

SPOKANE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Nomination Form

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

Type all entries--complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Littlebrook Farm
and or common _____

2. Location

street & number 16704 N Dartford Drive
city/town Spokane vicinity of _____
state Washington county Spokane

3. Classification

Category

district
 building(s)
 structure
 site
 object

Ownership

public
 private
 both

Public Acquisition

in process
 being considered

Status

occupied
 unoccupied
 work in progress

Accessible

yes restricted
 yes unrestricted
 no

Present Use

agriculture
 commercial
 educational
 entertainment
 government
 industrial
 military
 museum
 park
 private residence
 religious
 scientific
 transportation
 other:

4. Owner of Property

name Paul and Deneice Hastings
street & number 16704 N. Dartford Drive
city, town Spokane vicinity of _____ state WA

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds etc. Spokane County Courthouse
street & number 1616 W Broadway
city, town Spokane state WA

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title none
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 _____

Littlebrook Farm
Spokane County, Washington State

Description

Littlebrook is a two-story, hand hewn, log home built in 1935 by Oliver LaJoie, who lived with John T. Little and his wife at the site. Mrs. Little hired Mr. LaJoie from the unemployment office. There is no information regarding Mr. LaJoie's previous working experience. Mr. Little had a pencil-drawing of the Red River Ranger Station built in Elk City, Washington, in 1935, by Elmer Olson. This drawing remains in the house. He had said the Littlebrook cabin was built according to the same building style used in the construction of the station; horizontal, whole log construction.

Littlebrook is located on six and one-half acres, seven miles north of the city of Spokane, Washington, nestled in a small treed valley between Dartford Drive and Highway 395. In this same vicinity of the Little Spokane River, other grand country homes for some of Spokane's entrepreneurs and elite have been built. These include the Tudor Revival "Waikiki" dairy estate and the Davenport estate (now St. George's private school). Mr. Little's home was, of course, built later and in a rustic tradition that was quite different from the others mentioned above. No other log buildings of this type exist in this north Spokane area.

The log structure was constructed around a four room cottage built in 1905 by Mr. and Mrs. W.R. White. The original property consisted of forty acres divided north and south by Dartford Creek. Mr. Little dammed this creek to create a tree-lined, one-acre lake butting up against a naturally forested hillside. Over a nine year period between 1935 and 1944, Oliver LaJoie, virtually by himself, hand crafted the existing two-story, twelve-room, 3,650 square foot log home. Each room is unique, featuring many hand crafted and forged details, fittings, and cabinetry. There have been no major changes made inside or out of the home leaving it almost entirely in it's original state, including many of the furnishings, light fixtures, draperies and decorator pieces. John T. Little lived at Littlebrook for thirty years. Richard and Peggy Swift for the subsequent thirty, and Deneice Little Hastings (grand-daughter of John T. Little) and family have just acquired the home.

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Description (continued)

About two-thirds of the gabled, cedar shake roof has been replaced after removing two subsequent overlapping hand split cedar shingle roofs. The remaining third of the roof consists of two original cedar shingle layers. Green cedar logs of twenty to thirty foot lengths were obtained from Colville, Washington at the price of \$1.50 to \$3.00 a piece. All logs were hand cut, peeled and notched with sharp double bitted axes. Trees were felled in the spring and left for a year of curing. Knots were all hand trimmed, leaving a swirling wood grain pattern. No nails or pegs were used as whole logs were coped and placed horizontally, one on top of the other with saddle notched corners. The second story is above the 20'x 35' living area. This includes two bedrooms with open gabled ceilings, one with multiple lite windows, the other, multiple lite windows and a divided lite door out to a balcony over-looking the park-like treed back yard, solarium, gazebo and stream. The upstairs bathroom is made of pine siding, river rock wainscoting and tile flooring. A one-hundred-forty year old pedestal sink from Senator Turner's south Spokane home is the centerpiece of this bathroom. Special details include a hand built, chrome-plated glass shower stall as well as a handcrafted door to an outside roof, built in drawers and cabinets with animal horn handles. All rooms in the upstairs are in original condition.

