

John & Ida Strack House

1206 East Fifth Avenue
Spokane, WA 99202

Designed by John W. Strack and built in 1907.



Photograph taken by Joyce Lee on the first day of Spring, 2002.

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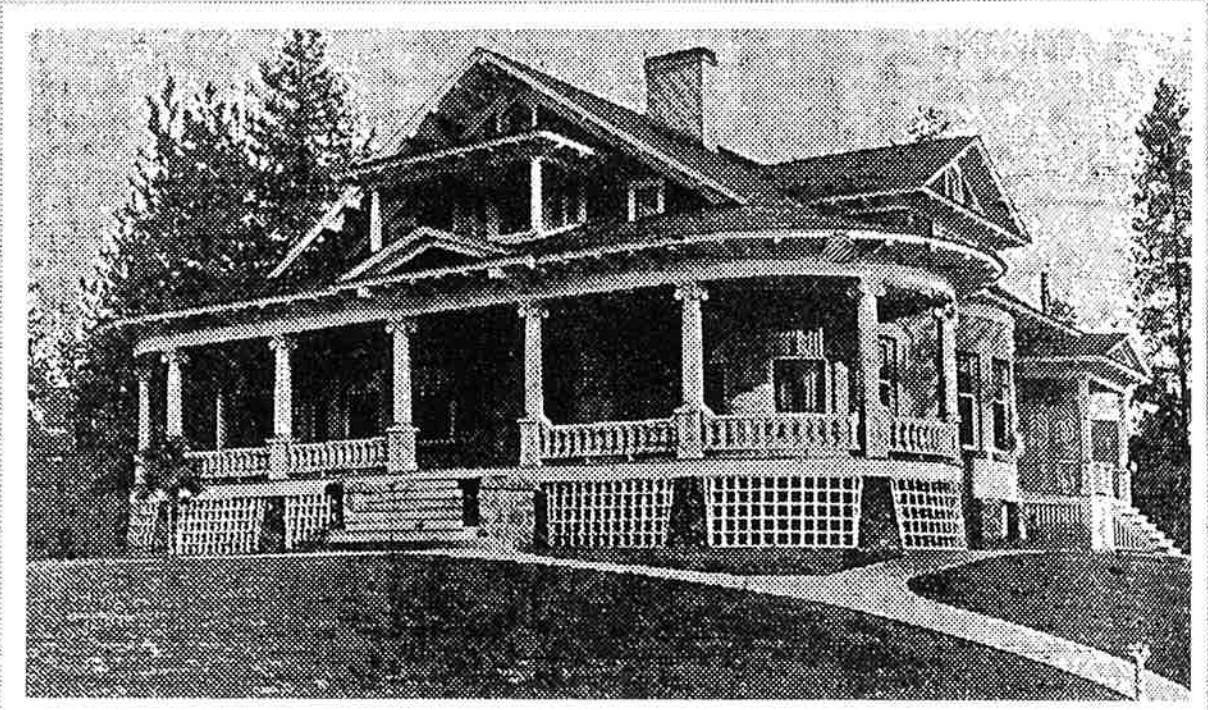


Photo taken in circa 1908

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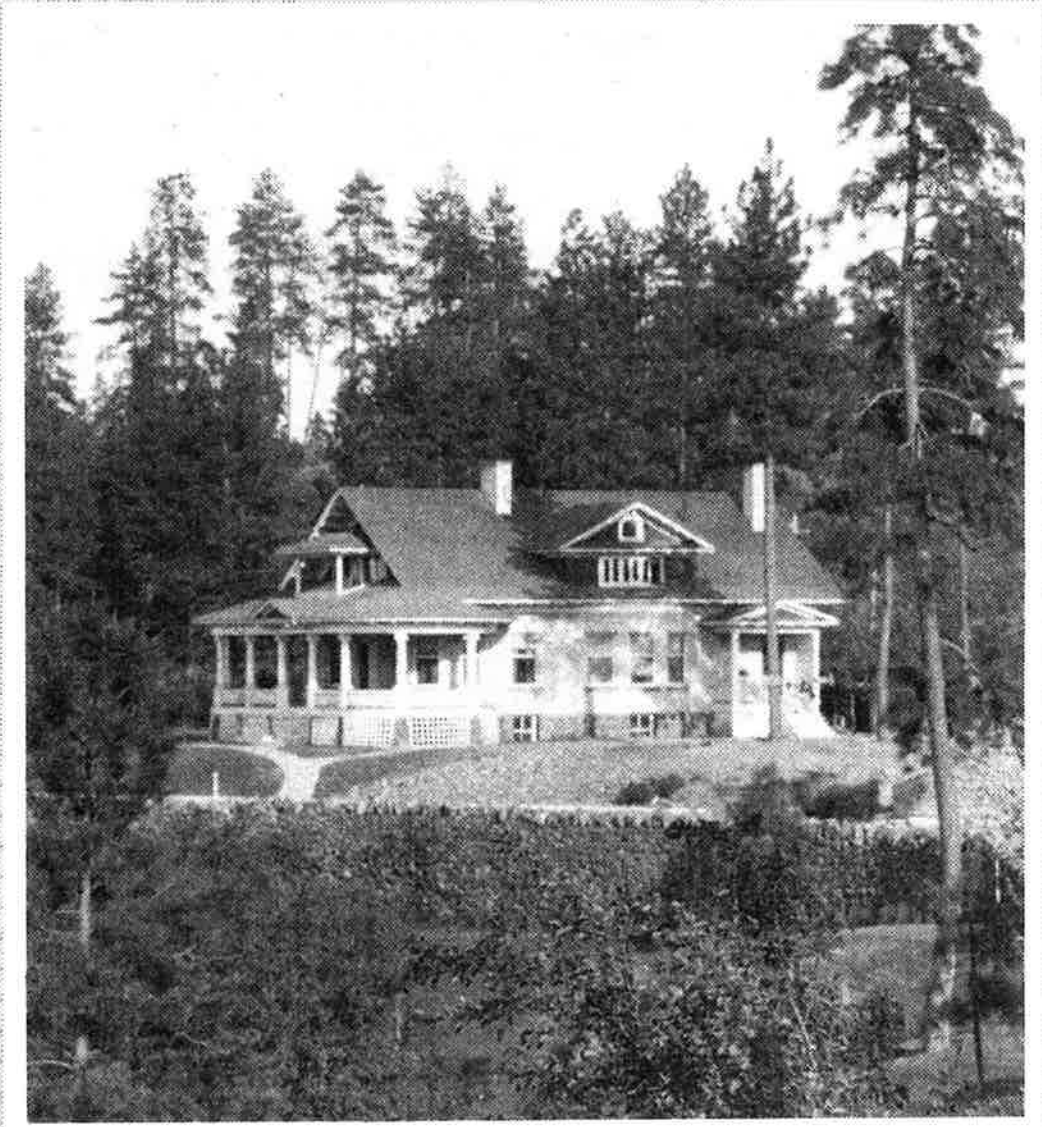


Photo taken in circa 1910.

