

Spokane Register of Historic Places Nomination

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

1. Name of Property

Historic Name **DR. ROBERT & JESSIE BELL HOUSE**

2. Location

Street & Number 917 S. Lincoln Street
City, State, Zip Code Spokane, WA 99204
Parcel Number 35193.3802

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _building	<input type="checkbox"/> _public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> _agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> _museum
<input type="checkbox"/> _site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _private	<input type="checkbox"/> _work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> _commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> _park
<input type="checkbox"/> _structure	<input type="checkbox"/> _both		<input type="checkbox"/> _educational	<input type="checkbox"/> _religious
<input type="checkbox"/> _object	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> _entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _residential
	<input type="checkbox"/> _in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _yes, restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> _government	<input type="checkbox"/> _scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> _being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> _yes, unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> _industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> _transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> _no	<input type="checkbox"/> _military	<input type="checkbox"/> _other

4. Owner of Property

Name Cynthia Hahn
Street & Number 917 S. Lincoln Street
City, State, Zip Code Spokane, WA 99204
Telephone Number/E-mail 509-456-4610

5. Location of Legal Description

Courthouse, Registry of Deeds Spokane County Courthouse
Street Number 1116 West Broadway
City, State, Zip Code Spokane, WA 99260
County Spokane

6. Representation of Existing Surveys

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

7. Description

Architectural Classification (see nomination, section 8)	Condition <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _excellent <input type="checkbox"/> _good <input type="checkbox"/> _fair <input type="checkbox"/> _deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> _ruins <input type="checkbox"/> _unexposed	Check One <input type="checkbox"/> _unaltered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _altered Check One <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _original site <input type="checkbox"/> _moved & date_____
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8. Spokane Register Categories and Statement of Significance

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

- _A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of Spokane history.
- _B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- _C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method 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.

Narrative statement of significance is found on one or more continuation sheets.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography is found on one or more continuation sheets.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property	Less than one acre.
Verbal Boundary Description	Hillside Addition part of Lot 3; all of Lot 4 Block 3, beginning on southwesterly line of Lot 3 & 25 feet from westerly corner southeast to southerly corner northeastly to southeasterly corner southwest to point of beginning.
Verbal Boundary Justification	Nominated property includes entire parcel and urban legal description.

11. Form Prepared By

Name and Title	Linda Yeomans, Consultant
Organization	Historic Preservation Planning
Street, City, State, Zip Code	501 West 27 th Avenue, Spokane, WA 99203
Telephone Number	509-456-3828
Email Address	lkyeomans1@aol.com
Date Final Nomination Heard	17 September 2003

12. Additional Documentation

Map	City/County of Spokane current plat map.
Photographs and Slides	26 B&W prints, 9 color slides.

13. Signature of Owner(s)

Name _____

Name _____

14. For Official Use Only

Date Received _____ Attest _____

Date Heard _____ City Clerk _____

Commission Decision _____ Approved as to Form
Assistant City Attorney 

Council/Board Action _____

Date _____

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

CITY ADMINISTRATOR, City of Spokane
or

CHAIR, Spokane County Commissioners

CHAIR, Spokane City/County Historic Landmarks Commission

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

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Built in 1908, the Dr. Robert & Jessie Bell House is a fine example of the American Foursquare tradition with Craftsman-style influence. The design of the home features a two-story box with a low-pitched hip roof and widely overhanging eaves, a dominant horizontal cornice line, symmetrical fenestration patterns, and a covered front porch on the first floor that spans the entire width of the home's facade. Exterior Craftsman-style elements are found in the indigenous black basalt rock porch wall, battered porch piers and window surrounds, bracketed eaves, and hobnailed clinker brick chimneys. The house is clad in wood siding installed in 1908 and retains original windows, doors, interior curly fir and mahogany woodwork, wall sconces, bathroom fixtures, and a first-floor plan that is typical of the American Foursquare style. The property is located on Spokane's lower South Hill and faces west along South Lincoln Street. The home is well preserved and retains excellent integrity in original location, design, materials, workmanship, and association as an early 20th-century single-family residence.

CURRENT APPEARANCE & CONDITION of PROPERTY*Site*

The Bell House is sited on a wedge-shaped parcel that fronts 75 feet along South Lincoln Street and extends back in a northeasterly direction for 170 feet to an eastern border that measures 54 feet. The parcel contains part of Lot 3 and all of Lot 4 in Block 3 of the Hillside Addition to Spokane. The house is located on a steep west-facing slope and is surrounded by manicured lawn, trees, and shrubs. A paved driveway runs uphill from Lincoln Street to the back of the parcel beside the house. A wood-frame garage is located at the end of the driveway. The neighborhood is composed of single-family homes and two apartment buildings built from 1908 to 1940, and multi-family apartment blocks and condominiums erected during the 1950s-1980s. More than half of the area's single-family homes have been altered and converted for use as multi-family apartments.

