

UPDATE

Linking Spokane's Past & Future



SEPTEMBER 2007 ∞ VOLUME 10 ∞ ISSUE 3

The Historic Elmendorf House

by Linda Yeomans

Listed in 1995 on the Spokane Register of Historic Places, the Elmendorf House holds both local architectural and historical significance. It was built in 1903-04 for Frederick Elmendorf, one of Spokane's most prominent businessmen and civic leaders. With his brother, Frederick Elmendorf founded Elmendorf & Elmendorf, a financial and business institution which specialized in real estate, rentals, insurance, and mortgage loans. At Frederick Elmendorf's death in 1941, the company had grown and prospered to include a staff of 30, and was celebrated as one of the oldest, largest, and most successful businesses of its kind in Spokane and in the Pacific Northwest. In addition to his business contributions, Frederick Elmendorf was responsible for his role as "the original incorporator" of the Spokane Chamber of Commerce, an early booster and campaigner of the construction of Grand Coulee Dam, and was a director and president of the YMCA.

In 1904, Frederick Elmendorf, and his wife, Margaret, purchased the property at 241 East 9th Avenue for \$970—a large sum of money in 1904 when a loaf of bread cost about two cents. The house was designed by celebrated Spokane architect, W. W. Hyslop, who also designed the house next door east and the brown-colored chalet-style house two doors west. A reflection of emerging styles and trends in domestic architecture in the early 1900s, the Elmendorf House reflects an eclectic mix of architectural traditions and influences. The exterior of the house is a fine example of the Dutch Colonial Revival style while the interior is distinctive for its Craftsman-style woodwork, built-ins, fireplace, and open floor plan. Dutch Colonial Revival-style elements include the home's style-defining front-facing barn-like gambrel roof, cornice returns, wood

clapboard siding, recessed covered porches, and original double-hung wood-sash windows. Unusual exterior details include a unique triangular-shaped bay window and small horizontal windows at the façade (horizontal windows were not popular until the advent of the California Ranch style in the 1950s and 1960s). Interior Craftsman-style appointments include a fireplace with an irregular basalt rock surround and a red & black matte-finish ceramic tiled hearth, and fine original ebony-finished vertical-grain fir woodwork and built-ins. Notice the home's five-paneled wood doors, sliding pocket doors, boxed ceiling beams, reception hall inglenook, tulip-shaped cut-out stairway balusters, living room bookcases, dining room china cupboard/serving buffet, and original butler's pantry. The house is roomy with four bedrooms, a large knotty cedar-lined attic apartment, and a full basement which all helped house subsequent homeowners with families of 10 and 14. The house is built into a north-facing hillside, and a unique feature abuts the property to the east. A steep flight of concrete steps was installed during the early 1900s-1920s for children who climbed the hillside up to Sacred Heart Catholic School (originally located across the street on the south side of East 9th Avenue).

The current owner, Joan Butler, began restoring the home in the 1990s, won an award in 1996 for "promoting historic preservation through renovation of the Elmendorf House," and was featured in local newspapers. The Elmendorf House is furnished with antiques and an outstand-

ing collection of ethnic folk art obtained by Joan from her travels around the world. Of special note is a youth bed and drop-leaf desk in the southwest second-floor bedroom. A Victorian-period piece, the bed was made in the 1890s for small children and youth, and is constructed of honey-colored ash and black walnut. The drop-leaf desk and matching chair are exemplary models of Craftsman-style "Mission oak" furniture akin to pieces produced by Gustav Stickley and the East coast-centered Roycroft society in the early 1900s. A garden-lover, Joan landscaped the grounds with a variety of evergreen and deciduous trees, basalt rock garden terraces, and perennial and annual flower beds. The Elmendorf House remains a showplace among homes located along East 9th Avenue and was the first property on the block to be designated a Spokane historic landmark.



September Quarterly Meeting

Tuesday, Sept. 18th 5:30 p.m.

241 East 9th Avenue, Turn east off of Cowley St. (9th and Cowley are just east of Sacred Heart Hospital, Cowley turns into Rockwood Blvd. further up the hill)

You won't want to miss our September meeting at the historic Dutch Colonial Revival style, 1903 Elmendorf House. Park & walk up the shared drive to the west of the house. Please feel free to bring guests and also something to share for our potluck of finger-food appetizers, desserts and/or wines. Non-alcoholic beverages provided. A self-guided tour of the multi-floored home will follow.



