



Prospectus for an Historic Seaport

1978

A living piece of history . . .

An historic seaport gives the people of the Pacific Northwest a chance to experience a portion of their past. In order to expand our ability to share the accomplishments of our regional maritime history, Northwest Seaport and Historic Seattle are embarking on a development plan for a major cultural facility. Four ships have already been preserved and are in the process of being restored. We must now determine a location, create a setting, and establish an economic framework for maintaining these valuable resources and ensuring their continued existence.

An historic seaport in the Pacific Northwest is long overdue.

This area, which has the highest boat ownership per capita in the nation, possesses a rich maritime heritage. The presence of water and water-related activity plays a vital role in our economy and lifestyle. Indeed, one of the special features of this area is that it is permeated by waterways that are intensively used for transportation, recreation and fishing. The place of ships in our growth and development should be commemorated through the preservation of significant examples of maritime history.

An historic seaport offers the public the opportunity to see and explore historically important ships — intact and in an actual water setting. It provides a means of preserving valuable vessels. It serves as a repository of ships' logs, seamen's diaries and photographs. It facilitates an ongoing program of historical documentation and interpretation. And it exposes young people to challenging work possibilities unique to a marine-related environment.

In addition to such obvious cultural benefits, an historic seaport contributes to and supports tourism. As a special place, it assists in the community's ability to attract conventions and traveling parties. An historic seaport offers tangible economic benefits by adding to the cultural diversity of the region.

