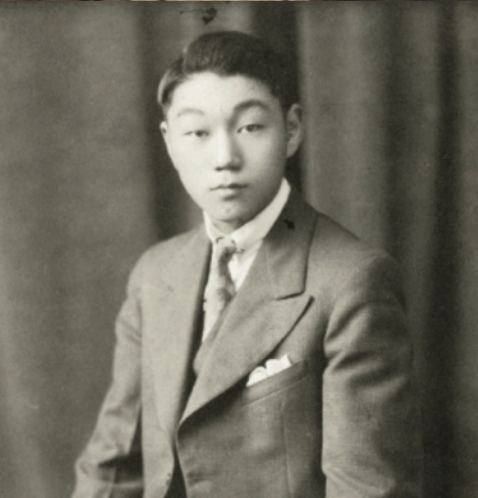


Permanent Exhibits Renovation

Exhibit Brief



September, 2021

Exhibition Concept

From the s̄x̄əbabš to the present, Vashon-Maury Island has been shaped by largely homogenous groups interconnected with places and people from beyond the island's shores. Vashon residents demonstrate unique adaptations to the press of change over time and leave a legacy of creative resilience. Stories of Vashon's past engage visitors in dialogue with the present and make connections to the future.

Revised Concept

Stories of Vashon's past engage visitors and make connections to the future

Preface

This exhibit has been developed for the Vashon Island History Museum to replace the existing permanent exhibits. The museum's mission is:

The Mission of the Vashon-Maury Island Heritage Association is to honor Vashon stories of love, life, oppression, action, and resilience. The Association tells Vashon stories, encouraging Islanders to take responsibility for what we do, knowing our actions influence history. As the Association collects, preserves, exhibits and interprets the history of Vashon and Maury Islands, we seek to engage, educate, and inspire our Island Community.

The development team consists of Guest Curator, Taylor Felt with support from the Permanent exhibits committee:

- Maija Mcknight
- Bruce Haulman
- Alexandra Seaman
- Wade Yip
- Alicia Widmer
- Laurie Tucker
- Elsa Croonquist

Justification

The current exhibits at the Vashon Island History Museum have served the museum and its community well for a number of years. And the museum has maintained a robust schedule of excellent temporary exhibits in recent years that have been engaging for the community.

The new permanent exhibit for the museum is being designed to present the history of the island in a new framework that will more fully recognize the contributions of the diverse members of the community to the Island's heritage. Additionally, the museum wishes to:

- Connect more fully with current audiences,
- Provide greater access to the collections
- Create a gathering space for the community
- Frame the history of Vashon Island in a way that reflects who its residents are today

Thematic Content

The museum has identified four major themes that will drive the exhibit

Place & Environment

Work & Technology

People & Communities

Culture & Spirit

Turning points

Turning Points are major historical events that had a significant impact on the future of the island

- Arrival of Humans
- Contact and Settlement
- The automobile & electricity
- WWII
- Gentrification

Storyline

The exhibit begins with an introduction to the island, its geological formation, and its ecosystems. This discussion introduces the first turning point of the exhibit, The Arrival of Humans. The first people that are known to have inhabited the island were the s̓x̓ʷəbabš people. The exhibit will introduce what is known about these people and orient the visitor to the ways in which the s̓x̓ʷəbabš people used Vashon Island.

As the visitor progresses through the exhibit, they will understand how European contact decimated the s̓x̓ʷəbabš, and established a new relationship of people to the land. This introduces the second turning point, Contact and Settlement. At the population of the island grew, settlement shifted from the shoreline to the interior. Industries based on extractive ideas such as mining and timber helped to clear the way for later agriculture, while fishing created an economy until its eventual decline.

The agricultural industry thrived and was aided by the nascent ferry system that moved the harvest between the island and the mainland. Shipbuilding was a major industry and helped to establish Vashon. The ferry system brought goods from Vashon to the mainland and allowed people, ideas, and technology to move freely. As technology grew and came to Vashon, so did electricity and the automobile, which function as the third turning point. Summer communities began to spring up around the Island.

Changes in the communities surrounding Puget Sound led to changes on the island and as Seattle and Tacoma saw increased influence in the region, the center of influence on the island shifted from Burton to Vashon, and the Northern and Southern ferry routes rose to prominence. World War II had a massive effect on Vashon and serves as the fourth turning point. The ferry system became critical for moving people to jobs on the mainland to support the war effort. Japanese internment tragically redistributed property ownership and wealth on the island. The demographic shift that occurred when only a quarter of these residents returned to Vashon after the War helps to frame the struggle between homogeneity and diverse cultures that arguably persists today.

The end of WWII ushered in new industries and ideas on the Island. Beliefs around spirituality and social consciousness led to political changes on the Island. New industries were born on the Island as the economic basis for Vashon shifted away from a largely agrarian basis. While the arts have always been an integral aspect of the Island's makeup, the post-war era saw a strong establishment of the creative spirit of Island residents. Festivals were established that expressed the island's unique identity. Changes in the way people lived, including greater suburbanization and prosperity, are the basis for the final turning point, gentrification.