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear SPA Members,

Spokane Preservation Advocates has every reason to be proud of what we are accomplishing in our community!

The latest example was our role in organizing the Moore-Turner Diamond Celebration to commemorate the reopening of these historic gardens on August 15th. It was a memorable evening. Following a public ribbon cutting ceremony, guests enjoyed delicious food, wonderful music, good company and a tour of the gardens. Once lost and forgotten, the century-old gardens were rediscovered, restored and are now listed on the National Register of Historic Places. This would not have been possible had it not been for the generosity of Myrtle Woldson. As a small token of our appreciation for what Miss Woldson has done for our community, Spokane Preservation Advocates is giving her a lifetime membership in our organization. Of course, we also owe a big thanks to the many volunteers whose tireless work made this event a success! Our hats are off to the Moore-Turner and Events Committees, our docents, parking attendants, kitchen staff, doormen, booth attendants, decorators and other volunteers. We could not have done it without you! We also owe a debt of gratitude to A.M. Landshaper, Inc. and Richard Hartlage, who helped sponsor the event. If you didn't have an opportunity to attend the celebration, I encourage you to visit these historic gardens.

Recently, several SPA Board members met with Chris Moore, field director for the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation (WTHP), and two local Trust Board members. We discussed ways SPA, the WTHP and other preservation groups could work together to further the cause of historic preservation. We envision statewide meetings or conferences where preservation groups would come together

to share information, ideas and collaborate with one another. We agreed to form a study group to explore this concept and make recommendations.

SPA's mission includes preserving the character of Spokane's historic neighborhoods. Mature street trees are often a prominent feature of our historic neighborhoods. The canopies they form add beauty to our lives and improve the quality of our neighborhoods. As Spokane's street trees have matured they are becoming increasingly threatened. Since trees are such an important part of historic neighborhoods, the Board believes our organization should be involved in helping to determine their future. To meet this challenge, an Ad Hoc Tree Committee was formed. The tree committee will be studying the issue, presenting its recommendations to the Board of Directors, and will be active in carrying out SPA directives regarding trees. If you have an interest in joining our Ad Hoc Tree Committee, please contact Susan Traver, committee chair, or any of our Board members.

Spokane can't afford to take its historic assets for granted! Everyone who appreciates historic neighborhoods and historic buildings must be diligent in working to retain their historical integrity and shaping public policy. We need to help educate the public and our government officials about the benefits of preservation, such as heritage tourism, a rapidly growing industry. Preservation is also economically viable, as some entrepreneurs have already discovered.

I hope to see you at our quarterly membership meeting!

Vern Arneson - SPA President

	PAINTER PRESERVATION & PLANNING	Preparing national and local register nominations, historic surveys and evaluations, and historic structure reports in Washington, Oregon and California.
Diana J. Painter PhD AICP Architectural Historian & Urban Designer 707.658.0184 diana@preservationplans.com		
<i>"Author of Nettleton's Additional National Register District and Dutton Residence Spokane Register Nomination"</i>		

The Historic Huetter House

by Joanne Moyer

The John T. Huetter house, now the Bishop White Seminary, sits at 429 East Sharp, within the Gonzaga campus. A new seminary will be built this next year at the present address. The Huetter home was built around the turn of the century near the site of the second Gonzaga College. Designed by Zittel and Preusse, it was built in the Georgian Revival style. It has a vertical alignment of wraparound brick with white quoins broken by a wraparound porch and a decorated cornice of a high-hipped, cross-gabled roof. It was the home of the Huetter family for many years.

John Huetter owned the Huetter Construction Company and was a builder of many large business and education buildings in our area. These included the



old Cheney Normal School, St. Joseph's Orphanage, Jones and Dillingham Block, and the Hieber-Henco Brewery (now demolished).

Huetter's significance to Gonzaga's history cannot be overlooked. In July 1897, Huetter, and his men, using teams of horses struggled with boulders and gravel to dig the basement of the new Gonzaga College. When finished, the hole was said to be large enough to hold all of Spokane's 30,000 people provided they were not in coffins. During this same time large blocks of granite were being moved from Granite Lake to build the foundation for the building which stands today as the present Administration Building. Huetter met with an early death following a fall suffered while inspecting a building. His sons continued the family legacy. One son designed the Gonzaga football stadium which was located where the quadrangle and library now stand.

