

# Spokane Register of Historic Places

OPR 89-36

*copy*

## Nomination Form

City/County Historic Landmarks Commission  
Fourth Floor - City Hall  
Spokane, Washington 99201-3333

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

### 1. Name

historic Elks Club

and/or common North Coast Life

### 2. Location

street & number W. 1116 Riverside

city, town Spokane \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of

state WA \_\_\_\_\_ county Spokane

### 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

### 4. Owner of Property

name North Coast Life Insurance Company

street & number. 1116 Riverside Avenue

city, town Spokane \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state WA

### 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Spokane County Courthouse

street & number W. 1116 Broadway

city, town Spokane \_\_\_\_\_ state WA

### 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Spokane Landmarks Survey and the Riverside Avenue Historic District

date 1978 & 1979  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Spokane Historic Preservation Office

city, town Spokane \_\_\_\_\_ state WA

PA

## 7. Description

### Condition

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

### Check one

unaltered  
 altered

### Check one

original site  
 moved date \_\_\_\_\_

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The North Coast Life Insurance Company building was formerly the Elks Temple and was constructed between 1919 and 1921. The original architectural plans show that the building was designed by a partnership of Edward J. Baume and Kirtland Cutter. Little is known about Edward Baume, but Kirtland Cutter was the city's most prominent architect at the turn of the century. It is possible that Cutter's part in the project may have been limited to the general theme of the face of the building and to interior design. The contractor was Hurley Mason.

The building is steel reinforced concrete frame with exterior walls of concrete and tile, plastered with ornamental cut stone facing, ornamental stone columns and ornate trim on the Riverside Avenue front. The structure is listed on the National Register of Historic Buildings, and is within the Riverside Historic District. The building has been approved as a "Certified Historic Rehabilitation" by the National Park Service of the United States Department of the Interior.

The Riverside exterior was not changed, except for the restoring of masonry columns, rebuilding of the exterior light fixtures, and replacement of the windows with thermo-pane in new casements which duplicate the old. On the Main Avenue side, at the rear of the building, two glass-enclosed levels were added above the ballroom, giving the building a very modern appearance. Exterior fire escapes were removed. A balcony off the ballroom on the first floor was glassed in, matching the glass levels above. An excellent view of the Spokane River, Falls and of Mt. Spokane is provided from all of these floors.

Major club athletic facilities, such as the pool, were turned into indoor parking but an exercise room was maintained on the garage level with both men's and women's lockers and showers. Athletic facilities are considered very important to North Coast employees, particularly to the noon joggers on the staff. There are thirty-six parking places. The garage is entered from Main Avenue with controlled electronic access. Also on the Main Avenue level are a boiler room and storage rooms with a walk-in vault.

An elevator and two concrete-enclosed fire escapes were installed. The building was made energy efficient with new insulation (there was no insulation originally), a gas-fired boiler and has been completely air conditioned. The electrical, plumbing and mechanical systems are all virtually new.

The entrance lobby was returned to its original design, and the gold highlight was restored. The library is somewhat smaller, because of the installation of an interior fire escape, and the plaster of paris ornamental work along the top of the north wall is completely new, having been reconstructed to identically match the originals on the other walls. The marble in the lobby and hall has been restored and cleaned. The bronze lanterns in the hall have been refurbished and hung back in their original places. Note one of the key design features of the building is that when you walk into the entrance you look down the hall at the tower of the courthouse, which is located at West 1116 Broadway. This building is at West 1116 Riverside. Four false ceilings were removed through much of the first floor, and the original windows on the west side can now be seen. The original stately arches into the ballroom were restored (some had been filled and obliterated) and the wainscoting has been rebuilt. The general outline of the rooms on the first floor, however, remains as before.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1919-21

Builder/Architect Edward J. Baume & Kirtland Cutter

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Listed on the National Register as a contributing property in the Riverside Avenue Historic District, the Elks Club is situated in what is described as one of the most beautiful avenue in any commercial section of Spokane. "Since 1901, this district has increasingly developed a striking individual character in its architecture, usage and atmosphere. The character of the district has been firmly established through the developmental role of each structure in the district. Their individual contributions are of such high quality that the texture of the whole is more than the sum of the individual structures." There is a distinctive sense of history in each of the functional members of this district, which collectively create a strong sense of the pattern development of Spokane's cultural and commercial development.

The Elks Lodge was built at a time when the group was not only the most popular organization in the city, but also among the top ten lodges in the country. Shortly after completion in 1919, the group became the second largest on the West Coast, deferring in size only to the Los Angeles Lodge. During the decades following the group remained one of the leaders of the Elk Organization. The building's ornate but dignified exterior is a tribute to their pride in the Lodge in the first part of the century.

This property was purchased by North Coast Life Insurance and rehabilitated in 1983 as a "certified rehabilitation" and won an "Aware of Outstanding Merit" from the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation in 1984.

