

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 **JOHN & SONORA DODD HOUSE**

2. Location

Street & Number 603 South Arthur Street
City, State, Zip Code Spokane, WA 99202
Parcel Number 35201.6612

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 Gerald F & Beverlee J. Numbers
Street & Number P.O. Box 4129
City, State, Zip Code Spokane, WA 99220
Telephone Number/E-mail 953-4503 and numbers@povn.com

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 2003
Location of Survey Records Spokane Historic Preservation Office

Final draft reviewed & recommended by SHLC on November 28, 2007

7. Description

Architectural Classification (see nomination, section 8)	Condition <input type="checkbox"/> _excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _good <input type="checkbox"/> _fair <input type="checkbox"/> _deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> _ruins <input type="checkbox"/> _unexposed	Check One <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	Liberty Park Addition, Lot 23, Block 6.
Verbal Boundary Justification	Nominated property includes entire parcel and urban legal description.

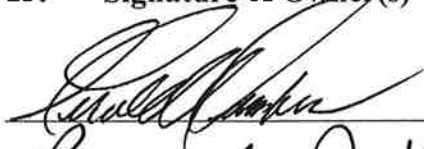
11. Form Prepared By

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	lindayeomans@comcast.net
Date Final Nomination Heard	21 November 2007

12. Additional Documentation

Map	City/County of Spokane current plat map.
Photographs and Slides	Color digital photos on CD-ROM, black & white prints

13. Signature of Owner(s)




Beverly J. Numbers

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.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR, City of Spokane
or

CHAIR, Spokane County Commissioners

CHAIR, Spokane City/County Historic Landmarks Commission



OFFICER, City/County Historic Preservation Officer
City/County Historic Preservation Office
Third Floor - City Hall, Spokane, WA 99201

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

Built in 1913, the John & Sonora Dodd House & Garage are fine examples of the Craftsman style. They are prominently sited on the southeast corner of Celesta Avenue and South Arthur Street, a busy thoroughfare area in the Liberty Park Addition in East Central Spokane, Washington. Craftsman-style architectural features exemplified on the Dodd House are distinguished by the home's 1.5-story residential single-family bungalow form, low-pitched side gable roof, horizontal emphasis with full-width front porch, massive square porch posts, black basalt porch wall, widely overhanging eaves, exposed rafter tails, knee-brace brackets, pointed bargeboards, tongue-in-groove soffit paneling, clapboard siding, original multi-paned and leaded-glass windows, prominent black basalt chimney, and a vesicular black basalt foundation. Interior Craftsman-style features include a spacious living room and dining room, hardwood floors, wide square-cut woodwork, central fireplace with built-in bookcases, formal dining room with built-in bookcases/china cabinets, and boxed beam ceilings. The house is surrounded by a manicured lawn, century-old pine and deciduous trees, and a vesicular black basalt stone retaining wall. Erected in 1922, a two-car garage is located behind the house. It was built into a steep north-facing hillside, is constructed of vesicular black basalt rock, and has a front-gable roof, widely overhanging eaves, knee-brace brackets, and original wood carriage house doors. Exterior modifications to the house and garage are limited to replacement roof coverings (composition shingles) and a small sunroom addition which was constructed on the back of the house. The Dodd House & Garage retain excellent exterior architectural integrity in original location, design, materials, workmanship, and association as a single-family home and double-car garage built in the early 20th-century in East Central Spokane, Washington.

CURRENT APPEARANCE & CONDITION*Site*

The Dodd House & Garage are located on Lot 23, Block 6 in the Liberty Park Addition in East Central Spokane. The lot is sited on a north-facing slope on the southeast corner of the intersection of East Celesta Avenue and South Arthur Street. Like most of the lots in the Liberty Park Addition, the lot measures 50 feet wide and 135 feet deep. The house is framed by a manicured lawn, shrubs, mature pine and deciduous trees, and a black basalt retaining wall. The property is surrounded by a grid work of paved streets and a mixed-use residential neighborhood which is predominately composed of single-family homes built between the late 1880s and 1945, but which also has historic parks (Liberty Park and Grant Park), historic churches, and contemporary multi-family and commercial infill development, some of which has replaced historic homes. In contrast to the Dodd House, many of the original historic homes in the neighborhood have been altered for use as multi-family apartment houses or duplexes.

Garage (1922)

A double-car garage was built in 1922 just behind the Dodd House in the northeast corner of the lot.¹ Set just a few feet from the street, the garage faces north onto East Celesta Avenue with almost no driveway. Built into a steep north-facing slope, the north façade of the garage is exposed at grade while the east, west, and south elevations are mostly covered by the hillside. The garage reveals a combination of basalt rock and wood frame construction, and measures 18 feet wide and 20 feet deep. It has a front gable roof with widely overhanging eaves, knee-brace brackets, and deep bargeboards with pointed ends—all Craftsman-style details that match those on the Dodd House. The roof is covered with composition shingles, the north gable peak is clad with horizontal clapboard siding that matches the clapboard siding on the house, and the south gable peak has a multi-paned wood-sash window which is covered by plywood boards. A pair of original wood carriage house doors opens from the north face of the garage. Well-preserved, the garage retains original location, design, materials, workmanship, and association as an early 20th-century garage built in East Central Spokane.

Rock Walls (1913-1922)

Vesicular black basalt retaining walls outline part of the property which is located on a north-facing slope. A three-to-four-foot-high basalt retaining wall surrounds the house along the north and west property borders at the intersection of Celesta Avenue and Arthur Street. The retaining wall wraps around the northwest corner of the lot and continues east along Celesta Avenue to the west elevation of the garage. An entrance is located in the retaining wall between the garage and the house, and concrete steps lead up from the wall entrance to grade and southwest to the rear east elevation of the house. Another basalt rock wall is located at the rear east border of the property, wraps around the southeast corner of the lot, and extends west along the south boundary of the property. This wall is two to three feet in height and retains a soldier course of sharp basalt rocks which point upward like pointed pickets on a picket fence. Most of the basalt rocks used in the retaining wall and the backyard wall are made of vesicular basalt. In fair-good condition, the original basalt rock walls are nominated to the Spokane Register of Historic Places in this document.

