Area(UGA).

Civic Improvements

Right after incorporation in 1891, improvements were instituted by the new town. The construction of a town jail was put to bid. Also two bridges across the Stuck River were constructed at a cost of \$500 per bridge. The first concrete sidewalks were poured in 1908.

In 1922, Sumner's "floating" lending library came under the jurisdiction of the town council. In 1926, the heirs of George and Lucy Ryan presented the Ryan House to the town to be used as a library.

In 1927, the present White (Stuck) River Bridge on Main Street was dedicated with a big celebration and music by Sumner's Men's Band.

In 1928, Sumner's status changed from a town to a city. The City bought Mrs. Laura Ranney's property at Maple Street and Alder Avenue. In the same year, the City's operation costs equaled \$27,850. In 1935, a sales tax started. In 1940, the finishing touches were being put on the new City Hall at 1104 Maple Street, getting ready for occupancy by City offices. The building was renovated and expanded in 2001 to create additional facilities for the Police Department and other City functions.

In 1928, ornamental street lights came on. In 1937, a street beautification project was started with the planting of flowering trees in the planting strips. In 1962, Sumner was honored at the Seattle World's Fair for its tree beautification and clean-up campaign. In 1995 the City adopted an Urban Forestry Strategy that promoted the appropriate and healthy planting of trees within the city. The Strategy won numerous awards for its successful results. Parks were planted with trees and the City embarked on an aggressive program to plant street trees.

The Fire Department left the City Hall building in 1990 when a new fire station was constructed at 800 Harrison Street. The City Shops were moved from their location across from the Fire Station to a new facility on 142nd Avenue in 2000. The City's Senior Center moved from a location on Fryar Avenue to 62nd Street Ct. in 1996.

In 1914, the first motorized truck in Sumner was purchased by William Hummon for freight delivery. A paved road between Sumner and Alderton opened in that same year. In 1916, two bus lines operated between Sumner and Tacoma.

Cultural Environment

Entertainment

With temperance as an important issue of the time, George Ryan offered an alternative to the saloon in Sumner. In 1882, he built a roller skating rink located near the Presbyterian Church on Main Street adjoining the railroad tracks. Some 100 skaters tried the floor on opening night. Crowds came from Tacoma and nearby communities as spectators. The floor was fir, laid from the center out so the tread was all on the grain. It was smoothed with a plane and sandpapered by hand. Later the building was converted to an opera house and social center and was the scene of theater events and Whitworth College commencement exercises.

Zech Motors purchased the facility and operated it for 30 years. After 81 years of continuous use by different owners, the building was torn down for safety reasons.

The Sumner Band, formed in 1895, received uniforms and began to hold concerts. In 1910, a bandstand was built on the Triangle at the corner of Kincaid and Narrow streets.

In 1911, a license was granted to William Nasmyth to operate a "picture house." In 1929 the first talking movie came to Sumner, with Joe E. Brown starring. Later the first Technicolor film was shown, again starring Joe E. Brown. It was billed as Vitaphone in Technicolor. In 1973, the Riviera

Theater building was demolished. Seattle-First Bank bought the building and had it removed to make way for a drive-up window for bank customers.

Today, residents enjoy the Daffodil Parade and Sumner Summer Arts Festival. The community also supports an Easter egg hunt and parades for St. Patrick's Day, Christmas, and the High School Homecoming. Many events are also well attended at the Performing Arts Center at the High School Campus.

Daffodil Festival

The importance of the bulb industry is indicated by the Daffodil Festival, an annual celebration in early spring. It is commonly said that the festival began in 1926 at the Orton residence¹ with a tea.

The Daffodil Festival really began in 1934, an idea of Robert Merrill, a Tacoma photographer who had seen similar festivals in the flower fields of Holland. A young Puyallup matron, Elizabeth Wotton, was asked to be the first queen of the festival; the second was Margaret Thomas of Sumner. After that for a number of years, Puyallup and Sumner traded the honor back and forth on alternate years.

The parade travels through the four cities of Tacoma, Puyallup, Sumner and Orting. The Daffodil Festival celebrated its 77th year during the 2010 festival season.

