


Only typed forms are accepted. Please send an electronic copy of the completed form.

If you need assistance completing the form, please contact Michael Houser, State Architectural Historian, at 360-586-3076 or [Michael.houser@dahp.wa.gov](mailto:Michael.houser@dahp.wa.gov).

SP 560

Washington State <b>HERITAGE BARN REGISTER</b> 	<b>Farm Name</b> Windsor Castle	<b>Property Location</b> Address: 4311 S. Abbott Road City: Spokane Zip: 99224
	<b>Historic Name</b> Windsor Barn	<b>County</b> Spokane
	<b>Owners Name</b> Barbara Armstrong  Phone: 509-838-1022 Email:	<b>Owner Address</b> Address: 4311 South Abbott Road City: Spokane State: WA Zip: 99224

BARN	ROOF SHAPE	ROOF COVERING	FLOOR PLAN	SIDING	FOUNDATION MATERIAL	PAINTING/ DECORATION	OTHER BARN FEATURES
<b>CONDITION</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Poor <input type="checkbox"/> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins  <b>BARN BUILT DATE:</b> c 1880	<input type="checkbox"/> Gable <input type="checkbox"/> Broken Gable <input type="checkbox"/> Gambrel <input type="checkbox"/> Hip <input type="checkbox"/> Gothic <input type="checkbox"/> Monitor <input type="checkbox"/> Round <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dutch <input type="checkbox"/> Conical <input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Asphalt <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Metal <input type="checkbox"/> Wood <input type="checkbox"/> Other  <b>CURRENT USE</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ag <input type="checkbox"/> Vacant <input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Square <input type="checkbox"/> Rectangular <input type="checkbox"/> Round <input type="checkbox"/> Irregular <input type="checkbox"/> L- Shape <input type="checkbox"/> T- Shape Size: 50'x50'  Height:	<input type="checkbox"/> Metal <input type="checkbox"/> Wood – Horizontal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wood – Board & Batten <input type="checkbox"/> Wood Vertical <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete <input type="checkbox"/> Brick <input type="checkbox"/> Stone <input type="checkbox"/> Asbestos <input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Concrete <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stone <input type="checkbox"/> Brick <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wood <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Other	Painted? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes Color: gray  Names/Dates/ Decoration? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes Describe:	<input type="checkbox"/> Cupola <input type="checkbox"/> Dormer <input type="checkbox"/> Hay Hood <input type="checkbox"/> Ventilator <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Weather Vane <input type="checkbox"/> Lightning Rod <input type="checkbox"/> Silo <input type="checkbox"/> Milking Shed <input type="checkbox"/> Other

**\* PROPERTY HISTORY:** (Expand on the history of the barn/property such as use, original owner, builder, architect, family stories and memories, etc.. add additional pages if necessary)

Built in 1876, this was the original barn for the Windsor family. It was put together with wooden pegs. The addition on the east side of the barn was added in 1970. The rest is in its original condition, including the outside. To the best of my knowledge it has had only one coat of paint.

**Please provide current photos of nominated property (interior and exterior (all four sides)) and a map indicating the location of property in relationship to major roads. Digital images are preferred (please provide disc) or print on photographic paper.**

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## OTHER FARMSTEAD BUILDINGS

