MAPPING THE MEMORIES OF WALLA WALLA'S CHINATOWN

Collaboration in Digital Public Archaeology

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In Spring of 2014, Fort Walla Walla Museum's Heritage Research Services (HRS) was contracted to conduct a cultural resources survey for a utility upgrade project in downtown Walla Walla, Walla Walla County, Washington. The contract survey was implemented in accordance with the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) section under the guidance of Executive Order 01-03 in addition to its recommendation by the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Reservation (CTWS) Cultural Resource Protection Program (CRPP). HRS's methodology included site visits, historical research, and surveying the historic identification of Chinatown on the northwest corner of Washington and Fourth Streets. No actual construction upgrades have taken place in the project area as of this date.

October 2014: Public talk, held at the Fort Walla Walla Museum, on the history of Chinese in Walla Walla and the application of GIS with historical-period maps. A local newspaper article was published.


Defining Historical Community Boundaries with GIS:
Walla Walla’s Chinatown

Jonathan M. Haller, M.S., GISP, Benz GIS Services, LLC and Ashley M. Morton, M.A., RPA, Fort Walla Walla Museum

Introduction

Fort Walla Walla Museum’s (FWWM) Heritage Research Services (HRS) was contracted to conduct a cultural resources survey for a utility upgrade project in downtown Walla Walla, Walla Walla County, Washington. The contract survey was implemented in accordance with the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) section under the guidance of Executive Order 01-03 in addition to its recommendation by the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Reservation (CTWS) Cultural Resource Protection Program (CRPP). HRS’s methodology included site visits, historical research, and surveying the historic identification of Chinatown on the northwest corner of Washington and Fourth Streets. No actual construction upgrades have taken place in the project area as of this date.

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Methodology

The survey was a multi-disciplinary approach that included extensive research to identify and document historical resources within the Chinatown area. The survey focused on identifying cultural resources related to Chinese immigration and settlement in Walla Walla, Washington. The research was conducted using a variety of sources, including historical documents, oral histories, and interviews with community members. The survey also involved the analysis of archaeological data collected during previous projects in the area.

Results

The survey identified several key resources, including historical buildings and structures. These resources were identified through a combination of archival research, oral history interviews, and archaeological analysis. The survey results were compiled in a report, which included detailed maps and photographs of the identified resources.

Conclusion

The project was successful in identifying key cultural resources related to Chinese immigration and settlement in Walla Walla, Washington. The results were used to create a series of maps and visualizations that were presented at various events and conferences. The project also helped to raise awareness of the historical significance of Chinatown in Walla Walla and its contribution to the local community.
AIA IAD 2015 Collaboration

Who: Fort Walla Walla, Walla Walla Chapter of AIA, Whitman College and Northwest Archives, Stateline GIS, and Marcus Whitman Hotel

What: All came together to support tasks for a walking tour of Walla Walla's (once thriving) Chinatown

- AIA provided financial support for fliers, brochures, and the development of an online interactive map.
- FWWM organized and led the tour on IAD.

Includes access to online interactive map of Walla Walla's Chinatown.
Tours from 10-11 am and 1-2 pm, start at City Hall, Third and Rose.
To register, contact Sarah Davies: daviesh@whitman.edu • Event on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/events/164706620871353/
What (continued):

- Whitman College and Northwest Archives provided all permissions of the use of their “Chinese in Walla Walla” collection images

- Whitman College Maxey Museum designed a pop-up exhibit held at the Marcus Whitman Hotel & featured 30 items part of the Virgil Davin Collection
AIA IAD 2015
Collaboration

What (Continued):

• Stateline GIS designed an online interactive map as a “take away”

Goals for both the physical walking tour and the virtual tour was to:

1) Educate the community on the contributions Chinese people made to the growth and settlement of Walla Walla

2) Engage!
GIS Background

- Georeferencing
- Digitizing
- Ease of Distribution and Integration of Additional Data
Google Tour Builder

• **Pros**
  
  • *Easy to Set Up*
  
  • *Free with Gmail (counts for storage allotment)*
  
  • *KML Based Upload and Download*
  
  • *Shareable*

Google Tour Showing Pins, Loaded KML Polygons, and Images
Google Tour Builder

• Cons
  • Not Available on Mobile Devices
  • Does Not Support Additional GIS Resources
  • Google Pins Set is Dated and does not Highlight Current Slide Location
  • Not Intended For Large Scale Maps

Google Tour Showing Expanded Image
ArcGIS Online Story (Or Other Platforms)

- **Pros**
  - **Utilizes GIS Platforms**
    - Can be Accessed on Desktop for Development
  - Additional GIS Resources (polygons, lines, Geoprocessing)
  - Available on Mobile and Offline
ArcGIS Online Story (Or Other Platforms)

- **Cons**
  - On or Off Security
  - Cost
  - Administration of Layers and Users
Native Apps

• Pros
  • *Locally Stored Content*
  • *Benefits from Local Hardware/Firmware*

• Cons
  • *Locally Stored Content (potentially resource heavy)*
  • *Harder to Restrict Access Once Downloaded*
Overall Pros

- Reach Larger Audience
  - Hearing, Vision, Mobility Impairment
  - Class Field Trips
  - Open Schedule
- Additional tech
  - QR/Bar Codes
  - Augmented Reality
  - In Field Radio Augmentation

- Browser Based
  - Available across Browsers
  - Browser Side Resource Usage
- Ease of Download
- Larger Scale collaboration
- Central Platform
  - Academic Research
  - General Public
Special Thanks

• Fort Walla Walla Museum
• Walla Walla Chapter of AIA
• Whitman College Maxey Museum
• Whitman College Northwest Archives
• Stateline GIS
• Marcus Whitman Hotel
How To Reach Us!

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• Link to the Web Application
  • http://arcg.is/1T81nlO