Interwoven throughout the thematic structure is continual activism, from Lucy Gerand's 1927 testimony, to the Vashon vigilantes repelling the Illahee in 1948, to contemporary activism efforts like the Quartermaster Harbor cleanup and the "kayaktivism" of the Backbone Campaign. Further interwoven are contributions from the diverse communities that have called the Island home, including LGBTQ perspectives of life on Vashon.

Resource Plan

Key Artifacts

The Edson Collection

This collection was accepted by the museum with the express condition that it must always be on display, in some capacity. The collection consisted of orotone photos with antique pie-crust-style gilded frames.

Natural History

Fossilized shellfish - 2017.288

3.5" W x 7" L x 2.5" D



sǰ^wəbabš

Stone maul 2003.62

2.75" H x 6" W, no 3rd dimension



Stone adze blade 1987.27

Found by George McCormick at Reddings Beach

2.5" H x 2.5" W



Stone Pestle found at Spring Beach (1987.28)

7" H x 2.5" diameter



Stone Point 2003.45

Stone is native to BC. Point found on Vashon - Cove area

2.75" H x 1" w x .25" D



Worked stone, 2007.05 - Found at quartermaster harbor near Judd Creek

2.75" W x 5" L



Stone sinker/net weight found on beach near Dockton

2" H x 3" w - circumference on long dim is 8.75"



Shaun Peterson, "sqeleC" (octopus)



Herring rake - 2000.012

Cedar canoe with paddles - 2015.093

Basketry

A number of baskets in the collection are of Makah or Quinalt origin.

2016.190 - Cedar root basket - unknown coast Salish maker. 6" H x 7" diameter

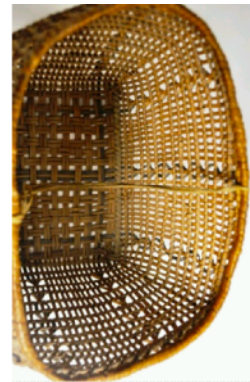


2016.191 - cedar root, horsetail, beargrass basket - unknown Coast Salish maker. 10" H x 11" L x 9.75" diameter



2016.193 - vine maple & Cedar clam basket - years 1875-1900

8.75" H x 9.5" L x 6.5" diameter - base is 7.5" x 4.75"



European Arrival

Framed portraits of SD & Eliza Sherman



Stanley's Quartermaster Windmill tree, (replace the timeline) 1999.105 or 2010.105? Both records in PastPerfect



Industry

Logging -

- springboard (1992.24)
 - 2.5" H x 6" W x 55.5" D
- axes
- Crosscut saw (1999.96)
 - 7" H x 84.5" W
- peavey pole (2005.16)
 - 49" H x 8" W x 7" D
- Red C-I-L blasting caps tin (2010.117 ,
 - 1.5" H x 2.25" w x 2.25" d
- Hercules Blasting Caps Tin (2010.113)
 - 1.75" H x 2.75" diameter
- Wooden gunpowder container 2011.033
 - 3.5:" H x 1.5" W x no 3rd dim
- 2000.08 - Logging Jack invented by LeRoy O. Landers, Vashon Islander
 - 37.5" H x 13" w x 5.75" D
 - Log Scaling stick, used to measure diameter of trees
 - 41.5" H x 1.5" W

Mining -

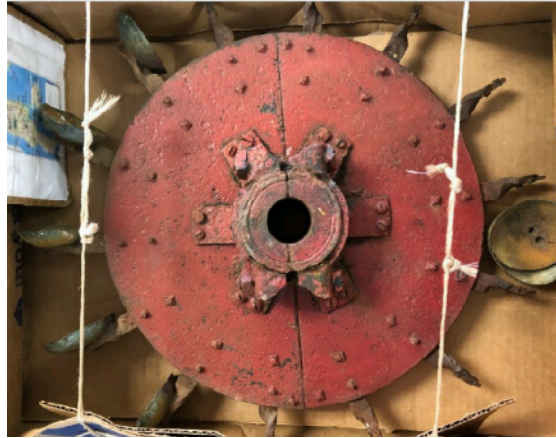
Vashon Bricks and mold 1987.24

33" H x 10.5" W x 3" D



Paddle Wheel, Vashon sand and gravel, est. 1906. 2020.014

24" diameter



Stencil for Island Brand strawberries

Original at Washington State Historical Society. Replica.
hydro cut from aluminum plate and faux finished



WWII

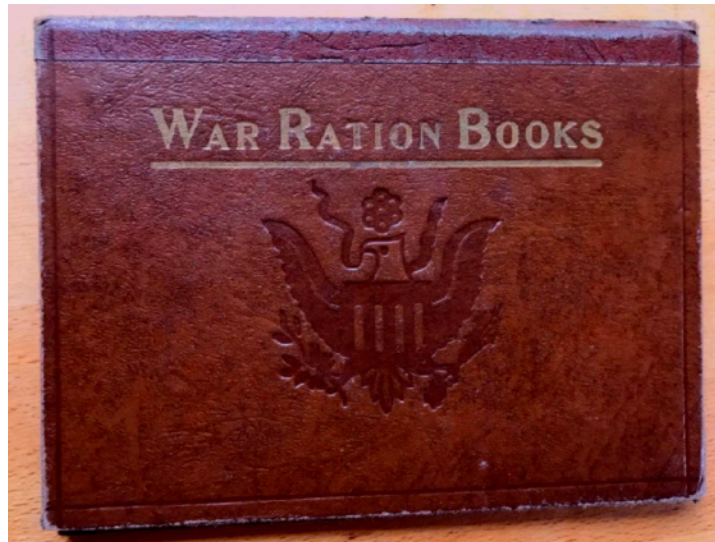
Fishing float - two beer bottles & Fishing nets 2001.069 (fishing floats not available from Japan during the war)

