

# 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 **TURNER HALL (German Hall)**  
Common Name *Deutsches Haus, Turnverein Hall, Liberty Hall,  
Third Avenue Society, German-American Society  
Hall*

## 2. LOCATION

Street & Number 25 W. Third Avenue  
City, State, Zip Code Spokane, WA 99202  
Parcel Number 35191.1404

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

## 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

Name German-American Society of Spokane  
Street & Number 25 W. Third Avenue  
City, State, Zip Code Spokane, WA 99202  
Telephone Number/E-mail 509-747-0004, [info@germanamericansociety-spokane.org](mailto:info@germanamericansociety-spokane.org)

## 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

## 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 A property that 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

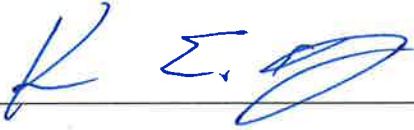
Acreage of Property	Less than one acre.
Verbal Boundary Description	Spokane Falls Railroad 4th Addition, Lots 9-10, Block 113.
Verbal Boundary Justification	Nominated property includes entire parcel and urban legal description.

## 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
Email Address & Telephone No.	<a href="mailto:lindayeomans@comcast.net">lindayeomans@comcast.net</a> , 509-456-3828



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



President Karin E. King

**14. FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY**

Date nomination application filed: 11/15/18

Date of Landmarks Commission Hearing: 7/17/19

Landmarks Commission decision: Approved

Date of City Council/Board of County Commissioners' hearing: \_\_\_\_\_

City Council/Board of County Commissioners' decision: \_\_\_\_\_

**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.**



7/17/19

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

**Date**

Attest:

Approved as to form:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Assistant City Attorney



*Turner Hall in 2018*

**SECTION 7: DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY**

**Summary Statement**

Built in 1897 with modest Free Classic Queen Anne-style influence, Turner Hall (*Turn Halle*) is a long rectangular one-story wood frame building with a steeply pitched gable end roof, a raised basalt stone basement, brick veneer cladding, symmetrical window placement, and a prominent square tower at the façade's northeast corner—a Queen Anne-style focal point of the building. Inspired by architectural features admired in Germany, a later addition of decorative dark brown-painted wood false half-timbering is

applied over brick veneer. Further articulation is revealed in green-painted wood-paneled window shutters with red heart medallions at the first floor, and a gabled portico with scalloped bargeboards over a main entrance, located at grade at the northwest corner of the building. The appellation, *DEUTSCHES HAUS* (German House), is designed in a German-style font and attached as individual large single letters to the west side of the building above the northwest facade portico entrance. Although there have been modifications, Turner Hall retains fair to good exterior and interior architectural integrity after 122 years of continual use.

### ***CURRENT APPEARANCE & CONDITION***

#### ***Site***

Turner Hall is sited on Lots 9 and 10, Block 113 in the 4th Railroad Addition south of downtown Spokane on Third Avenue, just west of Division Street. The property's width extends 100 feet along Third Avenue, and the property's depth measures 140 feet from north to south.<sup>1</sup> Turner Hall comprises nearly the entire space provided by the two lots with a three-foot-wide buffer strip along the east side of the property, and a five-foot-wide strip along the west side of the property. Regarded as a rare historic 1890's property existing in the center of a busy commercial neighborhood, Turner Hall is surrounded by mostly unplanned contemporary commercial/industrial infill and sprawl, parking lots, and a gridwork of paved city streets, which transport some of the city's highest volume vehicular traffic. As it traverses over Spokane, an elevated portion of the freeway along Interstate 90 is located adjacent south of the property.

#### ***Building Exterior***

The 1897 Turner Hall measures 46 feet wide and 110 feet deep, and has one story with a raised basement. The long wood-frame building is protected by a steeply pitched gable end roof clad with composition shingles. A square tower with a tall, steeply pitched roof is located at the northeast corner of the building, a focal point of the north facade. Like the roof of the main building, the tower is also clad with composition roof shingles. Roof eaves have little to no overhang, and gable peaks at the north facade and south rear face of the building are clad with dark brown-finished cedar shingle siding in closed pediments. The exterior walls above the raised basement are clad with white-painted brick veneer, and the raised basement is constructed of basalt stone. Decorative dark brown-painted wood false half-timbering is anchored to the brick cladding, and is influenced by popular half-timbering designs associated with Germany. Windows at the north facade are 6/1 multi-paned units arranged in three sets of window pairs with a total of six windows on the first floor and six clerestory windows above the first floor. An 1897 original Palladian window with wood sash and original multi-paned diamond-shaped lights is located in the closed-pediment gable peak at the north facade. On the west facade and east face, windows and boarded window openings are aligned horizontally and vertically in symmetrical rows. All windows in the raised basement at the east and west building faces are covered with wood boards. Clerestory windows above first-floor windows on the east and west faces are also covered with wood boards.

---

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

Windows at the first floor are 8/8 multi-paned wood-sash units. Green-painted wood paneled shutters with red heart medallions are attached to first-floor windows on the north and west façades. First-floor windows at the building's east face do not have shutters (the building is adjacent to a paved parking lot and a single-story commercial building built in 1963-1980, presently owned by U-Haul Company).<sup>2</sup>

In 1983, a low-pitched gabled, wood portico front entrance was constructed on the north end of the west façade at grade, and painted green. The portico has widely overhanging eaves with scalloped bargeboards that are decorated with painted floral designs, and is supported by vertical painted-wood square posts and a large horizontal beam anchored to the posts. Painted metal letters attached to the beam spell GERMAN AMERICAN SOCIETY. Composition shingles clad the portico's roof. A row of three paneled-wood doors protected by the portico open from grade into the interior of the building.

A one-story brick addition is attached to the building's south rear face, and is 42 feet wide and 30 feet deep.<sup>3</sup> The addition has a flat roof of built-up tar and is clad with stucco. Roof-top HVAC and assorted pieces of mechanical equipment are attached to and supported by the addition's flat roof. A basement door at grade opens from the west face of the addition and is protected by a corrugated metal shed awning. The interior of the addition is finished with a living room, washroom, and a basement mechanical room.

### ***Building Interior***

Three green-painted wood-paneled front doors open to a reception hall located at grade at the north end of the west facade. From the reception hall, a staircase descends to a basement, and also climbs to a landing and first floor. The staircase is five-feet wide with deep treads, is covered with wall-to-wall carpet, and has a closed stringer embellished with cut-out balusters and massive rectangular newel posts with pyramidal tops. The raised basement holds a large dining room as well as a large dance hall and stage with a maple floor in the west two-thirds of the building. The east one-third of the building in the raised basement holds a commercial kitchen, a bar, washrooms, and storage closets—all accessible by a long center hallway that runs the length of the building. Original woodwork exists in the hallway as well-preserved five-paneled interior closet doors, and features vertical and curly fir finished in a deep ebony hue, hand-rubbed to a rich patina. The raised basement's dance hall, dining room, and hallway are finished with seven to eight-foot-high ceilings covered with acoustical tiles, wall-to-wall carpet, and painted sheetrock walls with dark brown-painted paneled wainscoting. Decorative dark brown-painted wood false half-timbering articulates the walls above the wainscoting. German and German-inspired artwork is exhibited on the room's walls. During 1968, windows were removed and walls were finished with painted sheetrock.

The interior front entrance stairs from the reception hall lead upward to a landing, and turn and rise to the first floor of the building. The front reception hall entrance, staircase, and entire first floor were remodeled in 1983 for a cost of \$140,000 (September 30, 1983

---

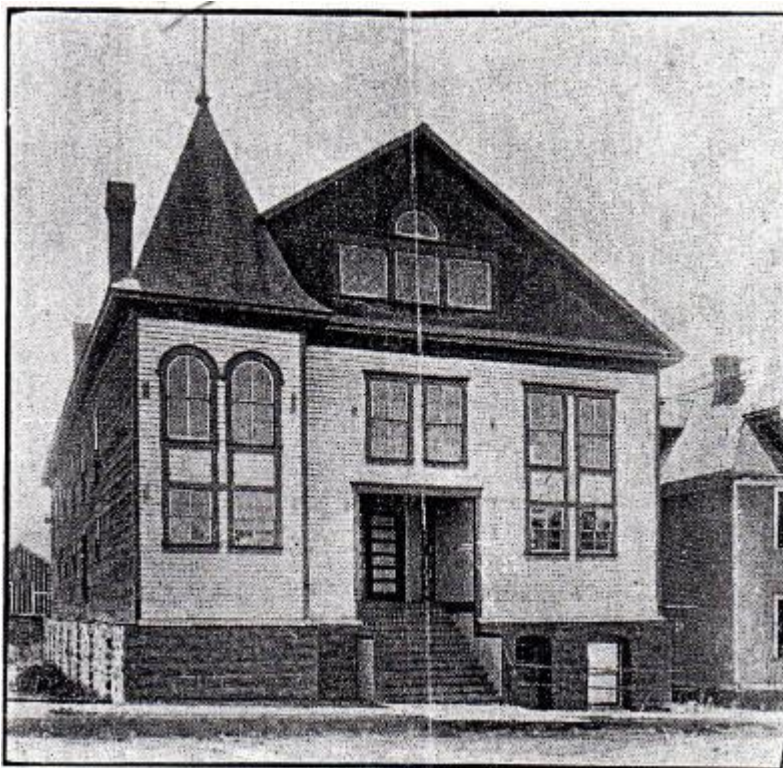
<sup>2</sup> Spokane County Tax Assessor records. Spokane County Courthouse, Spokane, WA.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.



Spokane building permit). The walls in the reception hall and stairwell are finished with sheet rock and white paint, and are embellished with a combination of painted and natural maple-finished wainscoting and staircase. The first floor includes a coat room, a bar and service area, washrooms, and a large gymnasium/dance hall/multi-purpose room with a stage. The walls are painted sheetrock, and wainscoting is made of natural-finished vertical wood paneling. A vaulted ceiling is located at the second-floor level and is finished with black-painted wood. The room was originally built to accommodate a gymnasium where gymnastics and other exercises were practiced and exhibited.<sup>4</sup> Four metal cleats remain in the maple floor (the cleats were used to hold gymnastic vaulting horses in place). In 1983 when the gymnasium was no longer used for gymnastic events, the ceiling was hidden by a series of hanging horizontal boards, called baffles, which allow for ventilation and artificial light to pass. Clerestory windows, which were originally installed on the uppermost reaches of the first level, were closed with boards at the exterior and were closed permanently at the interior when they were finished with painted sheetrock as a continuation of interior walls. Original windows on the first floor were replaced with similar multi-paned wood-sash windows in 1968.

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



Quickly constructed during the fall of 1897, Turner Hall was originally clad with clapboard siding and featured a recessed central entry with stairs leading up to the raised first floor. The intent at that time was to eventually clad the building in brick, so the foundation was constructed of cut basalt in order to hold the weight of the eventual brick veneer (see circa 1900 image at left).