House Exterior

The Bell House is a two-story platform frame dwelling that follows a slightly irregular square footprint, which measures 36 feet wide and 37 feet deep. A full-width covered wrap-around front porch extends 50 feet across the front of the house, returning at the front corners. The house has a low-pitched, clipped hip roof and is covered with composition shingles. The flat, clipped top of the roof is covered with a vinyl roof membrane. A clinker brick chimney extends past the roof on the south elevation of the house. Another chimney, also constructed of clinker brick, extends past the roof on the east elevation of the house. Boxed roof eaves form a wide overhang and reveal tongue-and-groove beadboard soffits with decorative scroll-sawn brackets. A wide cornice accentuates the eaves. The first floor of the house is clad in wide, eight-inch wood bevel siding while the second floor is clad in narrow-width wood clapboard siding. A ten-inch-wide horizontal wood band separates the first floor from the second floor. Fenestration includes symmetrical placement with a combination of original casement, fixed, and 1/1 double-hung wood-sash windows, and metal-framed screen/storm windows, which are

installed over the original windows. Eight-inch-wide surrounds that taper to six inches wide frame the doors and windows of the house on the first and second floors. The foundation of the house is constructed of black basalt rock and measures up to three feet thick below grade.

The most dominant feature of the Bell House is the symmetrically balanced west façade and full-width front porch. The porch rises one story and is covered with a very low-pitched hip roof. The roof has widely overhanging eaves and is covered in composition shingles that match those on the home's roof. Reflecting materials on the house, tongue-and-groove beadboard and decorative scroll-sawn brackets accentuate the boxed porch eaves. The porch is supported by massive, battered wood porch piers that are anchored to a black basalt rock porch wall. The porch deck measures ten feet deep and is made of painted fir planking. It is enclosed with eight-inch-wide bevel siding that matches the siding used on the house. Nine wood porch steps form a steep rise to the porch deck and are flanked by wood railings. The railings are anchored by battered newel posts with flat caps and wood balusters with star-shaped cut-out designs. A Craftsman-style light fixture is attached to the top of the southwest newel post. The porch protects the front door, which is made of high-quality quarter-sawn, honey-colored solid oak with a stained-glass window in the upper leaf. The door reflects the Craftsman style and features vertical panels capped by a meeting rail that is embellished with decorative mortise-and-tenon joinery. Above the front porch is the home's three-ranked second story.

The south elevation of the house parallels a paved driveway that leads to the back of the property. The south elevation features symmetrical fenestration, a clinker brick chimney that rises past the edge of the roof, and a second-floor recessed balcony at the southeast corner. The north elevation of the house has a wood deck that is attached to the rear, northeast corner of the house about four feet below the level of the first floor. The east, rear elevation of the house has a small, first-story covered porch with a very low-pitched hip roof. The porch is supported by two square columns and protects a fixed stained-glass window and an adjacent double back door, which is glazed and framed in wood.

Garage

Built in 1912, a single-car, wood-frame garage is located behind the house at the end of the driveway. Reflecting the design of the house, the garage has a low-pitched hip roof with wide overhanging boxed eaves and composition shingles, wide wood bevel siding, multi-paned windows with battered surrounds, and a single garage door made of metal. The metal garage door was installed sometime during the 1980s. Craftsman-style lanterns (made and installed in the 1990s) flank the garage door.

House Interior

Spokane County Assessor's files report 1,128 square feet on the first floor of the house. Identical to the footprint of the first floor, the second floor also contains 1,128 square

feet. The front door of the home opens to a small vestibule with remnants of an original ceiling light fixture. The vestibule leads to a large central reception hall. The reception hall is flanked by a formal dining room to the north and a living room to the south. Both rooms are accessed by multi-paned pocket doors that slide open from the reception hall. The dining room is accentuated with a boxed beam ceiling, a corbelled plate rail, wood battens, and a ribbon of five windows that together form a buffet window (also called a piano window) along the north wall. The five small windows are wood-framed casement units with original decorative leaded-glass. Across the hall, the focal point of the living room is a fireplace, which is located on the south wall. The fireplace features a mahogany-paneled upper mantel, a wood corbelled lower mantel that returns to the wall at the corners, a hand-crafted hammered copper fireplace hood, and a fireplace surround and hearth covered in matte-finish glazed ceramic tiles. The reception hall leads to an enclosed staircase located in the center of the house, and to a den, powder room, and kitchen, which are located at the back of the house on the first floor. The den has a brick fireplace and inglenook on the east wall. Made of walnut-stained oak, the inglenook is distinguished with a paneled back and window seats that open for storage. The inglenook flanks the fireplace and wraps around the inside corners of the room, extending on a portion of the north and south walls of the den. Leaded-glass casement windows on the south wall and original metal wall sconces designed in the Craftsman style illuminate the room. Two French doors with leaded-glass upper lights open from the south wall of the den to a small, enclosed back porch. The porch measures twelve feet long and five feet deep. An exterior door is located on the east end of the porch. The ceiling height of the first floor is eight feet in the kitchen and back enclosed porch, and nine to ten feet in the vestibule, hall, living room, dining room, den, and powder room. The woodwork is red fir-stained mahogany in the vestibule, reception hall, living room, dining room, and stairwell. The den is finished in walnut-stained oak, and the kitchen is finished in a combination of cherry wood and painted pine. Except for the enclosed back porch and the powder room, the floors of the first floor are made of solid oak. The powder room floor is ceramic tile, and the enclosed back porch floor is vinyl.

