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Cheney Historic Preservation Commission  
112 Anderson Road  
Cheney, Washington 99004

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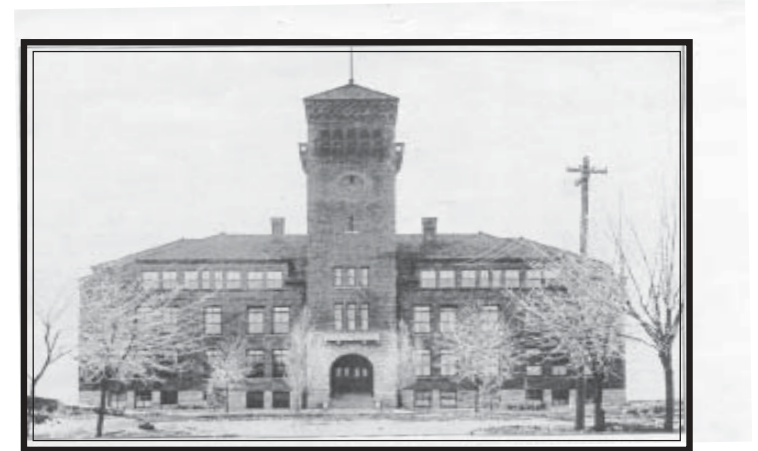
*Stephen Emerson, author of the  
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National Register Historic District Nomination*

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**The Cheney Historic Preservation presents**

## **A Guide to the Eastern Washington University Campus Historic District**



*The original Washington State Normal School at Cheney was destroyed by fire in 1912. It was located where Showalter Hall now stands. Photo courtesy Cheney Tilicum Museum.*

## **The Eastern Washington University Campus Historic District**

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places since 1992, the Washington State Normal School at Cheney Historic District includes the six oldest buildings comprising the original core of the University campus, as well as the Herculean Pillars which grace the traditional entryway to the campus. The EWU Historic District, as it is commonly known, was the first university historic district in the state to receive National Register designation.

The EWU Historic District is significant for its contributions to the development of the Normal School idea and its crucial role in providing adequate training for teachers. In the early 19th century, the demand for teachers outstripped the capacity of traditional schools to provide them. The first 'normal schools' opened in Massachusetts in 1839, named after an early French teacher-training college, L'ecole Normal. Such colleges flourished in the East and followed close upon the heels of Western settlement. By 1910 nearly every state had such programs. The resultant improvement in education, especially among rural populations, was a major factor in the emergence of modern America as an affluent and literate society.

This Historic District constitutes an enduring memorial to important local figures who were central to the survival and prosperity of the school. Fittingly, some of these persons were products of the Normal Schools system, shining examples of the effectiveness of such a training program. These significant individuals, whose names grace four of the Historic District buildings, are Noah David Showalter, Mary A. Monroe, William J. Sutton, and Richard T. Hargreaves.

The structures of the EWU Historic District possess architectural significance, not only as outstanding examples of the institutional style of the period, but also as reflections upon the careers of two of the most prolific designers of Public Works in the state, architects Julius Zittel and George M. Rasque.

We invite you to visit the history of Cheney as revealed in some of her most memorable and majestic buildings.

Insert Map for Walking Tour

## The History of Eastern Washington University

The histories of EWU and the town of Cheney go hand in hand. Originally known as Depot Springs, the townsite was first surveyed in 1880, occupying a shallow valley along the recently laid tracks of the Northern Pacific Railroad. The residents of the new community regarded the railroad as the basis of future prosperity, renaming the town in honor of Benjamin P. Cheney, a member of the Northern Pacific Board of Directors and a resident of far-away Boston. Most likely townspeople expected some recognition of this act and they were not disappointed. The wealthy Mr. Cheney donated \$10,000 for the establishment of an teacher-training academy, and the railroad donated 8 acres of land northwest of the townsite, on a rise overlooking the business district, near where the present Showalter Hall now stands. On April 2, 1882, the Benjamin P. Cheney Academy opened in a stylish two-story wood frame building.

The academy operated as a private institution until 1890 when the Washington State legislature approved its selection as the first State Normal School, with the purpose of training teachers for elementary and high schools. The next 25 years were a struggle against adversity, with both fire and financial problems threatening the very existence of the institution. On August 27, 1891, the original academy building burned to the ground. For two years the school operated in a two-story commercial building on First Street in downtown Cheney (the Pomeroy Building at 407-409-411 1st Street, which is still in use).

William J. Sutton became principal of the Normal School in January 1892. Under his leadership the institution overcame the obstacles of gubernatorial vetoes of legislative funding and the lack of a building. In 1893 the school was moved into the recently completed Cheney Junior High School building. And in 1895 the State legislature finally approved an appropriation which included \$60,000 for a new building. This 2 1/2 story brick structure with imposing tower, completed in 1896, overlooked Cheney from the same site that the old academy had once occupied. William J. Sutton resigned in February 1897, with the Normal School seemingly on the road to recovery. But financial woes returned that same year when Governor John R. Rogers vetoed further funding. The school

was forced to close for the 1897-8 term. Local financial support allowed reopening in the fall of 1898, and in 1899 the State Legislature again approved an appropriation to maintain the institution. In 1907 there was enough money for construction of a two-story brick training school, and a small, tin-clad heating plant. For twelve years the Cheney Normal School prospered and its survival appeared to be assured. But one great test remained.

On the morning of April 24, 1912, fire struck again, leaving the Normal Building an empty shell. The fact that the institution weathered this and subsequent hardship was largely due to the efforts of two men: William J. Sutton, who had steered the school through an earlier crisis, and Noah D. Showalter, who in 1911 had been elected as the first president of the Cheney Normal School. Mr. Sutton had by now become State Senator Sutton. It was he who obtained passage of a \$300,000 appropriation bill to pay for a new building, only to have it vetoed by Governor Ernest Lister, who felt that the State Normal School at Cheney was no longer needed. But due to the untiring exertion of Senator Sutton, the State Legislature was moved to pass the bill over the governor's veto. Once again the local hero had saved the school from extinction.



*Destruction of the old Normal School tower following the fire of 1912. Photo courtesy Cheney Tilicum Museum.*

Leadership during these difficult years came from Noah D. Showalter, who kept the institution running, using the Training School building and local churches for classrooms.