The Campus history is interesting. In May 1900, the original Gonzaga College building was moved to the present



campus site from the area behind what is now the Knights of Columbus Hall. It was raised on logs and first pushed toward the campus. This proved to be too great an effort; new equipment was secured from the coast and the building was then pulled to the planned relocation site. It was set upon a foundation located between the new college and the original St. Aloysius Church. It later burned and was demolished.

The Huetter House can be moved, restored, and given new life. Many possibilities exist for the flagship of the Logan neighborhood.

Washington Heritage Barn Register

The Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation (DAHP) is now accepting nominations for the newly established Washington Heritage Barn Register. The Register will commemorate listed barns as historically significant resources representing the agricultural, economic and cultural development of Washington. To be eligible for listing in the Heritage Barn Register, barns must be over 50 years old and retain a significant degree of historic integrity. Owners interested in seeking designation for their historic barns are asked to complete a nomination form and provide basic information about the property. Nomination forms can be downloaded from DAHP's www.dahp.wa.gov/pages/HistoricSites/HeritageBarnRegister.htm to request a hard copy of the nomination through the mail, please contact Chris Moore at (206) 624-9449. Heritage Barn nominations received by October 1, 2007 will be considered for designation in early November 2007. Owners of designated Heritage Barns will be eligible to apply in late fall of 2007 for matching grants aimed at barn stabilization and rehabilitation.

Provided by the Washington State Historical Society and Museum.

YOUR FEEDBACK WELCOME

THE SPA UPDATE NEWSLETTER MAKES EVERY EFFORT TO INSURE THE BASIC ACCURACY OF THE INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN. PLEASE CONTACT US PROMPTLY WITH ANY CORRECTIONS OR COMMENTS.

WE ENCOURAGE YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS. CONTACT COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR MARY ANNE BROWN AT 838-4786 WITH STORY IDEAS OR CONCERNS.



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The “Right Trees” In The Right Place

by Gary Lauerman, ALA

In 1908, following the recommendations of the Olmsted Brothers of Brookline, MA, Spokane undertook a major street beautification effort. Eighty thousand trees were purchased and planted in strips and medians throughout the city. Now nearly 100 years old, many of these trees are nearing the end of their natural lives. It’s time for Spokane to undertake major initiatives to address the long-term health and maintenance of street trees throughout the city. In addition to well-known environmental benefits like energy conservation, wildlife habitat, soil stabilization and stormwater retention, rows of regularly placed canopy trees create spatially unified streets. Bungalows, Four Squares, Tudors, Colonials and 60’s Ranchers are all linked and connected to each other and their surrounding neighborhoods by these beautiful outdoor corridors. The trees calm traffic and make sidewalks feel safer. According to the USDA Forest Service, mature trees add an average of 10% to a property’s value. They may even extend the life of street asphalt by reducing temperatures on hot days.

“The Right Tree In The Right Space” is a mantra of most urban foresters, arborists, and tree advocates. These professionals are committed to the health of trees and concerned also about protecting sidewalks and curbs from invasive roots. Consequently, tree ordinances recommend** small trees in narrow planting strips, medium height trees in medium width strips, and large trees only in wide strips. **In the future, the majestic Sycamores and Norway Maples common our neighborhoods won’t be allowed along most residential Spokane streets.** Unfortunately, the crowns of small trees don’t grow high enough to avoid traffic, parked cars, and pedestrians. Such plantings are really “Poke-You-In-The-Eye-Bushes”, not street trees. Nor are the large replacement trees planted in rows 15’ away from curbs “street trees”; they have



Sycamores in a typical narrow planting strip. Is there a problem here?

“SPOKANE PRESERVATION ADVOCATES IS DEDICATED TO PRESERVING SPOKANE’S HISTORIC BUILDINGS, NEIGHBORHOODS, LANDSCAPES AND CHARACTER.”

(excerpt from SPA’s mission statement)

nothing to do with streets.