The second floor has three bedrooms, one bathroom, and a recessed, open-air balcony, which is located on the southeast corner of the house. The master bedroom is located in the southwest corner of the house and has a pressed brick fireplace with a matte-finish glazed ceramic tile hearth. The hearth tiles are colored in dark sage green, are shaped like subway tiles, and resemble tiles made by the Grueby Tile Company. The floors in the hallway, bedrooms, and closets are finished fir. The house has an unfinished full basement with storage and laundry areas and heating facilities. The house retains its original radiators that were designed to transport steam heat. Once fired by wood, then coal followed by oil, the steam heat is currently generated by a gas-fired boiler installed during the last 40 years.

ORIGINAL APPEARANCE & SUBSEQUENT MODIFICATIONS

A newspaper article in the July 26, 1908 edition of the *Spokesman-Review* described the exterior and interior of the Bell House:

Rough, narrow siding is used for the exterior walls, stained dark brown. Across the entire front and returning at each side is a 10-foot [deep] veranda, covered with an independent roof, which is supported by massive square piers, tapering at the top. These piers and all the exterior trimmings are painted white. Rustic native rock is used for the foundation and also for the approaches of the veranda.

Through a vestibule with adjoining coat closet, the [front] entrance is into a large central reception room, or hall, connecting on the right with the living room and on the left with the dining room. At the back end of the hall are the stairs to the second floor...

The hall and stairs are finished in red birch-stained mahogany. The living room is entered through a 10-foot sliding door. This room is also finished in red birch-stained mahogany and the walls are hard plaster, treated gray-tan.

Sliding doors separate the dining room from the hall. This room is finished in select curly fir and has a cross-beamed ceiling. Below the plate rail, the walls are treated in burlap panels of brown-green, the panels done in squares. Above the plate rail, the walls are tinted tobacco brown, merging into a brown-tan shade on the ceiling.

In...[the living room], the hall, the dining room, and den, the floors are quarter-sawed white oak.

The den is to the right of the back end of the hall. It is done in red panels of burlap... Four casement windows admit light to the room through leaded panes of glass.

In the second story are two main [bed] chambers, the maid's room, sewing room, sleeping balcony, and two bathrooms. All of the chambers are finished in ivory enamel, with floors of dressed fir, oiled and waxed. The walls are tinted hard plaster. In the main chamber is a large fireplace, and this chamber opens into an alcove chamber, which may be used for a dressing room.

Except for a few modifications, the property retains many of the features, finish, and floor plan, which are described in the article. The southeast, rear corner of the house,

however, differs slightly from the 1908 plans printed in the newspaper article. The 1908 plan pictures a back porch on the first floor and a sleeping porch/recessed balcony above it on the second floor at the back of the house on the southeast corner. According to a footprint of the property on a 1910 Sanborn Fire Insurance map, the area planned for a recessed back porch was enclosed and built as a den. The second-floor recessed balcony/sleeping porch, however, remained open as shown on the 1908 house plans.

Sometime during the 1930s-1940s, the home's original cooler (a small room where ice was stored that was used to refrigerate food) was remodeled into the existing powder room, which is located between the den and kitchen on the back, east wall of the house. A toilet and wall-mounted wash-basin were installed. Later, in the 1970s-1980s, the oak floor in the powder room was recovered with glazed ceramic tile.

In the 1970s-1980s, the kitchen and original pantry were remodeled into one kitchen, the dining room was stripped of some of its original woodwork, the inglenook in the den was removed, the second-floor bathroom in the northeast corner of the house was replaced with a closet, the second-floor sleeping porch at the southeast corner of the house was enclosed for use as a closet, and a small enclosed first-floor porch, and a small second-floor recessed balcony were built on the side of the house at the south elevation.

When the kitchen was remodeled, the back door was replaced with a double-width metal-framed slider, and the adjacent south original 1/1, double-hung window was replaced with a fixed, stained-glass unit. An enclosed porch addition was built next to the den on the south elevation of the house on the first floor. It was clad in eight-inch-wide pressed-wood exterior siding that matches the original eight-inch-wide wood bevel siding on the house. On the second floor, a recessed balcony was built above the porch addition. It was clad in narrow-width wood clapboard siding that matches the original narrow-width wood clapboard siding on the house. The balcony is supported by square wood posts and is covered with a very low-pitched hip roof covered in composition shingles. The balcony's roof eaves match those of the house, including beadboard soffits (the beadboard design produced by mitered corners on the original soffit in relationship to mitered corners on the balcony's soffit reveals the juncture between the original roof eaves and the balcony addition). Original light fixtures throughout the house were replaced with modern fixtures. Metal-framed storm windows and metal-framed screens were installed over the home's original windows.