The new Administration Building was to be built overlooking the town, on the same site as the two previous structures that had burned. In March 1913, the Board of Trustees selected Julius Zittel as architect. Mr. Zittel, who had been named State Architect in 1897, designed several other early campus buildings, in addition to numerous public facilities throughout Eastern Washington. In December the main building contract was let to

the Spokane firm of John H. Huetter, and work began in 1914. From the outset, it was determined that all materials used would be provided within Washington State, if possible. Except for the Alaskan marble, the builders succeeded in fulfilling that policy. On June 27, 1914, in a large ceremony proceeded over by Senator William J. Sutton and Governor Ernest Lister, two cornerstones were laid. One had been salvaged from the ruins of the previous Administration Building, the other commemorated the new building. Beneath the latter was placed a copper box (a time capsule) containing contemporary documents and newspapers.

Construction progressed smoothly during 1914. In January, 1915, with the new building nearly finished. The Normal School faced yet another challenge when a Seattle architect accused Julius Zittel of cutting corners to stay under budget. Such scandals were commonplace among public construction projects of the time. But in this case Mr. Zittel was exonerated when, on February 3, state investigators declared the



*Showalter Hall Construction, 1913, showing Senator W. J. Sutton (3rd from right, in bowler hat). Senator Sutton was instrumental in securing funds to rebuild the Normal School following the fire in 1912. Photo courtesy Cheney Tilicum Museum.*

building to be sound. Formal dedication took place on May 22, 1915, with many dignitaries in attendance, including Governor Lister, Senator Sutton, and Normal president Showalter. Originally, it was simply called the Administration Building. But, on June 14, 1940, in the ceremony dedicating the new Hargreaves Library, it was officially named "Showalter Hall," in honor of the man who provided leadership during the critical years following 1912.

The stone pillars and walls which still serve as the campus entrance from downtown Cheney, flanking the walkway to Showalter Hall, were erected in 1915. The idea of building some kind of memorial from the granite stones of the old Normal School originated soon after that structure burned

in 1912. Members of the Alumni Association formed a committee to study and finance the undertaking, and by 1914 they had raised over \$1,200. This was enough to hire a builder, O. L. Hoff, of Spokane. Workmen were able to finish the project in time for the dedication of the new Administration Building. Over the years this campus landmark has been called the "Gates of Knowledge," the "Pillars of Hercules," and the "Herculean Pillars." Aside from the buildings themselves, the stone structures are the most durable symbol of the college's early years.

At the time of the Administration Building's completion, it accommodated nearly every activity in which the Normal School engaged. Over the years it housed various facilities including classrooms, offices, auditorium, gymnasium, library, chemistry lab, photography lab, home economics kitchen, bowling alley, and swimming pool. Only the Training School and the central heating plant operated outside of the Administration Building's walls. Even before the building was completed, a need for further expansion was recognized. On February 27, 1915, Julius A. Zittel was hired to prepare plans for a Manual Arts Shop. This structure, which still exists as a severely altered section of the present Computer Service building, was completed in 1916.

More importantly, during that year the first student dormitory was opened. Monroe Hall, designed by Zittel and built by Cheatham and sons, housed about 90 women and included a social lounge and a large dining room with kitchen. It was formally opened on February 4, 1916, in a ceremony presided over by President Showalter. In a ritual repeated later in other dormitory openings, a fire was lit in the lounge hearth by the guest of honor, in this case Mary Monroe, president of the Normal School Board of Trustees, after whom the building was named. Besides serving for many years as a women's dormitory, Monroe Hall was often used as a social gathering place. The kitchen and dining facilities were used for banquets celebrating the inaugurations of Presidents Ralph E. Tiejie and Walter W. Isle. Meals were served here for the residents of both Monroe and Senior halls until the Tawanka Commons dining hall was completed in 1964. In 1952 Monroe Hall became a men's dormitory. After reverting to housing women in 1962, it again became a men's hall before ending its career as a student dorm in 1968. The interior has been extensively altered since then to facilitate its current use as an office building.

By 1917, expansion had brought the number of major campus buildings to four, creating a need for renovation of the old tin-clad heating plant. On May 10, Julius Zittel was hired to draw plans for the new building. The one-story brick structure was built by the Spokane firm of Pratt and Watson, with the 104 foot high concrete smokestack being erected by Brown Brothers of Spokane. For many years the school's victory bell was housed in a tower on the roof of this building. From this central location it rang out athletic team victories from as early as 1923, until the heating plant was extensively remodeled in 1957. This renovation included the addition of a new brick section of the building, designed by George M. Rasque. In 1973 the smokestack was pulled down.

Most students during these early years were women, and by 1919 administrators had recognized the need for a new girl's dormitory. On March 15, Julius Zittel was again asked to draw the plans. The resulting design was for a building very similar to Monroe Hall, although there was to be no dining room or kitchen. Original plans to construct the building out of reinforced concrete were dropped when the bids exceeded the \$120,000 appropriation from the State Legislature. The three-story brick structure, built by Fred Phair and Co. of Spokane, was not yet completed when it was formally opened on July 9, 1920. (Financial problems prevented the interior of the third floor from being finished until 1925). In the absence of President Showalter, who was spending the summer at Stanford University, the ceremony was presided over by Vice President Ceylon S. Kingston. Again, Mary Monroe lit the ritual fire in the lounge hearth. The new dormitory was named Senior Hall, and for most of its history it has served as a residence for women students during their last year of study. It was last used as a dorm in the 1970's, after which it was renovated for use as an office building.



*Senior Hall construction, 19\_\_  
(?). Photo courtesy Cheney  
Tilicum Museum.*

By 1922 admission of male students had increased enough to create a need for a men's dormitory. Since no State appropriations were available, the new building was financed by local businessmen, who formed the Cheney Building Company. Future Washington State Governor Clarence Martin was president of the company, and William Sutton was a member. Seven percent interest bonds were offered for sale to the public, the total issue amounting to \$97,500. These bonds were paid for mostly from the earnings of the three residence halls, and on September 1, 1933 the last of these were paid. Sutton Hall then reverted to state ownership.

