

# Spokane Register of Historic Places Nomination Form

*Spokane City/County Historic Preservation Office, City Hall, Sixth Floor  
808 Spokane Falls Boulevard, Spokane, Washington 99201-3337*

## 1. Name of Property

Historic Name **CURRIE HOUSE**

## 2. Location

Street & Number 908 West Frederick Avenue  
City, State, Zip Code Spokane, WA 99205  
Parcel Number 35072.0302

## 3. Classification

Category of Property	Ownership of Property	Status of Property	Present Use of Property	
<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> residential
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<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 Jeff and Kris Dailing  
Street & Number North 16623 Newport Highway  
City, State, Zip Code Mead, WA 99021  
Telephone Number 238-6633

## 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 in Existing Surveys

Title City of Spokane Historic Landmarks Survey  
Date Federal\_\_ State\_\_ County\_\_ Local 1979  
Depository for Survey Records Spokane Historic Preservation Office

## 7. Architectural Description and Classification

Architectural Classification	Condition	Check One
	<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered
	<input type="checkbox"/> fair	
	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<b>Check One</b>
	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	<input type="checkbox"/> moved & date _____

*Narrative description of present and original physical appearance found on one or more continuation sheets.*

## 8. Spokane Register Criteria and Statement of Significance

**Applicable Spokane Register of Historic Places Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for Spokane Register listing):**

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of Spokane history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

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

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

*Bibliography found on one or more continuation sheets.*

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property	Less than one (1) acre.
Verbal Boundary Description	Forest Park Addition, Lots 1 & 2, B2; parcel number 35072.0302
Verbal Boundary Justification urban	Nominated property includes entire parcel and legal description.

## 11. Form Prepared By

Name and Title	Linda Yeomans
Organization	Historic Preservation Planning and Restoration
Telephone Number	509-456-3828
Street, City, State, Zip Code	501 West 27th Avenue, Spokane, WA 99203
Date	31 October 1999

## 12. Additional Documentation

Map	Spokane City/County plat map.
Photographs and Slides	17 black & white photos and 20 color slides.

**CURRIE HOUSE****Narrative Description*****Summary Statement***

Built in 1889, the Currie House is one of the finest Queen Anne style homes in Spokane. The house is located in the neighborhood surrounding Corbin Park, an early Spokane, Olmsted-designed park. The two and one-half story home displays a combination of Queen Anne style elements including a steeply pitched roof with a large front-facing dormer; exterior wall cladding and trim depicting various patterns, materials and colors; vertical windows with transom lights; and a full-width front porch with decorative brackets. Distinguished from surrounding domestic architecture in the area, the Currie House features a dramatic focal point--a tall, round turret clad in horizontal cedar siding and decorative, multi-patterned fishscale shingles. Soaring to more than 35 feet, the turret is capped by a curved conical roof with flared eaves and decorative scroll-sawn brackets. The Currie House retains good interior and exterior architectural integrity.

***1999 - Current Appearance******Site***

The Currie House is located on the northwest corner of West Frederick Avenue and North Lincoln Street on Lots 1 and 2, Block 3 in the Forest Park Addition northeast of Corbin Park. Platted nearly two miles north of downtown Spokane, the neighborhood is distinguished by tree-lined streets and domestic architecture built mostly from 1889 to 1925. Architectural styles depicted in the neighborhood include American Foursquare, Craftsman bungalow, and Queen Anne as well as common vernacular renditions of these traditional styles. The Currie House fronts onto Frederick Avenue at number 908, and is set behind a spacious lawn that slopes slightly toward the street. Four tall, massive spruce trees planted when the house was built border Frederick Avenue. The property measures 100 feet wide and 120 feet deep. Privately owned homes border the Currie House to the east, west, north, and south.

***Exterior***

The two and one-half story Currie House forms a nearly square footprint measuring 32 feet wide and 25 feet deep. The first and second floors of the house each contain over 1000 square feet. The house is covered by a steeply pitched hip roof covered in composition shingles, and is distinguished by a round corner turret that commands a panoramic view of the neighborhood. A large, prominent gabled dormer projects from the home's south facade and is embellished with fishscale shingles, false half-timbering, and an enclosing pent roof in the gable peak. Another smaller gabled dormer with false half-timbering projects from the roof's west side. A large brick chimney with paired flues rises from the east roof slope, and a plain brick chimney rises from the west roof slope. Decorative, scroll-sawn, cornice-line brackets accentuate the roof line. The roof line is further accentuated by a curved design as it curves around the southwest and southeast corners of the home's facade. A full-width, single-story porch covered by a shallow-pitched shed roof extends across the home's south facade and is supported by square porch supports and unusual, custom-designed decorative brackets. The first-floor porch deck is partially enclosed by walls covered with horizontal siding and turned balusters. A small, second-story recessed porch is located above the first-floor porch and is also partially enclosed with

