

Spokane Register of Historic Places Nomination

*Spokane City/County Historic Preservation Office, City Hall, Sixth Floor
808 Spokane Falls Boulevard, Spokane, Washington 99201-3337*

1. Name of Property

Historic Name **ABERCROMBIE HOUSE**

2. Location

Street & Number 1203 S. Cedar
 City, State, Zip Code Spokane, WA 99204
 Parcel Number 35193.2405

3. Classification

Category of Property	Ownership of Property	Status of Property	Present Use of Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _building	<input type="checkbox"/> _public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> _agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> _museum
<input type="checkbox"/> _site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _private	<input type="checkbox"/> _work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> _commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> _park
<input type="checkbox"/> _structure	<input type="checkbox"/> _both		<input type="checkbox"/> _educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _residential
<input type="checkbox"/> _object	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> _entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> _religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> _in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _yes, restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> _government	<input type="checkbox"/> _scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> _being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> _yes, unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> _industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> _transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> _no	<input type="checkbox"/> _military	<input type="checkbox"/> _other

4. Owner of Property

Name Mark Mustoe
 City, State, Zip Code Spokane, WA 99204
 Telephone Number/E-mail 509-747-3849

5. Location of Legal Description

Courthouse, Registry of Deeds Spokane County Courthouse
 Street Number 1116 West Broadway
 City, State, Zip Code Spokane, WA 99260
 County Spokane

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Title City of Spokane Historic Landmarks Survey
 Date Federal__ State__ County__ Local ____
 Depository for Survey Records Spokane Historic Preservation Office

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair
 deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check One

unaltered
 altered

Check One

original site
 moved & date _____

Narrative description of present and original physical appearance is found on one or more continuation sheets.

8. Spokane Register Criteria and Statement of Significance

Applicable Spokane Register of Historic Places Criteria--mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for Spokane Register listing:

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of Spokane history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory history.

Narrative statement of significance is found on one or more continuation sheets.

9. Major Bibliographical References

County records Metroscan property records
City-County Office of Historic Preservation Historic Property Inventory Form: Historic Cannon's Addition History of the Inland Northwest
A Case Study in Civilian-Military Relations
Spokesman Review and Chronicle

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre.
Verbal Boundary Description North 70 Feet of Lots 5 and 6, Block 12, Booges Addition: as per plats, page 164, records of Spokane County, situated in Spokane County, Spokane, WA.

11. Form Prepared By

Name and Title Mark Musto
Telephone Number/E-mail 509-747-3949
Street and Number 1203 S. Cedar
City, State, Zip Code Spokane, WA 99204
Date September 4, 2001

12. Additional Documentation

Map
Photographs and Slides

13. Signature of Owner(s)

Mark Murtz

14. For Official Use Only:

Date Received: _____ Attest: Leri Pfister

Date Heard: 11/26/01 City Clerk

Commission Decision: _____ Approved
as to Form: B. Band

Council/Board Action: Approved Assistant City Attorney

Date: 11/26/01

We hereby certify that this property has been listed in the Spokane Register of Historic Places.

[Signature]
MAYOR, City of Spokane
City Administrator

CHAIR, Spokane County Commissioners

CHAIR, Spokane City/County Historic Landmarks Commission

Jessa L. Brown
OFFICER, City/County Historic Preservation Officer
City/County Historic Preservation Office
Sixth Floor - City Hall, Spokane, WA 99201

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The Abercrombie House is a 1 ½ story structure on a basalt foundation with a front facing gable roof. Built in c. 1906, the house is a well-preserved example of the Craftsman style. The building's footprint measures 42 feet by 50 feet. Surrounded by a lawn and stone wall, the house, sits up on an elevated corner facing west on the intersection of 12th and Cedar on lower South Hill in the Cliff-Cannon Neighborhood.

Exterior

The basalt foundation features five arches at ground level, two for basement windows to the west of the home and three which open to the underside of the wrap around porch to the north. It has approximately 4,000 feet of floor area in a rectangular shaped floor plan, with 1282 square feet on the main floor. A basement garage was added in the 1920s and the matching siding is used for the swinging open doors.

The house is clad with horizontal fir siding on the first floor. The second story is enhanced with stucco cladding. A small portion of the south side facing second story stucco has at some time been covered with wood siding.

First floor windows are one-over-one, double-hung sash. The second floor windows are double hung, with multi panes above and one pane below. On the first floor there are four leaded glass windows on the front of the home and one on the south side, some of which have been recently repaired. Stained glass windows on the east side of the house are located above the built in hutch. Above the second floor windows on the west and east facades is an intricate leaf work header and a small ledge outcropping is below the west center windows.

Eight square pillars grouped in pairs support the covered front porch. The porch wraps around to the north side of the home. The porch rail on the front is intact and features a 94" balustrade on either side supported by double pillars. The porch balusters are 20" high and feature cut out detailing. A previous owner removed the balustrade on the north side.