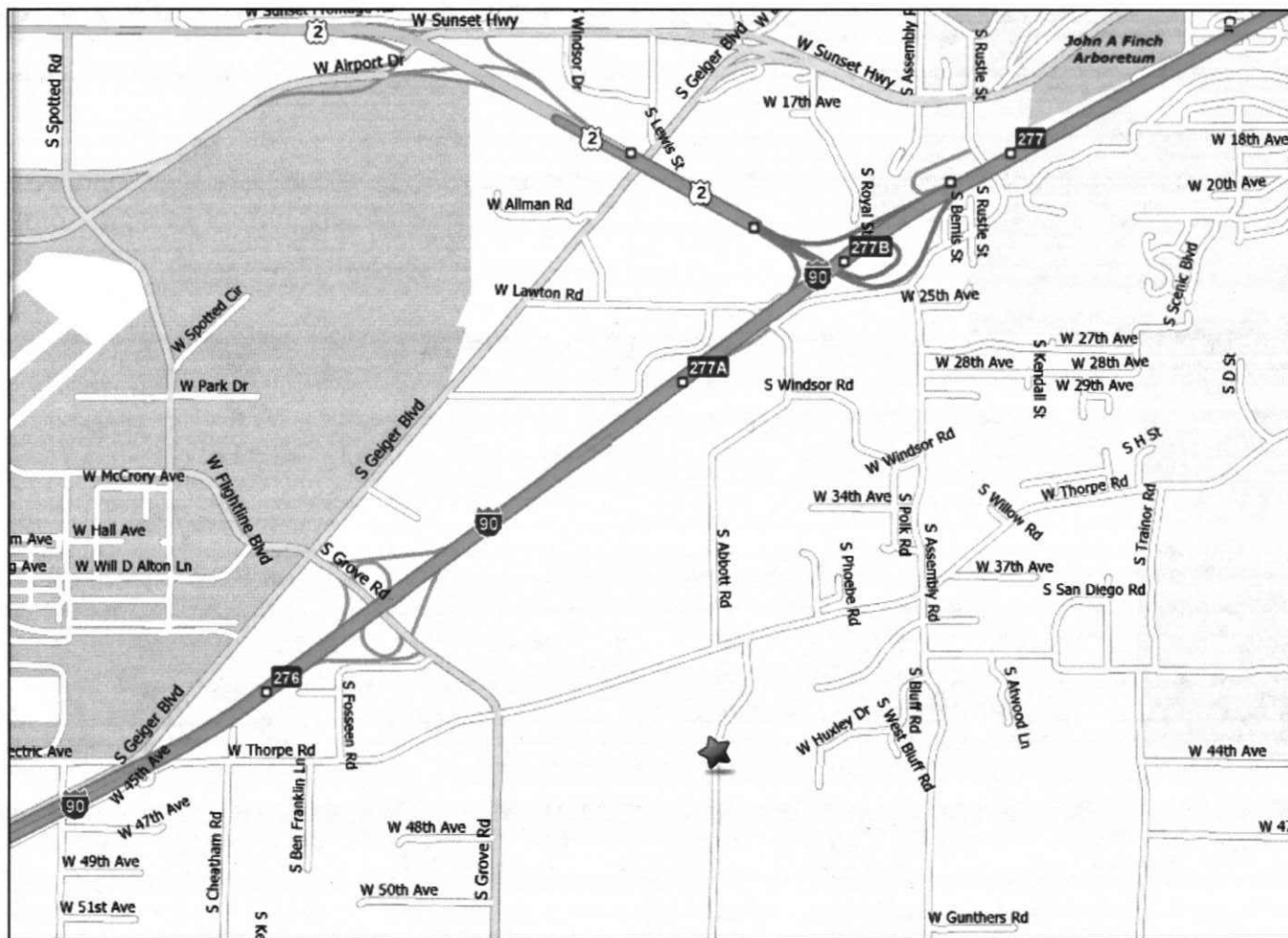
*If building does not exist, please check N/A box*

*Provide additional photos of secondary buildings/structures regardless of age.*

	ROOF SHAPE (Gable, Hip, etc.)	ROOF COVERING	FLOOR PLAN (Square, L-Shape, Rectangular, etc.)	SIDING	FOUNDATION MATERIAL	OTHER FEATURES: (Style, Color, Trim, etc.)	BUILT DATE
<b>DWELLING</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Poor <input type="checkbox"/> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> N/A							
<b>OUTHOUSE</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Poor <input type="checkbox"/> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> N/A							
<b>CHICKEN COOP</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Poor <input type="checkbox"/> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> N/A							
<b>MACHINE SHED</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Poor <input type="checkbox"/> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> N/A							
<b>MILK HOUSE</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Poor <input type="checkbox"/> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> N/A							
<b>SILO</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Poor <input type="checkbox"/> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> N/A							
<b>OTHER: Root cellar</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Poor <input type="checkbox"/> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> N/A		Shingles	Rectangular	Rock	Rock		1874
<b>OTHER:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Poor <input type="checkbox"/> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> N/A							