The exterior form of Turner Hall was first expanded in 1900, essentially doubling the size of the building and adding a large stage to the southern end as well as a dance floor.<sup>5</sup> The addition was planned to be 60 feet by 48

feet wide with a 28-foot deep stage, and be wired for electricity. The article also described the “ultimate intention of the members of the society to arrange club rooms in the high basement” so it can be gleaned that club rooms did not exist prior to this time. In

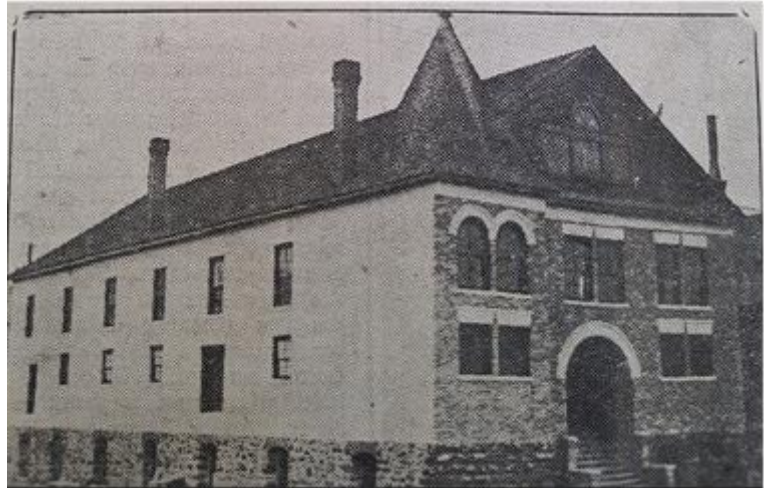
<sup>4</sup> German-American Society Records Collection.

<sup>5</sup> *Spokane Daily Chronicle*, 5 April 1900.

1900, the 85 members envisioned the basement extension to include “splendid bowling alleys, a club reading room, billiard room and parlor, with possibly a buffet for the use of members only.”

The July 27, 1914 edition of the *Spokesman-Review* reported that previously considered changes to the building were completed, including cladding the exterior with brick veneer and enlarging the arch over the entrance stairs at the north façade.

A November 16, 1931 black & white photograph of the building pictured the property’s northeast corner façade in which the building appears to be clad in brick. Some bricks appear to be painted white for emphasis around windows and a recessed arched entrance at the north façade.<sup>6</sup> In the 1931 photograph, multi-paned windows on the building’s east face appear as 4/4 units, and are located in the raised basement and the first floor.



A 1959 Spokane County tax assessor photo pictured the building’s original north façade center recessed entrance, and 4/4 multi-paned windows located at the north and east faces. In the 1931 and 1959 photos, the raised basement at the north façade appears to be made of cut basalt stone that remains intact in 2019. In the 1959 photo, the north façade’s gable peak appears to be clad in original dark-colored cedar wood shingles, which are intact in 2019.

Modifications to the property include:

- 1900 The building was nearly doubled in size with an addition to the south that included a large stage and dance floor (*Spokane Daily Chronicle, April 5, 1900*).
- 1904 The building was connected to city water (*Spokane permit #4544*).
- 1911 A water meter from the City of Spokane was installed in the basement (*Spokane building permit #3744*).

<sup>6</sup> 1931 photograph. *Spokane Washington Post German Newspaper*, 11/16/1931, page 5.

- 1914 The wood frame Turner Hall was clad with brick veneer and the front arch was enlarged (*Spokesman-Review, July 27, 1914*).
- 1936 A one story brick addition to the south rear face of the structure to include a heating plant and caretaker's apartment (*Spokane Daily Chronicle, August 27, 1936*).
- 1968 Except for the north façade's Palladian window in the gable peak, the original windows on the first-floor west façade and north façade were replaced with wood-sash multi-paned units (*Spokane building permit #B67991*).
- 1982 An elevator shaft was constructed in the building.
- 1983 The original exterior recessed front entrance and front entrance stairs at the north façade of the building were removed, and the exterior was finished with a stucco wall to match the level of the existing planar wall surface of the building. A new front entrance was relocated and built at grade at the north end of the west façade with three five-paneled wood entrance doors. An exterior portico over the front doors, an interior reception hall at grade, and a new interior staircase were constructed. Washrooms were built and installed. The interior of the first floor was completely refinished with a coat room, washrooms, bar and service area along with the removal of clerestory windows, replaced by finished walls (*Spokane building permit, September 30, 1983*). Windows in the raised basement and clerestory windows at the first floor were filled in with wood boards at the exterior, and refinished with painted drywall at the interior. The exterior of the brick-clad building was painted white, and brown-painted wood false half-timbering was installed onto the surface of the brick. Green-painted wood window shutters were installed on either side of windows on the first floor at the west façade and north facades.
- 1984 An electric Sonitrol System was installed in the basement.

**SECTION 8: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

<i>Areas of Significance</i>	<i>Ethnic History</i>
<i>Period of Significance</i>	<i>1897-2019</i>
<i>Built Date</i>	<i>1897</i>
<i>Architect</i>	<i>Herman Preusse—1897 construction of building</i> <i>Julius Zittel—1914 remodel</i> <i>Henry Bertleson—1936 addition to south rear face of property</i>

**SUMMARY STATEMENT of SIGNIFICANCE**

Historically significant as the oldest surviving ethnic clubhouse meeting center in Spokane, Turner Hall owned by the German-American Society of Spokane is eligible for listing on the Spokane Register of Historic Places under Category E in the area of significance, “ethnic history.” The property’s period of significance is from 1897, when the building was constructed, to 2019, as the building continues to reflect its ongoing cultural history associated with people from Germany, people with German ancestry, and people who appreciate and enjoy the German culture. The building, known interchangeably by many as Turner Hall (*Turner Halle*) and *Deutsches Haus* (German House), was designed by Herman Preusse, acclaimed as Spokane’s first professional architect. The property served as the meeting hall and cultural center for German-speaking men, women and children who immigrated from Germany to Eastern Washington, beginning in the late 1860s through the early 1900s, and who chose to live and work in Spokane and the Spokane region.<sup>7</sup> The German meeting hall represents the many German immigrants who brought new political, religious, and social ideas to Spokane as well as economically important innovations.

Today, Turner Hall is enjoyed by all Germans, German-Americans, people of German descent, and all nationalities who are interested in cultivating the German culture, including the German language, music and dance, song and choir, drama, food, drink, humor and history in the tradition of the German *Gemuetlichkeit*—“geniality, easy going kindness, and good nature.”<sup>8</sup> Preserved and maintained after more than 122 years of contiguous use, Turner Hall is a tangible testament to the preservation of German culture in Spokane from the time the property was built in 1897 to the present time.

**HISTORIC CONTEXT**

***Spokane Falls, Washington***

In 1870, Spokane was little more than a few shacks, sawmills, and later, a grist mill. Trappers, fur traders, and lumbermen intermingled with Native American Indians in the area along with pioneers and farmers who arrived in Spokane searching for a fresh start. Recognized as some of the first people to live around the Spokane River, Indians from the Spokane Tribe and other native families lived in the region and fished the river and its powerful waterfalls. In 1878, a town was platted on the banks of the Spokane River, and

<sup>7</sup> German-American Society Records Collection.

<sup>8</sup> “German Heritage Strong Here.” *Spokane Daily Chronicle*, 20 Feb 1971.



was called Spokane Falls (later shortened to Spokane). By 1885, the town had prospered, and Spokane had entered a busy boom when gold, silver, and other minerals were discovered in the Coeur d’Alene, Colville, and Kootenai mining districts. Lumber from virgin White Pine stands and other forests was recognized as a natural resource with untold value. Farming throughout the Palouse offered some of the richest soil in the world, and power from Spokane Falls was beginning to be harnessed. At the same time, a huge catalyst to the boom was the arrival of the Northern Pacific Railroad followed by the Great Northern, Union Pacific, and various other railroads, which linked America’s east and west coasts and points in between. As Spokane became an important service center and division point for mining, lumber, agriculture, water power, and railroad resources, the city’s population grew from roughly 350 people in 1880, to more than 25,000 in 1900, and finally exploded to 104,000, as recorded in the 1910 U.S. Census.<sup>9</sup>

During the 1860s and 1870s, German immigrants began migrating to and settling in Eastern Washington, and by 1890, were nationally recognized as one of the largest immigrant groups to arrive in the Northwest. They came to America for a myriad of reasons—to escape war and famine, to satisfy a desire for liberty and religious freedom, and to take advantage of economic opportunity. Many settled in the eastern half of America, then changed course and came west in search of good, affordable land, and the opportunity to practice their trades and/or sell their wares. Some Germans developed farms and ranches or settled in small farming towns throughout the Palouse while other immigrants worked in surrounding forests and Coeur d’Alene mines. German immigrants worked as miners and machinists, butchers and bakers. They opened breweries, presented athletic and gymnastic events, and invited all to enjoy their music and song.<sup>10</sup> In Spokane, “the German-American population thrived. Its proudest symbol became their meeting hall, called the German-American Society Hall, or *Deutsches Haus* (German house), which opened in 1897.”<sup>11</sup>

***HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE***

***Category E—Ethnic History***

***Turner Hall***

Eligible for listing on the Spokane Register of Historic Places under Category E for its ethnic history, Turner Hall represents the culture and heritage of Spokane by its visual prominence, intangible German heritage, and a broad range of German cultural practices. Turner Hall is historically significant as the oldest surviving ethnic meeting house in Spokane, and has been continually used for more than twelve decades by the German-American Society who built it in 1897. Originally constructed with large spaces specifically designed to hold a variety of events and large congregations of Germans and German-Americans who immigrated to Eastern Washington and Spokane in the late 1800s, Turner Hall is a testament to the preservation of the German culture and the importance placed on gymnastics, athletics, music, choirs, education, and social events

<sup>9</sup> Stimson, William. *A View of the Falls: An Illustrated History of Spokane*. CA: Windsor Publications, 1985.

<sup>10</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/German\\_Americans](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/German_Americans). *German Americans*.

<sup>11</sup> Nappi, Rebecca. “Century of Song.” *Spokesman-Review*, 30 April 2011.

that were held in Turner Hall—important cultural activities that helped bind the German immigrant population together in Spokane. The purpose of the German-American Society is to offer “hospitality to people of all nationalities who desire to support and help uphold the traditions of the Germanic homeland; to cultivate the German language; and to sing German songs and enjoy humor, poetry, drama, music, and dance in the spirit of German *Gemuetlichkeit*—an environment of geniality, cheerfulness, and comfort.”<sup>12</sup>

Not only used by members and friends of the the German-American Society, Turner Hall was the meeting place or venue of choice for a diverse range of cultural, organizational, political, religious, and athletic events. These events ranged from radical speakers of the International Workers of the World (IWW) to the Northwest Young Buddhist League Annual Conferences, and from boxing matches to class lectures. Turner Hall appears to have been available to any group who sought to lease it, and even the most radical and controversial speakers were not banned.

### ***Concordia Hall***

Before the current Turner Hall was built in 1897, a multi-story building called Concordia Hall was erected at 1107-11 W. Second Avenue between Jefferson and Madison Streets. An etching made in 1890 pictured Concordia Hall, which was home to the Concordia Choir (a German male choir) associated with the Zitherclub “Harmonie.”<sup>13</sup> Concordia Hall was designed by German architect Herman Preusse, Spokane’s first professional architect and a member of the Concordia Choir.

During the early 2000s, German-American Society member Edgar Bueschke, translated several newspaper articles written in German, and noted that “roots of the Concordia Choir in Spokane can be traced to 1883, when a German ‘man choir’ greeted the arrival of the first Northern Pacific Railroad train in Spokane. Many German immigrants lived in the Inland Northwest at that time, and by the turn of the century, numerous German choirs existed in Spokane. In 1911, several of those choirs merged into one organization that has become the current Concordia Choir of Spokane.”<sup>14</sup> Eberhard Schmidt, a German-American Society member and president of the Spokane Concordia Choir, reported that “it is certain the German immigrants were eager to establish clubs so that their love of German music could be cultivated.”<sup>15</sup>

The popular Spokane Concordia Choir and other choirs met in Concordia Hall until it was destroyed by fire, and then sang in Spokane’s downtown Comique Theater. The “*Spokane Turnverein*,” the name for a German gymnastic/athletic club in Spokane, met at the Comique Theater along with other Germans, including the Concordia Choir and

---

<sup>12</sup> German-American Society Hall Archive Records, 2017.