Naturally, Julius Zittel was retained as architect. The plan was similar to Monroe and Senior halls, and included a lounge, kitchen, and dining room. The new building, named Sutton Hall in honor of the school's past principal and longtime benefactor, was dedicated on September 21, 1923. Presided over by Vice President Ceylon S. Kingston, the ceremony included addresses by University of Washington President Henry Suzzalo, Board of Trustees president Mary Monroe, and President Noah Showalter. As guest of honor, William J. Sutton lit the traditional fire in the lounge hearth. Responding to the praises conferred upon him, Senator Sutton gave much of the credit to his late wife, Nellie Hutchinson Sutton, who had been the first principal of the Training School. With the opening of Sutton Hall, a masculine influence was added to the campus character, as well as a more worldly element, with the coming of cigarettes and "hot" cars. The dorm made a local splash in 1939 when the NFL's Washington Redskins were housed there during a summer training session at nearby Woodward Field. In the 1970's Sutton Hall was used as a residence for armed services veterans, many of whom had recently returned from the conflict in Vietnam. Around 1978 it ceased operation as a dormitory and a few years later the interior was dismantled and removed in anticipation of remodeling that was completed in 2001.

In 1927 the Normal School's Board of Trustees, appropriated \$22,500 for the construction of a residence for the institution's President. The original intent had been to build a large mansion, but Architect Julius Zittel had to revise his first design when his price estimate went over budget. The result was a moderately sized Georgian Colonial house, built by E. J. Morin and Co. and completed in the fall of 1929. No formal dedication took

place, but the new residents, President and Mrs. Richard T. Hargreaves, held several open house receptions. In 1946 the Lundberg Construction Company built a two-car garage, with attached outdoor fireplace, behind the residence. Between 1987 and 1998 the house was used as a faculty club, and as a special event site which could be chartered for special occasions. President Stephen Jordan moved back into the President's House in the summer of 1998, returning the building to its historic function.

Following 1929, the effects of the Great Depression made campus construction difficult, but not impossible. In 1933, the Board of Trustees began efforts to land a federal grant to help replace the Training School., the oldest building on campus at the time. The Public Works Administration accepted their proposals in 1935, approving an appropriation of \$95,209. Julius Zittel had retired, so it was necessary to find a new architect. One September 12, 1933 the Board of Trustees hired Charles I. Carpenter and George M. Rasque to draw the plans. The new building, named Martin Hall in honor of Clarence Martin, local benefactor and Washington Governor, was completed in 1937 and dedicated on April 9 of that year. It served as the Training School until the completion of the present Campus School in 1959, now known as Reid Elementary School. (The original Training School building was razed in 1941). The new building employed decorative features similar to earlier college structures, with the addition of popular Art Deco elements. However, almost from its beginning, Martin Hall was subject to numerous renovations which would eventually detract from its historical integrity. The earliest such alteration, the addition of a gymnasium in 1938, was the first step in decreasing the pressure on the Administration Building, which previously had encompassed most campus functions.

Nonetheless, there was still a need for more spacious facilities. The construction of a new library, first envisioned in 1937, was a major step in that direction. Since 1915, the library had been located on the third floor of the Administration Building. George M. Rasque was chosen as architect for the new library on May 12, 1937, a job that would establish Rasque's position as successor to Julius Zittel as campus architect. From the six plans provided by Rasque, an impressive Romanesque Revival design with Art Deco details was chosen. The Board of Trustees again acquired a Public Works Administration grant, this time for \$150,916. This aid

considerably defrayed the cost of the \$202,685 building contract, which was let to J. T. Halin and Company of Spokane. Construction began on September 28, 1938.

Unfortunately, school President Richard T. Hargreaves did not live to see the project completed, passing away at a Spokane hospital on March 4, 1939. Two years previously former President Noah D. Showalter had also died. Thus it was decided to make the dedication of the new library an occasion for honoring the two men during whose administrations the college had come of age. Although the building was finished and occupied in January, 1950, the formal opening did not take place until June 4, 1940, when weather permitted a picnic on the campus grounds. This was followed by a double dedication ceremony in the Auditorium of the Administration Building. Prestigious speakers included the new Cheney Normal President Ralph E. Tije, Ceylon S. Kingston, to whom the Northwest History Library was dedicated, Governor Clarence D. Martin, and Dr. Bruce Baxter, President of Willamette University. The new building was given the name "Richard T. Hargreaves Library," and the Administration Building christened "Showalter Hall." The library became the center of academic life, remaining unaltered until 1963 when Walker and McGough Company built a canopy in front of the main entrance. In 1967, the John F. Kennedy Memorial Library was completed, following which the interior of Hargreaves Hall was extensively remodeled. This included the addition of a new floor in the high-ceilinged main reading room and the replacement of the original red tile roof with composition shingling. Ironically, it was George M. Rasque who was hired to plan this thorough alteration of his own work. Fortunately, except for the change of roofing material, the exterior was left intact.

When the library was moved from Hargreaves Hall, many facilities were able to move out of Showalter Hall, including the Art and Home Economics departments. The Music Department had moved into Rowles Hall in 1948, and in 1962 the Science Department had moved into the new Hall of Sciences, both buildings designed by George M. Rasque. This trend continued during the construction boom of the early 1970's until Showalter Hall had been almost entirely converted to offices. Today only the Auditorium remains as a reminder of the building's multi-purpose history. It is, however, the oldest and most important building on the Eastern

Washington University campus, and is the focal point of the Historic District.

Although the institution has expanded beyond the old campus core, and the architecture of newer buildings has become quite different, the EWU Historic District represents decades of continuity in educational excellence while evoking the school's colorful past.

## **The Historic District**

The Eastern Washington University is situated on a rise northwest of the central business district in Cheney, Washington. Unlike better endowed institutions such as the University of Washington, the Cheney Normal School did not have the luxury of a large amount of land upon which to design a comprehensive and unified campus plan. It grew up around Showalter Hall in piecemeal fashion, taking advantage of land purchases as they became available. Despite this fragmentary evolution, every effort was made to maintain the focus on the central building, Showalter Hall. All structures of the Historic District face toward this central point. The buildings also derive unity from their similarities in architectural style and decor. The harmony of the Historic District is further enhanced by the landscaping of the grounds, which contain an abundance of trees and are well maintained. This is especially true of the quad between Showalter and Senior Halls.

All contributing structures of the Eastern Washington University Historic District, except the Herculean Pillars, were designed by Julius A. Zittel or George M. Rasque between the years 1913 and 1940. Despite functional changes, all buildings retain excellent exterior integrity, and some possess significant interior features.