House Exterior (1913)

The Dodd House has an irregular footprint which measures 38 feet wide and 40 feet deep. A small addition is located on the rear, southeast corner of the house and measures 20 feet wide and 10 feet deep. The Dodd House is 1.5 stories in height and has a low-pitched side-gable roof, widely overhanging eaves, tongue-in-groove soffits, exposed rafter tails, knee-brace brackets, and deep bargeboards with pointed tails. The principal roof extends over the front of the house, producing a strong horizontal orientation with a full-width covered front porch. The foundation of the house is made of black basalt rock, the house is clad in horizontal wood clapboard siding, and the roof is covered with composition shingles. Fenestration is original and includes an original wood-paneled

¹ Spokane Building Permit #18114, dated 14 September 1922. Spokane City Hall, Spokane, WA.

front door and a combination of stationary plate-glass, multi-paned wood-sash, diamond-paned leaded-glass windows, and original wood-sash window screens.

West Façade

The façade of the Dodd House faces west onto South Arthur Street and reveals a symmetrical design with a center gable dormer on the second floor and a full-width covered front porch on the first floor. Like the house, the center gable dormer has widely overhanging eaves, exposed rafter tails, and knee-brace brackets. A double-hung wood-sash window pair is located in the dormer. Below the dormer, the covered front porch measures eight feet deep, 38 feet wide, and is supported by thick square wood posts which are anchored to a thick black basalt porch wall. The porch wall encloses the porch and porch deck except for an entrance opening at the center of the porch. Four concrete steps rise from a concrete walkway at grade in front of the house to a wood porch deck which is made of fir planks. The basalt rock porch wall is protected with molded concrete coping. The ceiling on the front porch is made of tongue-in-groove wood paneling. The house is clad with horizontal wood clapboard siding at the west façade at the first floor and at the center dormer. A center front door is located on the first floor under the porch roof, and is flanked by two original tripartite windows. An unusual feature at the home's west façade is a tall pine tree which is located in front of the house, just south of the center front steps. The house must have been built next to the tree when the tree was young with a small trunk, or perhaps the tree was planted too close to the house to grow straight because the tree trunk grew with an "S" curve which curves around the widely extended porch eave.

North Elevation

The north elevation of the Dodd House faces north along East Celesta Avenue and is dominated by a prominent black vesicled basalt rock chimney. The chimney is tapered and extends past the roof through the eave. The north elevation features the gable end of the home's side gable roof, widely overhanging eaves, tongue-in-groove soffit, knee-brace brackets, asymmetrical fenestration patterns, horizontal wood clapboard siding, and a black basalt foundation wall. A small box bay at the first floor projects two feet from the house and is 16 feet wide.

South Elevation

The south elevation of the house features the gable end of the home's side gable roof, widely overhanging eaves, tongue-in-groove soffit, knee-brace brackets, horizontal wood clapboard siding, black basalt rock foundation, and asymmetrical fenestration patterns. A small box bay at the first floor projects two feet from the planar wall surface of the house and is 13 feet wide.

East, Rear Elevation

The east elevation comprises the rear of the house and features widely overhanging eaves, exposed rafter tails, horizontal wood clapboard siding, and asymmetrical

fenestration patterns. Like the west façade, the rear elevation has a center gable dormer at the second floor with a low-pitched roof, widely overhanging eaves, exposed rafter tails, knee-brace brackets, and a pair of 1/1 double-hung wood-sash windows. Located below grade, a cellar door is sited at the northeast corner of the east elevation and opens to an unfinished basement. A single-story sunroom addition with a shed roof is located at the southeast corner of the east elevation of the house. It measures 10 feet deep and 20 feet wide and is clad with horizontal wood clapboard siding like the rest of the house. Multi-paned wood-sash windows illuminate the addition. Concrete steps lead up to a door in the addition.

House Interior

According to Spokane County Tax Assessor records, the first floor of the Dodd House contains 1,474 finished square feet of interior space, the second floor contains 620 finished square feet, and the basement contains about 800 square feet (unfinished).² A wood (fir) front door with four vertical lights in the upper leaf is well-preserved as the original front door of the house and is located on the west façade at the center of the front porch. It retains original brass hardware, including a brass door handle which was textured to resemble natural wood tree bark (a Craftsman-style motif). The front door opens into a large living room which is in the northwest corner of the first floor of the house. The living room has two focal points: 1) a fireplace on the north wall, and 2) a wide spandrel with built-in bookcases at the south end of the room. Centered on the north wall, the fireplace is flanked by two built-in bookcases with glass doors. A wood mantel extends over the fireplace and the bookcases. Small diamond-paned leaded-glass windows are located above the bookcases. The fireplace has a brick surround and a concrete hearth. Molded concrete applied to the face of the surround bricks forms a rough veneer surface over the bricks which resembles basalt rock. The ceiling in the living room has boxed beams which run east-west and north-south. A five-paneled wood door opens from the living room on the east wall to a bedroom in the northeast corner of the house.