<sup>13</sup> Eastern Washington State Historical Society. *Archive library photo L2003-28.639*. Northwest Museum of Arts & Culture, Spokane, WA, and “History of the German-Americans and Their German Hall in Spokane,” 2010, Eberhard Schmidt Records Collection.

<sup>14</sup> Bueschke, Edgar. “Concordia Choir Spokane.” 2011.

<sup>15</sup> Schmidt, Eberhard. “History of the German-American Society and Its German Hall in Spokane.” November 2010.

various reading groups, dancers and dance instructors, athletes who presented sports exhibits/gymnastics events, a military association, and the Zitherclub “Harmonie.”<sup>16</sup> Eberhard Schmidt explained, “The social life of the German immigrants was very lively and soon there was the desire and wish to unite the various groups into one great club so that the German heritage could be enriched in the city of Spokane.”<sup>17</sup> It was decided a central meeting hall or *Deutsches Haus* was needed for all to enjoy.

### *Spokane Turnverein*

At an April 1891 *Spokane Turnverein* meeting, one of the members, Herr Paul Schulze, who was associated with the Northern Pacific Railroad, presented an offer from the railroad company to the *Spokane Turnverein*. The gift was a “land grant”—land located at 25 West Third Avenue that was being offered for \$20, and which would become available with the condition that a German meeting hall be erected within nine months. Construction costs would need to be at least \$2500, otherwise the property would revert back to the railroad company.<sup>18</sup> At that time, decisions concerning the land grant gift and proposed clubhouse were difficult to make due to an 1893 financial depression that swept the country and negatively affected the German *Spokane Turnverein* and other German groups. Consequently, no decisions were made for nearly seven years.

By September 1897, the Panic of 1893 financial depression was over, and the German *Spokane Turnverein* and Concordia Choir were anxious to begin planning the construction of a meeting place for all German groups in Spokane and surrounding area. The generous land grant gift from the Northern Pacific Railroad remained extended after the financial depression was over, so the *Turnverein* unanimously agreed to erect a clubhouse. The land was located along W. Third Avenue on Lots 9 and 10, Block 113 in the 4th Railroad Addition to Spokane Falls. Mindful of the time limit put upon the *Spokane Turnverein* by the railroad company, Spokane German architect Herman Preusse—the man who earlier designed Concordia Hall—immediately prepared architectural plans for a large clubhouse. In just two days, Preusse’s plans were accepted. Construction of Turner Hall commenced in October 1897, beginning with an existing barn on the lot that was demolished to make way for the erection of a German hall, called the “*Deutsches Haus*” (German House). Using the barn’s basalt stone foundation, the Germans built the German hall on the existing foundation, and completed the project in two months. On December 30, 1897, the first general meeting took place in the *Deutsches Haus* followed by an initiation ceremony and fun-filled festivities on New Year’s Eve. To pay for expenses accrued by the building project, financial contributions flowed in from Germans in Spokane, German farmers from the Palouse and Big Bend areas, and from Eastern Washington towns like Tekoa, Rosalia, St. John, Endicott, Colfax and Ritzville, Odessa, Lind, and Connell.<sup>19</sup> As so well expressed by German-American Society member, Eberhard Schmidt, “This was a shining example of the close

---

<sup>16</sup> *Spokane Turnverein (Deutsche Gesellschaft of Spokane)* Articles of Incorporation, January 11, 1890. Spokane County Courthouse, Spokane, WA.

<sup>17</sup> Schmidt, 2010.

<sup>18</sup> Bueschke, Edgar. “German-American Society of Spokane: A Brief History.” 2018.

<sup>19</sup> Harry C. Helm. “Deutsches Haus.” 1987.

cooperation and self-sacrifice of the German community” and symbolizes the construction, stewardship and on-going preservation of Turner Hall, known by many as the *Deutsches Haus*.<sup>20</sup>

### *Changing Times, Changing Names*

The German ethnic club, presently called the German-American Society, has been legally known by at least four different official names since 1890. German pioneers in Spokane and surrounding areas filed the first articles of incorporation in 1890 to name their organization the “*Spokane Turnverein*.”<sup>21</sup> A membership fee was charged at \$2.50 per person to join the *Spokane Turnverein*. German-American Society member Edgar Bueschke explained, the clubhouse “was primarily built for gymnastic performances. Its German name clearly states its purpose as a *turnhalle*, gymnastic hall. The German society that was primarily responsible for its organization was the *Turnverein*, a union [or group] of gymnasts.”<sup>22</sup>

In 1897, the *Spokane Turnverein* erected a meeting hall on West Third Avenue and interchangeably called it “*Turnverein Hall*” and “*Deutsches Haus*” (German House). The property was also commonly known in English as Turner Hall, German House, German Hall, and Germania Hall. The hall became the focal point and hub of German gymnastics and athletic events in addition to popular choir performances and dances in Spokane. The building’s most important use was as a central meeting hall built to hold large congregations of Germans and associated people who lived in and around Spokane.

On October 29, 1915, the *Spokane Turnverein* amended the name of the organization when they drafted new articles of incorporation, changing the name from *Spokane Turnverein* to *Deutsche Gesellschaft of Spokane* (German organization), and included all existing German clubs throughout Spokane and the surrounding region. Two months later in December 1915, Spokane County Warranty Deed #462768 recorded the property as legally owned by the *Deutsche Gesellschaft of Spokane*.

In 1915, World War I was progressing and more countries were entering the conflict. War in their home country would have been undoubtedly stressful for German immigrants. German Spokanites would have also felt pressure in Spokane. In an effort to limit suspicion and “because the war has made German festivities seem inappropriate,”<sup>23</sup> the Society canceled their annual



<sup>20</sup> Ibid.

<sup>21</sup> Articles of Incorporation for *Spokane Turnverein*, filed 11 January 1890, and recorded 15 January 1890, Spokane County Courthouse, Spokane, WA. *Spokane Turnverein* was sometimes spelled and hyphenated as *Spokane Turn-Verein*.

<sup>22</sup> Edgar Bueschke Records Collection.

<sup>23</sup> “Germans Give Up Fete, Find Annual Celebration Out of Place Now,” *Semi-Weekly Spokesman-Review*, August 31, 1914, Page 6.

celebration. Instead of a German party, the club made efforts to support the overseas war effort, hosting a Red Cross fundraiser in 1915.<sup>24</sup> However, in February 1917, when Germany announced they would resume unrestricted submarine warfare, and especially when the United States entered WWI on the opposing side of Germany in April 1917, the situation got worse for German Spokanites.

“In the opening months of the war,” according to Josh Van Veldhuizen of SpokaneGoesToWar.net, “Germans without American citizenship faced a great deal of suspicion and scrutiny from their host nation. Perceived as alien enemies of the Kaiser, newspapers began to publish warnings about them.” The German-American Society made extensive efforts to counter that narrative and show their allegiance to the United States. On March 27, 1917, the *Spokesman Daily Chronicle* exclaimed “Spokane Germans Ban Kaiser.” The Society removed photographs of Kaiser Wilhelm, and other notable Germans, along with German flags from the walls at Turner Hall. The photographs of were replaced by portraits of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln and the Stars & Bars were hung on the walls. The president of the society, Dr. E.T. Richter, told the newspaper that “there are 300 active members of the *Deutsche Gesellschaft* in Spokane, and I believe that every one of these deplores the action of the German government in its announcement of unrestricted submarine warfare.”<sup>25</sup>

In June of 1917, one day after Flag Day, the United States passed the Espionage Act of 1917 which allowed the government to enact a ban on German aliens from entering areas near army bases or forts. According to SpokaneGoesToWar.net, a ban on German aliens “within half a mile around Fort George Wright and the Armory on Second Avenue was imposed. In June of that year, nine Germans in the city received federal permits that acted as waivers on the ban. An article published in the *Chronicle* listed their names, occupation, age, and street address.”<sup>26</sup>

SpokaneGoesToWar.net details additional ways in which German Spokanites lives may have changed during the war:

*In Olympia that spring, the State Education Board unanimously passed a resolution to ban foreign teachers from teaching in common schools throughout the state. Privileges for Germans continued to deteriorate into 1918. In March of that year, the school board at Lewis & Clark high school voted unanimously to cease teaching the German language at school. Beginning in that year, the Spokane Police Department required German aliens to register themselves at the Police Headquarters. US Marshals announced the recording of upwards of 1000 German males and around 550 German females without US citizenship in all of Eastern Washington. German aliens were also required to turn over their firearms. In one case, an English woman*

---

<sup>24</sup> *Spokane Daily Chronicle*, April 9, 1915

<sup>25</sup> *Spokane Daily Chronicle*, March 27, 1917

<sup>26</sup> Josh Van Veldhuizen, “German Americans in Spokane,” SpokaneGoesToWar.net.

*reluctantly turned over her rifle to authorities who deemed her husband, born in Alsace, from an enemy country.*<sup>27</sup>

Despite these organized governmental efforts to control recent immigrants, suppress language, and obstruct cultural association, the German-American Society persisted and thrived, in some part due to their Turner Hall. Although activities may have been slightly decreased during the war, by 1919-1920 the hall was again hosting German dances, card parties, and controversial speakers.



The club seems to have thrived between World War I and World War II maintaining the name Turner Hall and hosting frequent events. However as World War II approached, all too familiar negative associations with “anything German” surfaced yet again. Much as they had done before, the Society made efforts to show their allegiance to the United States by hosting a citizenship class

and birthday celebration for Abraham Lincoln.<sup>28</sup> Despite their efforts, the suspicion and negativity resulted in the *Deutsche Gesellschaft* amending their articles of incorporation in 1942 when they changed their name to the “Third Avenue Society of Spokane.”<sup>29</sup> German-American Society member, Edgar Bueschke, gives the following summary:

*Germans in our region were loved and respected for their diligence, craftsmanship, their music and culture. But when World War I started, Germans here as well as throughout the United States felt uneasy to display their cultural heritage. Although they had done nothing to contribute to the hostilities, yet when the United States entered the war against Germany, loyalties came into question. To remove suspicion that this organization might be supportive or at least sympathetic to their Fatherland, they changed their name to simply “Third Avenue Society of Spokane.”*

<sup>27</sup> Josh Van Veldhuizen, “German Americans in Spokane,” SpokaneGoesToWar.net.  
<sup>28</sup> “German Society in Spokane Will Gather to Celebrate Lincoln’s Birthday,” *Spokane Daily Chronicle*, February 12, 1941, Page 3.  
<sup>29</sup> Spokane County Certificate of Amendment for Articles of Incorporation, filed on 7 November 1942, Spokane County Courthouse, Spokane, WA.

Along with a new name for the Society, the hall was rebranded as Liberty Hall in 1943. A newspaper advertisement claims the hall is “entirely divorced from the German Hall” and, most interestingly, the advertisement says “all service men welcome, now off the restricted list.” This seems to suggest that service members had been previously banned from Turner Hall, possibly due to its association with Germans, or possibly due to its association with allowing radical speakers to use their hall.<sup>30</sup>

German cultural activities were few, if at all, during the late 1940s. However, in the mid-1940s the Society continued the club’s use as an athletic venue without bringing attention to their German heritage. The Spokane Amateur Athletic Club (SAAC), a newly founded amateur boxing club in Spokane, moved into the clubhouse after a new boxing ring was completed in the gymnasium. Boxing events, including some high-profile bouts, were frequent at the hall from 1945-1948.<sup>31</sup>

In 1954, negative German war-time associations had relaxed or disappeared, and the club’s name was finally changed to the “German-American Society of Spokane.”<sup>32</sup> The club continued to serve as a critical resource for recent German immigrants and longtime German-American Spokaneites seeking to adapt to life in Spokane while also maintaining their cultural practices. A personal story from German immigrant Johannes Herzog, who moved to Spokane in 1953 and has been a long-time Society member, is included as an attachment to this nomination in Section 12.