**CURRIE HOUSE**

decorative fishscale shingles and turned spindles. The house is clad in original horizontal, tongue-and-groove, cedar siding interspersed with horizontal bands of decorative shingles at the base of the second story and at the base of the turret at the third story. A two-story bay with original decorative panels and vertical windows distinguishes the home's west elevation. The rear, north elevation of the house is distinguished by partial-width first- and second-story porches. The rear elevation of the house also includes a one-story garage and breezeway that attaches to the northeast corner of the house. All of the windows in the Currie House are original and are simple one-over-one, double-hung, wood-sash, vertical units--both single and paired. First and second-floor windows on the facade and east and west elevations feature transom light openings that are covered with plywood. Recently renovated, a first-floor facade window pair has been restored with leaded-glass transom lights. The house is supported by a thirteen-inch-thick brick foundation and two-inch-by-ten-inch cedar floor joists.

*Interior*

The home's original glazed and paneled wood front door features a leaded-glass transom light, circa-1889 brass filigree hardware, and opens to a central hall. The four-foot-wide hall is dominated by a narrow flight of stairs measuring three feet wide that lead to the second floor. The staircase is constructed of finished fir and features a massive, decorative newel post and an unusual balustrade with turned posts and custom-designed brackets all influenced by late 19th-century Eastlake styling. On the first floor, the hall opens to a formal parlor located in the southeast corner of the house, a library in the southwest corner of the house, and continues towards the back of the house to a formal dining room, kitchen, bathroom, and back porch. The front parlor has coved ceilings and retains an original ceiling mural and frieze depicting a painted and stenciled design with floral and geometric motifs. An original fireplace designed to burn coal dominates the north wall of the parlor. The fireplace is constructed of finished maple, decorative green and gold color ceramic tiles, and a massive over-mantel with three, shaped, beveled, mirrors. A decorative metal firebox accentuates the fireplace. The library features refinished pocket doors made of mahogany, cherry, and black walnut that open to the formal dining room. Woodwork in the library and entry hall has been refinished while woodwork in the front parlor retains original fir finish. The first-floor kitchen and bathroom have been altered and do not contain original fixtures, lights or cabinets.

The second floor of the Currie House includes four bedrooms, a bathroom, a central hall with staircase from the first floor, and a staircase that leads up to the attic. The northwest bedroom includes a small kitchenette with cabinets, counter and sink. The original finished-fir woodwork is intact on all of the second floor except in the southeast and southwest bedrooms where it is painted. The attic is unfinished and opens to a small, round room in the turret. The first and second floors of the house are covered with original fir planks, wall-to-wall carpet, or linoleum; the walls and ceilings are made of lathe and plaster; and ceiling heights measure more than ten feet. One- to four-inch-long square nails were used in the construction of the house.

**CURRIE HOUSE***Original Appearance and Subsequent Alterations*

The Currie House retains good-to-excellent integrity found in the original design, footprint, and floor plan of the house as well as original materials including horizontal cedar siding; multi-patterned fishscale shingles; windows, doors, woodwork, and hardware; fireplace; and circa-1889 decorative frieze and ceiling mural in the front parlor. The Currie House was unaltered until 1917 when an indoor bathroom was constructed on the east wall in space originally designed as part of the kitchen.. Perhaps built during the same time, a bathroom was also constructed on the second floor, and wall-mounted wash basins were installed in the northwest and northeast bedrooms. In 1924, an outhouse and wood shed located behind the house on the north property line were removed. In 1927, a one-story, two-car garage was attached to twelve feet of the rear, north elevation of the house on the first floor at the northwest corner. In 1949, the Currie House was extensively altered beginning with the installation of wood-paneled siding applied over the home's original horizontal cedar siding and fishscale shingles. The transom lights of first- and second-floor windows were also covered with shingles. The roof's original wood shingles were removed and replaced with composition shingles, and the entire house was painted a pale green. Inside, the ceilings were dropped to eight feet, and space beneath the entry hall stairs was enclosed for use as a closet. Original cabinets and fixtures in the first-floor bathroom and kitchen were removed, and new fixtures and cabinets were installed. Original light fixtures were replaced, and the northwest corner bedroom was adapted for use as an apartment kitchen with built-in cabinets and a sink. Coal-fired stoves originally installed in the kitchen, dining room, and the northeast and northwest bedrooms were removed. The heating system for the house was changed to coal-fired, central heat generated from a furnace in the basement. In the 1970s, the heating system was changed again to forced-air, gas heat. In the 1980s, cedar paneling was installed over the original plaster walls on the second floor stairwell, hall, bathroom, and northeast bedroom, and the original finished woodwork in the southeast and southwest bedrooms was painted. The roof was recovered with composition shingles again in the 1980s.

