Spokane Register of Historic Places Nomination

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

1. Name of Property		The second
Historic Name And/Or Common Name	Edward Louis Powell House	
2. Location Street & Number City, State, Zip Code Parcel Number	1728 West 1 st Avenue Spokane, WA, 99204 25241.0305	Shared Street
3. Classification Category Ownership of Property X buildingpublicsite	Status of Property X_occupied work in progress Accessible yes, restricted x_yes, unrestricted no Present Use of Property agricultural commercial park educational residential religious scientific industrial industrial transportation other	100 mg
4. Owner of Property Name Street & Number City, State, Zip Code Telephone Number/E-mail	Shannon Rhoades & Louie Flores, III 1728 West 1 st Avenue Spokane, WA 99204	TOWNS.
5. Location of Legal Descrip Courthouse, Registry of Deeds Street Number City, State, Zip Code County	Spokane County Courthouse 1116 West Broadway Spokane, WA 99260 Spokane	
6. Representation in Existing Title Date Depository for Survey Records	g Surveys City of Spokane Historic Landmarks Survey Federal_X State County Local Spokane Historic Preservation Office	The same of the sa

7. Description Architectural Classification	THE MISSING THE PARTY OF THE PA	
(enter categories from instructions)	Condition	Check One
(onser categories from histractions)	excellent	unaltered
	X good fair	\underline{X} altered
	deteriorated	Check One
	ruins	X original site
	unexposed	moved & date
Narrative description of present and origin sheets.	al physical appearance is j	
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8. Spokane Register Criteria a	nd Statement of Sign	ificance
Applicable Spokane Register of Historic I	laces Criteria-mark "v"	in one or more boxes for the
criteria qualifying the property for Spoka	ne Register listing:	
X A Property is associated with events to of Spokane history.	hat have made a significant	contribution to the broad patterns
X B Property is associated with the lives	of persons significant in or	I nest
<u>C</u> Property embodies the distinctive c	naracteristics of a type neri	nd or method of construction an
represents the work of a master, or	oossesses high artistic value	S Of represents a significant and
distriguishable entity whose compo	nents lack individual distin	etion.
D Property has yielded, or is likely to	yield, information importan	t in prehistory history.
Narrative statement of significance is found	l on one or more continua	ion sheets.
9. Major Bibliographical Refe	rances	
Bibliography is found on one or more conti	nuation chaote	
	The streets.	
N.W. Durham, Spokane and The Inland Emp	ire. Edward Louis Powell	Volume 11
N.W. Durham, <i>Spokane and The Inland Emp</i> S.J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1912 pp 48	9-490	
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Justification: The nominated property encompasses the entire urban tax lot that is occupied by the E. L. Powell House.

11. Form Prepared By

Name and Title

Shannon Rhoades & Louie Flores III, Owners, June 2003

Organization

Telephone Number/E-mail

(509)747-9700

Street and Number

1728 W. 1st Ave.

City, State, Zip Code

Spokane, WA 99204

Date

12. Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A city map indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property and streetscape.

At least 8 color slides of the property and streetscape.

Application Fee

\$25.00 for residential property/\$50.00 for commercial property.

13. Signature of Owner(s)	
14. For Official Use Only:	
Date Received:	Attest:
Date Heard:	
Commission Decision:	Approved
Council/Board Action:	as to Form: Sum Assistant City Attorney
Date:	
We hereby certify that this proper Historic Places.	rty has been listed in the Spokane Register of
CITY ADMINISTRATOR, City of	of Spokane
CHAIR, Spokane County Commis	ssioners
CHAIR, Spokane City/County His	storic Landmarks Commission
OFFICER, City/County Historic I	Preservation Officer

City/County Historic Preservation Office Sixth Floor - City Hall, Spokane, WA 99201

Narrative Description

Summary Statement

The E. L. Powell House, built in 1899, represents master architect Loren L. Rand's interpretation of the restrained Queen Anne style of architecture. The home remained a single-family residence until 1954, when the second floor interior was remodeled to accommodate apartments. The remainder of the interior, and all of the exterior character-defining features retain excellent integrity, making the Powell House significant both as a superior example of the style, and as an outstanding example of Rand's skill and artistry. The house is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as a contributing property in the Browne's Addition National Historic District, but it is also eligible for individual listing on the Spokane Register of Historic Places.

