

## Spokane Register of Historic Places Nomination

Spokane City/County Historic Preservation Office, City Hall, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
808 W. Spokane Falls Boulevard, Spokane, WA 99201

### 1. HISTORIC NAME

Historic Name **GUSTAV & ELIZABETH TOEVS HOUSE**  
Common Name

### 2. LOCATION

Street & Number 1212 S. Bernard Street  
City, State, Zip Code Spokane, WA 99203  
Parcel Number 35194.1008

### 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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> residential
<b>Site</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes, restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes, unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> moved		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other

### 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

Name Carol Hindley  
Street & Number 1212 S. Bernard Street  
City, State, Zip Code Spokane, WA 99203  
Telephone Number/E-mail [silkrouteq1106@gmail.com](mailto:silkrouteq1106@gmail.com), 626-818-6262

### 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Courthouse, Registry of Deeds Spokane County Courthouse  
Street Number 1116 West Broadway  
City, State, Zip Code Spokane, WA 99201  
County Spokane

### 6. REPRESENTATION OF EXISTING SURVEYS

Title City of Spokane Historic Landmarks Survey  
Date Federal\_\_\_ State\_\_\_ County\_\_\_ Local\_\_\_  
Location of Survey Records Spokane Historic Preservation Office

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**7. DESCRIPTION**

*(continuation sheets attached)*

**Architectural Classification**

**Condition**

- excellent
- good
- fair
- deteriorated
- ruins
- unexposed

**Check One**

- unaltered
- altered

**Check One**

- original site
- moved & date

**8. SPOKANE REGISTER CATEGORIES & STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

*(continuation sheets attached)*

**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 or 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.
- E Property represents the culture and heritage of the city of Spokane in ways not adequately addressed in the other criteria, as in its visual prominence, reference to intangible heritage, or any range of cultural practices.

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

*Bibliography is found on one or more continuation sheets.*

**10. DIGITAL PHOTOS, MAPS, SITE PLANS, ARTICLES, ETC.**

*Items are found on one or more continuation sheets.*

**11. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

- |                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Acreage of Property           | Less than one acre.   |
| Verbal Boundary Description   | Cliff Park Addition Resurvey, south ½ of Lot 7, all of Lot 8, Block 19. |
| Verbal Boundary Justification | Nominated property includes entire parcel and urban legal description.  |

**12. FORM PREPARED BY**

- |                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Name and Title                | Linda Yeomans, Consultant                           |
| Organization                  | Historic Preservation Planning & Design             |
| Street, City, State, Zip Code | 501 West 27 <sup>th</sup> Avenue, Spokane, WA 99203 |
| Telephone Number              | 509-456-3828  |
| Email Address                 | lindayeomans@comcast.net                            |
| Date Final Nomination Heard   | February 21, 2019                                   |

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**13. SIGNATURE(S) OF OWNER(S)**

Carol Hindley Combs

**14. FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY**

Date nomination application filed: 2/1/19

Date of Landmarks Commission Hearing: 2/20/19

Landmarks Commission decision: Approved

Date of City Council/Board of County Commissioners' hearing: 3/11/19

City Council/Board of County Commissioners' decision: Approved 3/11/19

I hereby certify that this property has been listed in the Spokane Register of Historic Places based upon the action of either the City Council or the Board of County Commissioners as set forth above.

Megan Duvall 2/25/19  
Megan Duvall Date

City/County Historic Preservation Officer  
City/County Historic Preservation Office  
Third Floor—City Hall  
808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd.  
Spokane, WA 99201

Attest:

Approved as to form:

[Signature]  
City Clerk

[Signature]  
Assistant City Attorney

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*Toevs House 2019*

***SECTION 7: DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY***

***Summary Statement***

Built in 1912, the Gustav & Elizabeth Toevs House is located one block east of Cliff Park, a prominent Olmsted Brothers-designed public park/gathering spot and neighborhood focal point on Spokane’s South Hill. An excellent example of the American Foursquare type with Prairie and Craftsman-style influence, the Toevs House is a two story, symmetrically designed single-family residence with a low-pitched pyramidal hipped roof, deeply overhanging enclosed boxed eaves, a symmetrical façade, a nearly full-width covered front porch, a center front entrance, massive square porch columns, and a first-floor plan with four interior rooms in each of the home’s four corners. The interior of the Toevs House is finished with well-preserved deep/wide “tiger striped” quarter-sawn oak woodwork, fireplace mantel, doors, and built-in furniture burnished to a deep, rich golden brown. A single-story double-car garage with a low-pitched hip roof and deeply overhanging enclosed boxed eaves like the house was built in 1912 behind the home, and enlarged to include a second story in 1974. The Toevs House retains a high level of architectural integrity in original location, design, materials, workmanship, and association.

***CURRENT APPEARANCE & CONDITION***

***Site***

Sited on the northwest corner of South Bernard Street and West 13th Avenue, the Toevs House was built on the south half of Lot 7 and all of Lot 8 on Block 19 in the Resurveyed Cliff Park Addition, an architecturally prominent residential neighborhood in south

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Spokane. The majority of homes in the Cliff Park neighborhood are a cohesive mix of single-family residences built during the years from about 1905 to 1945 (World War II). Some homes are large, landmark examples erected on multiple lots while other homes are modest and sited on smaller single lots. City roads throughout the neighborhood are a combination of curvilinear and grid-style paved streets shaded by mature Maple trees. The Toevs House faces east along South Bernard Street from the center of its building site. The home is framed by a nearly level grade and features manicured lawn and mature deciduous trees. A detached two-story, two-car garage is located in the northwest corner of the property behind the Toevs House. A wide concrete paved driveway leads through the property from the garage to the street at 13th Avenue. From Bernard Street, a long driveway leads to the home's detached garage along the property's north border (the 1912 driveway was repaired in 2017 and resurfaced with stamped concrete). The property on which the Toevs House and garage are sited is 75 feet wide along Bernard Street and 125 feet deep along 13th Avenue with a total of 13,125 square feet of land.<sup>1</sup>

### *House Exterior*

The Toevs House is an irregular rectangle with two stories. The home measures 36 feet wide and 40 feet deep. A nearly full-width, single-story, covered front porch is located on the east façade of the house, and measures 30 feet wide and eight feet deep. An enclosed sleeping porch projects eight feet from the center of the second floor over the front porch. A first-floor back porch with a wood deck is attached to the west rear of the home, and measures 20 feet wide and 15 feet deep.<sup>2</sup> Two large attic dormers are located on the roof—one on the center of the roof's north slope and one on the center of the roof's south slope. The house, sleeping porch, dormers, and back porch are all covered with low-pitched pyramidal hip roofs. Roof eaves are widely overhanging, enclosed with boxed eaves, and clad with white-painted tongue-in-groove wood soffits. Roof surfaces are covered with composition shingles. A brick chimney rises from the center of the home's roof. The front porch is supported by square corner columns made of basalt stone and a basalt stone porch wall. The center of the porch wall opens at the east façade to a flight of concrete stair steps that descend from the front porch to a private walkway. The walkway leads east to a paved public sidewalk in front of the house. Stepped basalt porch walls flank the porch steps. The north end of the front porch opens to concrete steps that descend to a concrete driveway at the north side of the property. Two arched scuppers are located in the center of the north and south porch walls on either side of the center porch steps. Original windows are a combination of leaded- and stained-glass lights, multi-paned casement units, 1/1 double-hung windows, and fixed-pane "picture" windows.

### *East Facade*

The primary facade of the Toevs House faces east and has a symmetrical design with two full stories and a low-pitched roof. The roof has composition shingles and deeply overhanging enclosed boxed eaves. The exterior of the house is clad with coarsely textured clinker brick at the first floor and double-course cedar shingle siding at the

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<sup>1</sup> Spokane County Assessor's Records. Spokane County Courthouse, Spokane, WA.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

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second floor. A nearly full-width covered front porch spans the front of the house, and a small enclosed sleeping porch is located on the front porch roof at the second floor. The sleeping porch has a pyramidal-shaped low-pitched roof with widely overhanging enclosed boxed eaves that matches the roof on the house. Four original multi-paned casement windows open from the east façade of the sleeping porch, and three multi-paned casement windows open each from the south face and from the north face of the sleeping porch. Designed in the Craftsman style, a bulkhead under the casement windows at the sleeping porch flares outward from the bottom edge of the windows. The enclosed sleeping porch is clad with double-course shingles like the house. Two original 1/1 double-hung windows with wood-sash flank the projecting sleeping porch on the east face of the house at the second floor. The home's east façade at the first floor features a center multi-paned front door flanked by two tall, narrow, multi-paned sidelights. A fixed-pane large "picture window" is located to the south of the front entry, and a matching picture window is located north of the front entry. Three original identical square-shaped, black wrought-iron/milk-glass light fixtures illuminate the front porch—a pendant light fixture hangs from the center of the porch ceiling; a second matching light fixture is attached to the basalt stone porch column at the southeast corner of the front porch; and a third matching light fixture is attached to the basalt stone porch column at the northeast corner of the front porch.

*South, North, West Faces*

Regarded as a secondary but very visible façade, the south face of the Toevs House faces West 13th Avenue. The two-story house at the south face features a low-pitched pyramidal hip roof with widely overhanging enclosed boxed eaves and a horizontal attic dormer that projects from the south roof slope. The dormer has two casement windows and widely overhanging enclosed boxed eaves. A wood stringcourse separates the first floor from the second floor directly above the tops of first-floor windows. Like the east façade of the house, the first floor at the home's south face is clad with coarsely textured clinker brick, and the second floor and dormer are clad with double-course cedar wood shingles. A prominent tapered clinker brick chimney located east of center rises from grade, penetrates the roof eave at the second floor, and extends above the level of the pyramid point on the home's pyramidal hip roof. Two clay chimney pots protrude from the top of the chimney. A 1/1 double-hung wood-sash window is located on the east side of the chimney at the first floor. A high, horizontal "piano window" with leaded- and beveled-glass is located next west of the chimney. A tripartite window with a center fixed-pane flanked by two narrow 1/1 double-hung wood-sash windows is located next west of the piano window. The second floor features a row of three same-height multi-paned casement windows at the southwest corner of the house, and four same-height symmetrically placed 1/1 double-hung wood-sash windows east of the casement windows.

