

# SPOKANE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES Nomination Form

OPR 95-981

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

Type all entries--complete applicable sections

## 1. Name

historic David B. Fotheringham Residence  
and or common The Fotheringham House Bed & Breakfast

## 2. Location

street & number 2128 West Second Avenue  
city/town Spokane vicinity of Coeur d'Alene Park  
state Washington county Spokane

## 3. Classification

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

name Graham and Jacquelin Johnson  
street & number 2128 West Second Avenue  
city, town Spokane vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state WA

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds etc. Spokane County Courthouse  
street & number \_\_\_\_\_  
city, town Spokane state Washington

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**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title \_\_\_\_\_  
date \_\_\_\_\_ federal \_\_\_ state \_\_\_ county \_\_\_ local  
depository for survey records \_\_\_\_\_  
city, town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_

**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

This Queen Anne style home is located at 2128 West Second Avenue, at the corner of Second and Hemlock Street. It is in the neighborhood commonly known as Browne's Addition. The home was constructed in 1891 by David B. Fotheringham as his family residence. It is a 2 1/2 story structure with a finished attic and a partial basement on a basalt foundation.

The roof is steeply pitched. Asymmetrically placed lower end gables face the south (front), west and north. Textured shingles in a variety of patterns decorate the gable fields.

The first floor features a cutaway bay window with decorated corner brackets and turned drop ornaments. Siding is clapboard. Windows are double hung, except for the large front window and the 4 foot square curved glass window at the southwest corner. A wrap-around porch protects the curved glass window.

The porch frieze and balustrade are composed of beaded milled wood in a geometric pattern. A secondary porch in the rear features the same geometric detailing. Porch posts are rectangular with chamfered corners widening from bottom to top.

The second floor windows are double hung. The second floor siding is clapboard, except for the southwest corner which shows three sides of an octagon that are faced with patterned shingles. Originally, the octagonal sides continued up to form a turret. The turret was removed before 1960. It is the intent of the current owners to rebuild it based on a historic photograph.

Inside, the first floor parlor features an ornate, carved fireplace mantle and mirror frame. The chamfered 66-3

**8. Significance**

<b>Period</b>	<b>Areas of Significance-Check and justify below</b>		
<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input 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)

<b>Specific Dates</b>	1891	<b>Builder/Architect</b>	D. Fotheringham
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Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The David B. Fotheringham Residence, located at 2128 West 2nd Avenue, is a contributing structure in the Browne's Addition National Register Historic District. The home is historically significant for its association with David Fotheringham who was just 27 years old when he moved to Spokane Falls in 1883 with his wife, Mary. He soon established himself as one of the area's most prominent contractors and a community leader. He was elected the first mayor of the newly-incorporated City of Spokane in 1891. This was the same year he built the house which would be the family home for the next quarter century. He also built many other notable homes, schools, office buildings, and hotels in Spokane, including the Patsy Clark Mansion and the distinctive Spokane County Courthouse. The home is also architecturally significant as an excellent example of the Queen Anne style.

David B. Fotheringham arrived in Spokane Falls with Mary Jennings, his wife of about one year, on November 1, 1883. He was here to establish himself as a politician, contractor, family man, community leader and entrepreneur. It was in this town eight years later that he would build a family home that would outlast him and most of his descendants.

Mr. Fotheringham was born on October 19, 1856, in Cleveland, Ohio. During his schooling, David learned to be a carpenter. This would put him in good stead for the rest of his life and act as a basis for the success he would later gain in Spokane. He was apparently a good carpenter, as was later demonstrated by the projects under his direction, and the ones he actually had a physical hand in constructing.

Mr. Fotheringham moved to Denver, Colorado in 1877. There he worked as a contractor and builder. It is unclear how long he lived in Colorado, but five years later he was in New Mexico. Mr. Fotheringham married Mary Jennings on September 27, 1882, at Raton, New Mexico.

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

- Phillips, Steven J., Old House Dictionary, Washington D. C. The Preservation Press, 1994.  
Moss, Roger W. and Gail Caskey Winkler, Victorian Exterior Decoration, New York, NY, Holt & Co., 1987.  
Moynahan, J. M., The Fotheringham House, The Mayor and The Man, Unpublished manuscript.

