

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries complete applicable sections)

STATE	Washington
COUNTY	Spokane SP 45
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	

1. NAME	
COMMON	Strahorn Pines
AND/OR HISTORIC	

2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER West 2216 First Avenue			
CITY OR TOWN Spokane		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT #5 - Honorable Thomas S. Foley	
STATE Washington	COUNTY 53	COUNTY Spokane	CODE 063

3. CLASSIFICATION					
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS		ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC	
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress		Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No	
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)					
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input 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 (Specify)	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments	

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY				STATE Washington
OWNER'S NAME Eastern Washington Historical Foundation - c/o Ray D. Farmin				
STREET AND NUMBER 932 Old National Bank Building				
CITY OR TOWN Spokane	STATE Washington	CODE 53		

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION				COUNTY Spokane
COURTHOUSE REGISTRY OF DEEDS ETC Spokane County Courthouse				
STREET AND NUMBER West 116 Broadway				
CITY OR TOWN Spokane	STATE Washington	CODE 53		

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS				ENTRY NUMBER DATE	FOR NPS USE ONLY
TITLE OF SURVEY Spokane Metropolitan Area Transportation (Historical and Cultural Site Inventory)					
DATE OF SURVEY October, 1970 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local					
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Spokane City Hall					
STREET AND NUMBER North 211 Wall Street					
CITY OR TOWN Spokane	STATE Washington	CODE 53			

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Constructed in 1887, this home was built and occupied by J. J. Browne and his family until 1900, when the house was purchased by Robert E. Strahorn. The three-story building was then completely remodeled by architects K. Cutter and Malgrem into a twenty-room mansion with nine bathrooms and ten fireplaces.

The remodeling cost tens-of-thousands of dollars and reflected architect Kirtland Kelsey Cutter's penchant for detail. The remodeled home included such decorative features as: handsome hand-carved beams and woodwork, damask-covered walls, rare Oriental rugs, mosaic floor tiles from an old palace in Italy, gold furniture in the drawing room, gold leaf light fixtures bearing the Strahorn coat-of-arms, oil paintings, and a bowling alley. Probably a little later, a French artist hand painted murals on several of the ceilings and walls.

In 1929, the home and coach house were converted into eleven apartments, but a portion of the original decorations and furnishings were retained. The exterior remained virtually the same. Today the building sits next to the Eastern Washington State Historical Society's Cheney Cowles Memorial Museum (constructed 1960) and the Grace Campbell Memorial House, constructed by Cutter in 1898 and currently in the process of being refurnished and restored. Strahorn Pines, situated on the edge of a plateau overlooking the Spokane River Canyon, is now owned by the Eastern Washington Historical Foundation which is affiliated with the nearby Society.

On the exterior, the first floor is brick, and the top floors are stucco and half-timbered. The building also has a carriage-porch, leaded glass windows, decorated chimneys, and steep gables with handsome bargeboard eaves. The design is basically Elizabethan in style. Porches, balconies, and railings are also spaced frequently around the building.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Pre Columbian

☐ 16th Century

☐ 18th Century

☒ 20th Century,

☐ 15th Century

☐ 17th Century

☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1887

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal

☐ Education

☐ Political

☐ Urban Planning

☐ Prehistoric

☐ Engineering

☐ Religion/Philosophy

☒ Other (Specify)

☐ Historic

☐ Industry

☐ Science

community and regional development

☐ Agriculture

☐ Invention

☐ Sculpture

☒ Architecture

☐ Landscape Architecture

☐ Social/Humanitarian

☐ Art

☐ Literature

☐ Theater

☐ Commerce

☐ Military

☐ Transportation

☐ Communications

☐ Music

☒ Transportation

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This residence had two owners who figured prominently in early Spokane history.