Thirteen large log halves create the staircase down to the entryway and large living room. The entryway slate porch is covered with a gabled roof. Entering into the living room, in the middle of the east wall is a large granite fireplace built by Edward Z. Little (no relation), a stone and tile mason who did much of the tile work for Spokane's famous architect, Kirtland Cutter. This granite came from a quarry near Diamond Lake, Washington. The north end of the room has four-over-four sash windows. On each side of the windows are large beveled glass mirrors in "leaf motif" hand-carved frames taken from the near by Deer Park Saloon. The central lighting is provided by three large crystal chandeliers from Paris, one each in the entry, living room and dining room. French doors on the east wall lead to the

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Description (continued)

slate patio covered with a gabled shake roof and handmade light fixtures. The living room floor is six-inch-wide eastern oak planking, as well as a slate hearth in front of the fireplace. There is a basement under the living area which has a cement foundation. Off the living room is a dining area with a log wainscoting and stucco wall above. Two glass window boxes face into the solarium. The floors are stained fir and the dining room was built on a cement foundation over a small crawl space. French doors lead out to a solarium composed of glass walls and ceiling. All doors, woodwork, hardware are handcrafted or forged. There is a row of leaded glass along the walls and the flooring is a combination of marble and mosaic tiling. The view to the north from the solarium is the same as that previously described for the north side upstairs bedroom.

The kitchen has pine siding, a cathedral ceiling, and original pine cupboards. The counter tops are white ceramic tile and flooring is red ceramic tile, both replaced thirty years ago. The original wood cook stove provides heat and is excellent for cooking to this day. Off the kitchen is a laundry room which first was used as an eating nook. A bath with tiled-in claw foot tub and servants bedroom and sitting room also are off the kitchen. The third bathroom with marble floors, handcrafted drawers, cabinets and window scene make it unique. The large master bedroom has a fireplace made of quartzite taken from a nearby quarry. There is a mahogany, king-size, canopy bed with original canopy fabric and matching draperies, painted walls and fir flooring in the master bedroom. Large bar windows and a French door to a small garden area are other highlights of this room. The master bath has shower walls, tub, and wainscoting of marble taken from the Spokane County Court House when it was remodeled in 1944. An adjoining dressing area has six rustic pine doors that exhibit deep hewing marks, as well as all having hand forged hardware. The areas are all built on cement foundation over small crawl spaces.

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Description (continued)

Various bridges to cross the stream that meanders through the property were made by Oliver LaJoie as were small items such as a bird house and mailbox made as small log replicas of the cabin. A wide wagon bridge to cross Dartford Creek has been rebuilt three times over the past sixty years. This bridge is used to drive over the creek onto a dirt road which leads up to Highway 395. In 1936, a horse-drawn scraper was used to create a forty by sixty foot pond in the front yard. In 1951 this pond was filled in. A bulldozer was used to build an acre lake and concrete dam to the rear of the house where the creek flows. A spillway was cut in the dam with a removable gate for high water as well as a footbridge on which to walk over the dam. The lake and dam remain today. The boards for the footbridge were replaced in 1996 by the Hastings to replicate the original walkway. In the back yard is a round gazebo overlooking the creek. This was built by Mr. LaJoie in 1940. Cement walkways, four cement benches, as well as a full-sized concrete donkey and reclining deer are in the park-like setting. Mr. Little had boasted he had planted over two hundred different kinds of trees throughout the grounds including many deciduous and firs which stand today. A quartz pillar entryway remains as well as a sixty year old split-rail fence built by Oliver. In 1996, the Hastings reset the split-rail fence up closer to the road. The original split rails were used and the twenty split rail fence posts were replaced by used split posts. In 1942 Mr. LaJoie built a 45-foot diameter and 30-foot tall, round barn with twelve box stalls and a hay loft. The frame work was cedar logs with a shake roof. Unfortunately, in 1963 the barn burned to the ground. Also at this time, an outbuilding with three sections for tools and tractors was built above the dam. This was built with the same materials as the barn. The outbuilding remains today and has not been altered.

This is a one-of-a-kind, hand made treasure that has been preserved and nurtured through the past sixty years.

8. Significance

Period

Areas of Significance-Check and justify below

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

Specific Dates 1935-1944

Builder/Architect Oliver LaJoie

John T. Little played an integral part in the business and civic development of the city of Spokane, Washington from 1909 until his death in 1980. His contributions to the business, social and political aspects of Spokane and the Pacific Northwest are still felt today.