***Please provide a sketch of the farmstead layout indicating the location of other buildings in relation to the barn. Include an arrow pointing north for directional purposes.***

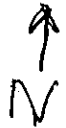
Return form and additional documentation to: DAHP 1063 S. Capitol Way, Suite 106 Olympia, WA 98504



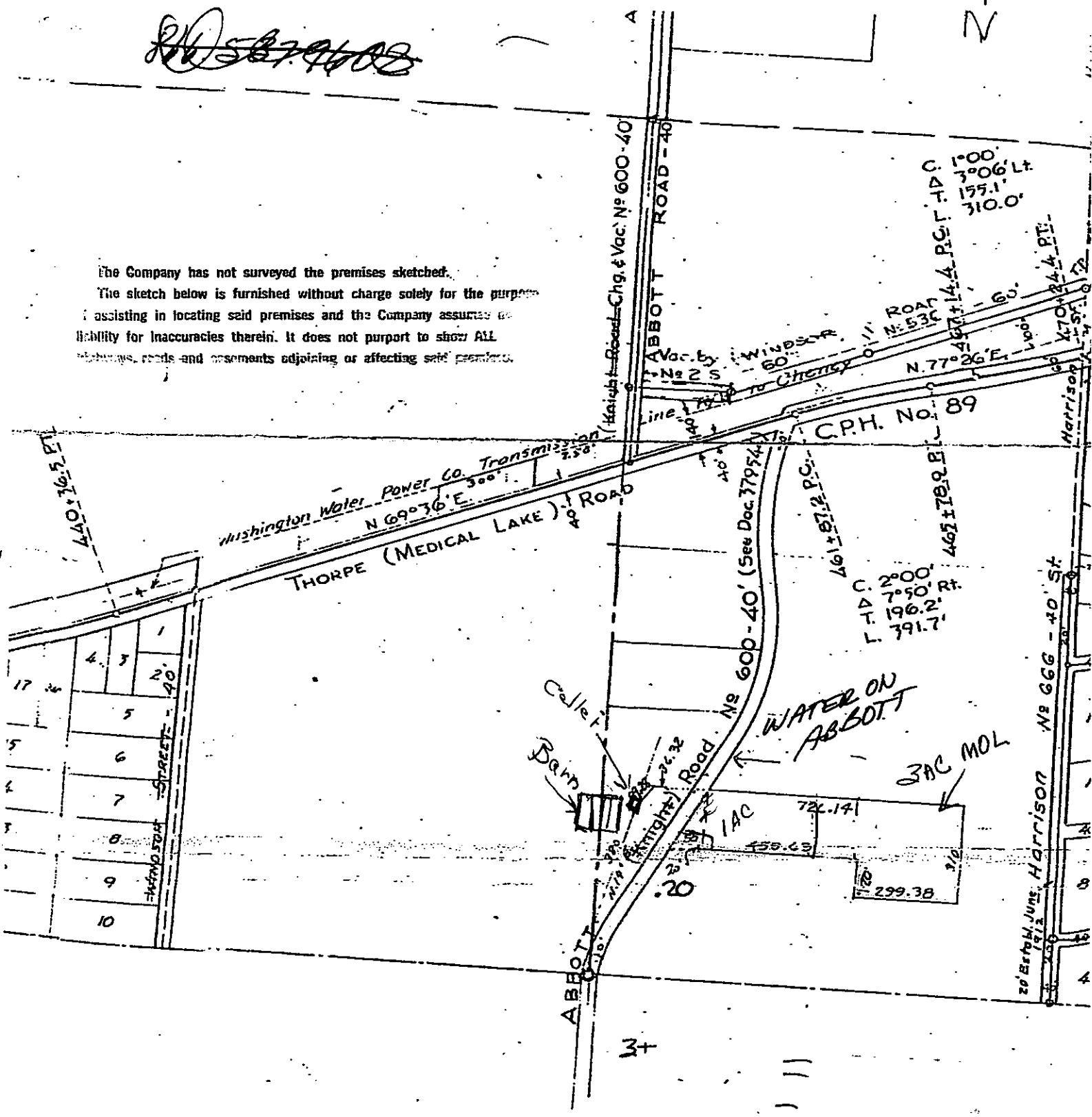
**Windsor Castle**  
4311 S. Abbott Rd.  
Spokane, WA 99224