## **Showalter Hall. the Administration Building (1915)**

Showalter Hall was named in honor of **Noah David Showalter**, first President of the Cheney Normal School. During his term in office (1911-1926) the school was literally rebuilt from ashes. Born in Nebraska in 1869, Mr. Showalter came to Washington in 1891, where he attended the State Normal School in Ellensburg. After briefly attending the University of Idaho, he graduated from the State Normal School in Lewiston, Idaho in 1899. He went on to earn his B.A. and M.A. from the State College of Washington at Pullman. Over the years he did post graduate work at Columbia and Stanford universities. He was the author of one publication, Handbook for Rural School Officers.



*Showalter Hall, circa 1920 (?). Photo courtesy JFK Library - Archives & Special Collections.*

Noah Showalter began his teaching career in the rural schools of Eastern Washington. He served as superintendent of schools in Farmington, Oaksdale, and for four years held that position in Whitman County. In 1909 he was hired to head the rural department of the State Normal School in Cheney. The next year he was

elected to become the first President of that institution. His leadership guided the college through the following tumultuous years. In 1926, he resigned from his office and announced that he was leaving the education field and going into business. But as a man of conscience, he could not long ignore his chosen profession. He soon became deputy county superintendent of Spokane County schools, and was next elected State Superintendent of Public Instruction. Soon after he resigned from this office, he died, in Seattle, on August 3, 1937.

Noah David Showalter was a product of the State Normal School system and his success illustrated the merits of such training. His legacy in the development of quality education in Washington State during the first half

of this century is best represented in the institution whose administration building bears his name, Eastern Washington University.

Showalter Hall is the oldest and most significant building in the EWU Campus Historic District. It was built in 1915 and housed administration and classroom instruction and served all functions of the institution.

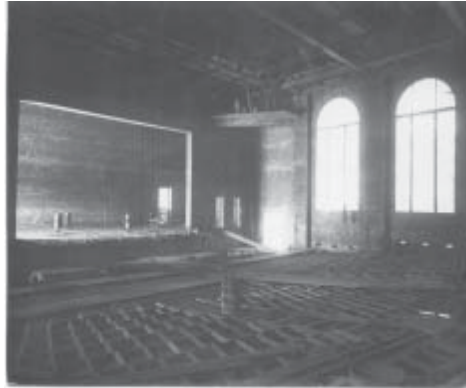
Showalter Hall was built in an eclectic style that includes elements of Classical and Renaissance Revival. It is three stories high, with basements and a half story extension above the auditorium state in the rear wing. The frame was built of steel and reinforced concrete.

These original exterior features are almost totally intact. Fenestration is also mostly intact, the original pattern extant. The six two-story auditorium windows, however, have been changed. In 1957 the original wood and glass exterior doors were replaced by the aluminum and glass doors. In 2001 the aluminum and glass doors in the main entrance were replaced with steel and glass replicas of the original wood and glass doors, restoring the external appearance of this entry.

The lower level of the rear wing once served as the gymnasium. The floor was of maple decking, and concrete bleachers flanked the entry from the lobby. The rear were dressing rooms, showers, and a 40 x 19 foot swimming pool. The gymnasium has since been converted for use as a large classroom. the maple deck has been removed and the floor terraced into graduated levels dropping from the entry, facilitating its long use as a lecture hall. The pool has been covered. Other rooms are used for storage and a small bowling alley installed in the 1940's has since been removed. This area was completely remodeled to provide handicapped access and up-to-date multi-media equipment in the lecture hall.

The upper level of the rear wing houses the auditorium. Its original wooden seats, including those in the rear balcony, had a capacity of 747. In 1968 these were replaced by wider upholstered metal seats, resulting in a diminished capacity of 627. The stage area presents much the same appearance as it originally did, decorated in classical motifs, including Ionic pilasters with Corinthian capitals, Greek fret-work, swags, and garlands. Panels of elaborately mould plaster are still painted the original gold leaf color. the original semi-circular hardwood stage is intact, but

has been temporarily extended over the orchestra pit. Above the stage area is a large decorative entablature consisting of such classical ornamentations as dentils and egg-and-dart molding. The ceiling is also very decorative, with egg-and-dart molding, foliage brackets and gold leaf embellishments. The hanging gold leaf chandeliers are original. A modern spotlighting system was installed later. The



*Showalter Auditorium during construction, 1914. Photo courtesy Cheney Tilicum Museum.*

The large round screened openings in the center of the ceiling were part of the original air-cleaning system which constantly drove fresh air through the building.

Showalter Hall is an example of the existence of eclectic 'high style' architecture in relatively rural areas of the United States. Many of its stylistic and decorative features were recreated in subsequent campus construction. Features employed in Showalter Hall that have been used in other EWU Historic District buildings include the use of ivory or cream colored terra cotta or wood trim, the creation of a horizontal aspect through the use of wide cornices, stringcourses, and skirting, the ornamental use of light colored appliques, and the use of decorative brickwork, especially in the use of indented row striations in the first story.

When completed the Administration Building housed all functions of the Cheney State Normal School except for teacher training, which was conducted in the Training School (razed in 1941/420). The administrative offices, library, gymnasium, auditorium and classrooms were all contained in this single building. By the time it was named for Noah D. Showalter in 1940, the school had outgrown it. Classrooms, faculty offices, and administrative space were the primary functions still housed in the building. Since the 1980's, the auditorium and one lecture hall remain in the building, but all other space is dedicated to administrative offices.

## **Monroe Hall (1915)**

Monroe Hall was named after **Mary A. Monroe**, long time member of the Cheney Normal School Board of Trustees. Mrs. Monroe was born in Ohio and received her education at a local normal school, at Denison University, and at Ohio State University. She arrived in Spokane in 1889 and advanced quickly in her career as an educator. In 1891 she became principal of the Lincoln School, and in 1913 she served as president of the Washington Education Association. That same year Governor Ernest Lister appointed her to the Board of Trustees of the Cheney State Normal School, becoming the first woman to serve on that body.

During the difficult years that followed, Mrs. Monroe was chairman of the board, attending all of the crucial meetings which determined the fate of the school. A self-appointed women's advocate, she was asked to preside over the opening of both Monroe and Senior halls, the first two girls' dormitories built on campus. In a time when the education field was largely composed of women, but leadership roles were most often assigned to men, Mary Monroe made great pioneering strides. Her success was indicative of the emerging role of women in the twentieth century, not just in education, but in all walks of life.

