

# Spokane Register of Historic Places

## Nomination Form

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

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

### 1. Name

historic Lang Building

and/or common Jockey Club

### 2. Location

street & number N 115 Washington Street

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

state Washington 99201 county Spokane

### 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" 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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<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 Jockey Club Investments

street & number S 25 Altamont

city, town Spokane \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state Washington 99202

### 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Spokane County Courthouse

street & number W 1116 Broadway

city, town Spokane \_\_\_\_\_ state Washington 99201

### 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic Landmarks Survey: A Report and Site Inventory of Jockey Club Investments Spokane's Historic Resources

date June 8, 1984 May 31, 1979 \_\_\_\_\_ federal \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ county  local

depository for survey records None City Planning Department, 2nd Floor  
City Hall

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

# 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 Lang Building is located at N. 115 Washington Street with the building front facing east. At the present time, the building's immediate neighbors include a drive-in banking facility to the south across the alley and a series of small one story shops to the north.

The Lang Building is a modest three story commercial structure of red brick laid primarily in header bond. The building measures 52 feet x 60 feet and has a stone foundation. Giving the building its character is the facade along Washington Street. This facade has two massive half-round arches at the third floor spaced by a semi-circular arched window. Segmental arched windows with radiating voussoirs are used at the second floor. There is other minor surface ornamentation above the building's third floor windows and the building piers have corbelled buttresses. Other than these stylistic elements the building exterior is rather plain. Along the west and south walls, six segmental arched windows are situated at both the second and third floors. The building's north wall lacks any windows or ornamentation. The roof of the building is flat with two skylights opening to the third floor.

Renovation of the Lang Building began in 1979. The wood frame windows were replaced with metal frame ones. The exterior brick was sandblasted and repointed and the street level store front was removed. The building's renovation has yet to be completed and the street level store front remains boarded up.

At the same time, the interior of the building was completely gutted leaving little of any architectural value. A new stairway was added in the building's southwest corner facilitating sealing off the two southernmost windows on both the second and third floors of the west wall. The clay tiles of the roof line were also restored.

# 3. Significanc

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> military	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input 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** Built 1890 **Builder/Architect** Builder: M. Lang & Co.  
 Architect: Worthy Niver

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Lang Building was constructed by M. Lang & Co., in 1890 and designed by little known architect, Worthy Niver. The building was a part of the rebuilding effort that occurred following the Great Spokane Fire of 1889. Although a small, rather plain structure, the building stands as a fine example of the architecture of that period. The Lang Building was originally built for the hall and offices of the popular Civil War veterans organization--The Grand Army of the Republic.

Following the devastating fire that swept through Spokane's central business district in 1889, the people of Spokane soon began to see an opportunity to build a bigger and better city. They had a spirit of optimism about their city that the future proved was well founded. The Lang Building was a part of that rebuilding effort following the fire. New construction took place not only on the 32 blocks destroyed by the fire but throughout the city as well. It involved both homes and businesses and was the greatest spurt of construction activity ever seen in Spokane's history. One year after the fire, the Spokane Falls Review estimated that a total of \$5,973,000.00 had been spent on new construction. By January of 1891, that figure had grown to \$8,266,600.00.

The Lang Building's most noteworthy occupant was the Grand Army of the Republic. The Grand Army of the Republic or GAR was formed following the Civil War as an organization for veterans of the Union Army. The Lang Building or the Grand Armory Hall, as it came to be known, served as the weekly meeting place for the GAR from the building's completion until 1893 or 1894. The GAR's membership included many notable Spokane pioneers such as J.M. Comstock. Comstock was an active member of the GAR, but he is best remembered as a founder of the Crescent Department Store and as a former mayor of Spokane. Comstock Park on the city's South Hill is named in his honor. The GAR has a long and proud history in Spokane. Their organization is most widely remembered for its appearance in parades and its member's visits to local schools to discuss the Civil War with the schoolchildren. The group's membership slowly dwindled in number through the years. Its last surviving member died in 1946 at 101 years of age.

Designed by architect, Worthy Niver, the building is simple and somewhat austere with the exception of the large arched windows and corbelled buttresses of the building front. The small brick structure is most distinguished by its simplicity and use of elements that tie the building to the past. Worthy Niver practiced in Spokane from 1890 to 1892. During this short time, Niver designed two other buildings in Spokane, in addition to the Lang Building. These include the Title Building at W. 614 Sprague which was demolished in 1979 and Westminster Congregational Church (National Register) at S. 407 Washington which Niver designed jointly with noted Spokane architect John K. Dow.