17" l x 4" diameter

War Ration book - 2018.119

6.5" Hx 5"W

6.5" H w 10" W opened



Rice Bowls, made in Japan, found at Manzanita, 2000.116 (1860-1880)

2.5" x 5"



Automotive

Ford Auto Lamp - 1991.08

10.5" H x 5" w x 4.5" D



Ferry system

Steam Whistle (1988.08) c1880

Dimensions unknown (Approx 18" h)



Life preserver 1999.82 (1932-1964) From MS Vashon

14"H x 14" w x 9"d

Compass, 1870, 2002.159

no image, no dims

Telescope 1831, -Brooks, Ludgate street, London 2012.210 -

no dims, no image

K2 skis & snowboards

2017.261 - K2 Ski end - Olympic souvenir

3.25 W x 15" L



2001.26 & 2017.185 - K2 bubblegum cards - pictures of employees with printed information about their job description

Snowboards and Skis - K2?

2009-012 - ski core

2009-013 - snowboard

2009-014 - snowboard

2009-020 - snow ski

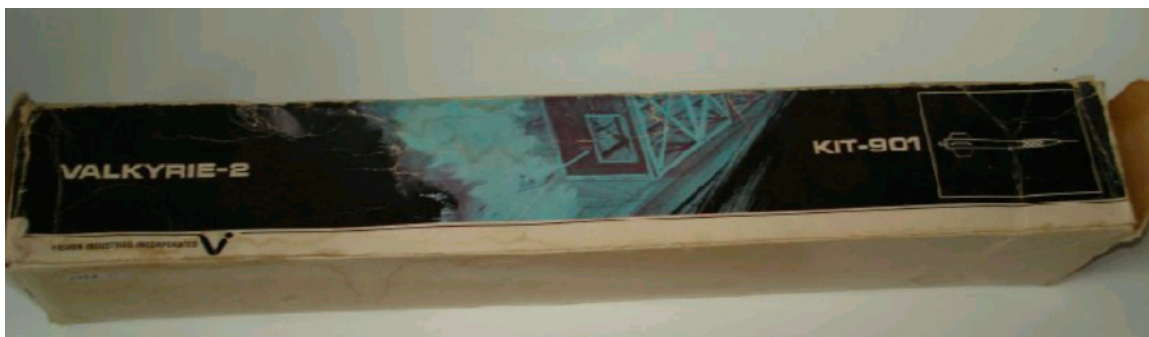
2009-028 - water ski

Vashon Industries

Rocket model - 1993.11 &

Valkyrie Rocket Kit - (1969?) 2012.087 - 3.5" W x 20.5L x 3" D

Model Rocket Propellant - 2010.082



Vashon hardware store

Tide Books - 2001.06 -

Pacific research labs

Sawbones Plastic Skull 1993.12



Sawbones leg bone - 1993.14



Summer Communities

water safety rules - 1993.60

Bylaws - 1993.55

Receipts - grocery receipts - West Coast Grocery Co. & R. Haddow & Son Ira Case 1993.75

Suitcase - Magnolia Beach 2006.129

People/Communities

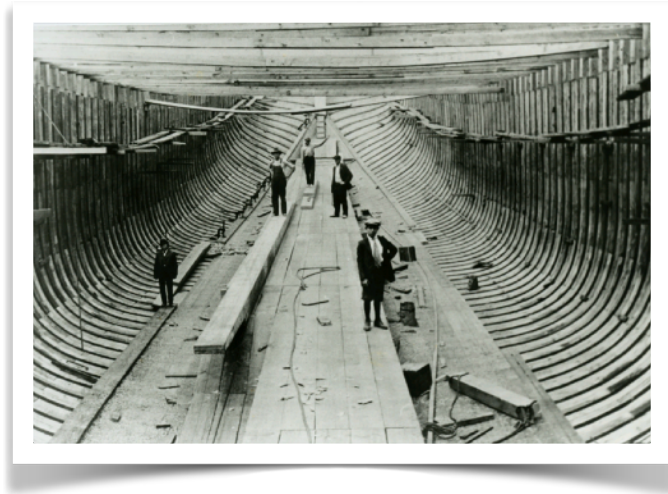
Vashon College Piano - 2013-042 - Burned in 1910, story of the piano
J&C Fischer - NY 1840
52.5" H x 57.5" W x 28.5 H

Typewriter previously owned by Betsy MacDonald - 2016.139 (no image)
10" H x 10" w x 14" D

Trophy - round the island hike, George McCormack, 1938 - 2001-150
no image
Dims - 10.25" H x 3.25" w x 3" diameter

Key photographs

Vessel being constructed in Martinolich shipyard, circa WWI, Dockton
(Vashon collection) 2004.027