The original owner was J. J. Browne after whom "Browne's addition" on the west side of Spokane was named. Browne came to the region in 1878 when Indians still roamed nearby, and the small settlement of Spokane Falls was just beginning to experience a building boom. Browne first acquired 160 acres of land, and soon increased his holdings to 2,200 acres. By the 1880's, Browne was President of the Browne National Bank and was involved with most the development projects in the incredibly fast growing city. When the elegantly furnished Browne home was completed in 1887, it became the site of elaborate social gatherings attended by the city's wealthiest citizens, who were often transplanted Easterners who had become rich in the mining and transportation industries.

The second owners were Mr. and Mrs. Robert Strahorn, who purchased the house in 1900 and had it entirely remodeled. Earlier, Robert Strahorn had been a writer covering the Sioux Wars in the Powder River country. Eventually, Jay Gould hired Strahorn to publicize the potentialities of the railroads, and to promote settlement of the West. Strahorn's job was also expanded to include research into the possibilities for advantageous placement of railroad extensions and short lines. When offered the job, Strahorn had just married a young woman who had previously lived in a refined and settled society; but nevertheless, she traveled with her husband by horseback and stagecoach throughout the yet untamed West. Mrs. Strahorn chronicled her travels between the Missouri River and the Pacific Ocean in a volume entitled, Fifteen Thousand Miles by Stage.

Strahorn was a key figure in railroad development in Spokane and the Inland Empire, an area including much of Eastern Washington, Southern British Columbia, Northern Idaho, and Western Montana. Strahorn's most unusual achievement was the building of the North Coast Railway, which connected Spokane with Portland and the coast. No one knew where Strahorn was getting the finances to build the line, yet Strahorn would pay for the construction work costing millions with personal checks.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Washington	
COUNTY	
Spokane	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

#8 - Significance
Strahorn Pines

When the North Coast Line was completed in 1914, Strahorn's backer was revealed as the Oregon Railway Navigation Company which in turn was connected to the Union Pacific. Thus, Strahorn had in effect included Spokane in the powerful Union Pacific web. Later, Strahorn skillfully brought the Canadian Pacific; the Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul; and Union Pacific into a joint terminal at Spokane's specially constructed Union Station, a project costing \$7,000,000.

Spokane's famed architect Kirtland Kelsey Cutter and another architect named Malgrem remodeled the home entirely in 1900 after Strahorn purchased it. Cutter had studied architecture in New York and Europe before arriving in Spokane in 1886. At first, Cutter worked as a clerk in a relative's bank while carrying on a small architectural practice. By 1889, Cutter had quit the bank and was working full time to rebuild Spokane's business section which had been destroyed by a disastrous fire. By the turn-of-the century, Cutter had designed numerous business establishments, lavish mansions, the Spokane County Courthouse, and the Gonzaga University Administration Building. Cutter was not only prolific, but also versatile; the Spokane County Courthouse, for example, was done in the elaborate French Renaissance style whereas a number of the mansions, such as Strahorn Pines, were done in the popular half-timbered Elizabethian style. Cutter eventually moved his practice to Southern California. Other examples of outstanding Cutter creations were the Rainier Club in Seattle and the Idaho State Building at the Chicago World's Fair. Cutter-designed mansions were extremely popular as homes for Spokane's well-to-do, particularly the mining magnates. The tremendous amount of wealth pouring into Spokane in the late Nineteenth Century created a lavish and colorful society in a period since known as Spokane's "Age of Elegance". Cutter's mansions such as Strahorn Pines were a key element in the "Age of Elegance", and remain today as a unique feature or trademark of the City of Spokane.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bean, Margaret. Age of Elegance. Spokane: Eastern Washington State Historical Society, 1968.
 Fuller, George W. A History of the Pacific Northwest. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1941, pp. 322-3.
 Spokesman Review (Spokane, Washington). March 31, 1940; February 3, 1957; and January 23, 1958.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE				
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"			
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"			
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than one

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE
Glen Lindeman, Historic Preservation Specialist

ORGANIZATION
Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission

DATE
11/1/73

STREET AND NUMBER
P.O. Box 1128

CITY OR TOWN
Olympia

STATE
Washington

CODE
53-

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665) I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☒ Local ☐