# Major Bibliographical References

1. City Plan Commission. Historic Landmark Survey. Spokane
2. Hyslop, Robert. Spokane's Building Blocks. Spokane: privately published, 1983.
3. Mann, Larry. Birth of a City: Spokane 1871-1915. Unpublished, available Eastern Washington State Historical Society.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than one

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The South 52 feet of Lot 1 in Block 16 of Resurvey in addition to the town of Spokane Falls, Spokane County, Washington. (see map)

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

state N/A county \_\_\_\_\_

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

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Michael Shiosaki

organization Inland Pacific Engineering Co.

date July 1984

street & number S 25 Altamont

telephone 535-1410

city or town Spokane

state Washington 99202

## 12. Signature of Owner(s)

Jockey Club Investments  
by: James M. Frank

For Office Use Only:

Date Received: July 11, 1984

Attest: Clifford Davidson  
City Clerk (Deputy)

Date Heard: Aug. 29, 1984

Commission Decision: Recommend Designation

Approved as to form:

Council/Board Action: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Pat Dale  
Ass't. Corporation Counsel

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

Lance E. Chase  
Mayor, City of Spokane or Chair, Spokane County Commissioners

Sally S. Reynolds  
Chair, Spokane City County Historic Landmarks Commission

Janice H. Rutherford  
City/County Historic Preservation Officer

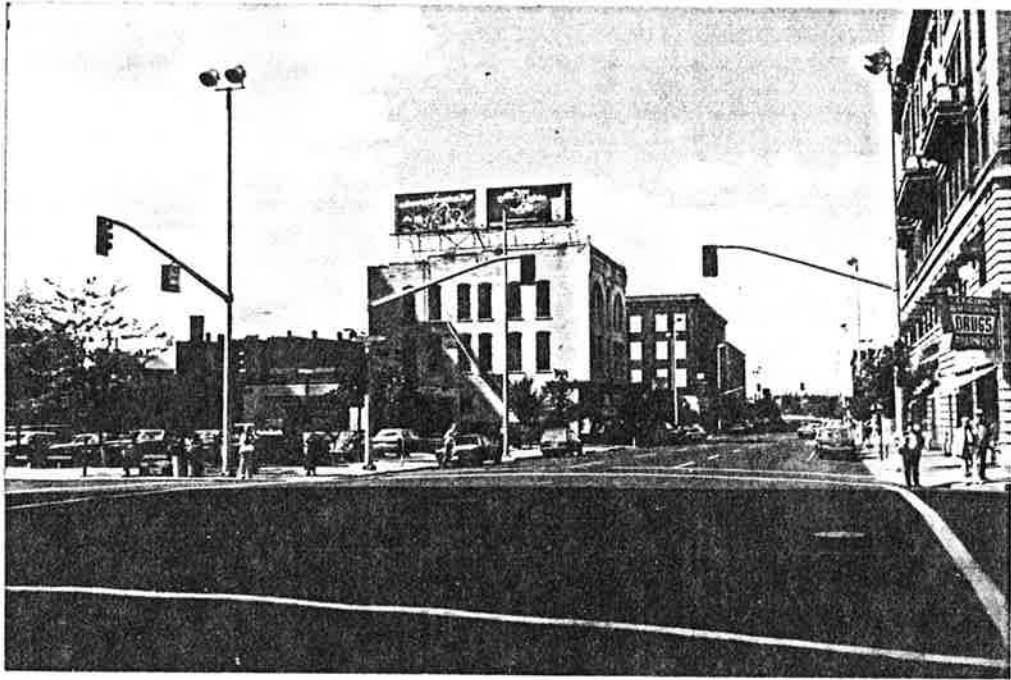




Looking northwesterly across Washington Street at the southeast corner of the subject. Alley adjoins property on south, then drive-in banking facility.



Looking southwesterly across Washington Street at the northeast corner of subject. The Paulsen Office Building looms at left. The Old National Bank Office Building at right. A series of small stores/shop adjoin subject to the north.



View looking northerly along Washington Street (across intersection with Riverside Avenue) with subject in the center of photo.



View looking southerly along Washington Street, across intersection with Main Avenue.



A more distant view of the subject looking southwesterly. The Paulsen and Old National Bank Buildings loom above the subject.