Dockton Drydock with ships 1987.064



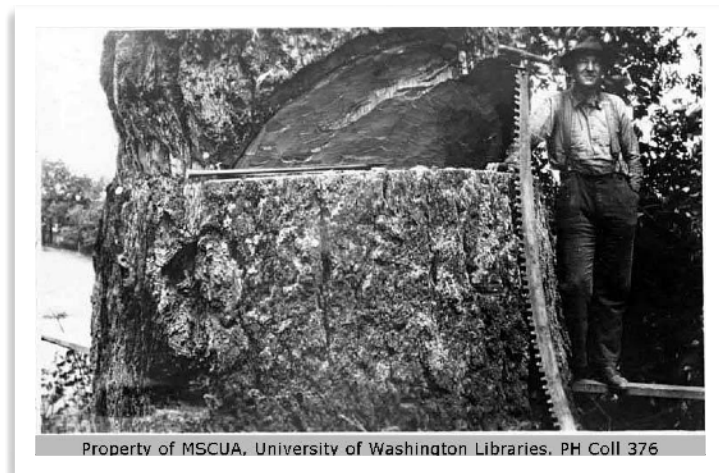
Four-masted PINMORE listing heavily next to tug PIONEER in
Quartermaster Harbor, Vashon Island, Washington, October 1901

<https://digitalcollections.lib.washington.edu/digital/collection/hester/id/827>



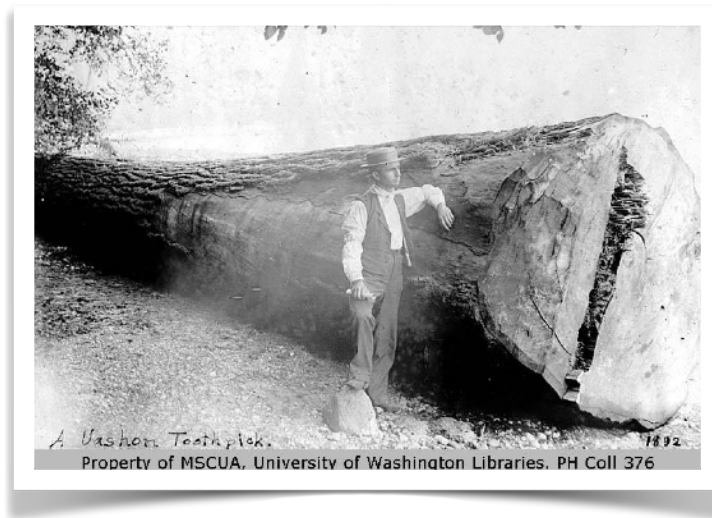
Man with crosscut saw and old growth tree

<https://digitalcollections.lib.washington.edu/digital/collection/vanolinda/id/102>

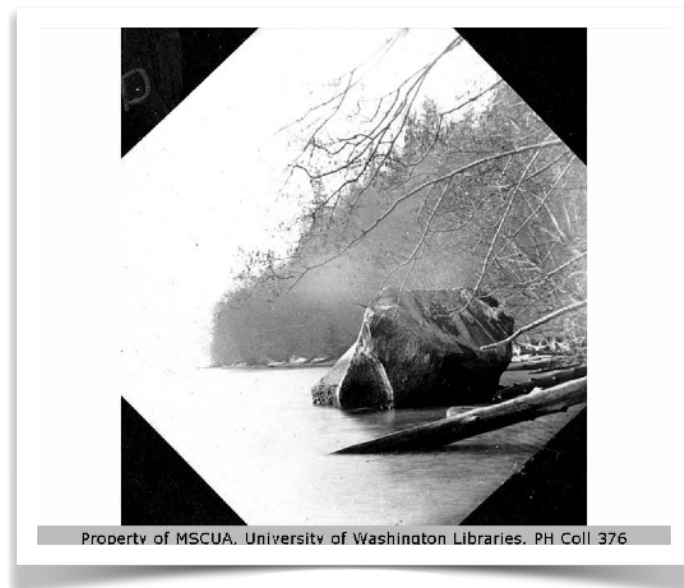


Man posed next to large log, 1892

<https://digitalcollections.lib.washington.edu/digital/collection/vanolinda/id/137>

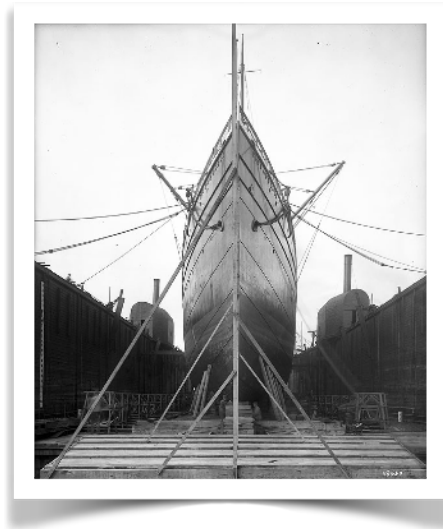


"The Big Rock", where S. D. Sherman, an early pioneer first landed on Vashon Island in 1877," n.d.

