

Historic Structures & Site Map

Woodstock Farm

South Bellington

1915 & 2005



1323 Lincoln Street, Bellingham, WA 98229
with
T.T. Wahl
City of Bellingham Parks & Recreation Dept.



Cyrus Lester Gates, 1899

- A Woodstock Creek

B Ray Lee Boathouse, ca. 1945

C Cow Man's Cottage, 1923

D Garage, 1912

E Barn, 1912

F Cook's House, 1912 with Addition

G Gates Orchard

H Former Structure?

I Old Way to Interurban RR & Burfiend Farm

J Gates House, 1912 with 1923 Enlargement

K Tent (Ephemeral good times do return!)

L Hen House/Incubator House Metamorphosis
(Roger's Retreat), 1912 Meets the 1970's

M Grass Tennis Court (Presently sheep pen.)

N Former Gates Garden

O Old Road/Path to Gate (Lined by old lights.)

P Water Tank

Q Gate

R Inspiration Erratic

S Inspiration Bluff

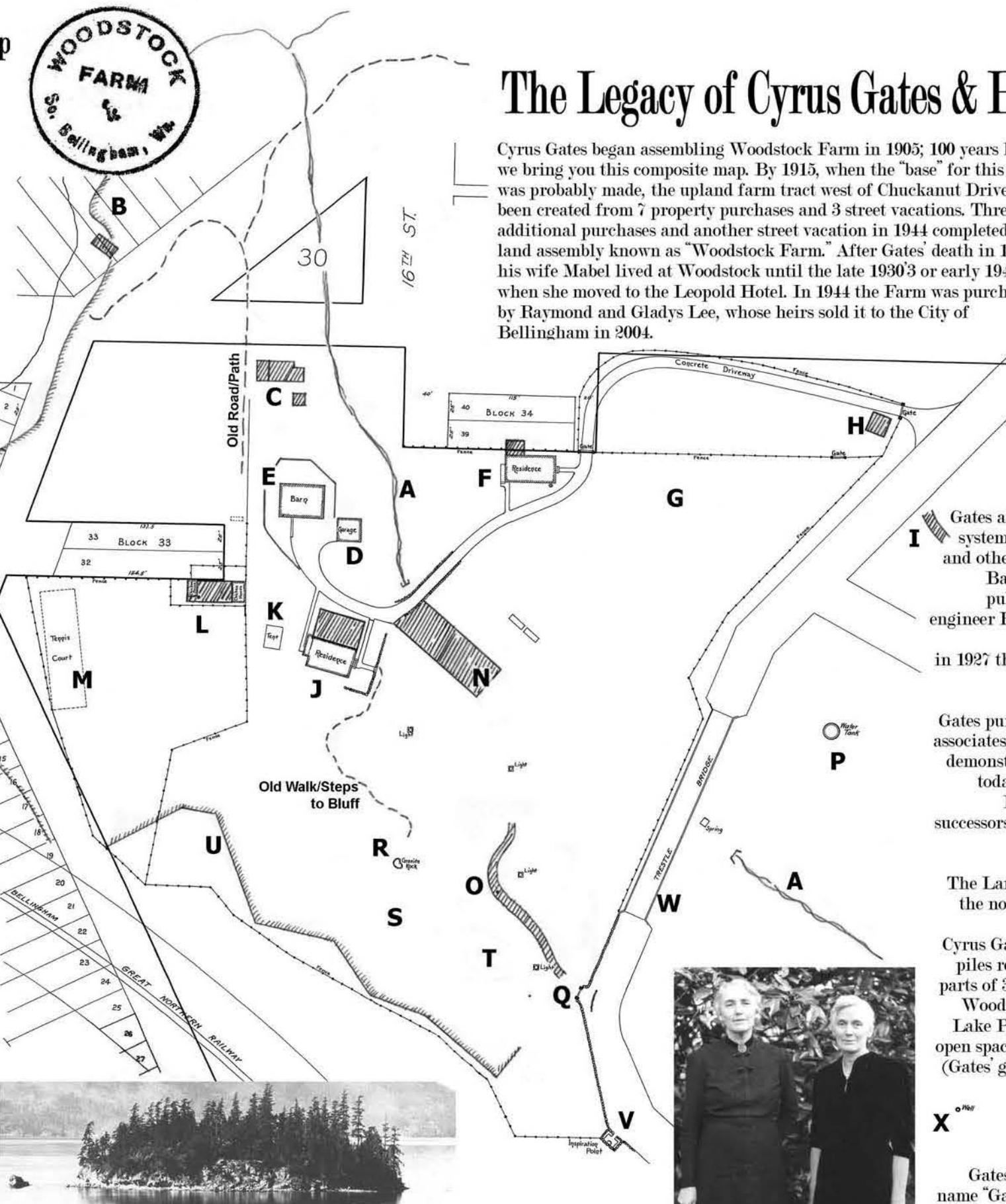
T Old Flag Pole (Only base remaining.)