In 1997, a long-term restoration of the entire Currie House began. By April, 1998, some of the false ceilings were demolished and removed revealing the original plastered ceilings. Damaged plaster walls and ceilings were refinished. Painted woodwork was stripped and refinished, porch and stairs were secured, electric/plumbing systems were upgraded, and all exterior cedar shingles were removed revealing original cedar siding and decorative fishscale shingles. Original paint colors were also discovered and have been partially reproduced with new paint applied to the exterior of the house. Reflective of future window restoration, one paired-window (south facade) has been completely refinished and restored with newly crafted leaded-glass transom lights and original fir trim pieces found in the basement.

As currently planned, renovation of the Currie House will continue until the entire house is completely restored and rehabilitated. Past alterations to the Currie House have been mostly cosmetic, and can be reversed with much of the original fabric, materials, and design being restored. Located at the rear of the house, the attached garage will eventually be removed.

**CURRIE HOUSE**

Currently, the attached garage renders a minimum impact to the architectural integrity of the house, and can only be seen from the rear of the property.

<b>Areas of Significance</b>	<b>Period of Significance</b>	<b>Significant Dates</b>
Architecture, Social History	1889	1889
<b>Specific Dates</b>	<b>Architect, Designer, and/or Builder</b>	
1889	William J. Carpenter, Architect	

**Statement of Significance*****Summary Statement***

The Currie House is an exceptional example of Queen Anne architecture and is one of the oldest homes in Spokane. It was constructed in 1889, and was designed by master Spokane architect William J. Carpenter. The house was built for mining entrepreneur and city councilman John A. Currie, and was later home to Spokane mining broker John L. Ford and his family for 25 years. The Currie House was one of the first homes built in north Spokane and demonstrates early development and settlement of the area. Architecturally significant, the Currie House is eligible for listing on the Spokane Register of Historic Places under Criterion C.

**Historical Context*****Early Spokane***

Before 1872, the site for the future city of Spokane located on the banks of the Spokane River was a favorite fishing ground for various Indian tribes. Derived from the Indian word *spokan* which means “children of the sun,” the town was named Spokane in honor of the Indians who lived in the region. Drawn by the area’s natural beauty and untapped resources, fur traders and pioneers settled in the town. By 1880, Spokane’s population exceeded 300. Along with the river’s water power, the city gained popularity as a center for mining, lumber, and agriculture. Beginning with utilization of the area’s natural resources and the arrival of transcontinental rail lines in the late 1800s, Spokane experienced a period of fantastic fortune, city boosterism, and unprecedented growth. Thousands of men and women representing a plethora of ethnic origins and all walks of life began pouring into the city in search of a better place to work and live. Exploiting the area’s natural resources, mining magnates, lumber barrons, and speculative real estate investors made overnight fortunes. Neighborhoods were platted and planned, schools were constructed, and homes were designed and built. Wealth and prosperity abounded, and Spokane entered into the “Age of Elegance” roughly noted as the years from 1885 to 1910. Built during the beginning of Spokane’s “Age of Elegance,” the circa-1889 Currie House is one of the city’s oldest homes and helped spawn early settlement in Forest Park Addition and residential areas north of downtown Spokane.

**CURRIE HOUSE***Forest Park Addition*

Spokane's Forest Park Addition was platted in 1887 and comprises the neighborhood northeast of Corbin Park between Euclid Avenue to the north, Buckeye Avenue to the south, Wall Street to the east, and Cedar Street to the west. Before the 30-block addition was platted, the area was characterized by forests of native white and ponderosa pine trees, and by land that sloped gently uphill to the north. Scattered among the pine trees were various Spokane Indian tribes and the teepees in which they lived. Sited a few hundred feet to the east, the Washington and Idaho State Fairgrounds were located adjacent to the east boundary of Forest Park Addition along Post Street. The fairgrounds occupied the original site of one of Spokane's earliest race tracks and riding clubs called the Gentleman's Riding Club. Horse racing was considered a major social event during the late 19th century and was patronized by many prominent citizens of Spokane. The area immediately surrounding the race track became desirable real estate, and in less than one year after it was platted, lots were sold to investors and prospective homeowners. Beginning in 1902, the fairgrounds and racetrack was razed and replaced a few years later by the construction of Corbin Park. Included in their extensive park plan for Spokane, Corbin Park was designed by the famed Olmsted Brothers Architectural Firm of Brookline, Massachusetts--the same firm that designed Central Park in New York City.

*Property Owners*

In 1888, Daniel Drumheller, vice president for Trader's National Bank of Spokane, sold three, 50-foot-wide lots on the corner of West Frederick Avenue and North Lincoln Street to investor Lillis McAllister for \$427. Strategically located, McAllister's newly purchased lots were located one block west of the popular Gentleman's Riding Club and racetrack. McAllister's land speculation turned a profit, and less than one year later she sold all three lots for \$1000 to John A. Currie.