~~1743~~ ~~16295~~

~~205879608~~



The Company has not surveyed the premises sketched.  
 The sketch below is furnished without charge solely for the purpose  
 of assisting in locating said premises and the Company assumes no  
 liability for inaccuracies therein. It does not purport to show All  
 highways, roads and easements adjoining or affecting said premises.



No. 345 24-906  
 Filed Thursday

Michael Lourey  
History 498 Frontier Spokane  
March 14, 1998

THE SPOKANE WINDSORS  
1875 - ?  
AN ONGOING HISTORY  
by Michael Lourey

I. DISCOVERY OF SPOKANE WINDSOR HISTORY BEGINS

My journey of discovery, searching for sources and documentation, concerning the Spokane Windsors started in early January 1998. One evening I was having a conversation with Douglas Loudon at my home in Deer Park, WA.<sup>1</sup> We were talking about the Loudon family history and he brought up his mother, Nell Windsor. Doug asked me if I had ever been out to Windsor Elementary School. He also spoke of the Windsor Grange and Windsor Station. It seems that Windsor Station was a stop on the trolley line between Spokane and Cheney.<sup>2</sup> I realized that the Windsors must have been a family of means in early Spokane/Cheney history. After asking Doug for more information, I decided to begin looking for documentation of this preliminary conversation.

Where to start my search was a matter of concern, I had never done anything like this before. I did have one clue, Dr. Youngs of the EWU history department, had mentioned that the Northwest Room of the Spokane Library was an excellent resource. After looking through the information in the Northwest Room, I realized that either the family's oral history was wrong, or I hadn't started at the right place. My next stop was on the third floor of the Library. On Thursdays, from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM,

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volunteers who are involved with the Genealogical Society are there to help find historical events. That day, with their help, I was able to find the 1880<sup>3</sup> and 1900<sup>4</sup> census for Spokane County. The 1880 census revealed that Jackson and Lucinda Windsor, with their minor children, Margaret, Henry, and Henrietta, had homesteaded south of Spokane. The census also indicated that their adult children William and James were homesteaders on adjacent parcels. The 1900 census shows that additional homesteads had been acquired, and that James had moved to a different location.

With this information in hand, my wife Linda and I went to Clayton, WA, to speak with Don and Lela Windsor. Don is the only living first generation descendant of Henry Windsor and Ella Powell-Windsor. Lela Cooper-Windsor is the widow of Robert B. (Bruce) Windsor, Henry and Ella's youngest son. While interviewing Don and Lela, they brought out the family Bible of Jackson and Lucinda Peck-Windsor.<sup>5</sup> In this Bible, the generations, births, deaths, marriages, etc., of the Windsor family, which appear on the family tree are found, (see enclosed item 1). During this interview Don and Lela told us much of the family's early history and related information which I will use in this paper. Don and Lela also gave me the parts of the family oral history that they were aware of. The revelations of this interview led to other discoveries and sources. The following Thursday morning, at the Spokane Library, I found more

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information regarding Jackson and Lucinda Peck-Windsor, their seven children and data relating to their net worth. The 1870 census for Sonoma County, CA.<sup>6</sup> indicated that Jackson and Lucinda had met, married, had seven children, and amassed personal and real-estate holdings worth over \$200,000. It should be safe to assume that their move to the Washington Territories may have been less chancy than that of many early pioneers.