Spokane Register of Historic Places Nomination

Spokane City/County Historic Preservation Office, City Hall, Sixth Floor
808 W. Spokane Falls Boulevard, Spokane, WA 99201

1. Name of Property

Historic Name **JOHN & IDA STRACK HOUSE**

2. Location

Street & Number 1206 E. Fifth Avenue
City, State, Zip Code Spokane, WA 99202
Parcel Number 35201.6013

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<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 type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> residential
	<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 Willoughby A. Jr. & Joyce Lee
Street & Number 1206 E. Fifth Avenue
City, State, Zip Code Spokane, WA 99202
Telephone Number/E-mail (509) 535-8473

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 of Existing Surveys

Title City of Spokane Historic Landmarks Survey
Date Federal____ State____ County____ Local 1979
Location of Survey Records Spokane Historic Preservation Office

Final Draft Nomination Accepted 21 Jan. 2004

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(see nomination, section 8)

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair
 deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check One

unaltered
 altered

Check One

original site
 moved & date _____

8. Spokane Register Categories and Statement of Significance

Applicable Spokane Register of Historic Places Categories: Mark "x" on one or more for the categories that qualify the property for the 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

Bibliography is found on one or more continuation sheets.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property	Less than one acre.
Verbal Boundary Description	Liberty Place Addition, Lots 16 and 17.
Verbal Boundary Justification	Nominated property includes entire parcel and urban legal description.

11. Form Prepared By

Name and Title	Linda Yeomans, Consultant
Organization	Historic Preservation Planning
Street, City, State, Zip Code	501 West 27 th Avenue, Spokane, WA 99203
Telephone Number	509-456-3828
Email Address	lindahouse1@aol.com
Date Final Nomination Heard	21 January 2004

12. Additional Documentation

Map	City/County of Spokane current plat map.
Photographs and Slides	14 B&W prints, 20 color slides, copies of historic photographs.

13. Signature of Owner(s)

- Name William A. Lee Jr.

- Name Joyce K Lee

14. For Official Use Only

Date Received _____ Attest _____

Date Heard _____ City Clerk _____

Commission Decision _____ Approved as to Form
Assistant City Attorney Michael P. Smith

Council/Board Action _____

Date _____

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

CITY ADMINISTRATOR, City of Spokane
or

CHAIR, Spokane County Commissioners

CHAIR, Spokane City/County Historic Landmarks Commission

OFFICER, Spokane City/County Historic Preservation Officer
Spokane City/County Historic Preservation Office
Sixth Floor, City Hall, W. 808 Spokane Falls Boulevard, Spokane, WA 99201

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

From the high crest of a basalt bluff located along tree-lined East Fifth Avenue above Liberty Park in East Central Spokane, the John & Ida Strack House commands a panoramic view of the city. Built in 1907, the home is an eclectic expression of the Colonial Revival style and is accentuated with architectural elements that reveal a mixture of influences from Queen Anne, Arts & Crafts, and Prairie traditions. The dwelling features a symmetrical design which is dominated by a front-facing gable roof, and a wide front porch that follows a circular footprint as it curves around the front corners of the house. Clad in smooth buff-colored pressed brick, the house is embellished with widely overhanging modillioned eaves, round porch columns with Corinthian capitals, and exterior trim painted a crisp white. Cut black basalt stone forms the foundation for the home, producing a sharp contrast to the white-painted trim and buff-colored brick wall cladding. A unique feature of the home is the glazing design for the first and second-floor windows; each window has a leaded-glass upper light with geometric linear designs, which form straight vertical and horizontal lines. The Strack House is well preserved with many original features and retains good to excellent exterior and interior integrity in location, design, materials, workmanship, and association as a single-family home built in early 20th century Spokane.

CURRENT APPEARANCE & CONDITION*Site*

Sited approximately two miles southeast of downtown Spokane, the Strack House is located at 1206 East Fifth Avenue on the south side of the street on Lots 16 and 17 in the Liberty Place Addition. The house is built in the center of the two lots, which form an irregularly shaped parcel that measures 212 feet deep on the west border, 237 feet deep on the east border, 105 feet along the south border, and 105 feet wide across the north front of the property. The property is surrounded on the east, west, and south by single-family homes which were built from 1900 to about 1945, and is fronted on the north by Fifth Avenue. The house is framed by mature deciduous trees and a manicured lawn. A gravel driveway leads back from the street along the east border of the property to a two-car garage, which is located behind the house.

Garage

The garage is a 1.5 story building that measures 20 feet wide and 24 feet deep, and has a cross-gable roof. Built in 1910, the garage was originally designed as a carriage house and barn. It retains its original plan, narrow-width horizontal wood clapboard siding, wood corner boards, barn doors, and hay loft door in the west elevation gable peak. The building no longer houses animals, and the roof was recovered in 1971 with composition shingles.

House Exterior

Forming a rectangular footprint that measures 36 feet wide and 50 feet deep, the Strack House is a 1.5 story dwelling with a low-pitched front gable roof. Two brick chimneys

rise from the crest of the roof. The roof is covered with composition shingles. The roof eaves are wide, boxed, and are embellished with scroll-sawn painted wood modillions and tongue-and-groove painted wood soffits. The house is constructed with eleven-inch-thick brick masonry walls and is clad on all four elevations with smooth face brick laid in stretcher bond. The buff-colored bricks are accentuated with dark brown grout. Fenestration reveals symmetrical patterns and a combination of original 1/1, double-hung, wood-sash fixed and casement windows. Each window on the first and second floor is embellished with a decorative leaded-glass upper light. All of the windows on the first floor have molded concrete lug sills.

Facade

The focal point of the house is the façade, which faces north. Along with a low-pitched gable roof, the façade is embellished with a recessed balcony on the second floor and a large wrap-around curved porch on the first floor. A small center pediment on the porch roof highlights and marks the location of the front entrance of the house. The porch extends the full width of the house and returns around the northeast and northwest corners in a circular pattern. Repeating the curve of the porch design, curved bow windows flank the front door and are protected by the covered front porch. The porch is covered by a low-pitched hip roof and is supported by eleven, evenly spaced, round porch columns that are anchored to square wood-paneled porch piers. A turned-post balustrade connects the columns and surrounds the porch deck. The deck is made of wood planks, and the ceiling of the porch is clad in wood tongue-and-groove boards. The porch deck is supported by cut black basalt stone foundation piers. Curved wood lattice panels fit between the stone piers beneath the porch deck. Six wooden steps descend from the center of the porch to a paved front walkway. The steps are flanked by cut basalt stone walls. Façade fenestration features a center front door and a combination of fixed, casement, and 1/1, double-hung, wood-sash windows.

East, West, and South Elevations

The *east* elevation of the house is dominated by a circular bay with three curved windows on the first floor, and a gabled dormer with a row of three multi-paned leaded-glass casement windows on the second floor. The design of the *west* elevation is similar to the design of the east elevation and features a circular bay with three curved windows on the first floor and a gabled dormer with a row of three leaded-glass casement windows. The west elevation features a side entrance by the southwest corner of the house. The entrance is covered with a gabled, modillioned portico that is supported by square wood porch columns. A plain balustrade protects the porch deck. The *rear* elevation of the house faces south and has a pedimented gable-end roof. Modillions accentuate the roof eaves. Fenestration is evenly spaced and includes a cellar opening at grade with stairs that lead down to a basement door. Basement windows are multi-paned, double-hung, wood-sash units. While the first floor of the house is clad in brick, the gable fields are clad in wood shingles.

House Interior

Protected by the front porch, a wood-framed front door, which is embellished with beveled glazing, egg-and-dart molding, and original brass hardware, opens to a small vestibule. A wood-framed door with beveled glazing opens from the vestibule to a central foyer. The focal point of the foyer is a fireplace, which is located on a south inside wall. Retaining original design, materials, and workmanship, the fireplace features a brightly colored surround which is constructed of glazed mottled green, gold, and yellow-hued ceramic tiles, which are accentuated in *bas relief* and arranged in a polychrome pattern. The tiles frame a cast-iron firebox, which is covered with a convex cast iron door. The door of the firebox is embellished with *bas relief* that depicts flowers and cupids. The hearth is clad in glazed mottled green ceramic tile. The fireplace is finished with a bracketed mahogany mantle, a small over-mantle, and a center wall niche which is located above the over-mantle. According to original plans for the house, the niche was designed to frame a clock.