*John A. Currie*

John A. Currie was first listed in the 1889 edition of Spokane's *City Directory*--the same year he bought his three lots on West Frederick Avenue. The August 1, 1889 edition of *Spokane Falls Illustrated* cites William J. Carpenter as the architect responsible for designing the Currie House after he arrived in Spokane from England in September, 1888. The house was reportedly built for \$7000--a sizable sum of money in 1889. In contrast to the newspaper citation, the Spokane County Assessor's office placed the property on the tax rolls in 1887 and lists that year as the date the house was built. Perhaps Drumheller, who bought the three lots when the property was platted, had plans to build a house or barn and had applied for a building permit that may have resulted in a premature tax roll record. Nevertheless, no building permit has ever been found, and architect Carpenter was not living in Spokane until 1888--one year after taxation was recorded.

In 1889, John Currie's name and occupation were highlighted in boldface type in Spokane's *City Directory* where Currie was listed as an investor and real estate agent with offices in his newly built home on West Frederick Avenue. By 1892, Currie had expanded his entrepreneurial

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endeavors to include that of “mine operator.” In addition to real estate, investments, and mining operations, Currie was active in city politics and neighborhood representation. In 1893, he was elected city councilman responsible for Spokane’s Fourth Ward north of the Spokane River and west of Division Street (including Forest Park Addition). Stories abound that Currie and cronies would watch the horse races located just one block east (now Corbin Park) from the third floor window in the turret of the Currie House. Legend also says that Currie built the large Queen Anne home at a cost of \$50,000 for his sweetheart, who on the eve of their marriage, jilted him. Warranty deeds recording Currie House property ownership do not record a wife for John until 1895 when signatures for both John and Jennie Currie--his wife at that time--were witnessed. With its towering turret, robust paint colors, and extensive lawn and gardens, the Currie House was a neighborhood showplace and was John and Jennie Currie’s home for 13 years.

*The James L. Ford Family*

By 1902, Currie’s wife Jennie was deceased, and John sold the property to James Lake Ford and his wife Lydia Ziegler Ford. Although raised in Ontario, Canada, the Fords lived in Kentucky before moving to Spokane. While in Kentucky, James Ford heard about lucrative business opportunities in mining available in Spokane. He attended classes in Kentucky, became a certified mining broker, and moved to Spokane via Missouri in 1896. Ford worked as a travel agent and salesman before breaking into the mining business in 1902--the same year he bought the Currie House. In 1903, Spokane’s *City Directory* lists Ford’s business as the James L. Ford Mining Company with offices at 719 Riverside Avenue in downtown Spokane. By 1918, the directory advertised Ford and his company as “Spokane’s oldest, most reliable broker of mines and mining investments.”

The Ford family resided in the Currie House for nearly 25 years. James and Lydia Ford raised seven children: James Alson, Frank, Kathryn, Elmer, Hugh, Mabel, and John. Achieving local success, Kathryn and Mabel both taught private music lessons in the Currie House; Elmer ranched and farmed north and south of Spokane; Frank and Hugh sold mining and real estate investments; Jack became owner of the Fryer-Ford Building Material Company; and James Alson Ford was Spokane Chamber of Commerce managing secretary for over 35 years.

Kathleen Ford Scholz, Elmer Ford’s daughter, vividly recalls visiting the Currie House when she was a child in the early 1900s. She says the property was affectionately called “Forest Lawn” and was quite fashionable with flower gardens, a thick turf, and grape and rose arbors. She also recalls swinging in porch swings suspended from both ends of the front porch, and playing on a tennis court located on the property. Mrs. Scholz remembers some of the home’s original furnishings including a ruby-red glass light fixture hanging from the foyer ceiling, a red rug in the front parlor, lace curtains and a multi-colored Oriental carpet in the dining room, and a gold-and-tan wicker settee in the library. The library was used as a sitting room, and the front parlor was used as the music room where Mabel and Kathryn taught music lessons. The third-floor attic was used as a big playroom, and the turret--one of the most popular rooms in the house--was filled with toys. Mrs. Scholz says that her Grandfather Ford “did not believe in toilets” and



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refused to use the new toilet installed in 1917. Under his instructions, the family continued to use the outhouse in the back yard even though city sanitation and code enforcement officials did not permit it. In 1924, a city sewer line was installed, and James Ford was forced to demolish his outhouse.

James Lake Ford died in 1925, and in 1926, his widow Lydia sold the Currie House to Catherine M. Forster, resident property manager of the Montgomery Apartments at North 1618 Lincoln Street. Upon purchase of the property, Forster assumed a \$1500 mortgage and rented the house to various tenants. During the Great Depression in 1930, Forster sold the Currie House to a non-denominational church called the Full Gospel Conference of the World. Bishop Frederick C. Hahn had pastoral charge over the church as well as the Selah Full Gospel School, also located in the Currie House. Three years later, mortgage payments were delinquent and the house fell into foreclosure. In 1935, the house was sold at public auction to the highest bidder--Catherine Forster, who had previously owned the Currie House and bought it back for \$2700.

