

Curran House' Chronology



The Curran House was designed in 1952 by Robert B. Price, the most prolific architect in the Tacoma Area from the 1950's - 70's. It is a fine example of 'mid century modern design' & is situated within an orchard providing a unique example of early Western apple horticulture.

The house was built by Price for the Curran family who moved into the house in 1955 & lived there for (40) forty years. The Currans were very important to the University Place Community. Charles served on the school board for 28 years & met Price when he designed Curtis Junior High School. Mary, his wife, also was active in the community. They raised three children.

- In August, 1995, with the assistance of 'Pierce County Conservation Futures Program,' the 'University Place Parks and Recreation District' purchased what is now known as the 'Curran Apple Orchard Park.' The park property included the house which from 1999 - 2007 was utilized as a rental property. When the tenants left, the City discovered there were several unauthorized & incomplete remodeling projects along with other unreported problems such as leaking roof. City Staff came up with four options for best use of the structure, including demolition. Council member Smith recommended forming a group to investigate/explore other options for Curran House

- On September 8th, 2008, Cindy Bonaro, President of the 'UP Historical Society,' reported that a group called Curran House Investigating & Planning Study (CHIPS) had formed for the purpose of exploring potential future uses of the Curran home, which the group considered to be architecturally & historically significant. The group asked that the City of University Place secure the house during the investigative period with an alarm system to reduce vandalism & winterize the house, all of which were done.
- 'Washington Trust for Historic Preservation' listed the Curran House on the 2009 most endangered properties list.
- The City passed a resolution 9/14/2009 supporting the 'preservation of the Curran House' and the efforts of CHIPS & the 'University Place Historical Society' to develop a preservation plan for approval & implementation by the city in one year's time.
- Artifacts Architectural Consulting, a local architectural firm, create a Historic Structure Report outlining original architectural features that should be retained & needed repairs for Curran House restoration project.
- Clover Park Technical Interior Design students create plans for reuse of the Curran House in 2010.
- The Governor's Advisory Council on Historic Preservation named the Curran House to the 'Washington State Heritage Register,' June, 2010. The Curran House was also added to the 'National Heritage Register' in March, 2012.
- 'CHIPS' solicited funding & in-kind donations to make repairs to the Curran House, including window repairs 12/21/2010, extension of the \$30,000 Pierce County Conservation Futures money to the end of 2011 for roof replacement & decking repair. It was reported at the February 22nd, 2011 meeting to the UP City Council that CHIPS had contributed \$40,000 in cash & in-kind donations to the 'preservation of the Curran House,' including grants from the 'National Trust for Historic Preservation & Washington Trust for Historic Preservation.'
- 'UP Historical Society' offers their first annual 'Home & Garden Tour' June 10th, 2012, with proceeds assisting with funding for the Curran House restoration project. Funds raised from other annual garden tours went toward painting of the exterior & interior of the home & other needed repairs.
- 'UP Historical Society' presents a Curran House Business Plan to the UP City Council July 15th, 2013 & asks for approval to transfer the property management rights of Curran

House to 'UPHS' in order to acquire the funding to upgrade the house first as a rental & then to acquire funds to upgrade to public use.

- 'UP Historical Society' & 'City of University Place' enter into a lease agreement for the Curran House on June 1st, 2014. A caretaker is secured in August, 2014 to oversee the property & to make cosmetic repairs to the interior of the house. Community members also assist with repairs in the summer of 2014, including painting & drywall repairs. Volunteer Danele Alampay creates a document outlining original interior paint colors.
- The 'Curran House' opened for public view May 30th at the '2015 Garden Tour.'