### *German Activities*

The construction to erect a meeting hall for Germans who lived in and around Spokane and Eastern Washington was completed in December 1897. The meeting hall or *Deutsches Haus* (known as “Turner Hall” historically), which is presently called the German-American Society Hall, has been used on a continuous basis by a variety of German music groups in Spokane, including the Arion Choir, the Concordia Choir, Sons & Sisters of Hermann, and by *Theatre Verein* and a number of German lodges. Celebrating the German culture, some of the most enjoyable celebrations and events held at the German hall have focused on German dinners, music, and dance. Numerous balls, including masquerade balls and festive Christmas dances, were enjoyed by hundreds of people who flocked to *Deutsches Haus*. The *Spokesman-Review*, *Spokane Daily Chronicle*, and *Spokane Press* newspapers in Spokane published over 100 articles collectively, beginning in 1890, about upcoming, then-current, and past events held at *Deutsches Haus* on west Third Avenue. One such example was the first “German Day Celebration,” which included presentations by soloists, German choirs, and speeches from Spokane’s Mayor and a Washington State senator, followed by dancing for all as featured in the following January 1, 1898 *Spokesman-Review* article.<sup>33</sup> Throughout the

<sup>30</sup> “Dance Saturday Night at Liberty Hall,” *Spokane Chronicle*, March 5, 1943, Page 2.

<sup>31</sup> “Gym Attracts Name Fighters,” *Semi-Weekly Spokesman-Review*, September 13, 1946, Page 18;

“Amateur Boxers Present Second Card on Friday,” *Spokane Chronicle*, November 29, 1947, Page 32.

<sup>32</sup> Spokane County Certificate of Amendment for Articles of Incorporation, certified on 5 June 1954, signed 14 June 1954, Spokane County Courthouse, Spokane, WA.

<sup>33</sup> *Spokesman-Review*, 1 January 1898, “Turn Verein Hall Opens.”

years, German events presented in the German hall were fun-filled and enjoyed by hundreds of Germans and German immigrants in Spokane. In 1910, one such event highlighted the German Singing Society, "Harmonie," which gave a concert and ball.<sup>34</sup> In 1914, a Spokane newspaper announced, "Spokane Germans celebrated the 23rd anniversary of the *Spokane Turn Verein* (sic) with a dance at Turner Hall" where a "number of exercises and drills were given by members of the *Turn Verein* (sic) athletic class. About 300 people indulged in the dancing." These types of dinners and dances with music, song and gymnastic events occurred regularly each year for more than a century of celebration, strongly preserving and binding the German culture and people.<sup>35</sup>



In March 1910, an unusual event at the property was given as a "grand [benefit] ball" in honor of a Turner Hall janitor who was "robbed of practically everything he owned." The "proceeds of the ball and entertainment" were "given to the janitor."<sup>36</sup> Another unusual event at Turner Hall was advertised as a "Poultry and Cat Show."

A most important fact is that the German culture and language have been preserved through members and their presentations at the German-American Society Hall, and through the assimilation of generations of Germans within the community. The German people became known for their strong work ethic, organizational and communicative skills, creativity, problem-solving and quick-thinking abilities. For example, successful farming and ranching methods and operations were utilized throughout the Palouse farm country by numerous German families, including the Herder Family (Sprague, WA), the Moser Family (Genesee, ID), and the Bafus Family and Kleweno Family (Endicott, WA). Among others, many successful Spokane breweries built and operated in Spokane

<sup>34</sup> *Spokane Press*, April 1910.

<sup>35</sup> "Germans of Spokane Enjoy Annual Gathering at Turner Hall," *Semi-Weekly Spokesman-Review*, October 8, 1909, Page 9.

<sup>36</sup> *Spokane Press*, March 1910.



included the John G. F. Hieber Brewery founded in 1890, the Galland-Burke Spokane Brewery (1891), and the Schade Brewery (1903). Christian churches started by German immigrants include Roman Catholic as well as Lutheran, Methodist, and German Congregational denominations. German restaurants, food markets, and bakeries in Spokane are represented by the Alpine Deli, Das Stein Haus, and the Old European Restaurant. Many prominent German businessmen, politicians, lawyers, architects/contractors and educators, scientists, engineers, musicians and medical practitioners have worked and continue to work in Spokane. Offered as a unique but short-lived program in the 1960s, the German language was introduced and taught by Frau Tupper in Spokane District 81 Public Schools as “TV German” through special televisions installed in public school classrooms.

***Other Cultural, Educational, Religious, Recreational, and Organizational Activities***

At different times, the property was leased to a variety of speakers, groups, and political organizations. Judy Bentley reported in her book, *Walking Washington’s History (2016)*, “Turner Hall...was willing to host controversial speakers when other venues in town would not. Turner Hall is the only known building remaining [in Spokane] where the more radical labor groups found a venue.” For example in 1909, Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, a World War I agitator and free speech advocate, spoke in the German hall two days after she was involved in a police raid.<sup>37</sup> In February 1910, James Thompson, local organizer of the Industrial Workers of the World, spoke at Turner Hall on “behalf of the free speech cause.”<sup>38</sup> In September 1910, “a large colored audience assembled in Turner Hall...to commemorate the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation” by former United States President Lincoln.<sup>39</sup> Two months later, African American women leased Turner Hall for a “spirited end” to their “suffragette campaign.”

The hall served as a venue for all sorts of speakers. Important labor activists, controversial newspaper publishers, and a communist presidential candidate all spoke at the hall. When Theodore Roosevelt visited Spokane in 1911, newspapers reported that he was scheduled to speak to an audience of Black Spokanites at Turner Hall. However, the anticipated large crowd forced a venue change to the Olmsted designed boulevard in front of the Masonic Temple on Riverside.<sup>40</sup>

The German hall was also used for educational purposes. In 1903, the hall served Spokane’s educational system as a part-time school when it was leased by Spokane School District 81. For many months, classes were held in the German hall for students of Lincoln School, which had been destroyed by fire. The Hall was used again as a school building for District 81 in the late 1920s when the Lincoln School again burned to the ground. This time the hall hosted 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grades. Athletic education was also

---

<sup>37</sup> *Spokane Press*, December 1909.

<sup>38</sup> *Spokane Press*, February 1910.

<sup>39</sup> *Spokane Press*, September 1910.

<sup>40</sup> *Spokane Chronicle*, April 5, 1911.

celebrated when the hall hosted basketball teams from high schools in Spokane and Colfax, and for boys and girls basketball games between the YWCA and YMCA.<sup>41</sup>

In the late 1940s and 1950s, the hall was rented by a wide variety of cultural, religious, and entertainment groups. In 1949, The Northwest Young Buddhist League hosted their annual convention at the hall. The Spokane Buddhist League continued to use the hall for events through the 1960s. The hall was a venue for Black musicians and entertainers like King Perry and trombonist Ernie Fields, as well as Japanese cultural groups including the Japanese-Americans Citizen's League.<sup>42</sup>



#### ***Architect Herman Preusse (1847-1926)***

Turner Hall was designed and built by Herman Preusse, Spokane's first professional architect. Born in Germany into a family of architects, Herman Preusse at the young age of thirteen years studied at the prestigious college of architecture at Holzminden, Germany. Preusse returned home and worked in his father's office, then was the superintendent for the construction of the large German Bessemer steel works. In 1870, Preusse came to America and practiced in Chicago, California, and Kansas before arriving in Spokane in 1882. Unfortunately much of his pre-1889 work was destroyed in the devastating 1889 Spokane fire. After the fire, Preusse proved to be a busy, prolific architect responsible for numerous Spokane buildings, including but not limited to Turner Hall (1897), the Auditorium Building, the Fernwell, Jamieson, Blalock, Granite, Ziegler, Holland/VanValkenburg, Great Eastern/Peyton buildings, and the Bodie/1889 Building.

In 1893, he invited German architect, Julius Zittel, to join his practice as a partner, and renamed the business Preusse & Zittel Architects. They were responsible for designing the Armory Building, the Victoria and Pacific Hotels, the Bump/Carlyle Hotel, Gonzaga Administration Building, Carnegie Library (downtown branch), St. Aloysius Church, Holy Names Academy, the Columbia Building, and Our Lady of Lourdes Cathedral.

As told by author Lisa Kalhar Melton in her thesis, "Herman Preusse, Spokane's First Architect: His Commercial and Public Buildings," Herman Preusse was "the first trained architect to settle in Spokane Falls, Washington Territory, and was actively sought by the

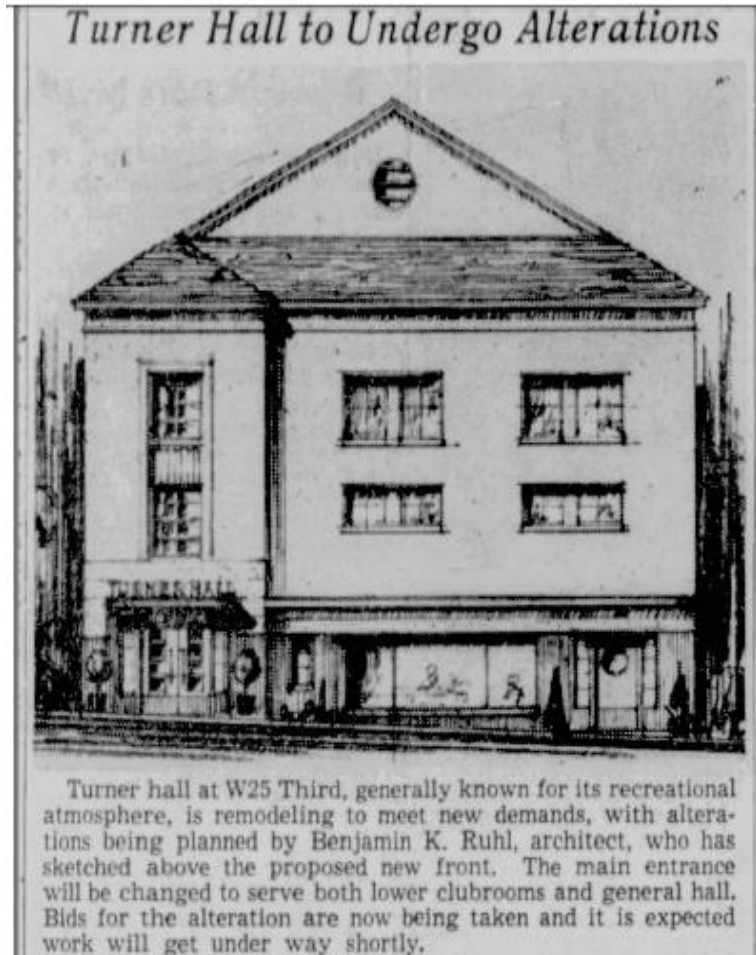
<sup>41</sup> "New Junior Highs Ready Next Year," *Spokane Chronicle*, September 1, 1927, Page 11; "Veteran Teacher Quits to Travel," *Spokane Chronicle*, June 7, 1928, Page 21.