In 1941, Vernon Albright, a sales manager for Arden Farms Dairy, and his wife Stella Mae bought the Currie House and two of the three lots. In 1945, Catherine Forster sold Lot 3--adjacent to and west of lots 1 and 2, and part of the original Currie property. Three years later, the Currie House was purchased by Ulrich and Margaret Lipp who had previously rented the house in the late 1920s. Ulrich was employed by Washington Water Power, and Margaret clerked for Andy's Food Shop.

By 1958, Ulrich and Margaret Lipp's son John, an Albertson Food Store manager, acquired title to the Currie House. John and his wife Virginia lived in the Currie House for 10 years until 1967, when they sold it to Charles Packard, director for Manpower Development and Training, and his wife Evelyn. With a passion for the color pink, Evelyn Packard painted a large percentage of the Currie House pink--both inside and out. After 30 years, Evelyn Packard sold the Currie House to Jeff and Kris Dailing in 1997.

Jeff Dailing works for Mead School District, and Kris is a long-time employee of U. S. West Communications. The Dailings began making plans for a long-term renovation of the property as soon as they bought it. They are meticulously restoring the interior and exterior of the house including the original siding, fishscale shingles, paint colors, transom windows, ceiling mural, woodwork, floors, and light fixtures. Along with help from the Dailing family, Spokane general contractor Tim Hamlin is responsible for much of the renovation work to the Currie House. In addition, Spokane Preservation Advocates, a dedicated group of volunteer preservationists dedicated to preserving historic architecture in Spokane, helped remove pink-painted shingles that were applied over the original cedar siding in a circa-1949 remodeling project.

**CURRIE HOUSE***Architectural Significance**The Queen Anne Style*

The Queen Anne architectural style is identified with the “Scottish-born architect Richard Norman Shaw (1831-1912) and his followers whose domestic work in England was a tremendously free and eclectic hybrid of forms drawn from a range of sources, including Classical, Tudor, and Flemish architecture” (Carley). Even though the historical and architectural precedents used by Shaw and his followers had little to do with England’s queen or the formal Renaissance architecture that was dominant during her time, the style was named after Queen Anne who reigned from 1702 to 1714--more than 150 years before the style was popularized in England and America.

The Queen Anne style dominated domestic American architecture throughout the United States from 1880 to 1910. The style is characterized by an eclectic mix of previous traditional prototypes including elements from medieval Tudor, American Colonial, Gothic Revival, Italianate, and Stick styles. In the Queen Anne style, a mix of architectural elements are designed to produce random changes in the horizontal and vertical continuity of the wall plane. This is accomplished through an irregular plan and massing; a variety of color and texture found in shingles, siding and patterned masonry used to avoid a smooth-walled appearance; an asymmetrical facade with a single-story partial or full-width porch; dominant front-facing gables or lower cross gables; a variety of window treatments including bay, oriel and cut-away windows; and towers, turrets, overhangs, wall projections, and insets.

*Architect William J. Carpenter*

Incorporating the style’s most typical elements, the Currie House is one of Spokane’s best renditions of the Queen Anne style. It was designed by William J. Carpenter, one of early Spokane’s most accomplished architects. Born in England, Carpenter only practiced in Spokane for two years during 1888 and 1890. Even though his time was short in Spokane, Carpenter’s designs achieved prominence and reveal the work of a master architect. In addition to the Currie House, Carpenter designed the landmark Queen Anne Loewenberg-Roberts House in Browne’s Addition, the J. J. Browne Block (demolished), the Hyde Building (demolished), the Loewenberg Building (later Coeur d’Alene Hotel), the original Wilson/Clark Building that housed the first Davenport Hotel restaurant (later remodeled), and the Miller Block (now Hotel Lusso). The August 1, 1889, *Spokane Falls Illustrated* also lists Carpenter as the architect responsible for designing the Andrew Smith House at 410 West 2nd Avenue (demolished) and Dr. Charles G. Brown’s house in Dennis and Bradley’s Addition by Gonzaga University.

*Compare and Contrast**Exterior*

The Currie House can first be compared to domestic architecture in Forest Park Addition. With its third-story turret, patterned fishscale shingles, robust colors, and decorative eave brackets, the Currie House stands alone as the only example of high-style Queen Anne architecture in Forest Park Addition. Surrounding homes in the neighborhood represent more restrained or vernacular

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expressions of the style. For example, the Currie House is the only home in the addition that exceeds two stories in height and has a turret. The house also features unusual decorative, scroll-sawn brackets that are not used on any other home in the area. Furthermore, the site for the Currie House distinguishes it from neighboring homes; nearly all of the houses in the area are built on 50-foot-wide lots while the Currie House was originally built in the middle of property that extended 150 feet in width.

