

SPOKANE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Nomination Form

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

Type all entries--complete applicable sections

1. Name

~~Taber~~ Otto House

historic

and/or common

The Ott House

2. Location

street & number S. 1910 Upper Terrace

city/town Spokane

vicinity of

state

Washington

county Spokane

3. Classification

Category

district

☒ building(s)

structure

site

object

Ownership

public

☒ private

both

Public Acquisition

in process

being considered

Status

☒ occupied

unoccupied

work in progress

Accessible

☒ yes: restricted

yes: unrestricted

no

Present Use

agriculture museum

commercial park

educational ☒ private residence

entertainment religious

government scientific

industrial transportation

military other:

4. Owner of Property

name Samuel and Jane Joseph

street & number S. 1910 Upper Terrace

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

date

__ federal

__ state

__ county

__ local

depository for survey records

city, town

state

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The E.G. Taber house, situated on a .6 acre lot on the corner of 19th and Upper Terrace Avenues, is a two-story, Craftsman-style residence. Designed by W.W. Hyslop, its construction began in the fall of 1910 and was completed in 1911. The Taber house appears to have been one of the first residences built in the fashionable Rockwood neighborhood, once the "exclusive" frontier of the City of Spokane.

The house reflects the Craftsman style, particularly in its windows, rooflines, and interior detail. Both the interior and exterior retain a high degree of their original integrity of design and detail. The residence has lap siding, with large overhanging eaves. There is a porch which wraps around the east and south elevations. Granite blocks of varying size face the lower three feet of all elevations; granite is used to define the porches as well. Two large "picture" windows flank the main entrance. Most other windows utilize single-pane, double-hung construction. Five such windows surround the northern first floor elevation. The roof is covered with composition shingles believed to be 5 to 10 years old. The soffits under the roof eaves are of beaded board, as is the porch ceiling. The overhanging porch roof is supported by three large wooden pillars which sit directly on the granite porch walls. The pillars reflect a recessed panel design.

The main entry door is quarter-sawn oak with three horizontal panels. The upper third of the door has a beveled glass window. Opening onto the southern side of the wrap-around porch are a pair of quarter-sawn oak French doors. On the southwest corner of the house sits another porch with a granite foundation (in poor condition). Its roof is supported by three square wooden pillars with wood banisters and railing surrounding the small porch. The oak door leads to the kitchen. On the west side, an entrance door of painted wood provides access to the basement. All doors are original.

The broad horizontal lines of the first floor eaves define the second floor. The windows of the second floor are framed by widely angled gables. Windows are grouped in pairs on the north side and the southeast front room. The east and west sides have groups of three double-hung windows. The remaining two windows on the south side are new and were replaced by the previous owner.

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Through the main entry way, one encounters a small foyer. There is an original oak built-in closet/armoire. The narrow-board hardwood floors extend throughout the first floor, except in the family room and bath. The large living room features a green, brick tile hearth surrounding the fireplace and a quarter-sawn oak mantle. Oak trims the windows and door moldings. Doors are also quarter-sawn oak and follow the three-or five-panel motif throughout the home. A large pocket door separates the dining and living room. An oak plate rail defines the walls of the dining room. An ornate original light fixture hangs in the dining room and matches two sconces in the living room.

Leaving the living/dining room area, one enters a back hall which houses the only stairway to the second floor. It also serves as the entry to three rooms: a large family room, a bath and kitchen. The family room was created in approximately 1987 by removing the walls of two bedrooms and a large linen closet (as seen on the original plans). Its walls are papered to a picture molding with a frieze above, as are all of the upstairs rooms. The bath contains the original claw foot tub and a Craftsman style, built-in cupboard. It contains original, chrome light fixtures.

The kitchen, which is slated for remodeling in late May 1992, is quite large. The eat-in section was created by the former owners c. 1988 by removing the pantry walls and some of its cupboards. One section of the original pantry remains and will be kept intact. There is a large picture window which matches those on the front of the house. However, this actually represents a change from the original two double-hung windows. Light fixtures are not original to the kitchen, but are in keeping with the Craftsman style.

The stairway leading upstairs is plain and painted white fir with an oak banister. It is Craftsman style. It leads to a large upstairs hallway which connects four bedrooms and one bath. According to the original plans, the master bedroom was first connected to the smallest bedroom, which was used as a dressing

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area. There are two bedrooms on the west side of the house, one smaller and characterized by gables. The other is much larger and originally had two closets and a secondary chimney passing through the room. In 1991 that chimney and the nearest closet were removed; the space created was used to make a small bathroom. All wood baseboard and picture moldings had been removed from this room; these have been replaced to match the original. The second floor bath was originally only a water closet and backed onto a sleeping porch. The former owner's removed that wall and made a larger bath/shower area; in the process, a crank-type window was installed, as can be seen above the back porch in the attached photo.

The present owners have made many cosmetic changes to the interior, such as skim coating walls, wallpapering, returning wood moldings where the originals had been removed. In 1990 the old oil burner was replaced with a more efficient gas furnace, drain pipes were installed in the basement floor to cure a water problem, and one side of the basement was finished as a playroom/office. The present kitchen is being remodeled, with plans to remove back porch and enclose the space as a mud room.

