

Welcome to Vashon Island

As a part-time Vashon resident, it is my pleasure to welcome you to Vashon Island and the Tacoma AGO Organ Crawl. This place is a unique, rural place nestled amid the urban centers of Seattle, Tacoma, and Bremerton. More about the island below.

Agenda

Today's crawl will visit three small organs – all of the pipe organs on the island – in their very individual church homes. We are starting at the Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit and its 1896 Felgemaker. From here will we go to Vashon Presbyterian Church and its restored 1902 Estey. Next will be Vashon Lutheran Church and its 1947 Moller Artiste. We will end back in town for lunch on your own at one of several eateries listed below.

Driving directions

Holy Spirit Episcopal to Vashon Presbyterian:

From Holy Spirit, turn left (south) onto Vashon Highway, proceed 1.4 miles into town. After the 4-way stop, go another block south and turn left just before Vashon Presbyterian, and park in the gravel area ahead to the east.

Vashon Presbyterian to Vashon Lutheran:

From Vashon Presbyterian, go west back to Vashon Highway and turn left (south), proceed 0.6 miles, turning right at the Vashon Lutheran driveway on the right. Park along the driveway (except in the fire lane near the building), or in the lot to the left of the building.

Vashon Lutheran to Vashon town:

From Vashon Lutheran, turn left (north) onto Vashon Highway, proceed back the same 0.6 miles into town. Parking is available in the same area at the Presbyterian Church and along the streets. Please respect the customer parking areas marked for the Vashon Thriftway, Green Ginger and Vashon Pharmacy (unless you are shopping/eating there).

Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit

The Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit was founded in 1912. The current building dates from the early 1960's. The organ was built by A.B. Felgemaker for Westwood Baptist Church of Cincinnati, on the Felgemaker list as #629 although many parts are marked 630. It was obtained through the Organ Clearing House in 1982 and was installed by Randy McCarty. Today it is under the care of Tim Drewes.

Vashon Presbyterian Church

Vashon Presbyterian Church had its formal beginning on November 22nd, 1904. The sanctuary was dedicated on June 30th, 1909. The East Room and kitchen, which is now the side entryway and nursery, were added in 1945. The basement was excavated by hand in the 1950s and was used for classrooms. It is now used by The Creative Preschool. In December 2000 the large addition of a Fellowship Hall, kitchen, classrooms, and office was dedicated. The Shepherd window in the sanctuary was donated by the Beall family who had a large rose nursery on the island a century ago.

The organ is Estey's Opus 23 from 1902. According to the OHS database, the organ was originally built for W. H. Hart who owned some kind of store in Philadelphia. It was acquired before 1915 by Portland, Oregon resident Asa Lovejoy, allegedly shipped around the Horn to Portland. In the 1930s it was relocated to a Portland area funeral home, then shifted to another funeral home in Portland after a merger. About 1978 it went to another funeral home in Walla Walla. In 1984 it came to Vashon Presbyterian where it was installed by parishioners. In June 1999 it was restored by Meadway & Stettner and reinstalled in February 2000 by music director Jim Brumbaugh.

The stop action is that invented by Charles Haskell, noting that his son William was the tonal director for the pipe division of Estey. It uses a miniature keyboard with a white key that latches to draw the stop and a corresponding blank key to release it. This is the same as the action on the 1893 C. S. Haskell at Zion Lutheran of Kent. The organ is also under the care of Tim Drewes.

Vashon Lutheran Church

Vashon Lutheran is the result of many Lutheran missions around the island joining together between 1940 and 1947. After meeting for a time in the Methodist church, Vashon Lutheran acquired its first home about 1947, on Bank Road two blocks west of town. The building is now the Heritage Museum. The present building dates from 1963. The M.P. Moller Artiste organ was originally at Anacortes Lutheran. When that congregation built their new home in 1966, the organ was moved but in 1969 the organ came to Vashon and was installed by members of the congregation. The years have taken their toll, and the organ is awaiting funding for long-neglected maintenance.

Lunch Options

- The Hardware Store: An espresso bar & art gallery are part of this New American eatery housed in a landmark building. Relatively upscale, comfort food, bar. At Vashon Highway and Bank Road.
- Red Bicycle Bistro & Sushi: Eclectic American, burgers, sandwiches, soups, salads, and sushi. On Vashon Highway ½ block south of Bank Road.
- Sporty's: Bar and grill with typical bar and grill fare. On Vashon Highway 2 doors south of Bank Road.
- Zombies: Do not be alarmed at the zombie décor, the building once housed a Dairy Queen, but today's burgers and sandwiches are great. On Vashon Highway 1 block south of Bank Road.
- Perry's Burgers: Just great burgers and shakes. On Vashon Highway across from the Vashon Theater.
- Casa Bonita: As the name implies, Mexican. One block west of Vashon Highway.
- Green Ginger: Standard Asian cuisine. On Bank Road just east of Vashon Highway
- Vashon Thriftway: The deli has sandwiches and soups to go, no seating. On Bank Road just east of Vashon Highway.
- Subway: Farther down the street, standard franchise, the only chain on the island. On Vashon Highway 2 block north of Bank Road.
- Gravy, Bramble House, May's Kitchen: These only serve dinner, they are listed in case you want to stay on the island, reservations suggested.

