



College Hill Association

Improving, Preserving, Celebrating College Hill



Large planting strips lined with mature maple trees along NE Maple Street on Pullman's College Hill

College Hill - How It Started (How It's Going)

Three decades ago, a group of residents began gathering in living rooms to discuss neighborhood changes, eventually incorporating The College Hill Association as a nonprofit in 1992. The motto then was "Life on the Edge," and members were primarily concerned with conditions that were and are – to use the parlance of the times – endemic to university-adjacent neighborhoods. Pullman's residential permit parking system, its noise and nuisance ordinances, and College Hill's network of public litter containers are all products of the group's early efforts. A 2008 bylaws revision grounded CHA's long-term neighborhood revitalization strategies in New Urbanism and Placemaking. As of 2015, the Association's motto became, "Improving, Preserving, Celebrating College Hill." Now approaching the 30th anniversary of its incorporation, the CHA board is proud of the Association's ongoing work and thankful to the residents who had the foresight and took the initiative to get it started, and of course to all supporting members whose contributions make its continuation possible.

During the 2020-2021 pandemic year, although the neighborhood was noticeably de-populated and all CHA meetings were virtual, the Association remained actively engaged in advancing long-term priorities. As in previous years, the

board commented on almost all land use matters affecting College Hill – matters as particular as sidewalk improvements and as general as Pullman's comprehensive plan. A deeply gratifying affirmation of our input was the local planning commission's including the following sentence when the new comprehensive plan was adopted in September 2021: "The College Hill Association is considered a model by community members in addressing the specific needs of the College Hill neighborhood."

The CHA's regular, systematic feedback on planned changes avoids "not in my backyard" positions; rather it strives to support positive design qualities such as walkability, character-rich architecture, and enhancements of the urban forest. Engaging in this participatory process ensures that neighborhood perspectives are considered and that our voices are heard in dialogues that shape the neighborhood's long-term trajectory.

Indeed, the CHA board believes failing to participate is to accept passively whatever changes are proposed. Overall, our letters offer consistent positions that advocate thoughtful planning and maximum transparency whenever decisions affect College Hill's future.

Continued on the next page..

What's Happening...

Continued from (How it Going)...

Determined to have a say, we don't always get our way. Despite a variety of efforts to engage with University administration, WSU's announcement of a plan to divest itself of all neighborhood properties, including the Culture and Heritage Houses and Adams Mall, surprised us last spring. Our attempted mitigation strategies were unsuccessful, and our repeated calls for transparent public discussion unheeded. Even as WSU proceeds with actions we cannot support, we remain committed to working collaboratively with new property owners and the neighborhood's other stakeholders.

In August, the CHA board voted to pursue a new long-term goal, the creation of a College Hill Land Trust for the purpose of preserving open green space and ensuring affordable housing on College Hill. During the year ahead, the board will engage in a strategic planning initiative to determine the steps for achieving those ends as well as to re-evaluate other parts of its mission.

Remarkably, what started out as a grassroots effort by neighborhood stakeholders has remained just that. As we approach our 30th anniversary in September 2022, we recognize that the Association has become not only better organized and more effective, but also more resilient. If you would like to learn more about our neighborhood work or to become involved, please explore our website, follow us on social media, contact us to attend monthly board meetings, and subscribe to our monthly emails—address all queries to cha.pullman@gmail.org.

2021-22 CHA Board of Directors

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CHA Continues Support for Depot Restoration

Capitalizing on assets is always the first move in neighborhood/community improvement, and preservation of the built environment is one of the CHA's leading strategies for long-term revitalization. Because the depot served as the historic entry point to the College Hill neighborhood, we enthusiastically endorse its restoration and repurposing as a Pullman Heritage Center, which promises to enrich both College Hill and the entire community. For more information, visit the Depot Freight Room on Saturdays from 1-4 pm, or pullman-depot.org.

At its August 2021 board meeting, the CHA board voted unanimously – and for the second year in a row – to approve a \$1,000 gift to the Pullman Depot Heritage Center's ongoing Fix the Bricks campaign. We are glad to contribute to the Depot fundraising effort again this year, and thankful to our supporting members who made the gift possible.