A wide spandrel separates the living room from a formal dining room which is located in the southwest corner of the first floor. The spandrel is articulated with a boxed beam at the ceiling and four-foot-tall built-in bookcases/china cabinets with glass doors that open on both sides to the living room and to the dining room. Large square wood posts are anchored to the top surface of the built-in bookcases/china cabinets and appear to support the underside of the spandrel. Like the living room, the ceiling in the dining room also has boxed ceiling beams. The living room and dining room retain original lathe-and-plaster construction, eight-foot-high ceilings, wood floors, and wide Craftsman-style square-cut fir woodwork. The woodwork is currently covered with paint but was originally finished in a walnut color. The wood plank floor is made of a combination of solid oak and solid fir, and has a unique design which simulates a "fir plank rug." A rectangular space 12 feet wide and 15 feet deep is centered on the living room floor and

² Spokane County Assessor's Records. Spokane County Courthouse, Spokane, WA.

is made of fir planks which are stained a rich walnut brown. A similar design which measures 12 feet wide and 12 feet deep is located in the center of the dining room floor. Lighter-colored oak planks surround the darker-colored “fir plank rugs.” Perhaps the fir spaces were designed to be left uncovered as “fir plank rugs,” or the reverse could be true: they may have been designed to be covered with carpet pieces or rugs made of wool or Congoleum, popular interior design choices during the early 1900s.

A door in the dining room opens east into a kitchen which is located in the rear southeast corner of the house. The kitchen features built-in counters and cabinets from a circa 1942 remodel.³ Between the kitchen and northeast corner bedroom is a bathroom, a center service hallway, and an interior staircase. The kitchen opens east to a sunroom addition at the back of the house (built in the 1934⁴).

An interior staircase by the bathroom leads up to the second floor. A central hall is flanked by two bedrooms and a bathroom which were modified for use as an apartment in 1943 (the south bedroom was remodeled into a kitchen, and the hall and part of the east bedroom was remodeled for use as a living room).⁵ The basement is unfinished. The house is heated by forced-air gas which replaced forced-air oil heat.

ORIGINAL APPEARANCE & SUBSEQUENT MODIFICATIONS

Except for a sunroom addition at the southeast rear corner of the house, the original exterior appearance of the home appears to be retained with intact original design, materials, and workmanship as seen today. Modifications to the house include the following:

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| <i>1934</i> | Sunroom addition was built on the southeast rear corner of the house. |
| <i>1942</i> | Kitchen and first-floor bathroom were remodeled. |
| <i>1943</i> | Second floor was remodeled for use as a private suite. |
| <i>1955</i> | Composition shingles installed over original roof (original roof was probably made of wood shingles as was popular in the early 1900s). |
| <i>1990s</i> | Composition shingles installed on roof. |

With few modifications, the Dodd House retains excellent exterior architectural integrity in original location, design, materials, workmanship, and association as a single-family home built in the early 1900s in Spokane.

³ Spokane Building Permit #57751, dated 1 April 1942. Spokane City Hall, Spokane, WA.

⁴ Spokane Building Permit #42552, dated 5 March 1934. Spokane City Hall, Spokane, WA.

⁵ Spokane Building Permit #72430, dated 13 Sept 1943. Spokane City Hall, Spokane, WA.

Areas of Significance	Architecture
Period of Significance	1913-1957
Built Date	1913
Architect	Unknown
Builder of House	Ross Investment Company
Builder of Garage	John A. Morton

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Summary Statement

Built in 1913 and 1922 respectively, the Dodd House & Garage are excellent examples of the Craftsman style. The property was built for John Bruce Dodd, a Prudential Insurance Company agent and Spokane businessman, and his wife, Sonora Smart Dodd, a prominent Spokane artist, poet, civic benefactor, philanthropist, and the founder of Father's Day. From 1913 to 1950, the Dodd House was owned by the Dodd family and gained importance in the areas of significance called "architecture" and "social history" as a fine example of its type (the Craftsman-style bungalow) and as the home of Sonora Smart Dodd, who is recognized around the world as the woman who created and promoted official city and federal recognition of Father's Day. During her tenure in the Dodd House, Sonora Dodd's Father's Day idea was observed throughout Spokane and many cities and towns across America, and was officially sanctioned by the United States Congress through her associations with "dozens of legislatures and governors,"⁶ William Jennings Bryan, Senator C. C. Dill, and Presidents Woodrow Wilson and Calvin Coolidge. Her tireless work while residing in the Dodd House led to an official proclamation signed by United States President Richard Nixon in 1972 which made Father's Day an American holiday observed each year in June by millions of people throughout the country. "Father's Day has grown from a citywide observance to a worldwide holiday...where more than 30 countries now celebrate" the day in honor of fathers everywhere.⁷ Praised for enriching "the religious, civic, and cultural life of Spokane," and for "giving Spokane credit in the eyes of the nation and the world,"⁸ Sonora Smart Dodd's contributions were far-reaching, magnanimous, and were summarized by the *Spokesman-Review* at her death: "Honor for thousands of fathers everywhere and for her home city through [the] establishment of Father's Day is an everlasting epitaph for Mrs. John Bruce Dodd."⁹ Historically and architecturally significant, the Dodd House, garage, and rock walls are nominated to the Spokane Register of Historic Places under Categories A and C.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

In January 1910, John Bruce Dodd, the owner/proprietor of the J. B. Dodd Barbershop at 414 W. Main in downtown Spokane, purchased Lot 23, Block 6 in the Liberty Park

⁶ "Mother of Father's Day Alone and Forgotten at 91." *Milwaukee Journal*, 17 June 1973.

⁷ Beetler, Dianne L. "The Mother of Father's Day." *Modern Maturity*, June-July, 1978, p. 18.

⁸ "Father's Day Gave City Fame." *Spokesman-Review*, 23 March 1978.