The north face of the house features a continuation of coarsely textured clinker brick veneer on the first floor, double-course wood shingles on the second floor and attic dormer, a low-pitched roof with widely overhanging enclosed boxed eaves, and a horizontal attic dormer with a hip roof that projects from the center of the north roof



slope. A continuation of the horizontal stringcourse separates the first floor from the second floor like it does on the home's south and west faces. A single-story box bay with a row of three high fixed-pane small windows is located at the east end of the north face at the first floor (the row of windows is located high on the wall because it was built above a first-floor built-in bookcase inside the house). A 1/1, double-hung, wood-sash window is located on the second floor above the first-floor box bay. A contemporary circa 1970s window is located at the west end of the first floor (it replaced a pair of original 1/1 windows in 1974). A stained-glass multi-paned side entry door is positioned in the center of the first floor at grade. A multi-paned window is located next west of the door. Next to the window is a same-size adjacent multi-paned window with green/yellow cathedral glass lights (the window illuminates a powder room). Three 1/1 double-hung wood-sash windows are located at the second floor above the first-floor side entry door and windows.

The rear west face of the house is a continuation of the home's exterior design of hip roof, low-pitched widely overhanging enclosed boxed eaves, first-floor clinker brick veneer, second-floor double-course wood shingle siding, and a horizontal stringcourse between the first and second floors. A 20-foot-wide and 15-foot-deep wood plank deck is built on the back of the house towards the north end of the west face.<sup>3</sup> The raised deck is level with the home's first floor, and is supported by thick square wood piers. A back sliding glass entry door to the house is located at the north end of the deck. A low-pitched hip roof covers the deck and is supported by square wood posts. Wood stair steps descend to grade from the west rear of the deck (repaired/rebuilt in 2017). A plain wood balustrade surrounds the porch deck. A 1/1 double-hung, wood-sash window is located at the north end of the second floor. A row of five multi-paned casement windows are located at the south end of the west face at the second floor, and wrap around the southwest corner of the house, forming a row of windows that illuminate an interior sleeping porch. A box bay is located on the first floor at the south end of the west rear face. The bay has a high horizontal window with multiple leaded- and beveled-glass lights (the window is high because it forms a backsplash for a built-in oak buffet/hutch inside the house). The north end and the south end of the high fixed-pane window feature leaded-glass lights with green stained glass. A shallow hip roof covers the box bay. The foundation of the house is made of a rubblemix of basalt stone, and encircles the home around all four faces. The foundation is two to three feet high from grade and supports a total of six original basement windows at the north, south, and west faces.

### ***House Interior***

The Toevs House has 1,440 finished square feet on the first floor, 1,404 finished square feet on the second floor, and 360 partially finished square feet in a third-floor attic.<sup>4</sup> The first-floor interior of the house follows a foursquare house form with a center front entrance and hallway surrounded by four corner rooms. The southeast corner on the first floor at the front of the house is occupied by a formal living room; the northeast corner of the house features a library. The southwest corner at the rear of the house is occupied by

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<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

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a formal dining room, and the northwest corner features a kitchen. The home's central front door at the east façade opens to a formal reception hall. The reception hall extends to the interior center of the house, and is finished with original lathe-and-plaster construction and dark honey-hued tiger-sawn oak woodwork, paneled wainscoting, and a paneled interior staircase with a plain balustrade and paneled newel posts. Boxed beams made of oak run north/south across the ceiling. Double pocket doors with oak panels slide open to a library in the northeast corner of the house. A focal point of the library is a built-in bookcase centered on the library's north perimeter wall and capped by a high horizontal row of three fixed-pane windows above the bookcase. An oak plate rail encircles the room. With Craftsman-style influence, an original circa 1912 four-shade pendant-drop chandelier and a pair of matching wall sconces illuminate the library. The light fixtures are made of black wrought-iron with amber and crème-colored stained-glass shades. A formal staircase located on the north wall next west of the library's pocket doors leads up to a landing and second-floor center hall. The staircase is illuminated by natural light which passes through two 1/1 double-hung wood-sash windows that look north from a landing. The floors of the library and the reception hall are made of ¾-inch-thick narrow oak planks. The stair treads are oak, and the ceilings are nine feet high.

Opposite the library, a wide colonnaded entry opens south from the reception hall into a formal living room in the southeast corner of the house. The colonnaded entry is flanked by two paneled half-walls topped with thick, square, tapered-oak posts. The formal living room opens at the room's west end through double oak-paneled pocket doors into a formal dining room. The dining room is located in the southwest corner of the first floor, with the living room and dining room occupying the entire south half of the house on the first floor. Ceilings and walls are made of original lathe-and-plaster construction, ceilings are nine feet high, floors are made of oak planks, and the woodwork is fine oak-paneled construction that matches the woodwork in the reception hall, library, and north-wall stairwell and staircase. Boxed oak beams traverse the ceiling in a north/south direction in the living room and dining room. A focal point of the living room is a large fireplace in the center of the south wall. The fireplace is original and features a rectangular firebox with a 1912 black wrought-iron grate and 1912 Craftsman-style wrought-iron andirons. The fireplace surround and hearth are clad with mottled dark-green, matte-finish ceramic tiles with black grout (indicative of ceramic tile made popular in the early 1900s by the Grueby Company tile works in Massachusetts). An original circa 1912 three-sided brass fire screen protects the firebox. The fireplace is capped with a plain mantel made of the finest dark honey-hued quarter-sawn oak that matches all the woodwork in the reception hall, library, staircase, living room, and dining room. The thick oak mantel is supported by stout, angled brackets. The living room features an original circa 1912 chandelier made of wrought iron and brass with five hanging pendant shades. Two wall sconces that match the chandelier are attached to the wall above the fireplace mantel. The living room opens west through double pocket doors into the dining room. The dining room has four focal points: a built-in buffet/hutch on the west wall, a tripartite window on the south wall, an encircling oak plate rail supported by vertical oak battens, and a circa 1912 wrought-iron and copper hanging pendant light with a round amber-colored glass shade in the center of the room. The built-in buffet and



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hutch are made of fine, solid quarter-sawn oak. The buffet features center drawers and cupboards, flanking paneled doors, brass hardware, and a beveled mirror backsplash. Serving as a built-in hutch to the buffet, two small china cupboards are located on the south and north ends of the buffet, and are distinguished with two leaded-glass doors made of beveled glass. An oak display shelf extends across the top of the south china cupboard to the north china cupboard. A row of fixed-pane windows with leaded-glass lights and green-stained cathedral glass illuminates the room with natural light above the hutch on the dining room's west wall. The floor in the dining room is a continuation of the oak floor in the living room, reception hall, and dining room.

The reception hall terminates in the center of the house in front of the formal staircase on the north wall. Two doors are located at the west end of the reception hall. The south door is made of paneled oak and opens to a front hall closet. The north door is paneled oak with multiple divided lights (French door), and opens to an interior service hall and kitchen. An interior stairwell with remnants of a staircase originally designed for use by domestic help is located on the north wall of the service hall. A multi-paned French door opens adjacent east of the staircase. From the French door, stair steps descend to a north side entrance hall at grade. A door on the west wall of the entrance hall opens to a small powder room. The northwest corner room on the first floor was originally designed as a kitchen and in 2019, is being prepared for a complete rehabilitation and remodel with new plumbing-heating-electric systems, kitchen fixtures, and casework. Windows on the north wall and a door on the west wall will be restored and rehabilitated along with a wood floor and nine-foot-high ceiling.

The second floor has a central hall that opens east to a bedroom in the front, northeast corner of the house, and opens south to a bedroom in the front, southeast corner of the house. The hallway further opens south to a bedroom in the southwest corner of the house, west to a hall bathroom, and northwest to an adjacent bedroom in the northwest corner of the house. A small door on the north wall opens to a broom closet, and an adjacent north door opens to an interior staircase that ascends to a third-floor attic. The attic is partially finished with original lathe-and-plaster construction, and features two dormers with casement windows and a series of sloped ceilings under roof eaves. The floors in the central hallway and four bedrooms on the second floor are oak, the walls and ceilings are lathe-and-plaster, and the ceilings are between seven and eight feet in height. The southeast front-corner bedroom is the largest (master bedroom) room on the second floor and includes an enclosed sleeping porch located on the east façade of the house.

An entry door at grade on the home's north exterior face opens to an interior flight of stairs that descend to a full basement with 1,404 square feet.<sup>5</sup> The basement is partially finished with a recreation/billiard room, a kitchenette, and a bathroom in the west half of the house. Storage and mechanical rooms are unfinished in the east half of the basement. Ceiling heights are between seven and eight feet.