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Verbal boundary description and justification

W. Browne's Addition all of Lot 7, and West two feet of Lot 8, Block 23

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

state \_\_\_\_\_ county \_\_\_\_\_  
state \_\_\_\_\_ county \_\_\_\_\_

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title \_\_\_\_\_ Graham and Jacquelin Johnson, owners  
organization \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_ 9/6/95  
street & number \_\_\_\_\_ 2128 West Second Ave telephone \_\_\_\_\_ 838-1891  
city/town \_\_\_\_\_ Spokane state \_\_\_\_\_ Washington

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12. Signature of Owner(s)

Stephen E. Johnson  
Jacqueline M. Johnson

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:  
Harley Johnson  
Asst. City Attorney

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

Jack Conroy  
MAYOR, City of Spokane

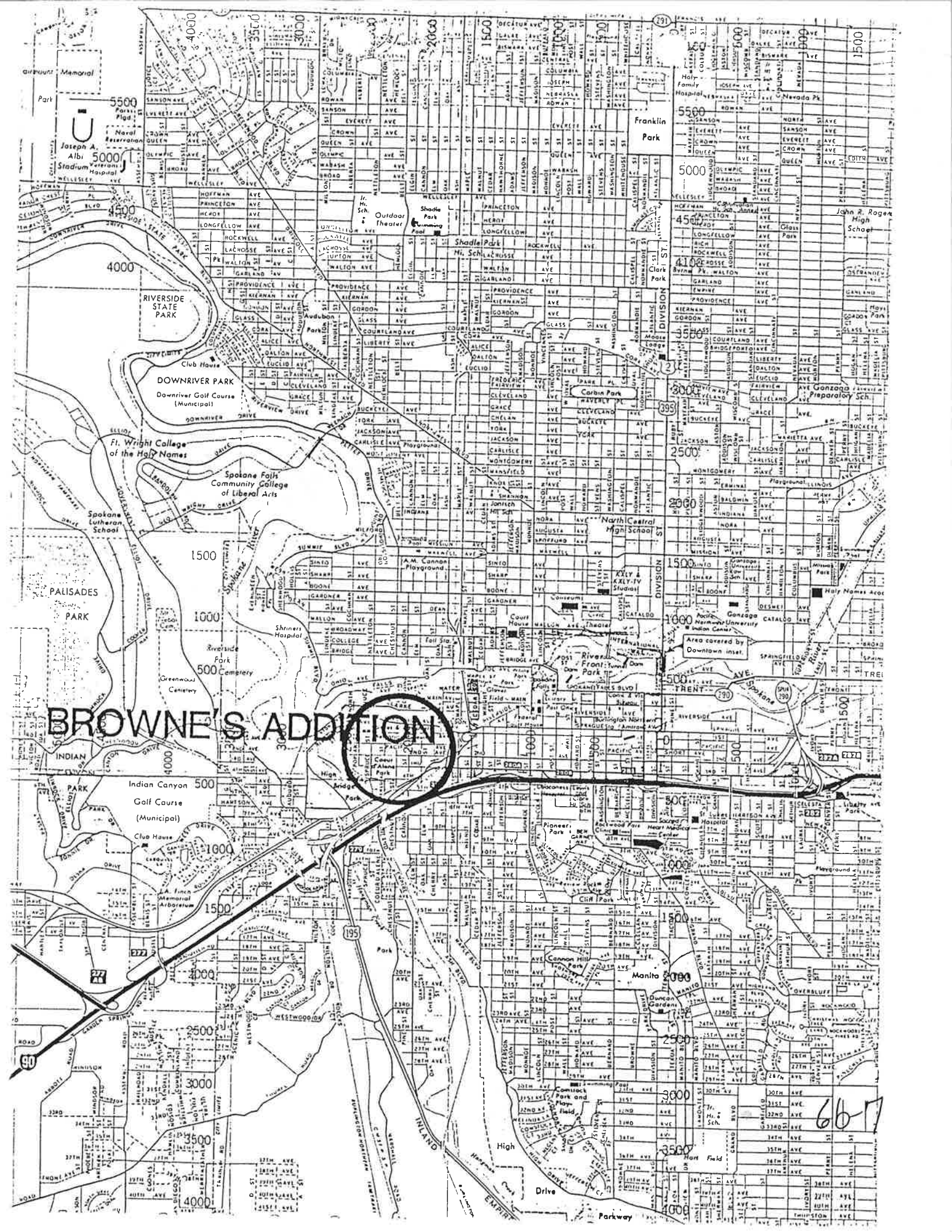
or

\_\_\_\_\_  
CHAIR, Spokane County Commissioner

\_\_\_\_\_  
CHAIR, Spokane City/County Historic Landmarks Commission

\_\_\_\_\_  
City/County Historic Preservation Officer

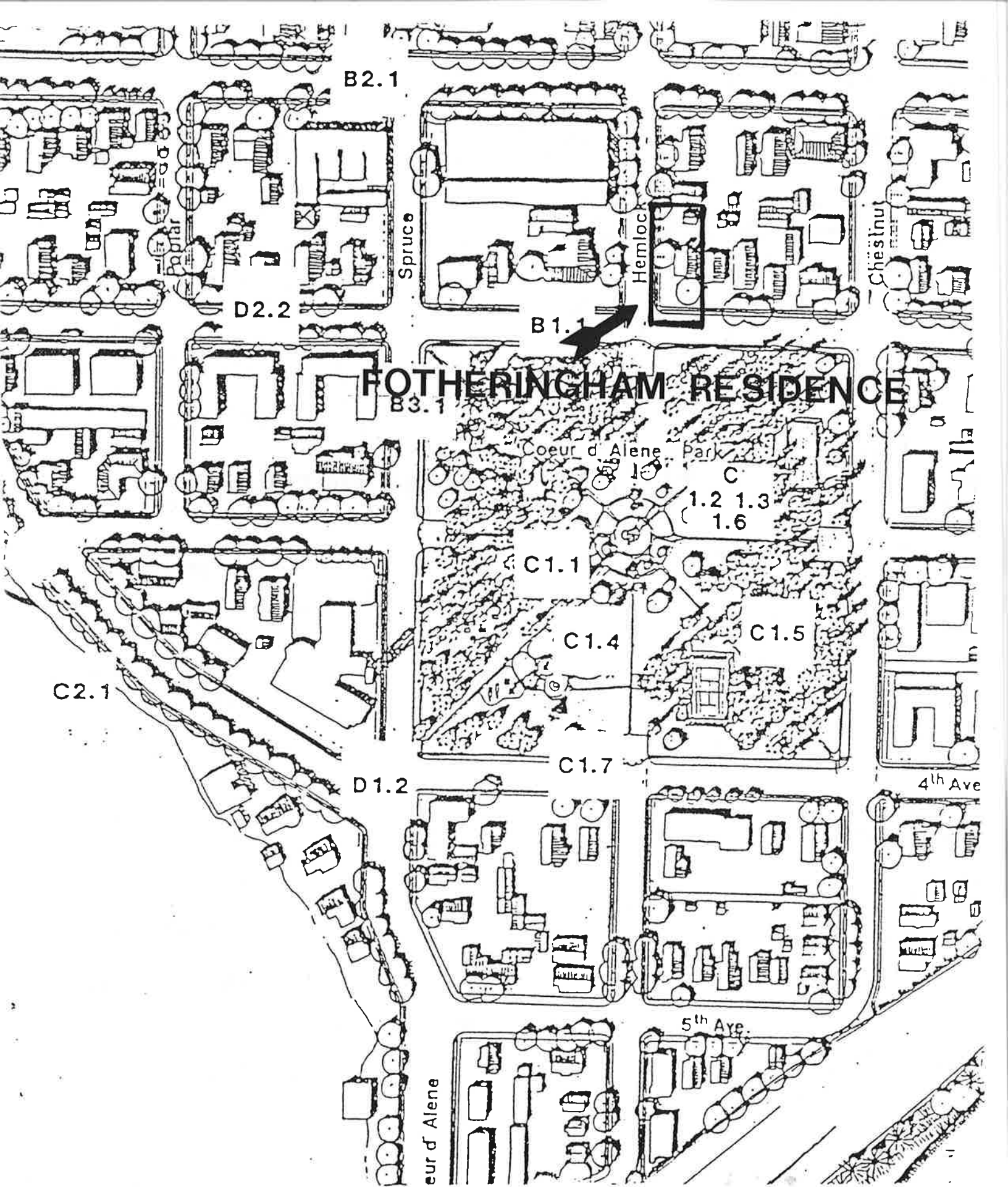
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# BROWNE'S ADDITION