First Floor

The central foyer opens to a library on the east, a living room on the west, and a door next east of the fireplace that opens to an interior central hallway. The opening to the library features a flat arch, which is flanked by two round columns set on wood-paneled pedestals. The focal point of the library is a bow window with curved window frames, sashes, and glazing. The living room, which is located opposite the library, is an extension of the foyer and, together with the foyer, was sometimes called a "living hall" (a popular floor plan adopted in the early 1900s). Focal points in the living room include a bow window in the northwest corner of the room and a boxed beam ceiling. The bow window has a curved wall as well as curved window frames, curved sashes, and curved glazing. From the living room, twin paneled pocket doors slide open to a formal dining room, which is located on the west wall of the house. The dining room has a boxed beam ceiling and is furnished with a built-in china cabinet that is highlighted with leaded-glass doors. A door in the south wall of the dining room opens to a kitchen, which is located in the rear, southwest corner of the house. The kitchen retains an original built-in pantry cupboard with glass doors. Two bedrooms and a bathroom are located along the east wall and in the southeast corner of the house. The bathroom retains original features and fixtures, which include painted enamel woodwork, a built-in medicine cabinet with a beveled mirror, and an oval pedestal washbasin. The vestibule, library, foyer, dining room and living room floors are oak. The two bedrooms, hallway, and bathroom have maple floors, and the kitchen has a fir floor. As described in a 1908 newspaper article about the house, the woodwork in the library, foyer, living room, and dining room is mahogany-finished birch while the woodwork in the bedrooms is unfinished birch, and the woodwork in the kitchen is unfinished fir. Original brass and opalescent globe glass chandeliers hang from the ceiling in the vestibule, the library, and the foyer.

Second Floor and Basement

A finished wood staircase leads to the second floor from the interior hallway. The second floor of the house has four bedrooms and a full bathroom. Except for the bathroom, the floor and woodwork is fir, the walls are made of lathe-and-plaster, and a sleeping porch extends out from the north bedroom, forming a recessed balcony. A low-pitched hip roof covers the balcony; the roof is supported by round columns and has deep eaves with modillions. The house has a full basement, which includes a workshop, storage spaces, and a billiard room. The house retains original radiators that transport steam heat. The steam heat was first fired by coal, then oil in the 1940s, and currently by natural gas beginning in 1998.

ORIGINAL APPEARANCE

The Strack House was pictured just after it was built in a *Spokesman-Review* newspaper article dated June 7, 1908. The article gave a full description of the house:

From an exterior view the noticeable feature in the contour of the house is the number of curves. On three sides a wide veranda, covered by the gentle slant of the main roof, has rounded eaves, while [bow] windows in groups of three, laid on the lines of a circle, form graceful outward curves on each side of the house.

The exterior walls of the house are "granite" pressed brick with trimmings of cement, and the tapering piers that support the porch columns are dressed, black rock. The four slopes of the roof, which is stained green, are broken by gables. Beneath the wide extending eaves of the front gable is a balcony, covered with an independent roof, supported by columns in keeping with the porch columns. All of the trimmings of the house are painted white, and the porch ceiling [is painted] pale blue.

All of the first floor rooms, excepting the kitchen, are finished in birch. In the living room, dining room, and library, the stain is mahogany, and the two [bed] chambers [are unfinished] in the natural [birch] wood. The floors in the three principal rooms are quarter-sawed oak with maple in the chambers. The kitchen floor and finish are natural fir.

The walls and ceilings of the living room, dining room, and library are treated in oil decorations, and the ceilings of the first two rooms [living room and dining room] are beamed in panels.

In the living room is a large grate with a closed firebox [which is] faced with green tile. The hearth is also of green tile. Above the wide mantle shelf is a recess for a large clock. The chandeliers are in dull brass.

Separating the dining room and the living room are sliding doors, and between the living room and the library is a [flat] arch with columns. The bathroom is finished in enamel tile with a hardwood floor. Instead of a pantry there is a large built-in cupboard in the kitchen.

The stairs to the second floor lead from the back hall, which is enclosed from the front of the house. On the second floor are seven [bedroom and closet] chambers arranged in three suites, and two independent rooms.

These are connected with a central hall, which also communicates with the bath. All of the upstairs rooms are finished in natural fir, and the walls are hard plaster in plain white. The front chamber opens upon the balcony.

SUBSEQUENT MODIFICATIONS

When compared to the 1908 newspaper photograph and floor plans of the property, the Strack House exhibits few alterations, and today retains its original exterior and interior design and most of the original materials used in the home's construction. The *1910 Sanborn Map* revealed the original footprint for the property, which is identical to the property's current footprint. Furthermore, the house looks the same now as it did in a c. 1910 photograph featured in *Then & Now: A Photographic History of the Spokane Area* (Munk, 1974).

Exterior changes to the home include: roof replacements in 1968 with cedar shingles, and in 2001 with composition shingles; the kitchen door on the southwest corner of the house was moved and installed three feet north; and a rear elevation kitchen window modification in the 1980s-1990s (a pair of 1/1, double-hung, wood-sash windows were shortened from the bottom up and refitted in the wall).

Interior modifications include various applications of paint and wallpaper to walls and ceilings throughout the house during the last 96 years, the removal of original light fixtures in the house in the 1940s-1960s (except for the vestibule, library, and foyer which retain original fixtures), and a remodel of the upstairs bathroom in the 1980s. In the 1980s-1990s, a kitchen remodel was begun and is currently in progress.

Areas of Significance	Architecture, Community Planning & Development
Periods of Significance	1907 to 1953
Significant Dates	1907
Architect or Designer	John Strack, homeowner/designer/engineer
Specific Dates	1907

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The John & Ida Strack House was built in 1907 and is a fine eclectic example of the Colonial Revival style with influences from the Queen Anne, Arts & Crafts, and Prairie traditions. Remarkably intact, the home retains original exterior and interior features, including a unique curvilinear front porch design, unusual curved windows with leaded-glass lights, and a fireplace with striking green-and-yellow glazed ceramic tile embellished in *bas relief*. A 1.5 story barn/carriage house was built behind the house in 1910 and retains its original plan, horizontal wood cladding, barn doors, and hay loft door. The property's first owners were John W. Strack and his wife, Ida Strack. As part owner of the Riblet & Strack Company, and employed at different times during the late 1880s and early 1900s as a surveyor and engineer for the Northern Pacific Railroad and the City and County of Spokane, John W. Strack demonstrated his skill for design when he created plans for his own home. Described in a June 7, 1908 newspaper article as an "attractive" home that was "roomy, complete, [and] homey," the Strack House was featured on a half-page spread in the *Spokesman-Review* with a photograph of the house, floor plans of the first and second floors, and a picture of the dining room, which was shown furnished with popular accoutrements of the day. Associated with the development of Liberty Park and the Liberty Place Addition, the Strack House was one of the first homes built along East Fifth Avenue, a street specifically designed to follow the curvilinear crest of the steep basalt bluff that overlooks Liberty Park and north Spokane. The property and its site convey urban design trends, building practices, construction materials, and home designs popularized during the early 1900s in the Spokane region. In the areas of significance, "architecture" and "community planning & design," and during its period of significance from 1907 to 1953, the house achieved architectural and historical significance. The John & Ida Strack House and garage are eligible for listing on the Spokane Register of Historic Places under Categories A and C.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Liberty Place Addition