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<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

### ***Garage***

A detached, two-car garage built in 1912 in the northwest corner of the property behind the Toevs House faces south onto West 13th Avenue. A concrete-paved driveway extends south from the garage through the property to the street at 13th Avenue. The garage is 24 feet wide, 22 feet deep, and has two full stories with 528 square feet on each floor. The garage resembles the house with a nearly square form, a combination of clinker brick veneer and double-course cedar shingle siding, a low-pitched hip roof, and enclosed/boxed overhanging eaves with tongue-in-groove wood soffits. A two-car-wide automatic, metal overhead garage door opens from the south façade of the garage. The garage interior at the first floor is unfinished with a concrete floor. In 1974, an addition was constructed over the garage as a studio apartment with one large finished room, a finished bathroom, and a finished closet. Two large fixed-pane windows with aluminum sash/frames were installed on the garage's south façade above the garage door. An aluminum-sash sliding window was installed in the center of the west face. An aluminum-sash sliding door was installed in the center of the east face at the second story along with a wood balcony and stairs. In 2018, the 1974 sliding glass door was replaced with multi-paned French doors, and a deteriorated exterior balcony and stairs were replaced with a new wood balcony and stairs.

### ***ORIGINAL APPEARANCE & MODIFICATIONS***

On March 25, 1912, a Spokane building permit (#3443) was issued for construction of the Toevs House and single-story garage. A 1910 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map updated in 1912, pictured a footprint of the Toevs House just after it was built as a two-story residence with exterior brick "veneer", a one-story covered front porch, and a one-story covered back porch. The 1912 Sanborn Fire Insurance map also pictured a footprint of a double-car garage (located behind the house) with a single-story. The garage was listed on the map with a separate address of 1212 ½ S. Bernard Street while the house was addressed as 1212 S. Bernard Street. In 1915, the open sleeping porch at the second floor on the east façade of the house was enclosed (building permit #6008). In 1917, a four-foot-high clinker brick wall (bulkhead) was installed around the base of the garage (building permit #8476). The clinker bricks, grout, and tuck-point profiles used in 1917 on the garage are not exact duplicates of those used in 1912 on the house. The materials, however, are similar. In 1974, a second story was built on the one-story garage (Spokane County tax assessor records), and Spokane building permit B-6523 was issued for an extensive remodel of the home's kitchen, butler's pantry, and back porch. Remodel work included a replacement of the original kitchen/pantry/back porch with new construction, including oak plank floors, walls/ceiling, kitchen counters/casework, HVAC/electric systems, kitchen fixtures, a fireplace installation, a contemporary sliding glass back door, a larger covered back porch, and a contemporary window replacement on the north face of the house. The basement in the house was improved with a remodeled recreation/billiard room, kitchen, and bathroom in the 1970s. The second story above the garage was remodeled in 2018, and the deteriorated 1974 wood balcony and stairs on the building's east face were replaced with a new balcony and staircase.

**SECTION 8: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

**Summary Statement**

<i>Areas of Significance</i>	<i>Architecture, Commerce</i>
<i>Period of Significance</i>	<i>1912-1920</i>
<i>Built Date</i>	<i>1912</i>
<i>Home Designer/Contractor</i>	<i>August Palmquist</i>
<i>Builder</i>	<i>William H. Allen</i>

**HISTORIC CONTEXT**

Eligible for listing on the Spokane Register of Historic Places, the Toevs House is historically and architecturally significant under Categories B and C respectively in the areas of significance, “commerce” and “architecture”. The period of significance for the property extends from 1912 through 1920, and reflects the time period in which the Toevs family owned the property. Custom-built for Gustav Isaac Toevs and his wife, Elizabeth McPhail Toevs, the home is a fine example of the American Foursquare house form with influences from the Prairie and Craftsman styles. A prominent Spokane civic booster and milling executive, Gustav Toevs was employed as vice-president of the Spokane Centennial Flour Mill’s various milling operations located throughout Washington State and at the same time, worked as the general manager for the flour mill in Spokane from 1913 to his death in 1932.<sup>6</sup> With expertise and success in banking, Gustav Toevs was recognized for his finance acumen and appointed to the Spokane Board of the San Francisco Federal Reserve Bank’s Spokane Branch by United States President Woodrow Wilson in 1914. Toevs further organized the National Union Life Insurance Company, and served on the Board of Directors for the Spokane & Eastern Trust Company. An accomplished and popular businessman, Gustav Toevs was praised as a “public-spirited citizen” and for his many contributions to the “civic growth of Spokane.”<sup>7</sup>

**HISTORIC CONTEXT**

**Cliff Park**

The Cliff Park Addition and Cliff Park Resurvey Addition surround Cliff Park from West 14th Avenue north to Cliff Drive, and from Cliff Drive and Wall Street east to Division Street. Between 1889 and 1905 when the Cliff Park additions were platted, the area’s topography was dotted with massive rocky outcroppings (called haystacks or haystack rocks), undulating hills, and a tangled thicket of evergreen and deciduous trees, shrubs, brush, and native grasses. A high upthrust of columnar basalt known as a butte is located in the center of the neighborhood in Cliff Park. A trail and steps lead to the top of the

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<sup>6</sup> The Centennial Flour Mill in Spokane is referred to in various newspapers, periodicals, books, and maps by different names at different times, including the Centennial Mill and the Centennial Mill Company and the Centennial Mill Company Four Mill, the Centennial Flour Mill and the Spokane Centennial Flour Mill Company, the Centennial Flour Mills (throughout Washington State), and the Centennial Flour Mill & Milling Company.

<sup>7</sup> “Gustav Toevs Dies Suddenly.” *Spokesman-Review*, 19 April 1932.

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butte, and a four to five-foot-high basalt rock wall surrounds the butte's top with a spectacular 360-degree view.

In the early 1900s, the Cliff Park addition around the high basalt butte began to be noticed as a future up-and-coming residential neighborhood on Spokane's South Hill. City leaders adopted a plan presented by the nationally famous Olmsted Brothers Landscape Architecture firm that suggested 4.2 acres of land around the high rocky butte be established as public parkland. The park was named Cliff Park after the Cliff Park additions, and was developed as a neighborhood focal point and recreation area. Real estate developers began to purchase building sites around the park with 50-foot-wide lots specifically intended for upscale residential development. In various sections of the Cliff Park neighborhood, restrictive covenants were written and adopted, which acted as early land use tools, protecting the use and architectural compatibility of the area. Local newspaper ads from 1905 to 1909 printed the following headlines:

*“Cliff Park—Scenic Addition to Spokane”*

*“Cliff Park—The Addition Where the Choicest and Most Artistic Homes Are Building.”<sup>8</sup>*

Building sites were advertised from \$900 to \$1,550, and most house prices ranged from \$2,500 to \$8,000 with some as high as \$10,000. By 1912, most of the neighborhood had been built with single-family homes that spanned a plethora of styles, shapes, and forms. These included large Tudor and Colonial Revival examples, eclectic Arts & Crafts homes, and modest Craftsman-style bungalows. The Cliff Park neighborhood soon became the address of many prominent Spokane businessmen, physicians, lawyers, investment bankers, and lumber barons. One such resident in the Cliff Park community was Gustav Toevs, a banker, businessman and executive flour miller who in 1912 erected a \$10,000 American Foursquare home in the heart of the neighborhood, just east of Cliff Park.

### ***The Toevs House***

On October 30, 1911, Spokane property investors Harry & Berta Oechsli sold all of Lot 8 and the south half of Lot 7 on Block 19 in the Resurveyed Cliff Park Addition for \$3,700 to Gustav & Elizabeth Toevs.<sup>9</sup> The Toevs contracted Spokane home builder and carpenter, William H. Allen, to construct a single-family home for them on South Bernard Street in the Cliff Park neighborhood. On March 25, 1912, a Spokane building permit was issued to the Toevs. The permit listed the name of the builder as W. H. Allen as well as an estimated cost to build the residence and garage at \$10,000.

An anticipatory newspaper article on the front page of the *Spokane-Review's* real estate section on April 7, 1912 reported the following:

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<sup>8</sup> “Cliff Park.” *Spokesman-Review*, 17 Dec 1905, and “\$50,000 for New Cliff Park Homes.” *Spokesman-Review*, 28 Sept 1909.

<sup>9</sup> Spokane County public records. Spokane County Courthouse, Spokane, WA.

***KANSAS MAN BUILDS HERE***  
***G. I. Toevs to Have \$10,000 Home in Cliff Park***

*Construction work was put under way last week on the new \$10,000 home which W. H. Allen, building contractor, is building for G. I. Toevs, a prominent flour miller of Lindsborg, Kansas, who has come to Spokane to live. The house is being built on the northwest corner of Thirteenth Avenue and Bernard Street, and will cost \$10,000. The lot is 87 x 135 feet. [The home] will be of clinker brick veneer and will have ten rooms, hardwood floors, built-in features, two sleeping balconies, a billiard room in the basement, and hot water heat. The house will be finished in September.<sup>10</sup>*

William H. Allen, was listed as residing and working in Spokane from 1911 to 1914 as a “carpenter, contractor, and builder” in the alphabetical list of surnames in Spokane city directories, and in the business/occupation index under “carpenters and contractors”. In 1911, Allen was reported as living in a house sited at 522 W. Cotta Avenue. Later in 1912 and 1913, he was listed as living in a home down the street at 1208 S. Wall (built in 1909). Both properties were located on the west side of the park in the architecturally prominent residential neighborhood known as “Cliff Park”—the same residential neighborhood in which the Toevs House was erected on the east side of the park. During 1912 and the early 1900s, it was common for Spokane builders to live in homes while they were building them. Following this trend, William Allen may have been responsible for constructing the house at 522 W. Cotta Avenue, built in 1911, when he was residing at the property—just before he began building the Toevs House in 1912 a few blocks to the east. After only three years in Spokane, W. H. Allen was no longer listed in the Spokane area in city directories after 1913; perhaps he moved at that time to another location, city, or state.

