

Pullman: A Book of Secrets

PAUL F. HIRZEL - project director
Washington State University

Editors: Doug R. Mikko • Jodi L. Ruggles

Contributors: Angeline P. Askham • Tom Baty • A. Thomas Belote • Laurie S. Bull • Kuo-Rung Gloria Chien • Willard C. Dixon • Jeff Eickhoff • Aaron Force • Trent K.D. Hart • B.J. Hruska • Mike Jobes • Brad Kelley • Vince Nguyen • Sang D. Pack • Aaron N. Rincover • Jodi L. Ruggles • Diane S. Schinman • Julie Smith • Ioannis Stylianides • Randall T. Trout • Jonathan C. Walston • Paul F. Whitehill

Pullman: A Book of Secrets chronicles the results of a community research project sponsored by the School of Architecture at Washington State University. Seen as a series of intimate probes in the unique physical character of Pullman, the book is intended to be both a reference for community members of hidden properties which make Pullman distinct from other communities and a provocation to build future environments in Pullman which preserve and enhance these qualities.

This intimate perspective was derived from the idea that constructing a building in Pullman is, in many ways, similar to the process of "gift giving." As successful gift giving is dependent on how intimately one knows the gift recipient (has shared privileged intellectual, emotional, and physical knowledge), successful building interventions are dependent on how intimately one knows the recipient site. Intimacy (which comes from the superlative form of the Latin work inter meaning "within") in either case seems to be a requisite for success - a gift or building that will be "treasured, cared for, and passed on to future generations."

Methods of achieving this "intimacy with place" were drawn from a number of nontraditional site analysis techniques. A method used in theater, called "character acting," was translated into "place acting," where participants were asked to discover "the natural voice, the relaxed state, the

instincts of the town" by acting out the character of a place (in this case Pullman).

A second technique called "visioning" was also employed where participants were introduced to Native American shamanic exercises which used relaxation and meditation to reveal "the spirit" of Pullman.

A third method, based on Chinese geomancy, was also introduced. Using strategies of site analysis founded on geomantic principles, Pullman's sources and flows of natural energy (what the Chinese call Ch'i) were located in order to determine proper building placement.

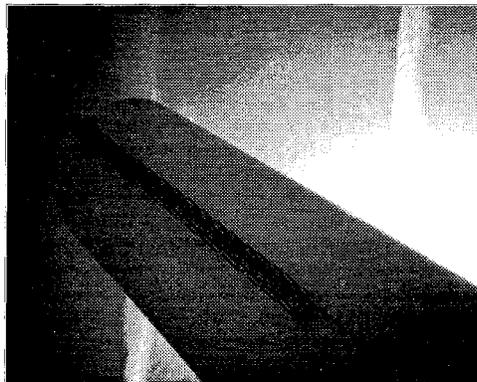
Drawing from these investigative exercises and strategies, in addition to more traditional analytical techniques (historical research and inhabitant surveys), the book isolates a broad range of physical characteristics inherent to Pullman. From "What color is Pullman," to "Where in the world is Pullman," from Pullman as a world-class "sliding" destination to a study on macroscopic-microscopic images of Pullman, the twenty-two pictorial essays seek to disturb preconceptions and disrupt first impressions in order to give the reader a more intimate view of Pullman's treasures. Drawing from these images, it is the intent of this work to inspire gift (building) giving to the recipient Pullman which is, to use Michael Heizer's words, "more incorporative, part of the material of its place, referential beyond itself."

E X C E R P T S

THE GAURDIANS

Willard C. Dixon

"You don't notice 'em till you notice 'em. There are about fifteen of 'em in Pullman, and they mark the high points."

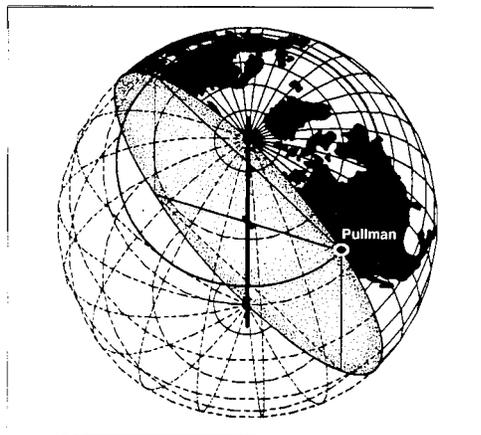


"For forty-eight hours I stayed on the hill, sketching, writing, and taking pictures. It didn't take me long to discover what I was looking for; it was right behind me. The watertower."

