



When Was it Built?



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Meeting House - 1856
Hemlock - 1856
Madrona - 1856
Tamarack - 1856
Cypress - 1856 Staff
Cedars - 1864

The Inn - 1869 Hotel
Reeser - 1914 Moved in 1988
Firs - 1928
Maples - 1958
Lounge - 1960
Pines - 2021

Spruce - 1968
Colman Center - 1979
Pavilion - 2006
Salal - 2012
Huckleberry - 2012
Boardwalk - 2012

Bouncy Bridge - 2013
Juniper - 2014
Treehouse - 2015
Rhododendron - 2019

A Brief History Seabeck Conference Center

The town of Seabeck was founded in 1856 by Marshall Blinn. He set up the Washington Mill Company on, what today, is our conference grounds. The town added a second mill and a shipyard. As the town grew, the Mill Company built homes for their workers and a hotel for their guests. Many of those buildings are still in use today for guest lodging. In 1886, a fire burned both mills to the ground. They had logged here for 30 years, so they decided to rebuild in an area where the trees would be closer to the mill. Within a month or so, Seabeck was a ghost town. It sat that way for the next 30 years.

In 1914 Laurence Colman of Seattle attended a new type of family retreat in Chautauqua, New York. The idea was, you camped as a family, but you participated with others in group activities and meals. This is still called the Chautauqua Movement today. Mr. Colman decided that the Puget Sound region needed a Chautauqua style center and started looking for property to build one. Sometime in 1914 he sailed into Seabeck bay and found the ideal site. He purchased the abandoned mill site and started getting it ready for guests. On June 11, 1915 Seabeck Conference Center hosted its first guest. The campus was used primarily by the YMCA of Seattle at that point. In 1936 Mr. Colman formed Seabeck Christian Conference Incorporated and deeded the land to the new nonprofit organization.

From 1950 through 1980, a few more modern buildings were added to the campus. Reeser House was moved from Silverdale onto our property in 1988. The 1988-2006 time frame saw Seabeck management maintaining the current structures by repairing and remodeling. The Inn Restoration Project took almost a decade to complete. We ended the project with a modernized building that is viable into the future.

How Seabeck Conference Center Operates

We are incorporated under the laws of the 501(c)3 classification. We are a nonprofit charity. We only offer our services to other 501(c)3 nonprofit organizations. We serve churches, charities, schools, civic organizations and government agencies exclusively. We do not offer our services to individuals,



families or any other type of business. Our official motto is, “*We serve those who serve other*”. The vast majority of our guests are from the greater Puget Sound area. We host about 200 groups and roughly 10,000 guests every year.

We are governed by a fifteen member

Board of Directors. The Board is made up of Seabeck guests and some local Kitsap residents. We are a non-denominational, non-secular institution based on the YMCA. We employ up to 30 staff year round. That number climbs to over 60 in the summer.

The 2009 Seabeck Master Plan

In 2009 the Board and Staff of Seabeck completed a Master Plan, which is our vision for Seabeck’s future. We envisioned a very similar campus to the past. We want to keep capacity at 250 people and not to develop anymore of our property than we already use. This plan keeps over 75% of our property undeveloped forest. Basically, we are looking to upgrade our facility to keep it viable well into our second century of service.

We completed the first phase of the 2009 Master Plan on June 30, 2014. We have added: the Boardwalk, Bouncy Bridge, Huckleberry, Salal, Juniper, a new

maintenance shop and moved the dumpsters from the heart of the campus. All these improvements have been made possible by our guest’s and donor’s generous support of the Seabeck Centennial Capital Campaign. THANK YOU!