Current Appearance in 2003

Site

The E.L. Powell House is located on the north side of West First Avenue on corner Lots 7 and 8, Block 4 in Browne's Addition. Platted one-and-one-quarter miles west of Spokane's central business district, the neighborhood is distinguished by tree-lined streets and turn-of-the-century homes built around the turn of the twentieth century on single or multiple 50-foot-wide lots. Situated on the northeast corner of First and Oak, the primary elevation of the Powell House faces south onto First Avenue. Its street address is W. 1728. The home is set behind a cultivated lawn that slopes slightly downward toward the street. A detached two-car carriage house is located at the rear of the property in the northwest corner of the lot. Directly across from the Powell House on the south side of First is the Glover House at W. 1725. The Glover Home is the oldest known house in Browne's Addition; originally owned by the founder of Spokane, it was moved to its present location in 1890.

Exterior

The two-story house is a restrained Queen Anne style. This home exemplifies the salient features of the Queen Anne style. There is a vertical, dignified quality, which separates it from other Victorian styles, which are more horizontal in feeling. An all-embracing pyramidal hipped roof, with eaves running together to a climactic peak, pulls the composition together. A prominent cross gable at the façade features a half-moon recessed balcony. This roof form is characteristic of the most common shape subtype of the Queen Anne style, and the hipped roof with lower cross gables is "among the most

distinctive Queen Anne characteristics." The Queen Anne style can be further subdivided into subtypes by decorative detailing, and the Powell House exhibits characteristics of both the spindle work and free classic subtypes, though in a restrained manner. The upper balcony features balustrades, mimicking the first floor's porch balustrades and the rear porch's finales. Such ornamentation is a hallmark of spindlework Queen Anne homes. Original narrow wood clapboard siding covers the exterior walls of the house, and original windows are asymmetrically placed. Most of the windows have decorative leaded-glass upper lights. The house rests on an ashlar stone foundation.

Exterior (cont.)

On the south elevation there is a quintessential Queen Anne covered wrap-around porch on the first floor. The porch has classic colonial details, characteristic of the free classic subtype, including round pillars and a pedimented gable entry. On the gable entry there are two wood floral carvings. Huge round columns set on square bases support the porch. Under the porch roof, but visible from the street, is a bay window. To the west of the porch is a large ornate picture window featuring decorative leaded glass upper lights, with intricate woodwork crowning the top. The west elevation features a bay window flanked by smaller fixed windows with decorative leaded glass lights. On the north elevation is a separate small covered entrance that leads directly to the second floor apartments. Continuing further east is another narrow covered porch accessing a rear entrance to the home, which opens directly into the butler's pantry. On the east elevation is an intimate garden area with two sets of bay windows. The second floor south elevation features a row of decorative brackets.

Interior

The stately oak front door has a large fixed leaded glass window below a small swing out window on top. The front parlor is notable for the tall ceilings crisscrossed by original box beams, the fret medallions, the red brick fireplace, and a prominent oak stairway.

Just to the west of the front door is a bay window with built-in bench seats, in front of a gas-burning fireplace. Tri-fold French doors are located further west, leading into a large foyer. The foyer has a four-panel bay window, with a full bathroom, linen closet, and a walk-in closet. Inside the massive foyer to the south is a stairway leading to either the second floor, or south into the kitchen. To the south, another set of French doors, topped with very intricate fret medallion, leads into a massive 17 x 14 foot dining room. The

¹ Virginia and Lee McAlester, A Field Guide to American Houses (New York: Alfred Knoft, 2002), 263.

dining room's centerpiece is an eleven-foot built-in oak hutch, with original pull knobs. To the west of the dining room there is an original oak swing door in perfect working order. On the other side of the swing door is the butler's pantry, opening into the kitchen. The kitchen measures 9 x 8 with a separate full bath/laundry room at the southwest corner. A flight of narrow stairs designed for use by servants leads up from the kitchen to the second floor or back into the front parlor, and another flight of stairs leads down to the basement.