Of importance also is the interesting land upon which this residence sits. The house itself is on the corner of 19th Avenue and Upper Terrace Road. The lot to the south adjoining the house is forested, with a stream running through it. Near the 10 foot rock wall which acts as a southern property line, there is a creek willow, more than 20 feet in circumference. It is believed that this tree attained its huge girth because of the natural spring that supplies the stream. The stream and forest are the topics of conversation for many passersby. Although the site originally included three lots, the Ott's sold the northwestern lot in the 1960s. This area was said to have been the formal garden of the home. There is a garage tucked into the southwestern property line. It is original to the house. The interior consists of tongue-and-groove paneling. The original shake-shingle roof was replaced in 1991 with composition shingles which match the roof of the main house. The original sliding door was replaced in 1988 with a modern garage door.

8. Significance

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

Specific dates 1910

Builder/Architect W.W. Hyslop

Statement of Significance (In one paragraph)

Reflecting the influence of the popular turn-of-the-century Craftsman style, the E.G. Taber residence is also significant for its historical associations with architect W.W. Hyslop, who practiced in Spokane between c. 1900 and 1917. Completed in 1911, the house was designed for E.G. Taber, chief engineer for the Spokane International Railway from 1907 until c. 1940. In addition to Taber's significant role in the development of the Inland Empire, the residence is noted for its associations with Anna Stratton Browne, widow of Spokane pioneer J.J. Browne and Taber's second wife, and with Margie May Ott, renowned pianist and musical instructor.

The E.G. Taber home was designed by W.W. Hyslop in 1910. Hyslop worked as an architect in Spokane from c. 1900 until his death in 1917. Particularly well known for his residential designs, his work was distinctive, often emphasizing imposing rooflines. Hyslop's innovative designs are comparable to those of K.K. Cutter, particularly in style, quality and durability. According to his son, Robert Hyslop, his homes were always comfortable and convenient. A sampling of his work in Spokane is included as Appendix A.

W.W. Hyslop was raised in Minnesota. He began his architectural career in Butte and Anaconda, Montana in 1895, and first arrived in Spokane in 1897. Although Hyslop left Spokane in 1898 to work in Honolulu, Hawaii (until June 1899), San Francisco and Minnesota, he returned to Spokane in 1900. Initially practicing on his own, he opened an office in the Fernwell Building, where his father-in-law, Harry Skinner, also had an office. Skinner served as building engineer for the Fernwell.

In 1903-1904 Hyslop moved his offices to the Peyton Building, forming a brief partnership with C. Harvey Smith. He also worked for a brief time (1905-1906) as partner in the firm of Hyslop and

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White, with Ferris White. From 1906 until 1911, Hyslop operated out of the Rookery Building as W.W. Hyslop, Architect. In 1911 he joined Fred Westcott; their firm was known as Hyslop and Westcott. With the decline of Spokane's building industry during World War I, Hyslop commuted to jobs in Anaconda, Montana (1915-16). He returned to Spokane in 1916 in very poor health, and died the following year. According to records maintained by his son, Robert, Hyslop completed approximately 200 jobs during his career. Of these, approximately 150 were residential buildings, with almost 130 in Spokane alone.

Serving as chief engineer for the Spokane International Railway from 1907 to c. 1940, Edward G. Taber and his first wife, Christina, commissioned W.W. Hyslop to build a home at what is now S. 1910 Upper Terrace; construction began in the fall of 1910. The Tabers moved into the home in early 1911. The Tabers had no children, and Christina died in the spring of 1924.

In 1927 E.G. Taber married Anna Stratton Browne, J.J. Browne's widow. J.J. Browne and Anna came to Spokane in 1878 when the tiny community of Spokan Falls had only a few white pioneer families. Browne was a prominent lawyer and prosperous businessman with interests in Browne National Bank, streetcar lines, the Spokane Chronicle and the Auditorium Theater. He also served on several school boards. The Brownes lived for several years in Browne's Addition, an area named for Mr. Browne, before moving to a stately home on Moran Prairie. This home later burned.

J.J. Browne died suddenly in 1912. It has been postulated by Mrs. Margie May Ott that the Tabers and Brownes were social friends. When J.J. Browne died, he left very little in his estate for his wife. Mr. Taber may have married her in order to ensure that she would be well taken care of in her later years. Anna Browne Taber was approximately 71 years old at the time of the marriage.

Anna Browne Taber was as much a pioneer as her husband, J.J. Browne. She came to Spokan Falls when there were few families here and lived through poverty to become prosperous. She had seven children by J.J. Browne, as well as twelve grandchildren

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and seven great-grandchildren. She was renowned for her kindness to the Indians, caring for many when they came to her with their ailments. She was also a noted storyteller. Anna Browne Taber and E.G. Taber lived together in the Upper Terrace house until September 1936, when Anna died. E.G. Taber continued to live in the house until his death in 1946. Having had no children, the house was inherited by his niece, Jessie Taber Duthie of Montana. In that same year, she sold the house to a couple from Florida, James and Gertrude Brightwell. They owned the house for two years, making several changes to the house before deciding to remain in Florida because of Spokane's cold winters. The Brightwells' changes included closing off the second floor sleeping porch. It is also believed that they screened in the front porch; this was later removed.

