



STATE OF WASHINGTON

**DEPARTMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGY & HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

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February 5, 2010

Anthony Cassarino  
1335 SW 175<sup>th</sup> Street  
Normandy Park, WA 98116

Re: Normandy Cove Recreation Building

Dear Anthony:

I wanted to send you a quick note address some of the concerns/reservations that the Board may have regarding the listing of the **Normandy Cove Recreation Building** on the National Register of Historic Places.

National Register listing is strictly honorary in nature. It affords no protection against demolition, nor requires review of alterations by any local, state or federal agency. The basic concept of National Register listing is to formally document a building, raise the public profile, and celebrate the history of the building.

Some folks do use listing to access limited grants, ask for waivers in the local building code (to allow for the preservation of the building in its original state), and to offer some limited protection if a federal action is occurring on or near the resource (106 of the National Historic Preservation Act requires all projects with a federal nexus to look at impacts to NR listed or eligible property).

The types of controls that one often associates with historic designation is when properties are locally designated. To my knowledge, Normandy Park does not currently have a Historic Preservation ordinance that established a "local register" or design review process for designated historic buildings. Even if they did, the Cove Building would need to be added to the local register (typically requiring owner consent) before any such review would occur. It would be perfectly fine to be on the National Register but not on a

local register.

I would be more than happy to attend one of your Board meetings if necessary. The Normandy Cove Recreation Building is a very special place not only in terms of its rich history and link to the community of Normandy Park, but it's association to one of Puget Sounds prominent architectural firms. Please feel free to contact me if you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Houser', written over a light blue rectangular background.

**Michael Houser**  
*State Architectural Historian*  
(360) 586-3076