Education

Abram Woolery donated land for the first schoolhouse in the Puyallup Valley in 1863. The school building measured 12 by 16 feet. The teacher was Laura Kincaid. Two years later a larger building was built on the William Kincaid donation land claim at Wood Avenue and Main Street. In 1877 a building was erected west of the Northern Pacific depot and was used until 1891. By 1889, the enrollment had increased to 122, and a three-story building with a basement, at a cost of \$40,000 was completed in 1891. This building burned to the ground in 1924 and the students were housed in churches until the Wade Calavan Elementary School replaced it. The first high school building was erected in 1911. Previously, high school students attended the academy and the school on Wood Avenue. A gymnasium with a swimming pool was built across from the grade school in 1921.

There are now seven grade schools, two junior high schools, and one high school in the Sumner School District, which serves Sumner, Bonney Lake and parts of unincorporated Pierce County. An additional high school is planned to open in 2005 in Bonney Lake. The schools in Sumner are Sumner High School, Sumner Junior High School, Maple Lawn Elementary and Daffodil Valley Elementary. McAlder Elementary is located just south of the city limits in the unincorporated Alderton neighborhood.

The northern portion of the city is served by the Dieringer School District. There are no Dieringer schools remaining within the city². The now-converted Dieringer School exists at 2008 East Valley Highway. The school, which is on the National Register of Historic Places, was constructed from 1921 to 1928. The School complex consists of three buildings (school, gymnasium, and boiler plant) designed by Mr. Bresemann in the Georgian Revival Style. The complex is an excellent example of the early 20th century rural public school. The school, functioning as a community center in its early

¹ The residence is located south of SR 410 in the Orton Junction expansion area.

² Because there is no high school in the Dieringer District, those students are given the options to attend Auburn or Sumner high schools.

years, hosted “gym nights,” movies and night classes for area residents. The school closed in 1992 and was privately purchased and restored.

Religion

Church services were held in the Sumner area as early as 1853. The Christian Church was the first to organize and records show they were holding regular services in the schoolhouse in 1868. They erected a church building on the corner of Alder Avenue and Maple Street in 1883.

The Presbyterian Church incorporated on April 29, 1877, and completed their church building in 1878. Here, Sumner Academy met until their new building was completed in 1889. It was named Whitworth College in honor of its founder George Frederick Whitworth. The College is discussed further below. The original Presbyterian Church was torn down in 1943.

The Methodists built their church on the corner of Wood Avenue and Washington Street in 1891 at a cost of \$2,500. They had previously been served by pastors from Steilacoom and Puyallup. This building was later occupied by a Japanese church, which sold it to the Free Methodists at the time of the Japanese internment in 1942. The Methodist’s new building on the corner of Wood Avenue and Maple Street was dedicated in 1923.

By 1902 the Baptists were meeting, and were holding services in Ryan Hall in 1904. They dedicated their building at Park Street and Alder Avenue in 1906.

The St. Andrews Catholic Church was built in 1921 for those who previously had to go to Puyallup to attend services. While retaining their original site on Kincaid Avenue, the parish built a new church at Valley Avenue and Washington Street within the Daffodil Neighborhood in 1998. Currently, Sumner contains numerous churches of various denominations.

Whitworth College

A lot was deeded as a site for the Presbyterian Church by John Kincaid, and the Church was erected in 1877. Once a month, Dr. George H. Whitworth rode out from Seattle to preach. Whitworth College began in Sumner at the Presbyterian Church in 1883 (as an academy). Its focus was on liberal arts.

In 1890, the College moved to the block bounded by Alder on the east, Cherry on the west, Academy on the north and College (now Park Avenue) on the south. The institution enrolled both men and women. In order to reach a larger number of students, the College moved to Tacoma in 1899, and then to Spokane in 1913 where it is presently located. The street names Downtown remind the community of the College’s beginnings.