Before coming to Spokane in 1912, Gustav Toevs lived with his wife, Elizabeth, in Lindsborg, Kansas, where he was associated with and operated a large flour mill. The *Lindsborg Kansas News Record* newspaper reported on December 8, 1911—less than a year before Toevs moved to Spokane—that “August Palmquist” prepared “plans and specifications for a residence for G. I. Toevs, which he will build out in Spokane, Washington.”<sup>11</sup> A 1909 advertisement in the *Lindsborg Kansas News Record* described August Palmquist and the “Palmquist Brothers” as “Contractors & Builders” with “drawings, plans, and specifications furnished.” It appears house plans and specifications for Gustav and Elizabeth Toevs’s home were drawn by August Palmquist, who perhaps worked in the Lindsborg, Kansas area as not only a building contractor but also as a home designer. Although he does not list himself as a registered architect, August Palmquist does list himself as a professional contractor and builder in the aforementioned

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<sup>10</sup> “Kansas Man Builds Here.” *Spokesman-Review*, 7 April 1912, pt 5, pg 1. This article was copied word-for-word and printed in the *Lindsborg Kansas New Record* on April 19, 2012.

<sup>11</sup> *Lindsborg Kansas News Record*, 8 Dec 1911.

**Spokane City/County Register of Historic Places Nomination  
TOEVS HOUSE**

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1911 newspaper article and in the *1912 Kansas State Gazetteer* directory, and is credited for providing the plans and specifications for Toevs's Spokane residence.<sup>12</sup>

*Subsequent Owners*

Gustav & Elizabeth Toevs sold the Toevs House in 1920 to Adeline Close for \$18,000, and relocated six blocks east to a home at 127 E. 12th Avenue, sited behind St. John's Episcopal Cathedral. Adeline was married to Daniel E. Close, and together they were owners and proprietors of a downtown Spokane establishment called Close Clothing, located at 117 N. Stevens Street. By 1945, the Close family had retired their clothing business, and leased the building on Stevens Street to the Gay Tavern.

By 1952, Adeline Close was listed in city directories as a "widow", and sold the home in 1955 to Dr. Walter A. Fernau and his wife, Alice Fernau. Dr. Fernau was a Spokane physician with a practice in Room 1152 in the Paulsen Medical & Dental Building in downtown Spokane. By 1960, Dr. Fernau was practicing from Room 508 in the Medical Center Building, 820 S. McClellan Street, located across the street from Sacred Heart Hospital.

In 1968, Jay Timothy Jackson and his wife, Colleen B. Jackson, purchased the house from the Fernau family. Tim Jackson was employed as a "dirt-moving contractor" in the early 1970s. From 1975 to 1979, Jackson was listed in city directories as a "construction worker" for Yarno Construction Company in Spokane, and in 1979, Jackson worked for IBEX Construction Company. During 1974, Tim Jackson was responsible for remodeling the Toevs House when he redesigned and rebuilt the kitchen and back porch, and added a second-story studio apartment atop the garage behind the house.

On December 22, 1982, Jay Timothy Jackson sold the property to Frances Jean Heckman (nee Combs) and her two daughters, Carol Sue Decker and Charla Jean Hindley-Tindall. In 2011, Frances Jean Combs conveyed and warranted the property to her daughter, Carol Sue Hindley, who later received the clear and registered title to Lot 8 and the south half of Lot 7, Block 19 in the Resurveyed Cliff Park Addition in 2017. Retired, Carol Hindley worked as a professional dental hygienist in California in addition to association with interior design and property management opportunities.

***HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE***

***Category B***

The Toevs House is historically significant in the area of "commerce" under Category B for its association with one of Spokane's most prominent businessmen, G. I. Toevs. Gustav Isaac Toevs was born in 1864 in Marlenburg, West Prussia, Germany. He relocated to New York when he was 17 years of age, and later moved to Newton, Kansas and became employed in the flour milling business. Toevs was immediately successful and operated a flour mill in Lindsborg, Kansas. He met and married Elizabeth McPhail, and moved to Spokane, Washington in 1912. Wasting no time, the Toevs's purchased

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<sup>12</sup> Ibid, and Logan Camporeale, City/County of Spokane Historic Preservation Office, Spokane, WA, 2019.

**Spokane City/County Register of Historic Places Nomination  
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land in what was proving at that time to be an architecturally prominent residential section of Spokane—the area around Cliff Park on the city’s South Hill. The Toevs contracted with a builder/carpenter, who erected a single-family home for them on South Bernard Street and West 13th Avenue. The next year in 1913, Gustav Toevs secured executive positions in the milling business in Spokane. He was made the general manager for Spokane’s Centennial Flour Mill Company, located north of the Spokane River, and was vice president of all Centennial Flour Mills operating throughout Washington State. By the 1920s, the Centennial Flour Mill Company was one of Spokane’s largest mills, and was competing against C & C Mills, the Echo Mills, and the Sperry Flour Company Mill, all in Spokane.<sup>13</sup> The Centennial Flour Mill Company was one of the largest and most productive mills in Spokane, and helped elevate the city’s reputation as a milling center. With five-story milling buildings, Centennial’s footprint covered 230 feet by 180 feet, and employed over 35 workmen. The mill manufactured “Gold Drop” flour, “Wheat Manna” and other cereals, and was a shipper of grain, flour, feed, and mill stuff.<sup>14</sup> In 1940, a new and larger mill was built for the Centennial Flour Mill Company in Spokane on East Trent Avenue at a cost exceeding \$1 million. The mill’s commercial production of flour produced 1,500 barrels a day and was considered the “most advanced mill ever built” in 1940. The Inland Empire was “rightfully named the ‘little bread basket’ of the Nation.”<sup>15</sup>

In addition to his responsibilities and management of the flour milling business, Toevs was active in Spokane civic affairs, booster programs, and banking. In 1914, just two years after he arrived in Spokane, Toevs was appointed to the Spokane Board for the Spokane Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco by United States President Woodrow Wilson. In addition, Toevs organized the National Union Life Insurance Company, serving as its president until 1931 when he resigned to become chairman of the board of directors. Additionally, he served on the board of directors for the Spokane & Eastern Trust Company, and was active in Masonic orders in Spokane and in Salina, Kansas. He was a member of Spokane Westminster Congregational Church and the Spokane City Club. Gustav and Elizabeth Toevs raised four children in the Toevs House—daughters Erna, Ethel and Lois and son Donald Toevs. During the height of his career from 1912 to 1932, Gustav Toevs and his family commissioned the Toevs House built, raised four children, and resided in the home for eight years from 1912 to 1920. Gustav Isaac Toevs died suddenly at age 68 in 1932. As his obituary in the *Spokesman-Review* newspaper observed, Toevs was praised by many as a “public-spirited citizen,” was “identified with the growth of Spokane,” and “will be missed in the community life of Spokane.”<sup>16</sup>

## ***ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE***

### ***Category C***

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<sup>13</sup> Edwards, Rev. Jonathan, 1900.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid.

<sup>15</sup> Production Per Year Beats 1,000,000 Barrels.” *Spokane Daily Chronicle*, June 5, 1040.

<sup>16</sup> “Gustav I. Toevs Dies Suddenly.” *Spokesman-Review*, 19 April 1932.



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Category C of the Spokane Register of Historic Places applies to “properties significant for their physical design or construction, including such elements as architecture, landscape architecture, engineering, and artwork.”<sup>17</sup> The Toevs House is nominated under Category C because it “embodies distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction.”<sup>18</sup> The Toevs House is a well-preserved representative of the American Fourquare house form with influences from Prairie and Craftsman styles.

***American Foursquare Residential Type***

One of the most popular house forms to emerge in the United States at the turn of the century in 1900 was the American Foursquare, which was built in hundreds and thousands of cities and rural communities throughout the country from 1900 to 1930. As explained by American architectural historian Robert Schweitzer in his book, *Bungalow Colors*, the American Foursquare house form was especially “ideally suited to urban environments and included the ability to squeeze three or four bedrooms into a really narrow plan. This was ideal for homes that had to be built on...urban lots...”<sup>19</sup>

*Known by a variety of names such as Edwardian, American Basic, Box House, and Corn-Belt Cube, the Foursquare (its contemporary name) started appearing widely around the turn of the century. The Foursquare shared the bungalow’s virtues of practicality and simplicity, and even carried those ideals a bit further as [American] Foursquare homes tended to be less ornate than their bungalow contemporaries.*<sup>20</sup>

Nationally acclaimed architectural historians Lee & Virginia McAlester illustrate and describe the American Foursquare form in their book, *A Field Guide to American Houses*, as a “simple square or rectangle plan” with a “low-pitched hip roof and symmetrical façade.”<sup>21</sup>

Commenting on the particular interior arrangement of rooms which occurs in many foursquare house forms, the *Dictionary of Architecture & Construction* defines the American Foursquare house form as a one- or two-story home having a “square floor plan consisting of four rooms.”<sup>22</sup> While not true for every foursquare home built in America, many homes of this type are distinguished with four large rooms on the main floor—one in each corner of the house.

In his book, *The Comfortable House: North American Suburban Architecture 1890-1930*, architectural historian and MIT professor Alan Gowans pictured homes of similar design and form to the Toevs House, and gave the following description:

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<sup>17</sup> *National Register Bulletin 15*. Washington DC: Preservation Press, 1998, page 17.

<sup>18</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>19</sup> Schweitzer, Robert, 2002, page 71.

<sup>20</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>21</sup> McAlester, Lee & Virginia, 1989, page 439.

<sup>22</sup> Harris, Cyril M. *Dictionary of Architecture & Construction, Third Edition*. New York: McGraw-Hill, 2000, p. 29.