### 9. Major Bibliographical Reference

Riverside Avenue National Register Historic District

### 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property Less than one acre

#### Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots 29 & 30, BLK 4 Glovers ADD

#### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state \_\_\_\_\_ county \_\_\_\_\_

state \_\_\_\_\_ county \_\_\_\_\_

### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Scott Brooks-Miller, Historic Preservation Officer

organization Historic Preservation Office

date March 1, 1989

street & number W. 808 pokane Falls Blvd

telephone (509) 456-4340

city or town Spokane

state WA

### 12. Signature of Owner(s)

North Coast Life Ins. Co.  
by C. Alan Ogden, Pres.

For Office Use Only:

Date Received: March 1, 1989

Date Heard: March 15, 1989

Commission Decision: Approved

Council/Board Action: Approved

Date: May 1, 1989

Attest: C. Elizabeth Davidson  
Deputy City Clerk

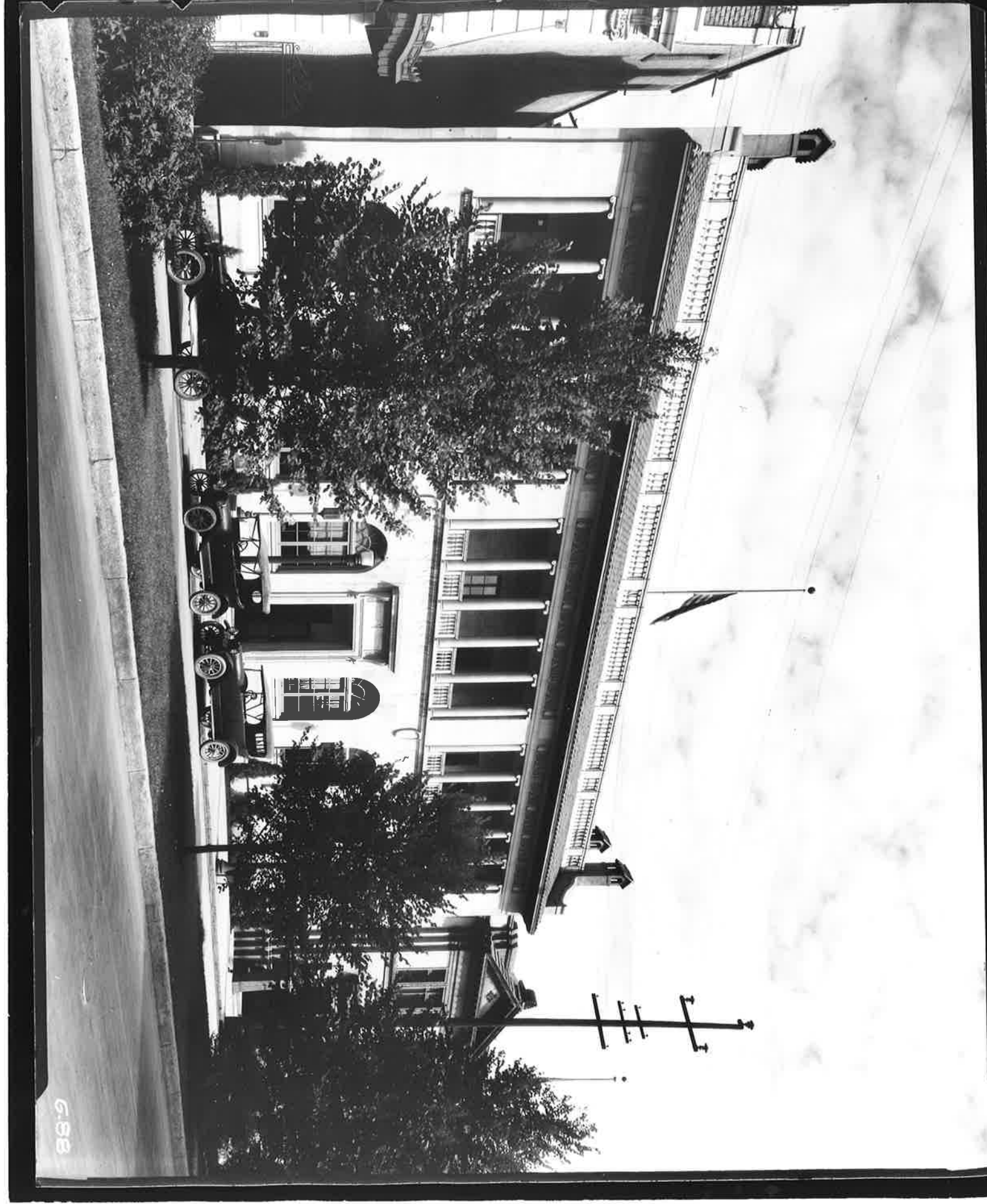
Approved as to form: A. Burns  
Ass't. Corporation Counsel

We hereby certify that this property has been listed on the Spokane Register of Historic Places:

Vicki S. McNeill  
Mayor, City of Spokane or Chair, Spokane County Commissioners

Chris Holthorn  
Chair, Spokane City/County Historic Landmarks Commission

Scott Brooks-Miller  
City/County Historic Preservation Officer



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