Newspapers

The year 1899 saw the publication of the first newspaper in Sumner—the Sumner Herald—which continued until 1903. The Sumner Index began publication in 1899. The Sumner News began in 1914 and merged with the Index in 1916 to become the Sumner News Index. Microfilm of the Sumner News Index is available at the Ryan House Museum. The last local newspaper was the short-lived Sumner Chronicle, which stopped publication in 1991. The Herald, published in Puyallup, has a Sumner circulation and includes some news about Sumner.

Archaeology

Archaeological resources include pre-contact or prehistoric and post-contact or historic period resources. Prehistoric resources are physical properties that result from human activities that predate European contact with native peoples in America. Prehistoric archaeological sites may include villages, campsites, lithic or artifact scatters, fishing sites, roasting pits/hearths, milling features, rock art (petroglyphs/pictographs, intaglios), rock features, and burials. Historical archaeological sites consist of the physical remains (unoccupied ruins) of structures or built objects that result from the historic period. Historic archaeological sites may include townsites, homesteads, agricultural or ranching features, mining-related features, and refuse concentrations.

A recent review (2010) of the records at DAHP, as part of this document's preparation, identified no previously recorded archaeological resources in the vicinity of the White (Stuck) River where trails, road improvements, and utility projects were proposed and studied between 2003 and 2009. This may be due to pre-settlement wetland and flooding conditions as well as to disturbance after EuroAmerican settlement and following development.

Ethnographic data indicates the presence of a village site at or near the confluence of the White River (formerly called the Stuck River) and the Puyallup River. Studies prepared for proposed projects in the vicinity of the White (Stuck) River reference that there are two known archaeological sites in the Sumner city limits, close to where the village site is said to be located. (Hedlund 2004)

Due to the prevalence of Native Americans in the valley prior to the EuroAmerican settlers, it is likely that archaeological sites are present within the current plan area.

Historic Resources

Historic resource surveys were conducted in the Sumner vicinity in 1982 (Pierce County 1983) and again in 2009 (Artifacts Architectural Consulting, 2010). In all there are about 224 structures that have been reviewed (Appendix G). About 82 structures were considered ineligible for listing on national or state registers, though this requires confirmation from DAHP. Four structures are listed in the national and state registers, and are described below.

In 1976, the Ryan House was placed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) (NR 6/30/76). In 1980, it was turned over to the Sumner Historical Society and the library, which occupied it previously, moved into the multi-purpose civic center on Fryar Avenue where more room was available.

After the 1982 community-wide survey of approximately 61 properties, the Williams Brothers Houses on Elm Street were listed in the NRHP and are also listed on the Washington Heritage Register (WHR). Later, the Dieringer Elementary School was also placed on the national and state registers. These are listed on Table 3.12-1. Sites included on the Pierce County Historic Register include the Dieringer Elementary School and the Atkinson Farmstead on Forest Canyon Road.

The prior and recent surveys were intended to locate potential historic resources based on available information about decade of construction and other features. It is possible that there are other unidentified historic resources and also that over the 20-year planning period some structures may reach ages that would require some review as to whether they meet criteria as eligible historic structures.

Table 3.12-1. Historic Properties—Current Plan Area

Description	Location	Registers
Atkinson Farmstead	16127 Forest Canyon Rd. E.	Pierce County
Dieringer School	1808 East Valley	Pierce County, WHR/NR
Ryan House	1228 Main Street	WHR/NR
Williams, Herbert, House	1711 Elm Street East	WHR/NR
Williams, Sidney, House	15003 Elm Street East	WHR/NR

Sumner Cultural Resources Policies and Regulations

The *City of Sumner Comprehensive Plan* (City Comprehensive Plan) contains policies that address historic and archaeological resources, promoting inventory, education, protection, adaptive reuse, and other activities. Example goals, policies, and objectives include:

1. Identify, preserve, and enhance the historic and prehistoric cultural resources of Sumner.
 - 1.1 Coordinate with local tribes and the State Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation to conduct a general survey of the City limits and Planning Area to identify potential archaeological sites.
 - 1.2 Through the environmental review process, consider potential impacts to archaeological resources.
 - 1.3 Work with the Sumner Historical Society and other community groups to promote historic and cultural education and recognition.
 - 1.4 Coordinate with community organizations, property owners and local citizens to protect, acquire, and/or restore key historic properties.
 - 1.4.1 Promote the preservation of significant lands, historic sites and structures, and historic trees through a combination of techniques such as landmark and local government historic preservation programs.
 - 1.4.2 Implement design guidelines to protect and promote the historic and community character of Sumner.
 - 1.4.3 Adopt a historic preservation program that creates a local historic preservation commission and pursue designation as a Certified Local Government.
 - 1.5 Actively seek state and federal grants and other funding sources to implement the historic preservation program.
 - 1.6 Analyze and consider a historic overlay zone in the Central Business District as a tool for preserving the character of Main Street.
 - 1.7 Maintain a voluntary nomination program for single-family residential properties.
3. Recognize the heart and historic meaning of Downtown.
 - 3.1 Ensure Downtown's historic character is retained as new businesses and buildings are established, such as through design standards, landmark ordinances, or other means.
 - 3.2 Enliven and refresh Downtown by allowing adaptive reuse of buildings and new construction that respects the district character.
 - 3.3 Improve the Ryan House and public access.
 - 3.4 Provide access to historic documentation to land owners, citizens, and others.

3.5 Develop a walking tours (sic) that highlight public art, architecture, history, trees, and other icons.

In 2008, the City adopted new historic preservation regulations “to provide for the identification, evaluation, designation, and protection of designated historic and prehistoric resources within the boundaries of city of Sumner and preserve and rehabilitate eligible historic properties within the city of Sumner for future generations through special valuation, a property tax incentive, as provided in chapter 84.26 RCW” (Chapter 18.39 SMC). The regulations indicate that all properties listed on the NRHP are eligible to apply for special valuation in Sumner; once the City becomes a Certified Local Government then locally listed properties would become eligible. No locally designated properties are currently on the Sumner Historic Register. The City is establishing a Historic Preservation Commission.

The City’s regulations indicate that any changes to locally designated historic resources require approval: “No person shall change the use, construct any new building or structure, or reconstruct, alter, restore, remodel, repair or move any existing property on the Sumner Historic Register or within an historic district on the Sumner Historic Register without review by the commission and without receipt of a certificate of appropriateness.” The certificate of appropriateness is “the document indicating that the commission has reviewed the proposed changes to a local register property or within a local register historic district and certified the changes as not adversely affecting the historic characteristics of the property which contribute to its designation.” A waiver is possible to allow for demolition if there are no alternatives: “‘Waiver of a certificate of appropriateness’ or ‘waiver’ means the document indicating that the commission has reviewed the proposed whole or partial demolition of a local register property or in a local register historic district and failing to find alternatives to demolition has issued a waiver of a certificate of appropriateness which allows the building or zoning official to issue a permit for demolition.”

New development in the Central Business District, large single-family subdivisions, and most commercial, multifamily, and industrial developments are required to comply with the City’s design guidelines. The guidelines indicate that development in the Central Business District should use the “Secretary of Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties” as a guide to preserve, rehabilitate, restore, or reconstruct historic properties. The intent of commercial standards is in part to “Encourage preservation, rehabilitation, restoration, or reconstruction of historical properties based on appropriate historic information, materials, and methods.” The use of franchise/corporate architecture is not allowed in commercial developments.

Orton Junction Expansion Area

Within the Orton Junction expansion area lies one historic home: the Charles W. Orton House, located at 7473 Riverside Road East. The house is on the Pierce County Historic Register, the WHR, and the NRHP. The house was built in 1914 in a craftsman style and was the home of Charles Orton a pioneer in the Puyallup Valley bulb industry. The home is considered to have a local level of significance according to the DAHP Historic Register Report. The nomination form for the structure notes that “The Charles W. Orton residence is significant as the home of one of the leaders in the state’s bulb floriculture industry and an individual who made substantial contributions to the development of agriculture in the state.”

The Orton residence represents a transitional agriculture, a movement away from the homestead farms that characterized the nineteenth century. Charles W. Orton was a new kind of farmer, an

agriculturalist who carefully studied his land as a resource and planted the type of crops that were most marketable in an area associated with large municipal growth and railroad activity.