Original Appearance

The original appearance of The Powell House has been preserved for over 100 years. It retains excellent integrity found in the original design, footprint, and floor plan of the first floor. All of the exterior character-defining features are intact, including original materials such as the clapboard siding, ornamental woodwork, leaded-glass windows, doors, and clinker-brick chimneys.

Alterations

In 1954, Sam Jordan and his wife Constance, then the owners of the house, spent \$1,000 to change the home's second floor interior plan to accommodate apartment units. They converted the original rooms into four small apartments with baths. Such changes are common—indeed nearly universal—in the historic homes in Browne's Addition and do not detract from eligibility for listing on the Spokane Register. The only other change to the property came in 1914, when contractor E. J. Morin erected a two-car garage for the Powells for \$500. It was subsequently rebuilt in 1947 for \$200.

The E. L. Powell House is an excellent example of the Queen Anne style as executed by the hand of Loren L. Rand. For the Powell's, Rand elaborated on a common Queen Anne form by mixing decorative elements from different subtypes in an elegantly subtle way. The home retains a high degree of integrity, so that it embodies the distinctive characteristics of its type and period, while at the same time it is a fine representation of the work of one of Spokane's master architects.

Areas of Significance	Architecture	
Period of Significance	1800-1899	
Significant Dates	1899	
Architect, Designer, and/or Builder	Loren L. Rand, Architect	

Statement of Significance

Summary Statement

The E. L. Powell House, built in 1899, possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. While it is already listed on the National Register of Historic Places as a contributing property within the Browne's Addition National Historic District, it is also eligible for individual listing on the Spokane Register under criteria A, B, and C. The Powell House is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of Spokane's history and so is eligible under Criterion A. It is also associated with the life of a person—Edward Louis Powell—in Spokane's past, making it eligible under Criterion B. Finally, the Powell House is eligible under Criterion C (architecture) as a good example of Queen Anne style architecture and as the work of master architect Loren L. Rand.

Historic Significance

Early Spokane

When James N. Glover and Jasper N. Matheny set out to establish a town in the Inland Northwest in 1873 they found a likely spot along the Spokane River Falls, and bought out squatters at the site with the aim of establishing a trading post and saw mill. By 1877-78 Glover engaged a surveyor to lay out blocks for the future city he envisioned, but in 1880 the young town of Spokane Falls was still only a collection of wooden shacks with a population of some 350 people. Over the course of the next decade, however, Spokane Falls (name changes in 1891), begin to realize its potential as a regional distribution center; the Northern Pacific Railroad reached town in 1881, and by 1883, when the line became transcontinental, it could connect to markets east and west. Population reached around 5,000 by 1885, and 12,000 by the decade's end. By the turn of the 20th century, Spokane's status as the hub of the "Inland Empire" was assured; nine railroads, five of them transcontinental, ran through the city, bringing in goods from abroad and carrying regional products—lumber, agricultural commodities, and other forms of wealth—to distant markets. Population growth continued apace. In 1900, the population of Spokane

totaled approximately 36,000 and by 1910 it surpassed the 100,000 mark. But Spokane's emergence as a

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regional distribution center was not without its setbacks; in August of 1889, a devastating fire leveled most of the central business district, destroying 32 city blocks.²

This fire, and the rebuilding effort that came in its wake, marked a pivotal moment in the city's history. The Great Fire of 1889 destroyed the city, certainly, but in another sense the blaze represented a rite of passage that confirmed Spokane as a major city of the American West. Historian Katherine Morrissey explains:

Because of the many fires in nineteenth-century cities and towns, tales of destruction and rebirth had long been incorporated into progressive stories of urban growth. By the late nineteenth century, fires had become defined as part of the maturation process for a "young city." Central to these narratives was the Chicago fire of 1871 and the dramatic rebuilding of that city. In their private and public writings, Spokane Falls residents compared their situation to this nationally identified disaster. The well-known story of the Great City rising from the ashes fostered a sense of confidence in an eventual rebirth. In some senses, the blaze validated Spokane Falls—other great cities had experienced great fires, therefore Spokane, which had now experiences a great fire, would emerge as a great city. It had been "tested by fire."

The resurrection of the city transformed the landscape in short order and already in 1890 Spokane hosted the Northwestern Industrial Exposition to show off its rebirth as well as the natural resources of its hinterlands.⁴ By year's end, Spokanites looked back at what they had accomplished in wonder and with a deep sense of pride. The headline for the December 31, 1890 issue of the *Spokane Daily Chronicle* touted the city's progress:

THE WONDERFUL CITY OF SPOKANE How It Sprang, at a Bound, From a Scant Hamlet to a Bustling City.

ITS TIDE OF PROSPERITY WILL NEVER RECEDE.

Its Population and Its Wealth Rapidly and Steadily Increasing

⁴ Ibid., 57-59

² William Stimson, A View of the Falls: An Illustrated History of Spokane (Northridge: Windsor Publications, Inc., 1985), 20-47.

³ Katherine Morrissey, *Mental Territories: Mapping the Inland Empire* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1997), 46.

ONE OF AMERICA'S NOTABLE COMMUNITIES

Spokane Register of Historic Places Nomination Continuation Sheet E L Powell House Section 8

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A Review of Building Operations for Eighteen Short Months—A Record So Marvelous as to Almost Exceed Belief....⁵

E. L. Powell and other civic leaders committed to rebuilding Spokane and establishing it as a major metropolitan center during these pivotal decades built stately architect-designed homes to confirm their status as a local elite. The location of choice was on a bluff just west of the central business district in Browne's Addition, Spokane's first neighborhood.

Browne's Addition

In 1878, early Spokane pioneers John J. Browne and Anthony M. Cannon arrived in the small town of Spokane. Together, they purchased land from James N. Glover and deonated Coeur d'Alene Park and Browne's Addition, Spokane's first and finest residential neighborhood. J. J. Browne, a successful attorney, banker and real estate developer, preempted a quarter section (160 acres) of wooded, level land west of downtown Spokane along the bluff overlooking the confluence of Hangman Creek and the Spokane River. There, he platted his property following a grid-design surrounding a centrally placed, ten-acre park, named Coeur d'Alene Park, and called the area Browne's Addition. Browne's newly platted neighborhood offered oversized lots, panoramic vistas, green space, and mature pine trees to prospective buyers. Eventually, a school was built, sewers and streets were laid, and a streetcar carried passengers to and from downtown. The close proximity to Spokane's central business district, and the availability of platted and improved land appealed to Spokane's wealthy mining magnates, railroads and lumber barons, merchants and bankers. They bought lots in Browne's Addition and hired professional architects and builders to construct the sort of homes they felt befitted their status. These ranged from lavish high-style homes to less pretentious bungalows.⁶ The E. L. Powell House is an excellent example of one of these homes and reflects the taste and desires of Spokane's early affluent elite. The house was designed by architect L. L. Rand in the Queen Anne style and built in 1899, during the height of the community's development.

Edward Louis Powell

Edward Louis Powell was born in Portsmouth, Ohio, on August 12, 1851. In 1862 he emigrated with his family to Oregon Territory, where he was educated as an engineer.

⁵ The Spokane Daily Chronicle, December 31, 1890, 1.

⁶ Linda Yeomans/Spokane City/County Office of Historic Preservation, "Historic Resources Survey: Browne's Addition Historic District," 2001-2002.