John T. Little was born in Olathe, Kansas in 1881. In 1901 he graduated from the University of Kansas with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. Arriving in Spokane in 1902, at the age of twenty one, with four silver dollars in his pocket he secured a night clerk job at Marty Patton's undertaking parlor. He soon procured a job as a salesman, along with Henry J. Kaiser, for McGowan Brother's Hardware. Henry Kaiser, his life-long friend and inspiration later became one of the nation's leading industrialists.

In 1909, Mr. Little became the owner of the John T. Little Hardware and Sporting Goods store. This was a mainstay company serving it's customers throughout Washington, Idaho, Oregon, Utah, Montana, Wyoming, and parts of western Canada until 1942. Adopted were his famous slogans, "Everyone Needs a "Little" Hardware and "The Tackle That Takes the Trout Today." Because of Mr. Little's ingenious business and marketing strategies he ran a profitable hardware and sporting goods business for thirty-three years.

As well as important business associations with the Northwest, Mr. Little also made many important civic contributions during his nearly one hundred years of life, seventy-eight of those being in Spokane. Among his involvements were:

Board of Elks	1918- 1922
Rotary International	51 years
Founding Board Member Lincoln Savings Bank	50 years
Salvation Army	50 years
Board of Regents Gonzaga University	5 years
Board Member Cheney Cowles Museum	
Developer and Dir. Spok. Sportsman Show	1926-1940
County Commissioner	1940-1947
Founder of Spokane Interstate Fair	1951

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Statement of significance (continued)

While running his profitable hardware and sporting good store, Mr. Little became the director of the famous "Sportsman Show" which was held each year under the Union Street Viaduct on Trent, between Howard and Stevens. The large beams of the viaduct were covered with natural bark and branches to look like cedar trees. There was a small manmade lake, waterfall and stream which were quite a feat and spectacle. It was known as "The Greatest Show on Earth for a Dime." This show drew crowds from the northwest numbering in the 18,000s to see various exhibits for fish and game, sporting goods and activities as well as various programs put on by Native American tribes from the northwest. This show was held each year for eight days in May and was the precursor to the Spokane Interstate Fair, which Mr. Little later instigated in 1951.

From the years of 1940-1947 John T. Little served two terms as a County Commissioner. Highlights of his service included lobbying at sessions in Olympia in 1941, 43, and 45, regarding legislature to increase the gas tax from 3.8 to 6.1. Also during this term he over-saw an addition of two court rooms to the Spokane County Court House as well as a \$440,000 remodeling of the interior. With great vision, and at the cost of \$20,000, Little orchestrated the purchasing of ninety-six acres which now is home to the Interstate Fair and Baseball Park in Spokane. After his experience with the Sportsman Show, Little, in 1951 revived the precursor to the first Interstate Fair at this site. Attendance of over 37,000 brought a profit of \$6,400 which was then used to start the forty-five subsequent successful years of the Interstate Fair. With Little's interest in youth and juveniles, the Juvenile Detention Center was also built while he served as County Commissioner.

Continuing his interest in youth and Spokane's future, Little's keen interest manifested itself in involvement with the Salvation Army over a fifty year period. In 1964, John T. Little donated \$300,000 to build the Salvation Army's John T. Little Youth Center Building which provided club facilities for the athletic development of youth and serves that purpose today. For this Mr. Little received the Salvation Army's "Man of the Year Award" as well as the Exchange Club's "Golden Deeds Award."

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Statement of Significance (continued)

John T. Little kept active as a social, political and business figure all through his nineties. At the age of eighty-nine he wrote a book called Life at 80 and How I Got There depicting his life and sixty-eight years of experience as an entrepreneur, civic leader and philanthropist. This was a great legacy for Spokane as he wrote a great deal about various people, businesses, politicians, and the history of Spokane and the Northwest from 1901 to 1970. John T. Little was an integral part of the early history of Spokane, Washington and the Northwest as he played an active role in many arenas as businessman, politician, philanthropist, historian, and civic leader.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Little, John T. Life at 80 and How I Got There.
 Spokane, Washington: . Artcraft Printing Company, 1970.
The Spokesman Review. Spokane, Washington 1927. Telephone Interviews with Hazel LaJoie.
The Spokesman Review. Spokane, Washington 1939. wife of Oliver LaJoie-March and Ap. 199
The Spokesman Review. Spokane, Washington 1956.
The Spokesman Review. Spokane, Washington 1966.
The Spokesman Review. Spokane, Washington 1974.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 6.5 acres