From 1993 through 2003, the current homeowner was responsible for restorative and remodeling changes to the interior and exterior of the property. The dining room was restored with curly-fir battens and a plate rail that matched the shadows left when the original plate rail and battens were removed in the 1970s-1980s. The kitchen was remodeled again, this time with contemporary-compatible cherry wood cabinets, a double wood-framed back door that replaced the 1970s-1980s slider, and an oak floor. The fireplace in the living room was remodeled with a copper fireplace hood and glazed

ceramic tile surround and hearth, all designed in the Craftsman style. Missing pocket doors to the living room were built and installed to match the multi-paned pocket doors of the dining room. Missing original light fixtures were replaced with period-appropriate fixtures throughout the interior and exterior of the house. In the den, the oak inglenook was rebuilt and restored based on existing parts and pieces found in the basement of the house. Interior walls and ceilings were repainted, floors were refinished, and wallpaper was hung in the dining room, stairwell, kitchen, and powder room. On the second floor, the wall and closet that separated the master bedroom from the sewing room were removed and the sewing room became an extension of the master bedroom. French doors were installed to the second-floor balcony. The southeast corner closet and the northeast corner closets were completely lined in cedar. The upstairs bathroom at the top of the stairs was remodeled with new ceramic wainscot, antique claw foot bathtub, and period lighting. The bathroom's windows, original ceramic tile floor, wash basin, fixtures, and built-in cabinets remain intact.

On the exterior of the house, an enclosed wood deck with a hot tub was built in the 1990s and attached to the northeast corner of the north elevation (the deck is accessed from the back yard only and cannot be seen from the street). In 2001, a composition roof was installed on the house and garage. At the time of install, it was discovered that the roof of the house was covered with three layers of composition shingles over the home's original circa 1908 wood shingles. All four layers of old roofing material were removed, repairs were made, and the new roof installed along with replacement copper rain gutters. Wood stairs were rebuilt on the front of the house, and new wood balustrades were installed on either side of the steps. The balustrades reflect the Craftsman style and were designed by homeowner Cynthia Hahn. The exterior of the house and garage were re-painted in shades of sage green with cream-colored trim.

Area of Significance	Architecture, Community Planning & Development
Period of Significance	1908-1953
Significant Dates	1908
Architect	Alonzo J. Grover

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Summary Statement

Erected in 1908 and 1912 respectively, the Bell House and its single-car garage were built for Dr. Robert Bell and his wife, Jesse Robertson Bell. Remarkably intact, the Bell House and garage are excellent examples of the American Foursquare tradition with Craftsman-style influence. The home was showcased in a July 26, 1908 *Spokesman-Review* newspaper article that featured a photograph of the house, floor plans, and a detailed description of the property. The article touted the home's design as "an attractive example of the modern American house," a "distinctive style of architecture" built in the "American type." The Bell House was designed by Spokane architect Alonzo J. Grover and conveys building trends that incorporated styles and designs along with materials and construction methods which were popular during the early 20th century in Spokane. Especially during its period of significance from 1908 to 1953, and in the areas of significance, "architecture" and "community planning & development," the Bell House embodies identifying features of the American Foursquare and Craftsman traditions and evokes the design and development intended for residential settlement on Spokane's lower South Hill. The Dr. Robert & Jessie Bell House and garage are historically and architecturally significant and are eligible for listing on the Spokane Register of Historic Places under Categories A and C.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Platted in 1883, the Hillside Addition is located one mile from downtown Spokane on the slope of a steep, west-facing wooded bluff. The irregularly shaped Hillside Addition is roughly bounded by Seventh and Ninth Avenues to the north, Twelfth Avenue to the south, Monroe Street to the west, and Cliff Avenue to the east. Prior to 1883, the rugged, hilly area was unplatted and undeveloped land dotted with Ponderosa pine, Douglas fir, basalt rock outcroppings, and steep bluffs. By the early 1900s, economic real estate potential had been discovered in the fine panoramic vistas afforded by the steep hillside lots, which sparked development plans for the area. Infrastructure was built as sewers and roads were laid, street car lines were installed, and public schools were erected in the area. Prospective landowners and homebuyers were enticed to "move up the hill" to the new neighborhood. A July 6, 1906 advertisement in the *Spokesman-Review* promoted the natural amenities and real estate potential of "The Hill," a socially prominent area which was located adjacent north of the Hillside Addition. The article encouraged buyers to purchase property on "...The Hill...at Lincoln Hill...and Monroe Hill...overlooking the city...the natural scenic effect of which is unsurpassed in American home grounds..." Responding to the real estate commercial, Spokane's affluent elite bought lots in the "The

Hill” neighborhood and the adjacent Hillside Addition. Architects and builders were commissioned to design and build houses that depicted a wide variety of sizes and styles ranging from Queen Anne, Tudor and Colonial Revival, to American Foursquare and Craftsman. The *1910 United States Census* listed residents of the community as engineers, stock brokers, real estate agents, newspaper reporters, lumber manufacturers, merchants, bankers, doctors and dentists. Cooks, maids, butlers and other domestic help were employed by the area’s new homeowners. Reflecting these demographic trends, the Dr. Robert & Jessie Bell House was one of the first homes built in the Hillside Addition.