WHERE IN THE WORLD IS PULLMAN?

Randall T. Trout

"Pullman is located at 46° 43.8' North latitude (from the equator) and 117° 10.4' West longitude (from Greenwich England)."

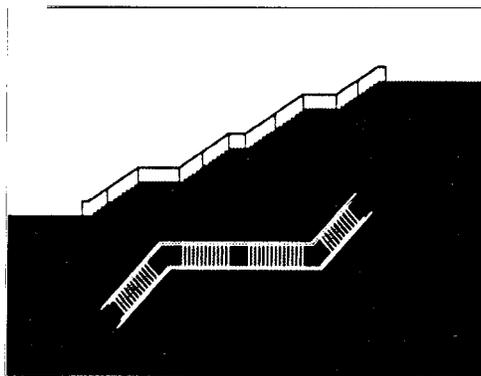


"A hole from Pullman to the center of the world would not continue into China, but would terminate in the Indian Ocean. A hole from Pullman perpendicular to the Earth's axis would terminate in Kazakhstan, near the town of Leninsk. A hole from Pullman parallel to the Earth's axis would terminate in the middle of the East Rist of the Pacific Ocean."

A MECCA FOR THE STAIRWAY RAIL-SLIDER: PULLMAN, WASHINGTON.

Jeff Eickoff

"WARNING: Rail sliding is a fast paced sport which can be potentially dangerous at times...."

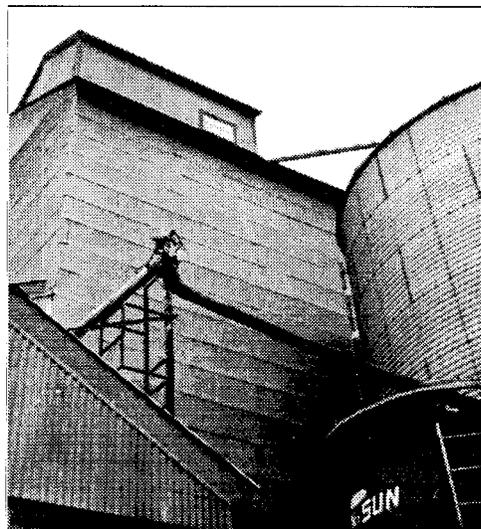


"Over the Edge:
Path: 45i Zig right/45i Zag left.
Consecutive Rail Slides: 4. Total risers: 48. Vertical Drop: 28.5'.
Comments: This steep run will thrill even the most experienced slider. Watch out for summertime spider webs in the dense surroundings, and beware of the rail luck at the end!"

SILENT SENTRIES

Trent K.D. Hart

"There are five sentinels in Pullman. At first glance they are as pitiable as old soldiers in full dress uniform solemnly saluting a passing flag in a parade. Five grain elevators; scarred, tattooed, with amputations and props, whose function is no longer vital to the community that commissioned them."

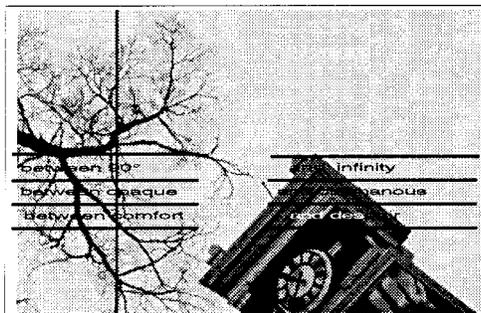


"The Matriarch:
One cannot negotiate the descent into Pullman on highway 270 without encountering the eagle-fierce, ever vigilant, gaze of this mother-warrior. Her rotund twin progeny are held to her, not in a protective embrace but at arm's length. She is a watchtower of the past, unrelieved from her post in history, unaware of the futility of her devotion."

PULLMAN, WA. 99163

Brad Kelley

"... (the postcards) of four individuals whose relationships and references to Pullman are diverse and multi-leveled."



"Mom & Dad,
I can't believe it's been two months already. Time flies away from #one. I went down to the Snake River yesterday. Pretty cool. I miss the ocean though. Write again soon.
Love, Trent."