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Nettleton's Addition in Spokane Now State's Largest National Historic District

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NETTLETON'S ADDITION, LOCATED IN SPOKANE'S WEST CENTRAL NEIGHBORHOOD, HAS RECENTLY BEEN LISTED ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES—IT'S NOW WASHINGTON STATE'S LARGEST NATIONAL HISTORIC DISTRICT. Nettleton's Addition is named for William Nettleton, whose work in Spokane and the Midwest facilitated westward expansion by rail. The neighborhood was among Spokane's earliest streetcar suburbs catering to the housing needs of the emerging turn-of-the-century middle-class. Seventy percent of the current housing stock was built prior to 1910. Nettleton's Addition was added to the Washington State Heritage Register in June 2005.

The historic district nomination was initiated by the West Central Neighborhood Council using Community Development Block Grant funds. The neighborhood group recruited Seattle-based developers Nitze-Stagen, the Washington State Office of Community Trade and Economic Development, and Spokane Preservation Advocates as financial partners. West Central neighborhood and Spokane Preservation Advocates volunteers and City-County Historic Preservation Office staff supported the project through in-kind donations. Diana Painter of Painter Planning and Preservation prepared the nomination.

William Nettleton founded Duluth, Minnesota, and Superior, Wisconsin, in the 1850s before moving to Spokane in 1883. Nettleton donated 65 acres to secure the Northern Pacific Railroad eastern terminus in Duluth. When the Northern Pacific arrived in Spokane in 1883, Nettleton purchased 260 acres from the Northern Pacific and platted the land for sale in 1888. Nettleton also developed 130 acres in St. Paul, Minnesota, which is now a historic district. In Spokane, Nettleton worked with adjacent property owners, John Sherwood and William Pettet, co-founders of Washington Water Power, to develop streetcar lines in Nettleton's Addition.

The majority of homes are bungalows built by the Chamberlin Real Estate and Improvement Company and the Ballard Plannery. These developers built over 400 homes throughout the region, the highest concentration in Nettleton's Addition, where Chamberlin lived. Chamberlin also developed areas of Los Angeles, Denver, and Salt Lake City.

A Nettleton's Addition Historic District website can be found by Googling "Nettleton's Addition" or by following a link from the Spokane City-County Office of Historic Preservation at www.historicspokane.org. The website documents the history of Nettleton's Addition specifically and Spokane in general and includes photographs, maps, PowerPoint presentations, a virtual tour, and links.



Above: Homes in Nettleton's Addition, one of Spokane's earliest streetcar suburbs and now Washington State's largest National Historic District. (Photos courtesy of Aimee Flinn)

Above left: The City of Auburn and the White River Valley Museum have worked together to preserve the 1897 Hay Barn on the Mary Olson Farm. (Photo courtesy of Holly Taylor)