Within greater Spokane, the exterior of the Currie House can be compared to the Skinner House located at 709 West Waverly Place (built in 1900) in nearby Corbin Park, the Loewenberg-Roberts House at 1923 West First Avenue in Browne's Addition (1889), a two-story house located at 728 South Adams, and various Queen Anne style homes with turrets found throughout the city.

Both the Skinner House and the Currie House exemplify similar, high-style versions of the Queen Anne style, and both feature corner turrets. In contrast, the turret of the Skinner House is polygonal while the turret of the Currie House is round. Both homes were architect-designed, but by different architects. Furthermore, the Skinner House was built in 1900, while the Currie House was constructed eleven years earlier in 1889.

The Currie House can also be compared to the Loewenberg-Roberts House at 1923 West First Avenue in Browne's Addition. Both homes were designed by architect William J. Carpenter and built in 1889, and both homes are high-style examples of the Queen Anne tradition. While the Loewenberg-Roberts House features stone and brick exterior cladding in contrast to the horizontal cedar siding of the Currie House, both homes are embellished with the same unusual decorative, scroll-sawn porch brackets. Perhaps custom-designed by the architect, the brackets form a slight S-curve and are punctuated by a circular cut-out. The unusual brackets have not been seen on any other home in the Spokane area, and are unique to the Loewenberg-Roberts House and the Currie House.

City-wide, the Currie House can be compared to at least 39 similar Queen Anne style homes built in Spokane that have turrets. In addition to the Currie House in Forest Park Addition and the Skinner House in Corbin Park, the turreted homes are found along Nora, Indiana and Mission Avenues in the Logan Neighborhood; College and Mallon Avenues in West Central Spokane; Riverside, Pacific, First and Second Avenues in Browne's Addition, and Spokane's lower South Hill. Nineteen homes have polygonal turrets, eighteen homes feature round turrets, and only two homes have square turrets. The conical roof lines of the round turrets depict various forms and resemble straight-sided cones, short and tall cones with flared eaves that resemble witch's hats, round domes, and both tall and short bell shapes. The Currie House features a round turret with an unusual conical roof. It resembles a dome with widely overhanging flared eaves, and forms a slight S-curve. The Queen Anne house at 728 South Adams has a turret with a dome-shaped conical roof that is similar to the turret roof of the Currie House. However, the conical roof of the Currie House reveals a bellcast, flared shape while the South Adams Street house does not.

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The turret roof of the Currie House is also similar to the turret roof of the Loewenberg-Roberts House at 1923 West First Avenue. Both homes feature round turret roofs with flared eaves, but the conical turret roof of the Loewenberg-Roberts House is much taller than that of the Currie House and does not resemble a dome. A turret roof that duplicates a round dome with widely overhanging bellcast eaves has not been found on any house in Spokane except the Currie House.

*Interior*

The interior frieze and ceiling mural of the Currie House can be compared to the Ezra Meeker House in Puyallup, Washington, and to the Klein House located at 1626 East Pacific Avenue in Spokane. All three homes feature rare, well-preserved, original, turn-of-the-century frieze and ceiling murals. The milk-and-water-based paint used for the mural in the Currie House forms a geometric and floral composition with typical Victorian colors (*H. W. Jones Miniature Color Chart, 1890*). The ceiling mural featured in the Meeker House-- built from 1887-1890 during the same time the Currie House was constructed--is similar and also depicts geometric and floral patterns. In contrast to the Currie House, the Klein House was built in 1902--thirteen years after the Currie House was completed--and features a completely different design that depicts strong Art Nouveau influence with swirled garlands and plump cupids.

Lastly, the Meeker House's coal-burning maple fireplace with overmantel, beveled mirror, and decorative tile surround is nearly identical to the fireplace featured in the Currie House. Both homes were constructed during the same time and may have shared the same sources for materials used to construct both fireplaces.

*Conclusion*

Built in 1899, the Currie House is one of oldest homes in the city and is associated with early development of Forest Park Addition in north central Spokane. When compared at the state and local levels, the Currie House proves to be the product of an accomplished architect, and is one of the best examples of the Queen Anne style found in the Spokane area. The house retains both excellent historic and architectural integrity in its original location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, and association with Spokane.

**CURRIE HOUSE**

**Major Bibliographic References**

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*Spokane Falls Illustrated*, Spokane Falls, WA, August 1, 1889.

*Spokane Daily Chronicle*, various articles.

*Spokane Spokesman Review*, various articles.