Outside the 1916 Northern Pacific Railway depot, a lift operated by Pioneer Waterproofing Company, Inc. is poised to begin masonry restoration, a project funded through a Washington State Heritage Capital Project grant and community donations. Photo courtesy of Pullman Depot Heritage Center.

This Year...

Our 2020-21 Donors Enabling Positive Change

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Pollyann Young Hartman, 1939 - 2021



On June 1, 2021, the College Hill Association lost a long-time supporter with the passing of Pollyann Young Hartman at her childhood home in Greensboro NC. For those who know College Hill's near-campus environment, Polly will be remembered as the beloved owner of the 1927 Drucker House that Stanley Smith and Fred Rounds designed on B Street, the home Polly had lived in since 1984 with her husband Elwood and where they raised their son Alex, now an attorney with the Justice Department in Washington D.C. The College Hill neighborhood generally knew Polly as a widely read and witty bibliophile—one who shared her wealth of international experience and her love of books during years of volunteer work in Neill Public Library and Pullman schools.

Polly represents one of College Hill's most profound French connections. Her father Montgomery Knapp Young served in the U.S. Army in France during WWI and took his bachelor's degree at the Université de Montpellier. Polly, who was born in Greensboro in 1939, regularly traveled to France with her parents after WWII, spoke French before she graduated from Wake Forest University in 1961, and married a Greensboro High School classmate who would become a Professor of French at WSU. Before their son was born, Polly and Elwood traveled to France multiple times, and after his birth lived for three extended stays in Paris as a family in 1979, 1985–86, and 1991–92.

After years of travel – which took her far beyond France to countries in Europe, Africa, and the Caribbean, and once on a trip around the world – Polly spent more and more time in North Carolina, to which she returned in winters to the 1926 family home in Greensboro she and Elwood maintained and increasingly lived in during the last decade. She continued her gardening, her support for the Audubon Society and Nature Conservancy, and especially her reading in those final years. The CHA mourns her passing even as it celebrates her life, which brought a richness to College Hill that can't be replaced.

**College Hill Association
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Committing to Diversity and Inclusion on College Hill

Washington State University decided last spring to sell its four Culture and Heritage Houses in the College Hill core. The houses, historically and architecturally significant faculty homes dating from the 1920s and 1930s, were restored and opened in 2008 to give multicultural students safe and welcoming off-campus spaces in the residential neighborhood that includes Greek Row. WSU's stated institutional purpose was to create facilities for University personnel and the community that enhanced multicultural understanding and inclusion. While most of the official functions of the Talmadge Anderson, Native American, Casa Latina, and Asian-Pacific Islander houses will move on campus, their sale means that the University has pulled back support from the rationale for locating them in the College Hill neighborhood: encouraging a multicultural presence in this largely student community. We believe that the Culture and Heritage houses meaningfully contributed to inclusivity on College Hill, which will be less welcoming without them.

While we are disappointed with WSU's giving up this institutional commitment to off-campus diversity, in the next year the CHA will be exploring with other stakeholders how the community could take up its responsibility for enhancing the inclusive character of this neighborhood so intimately tied to WSU's Pullman campus. The CHA's own mission of College Hill improvement explicitly includes working to "lessen neighborhood tensions, eliminate prejudice and discrimination, and combat deterioration of the built environment," the latter a factor long-recognized as contributing to the kinds of social conflict addressed in both the 2005 CHA/WSU neighborhood plan, *A Better Tomorrow for Pullman: A Master Plan for College Hill* and the 2015 report by WSU's Commission on Campus Climate.

In the last decade the CHA has admittedly limited its emphasis on this part of its mission to supporting WSU's Culture and Heritage Houses, an avenue now closed to the organization. Without presuming it has answers, the CHA board invites (and holds itself open to) all relevant ideas and suggestions for collaboration from members of the Association and stakeholders in the College Hill neighborhood, which we hope will not ignore the reality of racism while fostering an inclusive cultural and social life for its residents and visitors.