<sup>42</sup> "Young Buddhists at Parley Here," *Semi-Weekly Spokesman-Review*, March 7, 1949, Page 20; "Dance with King Terry and His Pied Pipers," *Spokane Chronicle*, May 18, 1951, Page 3; "Entertainer Fields Bringing Band Here," *Spokane Chronicle*, August 18, 1952, Page 5.

citizenry virtually from the moment he arrived. Soon after his arrival in August 1882, this German immigrant was retained to build a two-story commercial structure...the first of many...Preusse would design throughout his [Spokane] career.” He is known to have “designed over one hundred structures, including residences, commercial and public buildings, churches, and schools” from 1882 to 1918.<sup>43</sup> Melton summarized Preusse’s impact on Spokane through his “extant architecture,” and exclaimed, “Spokane benefitted greatly” from his “presence in the city.”<sup>44</sup>

In 1936, Spokane architect Henry Bertleson designed a one story brick addition to the south side of Turner Hall to include a heating plant and caretaker’s apartment. At that same time, the raised basement was remodeled to include a new bar and “revamped offices,” and the two basement clubrooms were redecorated (*Spokane Daily Chronicle*, 27 August 1936).

In 1941, there was a proposal to completely remodel the front of Turner Hall by Spokane architect Benjamin Ruehl. The proposed work did not occur.<sup>45</sup>



<sup>43</sup> Melton, Lisa Kalhar. “Herman Preusse, Spokane’s First Architect: His Commercial and Public Buildings.” University of Oregon Thesis, June 2001.

<sup>44</sup> Ibid.

<sup>45</sup> *Spokane Daily Chronicle*, November 1941

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

- Bentley, Judy. *Walking Washington's History*. Seattle: U of WA Press, 2016, page 228.
- Bueschke, Edgar. Records Collection 2011-2019.
- "Concordia Choir Spokane." Translation in 2011.
- "Our Cultural Haven." Translation in 2014.
- "German-American Society of Spokane: A Brief History." 2018.
- "Questions/Answers Megan Duvall & Edgar Bueschke." 2019.
- Eastern Washington State Historical Society. Northwest Museum of Arts & Culture.
- L2003-28.639. *Circa 1890 black & white photocopy of photograph, Concordia Hall, 1107-1111 W. Second Avenue, Spokane, WA.*
- Libby Photo Studio, Arion Choir 1912.*
- L87-1.30663-26. *Libby Photo Studio, Arion Choir 1926.*
- L87-1.26383-43. *Libby Photo Studio, looking east along West Third Avenue.*
- L87-1.91536-58. *Libby Photo Studio. German Society Songfest 1958.*
- Libby Photo Studio, German-American Society Choir in 1960s.*
- Libby Photo Studio, German-American Society Choir in 1962.*
- L87-1.1369-69. *Libby Photo Studio, German Childrens' Choir 1969.*
- Eastern Washington State Historical Society. *Spokane Skyline: A Century of Architecture 1889-1989*. Northwest Museum of Arts & Culture: Spokane, 1992.
- Helm, Harry C. "Deutsches Haus." 1987.
- Herzog, Johannes (Hans). "German-American Society of Spokane: The Club's Influence on Maintaining German German Culture in Spokane." December 2018.
- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/German\\_Americans](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/German_Americans). "German Americans."
- Melton, Lisa Kalhar. *Herman Preusse, Spokane's First Architect: His Commercial & Public Buildings*. University of Oregon Thesis, June 2001.
- Polk, R.L. *Spokane City Directories, 1885 to 2018*.
- Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps. 1910-1952.
- Scheuerman, Richard D. *Hardship to Homeland: Pacific Northwest Volga Germans*. Pullman, WA: WSU Press, 2018.
- Schmidt, Eberhard A. "History of the German-American Society and Its German Hall in Spokane." November 2010, and "Fragment of German History in Spokane." 2018. Eberhard Schmidt Collection.
- Spokane City & County public records. Spokane County Courthouse, Spokane, WA.
- Spokanegoestowar, Josh Van Veldhuizen.
- Stimson, William. *A View of the Falls: An Illustrated History of Spokane*. CA: Windsor Publications, 1985.
- Newspapers**
- "350 Due at German Song Meet." *Spokesman-Review*, 13 June 1969.
- "A Tribute to German Fathers." *Spokane Press*, 17 October 1910.
- "Amateur Boxers Present Second Card on Friday," *Spokane Chronicle*, November 29, 1947, Page 32.
- "Basketball Tonight." *Spokane Press*, 13 February 1904.
- "Century of Song." *Spokesman-Review*, 30 April 2011.
- "Concordia." *Spokane Washington Post German Newspaper*, 5 January 1891.
- "Conquering Heroes." *Spokesman-Review*, 4 September 1891.

- “Dance Saturday Night at Liberty Hall,” *Spokane Chronicle*, March 5, 1943, Page 2.
- “Dance with King Terry and His Pied Pipers,” *Spokane Chronicle*, May 18, 1951, Page 3.
- “Entertainer Fields Bringing Band Here,” *Spokane Chronicle*, August 18, 1952, Page 5.
- German Day Is Gala Occasion.” *Spokesman-Review*, 7 October 1909.
- “German Day Was a Big Success.” *Spokane Press*, 7 October 1909.
- “German Heritage Strong Here.” *Spokane Daily Chronicle*, 20 Feb 1971.
- “German House to Cost \$50,000.” *Spokesman-Review*, 21 December 1913.
- “German Societies Unite.” *Spokesman-Review*, 30 January 1912.
- “German Singing Society to Give Concert and Ball.” *Spokane Press*, 10 April 1910.
- “German Women Organize.” *Spokesman-Review*, 5 April 1919.
- “German-American Alliance Indorses Charles E. Hughes.” *Spokesman-Rev*, 9 Oct 1916.
- German-American Society Records & Photographs.*
- 1920 photograph of German picnic.
  - 1950s photograph of German-American Society Choir.
  - 1956 photograph & advertisement German Day Celebration & *Deutsches Haus*.
  - 1969 photograph of North Pacific Sangerfest.
  - 1970s German-American Society Choir.
  - 1977 German-American Society Choir.
- “Germania Society Dance.” *Spokane Press*, 18 October 1910.
- “German Society in Spokane Will Gather to Celebrate Lincoln’s Birthday,” *Spokane Daily Chronicle*, February 12, 1941, Page 3.
- “Germans of Spokane Enjoy Annual Gathering at Turner Hall.” *Spokesman-Review*, 8 October 1909.
- “Germans Give Up Fete, Find Annual Celebration Out of Place Now,” *Semi-Weekly Spokesman-Review*, August 31, 1914, Page 6.
- “Grand Ball, Benefit for Janitor Who Was Robbed.” *Spokane Press*, 11 March 1910.
- “Gym Attracts Name Fighters,” *Semi-Weekly Spokesman-Review*, September 13, 1946, Page 18.
- “Here’s 100 Years Ago Today: 15 February 1919.” *Spokesman-Review*, 15 February 2019.
- “Knights of the Tray.” *Spokane Press*, 28 September 1910.
- “Masquerade Ball.” *Spokane Press*, 3 January 1908.
- “Mass Meeting.” *Spokane Press*, 26 May 1910.
- “New Junior Highs Ready Next Year,” *Spokane Chronicle*, September 1, 1927, Page 11.
- “Organize Germans of State.” *Spokesman-Review*, 6 February 1910.
- “Poultry and Cat Show.” *Spokane Press*, 10 January 1910.
- “Rev. J. Gordon McPherson.” *Spokane Press*, 24 September 1910.
- “School Board Cares for Lincoln Scholars.” *Spokane Press*, 26 August 1903.
- “Spokane—Colfax.” *Spokane Press*, 4 March 1904.
- Spokane Daily Chronicle*, April 9, 1915; 1917; Aug 27, 1936; Feb 12, 1941
- “Spokane Turnverein.” *Spokane Washington Post German Newspaper*, 15 January 1891.
- “Spokane Turnverein Celebration.” *Spokesman-Review*, 1 February 1892.
- Spokane Washington Post German Newspaper*, 7 January 1915, page 5—photograph & article of German-American Society Hall.
- “Still At It.” *Spokane Press*, 22 December 1909.

“Suffragettes Planning a Spirited End to Campaign.” *Spokane Press*, 1 November 1910.  
“The Turners Return.” *Spokane Daily Chronicle*, 14 August 1890.  
“Thompson Released—Will Speak on Free Speech.” *Spokane Press*, 6 February 1910.  
“To Hold Christmas Ball Tomorrow Evening.” *Spokane Press*, 23 December 1910.  
“Today Is German Day.” *Spokesman-Review*, 9 October 1907.  
“Turn Verein Has Dance.” *Spokesman-Review*, 1 February 1914.  
“Turner Hall.” *Spokane Press*, 16 June 1910.  
“Turners Will Improve Hall.” *Spokesman-Review*, 2 September 1904.  
“Turner’s Dance Hall.” *Spokesman-Review*, 22 July 1904.  
“Turnverein Hall Opens.” *Spokesman-Review*, 1 January 1898.  
“Veteran Teacher Quits to Travel,” *Spokane Chronicle*, June 7, 1928, Page 21.  
“Women Meet to Fight Prohis.” *Spokesman-Review*, 11 May 1914.  
“Woman Sues The Mayor.” *Spokane Press*, 15 January 1910.  
“Young Buddhists at Parley Here,” *Semi-Weekly Spokesman-Review*, March 7, 1949,  
Page 20.





*Photos 1 and 2  
Views of the north façade and west face of the building in 2018*



*Photo 3*  
*The front entrance to the building on the north end of the west face.*



*Photo 4*  
*A view of the south face (gabled end) and west face of the building, looking northeast in 2018.*





*Photo 5  
The southeast corner of the building, looking northwest in 2018.*



*Photo 6  
The east face of the building at the building's northeast corner, looking west in 2018.*



*Photo 7*  
*Looking south between two buildings from the northeast corner of the building along the east face in 2018.*



*Photo 8*  
*Looking north at the basement dining room in 2018*





*Photo 9*  
*Looking north from the dance floor through the basement dining room in 2018.*



*Photo 10*  
*The basement north-south hallway, looking south in 2018.*



*Photo 11  
Basement kitchen in 2018*



*Photo 12  
Basement apartment for caretakers in 2018*





*Photo 13  
Northwest front entry to building, looking at the green-painted front doors at grade  
and from the landing at a flight of stairs*



*Photo 14  
Looking at the front stairs on the second floor in 2018*



*Photo 15*  
*Looking south at the multi-purpose room on the first floor in 2018*



*Photo 16*  
*Looking north at the multi-purpose room on the first floor in 2018*





*Photo 17*  
*Looking northeast at the multi-purpose room on the first floor in 2018*



