

# Nettleton's Addition Historic District

**W**illiam Nettleton, for whom Nettleton's Addition in West Central Spokane was named, was born in 1822 in Ashtabula, Ohio. In 1850, he relocated his family to the wild shores of Lake Superior, at the headwaters of the St. Louis River. He was instrumental in founding Duluth, MN, and Superior, WI, the Twin Ports of Lake Superior, and donated 65 acres in Duluth for a depot to secure those cities as the eastern terminus of the Northern Pacific Railroad. Nettleton served as Minnesota's first St. Louis County State Representative and in that position, lobbied for western expansion via railroad. He also developed a streetcar suburb on 160 acres in St. Paul, MN. In 1883, upon completion of the Northern Pacific, Nettleton relocated to Spokane. In 1887, he purchased 270 acres from the Northern Pacific and platted them as Nettleton's 1st and 2nd Additions. Nettleton died in Spokane in 1905.



**T**he Northern Pacific, the nation's first northern transcontinental railroad, was pivotal in the history of both Spokane and the nation. The railroad's arrival resulted in Spokane's first economic boom, which in turn spurred the growth of Spokane's first suburbs, including Nettleton's Addition. In 1889, less than seven years after the completion of the Northern Pacific, Washington was declared a state.

William Nettleton was instrumental in developing the streetcar system to serve his then suburban neighborhood. The Spokane Cable Railway, one of two streetcars in the city, provided service between Nettleton's Addition and downtown. Streetcar tracks can still be seen today on Dean Avenue.



As was common at the time, Spokane streetcar systems developed destinations to attract riders. In 1893, Washington Water Power developed Natatorium Park, Spokane's only amusement park and a weekend destination for the region, at the end of their Boone Avenue lines. Washington Water Power was co-founded by John Sherwood and William Pettet, resident-developers of land adjacent to Nettleton's Addition.



**T**he majority of the houses in Nettleton's Addition were built between 1900 and 1912. Many were developed by the Chamberlin Real Estate and Improvement Company. The Chamberlin Company built houses, offered plans for sale to individual property owners who wanted to build their own houses, and also financed houses on contract. This allowed working and middle class families to own their own homes for a minimal initial investment. President Gilbert L. Chamberlin and Secretary E.A. Chamberlin were Nettleton's Addition residents. Nettleton's Addition is currently being proposed as a National Register Historic District.



*Nettleton's Addition Residents*  
**Gilbert L. Chamberlin**, President, Chamberlin Real Estate & Improvement Co., 2627 W Gardner  
**E. A. Chamberlin**, Secretary, Chamberlin Real Estate & Improvement Co., 2410 W Boone  
**William Nettleton**, founder of Nettleton's Additions, 2504 W Mallon  
**George O. Nettleton**, son of W. O. Nettleton, 2615 W Boone  
**Louise and Waldo G. Paine**, Nettleton's daughter, railroad manager, 2509 W Summit  
**Julia and F. Robbert Insinger**, Nettleton's daughter, Hypotheek Dutch Bank manager, 2623 W Maxwell  
**John and Mary Rabston**, engineer for Monroe Street Bridge, 2421 W Mission  
**L. L. Rand**, architect of Lewis & Clark High School, 2529 W Maxwell  
**Harry W. Wright**, manager, secretary-treasurer of the Davenport Hotel, 2711 W Summit  
**"Dutch" Jake Goetz**, owner of the Cour d'Alene Hotel, self-made mining man, 2420 W Gardner  
**Harry Baer**, owner of the Cour d'Alene Hotel, "Dutch" Jake's mining partner, 2104 W College