Verbal boundary description and justification

see attached description page 10 and 11

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

state Washington
state _____

county Spokane
county _____

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Deneice Hastings
organization _____
street & number 16704 N. Dartford Dr.
city/town Spokane

date April 11, 1996
telephone (509) 465-9847
state Washington

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Verbal Boundary Description

That portion of the South Half of the Southwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section 29, Township 27 North, Range 43 East of the Willamette Meridian, lying Easterly of Dartford Road as conveyed to Spokane County by instrument recorded May 8, 1913 under Auditors File No. 392331 and lying Westerly of Primary State Highway as conveyed to the State of Washington by instrument recorded February 26, 1952 under Auditors File No. 83008B;

EXCEPT beginning at the intersection of the South line of said Northwest Quarter with the Easterly line of the North Road (Dartford Drive);

Thence North 5* 46' East, 519.73 feet;

Thence South 56* 03' East, 216.88 feet to the South line of said Northwest Quarter;

Thence South 88* 46' West, along said South line, 687.22 feet, to the Point of Beginning;

AND EXCEPT that portion lying North and Easterly of the following described line:

BEGINNING at the Southwesterly corner of said Northwest Quarter of Section 29;

Thence from said Point of Beginning North, along the Westerly line of said Northwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of said Northwest Quarter of Section 29;

Thence South 89* 17'34" East, along the Southerly line of said Northwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section 29, a distance of 291.67 feet to a point on the

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Verbal Boundary Description (continued)

Easterly right-of-way line of Dartford Road;
Thence South 3*53'50" East, along said Easterly right-of-way line,
130.00 feet to the point of beginning of said line;
Thence North 85*41'00" East 547.71 feet;
Thence South 16*21'55" East 218.18 feet;
Thence North 85*49'28" East 150 feet to the West line of State
Highway No. 3 and the terminus of said line:

AND EXCEPT:

BEGINNING at the intersection of the North line of the South Half
of the Southwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter with the
Easterly line of North Road (Dartford Drive);
Thence Southerly along said Easterly line, 130 feet to the True
Point of Beginning;
Thence North 85*41'00" East, 190 feet;
Thence South 3*53'50" East parallel with the east line of Dartford
Drive 150 feet;
Thence South 85*41'00" West 190 feet to the East line of Dartford
Drive;
Thence Northerly along said East line 150 feet to the True Point
of Beginning;

AND EXCEPT that portion conveyed to the State of Washington,
instrument recorded December 1992, under Auditor's File
No.921129002;

Situate in the County of Spokane, State of Washington.

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Photographs

Photographer: Avery Peyton
Date of Photos: March 1996
Original negatives: Washington State Office of Archaeology and
Historic Preservation

Photograph and

- 1 North (primary) elevation, looking south
- 2 North (primary conti.) elevation, looking south
- 3 East elevation, looking west
- 4 South elevation, looking north
- 5 South elevation, Gazebo, looking south
- 6 First floor living room, fireplace, wood floor, beveled
mirrors, light fixture, looking south
- 7 Stairway from first floor, looking east
- 8 Dining Room, first floor, looking east
- 9 Solarium off the dining room, first floor, looking west
- 10 Master Bedroom, first floor, looking north
- 11 Dressing area, first floor, hand carved doors, looking
south
- 12 Master bath, first floor, marble walls and floor, looking
south
- 13 Bathroom, second floor, pedestal sink, shower stall, hand
carved door and drawers, rock wall, looking east
- 14 Kitchen, first floor, looking east

12. Signature of Owner(s)

Deneise Hastings
Paul Hartley

For Official Use Only:

Date Received: _____
Date Heard: _____
Commission Decision: _____
Council/Board Action: _____
Date: _____

Attest: _____
City Clerk

Approved as to Form:

Asst. City Attorney

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

MAYOR, City of Spokane

or

CHAIR, Spokane County Commissioner

CHAIR, Spokane City/County Historic Landmarks Commission

City/County Historic Preservation Officer