U Present Bluff Fence

V Inspiration Point Overlook

W Former Bridge Over Creek Ravine

X Well (Pump house to east not shown.)



**Chuckanut Island. Given to the Nature Conservancy
by C.K. Gates in honor of his father, with the name
"Cyrus Gates Memorial."**

The Legacy of Cyrus Gates & His Associates

Cyrus Gates began assembling Woodstock Farm in 1905; 100 years later we bring you this composite map. By 1915, when the "base" for this map was probably made, the upland farm tract west of Chuckanut Drive had been created from 7 property purchases and 3 street vacations. Three additional purchases and another street vacation in 1944 completed the land assembly known as "Woodstock Farm." After Gates' death in 1927 his wife Mabel lived at Woodstock until the late 1930's or early 1940's, when she moved to the Leopold Hotel. In 1944 the Farm was purchased by Raymond and Gladys Lee, whose heirs sold it to the City of Bellingham in 2004.

The name "Woodstock Farm" reflects Mr. Gates' identification with Woodstock, Vermont (near his first home in Rutland, Vermont) and probably the work of two prominent Woodstock estate owners and conservationists who were well known in Vermont and throughout the US, George Perkins Marsh and Frederick Billings. At the time this base map was made Percy Livesey, active Parks Commission member, banker, realtor and friend of Gates owned the blocks shown with individual lots along the shore. These and the other individually shown lots were acquired by Gates soon after the map was made.

Cyrus Gates came to Fairhaven at the request of C.X. Larrabee in 1890 to attend to the Larrabee interests in Whatcom County and Montana. Larrabee resided in Portland, Oregon. The city directory termed Gates a "capitalist." The record shows that he and the Larrabee associates had many types of capital in mind, that they firmly believed in public ownership and public process and that they lead in the creation of public parks and infrastructure after the US and State sold most of the land to private interests.

His brother-in-law, civil engineer Bert Huntoon, also left us the old roadway up home Hill, the scenic upper part of the Mt. Baker Highway. Although he failed to convince Congress that a National Park should be established at Mt. Baker, Gates provided 160 acres (now part of the Mt. Baker National Forest) to the company held Mt. Baker Lodge company to create the lodge and its leasehold. Civil engineer Huntoon was also a prominent local photographer, facility manager and tourism booster and he served as County Engineer. With the death of Gates, all the oldless Huntoon's photograph labels refer to "our home on Chuckanut Bay," the residence of his sister and niece.

Gates purchased most of the property for today's Bellis Fair Mall and, with his Larrabee associates, donated the property to the State of Washington expressly for state and federal demonstration and research involving bulb and field crops. Ironically this effort lead to today's world-scale bulb industry in Skagit County near the south end of Chuckanut Drive. Regrettably for many, the State did not choose to work with the heirs and successors of the Agricultural Station donors to convert it into a major north Bellingham park or research arboretum.

The Larrabee associates also donated land for the Fairhaven Public Library and left us the northerly part of the Interurban Trail between Lake Samish Road and 10th Street.

Cyrus Gates died at Woodstock in January of 1927 at age 68. His carefully saved boulder piles remain on the edge of the Inspiration Bluff. Curiously, Gates and his wife owned parts of 3 other important community open spaces at the time of his death, in addition to Woodstock. These remnants of a much larger real estate portfolio include a portion of Lake Padden Park, Chuckanut Island, and a considerable portion of Interurban Basin open space reserve, not to mention part of the "100-Acre Woods" or Fairhaven Highlands. (Gates' good friend and co-Woodstock owner prior to 1917 was also head of the financial lending institution that evolved into today's Horizon Bank.)



**Mabel Huntoon Gates & Sister
Grace Huntoon Sheerer, 1930'**



Gates strenuously avoided publicity, insisting that the Parks Commission rescind the name "Gates Park" given to one of his donated sites. He and fellow Woodstock owner and parks creator Percy Livesey are not to be found in the subscription volume of Lottie Roth's *History of Whatcom County*; their forgiveness is respectfully requested. TTW