As noted in Spokane County Tax Assessor records, the Liberty Place Addition was platted in the late 1800s with long 50-foot-wide lots that measured up to 200 feet or more in depth. Diminutive in scale but strategically sited with a broad view of north Spokane, the Liberty Place Addition comprises a small piece of land which is bounded by the bluff's edge along Fifth Avenue to the north, Celesta Avenue to the south, Arthur Street to the west, and Perry Street on the east. In 1897 wealthy Spokane financier F. Lewis

Clark offered to donate 22 acres of land he owned, which was located just below the bluff's edge, to the City of Spokane for use as a public park. The park was built and called Liberty Park. In addition to park improvements, he requested that Fifth Avenue be graded and paved. Regarded as a necessary amenity for neighborhood development, the street improvement helped foster future settlement of Liberty Place, which was being developed through Clark's Consolidated Improvement Company. Clark's wishes were met and a *Spokane Daily Chronicle* newspaper article reported that Fifth Avenue was improved with a "grade that winds in and out in a picturesque manner, following the more rugged outlines of the south edge of the park" (4 Dec 1898).

On May 22, 1907, John W. Strack bought Lots 16 and 17, which were located in the center of the Liberty Place Addition. The purchase price was \$2,200 and was "payable in gold coin" to the Consolidated Improvement Company (Spokane County warranty deed #173075). The warranty deed for the property was conveyed with subdivision covenants, which were written by Clark's Consolidated Improvement Company and were created to control the design and future development of the residential neighborhood. The covenants stipulated the following requirements:

- Buildings shall be erected at least 20 feet or more from the street.
- Buildings shall cost \$5,000 or more when built.
- Buildings shall maintain a value of \$5,000 or more *after* they are built, and must be kept painted.
- Store or business structures are prohibited.
- "Said agreements shall run with the land, and the acceptance of this deed shall bind said second party to perform said agreements."

John W. Strack

Spokane historian and author N. W. Durham (*History of the County of Spokane & Spokane Country, Washington, 1912*) summarized Strack's accomplishments in Spokane. He reported that John W. Strack was born in 1857 in Ontario, Canada, and later moved to Michigan with his family. A self-made man, Strack was forced to abandon his public school education at the age of 13 and seek immediate employment. He worked at various jobs for four years and then moved to Minneapolis where he was employed for nine years in the Washburn Mill. In 1883 he made his way to Spokane and worked as a surveyor for the Northern Pacific Railroad and D. C. Corbin's Narrow Gauge Railroad. Durham stated that after working with the railroads, Strack "had acquired sufficient skill in his chosen pursuit, and had won recognition for his ability to such an extent, that he was able to open up an independent office under the firm name of Riblet & Strack." From 1888 to 1891, the company was responsible for platting at least "one-half of the city of Spokane" (p. 677). After his partnership with Riblet, J. W. Strack was employed by the City and County of Spokane as a surveyor and engineer during the 1890s and early 1900s. He also worked for Washington Water Power Company, and platted land for the Vera Land Company and Loon Lake irrigations projects.

Strack married Ida May Snyder in 1889. They raised two sons, Royal and John Lester, and lived in a home at 2324 E. South Altamont Boulevard before moving into the house on Fifth Avenue in 1908. According to the *United States Census Report*, at least 14 people lived in the Strack House in 1910: Strack and his wife, Ida; their two sons; a nurse who cared for Royal (who suffered from polio); a servant and her daughter, and seven boarders. Two of the boarders were associated with Strack and his surveying/engineering business (Compau, "Homes" p. 17). In 1911 Strack's wife, Ida, died and Strack married Ella Williams. They resided in the home until they divorced in 1917. J. W. Strack then quit-claimed the property and a corresponding \$6,500 mortgage to Ella. Ella Williams Strack married H. W. Ludwig and sold the property less than three years later in 1920 to Merrill G. and Grace Martindale (Spokane County warranty deed #586861).

Subsequent Owners

The Martindales came to Spokane in the 1880s and started a clothing business, which was destroyed in the Spokane Fire of 1889. Martindale rebuilt his business, becoming an owner of the I.X.L. clothing store, and was later associated with Best Clothing Company. During the time he lived in the Strack House, Merrill Martindale was employed as an insurance agent, was active in the Spokane Shriners, and served two terms in the state legislature. Merrill died in 1940 and Grace sold the property to spinster Viva Lindahl for \$7,000 on October 1st of the same year (Spokane County warranty deed #464019A).

Willoughby A. Lee and his wife, Joyce, bought the property in July 1974 for \$25,000. W. A. "Bill" Lee was employed as a general contractor and owned Lee Construction Company in Spokane where he built homes and condominiums for 44 years. Joyce Lee earned a degree in applied art/home economics and raised five children on the property.

HISTORICAL & ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

Category A

The John & Ida Strack House is significant for its association with the development of Liberty Park and the Liberty Place Addition. Erected in 1907 at a reported cost of \$12,000, the Strack House was the second home built in the addition and helped "set the stage" for future development and subsequent residential settlement located along East Fifth Avenue. The property illustrates early 20th century urban design guidelines and building trends that evolved in Spokane as evidenced by specific subdivision covenants that were initiated for properties located in Liberty Place. The construction cost of the Strack House (which is more than twice the amount required in the covenants), its eclectic domestic design, and architectural integrity demonstrate the fulfillment of subdivision requirements and meet the high standards stipulated by F. Lewis Clark and the Consolidated Improvement Company, authors of the covenants.

Category C

The Strack House is architecturally significant as an excellent eclectic representation of the Colonial Revival style and retains good historical and architectural integrity. Revealing an eclectic mix of decorative details, the house exhibits stylistic influences derived from Colonial Revival, Queen Anne, Arts & Crafts, and Prairie School traditions. In addition to its unique design, the Strack House embodies artistic value and conveys design skills exhibited by J. W. Strack, the home's designer. When it was built in 1907, the Strack House was considered a significant Spokane home as evidenced by exterior and interior photographs, floor plans, and a description of the house that were featured in a June 7, 1908 article in the *Spokesman-Review*. The newspaper article applauded J. W. Strack's design with the following headlines and description:

CURVES [ARE] FEATURE OF THIS COTTAGE

J. W. STRACK HAS ATTRACTIVE RESIDENCE WHICH HE DESIGNED HIMSELF

Birch Finish—Oil Decoration—Chambers Above Arranged in Suites

Roomy, complete, homey—these seem to be the befitting adjectives descriptive of the residence [that] J. W. Strack has just completed at E. 1206 Fifth Avenue in Liberty Park Place. Occupying a site [which measures] 100x240 feet [and is] several feet above grade, the house overlooks the attractive awards and flowering shrubs of picturesque Liberty Park.

Mr. Strack drew his own plans, working at them for a year before getting the arrangement to his satisfaction.

