

Spokane Register of Historic Places

Nomination Form

JUL 9 1985

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

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic John A. Finch Memorial Nurses' Home

and/or common Finch Hall

2. Location

street & number N. 852 Summit Boulevard

city, town Spokane _____ vicinity of _____

state Washington _____ 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 type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<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 Clarence T. Freeman and Paul J. Allison

street & number W. 3438 Fifth Ave. 99204

E. 11315 44th Ave. 99206

city, town Spokane _____ vicinity of _____ state Washington

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Spokane County Courthouse

street & number 1116 W. Broadway

city, town Spokane _____ state WA 99201

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title _____

date _____

_____ federal _____ state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records _____

city, town _____ state _____

7. Description

Condition		Check one		Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date	1928
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed				

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The John A. (Aylard) Finch Memorial Nurses' Home is in the northwest section of Spokane at N. 852 Summit Boulevard. It is situated at the top of a bluff overlooking and with spectacular views of the Spokane River, Riverside and Greenwood Cemeteries, and High Bridge Park. Finch Hall is equally impressive when viewed from these locations. It is located in what is referred to as the West Boone area, and with the Shriners Hospital for Crippled Children make up the largest commercial/institutional buildings in an otherwise residential area.

The building is a 3½ story brown brick structure of Georgian Revival style. It exhibits hallmarks of Georgian design; rigid symmetry, axial entrances, geometrical proportions, hipped roofs, and sash windows. The Georgian style reflected Renaissance ideals made popular in England by Architect Sir Christopher Wren and his followers, whose work was based on that of Italian architects of the 16th century especially Palladio, who in turn had freely adapted Roman Classical forms. Finch Hall is a restrained 20th century Georgian Revival design.

The symmetry is composed of a central entry pavillion slightly forward from the four bayed flanking wings. The entry is through a pair of doors with single light panels, dominated by a half round compound arch. The half round single light does not appear to be the original glazing. The entry is flanked by narrow four over one double hung sash windows and wrought iron lamp sconces of which the architect was noted for in his ecclesiastical designs. Above the entry arch the brick is in continuous header coursing in stack bond except for a granite panel with the building's name, and at the third floor a six over one double hung sash window is flanked by narrower four over one double hung sash windows. The flanking wings are of common bond brick with flush joints. The windows are six over one double hung sash. Lintels are flat arch.

Basement windows are four paned awnings in alignment with the upper windows. The basement is of concrete with cement stucco wash. The watertable is of half round brick in row lock coursing above the basement concrete. A date stone is at the southwest corner of the building (1928), and is Silver Lake Granite.

The narrower ends of the building have attached ironwork fire escapes that reveal the central corridor on the interior. The rear (north elevation) has a centered seven sided bay at the first floor only with a battlement of pierced brick work in a repetitive cross design.

Below the roofline is a classical entablature made up of an architrave of brick dentil coursing, a frieze of brick sawtooth coursing, and a plain boxed cornice. The roof is of shingle tile broken by dormers in alignment with the lower windows. Dormers are also located on the narrow ends of the hip roofs. The dormers are lit with double, narrow 6 light sash, except over the entry where 3 sash of 6 lights are used in a large dormer. A large chimney rises through the roof at the rear and corbells out near the top through seven courses of brick.

The interior plan represents a cross with the short sides forming the entry and central large room at the rear. This large room opens onto the main hall, entry, stair, and patio outdoors. A delicate terra-cotta fireplace mantel is noteworthy in an otherwise stark interior. French doors lead to the outdoor patio. Interior woodwork is mahogany and while not elaborate, was nicely designed, constructed, and finished. It remains in good condition to this day. The woodwork is consistent from the central room on the first floor to dormitory rooms on the fourth floor. Interior partitions are plaster on clay tile.

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Continuation sheet Description Item number Seven Page Two

Blueprint copies of the original architectural drawings from the University of Oregon Archives reveal the building was originally to be turned 90 degrees, and face the old St. Luke's Hospital. Landscaping remains as the original. The lot to the west of the building was purchased the same year as the building was constructed, and was to be used for a tennis court which remains today.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1928

Builder/Architect Whitehouse and Price Architects

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The significance of this building, built in 1928, is actually threefold; its place as part of a regional medical center, its design by one of Spokane's foremost architects of the first half of the 20th century, and because it is attributed to the estate of John A. Finch, early day mining magnate and philanthropist.