Monroe Hall is a three-story red and brown brick structure with flat roof, featuring Classical and Renaissance Revival elements similar to other early campus buildings. The original plan, calling for a "U" shaped structure approximately 130 feet across the facade with 110 foot wings, was similar to that used later for Senior Hall.



*Monroe Hall, circa 19\_\_ (?). Photo courtesy JFK Library Archives & Special Collections.*

Monroe Hall also included a one-story middle wing, with a massive three-story brick chimney with corbeling at the top. Historically, this area served as the kitchen. This configuration has been altered over the years.

Decor of the first story facade includes indented brick striations and large fanning jack arches above the windows. A large ivory colored metal stringcourse separates this level from those above. The second and third stories feature light colored sandstone appliques and geometric brickwork. Above this is a wide ivory colored plain cornice made of sheet metal. The building is crowned with a brick stepped parapet, in the center of which are the words “Monroe Hall.” Windows and decor of the east and west sides mimic the facade, except that the two large stairwell windows are at different heights, breaking the stringcourse. Also the parapet is straight, not stepped as in the front.

The rear of Monroe Hall was constructed with visibly cheaper red brick. The back has been completely replaced by new construction when the building was renovated in 2000, giving the building a new orientation. The historic front elevation is now the rear of the building, with windows that appear to be doors located in the historic door openings on the main floor.

Monroe Hall retains excellent exterior integrity. Its interior has been modified considerably, and bears little resemblance to its historic configuration.

Used as a women’s dormitory from its construction until the 1960’s, Monroe Hall has been used for office space since it was removed from the dormitory pool. During the 1970’s and 1980’s Women’s Studies, African American Studies, and Chicano Studies programs all were assigned office space in the building. These programs remain in the remodeled Monroe Hall, along with the University Graphics functions of Instructional Resources.

## **Senior Hall (1919-20)**

Senior Hall is a three-story red and brown brick structure, with flat roof, built in an eclectic style using Classical and Renaissance design elements similar to those used in previous campus buildings. Like Monroe Hall, there are two entries in the front facade. Each features a cast iron canopy suspended by chains held in the mouths of small lion heads. The doors are aluminum and glass, with glass transoms which bear the words “Senior Hall” in metal letters. These modern entries were installed in 1957, replacing the original wood and glass doors. Each is flanked by ivory painted cement portals. The porch below the right entry is the original granite, while the porch on the left has been replaced by a wheel chair ramp.

Each of the building’s sides exhibits an appearance similar to the front facade, including windows, skirt, stringcourse, cornice, and parapet. The primary difference is in the two stairwell towers, one on each side. These project out several feet from the main walls and are higher than the rest of the building. Correspondingly, the windows, stringcourse, and cornice are all raised. There is a small casement window at the bottom of each tower.



*Senior Hall circa 19--(?). Photo courtesy JFK Library Archives & Special Collections.*

The rear of the building, including the back courtyard, is constructed of visibly cheaper red brick, employing plain stretcher bond. Decorative elements are of a similar but simpler design than on the three main sides. Fenestration is double-hung wood sash with brick segmental arches. The cornice, stringcourse, and skirt are continued, but with brick construction. Each wing has a rear entry with segmental brick arch and small concrete porch.

The interior features many doors of dark red hardwood. This wood is used throughout the building for decorative trim, including the front stair banisters. Some hallways have been marred by the use of acoustical ceiling panels, but some still display original old gold light fixtures with ornamental globes. Bathrooms still contain the original shower stalls made from slabs of black and white marble. One interesting feature of this building is the interior fire escapes located at the back end of each wing. These are concrete towers with concrete stairs. They access the building through imitation wood (metal) doors with windows of wire-reinforced glass. This fire escape is clad in brick and is undetectable when viewed from outside the building.

The most impressive room of Senior Hall is the second floor lounge, situated at the bottom of the “U” between the two wings, where the front and rear windows provide ideal lighting during the day. This large room has maple floors and wood paneled entry ways with wood segmental arch. Dark red wood is used around the windows, in the paneled wainscoting, and the pilasters and stringcourse below the coving of the ceiling. Centered on the east wall is the original hearth with brick fireplace and wood mantle. Below the mantle is a plaque inscribed “In memory of Mary Newton - 1964 - Afternoon literary of Tilicum.”



*Senior Hall 2nd Floor Lounge. Photo courtesy Cheney Planning Department.*

Senior Hall retains excellent exterior integrity, and like other District buildings, exhibits design elements that complement associated structures. Despite recent alterations, considerable interior integrity remains, particularly in the second floor lounge, where the hardwood floors, wood trim, and other decorative features have been faithfully preserved.

Senior Hall is un-rebuilt at this writing (2002), but plans are being made

to renovate it in the same manner as Monroe and Sutton halls. Currently offices for Criminal Justice and Sociology faculty are in the building.

### **Sutton Hall (1922-23)**

Sutton Hall was dedicated to **William J. Sutton**, who twice in his career saved the Cheney Normal School from closure. He served as principal of the college from 1892-1897, and later was elected a State Senator. Mr. Sutton was born in Michigan on September 29, 1865, and graduated from the Fenton, Michigan Normal School in 1886. The next year he moved to Washington. Being a man of some charisma as well as ability, he was soon elected principal of the Cheney Public School. Mr. Sutton was chosen as vice principal of the newly established Cheney State Normal School in 1890, and two years later he was elected principal of that institution.

The original Benjamin P. Cheney Academy building burned in 1891, but Mr. Sutton was able to prevent efforts to close the school. By the time he resigned his position in February of 1897, the institution had a new Administration Building, funded by an appropriation from the State Legislature. Soon after resigning, William J. Sutton married Nellie Hutchinson, who had been principal of the Cheney Normal Training School, and settled down to life as a prominent farmer. He also served as president of the Security National Bank of Cheney.

He was first elected to represent the district as a State Senator in 1912, shortly after the Cheney State Normal School building had once again burned. In a singular effort against the odds, Senator Sutton pushed through passage of a \$300,000 appropriation, despite Governor Ernest Lister’s veto. The money was used to build the Administration Building, later christened Showalter Hall, which is still the most prominent building on campus. Mr. Sutton went on to serve a total of four terms in the Washington State Senate, during which time he chaired several educational commissions. In that capacity, he helped save the State College (WSU) in Pullman from being reduced to the status of a trade school. He retired from politics in 1929, and farmed his land near Cheney until his death in December of 1940.