The Colonial Revival Style

Beginning roughly in the late 1890s, the Colonial Revival tradition was a dominant style for domestic building throughout the United States during the first half of the 20th century. The term "Colonial Revival" refers to the entire rebirth, or revival of interest in the early English houses that were built in the original thirteen American colonies. "Georgian and Adam styles form the backbone of the Revival, with secondary influences from Post medieval English or Dutch Colonial prototypes. Details from two or more of these precedents are freely combined in many examples so that pure copies of colonial houses are far less common than are eclectic mixtures" (McAlester, p 324). Identifying features of the Colonial Revival style include: a usually symmetrical façade design with symmetrically balanced placement of windows and front door; windows with double-hung sashes, usually with multi-pane glazing on one or both sashes; windows frequently in adjacent pairs; accentuated front door, usually with sidelights and a decorative crown (pediment) above the door or front porch; and entry porches that are supported by columns. Details and variants were usually found in three areas of elaboration: entrances, cornices, and windows. These details include boxed eaves with modillions

and brackets; cornices with dentils, swags and festoons; and front porches with Classic columns and turned-post balustrades. Exterior wall cladding revealed other variants; “all common wall materials were used, but masonry predominates in high-style examples” (McAlester, p. 324).

The design for the Strack House retains good to excellent integrity and represents Colonial Revival features. These include the home’s symmetrically balanced façade design, symmetrically balanced placement of windows and front door, double-hung wood-sash windows, front porch supported by Classic Corinthian columns, turned-post balustrade, dominant pediment on the front porch that marks the location of the home’s front door; sidelights that flank the front door; boxed eaves with modillions; and exterior wall cladding made of smooth, pressed face brick.

The Strack House also exhibits influences from the Queen Anne style, the Arts & Crafts period, and the Prairie School. Queen Anne-style influences are found in the home’s full-width, circular wrap-around front porch, which is a typical design element of the Queen Anne style. Arts & Crafts period influence is seen in the home’s low-pitched, front-facing gable roof with wide, overhanging eaves, and in the square paneled-wood pedestals that support porch columns on the front porch. Prairie School influence is revealed in widely overhanging boxed eaves, which cast a distinct horizontal shadow across the house, and especially in the decorative leaded-glass upper lights of the home’s windows. The decorative glazing features geometric linear designs, a hallmark design attributed to the Prairie School.

In the context of historic Spokane homes, the plan for the Strack House stands out as a custom design and is not duplicated in the area. Specific elements of the exterior design of the Strack House, however, are similar to two Spokane homes: the D. C. Corbin House (507 W. Seventh Avenue, built in 1898) and the Catterson House (2025 W. Fourth Avenue, built in 1902). The Strack, Corbin, and Catterson homes are all Colonial Revival-style dwellings with similar front porch designs that employ curvilinear corners. In addition, the Catterson House has curved windows that flank the front door, which are similar to those in the Strack House. The windows in both homes feature deep beveled and leaded glazing. The similarities stop with the glazing designs: the Catterson House windows feature Art Nouveau influence while the windows of the Strack House reveal Prairie School design. In summary, the Strack House is decidedly unique and embodies designs rendered specifically by J. W. Strack, the home’s designer and original owner.

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Spokane Daily Chronicle, 12 Dec 1898.

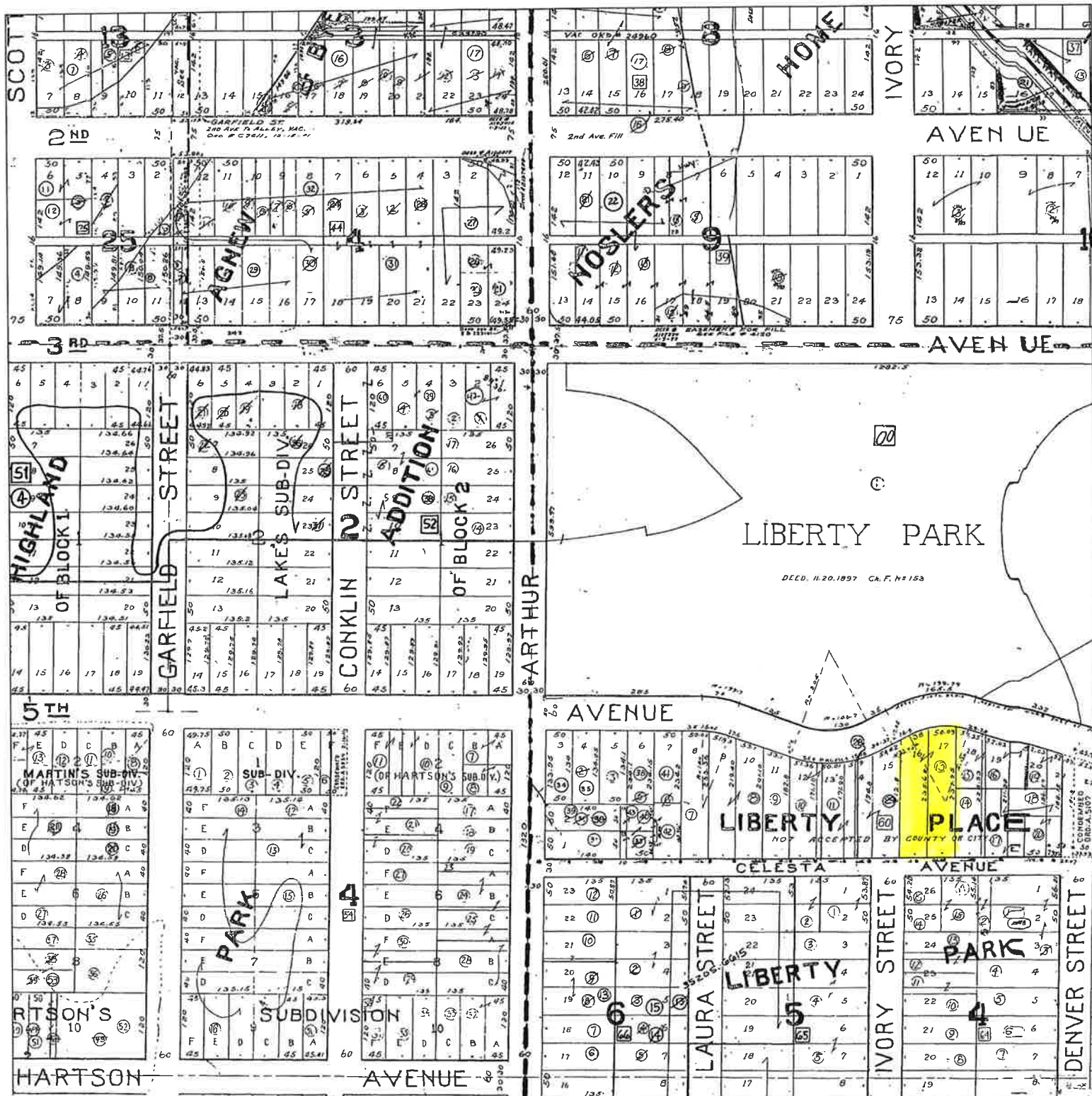
United States Census Report, 1910.