Pierce County policies apply to the unincorporated area. Of particular note are policies adopted in the *Alderton-McMillan Community Plan* applicable south of Sumner's UGA in the Orton Junction expansion area. Examples include:

Objective 18. Ensure the history of the Alderton-McMillin Community Plan area is conveyed to residents and visitors.

Principle 1. Preserve sites of historical significance and strive to emphasize the importance of community history.

Standard 18.1.1 Integrate historic resources with natural resources when developing new recreational and visitor facilities.

Standard 18.1.2 The community should be afforded an opportunity to provide input into the review process when a nomination application to the Pierce County Register of Historic Places for a property located in the Alderton- McMillin Community Plan area is filed with the Pierce County Landmarks Commission.

Standard 18.1.3 Encourage local businesses to have historic plaques or pictures as part of the decor.

Standard 18.1.4 Develop a comprehensive inventory and map of cultural resources including historically significant features for the community.

Standard 18.1.5 When there is a conflict between the adopted design standards and preservation of the architectural integrity of a historical building that has been identified on the Pierce County Register of Historic Places, the historical architectural integrity shall prevail.

Principle 2. Promote the knowledge and presence of history in the community to provide a sense of belonging and tradition for those who live in or visit the community.

Standard 18.2.1 Promote the history of events, people, traditions, unique structures, and artifacts.

Standard 18.2.1.1 Explore educational opportunities in conjunction with activities at the McMillin Grange.

Standard 18.2.1.2 Record the history of the valley through the voices and experiences of the people in a video documentary.

Standard 18.2.2 Strive to educate visitors and local citizens about the history of the valley.

Standard 18.2.2.1 Work with the local school districts to integrate the community's history into the curriculum.

Standard 18.2.2.2 Disseminate historical information through kiosks or landmarks.

Standard 18.2.3 Develop a historic tour of important places and structures in the community.

Standard 18.2.3.1 Develop standardized identification signs for historic tour properties.

Standard 18.2.3.2 Encourage property owners of historic properties and structures to be involved with the development of a tour.

County historic preservation regulations are similar to those of Sumner, but have been in place for a longer period of time. For properties in unincorporated Pierce County, the Landmarks and Historic Preservation Commission has 60 days to review demolition or alteration of part or all of any building, structure, place, or district to determine whether the changes set forth in the proposal permit application are compatible with the reasons for including the structure, building, or place on the Pierce County Register of Historic Places.

East Hill Reduction Area

There are no listed historic properties within the East Hill reduction area. It is possible that there may be archaeological resources though less likely on the hillsides than in the valley near watercourses.

3.12.2 Impacts

For the purposes of this analysis, the degree to which the alternatives adversely affect districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects listed or eligible for listing in the NRHP, is the primary criterion for determining significant impacts under SEPA. Secondary criteria include whether an alternative has the potential to affect districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects listed in or eligible for listing in the WHR.

Impacts Common to All Alternatives

All studied alternatives accommodate different levels of growth and development in coming years. The likelihood that any of this development would affect cultural resources is dependent on the proximity of the proposed development to any identified cultural resources. Any future development projects located on or in the proximity of known cultural resources in the study area could have impacts on the cultural resource. Impacts that could disrupt or adversely affect cultural resources may include:

- demolition, removal, or substantial alteration without consideration of historic and archaeological sites and/or features;
- incompatible massing, size, scale or architectural style of new development on adjacent properties;
- obstruction or extensive shading of significant views to and from a resource by new development;
- incompatible use of an existing building or structure;
- disruption of integrity of setting; and
- long-term loss of access to the property.

The level of significance for an impact is dependent on the existing integrity and nature of contributing elements to a property's historic or cultural significance and the sensitivity of the current or historic use of the resource.

Within the city limits, all alternatives call for a variety of uses in areas near designated historic resources: the Williams' homes and vicinity are shown as Industrial or Commercial, the Ryan House as Public/Quasi-Public³, and Dieringer School as Light Industrial. City design guidelines could result in compatibility of new development near designated historic resources, including both buildings and grounds.