*Photo 18*  
*A handmade silk banner from 1894 (photo taken in 2018)*



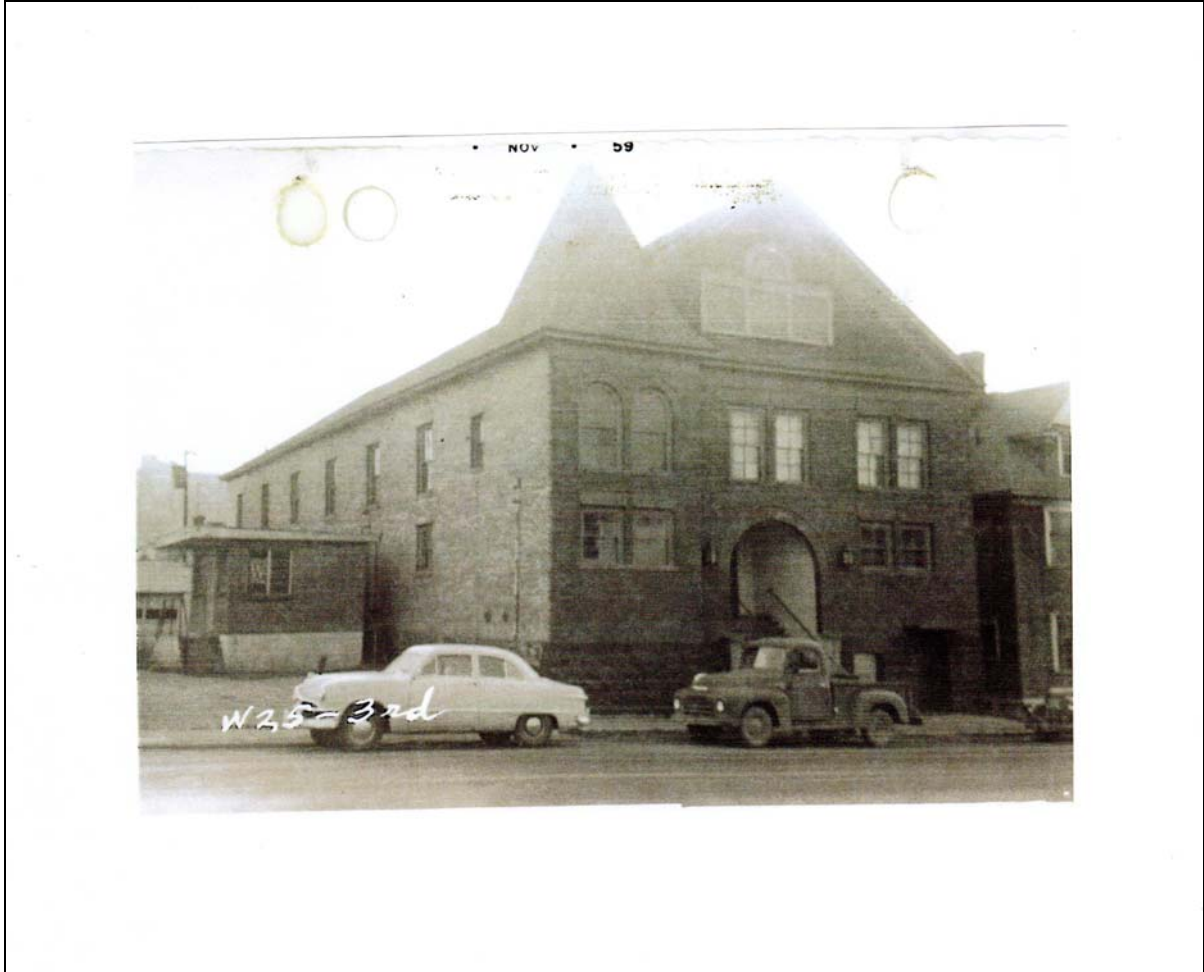
**German House**  
*West 25 Third Avenue*  
*Spokane, Washington*



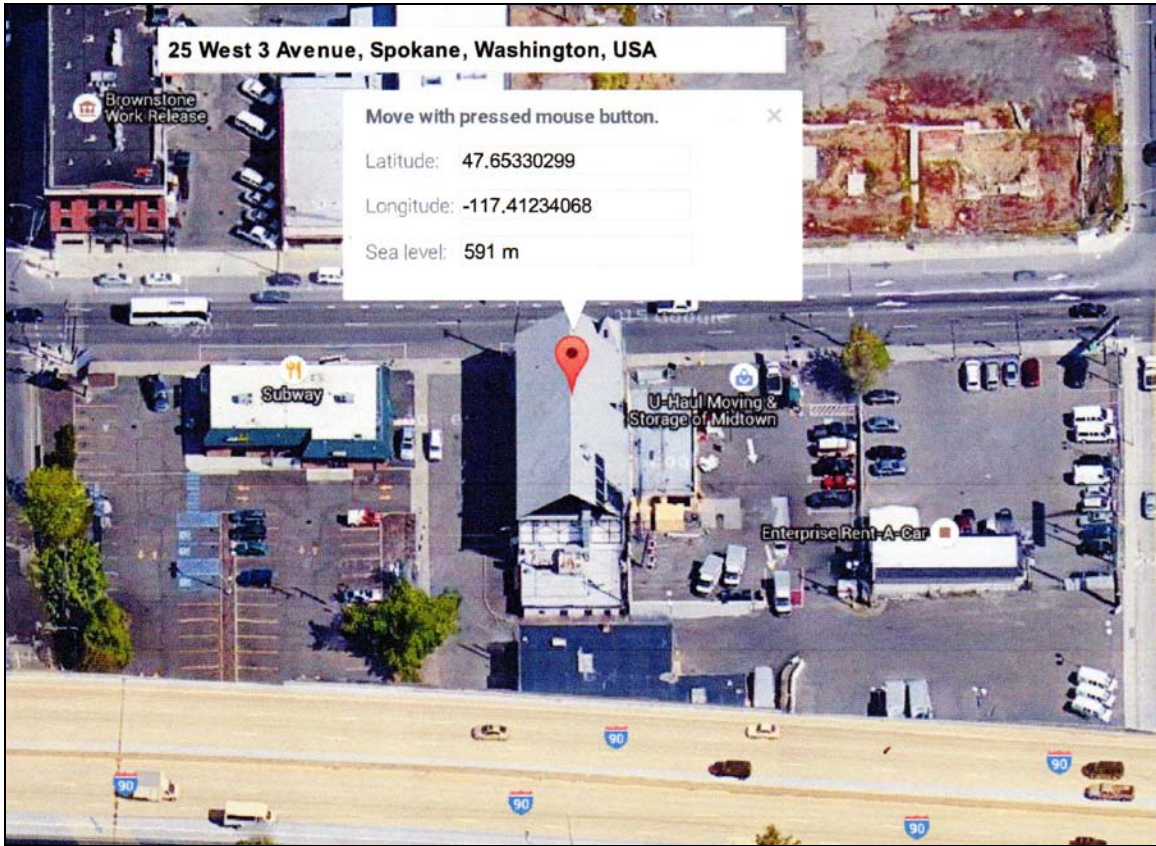
***Headquarters for German Day Celebration***

*This photograph appears in a 1956 advertisement flyer of the German House. The photograph was taken in the early 1900s.*



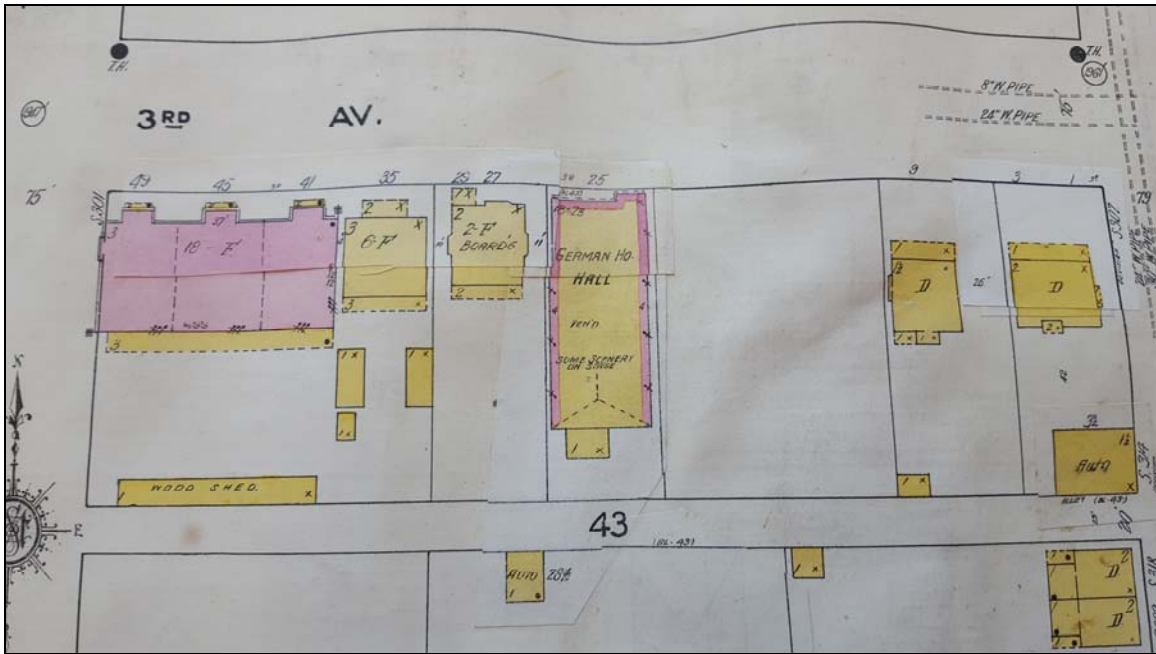


*A 1959 photograph of the German-American Society Hall, looking south across Third Avenue to the building's north façade*