Spokane Register of Historic Places Nomination Continuation Sheet
JOHN W. STRACK HOUSE

Section 9

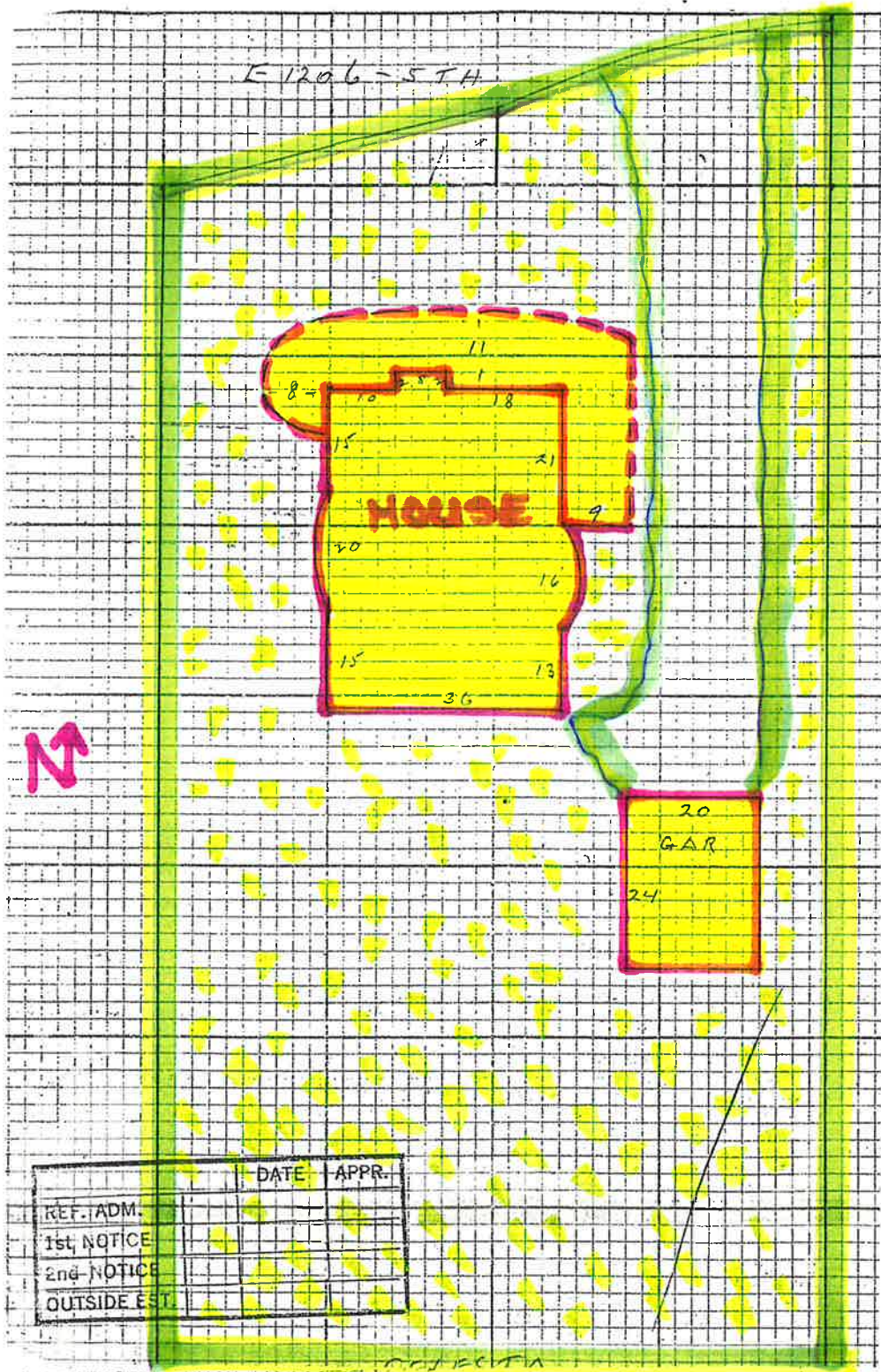
Map 1

Spokane County Plat Map of property, 2003.



Map 2

Spokane County Site Plan Map of property, 2003, Spokane
 County Tax Assessor's Records.



Photos 1 and 2 North elevation of Strack House; photos taken in 2003.



Photos 3 and 4

Northwest corner facade of house in 2003.



Photos 5 and 6 West elevation of house and back porch, in 2003.



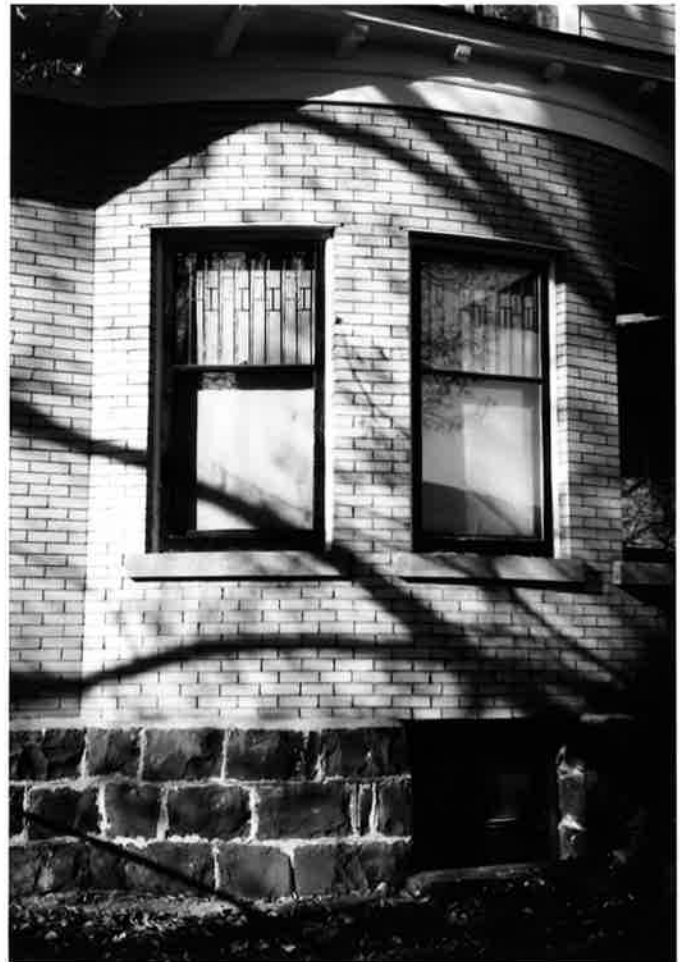
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Photos 7 and 8 North facade elevation of Strack House in 2003.



Photos 9 and 10 East elevation of Strack House in 2003.