⁹ *Ibid.*

Addition for \$1,525.¹⁰ In 1913, John Dodd, and his wife, Sonora Smart Dodd, contacted the Ross Investment Company of Spokane to build a single-family home at 603 South Arthur Street, one block south of Liberty Park, a prominent Olmsted-designed public park and popular city landmark. The estimated cost of construction for the home was reported on Spokane Building Permit #4587 at \$1,800. After moving into their new home, John Dodd worked for Prudential Life Insurance Company as an insurance and sales agent, and Sonora Smart Dodd became engrossed in her work, promoting Father's Day in honor of her father as a locally and nationally observed and recognized holiday throughout the country. In 1922, the Dodds hired John A. Morton, a Spokane carpenter, to build a two-car garage in the northeast corner of the property. The Dodd family owned the property at 603 South Arthur Street for 40 years from 1910 to 1950. In 1950, Albert & Fay Grover bought the Dodd House, and sold it in 1972 to Gerald & Beverlee Numbers, Spokane public school teachers and well-known neighborhood and civic leaders.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

Category B

Category B of the Spokane Register of Historic Places applies to properties associated with individuals whose specific contributions to history can be identified and documented, and which are usually associated with the person's productive life, reflecting a time period when he or she achieved significance. This may be the "person's home...a person's business, office, laboratory, or studio..."¹¹ The John & Sonora Dodd House is nominated under Category B because it is significant as the home of Sonora Dodd, the founder of Father's Day, a nationally observed holiday in the United States. Sonora Dodd lived in the Dodd House for nearly four decades during her adult years which was also the most productive time of her life, a time period in which she successfully petitioned local and federal government sanction of the third Sunday in June to be nationally observed as Father's Day. Official recognition was granted, and Father's Day is a national holiday in America, observed by millions of people throughout the United States and many countries around the world.

Sonora Louise Smart was born in 1882 in Jenny Lind, Arkansas. In 1887, the Smart family with five-year-old Sonora in tow "joined other pioneers, seeking a better life in the West" and settled near Spokane.¹² In 1898 tragedy struck the Smart family when Sonora's mother died, leaving six motherless children ranging from 16 to three years of age.

As the oldest of the family, Sonora recognized the magnitude of the problems confronting her father and tried to do her part in caring for

¹⁰ Spokane County Warranty Deed #267287, book 253, page 461. Spokane County Courthouse, Spokane, WA.

¹¹ *National Register Bulletin 15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*. Page 15.

¹² Beetler, Dianne L. "The Mother of Father's Day." *Modern Maturity*. June-July 1978, pp. 17-18.

her five younger brothers. In admiration, she watched her father work and sacrifice to raise his children. She would never forget his courage and devotion.¹³

By 1909, Sonora Louise Smart had become wife to Spokane businessman, John Bruce Dodd, mother to their only child, John “Jack” Bruce Dodd, and a woman with an idea that touched the lives of millions of people throughout the world. As she sat in church on Mother’s Day Sunday that year, she thought of her father who had taken on the role of both father and mother after her mother died, and decided that fathers deserved recognition just as much as mothers did. She developed the idea of a day called “Father’s Day,” discussed it with her minister, and met with Spokane clergy of the Ministerial Alliance of Spokane. Remembering with affection and thankfulness the examples of love, courage, protection, and selfless devotion shown by her father to her and her five younger siblings after her mother’s death, Sonora Dodd suggested that all fathers be honored on June 5, which was her father’s birthday. Spokane’s Ministerial Alliance liked the proposal but felt Spokane ministers would not have enough time to prepare special “father-honoring” sermons before June 5th of that year. They instead designated the third Sunday in June as Father’s Day.

The *Spokane Daily Chronicle* was the first newspaper in Spokane to publicize the new holiday. City merchants and shop owners like John W. Graham (John W. Graham & Co) used their store windows to display appropriate Father’s Day gifts, and a year later on June 19, 1910, the first city-wide Father’s Day was celebrated in Spokane. Men from the YMCA wore roses to church to honor their fathers (both living and deceased), and Sonora Dodd “rode through town in a horse-drawn carriage and distributed gifts to shut-in fathers.”¹⁴

Sonora Dodd worked tirelessly in Spokane and across the nation during the next six decades to help promote the father-honoring holiday, and newspapers across the country began hearing about her work and the Father’s Day celebrations in Spokane. First observed in churches throughout Spokane, Father’s Day was soon promoted within local, State, and national groups like the Boy Scouts of America, Federation of Women’s Clubs, expositions and world fairs, the International Father’s Day Association, and the National Father’s Day Committee in New York where a “Father of the Year” was elected annually. Sonora Dodd contacted the great United States politician and orator, William Jennings Bryan, to help endorse Father’s Day, and he became one of the first of many political luminaries, legislators, governors, and Hollywood stars to promote the holiday. In the following years, United States Presidents Woodrow Wilson and Calvin Coolidge added their support, resulting in Congressional endorsement and recommendations in 1914, 1916, and 1924.¹⁵ President Wilson sanctioned Father’s Day in 1914 and visited

¹³ Ibid, p. 17.

¹⁴ Ibid, p. 17.

¹⁵ “Father’s Day Founder Dies.” *Spokane Daily Chronicle*, 22 March 1978.

Spokane in 1916 to celebrate Father's Day. President Coolidge recommended Father's Day "be noted in all states" in 1924,¹⁶ and in 1937, a plea for national official Congressional recognition of the third Sunday in June of each year as Father's Day was made to "pay homage and respect to the fathers of America."¹⁷ The Father's Day idea took hold but was not liked by some politicians who thought it would become too commercially oriented. A special effort to have Father's Day officially recognized was made by U. S. Senator Margaret Chase Smith in 1957, and in 1966, Sonora Dodd sent a letter to United States President Lyndon B. Johnson, urging support for congressional action that would make the third Sunday in June a national holiday called "Father's Day."¹⁸ Finally, after six decades of hard work in promoting Father's Day across America, Sonora Smart Dodd was successful in seeing Father's Day proclaimed a national holiday when United States President Richard Nixon signed a congressional proclamation and resolution in 1972. Sonora Dodd's hard work resulted in Father's Day being officially recognized as a national holiday in which all fathers across America were honored the third Sunday of June, a tribute to her own father for whom Father's Day was proclaimed.