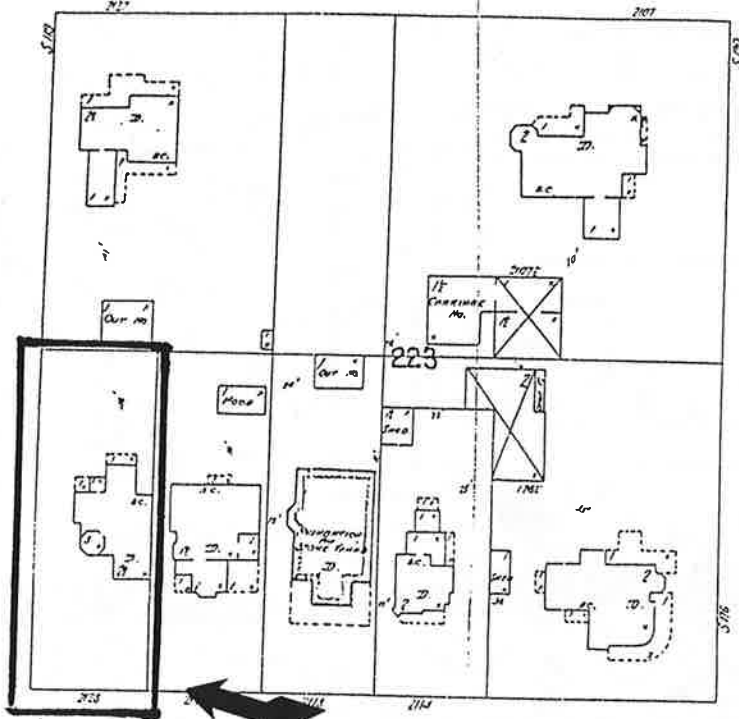
667



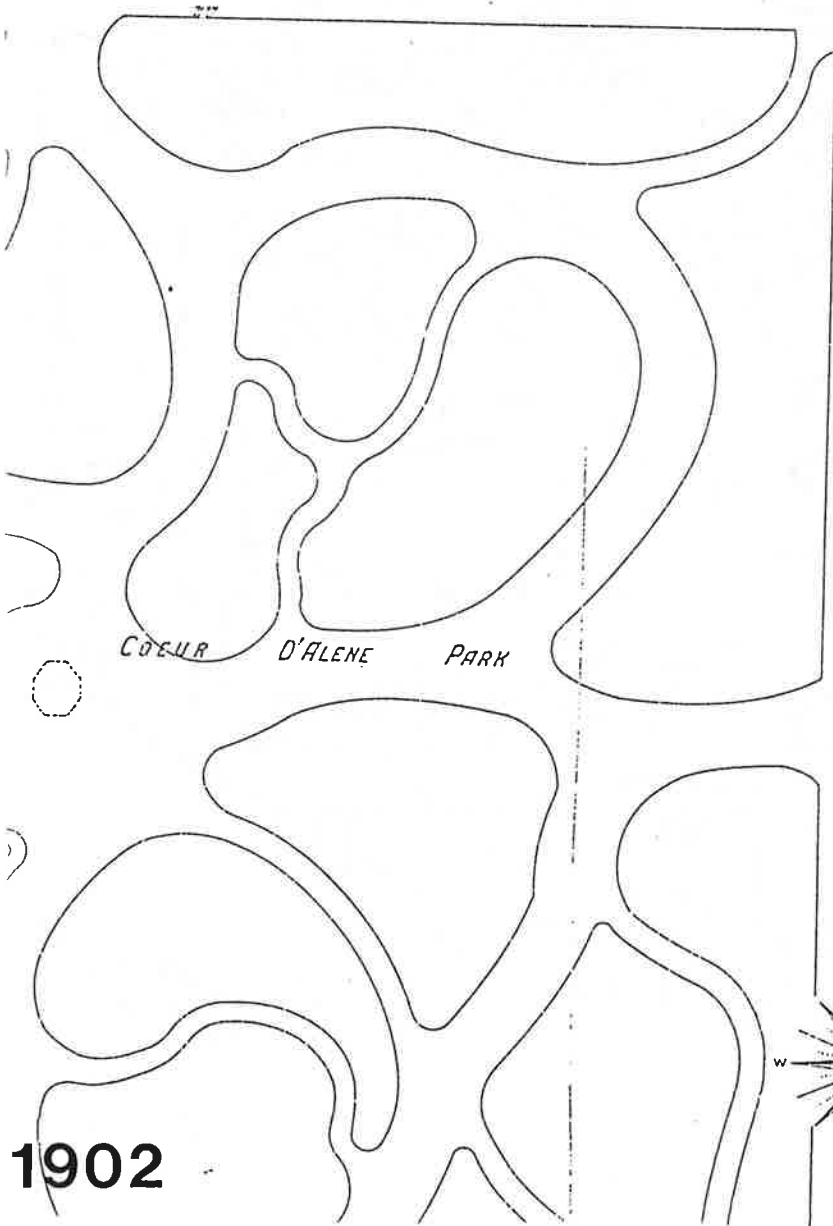
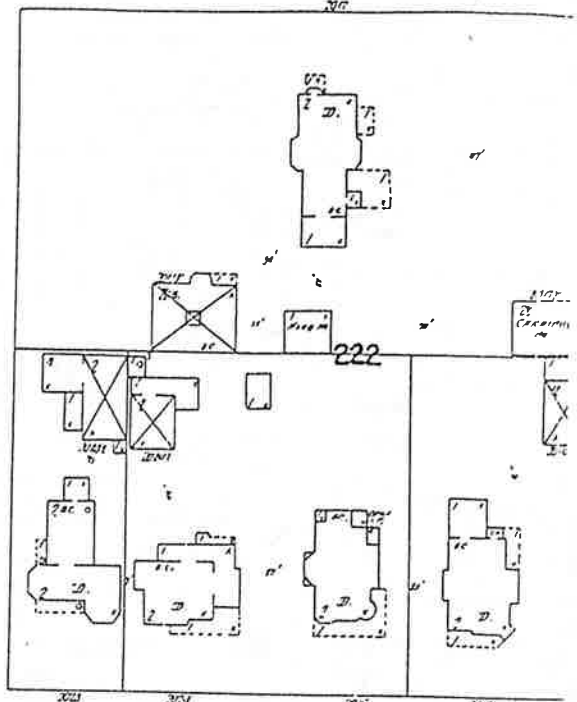


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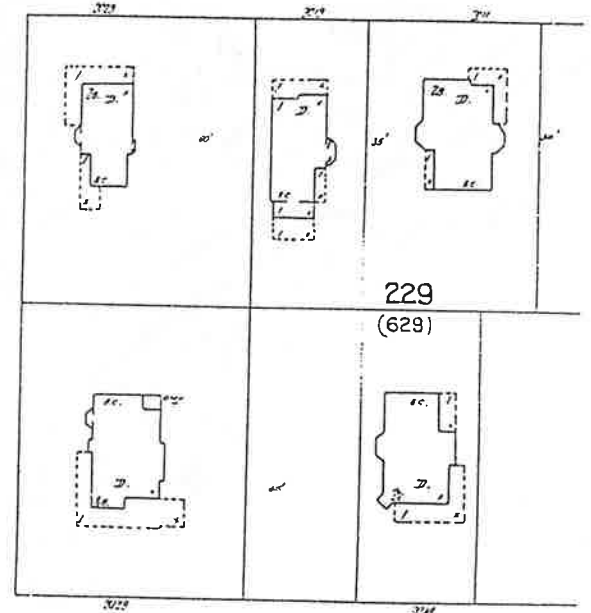