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*Two stories high, set on a raised basement with the first floor approached by steps, a veranda running the full width of the first story, capped by a low pyramidal [hipped] roof that usually contains at least one front dormer, and an interior plan of four nearly equal sized rooms plus side stairwell—that is the form of house known variously as the box, the classic box, the double cube, the plain house, and...the foursquare. The fundamental visual effect is balanced and symmetrical.*<sup>23</sup>

The Toevs House illustrates the following elements of the American Foursquare type:

- The most common time period for the American Foursquare between 1900-1920
- Two full stories
- Rectangular footprint
- Box-like form
- Low-pitched pyramidal hipped roof
- Low-pitched pyramidal hip dormers centered on roof slopes
- Deeply overhanging eaves
- Nearly full-width covered front porch
- Massive square porch supports
- Conspicuous front door, centered at façade
- Symmetrical façade design
- Double-hung sash windows
- Four rooms in each of the home's four corners at the first floor

***Influences from the Prairie Style and Craftsman Style***

Architectural elements revealed at the Toevs House suggest influences from the Prairie style and the Craftsman style. Prairie-style and Craftsman-style influences include the home's 1912 built date aligned with built dates describing both styles from 1900 through 1920, a strong horizontal emphasis achieved by a low house form, a low-pitched roof, deeply overhanging roof eaves, a nearly full-width front porch, massive square porch columns, high horizontal windows and horizontal rows of windows, prominent quarter-sawn oak paneled woodwork, and wrought-iron and/or copper and brass pendant lights and wall sconces with opaque milk glass and/or stained glass.

Prominent Prairie-style features of the house are demonstrated by the home's two full stories rather than one story or 1.5 stories, which are a common feature in Craftsman-style homes. Another Prairie-style feature revealed at the Toevs House is deeply overhanging eaves that are enclosed and boxed in contrast to open eaves with brackets and/or rafter tails prevalent in the Craftsman style. The home's symmetrical façade design is a prominent Prairie-style element.

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<sup>23</sup> Gowans, Alan. 1989, p. 84.

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Craftsman-style influence is tangible in the home's porch walls, porch columns, and foundation made of basalt stone rubblemix. Coarsely textured clinker brick and wood shingle siding on the house and garage are Craftsman-style features. Quarter-sawn oak paneled woodwork, floors, built-in furniture, and tapered colonnade posts lend further Craftsman-style influence to the Toevs House.

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- \_\_\_\_\_. "*Bulletin 15*." Washington DC: Preservation Press, 1998.

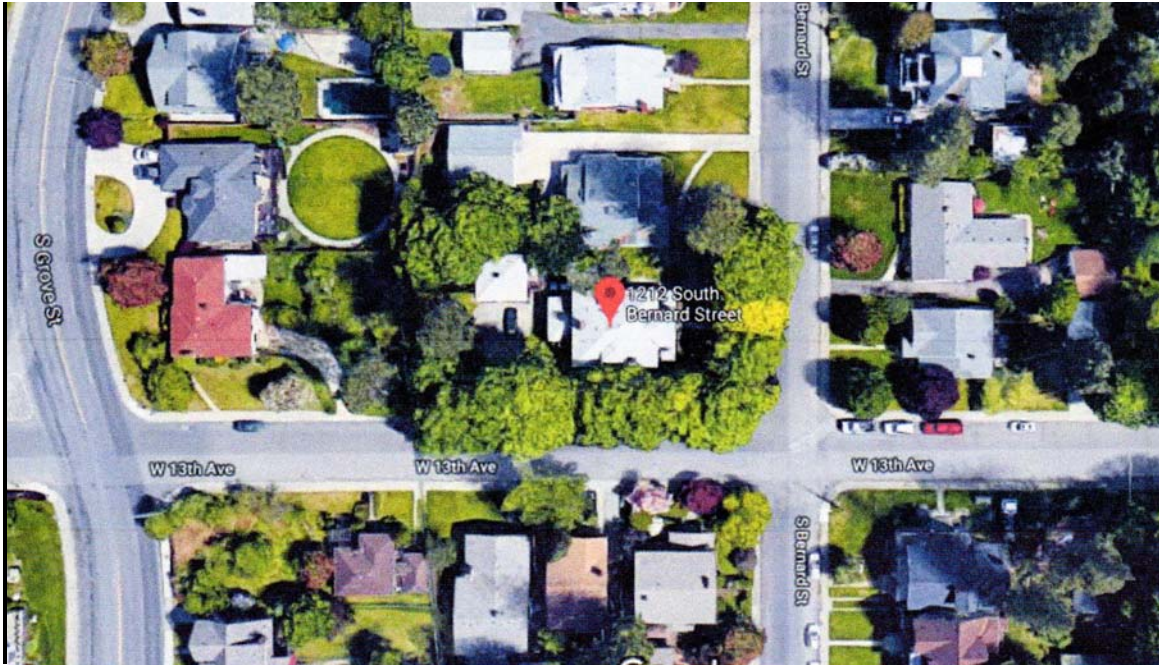
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- "\$1,000,000 Plant Begins Humming." *Spokesman-Review*, 28 June 1940
- "August Palmquist." *The Lindsborg News Record*, 8 Dec 1911
- "Cliff Park." *Spokesman-Review*, 17 December 1905
- "Centennial Mill Plant Chief Busy." *Spokane Daily Chronicle*, 28 August 1960
- "Centennial Mill Pours Concrete." *Spokane Daily Chronicle*, 6 June 1939
- "Centennial Mills Flour Mill." *Spokesman-Review*, 31 March 2014
- "Early Residences of Lindsborg." Lindsborg, Kansas, no date
- "Flour Mills." *Spokesman-Review*, no title, circa 1920s
- "Gustav I. Toevs Dies Suddenly." *Spokesman-Review*, 19 April 1932, page 6
- "Kansas Man Builds Here." *Spokesman-Review*, 7 April 1912, part 5, page 1
- "Kansas Man Builds Here." *The Lindsborg News Record*, 19 April 1912, page 1
- "Palmquist Brothers Contractors & Builders." *The Lindsborg News Record*, 31 Dec 1909
- "Production Per Year Beats 1,000,000 Barrels." *Spokane Daily Chronicle*, 5 June 1940
- "River Landmark Will Disappear Before Spring." *Spokesman-Review*, no date
- "Toevs Rites Set Tomorrow." *Spokesman-Review*, 22 April 1957, page 5