On September 2, 1897 the Spokane Protestant Sanitarium was incorporated. Soon afterwards a hospital of about 15 beds was equipped in a two story frame building at Madison and Riverside. On September 4, 1900 St. Luke's Hospital was incorporated. A nurses' training school was established at that time. At about the same time, property on Summit Boulevard was donated by John A. Finch, and a building fund campaign was started. The new building opened June 22, 1904, and was completed at a cost of \$27,000. It was described as the best medical facility in the City of Spokane. A year later crowded conditions and a need for a separate maternity unit required the construction of a new wing, which when completed was predicted to be the finest facility in the west. In 1929 the John A. Finch Memorial Nurses' Home was completed from funds from the Finch Estate. One hundred twenty thousand dollars was given for construction and furnishing the building, and the result was that the nurses' training school was ranked as among the best in the country. The landscaped lawns and view across the river was thought as especially attractive. On October 11, 1928 a benefit party was held at the Davenport Hotel. Four hundred fifty nine dollars was raised, and was used to purchase the vacant lot to the west to be used for a tennis court. Finch Hall was home to up to 88 students a year from 1928 until 1966. A new St. Luke's Memorial Hospital on 7th Avenue has left the Shriners Hospital for Crippled Children as the only nearby medical facility. Finch Hall was also used in the early 1970's as dormitory housing for Spokane Falls Community College and Spokane Community College students.

The architect for the John A. Finch Memorial Nurses' Home was the firm of Whitehouse and Price. This firm practiced in Spokane for sixty years, and ranged broadly over residential, commercial, institutional, educational, governmental, and ecclesiastical architecture. Whitehouse came from the east to Spokane in 1907. Whitehouse's designs are an effective blend of decorative elements in the romantic craftsman tradition, and a modern spirit that is expressed in the geometric simplicity of the building mass. His most notable work is the Cathedral of St. John's the Evangelist a Neo-Gothic Episcopal Cathedral begun in 1925. He is also credited with the Chamber of Commerce Building designed in 1930. It is a beautiful addition to the row of older buildings in the curving section of Riverside Avenue Historic District. He was an accomplished worker in wood and metal, and his abilities allowed him to be certified a Master Craftsman in Ecclesiastical Metal in 1954. The wrought iron lamp sconces flanking the entry of Finch Hall are evidence of his knowledge and ability in metal. The John A. Finch Memorial Nurses' Home was designed by the firm in 1927. Interestingly, the following are a few of the firm's other commissions in 1927 showing the breadth of their practice. Strahorn Memorial Library, Marengo, Illinois; Delta Delta Delta Sorority House, Pullman; Latah County Jail, Moscow; Ballard Hall, Whitworth College; Kelso Grain Elevator; and Regina Rootbeer Drive-in Stands are but a few of their commissions that year.

9. Major Bibliographical References

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET (Item #9, Page 5)

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1/2

Lots 6,7,8,9, and 27, Block 4, Sherwood, according to plat recorded in Volume "B" of Plats, page 11, in the City of Spokane, Spokane County, Washington; Also the Northwesterly 15 feet of Lot 10 in said Block 4, more particularly described as follows:

Beginning at the most Westerly corner of said Lot 10; thence Northeast along the Northwest line of said Lot to the most Northerly corner thereof; thence Southeast along the Northeast line of said Lot, 15 feet; thence Southwest parallel with and 15 feet distant from the Northwest line of said Lot 10 to the Southwest line of said Lot: thence Northwest 15 feet to the place of beginning.