In 1948, the Brightwells sold the house to Franklin and Margie May Ott. Franklin was a wheat farmer and farm equipment store owner in the Palouse. Margie May remains a renowned pianist and teacher. To this date she has been teaching almost 60 years. She attended Mills College in California and the Juilliard in New York City. There she studied with Moritz Rosenthal, the last living pupil of Franz Liszt, and served as professional assistant to her famed teacher, Olga Samaroff-Stokowski. Mrs. Ott has taught at Washington State, Gonzaga University, Fort Wright, Whitworth College, and Thailand's Payap University. She tells many stories of how students would come to the Upper Terrace house and sit and wait in the living room which was situated with the dining room (studio) in view. Classes were held in the dining room where two grand pianos occupied the entire room! Mrs. Ott has taught thousands of students in Spokane and around the world, and many of her students are now renowned musicians and recording artists.

Also active in Spokane's musical circles, Margie May Ott hosted many of the Symphony's guest performers at parties in her home on Upper Terrace following their engagements. In 1949, Artur Schnabel played at the Post Theater and then celebrated with the Otts and 120 others until 3 a.m. Claudio Arrau visited on two different occasions and entertained the Otts' friends and students. Others who have entertained here include Eugene List, a pianist at the Potsdam Conference in 1945; his wife, Carroll

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Glen, a concert violinist; Garrick Ohlsson; Glenn Gould; and the Philadelphia String Quartet. Today Margie May Ott remains active, teaching, lecturing and "being" in the musical scene of Spokane. She lives with Franklin, now retired, at E. 1427 Overbluff Road.

After nearly forty years, the Otts sold the house in 1986 to Bill Gregorak. He lived in the house approximately three years. In 1989, Gregorak sold the house to Samuel and Jane Joseph, the present owners.

23a-9

9. Major Bibliographical References

Spokesman Review: Sept. 25, 1910 August 19, 1979
June 1, 1929
Sept. 4, 1936
Feb. 20, 1946 (continued)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property six tenths of an acre

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots one, two, and three in Block 6 of Manito Park's Second
Addition to the City of Spokane

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

state

county

state

county

* Lot 3 was sold in the 1960s and now has another house on it.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jane Joseph

organization Homeowner

date May 26, 1992

street & number S. 1910 Upper Terrace

telephone 747-1519

city/town Spokane

state WA

23a-10

City/County Historic Landmarks Commission
Sixth Floor - City Hall, Spokane, Wa.

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Northwest Room Spokane Main Library:

By the Falls, Women of Determination
Spokane City Directories
Cultus Club Scrapbook 1927-37
Landmarks Commission Survey

Mr. Robert Hyslop
Mrs. Margie May Ott

23a-11

12. Signature of Owner(s)

Gene A Joseph

Samuel G Joseph

For Office Use Only:

Date Received: 6-1-92

Date Heard: 6-17-92

Commission Decision: Approved

Council/Board Action: Approved

Date: JUL 27 1992

Attest: Barilyn J. Montgomery
City Clerk

Approved as to Form:

Julie Schubert
Ass't City Attorney

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

Sheri Barnard

MAYOR, City of Spokane

or

CHAIR, Spokane County Commissioners

Robert Ogden

CHAIR, Spokane City/County Historic Landmarks Commission

Katherine W. Darnett

City/County Historic Preservation Officer

APPENDIX

Appendix A

@ Indiana & Monroe
2009 Pacific
1905 W. 2nd Ave.
180 S. Cannon St.
1821 N. Monroe St.
927 W. 6th
920 W. 7th
928 W. 7th
E. 34 8th
2001 W. 8th
1319 N. A St.
1115 S. Grand
403 Waverly Place
525 W. Waverly Place
615 W. Waverly Place
709 W. Waverly Place
2913 N. West Oval
434 Park Place
402 W. Cleveland
704 W. Cleveland
734 W. York
508 E. Rockwood Blvd.
605 E. Rockwood Blvd.
831 E. Rockwood
S. 1910 Upper Terrace
812 E. Syringa
2827 N. Summit
2509 W. Summit
2026 W. 9th
528 E. 14th
715 W. 14th
835 W. Cliff
220 E. Mission

The Monroe Block (demo)
The Avenida Apts.
The Elm Apts.
The Marlboro Apts.
The Monrovia Apts.
Graham Home
Sutherland Home
Reinhardt Home
Martin Home
Markham Home
Mack Home
Kaiser Home (demo)
Rockwell (Budwin) House
Fox House
Miles House
Skinner Home
Hyslop Home
Laber (Thomason)
Tooker House
Baylor House
Havermale House
O'dell Home
Grant House
Gibbs House (The Rockwood House)
E.G. Taber Home
Drake House
Howell House
Paine House
Fleming House
Folsom House
Graves House
Henry House
McDonald Milk House



