In addition to her creation and promotion of Father's Day, Sonora Smart Dodd is also noteworthy for her artistic endeavors in painting, sculpture, and poetry. She studied sculpture and ceramics at the renowned Chicago Art Institute and later taught at the school for a time. She received an education in poetry in California, and in Spokane became a well-known regional poet. Her poem called the "Lilac Way" became the official poem for the Lilac festivities in Spokane. Some of her poems were set to music, and her poem for peace was read at the United Nations. In 1937, Sonora Smart Dodd became part owner of the Ball & Dodd Funeral Home in Spokane and held the position of vice president for more than 30 years. In 1978, Sonora Smart Dodd died at the age of 96. She created and grew the holiday of Father's Day from a citywide Spokane observance to a national American holiday joined by millions of people in hundreds of countries. The *National Inquirer* reported in 1977 that "although she's been a successful business woman, civic leader, gifted painter, poet and ceramics designer as well as mother, Mrs. Dodd said she considers her part in making Father's Day a national holiday the most important thing she's done."¹⁹ At her death in 1978, Sonora Smart Dodd's work was praised and summarized in the following statement: "Honor for thousands of fathers everywhere and for her home city through [the] establishment of Father's Day is an everlasting epitaph for Mrs. John Bruce Dodd."²⁰

¹⁶ *Spokesman-Review*, 17 June 1973.

¹⁷ Leavy, Hon. Charles H. "The Origin of Father's Day." Speech. U. S. Federal Government, 18 June 1937.

¹⁸ "Official Status: Father's Day Sanction Sought by Originator." *Spokane Daily Chronicle*, 13 July 1966.

¹⁹ "The Mother Who Invented Father's Day." *National Inquirer*, 1977.

²⁰ "Father's Day Gave City Fame." *Spokesman-Review*, 23 March 1978.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE***Category C***

Following registration requirements outlined in *National Register Bulletin 15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*, Category C for the Spokane Register of Historic Places applies to “properties significant for their physical design or construction, including such elements as architecture, landscape architecture, engineering, and artwork.”²¹ The Dodd House is nominated under Category C because it “embodies distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction... Distinctive characteristics are the physical features or traits that commonly recur in individual types, periods, or methods of construction. To be eligible, a property must clearly contain enough of those characteristics to be considered a true representative of a particular type, period, or method of construction.”²² The Dodd House is a fine and “true representative”²³ of the Craftsman style. It well illustrates identifying features of the style and is further distinguished with a prominent use of vesicled black basalt rock on the house, garage, and rock retaining walls which surround the property.

Bungalow Form & the Craftsman Style

The Dodd House is a bungalow embellished in the Craftsman style. The bungalow building type is described as a “*form* of house, a type of structure designed in a number of architectural styles; *style* by contrast, is a particular period and genre of design. The bungalow house type is a single-family residence, one or one and one-half stories high, and designed in elevation, plan, and roofline to achieve a horizontal and rectangular emphasis.”²⁴

The American word “bungalow” was derived from the British and East Indian word “bangla” which referred to low, one-story thatched huts with wide verandahs that were built in Hindi East India during British occupation during the 1800s. The 19th-century bungalow became popular with the British and was eventually built around seaside resorts in England. The appeal of the bungalow house form and its more affordable construction cost grew tremendously during both the English and American Arts & Crafts periods in the late 1800s and early 1900s, and was described by Gustav Stickley, a prominent voice in the American Arts & Crafts movement, as “a house reduced to its simplest form which never fails to harmonize with its surroundings...”²⁵ Ideal values attributed to bungalows afforded descriptive adjectives such as “simple, comfortable, nature’s materials-colors-forms, modest, crafted by artisans, integrated with the natural environment, affordable, and art in form and function.”²⁶ The bungalow house form was particularly popular in the United States, especially along the West Coast in areas like

²¹ *National Register Bulletin 15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*. Page 17

²² *Ibid*, p. 18

²³ *Ibid*, p. 18

²⁴ Cigliano, Jan. *Bungalow: American Restoration Style*. Salt Lake City: Gibbs-Smith Publishers, 1998, pp. 10-11.

²⁵ *Ibid*, p. 12.

²⁶ *Ibid*, p. 13.

Pasadena, California. Along with the Craftsman style that was applied to so many bungalows in this trend-setting area along the West Coast, the bungalow house form was sometimes called a “California bungalow” or a “Pasadena bungalow.”²⁷

The Craftsman style has its roots in nature. Natural materials were revered such as indigenous river rocks or field stones, brick (especially clinker brick), hand-split wood shingles, wood clapboard siding, coarse to fine stucco, leaded-glass windows, burnished copper and brass, and hand-forged wrought iron. The liberal use of natural woodwork hand-rubbed to a rich patina was chosen for interior treatments and included oak, ash, walnut, chestnut, tamarack, fir, cedar, mahogany, and other woods. Along with natural building materials, the Craftsman style emphasized horizontal prominence, and designers and architects plied their “tricks of the trade” in achieving this emphasis. Some of these design tricks included the application of architectural forms and elements such as one-and-one-half-story bungalow house forms, low-pitched roofs with widely overhanging eaves, wide bargeboards with tapered or cut-out tails, exposed/extended rafter tails, numerous horizontal bands and string and belt courses that separated siding treatments or the juncture between floors, horizontal rows of windows, solid porch walls, battered walls and porch supports, battered fenestration surrounds, partial or full-width covered front porches, and *porte cocheres*. These architectural details all worked together to accentuate the horizontal emphasis of the house. The Craftsman style was one of the most popular architectural styles in America and dominated domestic architecture from about 1900 to 1930.²⁸

