

A VERY BASIC HISTORY OF LEGISLATION AFFECTING SURVEYORS

1785: The Land Ordinance of 1785 and the Northwest Ordinance of **1787** provided for the survey and settlement of the original 13 Colonies ceded to the Federal Government after the War of Independence. As additional lands were acquired from France, Spain and other countries, Congress directed that they be explored, surveyed, and made available for settlement.

1796: The office of U.S. Surveyor General was created to survey lands as the nation expanded westward.

1812: The General (**not Government**) Land Office was established by Congress to inventory, survey and oversee the disposition of Federal lands.

1836: The office of U.S. Surveyor General was placed under the jurisdiction of the General Land Office (GLO).

1849: The GLO was moved under the Department of Interior.

1872: The Homesteading Laws and Mining Law of 1872 enacted.

1925: The office of Surveyor General was closed while surveying responsibilities remained with the GLO.

1935: Washington statutes provide for the separate registration of Professional Engineers and Professional Land Surveyors.

1946: The GLO was abolished, and surveying duties transferred to The Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

1951: The Washington State Public Land Survey Office (PLSO) was established to maintain a repository of statewide land surveying records.

1957: The state Legislature created the Department of Natural Resources to bring together seven boards and agencies responsible for protecting public natural resources and managing the state trust lands.

1971: Shoreline Management Act provides for management and preservation of shorelines by adopting, implementing and enforcing a comprehensive planning and permit process.

1973: The Survey Recording Act of 1973 (RCW 58.09) becomes law whereby Land Surveyors must record the findings or their surveys with the respective counties in which they took place, the counties being charged with recording said land survey documents.