

**Date: October 18, 2018**

**Subject: Washington state's newest National Historic District**

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Ravenna-Cowen North Historic District has been named the newest historic district in Washington state. This historic district, roughly bounded by NE 65th Street on the north, Ravenna ravine on the east, Ravenna and Cowen Parks on the south, and 12th Avenue NE on the west, was officially entered into the National Register of Historic Places on September 13, 2018.

The application was unanimously approved by the WA Advisory Council for Historic Preservation (ACHP) on June 29, 2018, and was added to the Washington Heritage Register, which includes historic and cultural properties that have been recognized for their unique contributions to Washington's heritage.

The Ravenna-Cowen North Historic district includes 443 homes, most constructed prior to the early 1930s. The average construction date for contributing resources is 1918. This district exhibits a special character, scale and setting that represents a period of population growth and housebuilding resulting from the excitement generated by the 1909 Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition at the State University (now the UW main campus) and lasting through the devastating economic Great Depression of the late 1920s and 1930s. Ravenna-Cowen North Historic District's period of significance begins in 1906, with the anticipation of the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition, and runs to the early 1930s, with only a handful of homes built from the 1940s through the 1960s.

Ravenna-Cowen North Historic District exhibits the range of residential architectural styles prevalent during one of Seattle's greatest population growth periods. Styles mainly include Craftsman, Tudor Revival and Colonial Revival. Many designs were taken directly from pattern books and kit home catalogs dating from the early 1900s to the 1930s. Most of the district's residences are relatively modest. The existing cohesive neighborhood conveys a unique feeling in place and time.

The application for historic designation was prepared by the Friends of Ravenna-Cowen, an all-volunteer 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose purpose is "To preserve and protect the heritage of the Ravenna-Cowen neighborhood as a community resource for all."