The red barn that was part the Sutton farmstead is a Cheney landmark and has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places. It was built in 1884 for the father of Nellie Hutchinson, whom Mr. Sutton later married. Many honors were bestowed upon William Sutton in his lifetime, for his fellow citizens were very proud of what he had achieved. The most enduring monument to this man's career and his pivotal role in the Cheney Normal School is Sutton Hall, which was dedicated and named after him on September 21, 1923.

Sutton Hall is a three-story red and brown brick structure with concrete foundation and flat roof. Incorporating Classical and Renaissance Revival elements, it was designed to be harmonious with previously built campus buildings. Its plan is that of a wide letter "H", 133 feet long across the east facade with two 111 foot wings.



*Sutton Hall, 19\_\_\_. Photo courtesy JFK Library Archives & Special Collections.*

In the rear of the building are two one-story extensions which complete the "H". These both have flat roofs with metal coping, lacking the cornice and stringcourse of the main section. Above these the main cornice wraps around the rear of each wing. Here it ends; the shorter back wall is capped with plain metal coping. Windows facing the rear courtyard are mostly sets of four double-hung wood sash windows with transoms. These windows look out from rooms originally designated as "sleeping porches." Also in the rear are two steel fire escapes servicing four metal fire doors. Most of Sutton Hall's interior has been removed. The most interesting feature remaining is the seemingly redundant interior brick wall which enclosed the sleeping porches in the rear of the building.

The exterior of Sutton Hall has undergone only minor changes and still possesses excellent integrity, including those decorative features which it

has in common with other District buildings. Unfortunately, the interior has been completely taken out, leaving no trace of the building's original function. The building was completely rebuilt in 1996 to house student service functions. The interior spaces bear no resemblance to their historic dormitory configuration.

## **University House (the President's House) (1929)**

This is a two-story red brick structure employing elements of both Colonial Classical and Georgian styles. Its moderately pitched hipped roof, originally covered with red tile, is of composite material. Boxed ivory colored wooden eaves are decorated by a line of dentils. The foundation is of cement. The plan of the building is a 47 foot by 30 foot rectangle with a 14 foot by 10 foot one-story extension on the rear. A round one-story ivory colored portico dominates the facade. This stands atop a concrete porch with inlaid red tile and round steps. The galvanized iron portico awning is supported by four round fluted metal lock stave columns. It features a semi-circular wrought iron balustrade. Centered below the portico is the original large entry door of wood and geometrically framed glass. This is protected by a wooden screen door. To either side of this main entry are two small rectangular casement windows. Windows of the facade are rectangular double-hung wood sash and are symmetrically placed.



*University House, circa 19\_\_(?). Photo courtesy JFK Library Archives & Special Collections.*

To the right of the entry are two basement windows, each with a semi-circular wrought iron fence. On each side of the portico are two drain pipes, with decorative rainwater heads, descending from the roof. To the right of the facade the south side features four symmetrically placed

windows and two basement windows similar to those in front. The north side is similar to the south except for a large brick chimney which services the living room hearth. The most prominent feature of the rear of the house is the one-story extension which shelters the library. It has a flat roof, a large rear window, and a small north-facing entry. To the south of the library is the brick kitchen chimney and an entry with concrete stairs and iron rail. To the north of the library are glass double doors. In the exterior area northeast of these doors and the library is a terrace of brick and red tile.

The front door allows entry into a spacious foyer. On either side of the entry are small closets each with doors of dark hardwood with decorative wood inlay. As one enters, to the left and the right are wide rounded openings accessing, to the left, the living room, and to the right, the dining room. The living room features a sunken floor, ceiling cornices, and dark wood radiator covers. On the north wall is a large hearth with dark wood mantle and pilasters. Light tan marble adorns the fireplace and facing floor area. To the east are glass double doors which access the outer terrace. The dining room entrance has glass swinging doors. A small door connects the dining room with the kitchen, which has been completely remodeled with modern cabinets and appliances.

Also on the first floor is the library, which is entered from the rear of the foyer. This small room features dark blue paisley wallpaper with a ark wood stringcourse. Built into the walls are hardwood shelves, drawers, and windowseat. At the back of the foyer is a staircase of hardwood stairs and hardwood banister with spindlework. The stairs make two 90 degree right turns creating tow small landings enroute to the second floor foyer. This level contains three bedrooms and tow baths. The large master bedroom, situated above the living room, features a large hearth with painted wood mantle and brackets, with light tan marble around the fireplace and on the adjacent floor. The basement once contained a maid's quarters and a spare bedroom, but is presently used only for storage.

Northeast of the President's House is the more recently built garage. It was designed to resemble the house, with red brick construction, hipped roof, and ivory colored eaves. This one-story 34 foot by 17 foot structure

has composition roofing, two double-hung windows, two glass and wood doors, and a large wood paneled roll-up door. The north side facing C Street provides vehicle access to the structure. On the south side of the garage, facing the house and the largely enclosed back yard, is a large brick barbecue with massive chimney and segmental arched fireplace. The barbecue and fireplace are situated to service gatherings hosted by the university president.

Of all the structures in the Eastern Washington University Historic District, the President's House has undergone the fewest alterations to its interior. This fact, combined with the building's nearly intact exterior, gives the building superior integrity. The interior decor and furniture also aid in investing the president's House with a true feeling of the past. its eclectic colonial/classical/Georgian style sets the house apart from the larger more institutional-appearing buildings. The style is reflected in the later Hargreaves Hall directly to the northwest. Together, the two buildings provide the District with stylish diversity.

The President's House was occupied by the chief executive officer from its construction until 1987. After 1987, it was used as a faculty club, and as a special event site which could be chartered for special occasions. President Stephen Jordan moved back into the President's House in the summer of 1998, returning the building to its historic function.

## **Hargreaves Hall (formerly Hargreaves Library) (1939-40)**

It was a long time dream of **Richard T. Hargreaves** to build a library for the college he became President of in 1926, but it never occurred to him that it would be named for him. His untimely death on March 4, 1939, midway through construction of the new building, allowed his most ambitious project to bear his own name. Mr. Hargreaves was born in Lancashire, England on March 17, 1875. His family immigrated to America in 1883. After receiving his B. A. from the University of Kansas in 1902, Mr. Hargreaves began his teaching career at Topeka High School. He moved to Spokane in 1909, after he had been chosen to become principal of the North Central High School. Here he served for nine years, establishing a reputation which led to his being selected as principal of the Central High School in Minneapolis, probably the largest high school between Chicago and Seattle.