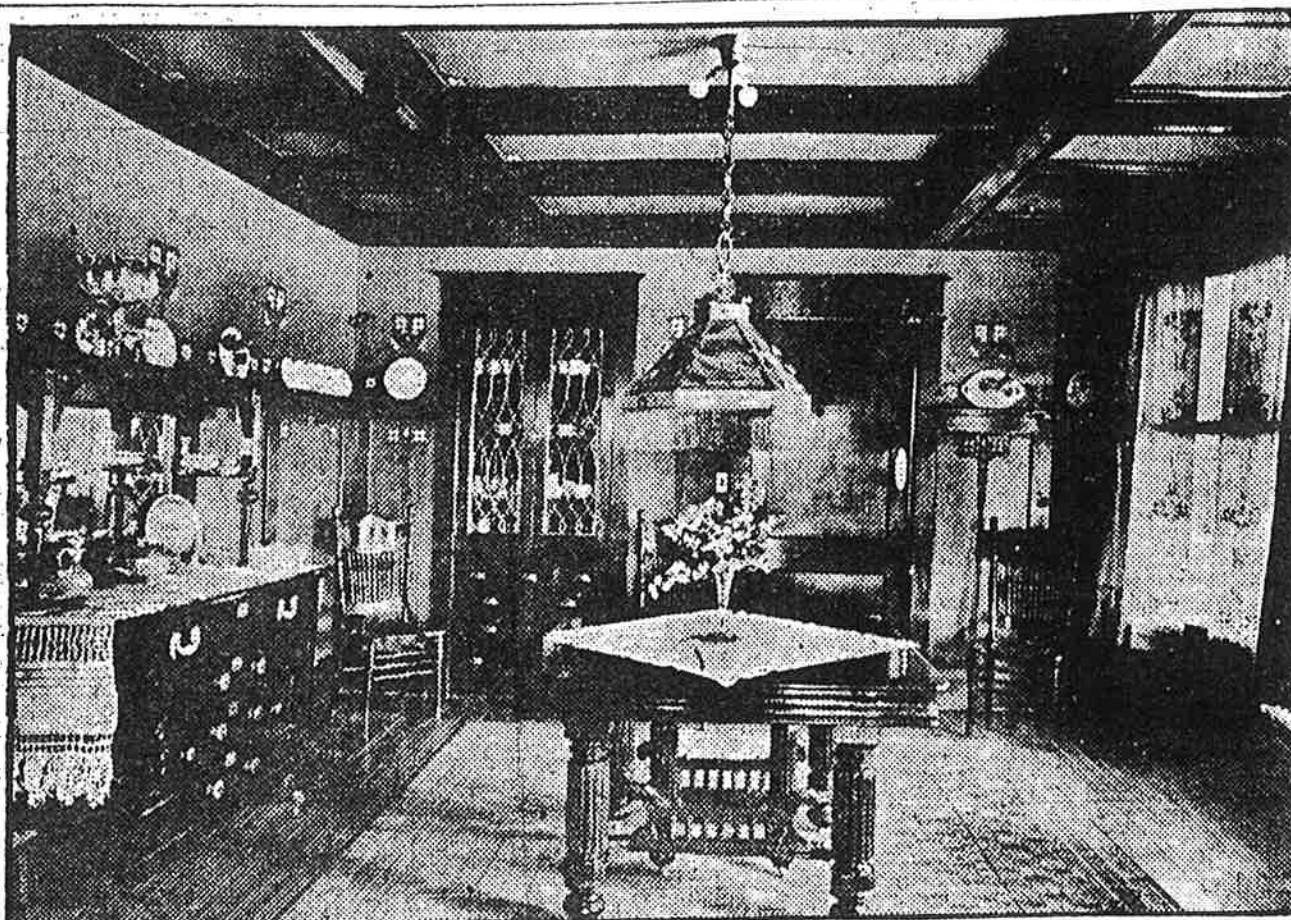
Photos 11 and 12 East elevation of house in 2003.



- Photo 13 South, rear elevation of house in 2003.
Photo 14 North facade of garage in 2003.



Historic Photo 1 "Coves Feature of This Cottage." *Spokesman-Review*, 7 June 1908.



Dining room of J. W. Strack's residence.

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Historic Photo 2 Munk, Ivan. *Then & Now: A Photographic History of the Spokane Area*. Spokane: Richard's Printing Company, 1974.



CURVES FEATURE OF THIS COTTAGE

**J. W. STRACK HAS ATTRACTIVE
RESIDENCE WHICH HE DE-
SIGNER HIMSELF.**

BIRCH FINISH. OIL DECORATION

**Hardwood Floors—Chambers Above
Arranged in Suites—Fluely
Appointed Basement.**

Roomy, complete, homey—these seem to be the befitting adjectives descriptive of the residence J. W. Strack has just completed at E1206 Fifth avenue in Liberty Park place.

Occupying a site 100x240 feet several feet above grade the house overlooks the attractive swards and flowering shrubs of picturesque Liberty park.

In style of architecture the house is a cottage design. Mr. Strack drew his own plans, working at them for a year before getting the arrangement to his satisfaction.

From an exterior view the noticeable feature in the contour of the house are the number of curves. On three sides a wide veranda, covered by the gentle slant of the main roof, has

black rock. The porch columns are round with Corinthian caps. The four slopes of the roof, which is stained green, are broken by gables. Beneath the wide extending eaves of the front gable is a balcony, covered with an independent roof, supported by columns in keeping with the porch columns. All of the trimmings of the house are painted white, and the porch ceiling pale blue.

All of the first floor rooms, excepting the kitchen, are finished in birch. In the living room, dining room and library the stain is mahogany and the two chambers in the natural wood. The floors in the three principal rooms are quarter-sawned oak with maple in the chambers. The kitchen floor and finish are natural fir.

The walls and ceiling of the living room, dining room and library are treated in oil decorations, and the ceilings of the first two rooms are beamed in panels.

In the living room is a large grate, with closed firebox and faced with green tile. The hearth is also of green tile. Above the wide mantel shelf is a recess for a large clock. The chandeliers are in dull brass.

Separating the dining room and living room are sliding doors, and between the living room and library is an arch with columns. The bathroom is finished in enamel tile, with hardwood floors. Instead of a pantry there is a large built-in cupboard in the kitchen.

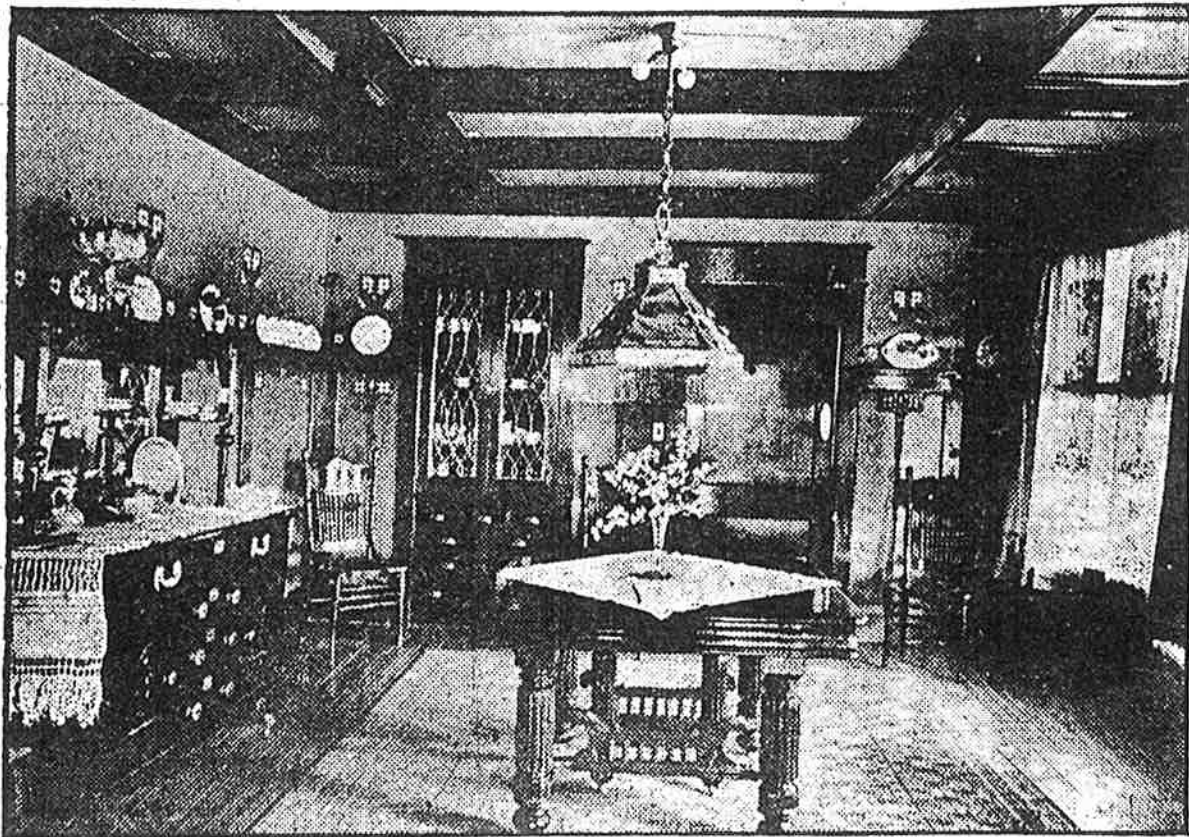
The stairs to the second floor lead

All of the upstairs rooms are finished in natural fir, and the walls are hard plaster in plain white. The front chamber opens upon the balcony.

