

# Threatened: Spokane's Only Historic House Museum

---

Public access to Campbell House is threatened. Due to State budget cuts and staff layoffs, this area's only historic house museum, operated by the Northwest Museum of Arts & Culture/Eastern Washington State Historical Society, is closed indefinitely to public tours. School tours currently continue, and the museum remains committed to the stewardship and preservation of the site. But additional proposed cuts of \$250,000 per year in State funding will likely result in the complete closure of Campbell House to all visitors.

Campbell House features unique and award-winning public programming, such as:

- A variety of tours, including 1) an exciting participatory tour in the form of a historical novel that introduces Campbell House occupants and activities, and 2) a "Nuts & Bolts" exploration of how this 1898 house functioned. The cutting-edge participatory tour, funded by a National Endowment for the Humanities consultant grant, won the 2003 National Council on Public History Award.
- An interactive experience for the region's schoolchildren, tied directly to the required 3rd and 4th grade history curriculum. Campbell House is the most frequently-requested MAC education tour and is linked with a History Lab experience.
- An introductory exhibit and tour orientation area in the neighboring Carriage House. A carriage and electric car graphically depict the shift from Victorian to Progressive eras, while descriptive panels introduce the Campbell household and local versions of national Progressive era movements.

Since 1987 the State of Washington has provided more than \$1,250,000 in capital funds for the preservation and restoration of the Campbell House buildings and site; the State continues its commitment to the maintenance of the physical buildings. Campbell House now needs similar operational support, to ensure that this unique resource continues to fill its colorful and creative role in introducing and teaching Eastern Washington history.

Campbell House, located in Browne's Addition National Historic District and listed in the National, State and Spokane Registers, received the 1999 award for Outstanding Achievement in Historic Preservation Rehabilitation from the Washington State Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation.

---

For more information, contact Lorna Walsh, Chief Development Officer, Northwest Museum of Arts & Culture (cell 509.939.5114, office 509.363.5323), [lornaw@northwestmuseum.org](mailto:lornaw@northwestmuseum.org)



*Campbell House, built in 1898, has been restored to its original condition. It provides a window into the lives of a turn-of-the century family, their servants, and their Eastern Washington community.*



*History comes to life for Campbell House visitors through living history demonstrations, hands-on experiences, and lively tours.*