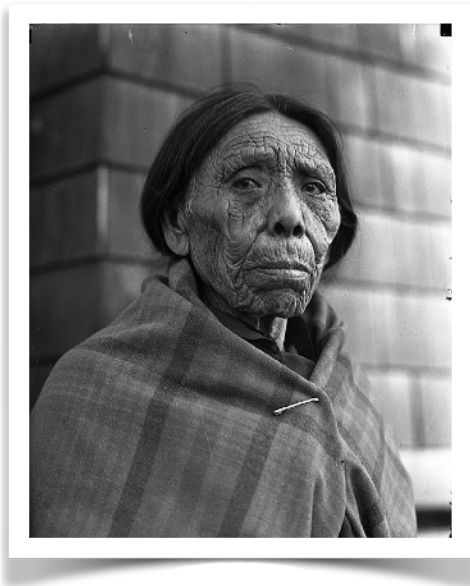


S.S. City of Puebla in Drydock at Heffernan Dry Dock Company, Vashon Island

Catalog ID: 1943.42.18550



Lucy Slagham, Quartermaster Harbor, March 24, 1927



Native Americans digging clams at Quartermaster Harbor

1996.074

Steamer Vashon in background



Bert Stanley, Windmill tree

1995.309



1995.308



1993.160



Masa and Milton Mukai

2009.007



Mukai Strawberry Barreling Shed

2009.010



Crew of the Umatilla

Photo courtesy of Dick Warren (permission to use the photo given to the museum)



The Illahee

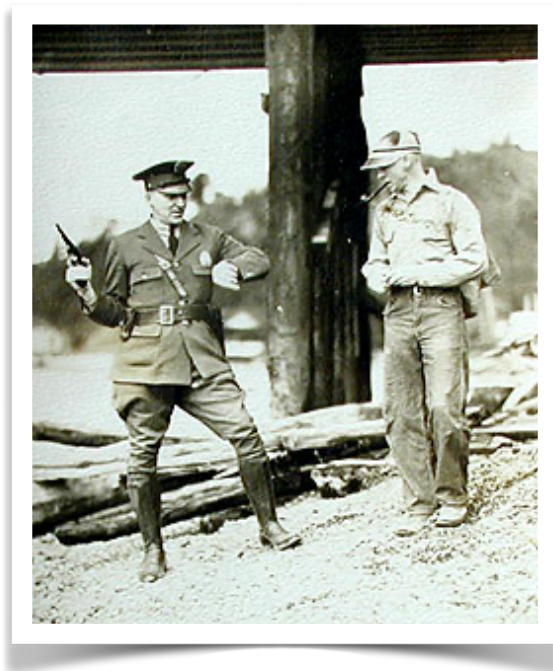


Berry pickers

2012.018.002



Mccormick's island hike - from the collection



2011.358 Stillwaters - Billingsley estate, originally owned by salmon Sherman, native canoe in foreground (settlers and change)



1995-142 Beall-Harrington Greenhouses, 1910 postcard



1987.093- smelt fishing in quartermaster harbor. N.d.



1987.120 -
grade school 1896

chautauqua



1987.134 - first Vashon grade school, circa 1900



Bleeker Brickyard, Burton - vashon collection



2007.029 - Migrant Picker's Cabins



2009.012 - Group of people at Mukai Farm



2011.292 Aircraft Carrier Carrie with ferry - 194x



2012.012.005 - 1942 Grade 5 Class Picture Vashon Grade School



1995.177
Atlas Missile Display



2014.004.002 - Japanese Exclusion Order



2016.002.003 - Diane Domberger on 57 Chevy at Dairy Queen



2012.017.002 - Betty Macdonald



1987.016 - Berry Pickers at Vashon Heights



1993.095 - People at Magnolia Beach



Exhibit-Specific Goals

The broad goals for the Permanent Exhibits are to identified as:

- Connect with the community
- Appeal to a wide variety of people on the island
- Create a space for programs and special exhibits

Exhibit-specific goals:

The goals for this specific exhibit are:

1 - Visitors will gain an understanding and appreciation for the contributions of the diverse groups that have called Vashon Island home

2 - visitors will understand unique cultural and social aspects of Vashon Island and its people.

Administrative Plan

Target Audience

The target audience for the permanent exhibits is broken in to three broad categories:

RESIDENTS OF VASHON - MAURY ISLAND

- Long-time residents
- People new to the island
- Families
- Teens
- Young adults
- *Sx̣ẉəbabš/Puyallup tribal members*
- *People from minority groups that wouldn't normally visit the museum*

VISITORS FROM OFF-ISLAND

- Visitors from the greater Puget Sound region

- Visiting family members of Island Residents
- Tourists from outside the region
- Researchers and genealogists

SCHOOL GROUPS

- Vashon Maury Public School Programs
 - 2nd, 4th, and 7th grade students specifically
- Harbor School teachers and Students
- High School Students
- Homeschool Families
- Visiting school groups from the surrounding region

Section 2 - Exhibit Design

Identification of Significant challenges

There are no substantial barriers to installing this exhibit within the existing space. However some challenging realities must be acknowledged. The first and most pressing for exhibit design is the lack of dimensions for objects documented in the collection. The PastPerfect database does not have recorded dimensions for collection objects. This will present a challenge in terms of designing housings for artifacts that are to be placed on display within the permanent exhibits. There is not sufficient time to catalog dimensions for the entire collection in advance of the finalized exhibit design. However, the objects identified for exhibition in this brief will need to be dimensioned in order to design casework for the Permanent Exhibit.