Dr. Robert Bell and Jessie Robertson Bell

Dr. Bell is first listed in the *1906 Spokane City Directory*. He lived at 2124 W. Second Avenue and practiced as a pediatric dentist in Room 208 in the Fernwell Building. In 1907 he moved to 623 S. Adams, and in 1908, he lived at 1021 W. Eleventh Avenue. Later in 1908, he moved into the Bell House at 917 S. Lincoln Street. Dr. Bell married Jessie Robertson and together they raised two daughters, Roberta and Margaret, and a son, Alex. In 1911, Dr. Bell moved his pedodontics dentistry practice to offices at 410-411 in the Paulsen Building. He practiced in Spokane for 42 years until he retired in 1948.

On February 26, 1907 Dr. Bell purchased all of Lot 4 and part of Lot 3 in Block 3 in the Hillside Addition. The cost of the property was \$1,500 and included a restrictive covenant tied to the warranty deed. Written as an early subdivision land use control, which was created to maintain critical levels of residential development in the neighborhood, the covenant stipulated the following requirement: “...as a past consideration of this deed, the party...agrees not to erect a building costing less than \$5,000...” (Spokane County Warranty Deed #165250).

The Bells commissioned Alonzo J. Grover, a Spokane architect, to design a house, which was to be built on their new hillside lots. Construction commenced and the house was completed the following year. Prominently featured, the Bell House was pictured in a July 26, 1908 *Spokesman-Review* article and described as the “fine American residence of Dr. Bell.” The article’s headlines read:

DR. BELL’S HOME IS AMERICAN TYPE

Attractive Design Follows Distinctive Style of Architecture

Built at Cost of \$12,000

On Lincoln Between Ninth and Tenth Avenue—One of Finest
New Homes on South Hill

With a \$12,000 price tag, the house more than met the minimum \$5,000 construction cost requirement mandated in the warranty deed's protective covenant, exceeding the minimum requirement by more than two times the required cost. Dr. Bell and his family lived in the house for ten years from 1908 to 1918.

Subsequent Homeowners

In May 1918, Claude D. and Mabel K. Randall bought the Bell House. Claude Randall was a Spokane attorney who partnered and practiced in the firms White & Randall and Randall & Danskin. The Randalls owned the property until 1942 when they sold it to salesman and mining engineer Ernest E. Eddy and his wife, Blanche A. Eddy. After the Eddys sold the property in 1956, it changed ownership seven times until Dr. Cynthia Hahn bought it on July 27, 1993. A Chicago native, Dr. Hahn currently practices in Spokane, specializing in neurosurgery.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

Category A

Related to the context, "community & regional planning in Spokane," the Dr. Robert & Jessie Bell House is significant to the history of Spokane as a product of the suburban growth of the city and the planned development of the Hillside Addition. The Bell House is associated with the early 20th-century settlement of Spokane's lower South Hill, which was originally developed as an upscale residential neighborhood. Built in 1908 for \$12,000, the Bell House is a good example of domestic construction that was required to exceed the minimum cost of \$5,000 as stipulated in neighborhood covenants which were adopted at the time the area was being developed. Regarded as a prominent residence in the Hillside Addition, the Bell House was locally noted in a newspaper article, which was accompanied by a photograph of the house, plans of the house, and a complete description of the interior and exterior appointments of the property.

Even though the Hillside Addition was originally developed with a combination of single-family homes and one apartment house, it has changed dramatically over the last nine decades. During that time, the neighborhood was modified to accommodate a denser urban environment with the conversion of single-family homes to multi-family apartment houses, and the construction of large multi-unit apartment blocks and condominiums. According to Sanborn Fire Insurance maps, the Hillside Addition had five single-family homes and one apartment house in 1910. In 1952, the Addition had twelve single-family homes and eleven apartment buildings. By 2003, the twelve single-family homes were quite changed: only seven remained in use as single-family residences, and five had been converted for use as multi-family apartment houses. Furthermore, the number of apartment blocks had grown to fifteen buildings and two large, multi-unit condominiums. The encroachment of new apartment house construction and the ongoing alteration of historic single-family homes to multi-family apartment houses continues to threaten the existing dwellings that still retain their original association as single-family residences. One of these homes is the Bell House, which has

never been altered for multi-family use, and retains its original association as a single-family residence in the Hillside Addition.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

Category C

The Bell House is architecturally significant in the context, “Spokane architecture,” for its ability to convey residential design, construction materials, and building practices that were popular during the home’s period of significance from 1908 to 1953. The house is an excellent example of the American Foursquare tradition with Craftsman-style influence and was designed by Spokane architect Alonzo J. Grover.

