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## Building Success 101

*Q: Whom should I call when there's a problem with a kitchen appliance?*

A: Depending on the status and terms of your builder's warranty, you have several options. Even if the warranty has expired, you may still contact your builder to inquire about maintenance, repair, or replacement options. A local appliance store or maintenance company (perhaps even the original seller or installer) may be of service, as might be the appliance manufacturer. Consult your homeowner's manual and appliance user guides for troubleshooting tips.

While Washington real estate has remained strong compared to the national picture, the real estate industry is cyclical, and increases in materials, labor and energy costs will eventually put an end to the current buyer's market. So, take advantage of the market and start looking for the home of your dreams!

## The Landed Gentry Building AKA Old City Hall

If you've recently driven past the Landed Gentry office in Burlington you may have noticed the new paint job. The building's new color scheme of golden oak with black trim and terracotta and ivory details, was chosen to highlight the historical and architectural features that have been preserved. Look closely and you'll notice period doors and window casements (many with the original plate glass), the tile roof line with decorative corbels, and the original stucco finish. A large crest with "B" insignia surrounded by clusters of fruit adorns the facade, artfully placed beneath the arched window pediment above French doors opening on to the wrought-iron balcony.

The building served as Burlington's City Hall from 1925 until 1978, and replaced the original wood municipal building. Construction was completed in November 1925 at a total cost of \$17,500. The design reflects an eclectic blend of architectural styles of the day, including Arts & Crafts, Mediterranean and Art Deco details. The building was configured as a triangle to fit a small parcel carved out of City property adjacent to a spur of the Great Northern Railway. The second floor housed the city clerk's office, city council chamber and a community assembly hall complete with 241 "opera seats." The first floor was divided into three retail spaces, the original tenants being Garlick's Drug Store, Witham's Shoe Shop, and The Radio Shop, whose proprietor, Mr. E.F. Pease, offered public demonstrations and radio concerts from his "commodious show room."

Burlington municipal offices were relocated to a new building in 1978, and in 1981 the Gentry family purchased the old building, which had sat empty and fallen into disrepair. Restoration has been an ongoing labor of love. While the interior has undergone several remodeling projects to accommodate office space needs, the work has been done with respect for the building's architecture and history. Many of the original features remain in place, including brass fixtures and hardware, millwork and trim, even an antique, walk-in safe.

The headline of the Oct. 30, 1925 issue of *The Burlington Journal* read "Burlington's New Council Chamber Almost Completed." Praising the work of Seattle architects Morrison & Stimpson and general contractor Harry Griffin of Sedro Woolley, the newspaper proclaimed, "Burlington has a public edifice to which it may point with pardonable pride." Landed Gentry continues to take pride in the stately, historical building.

For a more detailed history of the Old City Hall building, please visit our website at [www.LandedGentry.com](http://www.LandedGentry.com).



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Warm regards,

*Brian*

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