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north



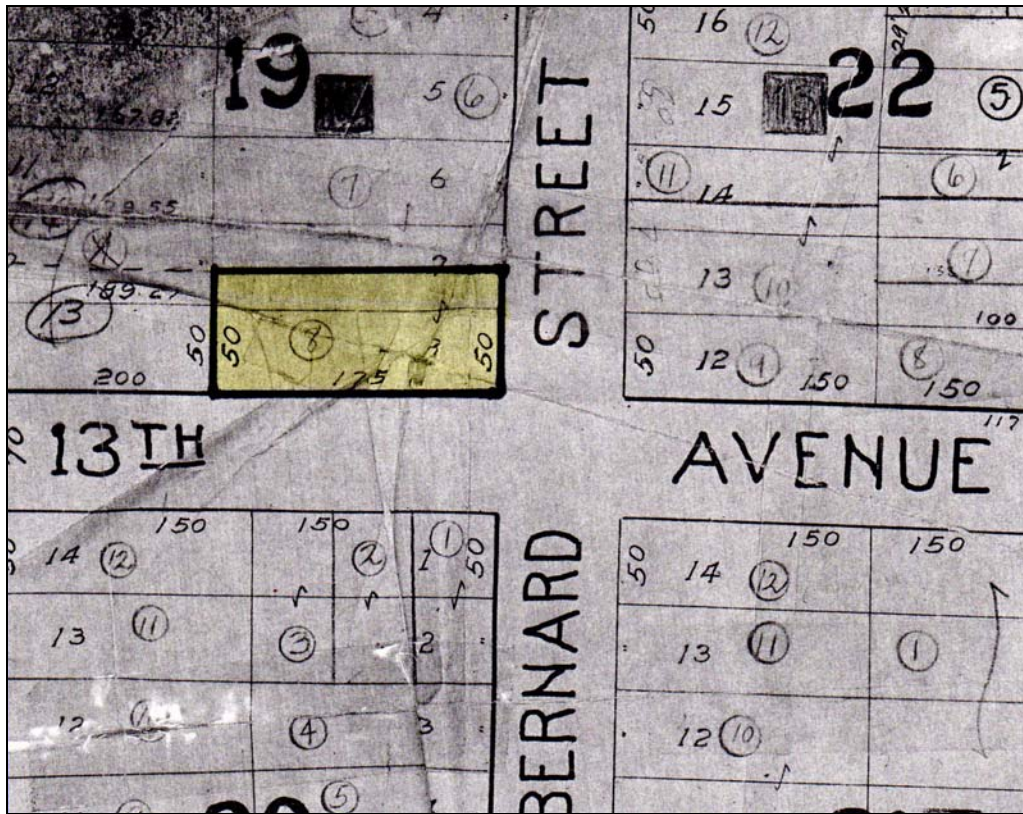
south

***Cliff Park Addition Resurvey Block 19, All of Lot 8, South ½ of Lot 7***

**1212 S. Bernard Street  
Spokane, WA 99203**

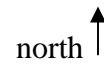
*Source: Google Maps 2019*

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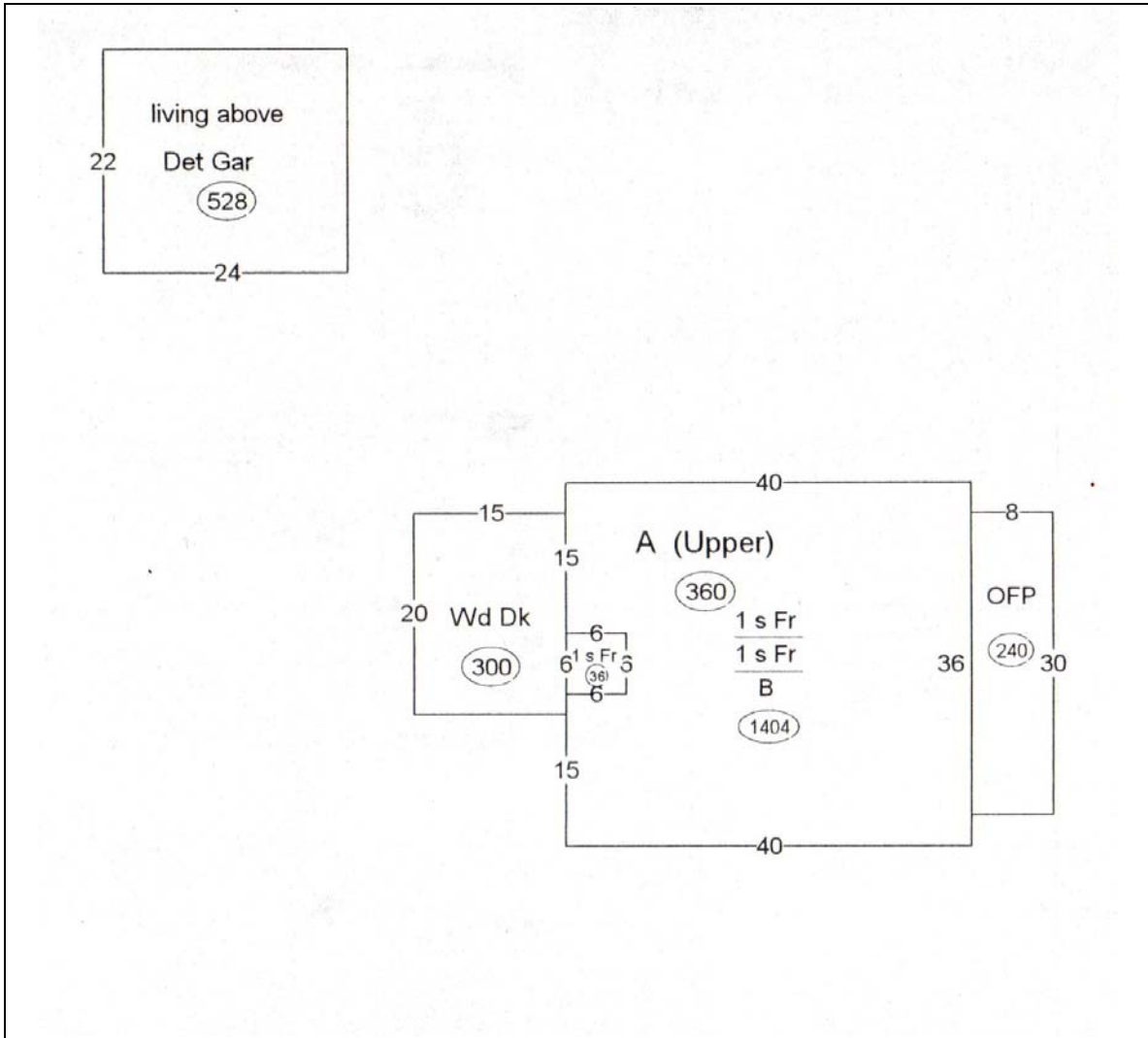
**Property Site Plan**

Source: Spokane County Assessor 2018  
Spokane County Courthouse, Spokane, WA





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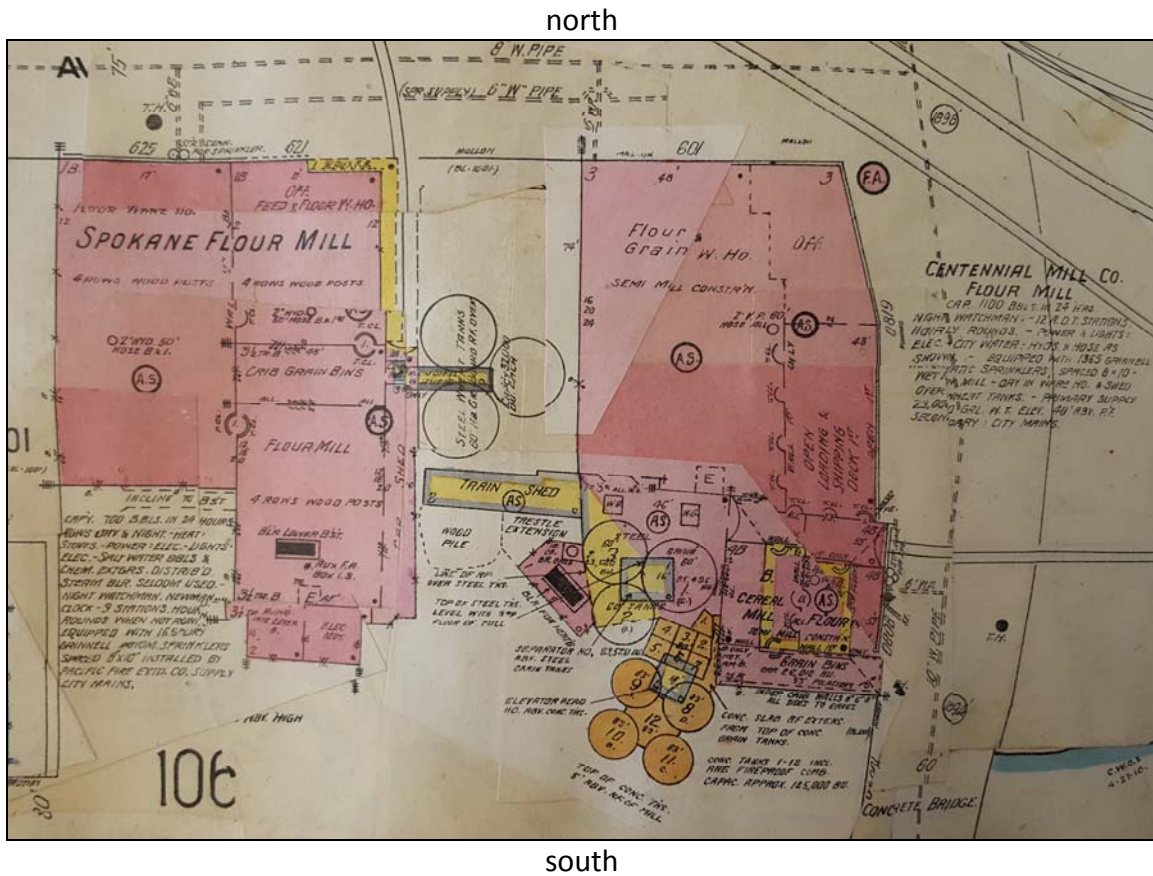
**Property Plan for Toevs House**  
**1212 S. Bernard Street**  
**Spokane, WA**

Source: Drawing prepared by Spokane County Assessor Office  
Spokane County Courthouse, Spokane, WA





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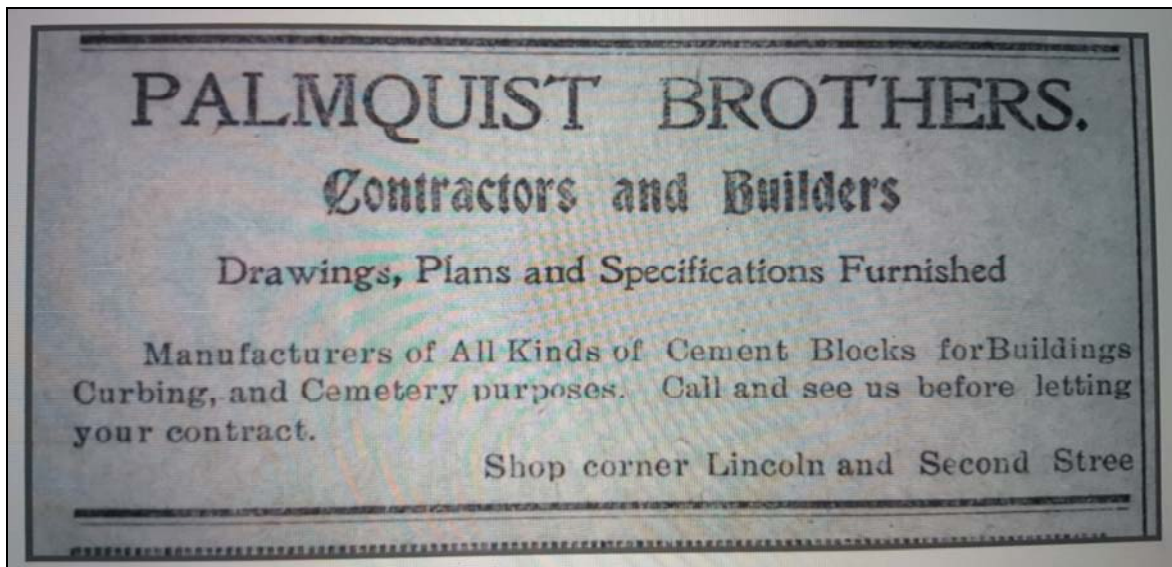