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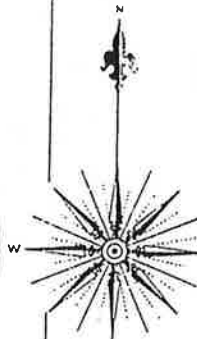
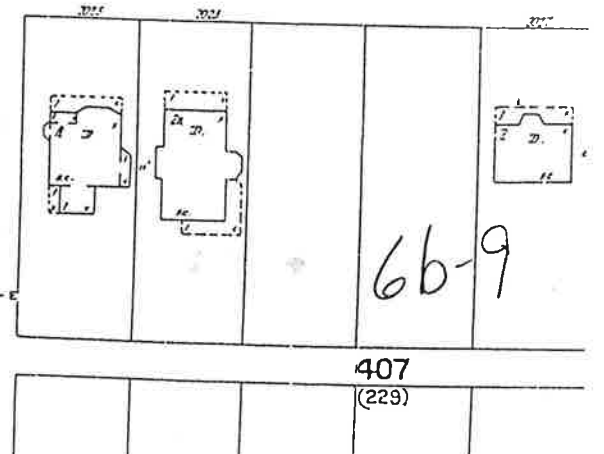
**FOTHERINGHAM RESIDENCE**  
SECOND AV.