The protection of *non-designated* historic resources would primarily be left to the market place. City design guidelines could provide some protection in terms of compatibility of new development near

³ Although designated in the Plan as Public/Quasi-Public, the zoning of the property is commercial along with the surrounding land on Main Street

historic resources. It is possible that there are other unidentified historic resources and also that over the 20-year planning period some structures may reach ages that would require some review as to whether they meet criteria as eligible historic structures.

Development over the planning period in the study area also has the potential to disturb archaeological resources.

Impacts Specific to the UGA Expansion (Orton Junction) Alternative

The UGA Expansion Alternative would add the most additional territory south of SR 410 of the alternatives under study. The alternative also contains the most capacity for new growth of the alternatives studied. This growth could locate on buildable lands or elsewhere in the alternative's boundaries. Along with greater growth levels could come more redevelopment to accommodate the growth, and therefore, a higher likelihood of impacts on cultural resources.

The UGA Expansion Alternative extends urban territory in the Orton Junction expansion area including the Orton House, listed on the NRHP, WHR, and Pierce County Historic Register. The land use designation would be General Commercial. If annexed in the future, the implemented zoning would be General Commercial with a Planned Mixed Use Development overlay. The General Commercial zoning allows existing single-family residences to be retained, and for a wider variety of commercial and multifamily uses than is currently found under the rural zoning.

Specific development plans are unknown and would be subject to site-specific SEPA review. However, with the more urban zoning, a greater range of possible uses exist for the site and home. Some of these uses could affect the Orton House to varying degrees. For example, the home could contain commercial or office uses, which are examples of adaptive reuse. Future commercial development surrounding the listed property could also change its context from agricultural and rural to urban. Buffers between development and the home as well as compatible design standards could reduce some possible impacts.

If the Orton House were altered, demolished, moved or in some other way changed, the future development would be subject to local historic commission review, permit review, and depending on the action, environmental documentation. As part of environmental documentation there could be requirements to consult with DAHP and the National Park Service.

Impacts Specific to the UGA Modification Alternative

The UGA Modification Alternative would have lower growth levels than the UGA Expansion Alternative and a smaller urban boundary than either the UGA Expansion Alternative or the No Action Alternative. Thus, of the studied alternatives there is an overall lower potential of cultural resource disturbance. However, the UGA Modification Alternative does expand urban boundaries to include the Orton House. Potential impacts on the house itself would be similar to those described for the UGA Expansion Alternative.

Impacts Specific to the No Action Alternative

Within the current plan area, the No Action Alternative would have impacts as described under Impacts Common to All Alternatives. The Orton House is not included in the current plan area, and thus there would be a lower likelihood of change from its present rural residential use to another

use. Additionally, the context of the area surrounding the listed structure would remain agricultural and rural in nature.

3.12.3 Mitigation Measures

Incorporated Plan Features

- The City Comprehensive Plan includes policies that support historic preservation and application of design guidelines in general to address mitigation of visual and site development impacts.
- The Ryan House would retain its Public/Quasi-Public Plan designation.

Applicable Regulations and Commitments

- The City adopted historic preservation regulations to promote a special tax valuation to promote historic site rehabilitation and preservation in Chapter 18.39 SMC.
- The City currently supports the Sumner Historical Society by providing use of the Ryan House.
- The City's Design and Development Guidelines (Chapter 18.40 SMC) encourage development in most zones that is sensitive to the context and surroundings and would take into consideration nearby historic resources and lands.
- Through the SEPA process, impacts on historic and archaeological resources would be considered.
- The following federal laws would be applicable:
 - The Archaeological Resource Protection Act of 1979 protects archaeological resources and sites that are on public and tribal lands and assists in information sharing among entities seeking to preserve these resources.
 - The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, establishes national standards for designating historic and culturally significant properties and establishes the authority of the State Historic Preservation Officer. Section 106 USC 470(a)(d) of this law establishes a program that requires federal agencies to consider effects to historic properties caused by federally sponsored undertakings.
 - The Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974 governs archaeological and other historic and cultural resources found in federal construction activities, including the construction of dams.
 - The Native American Graves and Repatriation Act governs the protection, preservation, and repatriation of Native American remains and cultural artifacts found in Native American burial sites.
- The following state laws and directives would be applicable:
 - Under SEPA, DAHP is the specified agency with the technical expertise to consider the effects of a proposed action on cultural resources and to provide formal recommendations to local governments and other state agencies for appropriate treatments or actions. DAHP does not regulate the treatment of properties that are found to be significant; a local