**1910 property footprint drawing of the Centennial Flour Mill,  
pictured in the right half of the page**

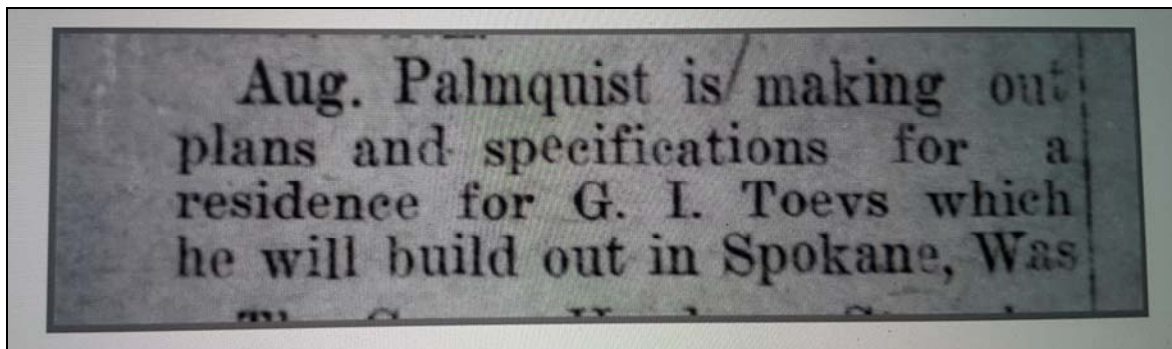
Mill location: Southeast corner of West Mallon Avenue and North Howard Street in  
Spokane, WA

**Gustav I. Toevs was the  
Vice-President of the Centennial Flour Mill  
from 1912 to the time of his death in 1932.**

Source: 1910 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map  
Downtown Spokane Public Library, Spokane, WA



*The Lindsborg Kansas News Record, 31 Dec 1909, page 8*



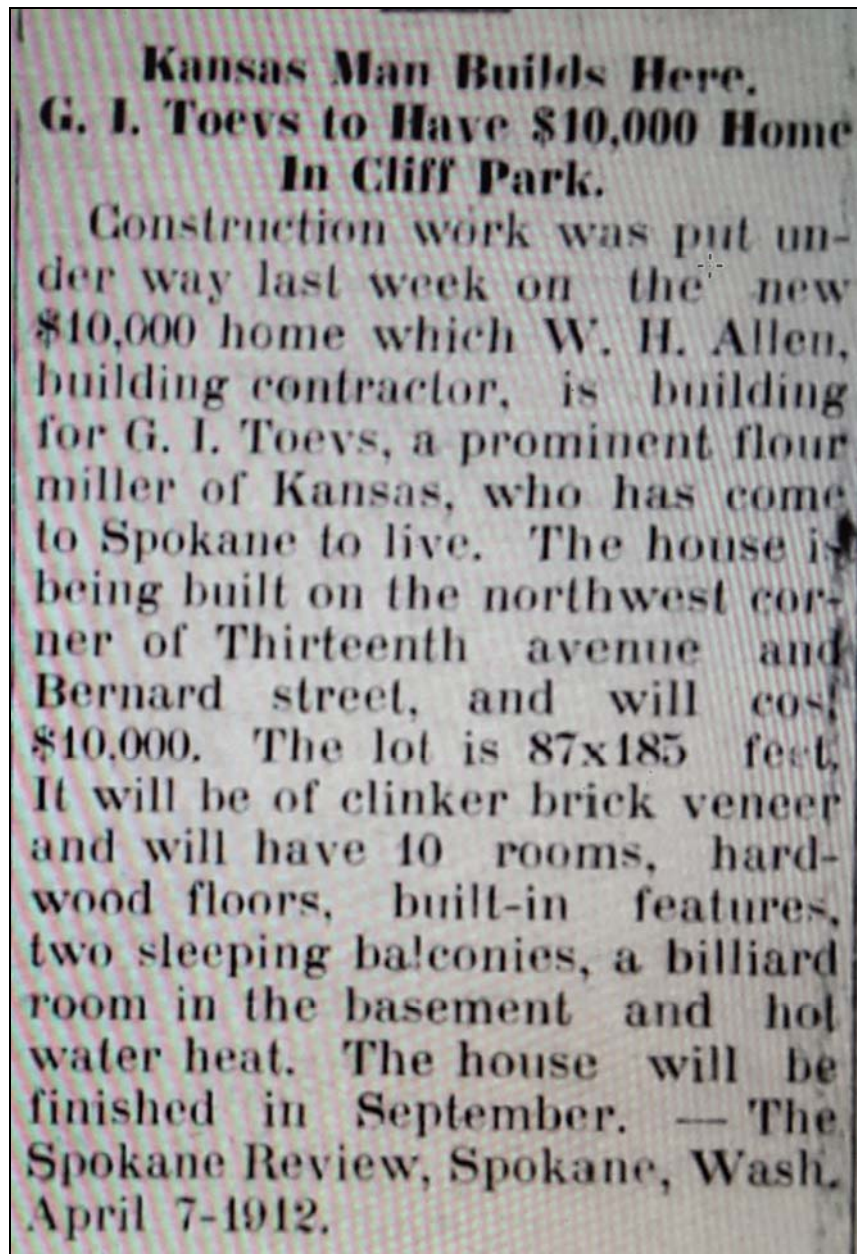
*The Lindsborg Kansas News Record, 8 December 1911*

These two articles refer to August Palmquist, the Kansas builder/contractor friend of former Kansas resident, Gustav I. Toevs, who asked for Palmquist's help in the design of the Gustav Toevs House, built in 1912 in Spokane, WA.

*Source: Lindsborg Kansas News Record 1911<sup>24</sup>*

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<sup>24</sup> Logan Camporeale, 2019.



This article is from *The Lindsborg Kansas News Record*, 19 April 1912, page 1.

It was copied word-for-word from the original article first published in the *Spokane Spokesman-Review*, 7 April 1912, part 5, page 1.



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Principal builders in the early days included the following, with example of the homes they built listed by addresses. The Palmquist brothers, John and August: 119 N. Second, 304 N. Second, 405 N. Second, 439 N. Second, 505 N. Second, 525 N. Second, 535 N. Second, 618 N. Second, 705 N. Second, 511 N. Main, 705 N. Main, 717 N. Main as well as the wings of Bethany Lutheran Church and the Messiah and Assaria Lutheran Churches. Some other Lindsborg builders and carpenters were originally apprentices of the Palmquist brothers.

**This newspaper article lists residential homes and commercial construction completed by the Palmquist Brothers Contractors & Builders in Lindsborg, Kansas.**

An excerpt from  
*Early Residences of Lindsborg, Kansas.*

**THE O. P. COATS SYSTEM**     **There is no restraint or detention**  
**CURES**     **from business. One can be cured at home.**  
**OPIUM AND MORPHINE HABITS**     **For Treatment apply to**  
**C. W. COATS, M. D., 919 N.Y. Life Bldg., Kansas City, Mo.**

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Contractors	KANSAS STATE GAZETTEER.	Coopers
Yoakum R B Leavenworth	Allison J W (cement)	<b>*CONTRACTORS—</b> <b>RAILROAD.</b> <b>McMurry J W Con-</b> <b>tracting Co, 709-710</b> <b>Sharp Bldg</b> <b>Kan City, Mo</b>
Ross E A (cement) LeRoy	Sylvan	
Dalrymple E H (side-	McCowin E H (cement)	<b>*CONTRACTORS—</b> <b>ROOFING.</b> <b>Walcott H C (see p</b> <b>168) Atchison</b> <b>Van Dorp Louis</b> <b>(see p 910) Topeka</b>
walk Lincoln	Syracuse	
Eland Christ (side-	Dallas C Talmo	<b>*CONTRACTORS—SEW-</b> <b>ER BUILDERS.</b> <b>Squire Electric &amp; Con-</b> <b>struction Co, 614 W.</b>
walk) " "	Campbell T L (paving)	
Waterman & Smith	Topeka	
(well) " "	Cook & Sons	
King, Smith & Muns-	Cornell L S	
terman Lincolnville	Douglas & Evans	
Billing & Rooth	Gist J C	
Lindsborg	Inter-state Marble &	
Liljestrom E P	Tile Co	
Lindsborg Bldg Co	Kaw Paying Co	
Rosine C F	Leeper & Smith	
Palmquist Bros	Nyman George	
Londgrist	Plank M C (see p 925)	
	Spencer E M	

A copy of page 1185, which lists the Palmquist Brothers under "Contractors" in the business index of the 1912 Kansas State Gazetteer.

(see Palmquist entry in bottom left-hand corner of the page)<sup>25</sup>

<sup>25</sup> Logan Camporeale, 2019.

# GUSTAVE I. TOEVS DIES SUDDENLY

Fatal Stroke Comes to Prominent  
Citizen at Home in  
Forenoon.

## ACTIVE IN CIVIC AFFAIRS

Member of Board of Spokane  
Branch, Federal Reserve Bank  
—Flour Mill Executive.

Gustave I. Toevs, 68, prominent in the business and civic life of Spokane, died suddenly at his home at E127 Twelfth at 11:45 Thursday morning. He was beyond help when Dr. T. M. Ahlquist reached him 10 minutes after he was stricken.

Mr. Toevs had just returned from town and was resting in a chair when the stroke came. He had suffered a severe heart attack two years ago, but had gradually recovered and was lately enjoying good health. He had felt well in the morning and had no symptoms of weakness.

Up to six months ago Mr. Toevs was vice president of the Centennial Flour Mills company, which has mills throughout the state, and was manager of the Spokane Centennial mill. He had held these positions since 1913, the year following his arrival in Spokane. He retired in February on the advice of his physician.

### HIGH IN BANK AFFAIRS.

He had been a member of the board of the Spokane branch of the federal reserve bank up to the time of his death, having been appointed to that position in 1914 by President Woodrow Wilson.

In the fall of 1928 Mr. Toevs organized the National Union Life Insurance company and was its president until 1931, when he resigned to become chairman of the board of directors. He also served on the board of directors of the Spokane and Eastern Trust company until his appointment on the federal reserve board.

He was born in 1864 in Marienburg, West Prussia, Germany, and came to New York when he was 17. Moving to Newton, Kan., he became engaged in the flour milling business and later had a mill in Lindsborg, Kan., where in 1896 he married Elizabeth McPhall. They came to Spokane in 1912.