As the museum is not a purpose-built building, controlling light levels for objects that will be placed on display will present long-term challenges for the museum. Objects that are particularly sensitive include photographs, documents, textiles, and any objects with organic pigments. These artifacts will need to be placed carefully to reduce light exposure while on display. Additionally, the museum's collection staff should develop a rotation plan to ensure that objects are taken off display after a prescribed time period (object-dependent).

An integrated pest management program should be instituted to ensure that any objects that are susceptible to insect damage are monitored. In the current iteration of the exhibit, the quilts hanging near the entrance, the windmill tree cutting, and the cedar feature in the s̄w̄ababš section are of particular concern.

Virtual 'walk-through' narrative:

Visitors to the museum will enter through the main museum doors. The first gallery will introduce the visitor to the natural forces that shaped Vashon Island. The historical ecosystems that once populated Vashon will be described. Upon entry, an audio repeater triggered by a motion sensor will play the unique sounds of Northwest island forests - shorebirds, the sound of wind through cedar or western hemlock trees, the sound of gentle waves lapping on rocky beaches. Aspects of the ecosystems of Puget Sound will be further described, including the shellfish, fish, birds and sea mammals that make up the place. s̓x̓ʷəbabš names for the specific species will identify each. An option to make this more interactive is for visitors is to push either a standard button or touch a carved wooden surface that triggers a capacitive sensor. Either option would be rigged to an audio repeater that would play a recording of a native Lushootseet speaker saying the name of the animal. An additional option would be to commission a native artist provide the imagery for the touch panel.

This section will be punctuated by the first turning point, the arrival of humans. Turning points in the exhibit will have a physical presence though the design of these structures is not yet determined.

After entering the main gallery space, Visitors will learn about the s̓x̓ʷəbabš people, how they lived, how their technologies were developed in response to the lands and waters around Vashon. Known as the "Swift Water People" the s̓x̓ʷəbabš lived not only on Vashon, but had an extended family network that ranged around Vashon, to Gig Harbor. Visitors will understand how the s̓x̓ʷəbabš effectively established Vashon Islands first system of ferries.

Like the entry environment either a button input or a capacitive sensor would trigger audio of a native Lushootseet speaker pronouncing the names of some of the places or items on exhibit.

Visitors will understand how the s̓x̓ʷəbabš and the Puyallup Tribe had trade and friendly competition, but were distinct in their cultural identity. Visitors will also understand more about how the s̓x̓ʷəbabš people relate to the Puyallup Tribe both historically and today. And how the arrival of Europeans decimated the tribe and forced them from their traditional land until they were ultimately taken in by the Puyallup Tribe.

The second turning point, Contact and Settlement, will make the change from an island whose shoreline was populated by the s̓x̓ʷəbabš people to settlement by people of European descent. In this section, the arrival of Europeans to Vashon will be described, including George Vancouver's 1792 expedition in to the regions on the *Discovery*. And how on May 28, 1792 he named the island after his friend and commander Captain James Vashon.

Visitors will understand how the Vancouver explorations eliminated the traditional native names for places and replaced them with European names. They will understand the arrival of the Hudsons Bay Company and how the fur trade further impacted the native American population.

Visitors will understand that after Vancouver' initial exploration and mapping of the island, a long period elapsed before the Hudson's Bay Company established a 1828 expedition, which had contact with the s̓x̓w̓əbab̓š people. As time went on, the Hudson's Bay Company at Fort Nisqually worked with the s̓x̓w̓əbab̓š through trade relationships.

This relationship changed substantially with the arrival of the United States Exploring expedition, led by Charles Wilkes in 1841. Manifest destiny was doctrine. Wilkes was known for his quick temper and cruel demeanor. Visitors will learn that Maury island, at the time charted as a separate Island, was named for Lieutenant William Maury, the expedition's astronomer and hydrographer.

Visitors will meet Lucy Gerand and will understand how she was a pivotal figure in understanding who the s̓x̓w̓əbab̓š people were and what life was like for these people on Vashon Island. The impact of the Medicine Creek Treaty and subsequent treaty wars will be introduced. They will also learn how her testimony about the Medicine Creek Treaty is emblematic of the activism that has long been the hallmark of the people of Vashon Island.

Visitors will learn how the change in makeup from the s̓x̓w̓əbab̓š people to primarily European settlers changed the people's relationship to the land. The newcomers saw the land as commodity. This shift in focus ushered in the the three major industries - timber, fishing, and mining - which fundamentally changed the face and ecosystems of the island. The first settlers to the island, including the Shermans and Matthew Bridges will be introduced.

Visitors will learn about the timber industry on the Island. Visitors will see and understand the kind of timber equipment that was used and will understand that a full 1/3 of the island was logged such that forested areas were no longer seen in photos. Gone are the ancient old growth forests that once dominated the island

Visitors will see the large windmill tree round and will be able to trace not only world events, but also those in Vashon. S̓x̓w̓əbab̓š stories will additionally be shown on the tree, including specific dates from the Medicine Creek treaty, Treaty wars, and Lucy Gerand's testimony.