governing authority may choose to uphold the DAHP recommendation and may require mitigation of adverse effects to significant properties.

- The Governor's Executive Order 05-05 requires state agencies with Capital Improvement Projects to integrate DAHP, the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs, and concerned tribes into their capital project planning process. This Executive Order affects any capital construction projects and any land acquisitions for purposes of capital construction.
- RCW 27.44 Indian Graves and Records provides protection for Native American graves and burial grounds, encourages voluntary reporting of said sites when they are discovered, and mandates a penalty for disturbance or desecration of such sites.
- RCW 27.53 Archaeological Sites and Resources governs the protection and preservation of archaeological sites and resources and establishes DAHP as the administering agency for these regulations.
- RCW 68.60 Abandoned and Historic Cemeteries and Historic Graves provides for the protection and preservation of abandoned and historic cemeteries and historic graves.

Other Potential Mitigation Measures

- The City could implement its new historic preservation regulations to promote historic and cultural education and recognition, and potentially include regulatory measures on such landmarks.
- The City could work with other groups to acquire and/or restore key historic properties or their development rights.
- The City could require buffers and apply special design standards for new development that are compatible with the Charles W. Orton home in the Orton Junction expansion area to provide a compatible context for the historic property.
- The following mitigation measures are recommended for all future development projects located on or in proximity to properties containing known archaeological and historic resources:
 - To the extent feasible, the preservation, rehabilitation, restoration, reconstruction or adaptive reuse of historic resources should meet the U.S. Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.
 - Proposed new construction, exterior alterations, and demolition that could impact properties listed in the NRHP, the WHR, or the Sumner Historic Register should comply with the City's Design and Development Guidelines.
 - In the event that a future development project is proposed on a site containing a property listed in local historic inventories that is not listed in the NRHP, WHR, or the Sumner Historic Register, the project would be required to undergo SEPA review to determine whether the property is considered an historic resource.
 - In addition to the archaeological resources already known to exist in the study area, it is possible that intact buried deposits remain in areas not yet tested, particularly those areas in the vicinity of the Stuck/White or Puyallup Rivers. Archaeological testing should be completed for proposed projects that involve significant excavation or any changes made to

the vegetation and landforms near these rivers. Archaeological project monitoring is suggested for subsurface excavation and construction in these high probability areas.

- In the event that a future development project in the study area is proposed on or immediately surrounding a site containing an archaeological resource, the potential impacts on the archaeological resource should be considered and, if needed, a study conducted by a qualified archaeologist to determine whether the proposed development project would materially impact the archaeological resource. If the project would disturb an archaeological resource, the City would impose any and all measures to avoid or substantially lessen the impact. If avoidance of the archaeological resource is not possible, an appropriate research design should be developed and implemented with full data recovery of the archaeological resource prior to the development project. The avoidance of archaeological resources through selection of project alternatives and changes in design of project features in the specific area of the affected resource(s) would eliminate the need for measuring or mitigating impacts.
- Non-site-specific mitigation could involve finding other opportunities in the community for mitigation measures that are not specific to the affected site(s). Some of the options for non-site-specific mitigation include developing an educational program, interpretive displays, design guidelines that focus on compatible materials, and professional publications.

3.12.4 Significant Unavoidable Adverse Impacts

The impacts on cultural resources caused by new development associated with the proposed alternatives could be significant and unavoidable, depending on the nature of the proposed development project. Implementation of mitigation measures set forth in Section 3.12.3, "Mitigation Measures," would address potential impacts on cultural resources, reducing them to less-than-significant levels.