CHESTNUT



THIRD AV.





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woodwork of door and window casings include a patera in the corner blocks. The eleven foot ceilings in the parlor, dining room, kitchen, and butler's pantry are tin.

The original door opening from the foyer to the dining room was filled in and a new doorway cut in from the parlor. The exact date of this alteration is unknown, but is thought to have been in the early 1930's. Presumably at the same time, a portion of the kitchen was used to create a bathroom. An enclosed backporch was added to the structure at some unknown date.

An open newel stair leads from the first to the second floor. A large newel post is at the base of the stair. Intermediate newels have pendants.

Exterior restoration work was completed in 1994. Extensive interior wall repair on the first and second floors was completed in 1995. The structure is now in excellent condition.

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In 1883, the year the Fotheringham family arrived in Spokane Falls, many events occurred. The town size was increased to about four square miles. A unofficial census showed the population at 1,169. The building of the city hall was started on the northwest corner of Trent and Howard. The jail, nicknamed the "Skookum house" was on the corner of Post and Main. The town was beginning to take its government seriously.

Four years after his arrival, Mr. Fotheringham began his political career by being elected to the city council, serving his term in 1887-88. One wonders if he had thoughts during this time of running for mayor at some future date.

In 1888, Mr. Fotheringham and Henry Brook(e) probably built the Eagle block at the northwest corner of Riverside and Stevens. Construction might have begun in the later part of 1887 and been completed in early 1888. This was the first of his major structures in this area. It was destroyed by fire the following year (1889), and was then rebuilt almost immediately, being finished in 1890. The new building was five stories. Mr. Fotheringham was one of many builders who gained economically and established himself as a leader after the fire.

At some point in 1890 or 1891, Mr. Fotheringham decided to run for mayor of Spokane Falls. He ran on the Peoples Ticket and beat three other aspirants in the spring of 1891. It was at this election that the voters approved changing the town of Spokane Falls to the incorporated City of Spokane. Mayor Fotheringham was an active and progressive mayor. Following his election, he delivered a speech to the city council outlining his views of the tasks and priorities that must be addressed to assure citizens of the new city a quality life style. As Spokane has developed, it is apparent that David Fotheringham's talk was the blueprint for the city with the enviable life style citizens have enjoyed for a century.

His term, which in those days lasted one year, was not uneventful. He initially had difficulty getting some of his appointments accepted and he had to change some. But he was seen as a fair and honorable individual who enhanced the office and title.

It was during the eventful year of 1891 that construction began on his family home. For a brief period

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prior to this time he was living at 2124 West Second (as indicated in the 1892 City Directory), a house he built in 1889.

On May 5, 1891, he took out a \$2,200 mortgage through a Spokane bank, the Northwestern and Pacific Hypotheekbank. Presumably he used this money in the construction of his family home. The home was built in Browne's Addition, an area of significance to the city and one probably carefully chosen by the new Mayor. He and his wife Mary saw this near wilderness area change to a most prestigious district, a district where the rich of Spokane lived, played and carried on their proper and correct social activities.

Mr. Fotheringham was a skilled and careful contractor. His own house was well constructed. Care was taken to measure and fit materials properly. There is an excess of square nails used in the construction.