Visitors will learn that the years surrounding 1914 were the heyday of the Vashon fishery, Salmon, and bottom fish just outside of quartermaster harbor provided good harvests. So abundant were resources that associated businesses thrived. Canning plants were opened at Vashon Landing and Dockton.

Dwindling resources ultimately forced fishermen to set their sights on the northern fishing grounds in Alaska. Visitors will learn the tragic story of the *Umatilla*, which was struck by the *USS Arizona* in 1934 while headed north to Alaska.

Visitors will learn that mining was a major industry on the island and that it was focused on both gravel and clay. They will understand that these resources were deposited through the glacial processes that formed both Vashon Island and our region. Vashon supplied bricks to help rebuild Seattle after the great fire in June 1889 and to Tacoma during the 1800s, Visitors will learn that in 1893 there were 52 independent brick makers on the island.

Visitors will understand that the success of these industries demanded that additional community services develop. Visitors will learn that the 1880s were a time of establishment for Vashon's educational institutions, with the first schoolhouse built at center in 1881 and the establishment of the west side school district, Vermontville.

Visitors will learn that Chinese and Japanese immigrants helped to make up the fishing and logging workforce. And how a Chinese settlement on Maury Island thrived until anti-Chinese riots began in 1885 and the settlement was deserted.

The Docton dry dock will be introduced to visitors. It was the largest West Coast Dry dock at the time 1892-1910. The dock was 325 feet long and 100 feet wide. Visitors will see a mural-sized photo of the *SS City of Puebla* in dry dock which will serve as the backdrop to this section. The visitor will understand that the abundant timber on the island assisted in making the dry-dock successful. As visitors approach this space, an audio repeater set to a proximity schedule will trigger an audio clip that features the sound of gentle water lapping against a dock, the sounds of wood being cut and hammered in to place. Voices could be heard speaking in non-english dialects to reinforce the fact that the dry dock was a diverse effort. The ways in which Native Americans were either displaced by, or responded to these changes on Vashon will be described to the visitor.

Potential interactive - oakum and its use in packing the spaces between boards on ships

The third turning point, Electricity and the Automobile will identify the profound impact that these technologies had on Vashon. Visitors will understand how gravel mining literally paved the way for this change and how the influence of Ira Case was brought the first car ferry to Vashon in 1915. They will understand how this was a change that helped to usher in the summer communities that would become a perennial presence on the island in to the future.

Visitors will understand how summer homes began to show up on the island in 1910. Vashon was seen as a refuge from city life in Seattle and Tacoma and during the 1919 flu pandemic, families fled to the island as a refuge. Visitors will understand how the agricultural economy benefitted from this temporary labor force and how picking

berries and other crops helped to build a deep nostalgia for the real nature of the Island, which still persists today.

Visitors will understand how Vashon's rural nature, aided by a growing population and newly cleared areas contributed to an agricultural boom in the period from 1893 to 1920. They will learn how inexpensive land and favorable conditions allowed newly immigrated families to establish successful agricultural businesses. The increasing population in Seattle and Tacoma helped to bolster this agricultural boom. By the mid-1890s, farms were steadily supplying produce to the surrounding cities

Visitors will understand how the mosquito fleet and later the ferry system aided in this economy, with steamers like the *Skagit Chief*, who in the summer of 1895 made daily runs laden with up to 400 crates of berries per day. This increased accessibility allowed the export of the berries and other crops for which Vashon would become nationally known. Visitors will understand how the agricultural boom continued until WWI, when workers were lured away to other economies in the surrounding cities.

Visitors will be able to engage with an interactive that will introduce them to the various forms of ships that moved people and goods from Vashon and back again.

In the 1920's Vashon became known as the "Strawberry Capitol". Visitors will learn how Japanese American families contributed to this economy. Visitors will learn the story of the Mukai family.

Through these experiences visitors will understand that life on Vashon Island was precarious and fragile up until the Post-War period. Work was dangerous, an illness claimed the lives of many residents. It was only after vaccines arrived that the death rate on Vashon began to decline. During this period, residents began to turn toward safer industries than fishing, timber, and mining.

Visitors will also learn that the period leading up to World War II was a time of change for the island, wherein the culture of the Islanders began to feel tension between its pastoral nature and the draw of urban comforts. Betty MacDonald's book *Onions in the Stew* will feature as an illustration of this conflict.

The advent of WWII will mark the next Turning Point. It will introduce the massive change after the beginning of the war, with a particular emphasis on the attack on Pearl Harbor, where the *USS Arizona*, which had previously struck the *Umatilla*, was sunk. Visitors will understand the internment of Japanese Americans. They will further understand how this led to loss of land and wealth for Japanese Americans, with only 25% of interned families returning to Vashon after the war.