For a time, Powell worked on the Southern Pacific Railroad, before health problems forced him to select a different occupation. In 1871 he moved to Walla Walla, before settling in Waitsburg, where in 1881 he erected the first brick store building for his merchandising business. In 1889, the year of The Great Fire, Powell arrived in Spokane and established a retail grocery store. He rebuilt after the fire and prospered, and in 1896 organized the Boothe-Powell Company, wholesale grocers. In 1900, Powell pulled out of Booth-Powell and established a competing company, Powell, Roberts, and Finley Co. Meanwhile, Booth-Powell evolved into the Boothe-McClintock Co. in 1903, which became McClintock-Trunkey in 1908 and emerged as one of the major grocery wholesalers in the city. Powell's new business also met with success and also became one of the largest wholesale grocers in Spokane. Reorganized as Powell-Sanders in 1904, the firm was particularly well-known for its "Le Roi" brand of coffee.

In addition to his economic pursuits, Powell also sought political power. He was elected to the State Legislature and served in the House during 1891-92. Next, he was elected Spokane's mayor, serving in 1893-94, during what one early historian of the city called "the most trying period in its history," when Powell's leadership "was really the initial step in the establishment of good civic government in this city." Powell's civic pride and activism was also evident in his participation in various fraternal, athletic, and other organizations. 9

By the turn of the twentieth century, then, Powell had achieved the political and economic goals he had set for himself. He had been elected to the highest office in the city, and established a thriving business. In 1900 he had a three story brick structure erected in the central business district to serve as the headquarters of the newly organized Powell-Sanders Co. During the previous year, following the lead of his competitors Robert McClintock and Harvey Trunkey, who built large homes next door to one another across from Coeur d'Alene Park, Powell also built a stately home in Browne's Addition to symbolize his arrival in the elite. He selected architect Loren L. Rand to design it for him.¹⁰

⁷ N. W. Durham, *History of the City of Spokane and Spokane County, Washington*, Vol. II (Spokane: S. J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1912), 489-90.

⁸ Durham, 489-90; Robert Hyslop, *Spokane's Building Blocks* (Spokane: Standard Blueprint Co., 1984), 182, 238.

⁹ Durham, 490.

McClintock had renowned Spokane architect Kirtland Cutter design a Queen Anne style home for him while his brother-in-law and partner Trunkey's home was in the Colonial Revival style. Both were built in 1898. Hyslop, 182, 238; Spokane City/County Office of Historic Preservation Inventory Forms for the Powell-Sanders Building (DTC 164), McClintock-Trunkey Buildings (DTC 173 & 174), McClintock and Trunkey Houses (BA 133 & 134) and Powell House (BA 009).

Architectural Significance

Architect Loren L. Rand, 1851-1935

Architect Loren L. Rand was trained at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and practiced in Michigan and Minnesota before arriving in Spokane in 1888. His timing could not have been better, coinciding, as it did, with a two-decade building boom in Spokane that book ended the turn of the twentieth-century. In this environment, Rand soon made a name for himself and established a practice with offices in the Rookery Building on Howard and Riverside, where he continued his work up to within a few years of his death in 1935. Rand is probably best known for the many schools he designed in Spokane, especially Lewis and Clark High School. His notable commercial structures included the Main Street Addition to the Crescent, the Marble Bank (demolished), the First Presbyterian Church, and the Grand Coulee Building. Early in his career, Rand often partnered with J. K. Dow. Together, they designed some of the first buildings erected after the Great Fire, including the Tidbal and Bennett Blocks. Later, they teamed to design the Masonic Temple. Rand's residential designs were often executed in the Queen Anne style, whether he worked alone or with Dow. Houses designed by Rand and Dow in the Queen Anne style included the Sargent House (1890), France House (1890), and Vinton Massey House (1895). Working alone, Rand designed the Sylvester Heath House (1899) in the Queen Anne style. Perhaps the best indication of Rand's preference for Queen Anne style homes is the fact the house he designed for himself reflects the influence of the style. It is not surprising, therefore, that Rand worked in the Queen Anne style when Powell contracted him to design a home. 11