Alonzo J. Grover, Architect

Not much is known about Alonzo J. Grover. He was first listed in the *1908 Spokane City Directory* as a professional architect in partnership with prominent Spokane architect Alfred Jones (p. 572). They shared an office in Room 312 in the Mohawk Block, which was located on West Riverside Avenue in downtown Spokane. According to city directories, Grover’s partnership and affiliation with Alfred Jones was short-lived and was reported only once, which was in the 1908 city directory listing. Grover designed at least two homes in Spokane: a house at 1332 S. Division and the Bell House at 917 S. Lincoln Street. He may have designed many other Spokane homes, but no documentation has been found to substantiate this claim. It appears Grover later changed occupations; in the *1921 Spokane City Directory*, Grover was listed as a salesman instead of an architect (p. 416). After 1924, Grover is no longer listed in any Spokane city directories.

The Dr. Robert & Jessie Bell House

The design for the Bell House was described in a 1908 newspaper article as “conspicuously individualistic...an attractive example of the modern American house, which follows independent lines...” (*Spokesman-Review*, 26 July 1908). The article said:

Perhaps the most noticeable features of both the exterior and the interior are the unbroken lines throughout and the absence of ornamentation. Simplicity marks the finish as well as the plan of construction.

This early description of the home conforms to distinguishing characteristics of the American Foursquare style, of which the Bell House is an excellent example. Described in Lee and Virginia McAlester’s book, *A Field Guide to American Houses*, the American Foursquare tradition is distinguished as a principal subtype of the broader Prairie style of domestic architecture. Originated by a group of creative architects in Chicago from 1900 to 1920, the Prairie style emphasized simple horizontal lines and gave rise to the vernacular subtype called the American Foursquare, or Prairie Box, style. The American Foursquare style was spread widely by house pattern books and popular magazines, and

was commonly built in early 20th-century suburbs across the country. By 1915 and World War I, America's vernacular foursquare style had faded from fashion, but the "open floor plan, clean lines, and human scale associated with the style made a permanent mark on American architecture" (Carley, p. 203).

Identifying features of the American Foursquare style include a symmetrical design; a low-pitched hip roof with widely overhanging eaves; two stories with one-story porches supported by massive porch piers; clapboard siding; wide belt courses or wood bands that separate one story from another; eaves, cornices and façade detailing emphasizing horizontal lines; and a front entrance that is a focal point of the home's façade. Interior design is focused around the style's "four squares," which are four, first-floor rooms built around a central hall. The four rooms are usually designed as a living room, a dining room, a den/library, and a kitchen.

American Foursquare elements found on the Bell House include the home's two-story formal massing in the shape of an almost square box, a low-pitched hip roof, wide overhanging boxed eaves, a symmetrical design with a full-width single-story covered front porch and central front door, massive porch supports, wood clapboard siding, and a wide wooden band that separates the first story from the second story. The first floor plan of the Bell House follows the American Foursquare plan, with a central hall surrounded by four rooms (dining room, living room, den, and kitchen).

The Bell House also contains strong Craftsman-style elements. On the exterior of the house, these include decorative scroll-sawn brackets found under the eaves, tapered porch piers, battered window and door surrounds, basalt rock foundation and porch wall, and the use of rough-textured, multi-colored clinker brick on the home's two chimneys. Craftsman elements found on the interior of the house include the liberal use of hand-rubbed oak, fir, and mahogany woodwork and floors, metal wall sconces, and an inglenook and built-in closets and cupboards. In summary, the Bell House reflects an American Foursquare design, plan, and massing, but is also embellished with architectural elements that represent the Craftsman tradition.

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SOUR BREAD BAD, WHISKY WORSE

WOMAN PITIES MAN WHO GETS
SOGGY POTATOES AND MUDDY
COFFEE.

BUT HE NEED NOT LAP UP RUM

Question: "Which Is Greater Curse
to Man, Strong Drink or
Poor Cooking?"

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., July 18.—I pity the woman who has to live with a man given to strong drink, but I also pity a man who is married to a woman who gives him soggy potatoes, muddy coffee, burnt meat, sour bread and heavy cake," says a Woodbury special to the Inquirer.

Thus spoke Mrs. W. H. Hoffman of Mickleton at the summer meeting of the Gloucester County Pomona grange last evening.

The chief question in the meeting for debate was "Which is the greater curse to man, strong drink or poor cooking?"