Mr. Toevs was active in the Masonic orders here and was a member of Spokane lodge No. 34, F. and A. M. He also retained his membership in Isis temple of the Mystic Shrine at Salina, Kan. He belonged to the Westminster Congregational church and was a member of the Spokane City club.

### Public Spirited Citizen.

"Mr. Toevs was a public spirited citizen and was identified with the civic growth of Spokane," said Dr. Ahlquist, a life long friend of the family. "He will be missed in the community life of Spokane. His death came when his friends and family believed him well on the way to complete recovery and was a shock to us all."

He is survived at the home by his widow, Elizabeth; three daughters, Mrs. W. E. Grieve, Mrs. F. E. Dunton and Mrs. E. E. Scofield, all of Spokane; one son, Donald Toevs of San Francisco; one sister, Mrs. John Mathies of Seattle, and a grandchild, Elizabeth Scofield of Spokane.

The body is at the Smith funeral home. Arrangements will be made upon arrival of the son from San Francisco. The services will be private and the family asks that no flowers be sent, in accordance with the wish of Mr. Toevs.

*"Gustav I. Toevs Dies Suddenly."  
Spokesman-Review,  
April 19, 1932*



## TOEVS RITES SET TOMORROW

Mrs. Elizabeth McPhail Toevs, 83, long-time Spokane resident and widow of Gustave I. Toevs, died yesterday in a local hospital.

Mrs. Toevs, S1066 Wall, had lived in Spokane since 1912. She married Mr. Toevs in Lindsborg, Kan., where he operated a flour mill. For many years he was vice president and general manager of Centennial Mills here and was director of the Spokane branch federal reserve bank. He died in 1932.

Mrs. Toevs was a member of the Westminster Congregational church and a member of the Amethyst club for more than 40 years. She had maintained the interests of the estate since his death.

She is survived by two daughters, Mrs. Ford E. Dunton and Mrs. Edward E. Scofield, both of Spokane; a brother, Norman McPhail, Spokane; two sisters, Mrs. H. V. Sandahl, Spokane; and Mrs. William Copelan in California, and six grandchildren.

Funeral services will be at 11 a. m. tomorrow at Smith funeral home. Cremation will follow.

***"Toevs Rights Set Tomorrow."  
Spokesman-Review, 22 April 1957***

## **Toevs, Gustav I. (d. 1932)**

From Biograph

*Mennonite Weekly Review* obituary: 1932 Sep 7 p. 4

Birth date:

text of obituary:

### **LOCAL**

...

— Reports were received here recently of the death of Gustav I. Toevs who passed away at his home in Spokane, Wash. Mr. Toevs, who is well known here, was connected with a large milling concern in Spokane at the time of his death.

Retrieved from "[https://mla.bethelks.edu/mediawiki/index.php?title=Toevs,\\_Gustav\\_I.\\_\(d.\\_1932\)&oldid=81382](https://mla.bethelks.edu/mediawiki/index.php?title=Toevs,_Gustav_I._(d._1932)&oldid=81382)"

Category: Mennonite Weekly Review obituaries

**"Toevs, Gustav I. (d. 1932)."**  
***Mennonite Weekly Review*, 7 September 1932, page 4**

“Reports were received here recently of the death of Gustav I. Toevs, who passed away at his home in Spokane, Wash. Mr. Toevs, who is well-known here, was connected with a large milling concern in Spokane at the time of his death.”



Spokane City/County Register of Historic Places Nomination  
TOEVS HOUSE

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*East façade of the Toevs House in 2019*



*East façade of the Toevs House in 2019*



Spokane City/County Register of Historic Places Nomination  
TOEVS HOUSE

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*East façade and south face of the Toevs House in 2019*



*South face of the Toevs House and Garage in 2019*



Spokane City/County Register of Historic Places Nomination  
TOEVS HOUSE

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*West rear face of the Toevs House in 2019*



*West rear face of the Toevs House in 2019 (unattached garage at left)*



Spokane City/County Register of Historic Places Nomination  
TOEV'S HOUSE

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*East façade of the Toevs House and east face of the Toevs Garage in 2019*



*Front porch of the Toevs House, looking west in 2019*

Spokane City/County Register of Historic Places Nomination  
TOEVS HOUSE

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*Front porch of the Toevs House in 2019, looking south*



*Front porch on the Toevs House in 2019, looking north*



Spokane City/County Register of Historic Places Nomination  
TOEVS HOUSE

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*North face of house and east face of garage in 2019*



*North face of the Toevs House in 2019*



Spokane City/County Register of Historic Places Nomination  
TOEVS HOUSE

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*South façade of the Toevs Garage in 2019*



*Basalt rock wall in northwest corner behind the garage at the Toevs property in 2019*



Spokane City/County Register of Historic Places Nomination  
TOEVS HOUSE

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*Living room, looking east and southeast in 2019*



Spokane City/County Register of Historic Places Nomination  
TOEVS HOUSE

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*Living room, looking southwest in 2019*



*Living room, looking west into dining room in 2019*



***Dining room built-in hutch/buffet on west wall in 2019***



Spokane City/County Register of Historic Places Nomination  
TOEVS HOUSE

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*Front reception/entry hall, looking southwest into living room in 2019*

Spokane City/County Register of Historic Places Nomination  
TOEVS HOUSE

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***Front reception/entry hall, looking northwest from living room in 2019***

Spokane City/County Register of Historic Places Nomination  
TOEVS HOUSE

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*Library, looking north from front reception/entry hall in 2019;  
notice original Craftsman-style sconces and chandelier*

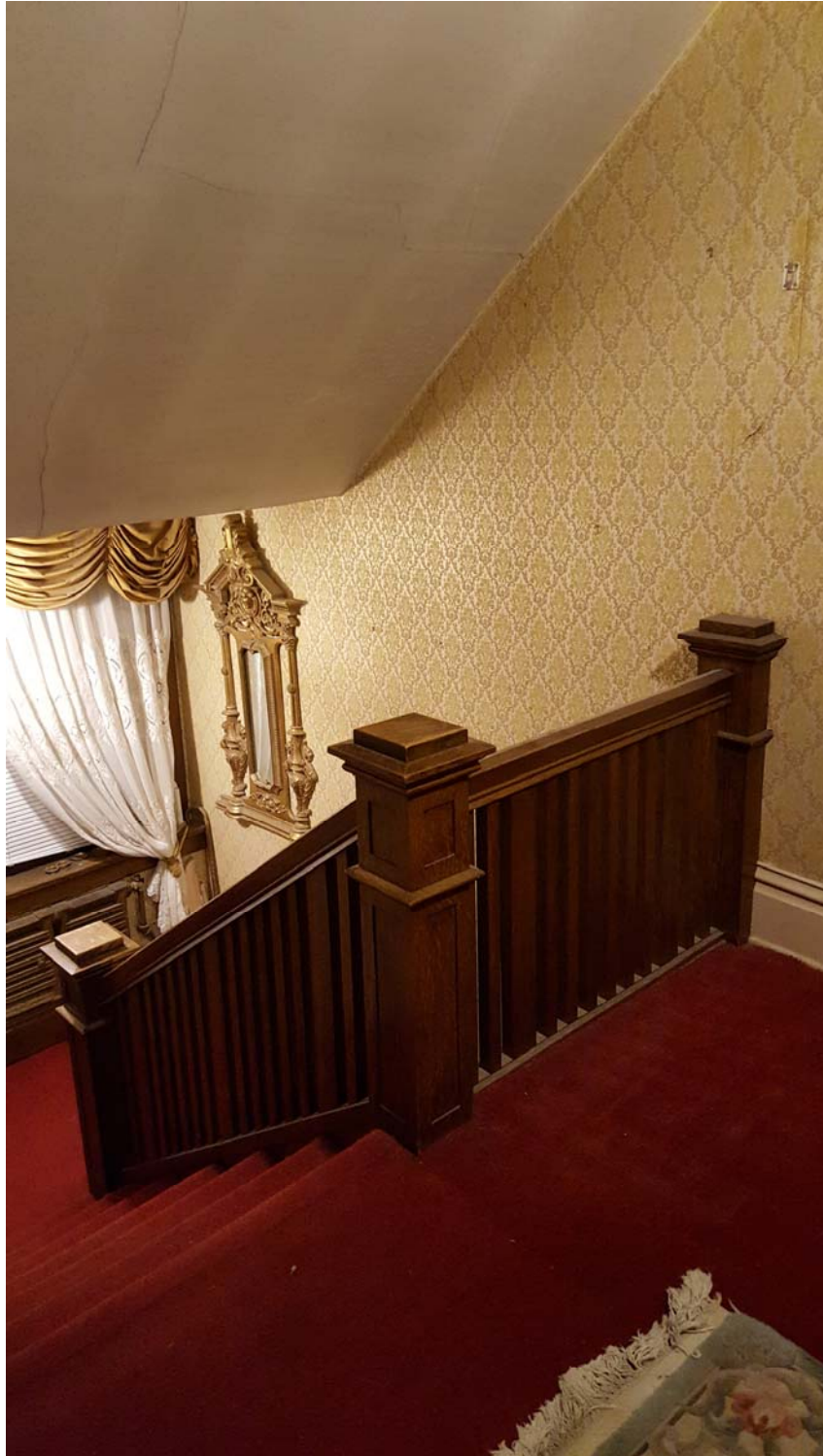


*Hallway staircase to second floor in 2019*



Spokane City/County Register of Historic Places Nomination  
TOEVS HOUSE

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*Looking down staircase from second floor in 2019*



***Stained-glass window in north, back entry powder room, looking north in 2019***



***Stained-glass in door in southwest bedroom on the second floor; looking west in 2019 at the door, which opens to a sleeping porch in the southwest corner of the house.***