

SPOKANE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Nomination Form

OPR 95-980

City/County Historic Landmarks Commission
Sixth Floor - City Hall
Spokane, Washington 99201-3337

Type all entries--complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Frederic E. Elmendorf House
and or common _____

2. Location

street & number 241 E. 9th Avenue
city/town Spokane vicinity of _____
state Washington county Spokane

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site			<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:
		<input type="checkbox"/> no		

4. Owner of Property

name Joan Butler
street & number 241 E. 9th
city, town Spokane vicinity of Spokane state WA 99202

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds etc. Spokane County Courthouse
street & number 1116 W. Broadway
city, town Spokane state WA 99201

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6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic Landmarks Survey: City of Spokane
date 1979 federal state county local
depository for survey records Historic Preservation Office
city, town Spokane state WA 99201

7. Description

Condition

excellent deteriorated
 good ruins
 fair unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Located at 241 East 9th, the Elmendorf House is situated on 3 and 1/2 lots on a dead-end street with five other distinctive turn of the century homes overlooking Spokane. Constructed in 1903 for Frederic E. Elmendorf, the home features three stories and a basement. The home retains the integrity of its original setting; there are no neighbors on three sides of the home, providing privacy and spacious yards with natural basalt outcroppings. The architect of the home is unknown.

The house is classified as a Colonial Revival structure under the subtype Dutch Colonial. The Dutch Colonial style is most often found on the east coast of the United States, dating back to when the Dutch came to America in the 17th century. Characteristics of the Dutch Colonial style include heavy square piers, shed dormers, and gambrel roofs. A house of this particular style is rare to Spokane.

The house has a full basement, made of basalt, a natural rock found in the area. The house is situated on an incline, so as you walk from the front of the house towards the back on the east, more of the basalt walls are exposed. On the north side the basement is actually at ground level and has a door allowing access outside. The relatively new roof is made of composition asphalt shingles. The exterior of the house is consists of horizontal clapboard wall cladding. There are two brick chimneys.

The south side has a front facing gambrel facade. The first floor from left to right, has a bay window, front door, and an unusual shaped window. It is long, rectangular, and placed higher than most windows. On the second floor directly above the entry is a two sided oriel window. There are two large double hung windows, each with a muntin placed in the center of the upper piece of glass, on either side of the oriel window. The half story has a window above the oriel window. A two story addition on the west side of the house is evident from its concrete foundation and stairs on the north side. The windows are similar to those on each of the respective floors. Also on the front facade are stairs on the right side corner leading to a covered porch.

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8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance-Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archaeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> military
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archaeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> music
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> social/humanitarian
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific Dates c. 1903

Builder/Architect unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Elmendorf House is historically significant for its association with pioneer businessman and civic leader Frederic Elmendorf and architecturally, as an example of the Dutch Colonial style, rare in Spokane. Arriving before the fire of 1889 from New York, he founded Elmendorf and Elmendorf real estate, loan, and insurance company along with his brother. Upon his death, the company was one of the largest and oldest real estate, loan, and insurance companies in the city. Also notably identified with civic progress, Elmendorf was the original incorporator of the present Chamber of Commerce and was involved in the development of numerous civic organizations.

Elmendorf and Elmendorf, a firm which covered real estate, rentals, insurance, and mortgage loans, was founded with one clerk and grew to employ 30 staff at the time of Elmendorf's death in 1941. The firm was among the larger concerns of its kind in the Pacific Northwest, and among the largest companies in the city. The company became the current Anthony, Baker, and Burns.

Arriving in Spokane in 1891, just 21 years old, Elmendorf's first job was as a cashier for Washington Water Power. One year later he founded the firm Elmendorf and Elmendorf in the Granite Block, located at the SW corner of Riverside and Washington, from 1889 - 1928, taking his brother J. D. as his partner. Subsequent partners in the business were P. E. Pope and H. L. Anthony.