One of the best appointed basements in the city is built under the house. It contains a workshop, billiard room, smoking den with open fireplace, vegetable cellar, man's room, coal room, furnace room, toilet and lavatory. The house is heated by a vacuum steam plant. It cost about \$12,000.

**JOHN W. STRACK HOUSE
1206 E. Fifth Avenue
Spokane, WA 99203**

Spokesman-Review
7 June 1908
Page 2



Dining room of J. W. Strack's residence.

rounded eaves, while windows in groups of three, laid on the lines of a circle, form graceful outward curves on each side of the house.

Walls Pressed Granite Brick.

The exterior walls of the house are granite pressed brick with trimmings of cement and the tapering piers that support the porch columns are dressed

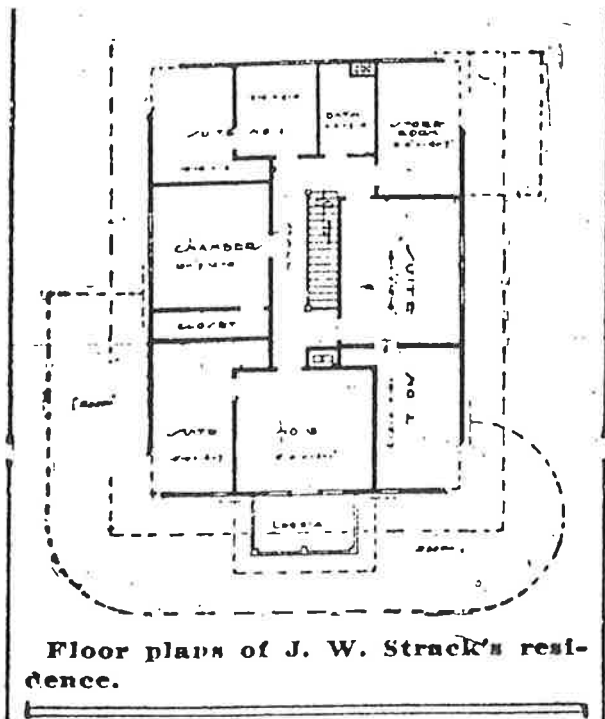
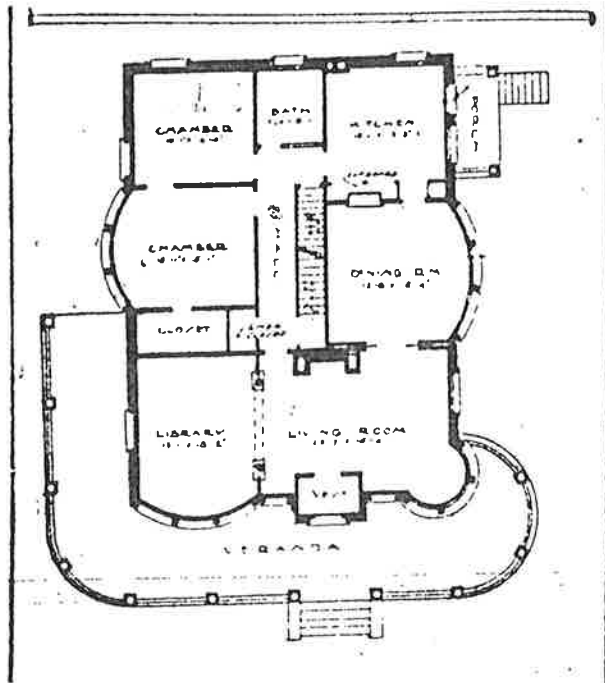
from the back hall, which is inclosed from the front of the house.

Chambers Are in Suites.

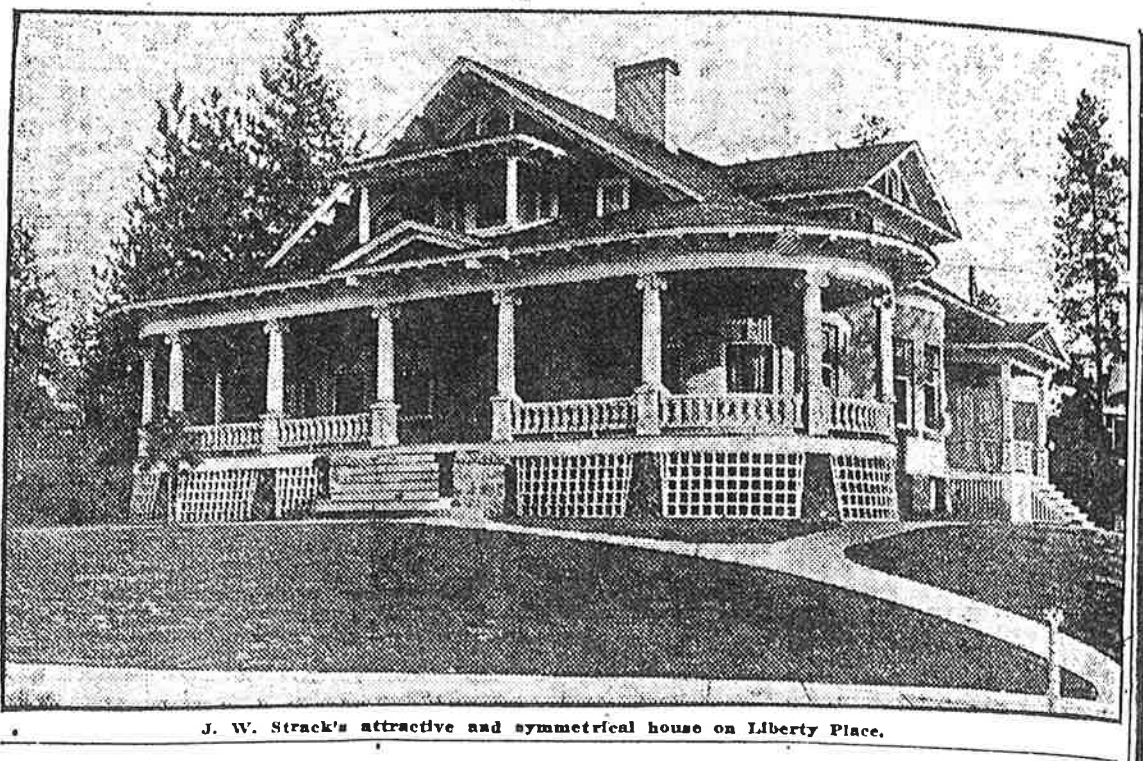
On the second floor are seven chambers, arranged in three suites and two independent rooms. These are connected with a central hall, which also communicates with the bath.

that the price runs to thousands of dollars.

The fashion was inaugurated by the young administrator of the Congo colony, who sent a number of grass-hatted parasols to his women acquaintances in Paris. He now has a hundred natives employed in doing the work and can not supply the demand.



Floor plans of J. W. Strack's residence.



J. W. Strack's attractive and symmetrical house on Liberty Place.