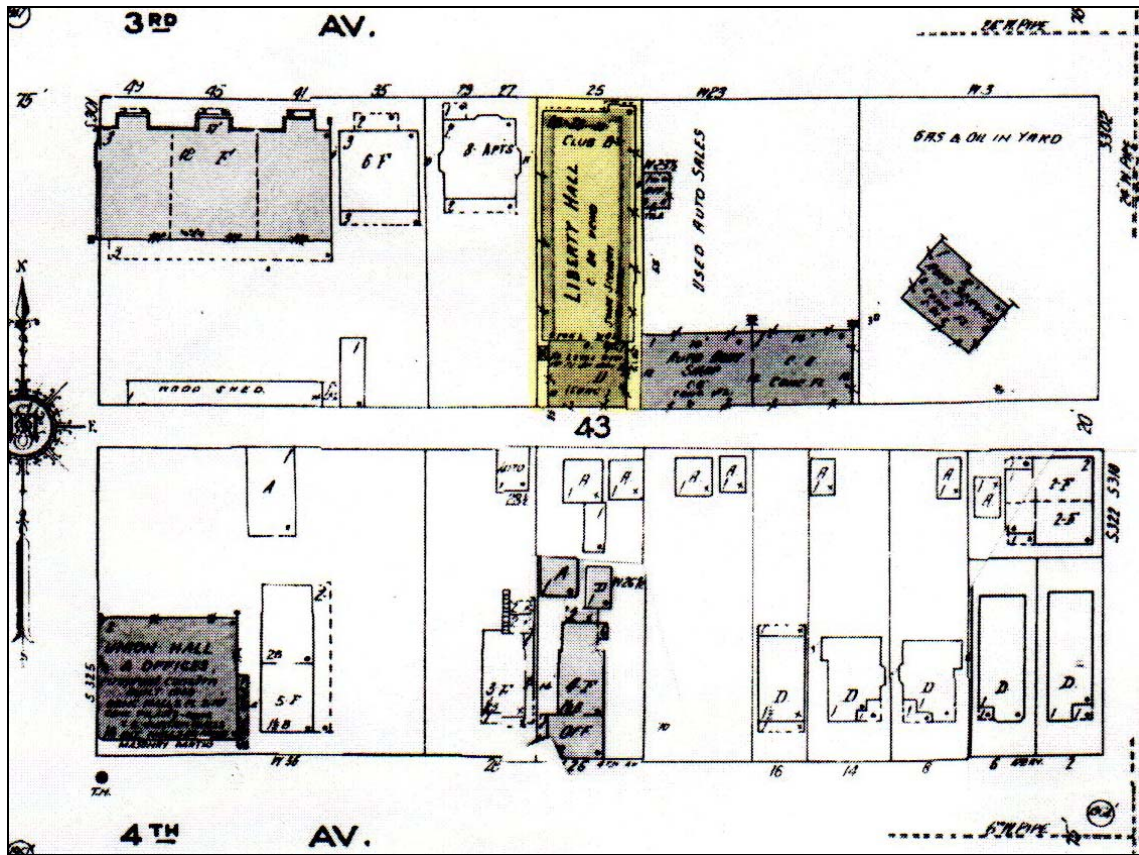


*An aerial photograph of Turner Hall in 2018*

*Source: Google Photos*

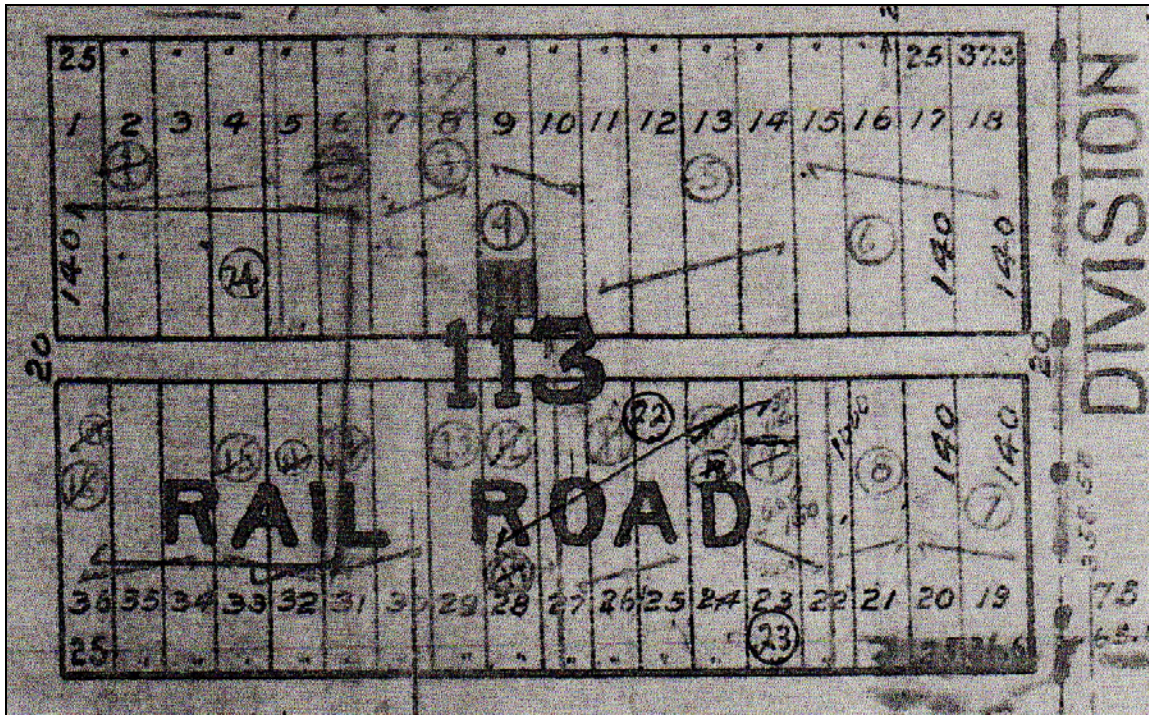


1910 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of German-American Society Hall, "German Hall" on map



1953 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Turner Hall, called "Liberty Hall" on map

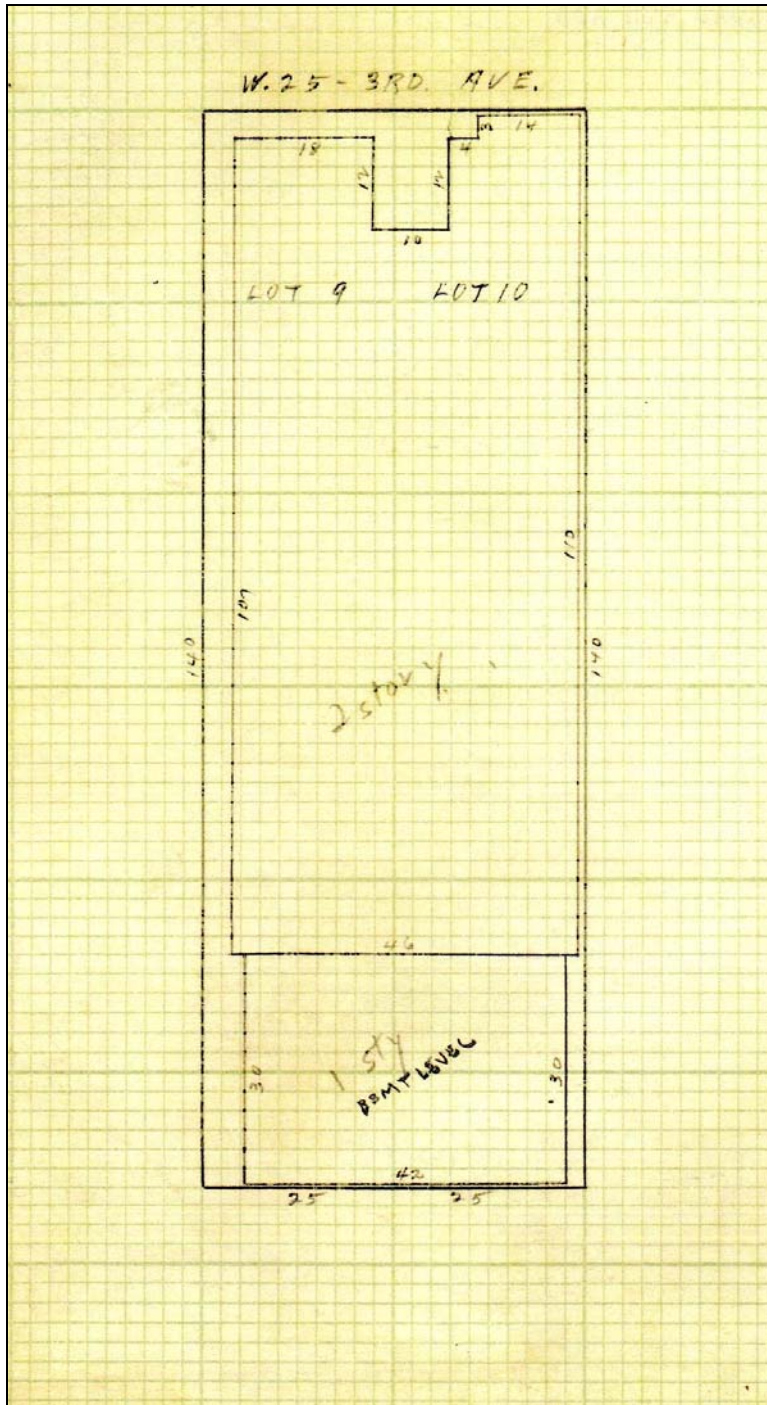




*Spokane County Plat Map in 1878, showing Lot 9 and 10 on Block 113 in the 4th Railroad Addition to Spokane*

*Turner Hall is built on Lots 9 and 10*

*Source: Spokane County Assessor's Records*



*Spokane County Site Plan for Turner Hall*

*Source: Spokane County Assessor's Records*

*Spokane Chronicle, 30 December 1897*

## SPOKANE TURN VEREIN HAS A NEW HOME.

**The Big Turn Halle on Third Avenue Will Be Dedicated New Year's Eve.**

It is just a few weeks since the pedestrians along Third avenue were surprised to see a big pile of exceedingly new lumber breaking the monotony of the long stretch of vacant ground that reaches almost to Division street. In a few days the lumber began to take the form of a roomy, shapely building; and so rapidly has the work been pushed that now the big new Turn-halle of the Spokane Turn Verein is ready for use. Tomorrow night—the last of the old year—it will be opened with a brilliant musical program and a grand ball—such a housewarming as befits the new house of one of the most prosperous and rapidly growing societies in Washington.

The following program has been prepared, to be followed by a grand ball, to be enjoyed by the members of the Verein and their immediate friends:



*Spokane Chronicle, 5 April 1900*

**WILL DOUBLE  
TURNER HALL**

---

**The Spokane Turn Ve-  
rein Must Have  
More Room.**

---

**THE CASH IS READY**

---

**And a Big Addition Will Be  
Built South of the  
Hall.**

---

**WILL MAKE IT A CLUB HOUSE**

---

**With a Fine Stage and Eventually  
Club Rooms in the  
Basement.**

---

Turner hall on Third avenue will be doubled in size. Work on the addition will commence as soon as the plans can be completed and the contracts let. This extensive addition, 60 by 48 feet, will be built south from the present building. It is made necessary by the greatly increased activity of the Spokane Turnverein and the interest which is being taken in their gymnasium work and entertainments.

Since the society secured H. Wolfe to take charge of the classes in athletics last fall the number in attendance has increased until there are now over 150 who are taking the gymnasium work. This includes children and adults of both sexes, the classes being arranged so that all degrees of work are provided. Each class meets twice a week.

At their recent entertainments the turners have been hampered seriously for room. About 500 people have attended their monthly performances and the room has been seriously crowded, although the invitations were limited. The seating capacity of the hall will be nearly doubled and it is intended to ultimately build a gallery around three sides of the hall.

**Make It a Club House.**

The addition to Turner hall is the first of a series of improvements which are ultimately intended to make the building a club house, with the advantages that are offered by any of the larger clubs in the city. All of these improvements can not be made at once, and the expenses will only be incurred as the funds warrant. The turnverein does not believe in incurring large debts. At the present time the assets are about \$4000 and there are no liabilities outstanding.

One of the other improvements in connection with the addition to be built at once is a fine stage for dramatic performances. The stage will be 48 feet wide and 28 feet deep and 25 feet from the platform to the ceiling. It will be wired for electricity and adequate scenery will be purchased in time. The new stage will allow more attention to be devoted to dramatic work by the club and still further increase the interest in the monthly entertainments. The stage will be at the south end of the building.

The ultimate intention of the members of the society is to arrange club rooms in the high basement. The plans for the addition include the extension of the basement the entire length of the building. This will give space for splendid bowling alleys, a club reading room, billiard room and parlor, with possibly a buffet for the use of members only. The turnverein now has 85 active members, and they are looking forward to making it a splendid club, although it will not be possible to make all these improvements this year.