In 1926, following the resignation of Noah D. Showalter, Richard T. Hargreaves was offered the job of President of the Cheney Normal School, which he accepted. During his term of office the college gained the right to grant a four year bachelor of arts degree, and its name was changed to Eastern Washington College of Education. Despite the difficult years of the Depression, he guided the institution through a period of steady growth. With the help of the WPA, he was able to manage the construction of two major buildings, Martin Hall and, his most cherished project, the new library. The double dedication ceremony on June 4, 1940, was an historic occasion in the annals of Eastern Washington University. Showalter Hall and Hargreaves Hall remain as fitting memorials to the two men who brought the school through uncertain times and into the modern world.

This Romanesque Revival building is constructed of steel reinforced concrete with red brick cladding. Originally constructed as a library, and since remodeled, the building displays features revealing of its earlier function. The plan is in the shape of an upside down letter "T," with small wings in the inner corners. At the top of the "T," the main portion of the building measures 150 feet by 44 feet. It is forty feet high, plus the height of the moderately pitched hip roof. The roof was originally sheathed in red tile which was replaced by red composition shingles in 1968. When

constructed, this part of Hargreaves Library contained two stories, the upper level being a 27 foot high reading room.

The front facade of the building is on the south side of this section. The original terra cotta portal curves inward to the deeply set double glass entry doors. The terra cotta is decorated with art deco details such as arrows, crosses, and stylistic flowers. Above the doors is a large glass transom light which is embellished with a herringbone design, a motif repeated in the interior heating vents. The original plaque above this door read "The Richard T. Hargreaves Library." This was later replaced by the current metal letters, which originally read "Hargreaves Library," and now reads "Hargreaves Hall."

In front of this wide portal is the original porch and steps, constructed of large blocks of light colored granite. This porch was originally flanked by two decorative metal lanterns, but these were removed in 1964. At that time a flat concrete canopy, supported by four brick pillars, was placed on the granite porch, thus obscuring some of the terra cotta details of the portal.



*Hargreaves Hall approximately 19\_\_(?).  
Photo courtesy JFK Library Archives &  
Special Collections.*

As in previous campus buildings, Hargreaves Hall exhibits a stately horizontal appearance created by the use of ivory colored trim, in this case terra cotta. At the base of the front facade runs a wide terra cotta skirt. The brickwork of the first story features striations similar to other campus structures. Windows of this level are rectangular steel sash. A wide terra cotta stringcourse separates the second story from the first.

The second story is dominated by nine 18 foot-long, circular headed, multi-paned steel sash windows with sunburst motif. Below each window is a terra cotta sill. Above is a Romanesque semi-circular brick arch with terra cotta keystone. A horizontal brick stringcourse connects the arches.

Decorative brick corbeling anticipates the box cornice, which is composed of a plain entablature with dentils. The east and west sides of this section of the building feature one Romanesque arched window similar to those in front.

The 63 foot by 53 foot rear section, forming the stem of the “T,” is 33 feet high, with a flat roof and terra cotta coping. There are two small elevator machinery rooms on this roof, representing both the old and the new elevators. The back wall features two large brick buttresses with terra cotta caps and the wide terra cotta skirt as on the front. This part of the building housed the shelving stacks and was originally divided into four short levels, which



*Window Detail, Hargreaves Hall. Photo courtesy Cheney Planning Department.*

were indicated on the exterior by four rows of three foot-square steel casement windows. When remodeling was undertaken in 1968, the second lowest row was bricked in. Two small 38 foot by 25 foot wings flank the stem of the “T.” Each is 25 feet high, composed of two stories with a flat roof and terra cotta coping. The terra cotta skirt is continued in these sections but brickwork is simple. Each of these wings has rectangular metal sash windows and one small entry.

The original interior walls and floors of Hargreaves Hall are all of concrete, except for the shelving stacks which were constructed of metal. The first floor rotunda and stair hall exhibits many of the building’s decorative elements. The floor is covered with the original red and cream rubber tile. The wainscoting is of red and gray panels of Royal Fleuri marble from Tennessee. The ceiling features wooden beams supported by ornamental brackets and molding of cream color Caen stone plaster. The stair hall contains two mirror-image staircases with marble steps, marble walls, brass handrails, and fluted marble newels. In the center of the stair hall, where the large octagonal charging desk once stood, is the elevator, installed in 1974. Marble panels saved from previous renovations were used in the wainscoting around the elevator, maintaining a harmonious appearance in

the hall. One the wall near the main entrance is a metal plaque which reads “Hargreaves Library - in honor of - Richard Theodore Hargreaves - President - 1926-1939.” To the right of the main entrance was once a large reading room. This has been subdivided into offices. But the original swinging entry doors remain, featuring an octagonal window, and leather (now vinyl) covering with brass studs. The rest of the first floor is used as office and classroom space as it always has.

Atop the stairs, the delivery hall displays many of the traits of the lower hall, with marble wainscoting and ceiling beams with plaster molding. The large octagonal main circulation desk was located where the elevator now is. This hall also features a skylight and large hanging globe light fixtures. The original shelving stacks area to the back of this section, once served by a small elevator, has been completely remodeled to serve as office space. On the south side of the delivery hall are vinyl covered swinging doors similar to those on the first floor. This was the entrance to the main reading hall, which was once the most impressive room in the building. Its dimensions were 146 feet by 40 feet. It could accommodate 280 students seated at 28 twelve-foot, Bank of England type tables. Along the walls were built-in hardwood bookshelves, many of which survive. The 27 foot-high room was dominated by the great round-arched windows, which employed blue tinted glass to lessen the glare of sunlight. All that remains of this picturesque room is the divided windows and some of the built-in shelves. In 1967 a new concrete floor was installed in this room, which divided it into two levels. The resultant space was further divided into offices and class rooms.

Hargreaves Hall not only represents a temporal boundary of the Eastern Washington University Historical District, being the last eligible building completed, it also creates a firm anchor for the District’s northern corner. Although the interior has been extensively altered, the exterior has been left almost perfectly intact, leaving this stately structure with splendid integrity. Its primary design features are complementary of other District buildings, including the hipped roof, which harmonizes with the nearby President’s House.

Since 1967, Hargreaves Hall has been used as classroom and office space.

