

SHB 2115



Photos, top to Bottom: Heritage Barns in Whitman, Garfield, and Kittitas Counties

Heritage Barn Preservation Program

Background

In 2007, the state legislature passed SHB 2115, establishing the Heritage Barn Preservation Program within the Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation. The program actively acknowledges Heritage Barns across the state and the Heritage Barn Advisory Committee works to address the many challenges historic barns face by awarding matching grants for barn stabilization and rehabilitation.

Heritage Barn Register

Since November 2007, the Heritage Barn Register has worked to:

- Designate 336 official Heritage Barns, with listings in 38 of Washington's 39 counties;
- Highlight historic barns through the designation process that in turn could work to promote sustainable economic development through tourism.
- Provide data on construction types, forms, uses and needs of agricultural-related structures across the state
- Distribute commemorative plaques to owners of designated Heritage Barns

Heritage Barn Grant Program

In 2008, matching grants were available to heritage barn owners across the state, leading to the following:

- DAHP received 105 applications requesting over \$2.1 million in grant funds;
- The Barn Advisory Committee awarded 18 grants totaling nearly \$450,000 in matching funds;
- Grant awards averaged just under \$25,000;
- Barn rehabilitation projects are labor intensive, requiring local contractors and suppliers;
- Being truly 'local' projects, project expenditures in the form of wages, etc., remain in the local economy.

Assessment of Barns Statewide

DAHP has completed a statewide assessment of barns to:

- Identify the general stabilization and rehabilitation needs of Washington's barns;
- Develop cost estimating methodology to help Heritage Barn owners assess needs; and
- Provide an array of programmatic/policy ideas that could work to further preserve barns.

Contact

Chris Moore, Field Director
Washington Trust for Historic Preservation
(206) 624-9449
cmoore@wa-trust.org
www.wa-trust.org

2009-2011 Biennium

The Governor's proposed budget includes \$500,000 from the State Capital Budget to continue the grant program in the coming biennium, but would move the program out of DAHP and allocate funding to the Washington State Historical Society. The Washington Trust strongly supports continued funding, but opposes moving the program out of DAHP, as doing so would add unnecessary administrative costs and program inefficiencies.