Visitors will understand that life on Vashon is inexorably linked to the ferry system, and how the reliance on boats has driven the evolution of the island's development. They will learn that early ferries focused on runs in East and West Passage and Quartermaster Harbor and how these eventually gave way to the North and South end ferry terminals with service to Tacoma and Seattle which were prospering. Visitors will

understand how the rise of Seattle in prominence led to the center of influence and industry shifting from Burton to Vashon around 1920, and how this is a further example of the shift from shoreline communities to the interior of the island

Visitors will understand how reliance on the ferries contributed to several “ferry wars”, beginning as early as the 1890s. They will understand how competition between businesses, and sometimes the people who ran them resulted in competing routes and rates, while putting a strain on the people on the island.

They will further understand the parallel between the modern ferry system, the mosquito fleet, and the dispersed village sites and extended families of the s̄w̄abab̄š.

Visitors will understand how after a ferry strike left islanders stranded for six days in 1947, residents started their own ferry service. The service started on May 1 1948, Though it was less-than-ideal, with frequent delays and breakdowns, the service permitted islanders to exercise a degree of independence from the Puget Sound Navigation Company that they desired. They will learn that, Captain Peabody of the Puget Sound Navigation Company, heard of the challenges faced by islanders and tried to reclaim the route by sailing the *Ilahaee* to Vashon Dock on May 15 1948. Visitors will learn that the ferry was met by an angry mob. George McCormick (of the hike around Vashon), owner of the Vashon Hardware Store, opened the doors to the shop to allow any unarmed people to grab any tool “grab ax handles, hoes, pickaxes, and whatever other blunt instrument they could find.” The boat was physically repelled by a group of citizens with axe handles and farm tools.

The final turning point will show how Gentrification has changed the face of the Island. visitors will understand that post war businesses shifted focus from needs-based businesses to recreational models as prosperity in the US increased. Employers like K2, established in 1962 on Vashon Island, rose to prominence as an international company by producing fiberglass skis. By 1980, K2 was the island’s largest employer. In 1968, Island Industries developed a line of model rockets with a freon-based propellant (some held by the Smithsonian today) that would inspire rocketry enthusiasts across the nation. Visitors will understand how Vashon’s proximity to the major urban centers of Seattle and Tacoma, and its surrounding salt water made it an ideal location for radio towers - KVI, KIRO, KING. KOMO. And how these became significant employers on the island.

Visitors will learn about the NIKE missile site that was established on Vashon in 1953, and how the original AJAX missile battery was an anti-aircraft site to help protect Seattle from a potential atomic attack. The Vashon site was part of the dozen missile sites that comprised the Metropolitan Defense Ring. Visitors will learn that in 1961, the Ajax missiles were swapped for Nike Hercules missiles, which were designed to deliver nuclear warheads. And how Vashon Island was one of few sites in the Metropolitan Defense Ring to hold nuclear warheads, until its eventual closure in 1974.

Visitors will learn how the island has always been a haven for artists, with notable people like Shaun Peterson, whose octopus sculpture will be seen, Betty MacDonald,

Norman Edson, Art Hanson, Akio Takamori, and Julie Speidel. The visitor will learn that the precursor to today's Vashon Center for the Arts, was the Vashon Arts League. This collective was established on 1949 and showed the talents of Islanders. In 1963, this organization was renamed Vashon Associated Arts. Visitors will learn that this group one occupied the building that is now the heritage museum and how it underwent several iterations until finally becoming the Vashon Arts Center. They will learn how this creative spirit persists today in the many artists that call Vashon home.

Visitors will understand how demographic and social changes on the island were the result of a corresponding shift in more widespread mores. From the hippie communities that came to Vashon to commuting professionals who brought different ideas to the island. Visitors will learn how these changes were emblematic of the struggle between homogeneity and diversity.

Visitors will learn of some of the island's quirks, such as George McCormick's 1938 Round the Island Hike, the story of the Bicycle Tree, Ted Billings' Pogo House, and the Maury Island Incident.

Interwoven throughout the thematic structure is continual activism, from Lucy Gerand's 1927 testimony, to the Vashon vigilantes repelling the *Illahēe* in 1948, to contemporary activism efforts like the "kayaktivism" of the Backbone Campaign and the Quartermaster Harbor cleanup and the Puyallup Tribe's involvement. Visitors will learn that Residents on Vashon Island attempted to break off from King County. In 1903 and 1907, residents attempted to annex the southern part of the Island to Pierce County. In 1911 and 1913, residents attempted to establish a new county that would consist of Vashon Island. In 1948, residents in the island established the Vashon Ferry District when frustration mounted over the inability of the Virginia Fleet to keep up with schedules and demand from the Island's commuters. In 1999, nonprofits like the Cascade Land Conservancy, Preserve our Islands, and citizens from Vashon-Maury Island began fighting to prevent Glacier Northwest from reopening a derelict gravel mine that had sat inactive since 1978. Plans for the site included a 24-hour per day, 7 day per week mining operation that was expected to extract 7.5 million tons of gravel per year.

Further interwoven are contributions from the diverse communities that have called the Island home, including LGBTQ perspectives of life on Vashon.

Visitors will learn that the people descended from the *sx̣'əbabš* are still making substantial contributions to the understanding of who the island is today. From Shaun Peterson, to the massive community engagement and effort at the Burton Acres midden site, visitors will learn that Native Americans are still an important presence on Vashon Island.

At this time, it is recommended that the museum continue with its temporary exhibit program. The rear section of the museum should be dedicated to this.