Mrs. Hoffman continued: "Poor cooking is bad enough, but strong drink is worse. It is said that poor cooking will drive a man to drink, which shows that he is not as strong as he is represented to be, as no one ever heard of a woman being driven to strong drink because of poor cooking. I do not care to say much against poor cooking as that makes me say things about my sisters, as we are the cooks. But a few times in my life I have sat down to meals that were not palatable, to say the least, and how any man could accept them every day in the year and love, cherish and protect his wife, I consider a very difficult problem. It is not only hard for a man to see his meals poorly cooked, but it undermines his health. I am not an advocate of rich, fancy cooking any more than I am of poor cooking, for both act in the same way and will eventually bring on indigestion and other unpleasant ailments."

SO THE PARROT WENT ALONG

Made Friends With Crows and
Joined Them in Their Flight.

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., July 18.—Edward Dobbs, who has a farm a mile below Woodbury, on the Salem pike, while in his field yesterday noticed a great flock of crows not far away making a great commotion, says a Woodbury (N. J.) special to the Inquirer. Mr. Dobbs crept along a hedge to see what the trouble was. Upon getting closer he saw a parrot in the middle of the flock, apparently enjoying himself immensely. The crows seemed to regard the green bird with more curiosity than anything else and made no pretense at fighting.

When the crows were frightened off the parrot went along, too, and seemed to have difficulty in keeping up with his black companions.

The 'Sketeers Return.

Night time and the 'sketeers come,
Round and round they're winging;
Whew! Where are they coming from?
Listen to their singing.
"B-z-z-z," the 'sketeers say,
Bite all night and sleep all day;
Never can keep them away—

JAIL WOMEN FOR FLIRTING

FIFTY-FIVE MAIDS AND THREE
WIDOWS NABBED BY POLICE.

Spooning Is Permitted on Atlantic
City's Famous Board Walk, but
Ogling Is Barred.

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., July 20.—Fifty-five maids and three widows left prey to the work of the plain clothes men who patrolled the boardwalk, says an Atlantic City (N. J.) special to the Inquirer. The maids were up to their eyes in love letters from the mayor to stop "spooning" and the young women and the widows were in tears in the police station. Hold captives until friends appeared and secured their release on bail. They are to remain before the recorder tomorrow and explain their conduct.

"Flirting is outlawed either on the boardwalk or on the beach," said Chief of Police Woodruff today, and the mayor insists upon the department stopping the practice. The resort has no desire to prevent spooning or innocent love-making, but this flirting must stop. We have begun the crusade which will never end."

DR. BELL'S HOME IS AMERICAN TYPE

ATTRACTIVE DESIGN FOLLOWS
DISTINCTIVE STYLE OF
ARCHITECTURE.

BUILT AT COST OF \$12,000

On Lincoln Between Ninth and
Tenth Avenues—One of Finest
New Homes on South Hill.

Among the many fine homes under construction or just being completed in the south hill district that of Dr. Robert Bell, on the east side of Lincoln street between Ninth and Tenth avenues, is conspicuously individualistic. It is an attractive example of the modern American house, which follows independent lines and conforms to the style of architecture.

Perhaps the most noticeable features of both the exterior and the interior

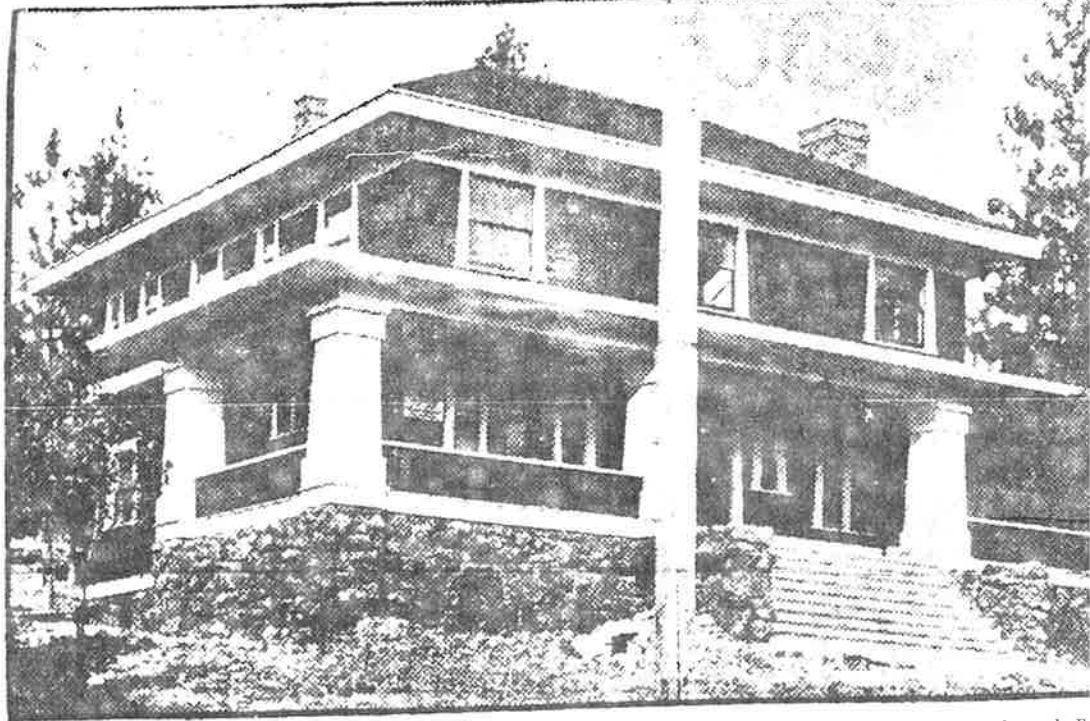
The hall and stair red birch-stained sliding door is entered in red birch and the walls are gray-tan. There of pressed gray birch in art panels side are built in broad plate glass also million wind veranda.