Mr. Fotheringham continued his contracting during 1891 along with his duties as Mayor. May 13, 1892 saw an end to his term as mayor. He could once again direct his energies to his construction business. And direct his energies he did, for in the next year he began construction of the Spokane County Courthouse. This structure was one of the more significant projects of his career. The Courthouse, located at 1116 West Broadway Avenue was designed by W. A. Ritchie and built by Mr. Fotheringham during the years 1893-1895. It was erected at a cost of \$340,000 and was considered at the time of completion as the finest courthouse in the west.

Mr. Fotheringham, who employed up to seventy-five craftsmen at a time, completed several lesser projects after the courthouse. In the latter part of the 1890's he began a project which was rivaled by few others in the history of the city; the Clark Mansion. In either 1896 or 1897 (the records are not entirely clear) he began work on the residence of Patrick "Patsy" Clark. Mr. Clark was an Irish immigrant who made his fortune in the Idaho mine fields. He reputedly spent over \$1,000,000 to build his house. During the construction, the Patrick Clark family moved into the Fotheringham house and the Fotheringhams moved to 2120 West Broadway. The residence he built for the Clarks is probably the most noted home in Spokane today.

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Shortly after he moved back to the family home in 1899, Mr. Fotheringham began work on a house two doors to the east. A Georgian Revival, this beautiful structure is located at 2118 West Second Avenue.

In 1905, David Fotheringham built another large structure, the six story M. Seller and Company Building. This structure, at 314 West Riverside Avenue was later known (after the mid 30's) as the Jensen-Byrd downtown store.

In 1906, Mr. Fotheringham retired from active business as a contractor and pursued the real estate and insurance business. Sometime after he retired he became a vice president of Washington Brick and Lime. This company was among several local ones that supplied a good portion of the brick for the rebuilding of Spokane after the 1889 fire. After 1904, it was located at the Washington and Pacific Streets area.

One of the owners was Mr. Fotheringham's old partner Henry Brook. It was probably quite natural that he would go to work with the man he had been associated with for so many years. It is also very probable that he had, over the years, used many bricks from the Washington Brick and Lime Company for his construction in Spokane.

Apparently Mr. Fotheringham could not keep his hand totally out of the building business. In 1910 he completed the Crest Hotel which was in the 1200 block of West Riverside. This hotel was razed in 1971 to make way for a high rise condominium. The Crest was considered very exclusive and quite luxurious at the time. It had an especially beautiful dining room.

Mr. Fotheringham moved his family to the hotel a few years later. It is not clear if he built the hotel with the idea of eventually moving into it, or whether this was an after thought. The Crest was ideally located near the downtown area yet not directly in the middle of the city. It was also only about three blocks from the Great Western Building where he had an office. The personable Mr. Fotheringham is said to have enjoyed sitting in the hotel lobby visiting with guests.

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All indications are that the Fotheringhams continued living at their Crest Hotel through the 1920's. They had been renting the family home from the time they moved into the Crest Hotel. In 1920 they sold the house to Lewis and Della Lusk.

David B. Fotheringham died at the Crest Hotel in 1927 at the age of 73. He had been ill since April when he returned from a trip to Arizona where he, as the newspaper said, "had gone in an effort to restore his health." He developed pneumonia, had become very weak and died.

Mrs. Fotheringham continued living at the Crest Hotel after her husband's death. On February 2, 1932, Mrs. Fotheringham passed away at St. Lukes hospital. With her death, Spokane's first generation Fotheringham family also died.

David Fotheringham has left a strong reputation as a family man, pioneer, developer and capitalist. Mary undoubtedly exerted subtle yet powerful influences upon her husband by giving him the encouragement and support to carry on his many activities.

Graham and Jackie Johnson purchased the home in August, 1993, and are the seventh owners. The home has received considerable attention since the Johnsons acquired it. The exterior has been restored including a new roof, rebuilt porches and railings, and a six color paint scheme. The gardens have been completely rebuilt and now feature Victorian era cutting flowers, hostas, ferns, a fountain and seating. All interior walls have been repaired and given new papers and paint. The Johnsons efforts earned them the 1994 residential historic preservation award from the Eastern Washington Historical Society.

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