Vashon Overview

Vashon Island, including Maury Island, is home to about 11,000 residents. It is in King County and unincorporated. Its land area is about 37 square miles. North-south it is almost 14 miles by road of which little is straight, and east-west it is about 9 miles by road from Point Robinson across to the Colvos Passage side, of which none is straight.

There are no bridges to the island, access is primarily by Washington State ferry from Fauntleroy in West Seattle, Pt. Defiance near Tacoma, and Southworth in Kitsap County. A passenger-only ferry connects to the Colman dock in downtown Seattle on weekdays. There are 2 airstrips (one is private), and a number of places to dock private boats around Quartermaster harbor on the south end of the island.

The commercial center is also called Vashon, around the intersection of Bank Road and Vashon Highway. Smaller communities exist at Burton, Dockton, and Center. Several other communities existed into the early to mid-20th century but have lost their distinct identities.

Vashon Island supports a small agricultural community, mostly selling to island residents and restaurants. K2 skis were made on the island for many years before moving to China, and Seattle's Best Coffee moved its roasting operation off-island after it was acquired by Starbucks. Pacific Research Laboratories is the only significant manufacturing. There is a large community of artists and studios on the island.

The resident population is economically diverse from "starving artists" to upper income residents who commute to Seattle or Tacoma.

The earliest evidence of native American settlement or visitation dates 10,000 to 12,000 years ago. The first settlement by Europeans was about 1800 and grew slowly. The various communities along the shore became stops for the Mosquito fleet. The economy has varied in focus, at different times: there was a large ship-building port at Dockton, lumber was important for a time, and the berry farming was important until World War II.

The Vashon-Maury Heritage Museum is located on Bank Road, just west of Vashon Highway, in the former Lutheran church building.

There are a few notable sites: Point Robinson Lighthouse, the Betty McDonald Farm, the Coffee Roasterie, the bike in the tree. Vashon is home to 3 youth camps: Camp Sealth, Camp Burton, and AYH Ranch. There are 4 wineries, Palouse Winery and Vashon Winery have public tasting rooms, Andrew Wills and Maury Island wineries do not. Dragonshead cidery and Nashi Orchards have public tasting rooms offering cider and perry.

Stop Lists

o A. B. Felgemaker #629 or #630, 1896

Great (unenclosed):	Swell (enclosed):	Pedal:
Open Diapason 8' (façade)	Bourdon 16' (TC)	Bourdon 16'
Melodia 8' (TC)	Violin Diapason 8' (TC)	
Dulciana 8' (TC)	Salcional 8' (TC)	
Unison Bass 8' (to TC)	Stop'd Diapason Treble 8' (TC)	
Principal 4'	Stop'd Diapason Bass 8' (to TC)	
Flute d'Amour 2'	Flute Harmonique 4'	
Bellows Signal	Tremolo	
Couplers:		
Swell to Pedal	Great to Pedal	Swell to Great

o Estey Opus 23, 1902

Great (unenclosed):	Swell (enclosed):	Pedal:
Open Diapason 8'	Stopped Diapason 8'	Bourdon 16'
Dulciana 8'	Salicional 8'	(divided on sides of case)
Violina 4'	Harmonic Flute 4'	
	Tremolo	
Couplers:		
Swell to Pedal (8')	Swell to Great (8')	
Great to Pedal (8')	Swell to Great 8 ^{ves} (4')	

o M. P. Moller, Opus 7659, 1947

Three ranks enclosed:

Gedeckt, 8', extension (73 pipes, electronic 16' extension)

Diapason Conique, 4' (49 pipes)

Salicet 4' (61 notes)

Great:	Swell:	Pedal:
Diapason Conique 8'	Lieblich Gedeckt 8'	Bourdon 16'
Lieblich Gedeckt 8'	Salicional 8'	Lieblich Gedeckt 8'
Salicional 8'	Quintadena 8' (Syn)	Octave Conique 4'
Octave Conique 4'	Flute 4'	Flute 4'
Quint 2 ² / ₃ '	Salicet 4'	Super Octave 2'
Super Octave 2'	Nazard 2 ² / ₃ '	
	Piccolo 2'	
	Oboe 8' (Syn)	
	Tremolo	