Identifying features of the Craftsman style include a variety of architectural elements which include a bungalow house form, a low-pitched roof, prominent bargeboards, widely overhanging eaves, exposed/extended rafter tails, decorative brackets, battered walls and fenestration surrounds, covered porches supported by battered or square columns, and large porch piers made of wood, brick or stone. Interior features include open floor plans with built-in inglenooks, bench seats, sideboards, cupboards, closets, bookcases, and fireplaces. Natural finished woodwork such as golden or ebony-colored oak or fir is emphasized but painted woodwork was also used. Brick, stone, stucco, and wood are used both inside and out.²⁹

The Dodd House

The John & Sonora Dodd House is a fine depiction of the Craftsman style with distinctive characteristics of the style. Specific identifying elements of the Craftsman style are prominent and numerous on the Dodd House:

²⁷ Duchscherer, Paul. *The Bungalow: America's Arts & Crafts Home*. New York: Penguin Publishers, 1995.

²⁸ McAlester, Lee & Virginia. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Knopf Publishing Co, 1989, p. 453-54.

²⁹ Created with different properties, *stucco* is an exterior finish while *plaster* is an interior finish.

- Documented built date of 1913, which is within the prescribed time period for the Craftsman style (1900-1930)
- Typical 1.5-story bungalow house form
- Low-pitched side gable roof
- Widely overhanging eaves
- Exposed rafter tails
- Knee-brace brackets
- Wide bargeboards with pointed tails
- A full-width front porch which is covered by an extension of the principal roof that helps produce a strong horizontal orientation for the house
- Thick square wood porch posts
- Prominent black basalt rock porch wall
- Tongue-in-groove wood paneled soffits
- Horizontal wood clapboard siding
- Black basalt rock foundation wall and chimney
- Multi-paned wood-sash windows
- Diamond-paned leaded-glass windows
- Solid wood front door with vertical plank design
- Forged brass door handle which simulates natural tree bark texture
- Spacious living-dining room area
- Hardwood floor
- Wide, square-cut woodwork made to appear hand-crafted
- Numerous built-in features (bookcases with glass doors, china cabinets with glass doors)

Located in East Central Spokane, the Dodd House can be compared with hundreds of bungalows which were built in the area during the period from about 1900 to 1930 as described in two historic resource inventories completed in 2004 and 2006.³⁰ As surveyed in the Liberty Park/Grant Park neighborhood in East Central Spokane, most of the historic homes in the area were built as bungalows with vernacular styling. In the context of architecture, “vernacular” means “common” and denotes plain bungalows with little or no embellishment. Typical vernacular homes in the Liberty Park/Grant Park neighborhood include “no frills” examples like the Anderson House built in 1910 at 1215 S. Helena, the Wehtje House built in 1906 at 1608 E. 11th Avenue, and the Shoff House built in 1904 at 1623 E. 11th Avenue. In contrast, the Dodd House is a fine example of the Craftsman style and retains numerous identifying features of the style. The Dodd House is also distinguished for its side gable roof which is in contrast to most of the bungalows built in the Liberty Park/Grant Park neighborhood which have front-facing

³⁰ Yeomans, Linda. *Historic Resource Inventory for Grant Park Neighborhood, 2004*, and *Historic Resource Inventory for Grant Park/Liberty Park Neighborhood, 2006*.

gable roofs. An exception is the Mallery House at 1601 E. 12th Avenue. It has a side gable roof like the Dodd House but in contrast to the Dodd House, the Mallery House has lost most of its exterior architectural integrity due to an application of aluminum siding which covers the house and any distinguishing architectural elements it may have once had. The Dodd House is distinguished as a fine example of the Craftsman style with a side-gable roof and all of the previously mentioned identifying features of the Craftsman-style, including a particularly robust use of vesicular black basalt rock which is featured in the home's front porch wall, foundation wall, chimney, garage, and retaining walls. Black basalt, a common indigenous rock in Spokane, was used extensively throughout homes and retaining walls which were built in the area during the early 1900s. To compare, the use of plain basalt with no vesicles is the norm and is commonly seen, while the use of specifically culled vesicular basalt rock is not as common as plain basalt and thus produces a unique and prominent architectural feature.³¹

Summary

The Dodd House is architecturally significant as a fine example of its type—the Craftsman style, and is historically significant as the home of Sonora Smart Dodd, recognized throughout the world as the founder of Father's Day. The house, garage, and rock walls are nominated for listing on the Spokane Register of Historic Places under Categories A and C.

³¹ Classed as extrusive igneous rock, hot lava escaped from volcanoes and/or cracks in the earth and when cooled, formed black rock called basalt. "Rapid cooling of lava...gives the rock a fine-grained texture" but some lava held trapped gasses which escaped as the lava cooled, leaving small holes, called vesicles, or vesicular basalt. *Modern Physical Geography, Fourth Addition*, 1992.