Queen Anne Style of Architecture

The Queen Anne style of architecture predominated from roughly 1880 to 1900, though it persisted to some degree during the following decade. It was first named and popularized by Richard Norman Shaw and other 19th century British architects and spread rapidly to the United States, where the advent of the railroad, popular architectural pattern books, the availability of cheap sawn lumber for decorative elements, and the adoption of the balloon framing technique of building all helped to popularize it. The term Queen Anne is something of a misnomer, as Shaw and his followers drew on models from the Elizabethan and Jacobean eras, rather than on the Renaissance architecture popular during Queen Anne's reign (1702-14) in developing the style.¹²

Identifying features of Queen Anne homes include irregularly shaped, steeply pitched roofs, typically with a dominant front-facing gable; patterned shingling; various devices like cutaway windows designed to avoid a smooth walled appearance; and asymmetrical

¹¹ Spokane City/County Office of Historic Preservation, inventory form database and vertical files: "architects;" Polk's City Directories, Spokane, 1895-1935.

Virginia and Lee McAlester, A Field Guide to American Houses (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2002), 263-268.

facades with either partial or full-width porches usually one story high and extended along side walls. Various subtypes of the style exist, which can generally be divided into subtypes based on shape and those based on decorative elements.¹³

For Powell, Rand rendered what has been called a "restrained" Queen Anne style house. In terms of shape Rand drew on the most common of the four principal subtypes: hipped roof with lower cross gables. In terms of style, however, the Powell house is more unique. Rand drew on both the spindlework and free classic subtypes, evident in the delicately turned porch supports and classical columns, respectively, but both forms of ornamentation are used more judiciously than is typical in other more ostentatious Queen Anne style homes (hence the term "restrained").¹⁴

The Powell home remained in the family after E. L. Powell's death—by 1915 his daughter Gerda moved in to the house with her husband James Rigsby, who was the president and treasurer of the Powell-Sanders Co. They built a garage to accommodate the advent of the automobile, but otherwise the home remained the same. Dora lived in the house with them until her death in 1920.

In 1954, owners Sam and Constance Jordan altered the second floor of the Powell House to accommodate apartments. Otherwise, the house remains much the same today as it was during its period of significance, when it served as the home of the mayor of a city that was just emerging in the wake of a great fire to assume its place as the regional transportation and distribution center of the Inland Northwest.

Builder/Architect: Loren L. Rand

Loren L. Rand was a resident of Spokane for 47 years and was widely known in his profession. A native of Massachusetts, Mr. Rand was educated at Massachusetts Institute of Technology and came to Spokane in 1888.

Among some of the earlier residences Mr. Rand designed in Spokane were those of Judge Nash House (E. 1624 South Riverton), Comstock/Shadle houses (W. 1118 and 1128 9th), Clough House (W. 1406 9th), H.N Belt-on Riverton (demolished), Sylvester Health House-on E. Mission (demolished), E.L. Powell (1728 W 1st Ave), and the first four-story building erected after the great fire of 1889, known as the Tidball block (now demolished). Included among other structures he designed (in full or in part) were the First Presbyterian church, Main Street addition to the Crescent store, Spokane Dry Goods building, Masonic Temple, Bump Block/Carlyle Hotel, Bennett Block and Marble Bank Building (now demolished). Mr. Rand also designed many of Spokane's academic

¹³ Ibid., 263.

¹⁴ Ibid.

structures including Lewis & Clark High School, Franklin and Jefferson schools as well as many other which have since been demolished.

A member of the Masonic lodge, Mr. Rand belonged to Oriental lodge and the Shrine. He was also a member and past president of Sons of the American Revolution. His mother is a descendant of Josiah Bartlet, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence.

In 1935, Mr. Loren L. Rand passed away in his Spokane home, located at N1215 Nettleton. He was 83 years old.

