Name

Charles H. Odegaard

Title

Director - Washington State
Parks & Recreation Commission

Date

12/13/73

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

ATTEST

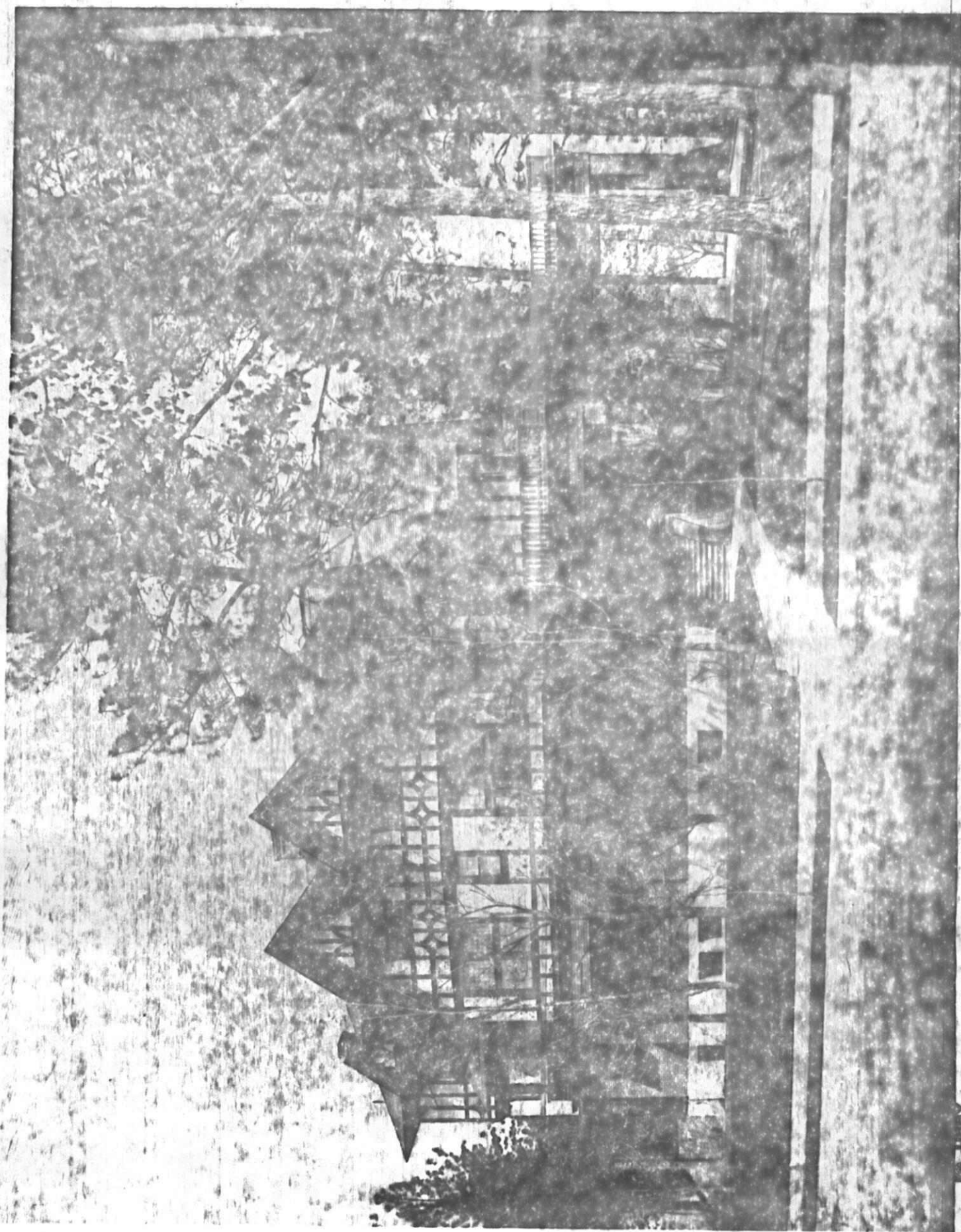
Keeper of The National Register

Date

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

47° 39' 26"





PHOTOGRAPHY
by [illegible]