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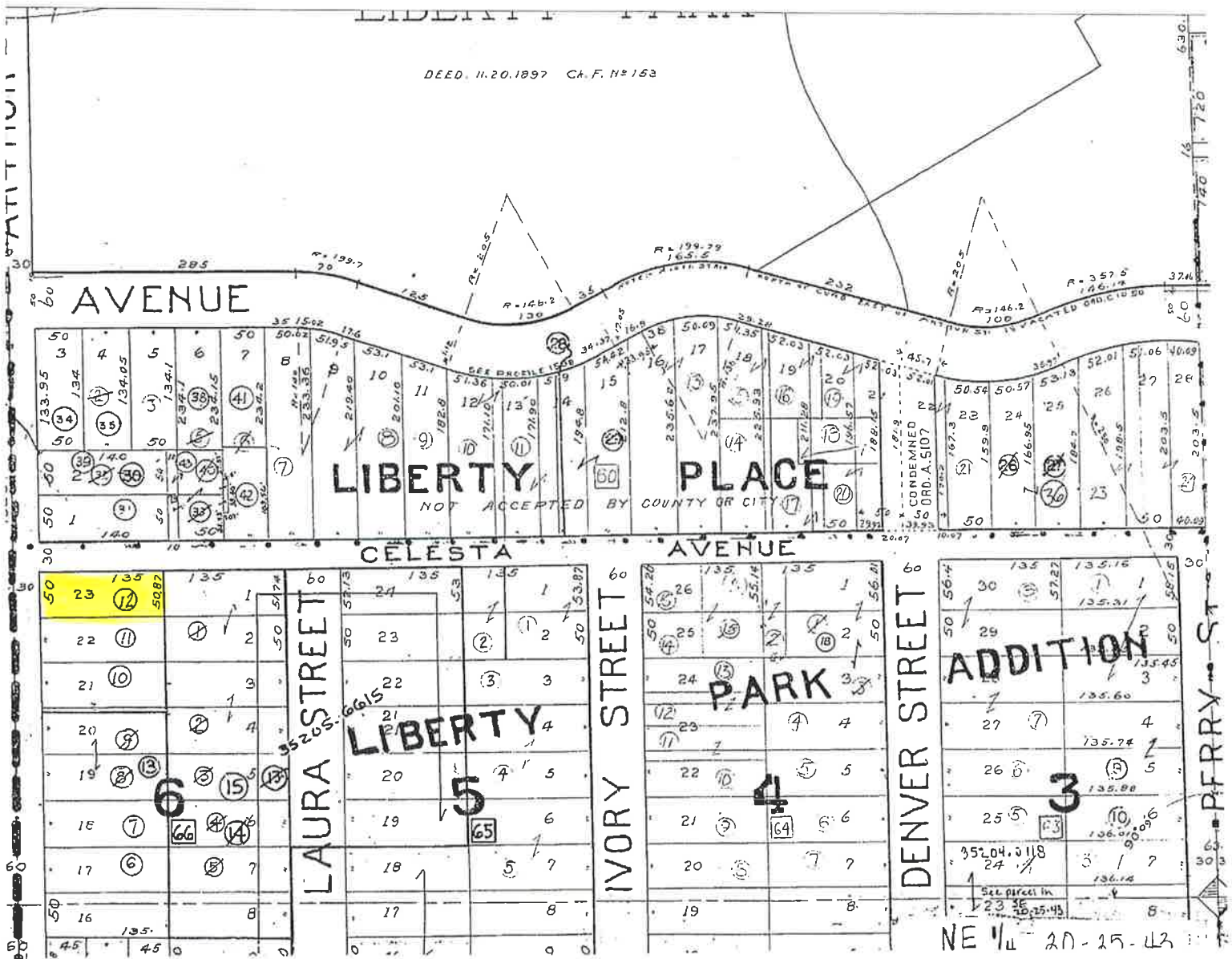
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Spokane City/County Register of Historic Places Nomination Continuation Sheet
JOHN & SONORA DODD HOUSE **Section 9**

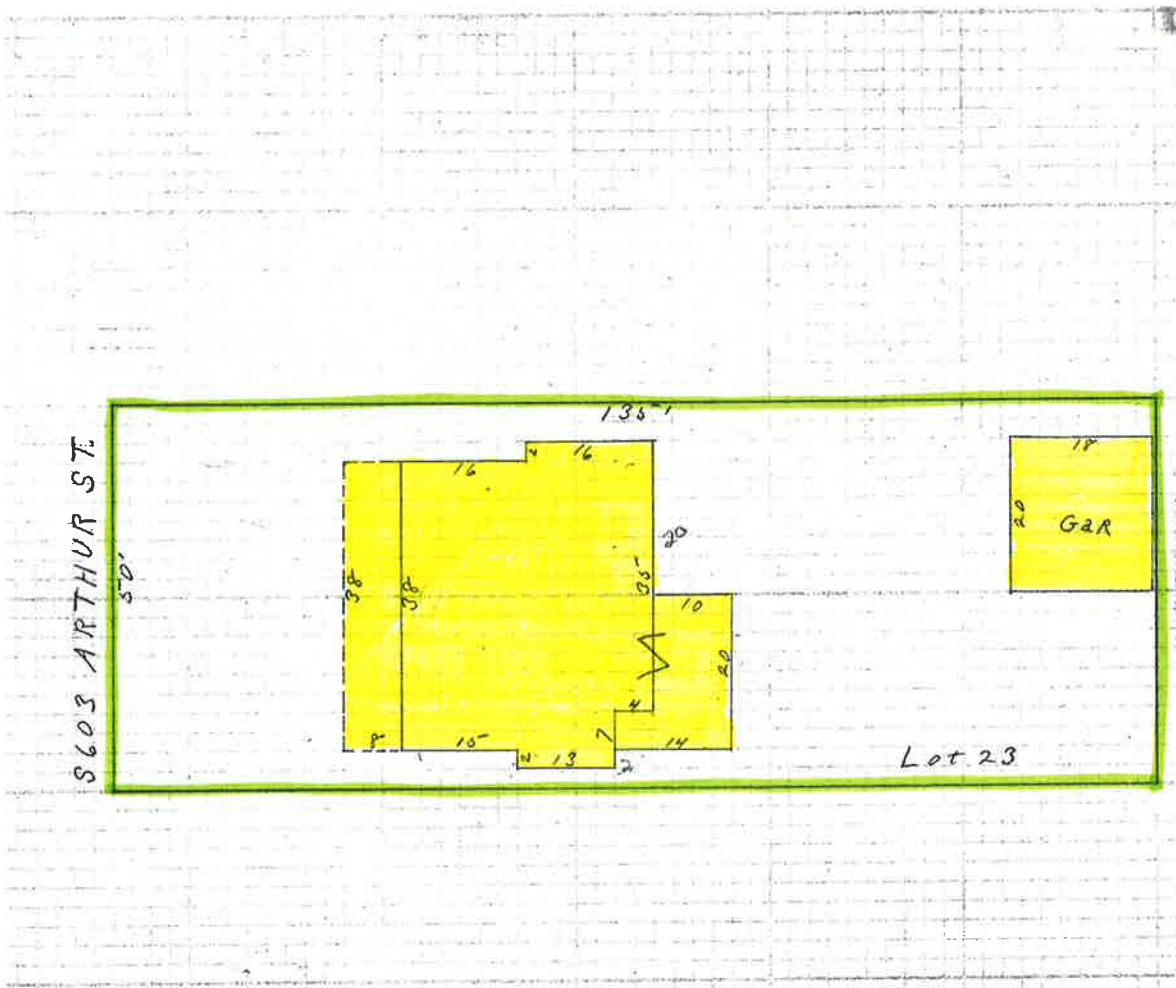
Map Plat map of property (Spokane County plat map) in 2007.