Special consideration needs to be given for historic neighborhoods. According to Spokane’s Municipal Code Section 17C.200.050,B,7 : *“If a street has a uniform planting of street trees or a distinctive species within the right-of-way, then new street trees should match the planting pattern and species.”* This contradicts the city’s planting guidelines, which need to be revised for historic

neighborhoods. We also need to pay more attention to zoning code section 12.02.916 which calls for the Protection of Public and Private Historic and Heritage Trees.

Not all homeowners *want* trees in their planting medians, for a variety of reasons (leaves, sidewalk cracks, ect.) And that’s okay. However, potential problems caused by street trees must not be used to diminish their *considerable* benefits. And we cannot allow all important urban design decisions to be made by road engineers, utility company attorneys, and the bureaucrats who select the monstrous, over-sized garbage trucks tearing up our streets. “Efficiency” is fine, however, quality of life matters, too.

If we don’t begin to seriously address the problems facing our street trees, future generations will find Spokane’s historic neighborhoods barren places with diminished value. We need to take action now.

****In places like Seattle and Boston, the city arborist merely recommends appropriate trees to homeowners. The choice of tree planted is ultimately up to the property owner.**



Cathedral-like space in the Historic Cannon Hill Neighborhood.

Spokane's Trees: Our Living Heritage

WORTH OUR ADVOCACY, WORTH PRESERVING AND RENEWING, SPA AD HOC TREE COMMITTEE

By Ad Hoc Tree Committee

Spokane is at a critical crossroad in tree preservation. Controversy surrounding the Bernard Street repaving project, severe pruning practices under power lines on Grand Blvd., and insensitive, asymmetrical tree pruning in the Corbin Park Historic District, merely to accommodate new garbage trucks, have concerned many SPA members. Too often Spokane's beautiful trees are given last consideration during the infrastructure funding, design and development process. Many believe we must step forward and advocate more forcefully for Spokane's urban trees, which are integral to the character of our historic neighborhoods. An Ad Hoc Tree Committee is making recommendations to SPA's Board of Directors. We welcome the input of all our membership in formulating Spokane Preservation Advocates urban tree policy.

WHAT CAN SPA DO FOR TREE PRESERVATION?

SPA's Ad Hoc committee will make a set of specific recommendations for historic neighborhoods; solicit community support; advocate for enforcement and funding of existing ordinances; fight for more city budget dollars;

and if necessary, advocate for new ordinances. SPA's board may choose to allocate funds for the purchase of trees and mobilize its 'Doing-It' volunteers to help plant them, in partnership with the Spokane Parks & Recreation Department and other organizations.

In 2004 Spokane was selected as a Tree City USA. This designation is given to forward thinking, tree-loving cities with healthy urban forests that reflect community pride. To qualify as a Tree City USA, a town or city must meet four basic standards established by the National Arbor Day Foundation and the National Association of State Foresters. Cities must reapply for the designation periodically and the City Of Spokane will again be required to meet certain funding minimums for its currently under-funded urban forestry program. **The reapplication process itself may set a new tone for community support of Spokane's urban forest.** During the reapplication process we will propose the following advocacy positions:

SPA SUPPORTS THE URBAN FORESTRY TREE COMMITTEE AND THE FORMATION OF A CITIZENS

ADVISORY COMMITTEE FULLY EMPOWERED PER SPOKANE MUNICIPAL CODE TITLE 4, CHAPTER 04.28, SECTIONS 04.28.60 AND 04.28.050.

SPA SUPPORTS FUNDING AND ENFORCEMENT OF EXISTING TREE PRESERVATION

"TO PRESERVE THE SENSE OF PLACE WE CALL HOME, WE MUST PLAN FOR THE COMMUNITY FORESTS OF THE FUTURE."

Phillip Rodbell, USFS

ORDINANCES AND THE URBAN FOREST PORTION OF THE SPOKANE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN.

SPA SUPPORTS THE MATRIX REPORT'S CONCLUSION THAT "THE CITY MUST FUND A VIGOROUS, FULLY FUND AN URBAN FORESTRY MAINTENANCE PROGRAM (E.G. STREET TREE PROGRAM) OR RISK LOSING A VALUABLE COMMUNITY ASSET IN THE LONG TERM."