Burlap Panels

Sliding doors room from the finished in solid beamed ceiling of the walls are of brown-grained squares. All are tinted like a brown-tan shade.

The woodwork a slight tint of the hall lined with quarter-sawn north and the cas leaded panes and anda are million.

The design of the hall is in



Fine American residence of Dr. Robert Bell, east side of Lincoln, between Ninth and Tenth Avenues.

ARE AFRAID OF THE PRESS

Dr. Burrell Talks to Doctors About
the Newspapers.

Dr. Herbert L. Burrell of Boston, in an address before the American Medical Association recently, said:

"The medical profession and many of the public are afraid of the press. Whether this position on the part of the public is justified or not need not be discussed. I never had occasion to appeal to the press for assistance and cooperation in any public measure without receiving hearty, but at all times, to my mind, indiscreet assistance. Newspapers will publish what they think the public wants to know, but not what we think the public ought to know. They assume, quite properly, the right of decision. The greatest power that we can have to diffuse information is the public press. Doctors should be frank with it and

are the unbroken lines throughout and the absence of ornamentation. Simplicity marks the finish as well as the plan of construction.

Rough, narrow siding is used for the exterior walls, stained dark brown. Across the entire front and returning at each side is a 10-foot veranda, covered with an independent roof, which is supported by massive square piers tapering at the top. These piers and all the exterior trimmings are painted white. Rustic native rock is used for the foundation and also for the approaches of the veranda.

Living-Room and Hall Mahogany.

Through a vestibule with adjoining coat closet the entrance is into a large central reception room, or hall, consisting on the right with the living room and on the left with the dining room. At the back end of the hall are the stairs to the second floor, laying

burlap, the wood. Four casement windows in the room through

In the main hall door of the den is The reception hall in which is This hall opens which is not rear. Toward the kitchen the refrigerator which has an delivery of food.

Kitchen In

Pineapple and kitchen. Note in have a wainscot extended above the dining room side of the window. Lucite glass an window is the wainscot to the lan

Spokane Register of Historic Places Nomination Continuation Sheet
DR. ROBERT BELL HOUSE

Section 9

Plat Map

2003 plat map of property.



Photos 3 and 4

Front door and front porch of house.



Photos 1 and 2

West façade of house and front steps to front porch.



Spokane Register of Historic Places Nomination Continuation Sheet
DR. ROBERT BELL HOUSE

Section 9

Photos 5 and 6

Front door and front porch of house.



Photos 7 and 8

Front porch at southwest corner showing clinker brick and roof eaves.



Photos 9 and 10

South elevation of house and close-up of rock porch wall.



Photos 11 and 12 East, rear elevation of house.



Spokane Register of Historic Places Nomination Continuation Sheet
DR. ROBERT BELL HOUSE

Section 9

Photos 13 and 14 Rear, southeast corner of house.



Spokane Register of Historic Places Nomination Continuation Sheet
DR. ROBERT BELL HOUSE

Section 9

Photos 15 and 16 East, rear elevation of house.



Spokane Register of Historic Places Nomination Continuation Sheet
DR. ROBERT BELL HOUSE

Section 9

Photos 17 and 18 North elevation of house and close-up of northeast corner.



Photo 19

Garage along east boundary of property.



Spokane Register of Historic Places Nomination Continuation Sheet
DR. ROBERT BELL HOUSE

Section 9

Photo 20
Photo 21

Woodwork in foyer, leading to dining room.
Stairs from first floor to second floor in foyer.



Spokane Register of Historic Places Nomination Continuation Sheet
DR. ROBERT BELL HOUSE

Section 9

Photo 22
Photo 23

Multi-paned pocket door from foyer to living room.
Fireplace in living room, looking south.



Spokane Register of Historic Places Nomination Continuation Sheet
DR. ROBERT BELL HOUSE

Section 9

Photo 24

Multi-paned pocket door to dining room.

Photo 25

Box beamed ceiling detail in dining room.

Photo 26

Ribbon of windows in dining room, north wall.