Elmendorf built his home in 1903 and lived there until his death in 1941. Elmendorf's wife, Margaret H., lived in the home until her death in 1946. His home was first built on the cul-de-sac on 9th Street. The next two homes on the street were built by his business associates Lawrence R. Hamblen, attorney, and W. S. Gilbert, banker.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

see attached

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property _____

Verbal boundary description and justification

See attached.

list all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state _____

county _____

state _____

county _____

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Joan Butler, with assistance from Deana Chuisano, student intern

organization _____

date September, 1995

street & number 241 East 9th Avenue

telephone 455-8698

city/town Spokane,

state Washington

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12. Signature of Owner(s)

James Rock Butler
9-15-95

For Official Use Only:

Date Received: _____
Date Heard: 9-20-95
Commission Decision: Approved
Council/Board Action: Approved
Date: 11-13-95

Attest: Marilyn J. Montgomery
City Clerk

Approved as to Form:
Stanley Schubert
Asst. City Attorney

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

Jack Casper
MAYOR, City of Spokane

or

CHAIR, Spokane County Commissioner

CHAIR, Spokane City/County Historic Landmarks Commission

City/County Historic Preservation Officer

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The east side has two porches on the first floor. The first comes from the front of the house mentioned above. There is a door, creating another entrance. The second comes from the full length verandah on the north side. On the second floor, there is a long shed dormer with three small windows. To the right of the dormer is a brick chimney. On the basalt foundation, one is able to see where the bricks and basalt merge into one another.

The first floor on the north side has a full length covered verandah which wraps around to the east. There are five posts that help in supporting the structure. The floor is made of wood, tongue and groove construction. Two large, single paned picture windows are placed on either side of the door. Another covered verandah on the second floor is off of the master bedroom. The half story has a window above. Under the floor of the first floor verandah is an enclosed space constructed of long vertical wooden slats. This space gives added support to both verandahs in addition to the posts. The extra support is necessary because the verandahs extend beyond the foundation wall.

The west side on the first floor has steps leading to the verandah. During exterior renovation in the fall of 1994, the original columns were discovered in the basement and restored to the original design. There is a shed dormer off the second floor with three windows, which meets the roof line of the addition. The first floor of the addition has a door on the north side with concrete steps. There are windows on the west, covered by shrubs. The second floor has large windows on the west. Combined with the large window mentioned on the south side, a pleasant sun room is created. The half story has two small shed dormers. Windows are able to be seen from the basement. There is another brick chimney as well.

The interior is rich with detail and has been carefully restored. The house features an extensive use of wood. The wood throughout is dark walnut, with the exception of the half story, which is cedar. Original red fir floors and the numerous walnut built-ins were refinished. A built-in chest for storage and seating extends along one wall as you enter. Pocket doors lead into the living room, which is highlighted by a large basalt rock fireplace with an oval opening framed by large windows and built-in shelves covering one wall. Large ceiling beams also accent the room. The spacious dining room features built-in floor to ceiling china closets along one wall. The kitchen walls are constructed of wood. Originally, a laundry room was in part of this area, but was later expanded as part of the kitchen, and a bay window seat was added. Diamond accents are found throughout the wood in the house.

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The stairway with two landings has flat stiles and is carved in a repeating tulip pattern. There is a window seat on the second landing. In addition to the main staircase, a back stairway for the servants' use leads to the pantry area. Built-in cupboards line the pantry. A dumbwaiter on the second floor landing and the original brass call button (one of the many original brass fixtures which can be found in various rooms) in the master bedroom also show servant features. Unlike many older homes, there are numerous large closets.

An unusual floor plan has created a circular route on the first and second floor, making one room lead into another. In the four bathrooms, cabinets were built to re-create the turn of the century look and light fixtures were selected throughout the house to replicate the originals. Horsehair plaster was used throughout the house and any future restoration must be carefully done.

The Elmendorf House is a unique example of the Dutch Colonial style, seldom found in Spokane. Although there is an addition on the west side, it does not detract from the original structure. Attention to the past is evident in the care taken in the restoration of 1994, such as returning the exterior stairs to their original position. Throughout the years the Elmendorf House has retained a high degree of integrity, and the current owner's recent rehabilitation efforts will ensure that it will be preserved well into the next century.

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A public spirited businessman, Elmendorf was prominently identified with the early civic development of Spokane. The original incorporator of the present Chamber of Commerce. He continued his involvement with the organization for several years and spearheaded the re-organization in 1898. For many years he was director of the Y.M.C.A. and took a leading part in the promotion of the construction of the association's home at First and Lincoln. His interest in youth extended to founding what was known as the "Loyalty" club of Spokane, a club which developed young men into business leaders. Also active in his church, he served many years as a Congregational Church Board member.

Spokane was a town of 10,000 population when Elmendorf arrived in 1891. He often stated he "expected to live to see Spokane a city of 200,000."

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