The front entry to the house is located on the west wall. The front door is solid fir but is not the original door. A beveled window taken from the original will be placed in the new front door.

There is a sleeping porch on the second story north facade, enclosed by operable windows. Inside the porch the same leaf design is repeated above the bedroom windows.

The east (back) side of the house features a covered back porch that also has a railing and tongue in groove flooring. A six pane rectangular window is located in the gable above.

Corbels support the exposed rafters that are rounded at the ends and have a perfect donut hole cut in the end of each one. There are also circular vents in the west and north facing gables, enclosed by wire mesh.

Interior

The interior of the house remains in substantially intact condition with many excellent examples of fine craftsmanship. An open stairway leads to a landing between the floors and an open landing of nine by eighteen feet. A unique feature is Colonel Abercrombie's original office, located off of the foyer. The office still has the original leather embossed wall covering. Original window and door trim remain, including protective corner roundels. The many original features include original wood work stained fir, box beam ceilings, French doors, maid's stairway, and built in hutch, original butler's pantry, basalt fireplace, and stained glass windows. The most significant alterations are the renovated kitchen and first floor bath.

Exterior Alterations

There have been few exterior alterations to this extremely intact home. A previous owner removed the balustrade on the north side and replaced the front door with a compatible solid panel wood door. The home was repainted in 2000 in compatible Craftsman colors. Also in 2000, the asphalt shingle roof was replaced by a new asphalt shingle roof.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Built in c. 1906 on Spokane's South Hill, the Abercrombie House is historically significant for its association with early military history and the development of Spokane. Arriving in Spokane in the summer of 1877, Colonel William R. Abercrombie was the first U.S. military leader brought to Spokane to make way for American expansion. After being assigned to several different military outposts, Colonel William R. Abercrombie and his wife Lillian Kimball Abercrombie made the Abercrombie House their first permanent Spokane home and lived in it from 1908 until their deaths. Colonel Abercrombie was an active leader in the Indian wars and was named commander of Fort George Wright in 1910. More than any other building in Spokane, the Abercrombie House, Colonel Abercrombie's home from 1908 until his death, represents his influence in Spokane. Builder Aaron Lundquist constructed this well-preserved Craftsman style house.

Early History

The William R. Abercrombie house was a home to a significant pioneer and an important military figure in Spokane History. The story that follows reflects the thoughts and feelings of early settlers at that point of early history in the Inland Northwest Region. It is important to note historically the significance of the events and statements made of that time, and to also realize the changes of thought in today's culture in regard to Native Americans and the role between them and settlers in the formation of the region as we know it today.

The Abercrombie House is located on a lot in Cannon's Addition, an area platted by Spokane pioneer A.M. Cannon and developed as a fashionable area for the city's bankers, attorneys, doctors, and merchants during the turn of the 19th century. Lillian Kimball Abercrombie, William's wife, since their marriage on October 13, 1886, purchased the home in 1910 from builder Aaron Lundquist. It is not known why Lillian purchased the house in her name and that it was not purchased under the name of William. It could have been due to military regulations at the time regarding home ownership. Lillian was the daughter of General A.S. Kimball of the United States Army, under whom Abercrombie had served as Department Quartermaster at Vancouver Barracks, when the General was Chief Quartermaster of the Department of the Columbia. Lillian was a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution. They had two daughters, Frances and Clara.

Colonel William R. Abercrombie, born August 17, 1857 in Baltimore Maryland. General Grant had commissioned him at the age of nineteen as a second lieutenant in the second infantry in March of 1877. In July of that year he came to the Pacific Coast to take part

in the Nez Perce War, as Chief Joseph had won a significant battle at White Bird and escaped. Colonel Abercrombie had gone from Atlanta to San Francisco, thence by boat to Portland and by river steamer to Lewiston Idaho, from which point he marched to Spokane Falls with his troops. On his arrival he met James Glover who had a shack on the banks of the river near the Spokane Falls from which he operated a small store. There were only about three houses in Spokane Falls at that time. With two Warm Springs Indians as guides, Abercrombie had come ahead of the rest of the troops to fish at the Falls. Abercrombie informed him that 700 to 800 more soldiers were coming.

Military History

Abercrombie's regiment stayed in Spokane that summer. Abercrombie helped to facilitate the gathering of several of the prominent chiefs in the area, including Chief Tonasket, Chief Sussopkin, Chief Moses, and finally Chief Garry of the Spokane Tribe. Meeting with the tribes as well as the number of troops calmed the situation, and there is no doubt that the reasons for facilitating these negotiations was to insure the safety and further the expansion of white settlement into the region.

In October the Regiment split and Abercrombie took his part to its station at Fort Colville. Abercrombie was assigned to several Indian wars until 1880 when he was appointed to duty at the mouth of the Spokane River where he acted as Quarter Master and Commissary.

In 1882 he was detailed to take the census of Indians of the Colville and Moses Reservations and in 1883 he made a survey of the Pend D'Orielle River and Pend D'Orielle Lake to the forty-ninth parallel and in 1884 commanded his first expedition to Alaska, locating the Copper River Delta.