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Above

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

state	county
state	county

11. Form Prepared By

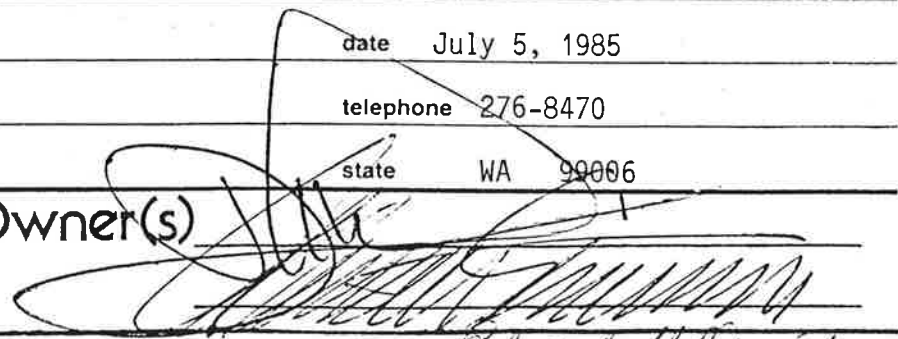
name/title Ernest K. Robeson, A.I.A. Architect

organization _____ date July 5, 1985

street & number P.O. Box 931 telephone 276-8470

city or town Deer Park state WA 99006

12. Signature of Owner(s)



For Office Use Only:
 Date Received: JULY 9, 1985
 Date Heard: AUG 14, 1985
 Commission Decision: APPROVED
 Council/Board Action: ACCEPTED
 Date: SEPTEMBER 3, 1985

Attest: Elizabeth Davidson
 Deputy City Clerk

Approved as to form: Larry Wiseman
 Chief Ass't. Corporation Counsel

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

Joseph E. Blares
 Mayor, City of Spokane or Chair, Spokane County Commissioners

Paul [Signature]
 Chair, Spokane City/County Historic Landmarks Commission

[Signature]
 City/County Historic Preservation Officer

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Continuation sheet

Significance

Item number

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John Alyard Finch was the senior partner in the firm of Finch & Campbell. He was born in Cambridgeshire, England in 1854, and came to the United States with his parents in 1862. He became connected with iron and steel manufacturing in Cleveland and Youngstown, Ohio, and later importing iron from England. In the spring of 1881 he went west to enjoy better business opportunities he believed existed there. In the summer of 1887 he came to Spokane, and began to acquire mining property in the Coeur d' Alene region in connection with Amasa B. Campbell. As associates in mining enterprises Finch & Campbell purchased the Gem Mine, and later developed the Standard Mine, Hecla Mine, and in British Columbia the Enterprise and Standard Mine. He was also an officer and director of many other business enterprises. In 1897 he built his home at West 2304 First Avenue, a Kirtland Cutter design. At the incorporation of St. Luke's Hospital, Mr. Finch donated the land for the development. He died in 1915 at the age of sixty-one. His will provided that forty percent of the estate go to charity, and the other sixty percent to his family. The estate totalled over three million dollars, and was distributed in 1921. One hundred twenty thousand dollars went for construction of the John A. Finch Memorial Nurses' Home. Other benefactors were Finch Memorial Hospital in Pullman, Eastern Washington Historical Society, the Club House at Indian Canyon, and \$250,000 for Finch Arboretum. Mr. Finch was quoted as believing a man who made money in an area should show his appreciation by leaving it some legacy.

SPOKANE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATION FORM

Continuation sheet Major Bibliographical Ref. Item number Nine Page Five

1. St. Luke's Memorial Hospital Archives
2. Building Through Time, The Life of Harold C. Whitehouse 1884-1974,
Woodridge, Sally B., American Lives Endowment, Portola Valley,
CA, 1981.
3. Spokane and The Inland Empire, N.W. Durham, Clark Publishing, 1912, p. 277
4. Map of Spokane, City Engineer, T. E. Irish Jr., 1929.
5. Spokesman Review, April 4, 1948.
6. Spokane Chronicle, July 22, 1977.
7. Spokesman Review, June 12, 1928.
8. Where the Washingtonians Lived, Lenggenhager and McDonald, Superior
Publishing Co., Seattle, WA, 1969.
9. Campbell House, Bean, M., Campbell House Committee, Eastern Washington State
Historical Society, 1965.
10. John A. Finch Memorial Nurses' Home Working Drawings, Blueprint Copies,
Whitehouse and Price, University of Oregon Archives.