## **Herculean Pillars (1915)**

These stone structures stand on 5th Street facing down College Avenue into the heart of the Cheney central business district. They form the old, now largely symbolic, entrance to the campus when most students and visitors arrived on foot from the railroad depot at the other end of College Avenue instead of by automobiles as is the case today. A walkway leads north from the pillars to the main entrance of Showalter Hall. The pillars and attached benches are constructed from rough faced granite blocks of various sizes salvaged from the rubble of the old Cheney Normal School building which burned in 1912. Two twelve foot high square pillars flank the walkway, each with a square stone capital. Metal plaques on both pillars read "Erected by the Alumni Association and Students - 1915." Each pillar has an adjoining 20 foot wall with semi-circular section, concluding with a stone pier. The semi-circular portions of the wall contain curved granite benches.



*Photo courtesy JFK Library Archives & Special Collections.*



*The Herculean Pillars were built of stone salvaged from the original Normal School Building. The monument was a gift to the college from the class of 1915. Photo courtesy JFK Library Archives & Special Collections.*

The Herculean Pillars, which have stood unaltered since they were erected in 1915, are included in the Eastern Washington University Historic District because of their association with the original Normal School Building, their further association with Showalter Hall, and their lengthy function as both a physical and symbolic gateway between the city of Cheney and the college campus.

***Noncontributing Buildings:*** *These buildings do not contribute to the Historic District's National Register status, but are located within its boundaries.*

## **Plant Utilities (formerly the Heating Plant) (1917, 1957)**

This is a 50 foot by 80 foot rectangular building constructed of brown brick on a concrete foundation. It has one story and is flat roofed. The original 104 foot concrete chimney was pulled down in 1973. Windows are double-hung wood sash. The walls are decorated with concrete appliques and geometric brickwork, similar to nearby Monroe Hall. The building has a plain wide metal cornice painted ivory. Above this is a straight brick parapet with ivory colored metal coping. The north side features the possibly original swinging bay entry doors with multi-paned windows. The other roll-back bay door is of more recent origin. In 1957 a new 41 foot by 57 foot addition was built onto the east side of the original structure. This section is one story high and flat roofed with metal coping. The brickwork is unadorned stretcher bond. There is one bay entry and several metal sash windows. Although this building seems insignificant, its design elements represent a microcosm of those used in all of the larger buildings in the district.



*Plant Utilities Building. Photo courtesy Cheney Planning Department.*

The original section of the Plant Utilities building is one of the oldest structures on campus. Its function as the central heating plant, plus the fact that for many years it was the location of the college bell, make it a central component of the old campus core. Despite its historical significance, numerous alterations and additions eliminate it as a contributing element of the District.

The heating plant was originally coal fired. Fuel was hauled up from the Northern Pacific railroad by team, and later by truck. Ashes were removed the same way. Many young men worked their way through school helping move coal or ashes. The new Rozell Heating Plant replaced the heating plant function in 1967. Since then the building has been used for storage and other maintenance purposes.

## **Jore School (One Room School House)**

Originally located approximately eight miles west of Newport, Washington, this one-room school was moved to the EWU campus in 2000, as a memorial to the teacher-training origins of the university. Many of the teachers trained by the Cheney State Normal School taught in similar buildings. In 1914 this school was used as a 'model' one-room school for student teaching by students at the Cheney State Normal School.



*The Jore School at its new location on the EWU campus, 2002. Photo courtesy Cheney Planning Department.*

## **A Teacher's Contract from 1886:**

*It is agreed, by and between the Directors of School District No. 18, County of Spokane, State of Washington, and Miss Nellie Webb, the holder of a teacher's certificate now in force in said county, that said teacher is to teach, govern and conduct the public school of said district to the best of h(er) ability, follow the course of study lawfully adopted, keep a register of the daily attendance of each pupil attending said school, make all reports required by law or by lawful authority, and endeavor to preserve in good condition the school house, grounds, furniture, apparatus and such other property of the district as may come under the immediate supervision of said teacher, for a term of three school months, commencing on the seventh day of September, 1886, for the sum of \$35.00 per month, to be paid at the end of each school month...PROVIDED FURTHER, That the wages of said teacher for the last month of the school term shall not be paid unless said teacher shall have made the reports hereinbefore mentioned.*

*And the directors of said school district agree to keep the school house in good repair, to provide the necessary fuel, school register and other necessary supplies for the comfort of the school.*

By: Wm. R. Griffith

John M. Grier, Directors

Nellie M. Webb, Teacher

Attest: S. R. Griffith, School District Clerk

*Courtesy Cheney Tilicum Museum.*

## **The National Register of Historic Places**

The National Register of Historic Places is the official list of the Nation's cultural resources worthy of preservation. Authorized under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Register is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect our historic and archeological resources. The National Register is administered by the national Park Service under the Secretary of the Interior. Properties listed in the National Register include districts, sites, buildings, structures and objects that are significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture. These resources contribute to an understanding of the historical and cultural foundations of the Nation.

The National Register includes:

- all historic areas in the national Park System;
- National Historic Landmarks which have been designated by the Secretary of the Interior for their significance to all Americans; and
- properties significant to the Nation, State, or community which have been nominated by the States, Federal agencies and others and have been approved by the National Park Service.

For more information about the National Register, contact:

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
PO Box 37127  
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

[www.cr.nps.gov/places.htm](http://www.cr.nps.gov/places.htm)

## **The Certified Local Government Program**

The National Historic Preservation Act established a nationwide program of financial and technical assistance to preserve historic properties – buildings, structures, sites, neighborhoods, and other places of importance in the historical and cultural life of the nation. A local government can participate directly in this program when the State Historic Preservation Officer certifies that the local government has established its own historic preservation commission and a program meeting Federal and State standards. A local government that receives such certification is known as a “Certified Local Government” or “CLG.”

As a CLG, the City of Cheney has agreed to:

- Survey local historic properties
- Enforce State or local preservation laws
- Provide for public participation
- Other functions delegated or required by the State, such as the enactment of historic preservation ordinances or zoning restrictions

Cheney has maintained CLG status and an active historic preservation program since 1988. For more information on the Certified Local Government Program, contact:

Washington State  
Office of Archaeology & Historic Preservation  
1063 S. Capitol Way, Suite 106  
PO Box 48343  
Olympia, WA 98504-838\43

Phone: (360) 586-3065

[www.oahp.wa.gov](http://www.oahp.wa.gov)