He was involved in many Indian campaigns in the region and was in command of other posts. In 1910 he was appointed commander at Fort Wright from which he later retired from active service and made his permanent home in Spokane.

Through the years of service in the region Colonel Abercrombie became well acquainted with the early settlers of Spokane Falls including Glover, James Monaghan, Cowley, Drumheller, Gray Yeston, Post and a host of others. As he said, he "learned to know these men as one only can in days when their worldly possessions were represented by 'a sack of flour and a slab of bacon.' It is in such days when privations are great and hardships are many that the real nature of the individual is seen and in those pioneer times men learned to know each other for what they were really worth in character and ability." It is because of the strong friendships he formed in those early days that Colonel Abercrombie returned to Spokane in 1908 to make his home.

Spokane Activities

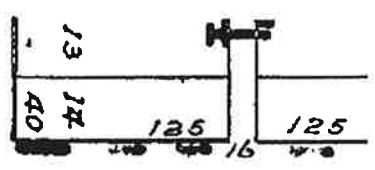
While in Spokane, Colonel Abercrombie's interests were varied and he belonged to many groups. He was a charter member of the Explorers Club of New York, a member of the National Geographic Society, Artic Brotherhood of Alaska, the Spokane Club, the Spokane Country Club, and the Officers Club at Fort Wright.

Colonel Abercrombie's "favorite son" status is no more evident than in a series of events that embroiled the new city of Spokane in 1909. Populations had jumped from 36,848 in 1900 to 104,402 in 1910. Rapid growth had brought urban problems. Many political extremists, or so they were called, found homes here. In 1909, the industrial workers of the world, seeking to establish a union hiring hall in Spokane took their message to their soapboxes on city streets. Alarmed at the number of "wobblies", as they were called, the City Council passed an ordinance banning street speaking. When the "wobblies" ignored the speaking ban, the City began wholesale arrests. The city and council jails were filling up. Mayor Pratt asked permission from the War Department for help to house prisoners at Ft. Wright. Upon receiving orders to that effect Post Commander William Abercrombie willingly cooperated. All was fine until it was revealed that proper military channels had not been used and that permission had come largely with the help of Washington State Congressman, Miles Poindexter. This set in motion the wrath of Brigadier General M.A. Maus. He arrived immediately in Spokane, insulting City Officials and embarrassing Colonel Abercrombie and releasing the prisoners. Spokane could be and was protective of its Army Officers and its Post. Abercrombie was suddenly removed from Post Commander three months after Maus' visit, and City Officials suspected the General's jealousy to be the reason. Maus denied the charges and replied that Abercrombie was released due to complaints from officers under him.

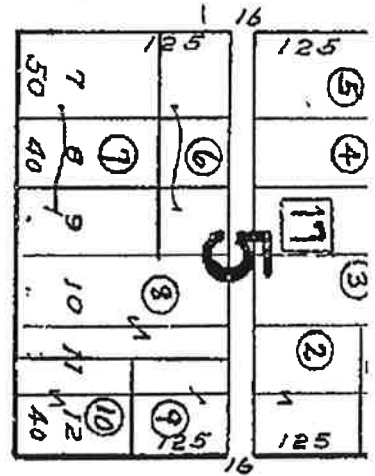
Whatever the case, the City was not satisfied and pushed for a federal investigation of Maus. Following the official announcement of this demand by the Mayor, the City Council began receiving "threatening" letters from anonymous correspondents at the Army Post. These letters reminded the City Officials that should another emergency such as the street speaking fight occur, they "might" have to rely on Maus for military aid. If they were to further antagonize him, the aid would be "slow to come." Thus, came the end to the controversy. Abercrombie had been hurried off to Fort Lawton but within the year had returned to Spokane and his home where he lived until his death.

Aaron Lundquist

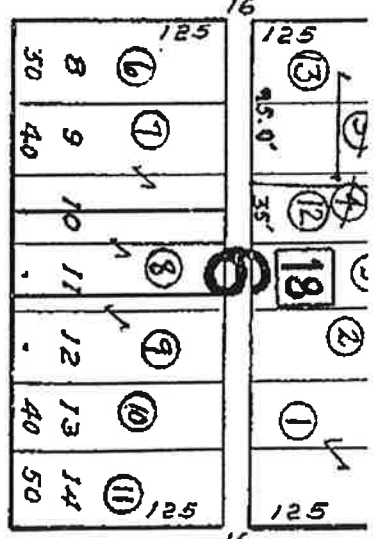
Aaron Lundquist, who constructed the Abercrombie House, was a prolific builder in Spokane. Examples of his fine craftsmanship can be seen in his homes at 1627 West 9th, 1628 West 9th, 817 South Adams, 1521 South Rockwood Boulevard and 547 East Rockwood. Aaron Lundquist's building career ended abruptly in the fall of 1913, when he succumbed to cancer in October of that year.



CEDAR



ADAMS



JEFFERS