Spokane City/County Register of Historic Places Nomination Continuation Sheet
JOHN & SONORA DODD HOUSE Section 9

Site plan

Site plan of property (Spokane County Assessor) in 2007.



↑
NORTH

Spokane City/County Register of Historic Places Nomination Continuation Sheet
JOHN & SONORA DODD HOUSE

Section 9

Photo 1

1960 photo of west façade of house (Spokane County Assessor).

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Spokane City/County Register of Historic Places Nomination Continuation Sheet
JOHN & SONORA DODD HOUSE **Section 9**

Photos 2 and 3

West façade of house in 2007.



Spokane City/County Register of Historic Places Nomination Continuation Sheet
JOHN & SONORA DODD HOUSE **Section 9**

Photos 4 and 5

West façade of house in 2007.



Spokane City/County Register of Historic Places Nomination Continuation Sheet
JOHN & SONORA DODD HOUSE **Section 9**

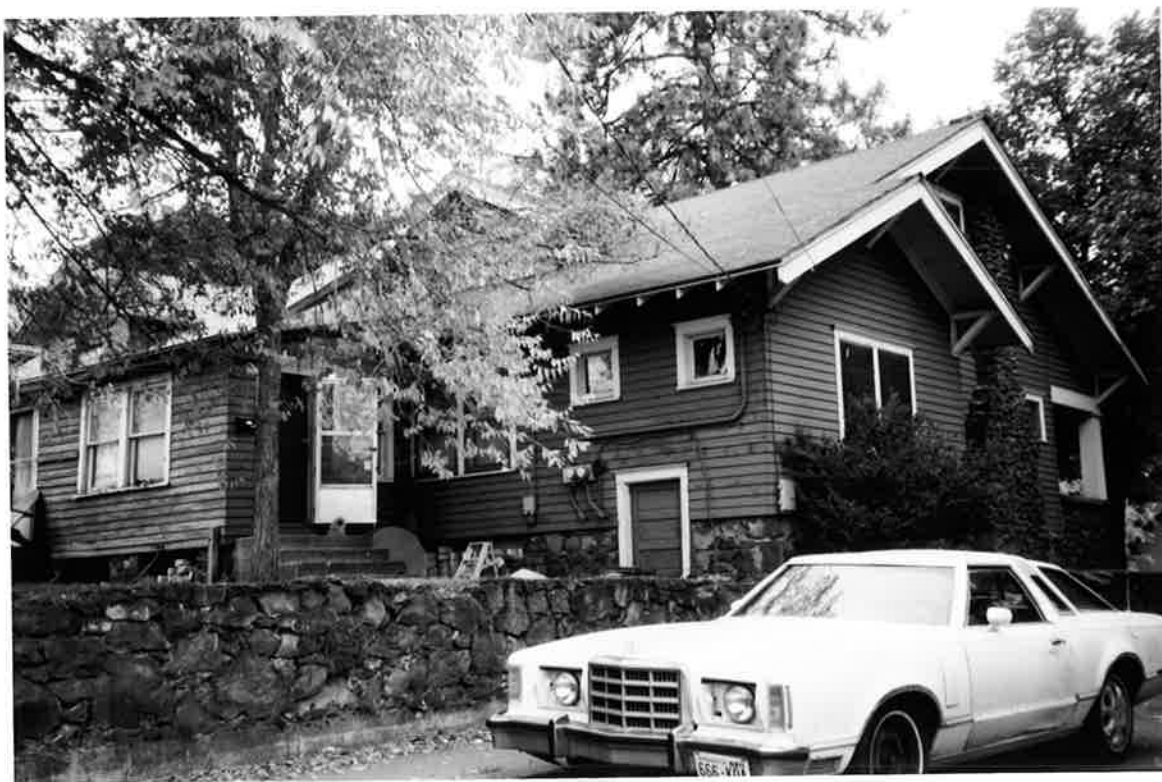
Photos 6 and 7 West façade front porch in 2007, and south elevation in 2007.



Spokane City/County Register of Historic Places Nomination Continuation Sheet
JOHN & SONORA DODD HOUSE **Section 9**

Photo 8

East, rear elevation in 2007.



Spokane City/County Register of Historic Places Nomination Continuation Sheet
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Photos 9 and 10 Garage (north façade) and south elevation in 2007.