**Keep Out of Debt.**

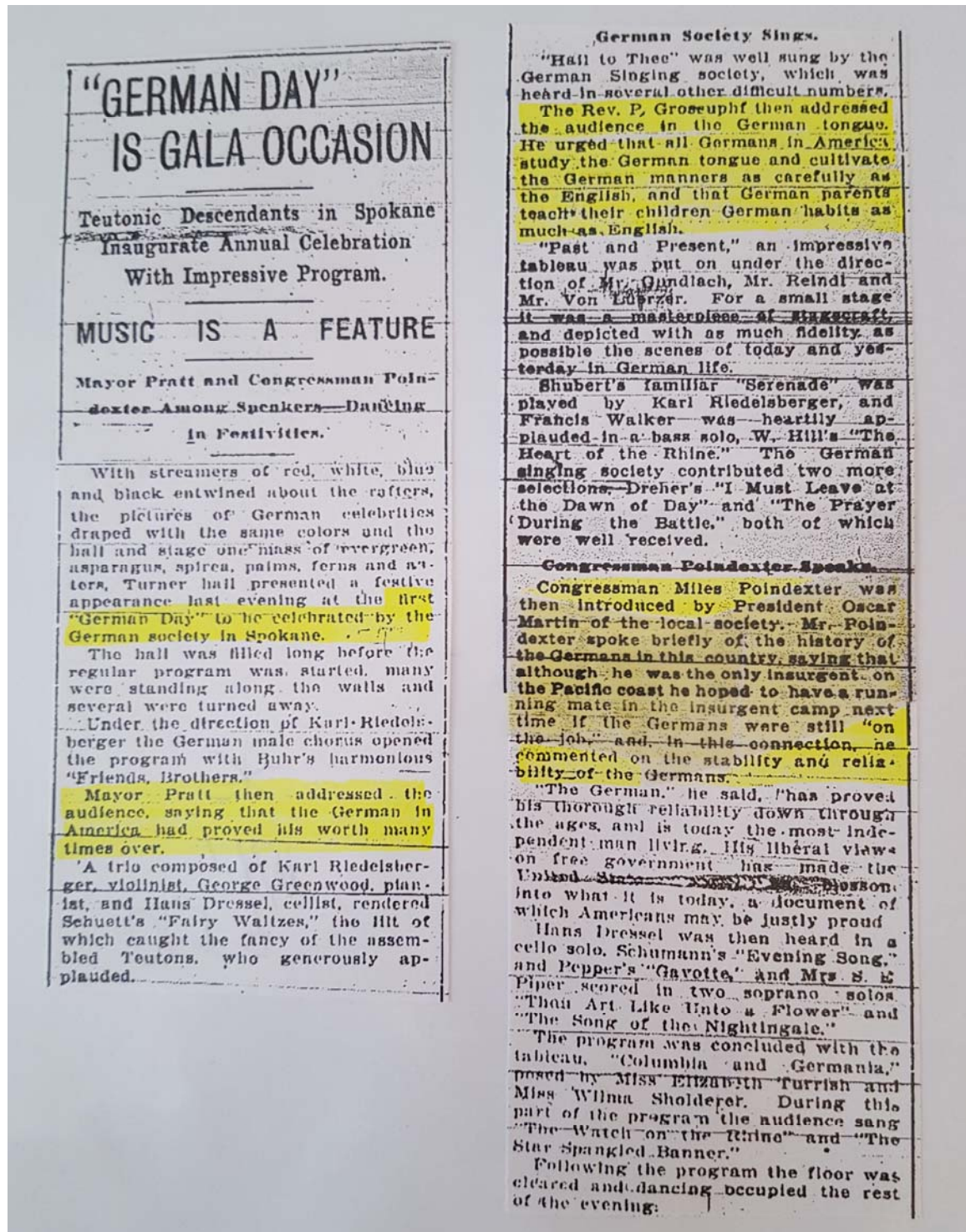
Gustav Meese, chairman of the building committee, says regarding the contemplated improvements:

"We shall go slow, so as not to run in debt. The money is now on hand, however, for building the addition. It will not only double the size of the room for gymnasium work, but will give a dancing floor 110 feet by 48 feet, by far the largest in the city. The seating capacity for our entertainments will also be increased to nearly 1000. The turnverein is in splendid condition financially, and our gymnasium classes have increased in size so that we consider the addition to the building an immediate need."

Preusse & Zittel are preparing the designs for the addition. It will conform to the present building, extending the walls toward the south. The roof of the stage portion will be higher than the main hall, giving two stories above the basement.

*Spokesman-Review, 7 October 1909*



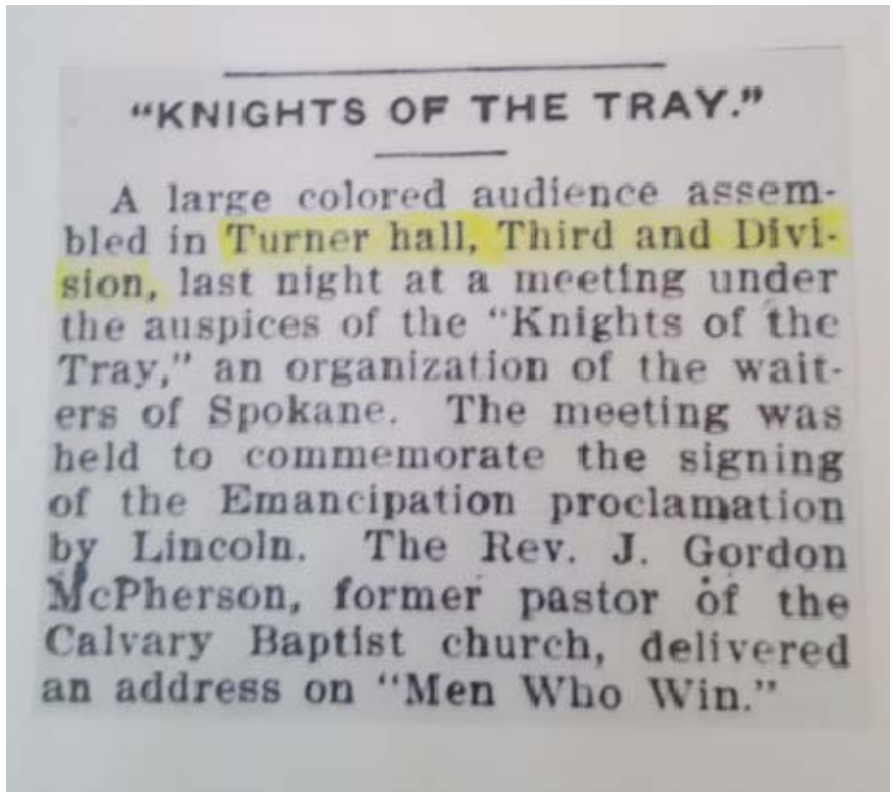




*The Spokane Press,  
22 December 1909*

**Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, a political agitator and free speech activist, who promoted “up the flight for free speech” in Spokane, spoke in Turner Hall in December 1909, two days after she was involved in a prior police raid.**

*The Spokane Press,  
26 September 1910*



## GERMANS GIVE UP FETE

FIND ANNUAL CELEBRATION OUT  
OF PLACE NOW.

**Big Massmeeting Planned to Raise  
Funds for War  
Relief.**

Because the war has made German festivities seem inappropriate, the Spokane Central Verein, at a meeting in Turner hall yesterday afternoon, decided to postpone indefinitely the German day celebration, held about October 5 of each year.

Further plans were made for the German massmeeting to be held in Turner hall September 7 for raising more funds with which to aid in caring for destitute families in Germany and Austria and to alleviate the suffering of wounded soldiers. Nearly \$1000 has already been subscribed by local Germans.

At this meeting a number of speakers from other cities will be present, invitations having been extended to prominent Germans throughout the northwest. Otto Loewe, an attorney, of Seattle, has already signified his intention of attending.

A number of letters from Germans throughout the state were read commending the work of the central verein in raising funds for the fatherland and in trying to overcome prejudice in America against the German cause.

Present at the meeting yesterday was a German who had been employed by the Canadian government on construction work. He stated he had been forced to leave Windemere, B. C., as had all other Germans with the exception of an old man 71 years of age, a veteran soldier of Germany, who had fought in the wars of 1860, 1866 and 1870.

*Spokesman-Review, August 31, 1914*

**REOPEN HALL**—A musical program, dancing and refreshments will feature the reopening of Turner hall tonight. The hall has been recently remodeled, a new hardwood floor and a balcony having been installed and the front of the structure changed.

*Spokane Chronicle 19 October 1929*





*German-American Society Choir & Songfest in 1958*



*German-American Society Children's Choir  
1969*



GERMAN-AMERICAN-SOCIETY OF SPOKANE

THE CLUB'S INFLUENCE ON MAINTAINING GERMAN CULTURE IN SPOKANE

By Johannes Herzog (Hans)

December 2018

I am a German by birth, born in 1935, and emigrated, with my family, from post-war Germany to the United States in 1953. We were sponsored by an Uncle, Fr. Leo Herzog, who lived in Monette Missouri. After settling in Kansas for four years, my sister and I moved to Spokane, Washington, on the suggestion of my cousin, Valentine Herzog. We were told by Valentine and his brother-in-law, Stephen Hintyesz, with whom my sister and I first lived, that the German-American-Society had many members who were business owners in Spokane. Members of the German Club had, as a portion of their mission, the desire to employ fellow German immigrants. These young men and women were favored because of their work ethics, training acquired in Germany, and their quality craftsmanship. In 1957, my sister, Maria Herzog McKeirnan, had already become a member of the German Choir, and both of us had joined the German-American Society, where we could speak our German language, sing our traditional German songs, and eat our favorite German foods. The club was a favorite Saturday night social hall where we sat together around long tables, visited, laughed and danced to the accordion music of Norm Seeberger, (still playing for our dances to date.) After Norm went home, the family living in the back apartment of the club building, would bring out the record player and play dance music until the wee hours of the morning. Deep friendships developed between these young couples and remain to this day.

During my introduction to the club members by my cousin, Valentine Herzog, I met a long-time-member of the German American Society, Mr. Ernest Toll, and his wife Gretel, who owned and operated a Steel Fabrication Plant known as Artistic Iron Works, located at Montgomery and Division in Spokane. AIW was a reputable and leading steel fabrication plant in Spokane. My brother, Willi Herzog, had been hired by Mr. Toll, as had Artur Bohnet, Willi Kirstein, and others. I informed Mr. Toll that I had completed a Machinist Apprenticeship from Henschel and Sohn in Germany. It was October, and some layoffs had already happened because of the shortage of work during winter months, so Mr. Toll kept telling me to come back on Tuesday (the normal end of the pay period). I continued to pursue a job at Artistic, but it was the day I finally was headed to Portland, where I had landed another job, that I stopped by one last time to tell Mr. Toll where I was going. His immediate response was, "Do you have your work clothes with you?" That day, in 1957, began my 30-year employment at Artistic Iron Works, starting as a machinist, then as a draftsman in the office, and ultimately into project manager.

The majority of workers at Artistic Iron Works were craftsmen and German Immigrants, and like myself, socialized mostly at the German-American Society. The economic impact of these German Immigrants on the City of Spokane and the Inland Empire is immeasurable. This impact can be seen by driving by the various Bank Buildings, City Jail, Airport, Skywalks and Bridges, steel constructed by Artistic Iron Works, and visible throughout Spokane and the University Campuses throughout the Inland Empire.



Many of my fellow Artistic Iron workers were already a part of the Spokane Spokes Soccer Team, the very first Soccer team in Spokane, and also attended the Saturday evening social events at the German Club. Our Soccer team traveled to Canada, Seattle and Portland. The away teams came to Franklin Park on the north side of Spokane, for the games. Several members of the Soccer Team are now deceased, but remained members of the German American Society until their deaths. A few of their wives are still active members of the German Club and the Choir. The Soccer team was a cultural extension of the German club, practicing their native sport of soccer. From those humble beginnings in Spokane, Soccer has exploded into a major league sport. An article about the Spokane Spokes was in the Spokesman Review not too long ago. Children and Grandchildren of the Spokes Soccer Team, played on local school and competitive teams, were coached by members of the Spokes Soccer Team and carry this German tradition forward.

Both before and after we were married, my wife and I spent many Saturday evenings at the club with our friends. As our children grew, they became part of the German Children's Christmas Choir. The Choir Director made the event a lot of fun for the children by hosting a family Christmas Party where the children's choir performed, followed by a Christmas dance, and eating favorite German Christmas baked goods. This event, although not currently a part of the German-American Club's activities, has become a life-long Herzog-McKeirnan family tradition. The entire Herzog extended family enjoys an annual Christmas gathering, church service, singing of favorite German Christmas carols, eating favorite German traditional foods, and passing the German traditions on to new generations.