(Above) A serene, golden tunnel on a fall day in Spokane's Bronne's Addition. The Finch Mansion is seen in the distance.

(Right) Sun-dappled sidewalks on Summer Ave. Care must be taken to avoid root damage to mature trees when the sidewalk was repaired.

"LOCAL PRESERVATIONISTS HAVE COME TO REALIZE THAT THE BEAUTY OF OUR OLD ESTABLISHED NEIGHBORHOODS- INDEED OUR CULTURAL HERITAGE-IS NOT INVESTED SOLELY IN BUILDINGS AND RUSTIC STONE WALLS BUT INCLUDES THE SURROUNDING LANDSCAPE AND ESPECIALLY THE OLD TREES."

Phillip Rodbell, USFS

SPA SUPPORTS COMPLETION OF A CITY-WIDE TREE INVENTORY TO CATALOG VALUABLE HISTORIC/HERITAGE TREES.

These four, specific advocacy positions for SPA are proactive, achievable and very worth pursuing as a preservation organization. Would you like to help with this new SPA Advocacy Issue? If so, please contact Susan Traver at 624-6555 or smtraver@yahoo.com.



Thank You New & Renewing Members!

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* If you sent your renewal after August 15th please excuse our omission.



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Moore-Turner Garden Diamond Celebration

In conjunction with the Spokane Parks Department, SPA was honored to have been part of the grand reopening of the Moore-Turner Heritage Garden. On August 15th, 2007 the opening celebration was attended by more than 150 guests, and over 40 volunteers helped present the event. A ribbon cutting ceremony at the gates to the gardens officially kicked off the celebration. Guests then were treated to a guided tour of the gardens and refreshments at the Corbin Art Center. The historic landscape and structures have been rehabilitated and restored, relying on original photographs for accuracy. Thanks to extensive scrapbooks created by former garden owner, Bertha Turner, the gardens were accurately documented. The original gardens were part of an 1889 mansion designed by architect Kirtland Cutter. The house was torn down in 1940 and the gardens slowly fell to ruin. Work began in 2005 to stabilize a pair of stone staircases leading to major garden and landscape features. Plantings were obtained from specialty nurseries throughout the U.S.A. with many species of plants common to early gardens. Original lilacs have survived and are now flourishing. The reflecting pool and pond are restored and other features include a tea house, pergola, rose garden with heritage roses, rose arbor, basalt staircases, rock walls and a carriage road and trails.

The gardens are open to the public Saturdays and Sundays through September 2007 from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



Wanted

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIR – ORGANIZE AND FACILITATE MONTHLY COMMITTEE MEETINGS; IMPLEMENT THE EDITING, PRINTING, AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER; HELP FACILITATE SPA BOOTH EVENTS FOUR TIMES A YEAR AND, AS A COMMITTEE CHAIR YOU WILL BECOME A BOARD MEMBER. IF INTERESTED, PLEASE CONTACT VERN ARNESON AT 747-1032 OR ARNESOV@EMPIREHEALTH.ORG.

News from the Board...

A LOT OF GOOD CHANGES HAVE BEEN TAKING PLACE FOR SPOKANE PRESERVATION ADVOCATES; OUR NEW COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIR, MARY ANNE BROWN, HAS BEEN SELECTED AS AN INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR TO PROVIDE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES TO SPA AND WILL NOW BE HANDLING THE SPA MEMBERSHIP DATABASE AND DAY-TO-DAY ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES. IT IS A GOOD NEWS/BAD NEWS SCENARIO BECAUSE WITH THIS ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGE, MARY ANNE WILL HAVE TO PASS CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE TO SOMEONE ELSE. IF INTERESTED, PLEASE CONTACT VERN ARNESON AT 747-1032 OR ARNESOV@EMPIREHEALTH.ORG.



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SPA WOULD LIKE TO BEGIN DISTRIBUTING OUR NEWSLETTER VIA EMAIL IN AN EFFORT TO PRESERVE TREES AND POSTAGE! IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE PART OF OUR EFFORT AND RECEIVE YOUR NEWSLETTER ON-LINE, PLEASE SEND YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS TO MARY ANNE BROWN, CHAIR, COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE AT BOBNMA@COMCAST.NET AND WE WILL GET THIS PROJECT LAUNCHED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THANK YOU!