**CURRIE HOUSE**

**13. Signature of Owner(s)**

*Jeff & Darla*  
*Historic Railings*

**14. For Official Use Only:**

Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_ Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Heard: \_\_\_\_\_ City Clerk

Commission Decision: \_\_\_\_\_ Approved  
as to Form: \_\_\_\_\_

Council/Board Action: \_\_\_\_\_ Assistant City Attorney

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

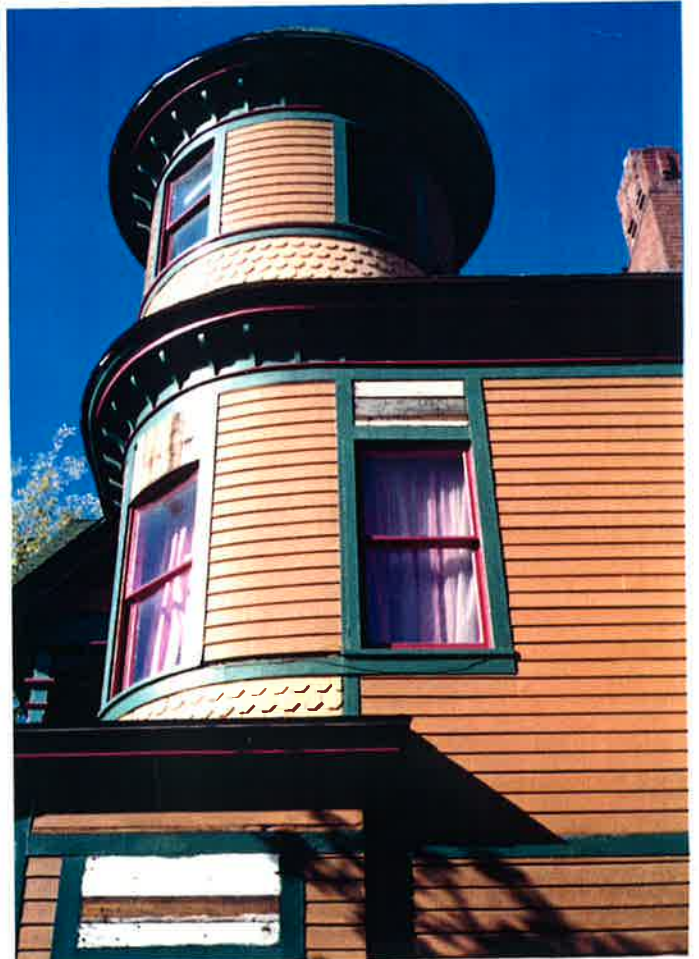
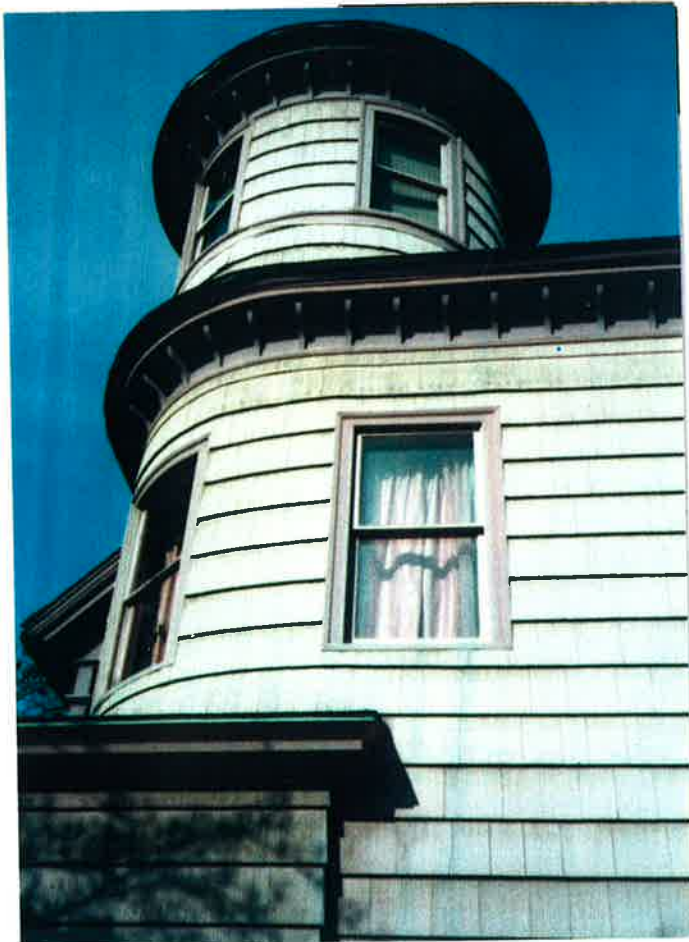
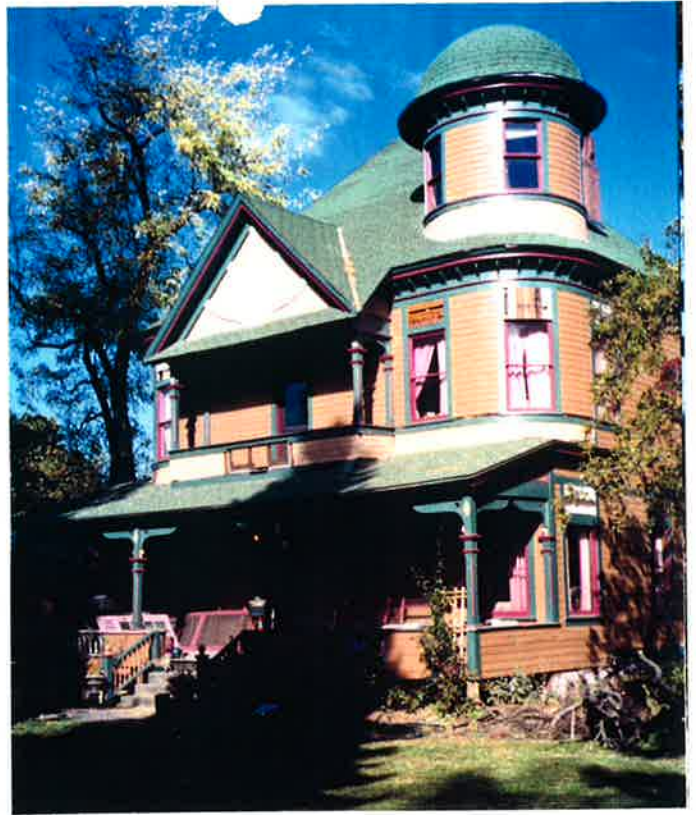
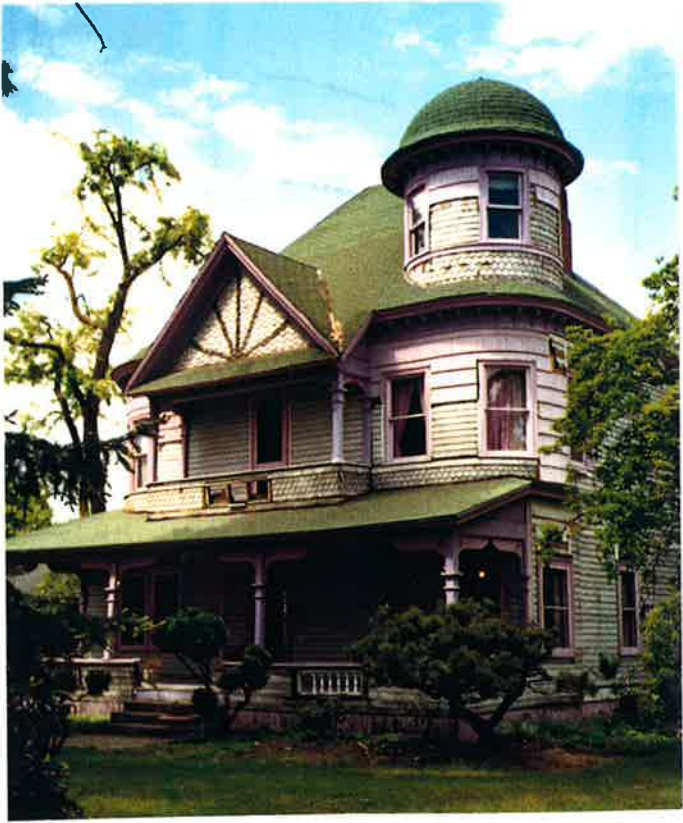
**We hereby certify that this property has been listed in the Spokane Register of Historic Places.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**MAYOR, City of Spokane**  
or

\_\_\_\_\_  
**CHAIR, Spokane County Commissioners**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**CHAIR, Spokane City/County Historic Landmarks Commission**

*Dusa L. Brown*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**OFFICER, City/County Historic Preservation Officer**



**CURRIE HOUSE**

Photos 1 and 2:

Currie House south facade; tower on southeast corner of house (photos taken in 1999).





**CURRIE HOUSE**

Photo 3: West elevation of house with bay and decorative panels.

Photo 4: Southwest corner of front porch (1999 photos).



**CURRIE HOUSE**

Photos 5 and 6: North, rear elevation of house (1999 photos).



**CURRIE HOUSE**

Photos 7, 8 and 9: Front entry on first floor--staircase and newel post.



Photos 10 and 11:

Second-floor stairs and hall.



Photos 12 and 13:

Front parlor (first floor) fireplace.



Photos 14 and 15:

First floor library window, walls, pocket doors and trim restored and refinished.



**CURRIE HOUSE**

Photos 16 and 17:

Third floor attic and turret.