## II. HOMESTEADS, FORECLOSURES AND THE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

After our meeting with Don and Lela Windsor, I wanted to find out about the location of the Windsor property and it's relationship to current day Spokane. The following day I went to the Northwest Room, in the Spokane Library, where I found a 1905 plat map of Spokane County,<sup>7</sup> (see enclosed item 2). Comparing the designations on the plat maps with a current Spokane map, I was able to ascertain where the original Windsor property was.<sup>8</sup> On the current map, the locations of the Windsor Elementary School, Windsor Grange and that two streets named Windsor are present. Some of the land is held in the name of men who married Windsor daughters, (i.e., Altmiller, Werner, Robinson and Sarsfield), thereby keeping the family close together. Additional land was also homesteaded by Henry Windsor, in the name of Edwin Windsor. This was a fictitious name but Henry was too young to file a legal homestead claim.<sup>9</sup> This was often done by other homesteaders in the area. The more land you could farm

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the better chance you had of making a go of it.<sup>10</sup> A combination of the hard work involved in building the barn, root cellar and house, along with farming that much land probably contributed to Jackson's death of an apparent heart attack on March 22, 1880.<sup>11</sup> Shortly before his death Jackson posed for a picture with his youngest daughter, Henrietta. (see enclosed item 3).

Some anomalies are apparent in this part of the family history. One is that in the probate of Jackson's estate,<sup>12</sup> Lucinda gets possession of all his holdings. However, by 1905, some of the property is no longer in her name.<sup>13</sup> Another interesting note is that William and James lost their holdings to foreclosure in 1884,<sup>14</sup> and yet by 1905 they have substantial holdings again.<sup>15</sup> Finally, in 1887, Henry sued William to get a collection judgment for a rather substantial debt.<sup>16</sup> Why a brother would find it necessary to sue a brother is odd, given the closeness of family in those days. There is no evidence one way or the other whether that judgment was ever paid. Consequently, these questions about the Windsor family history will most likely never be answered, with no one from that generation still living to respond to them.

During this period, Margaret, who was seventeen when the Windsor family came to the Washington Territories in 1875, was the first to gain notoriety in the area. She distinguished herself in the fledgling effort to bring education to the area. In 1880, Margaret M. (Maggie), Windsor, then 22, became the first



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person to be elected to the office of county superintendent of education,<sup>17</sup> (see enclosed item 4). The following is part of a reprint of the agenda for the first teachers' institute in the county. The institute was held in the public school building of Spokane Falls, November 5, 1880.<sup>18</sup> "We will submit herewith the program for comparison with the elaborate and rich one of last year". The Program: Paper on education, by Superintendent Maggie M. Windsor; an explanation of some of the most difficult problems in the previous arithmetic examinations, by the teachers; a discussion of the theory and practice of teaching, by all; a paper on grammar, by Miss Belle Spangle. "The state superintendent, and the previous appointed county superintendent J. J. Browne were expected to be present, but to everyone's disappointment they were unable to attend".<sup>19</sup> In 1892, Mrs. Maggie M. Windsor-Halsell gave a talk of rare interest at a teachers' county institute in this city in 1892, which was published in the Review. In her talk, Mrs. Windsor-Halsell reminisced about her experience as county superintendent in those early days. Following are some excerpts: "Spokane county was at that time about three times larger than it is today. This frontier country then, unlike the present, was sparsely settled with civilization. The broad prairies abounded with wild animals and savages. There were no towns, cities or railroads, few roads and only two or three villages within the limits of Spokane county.

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Filled with vigor and enthusiasm when I accepted the county school superintendency, I did not realize, (although my parents were dismayed, and completely opposed), that the dangers abroad were any greater than those at home. Being surrounded with painted Indians, armed with bows and arrows, singing their war songs, was a living horror to be endured by pioneers. One day, while returning from visiting a school, I was startled by two drunken Indians, one of whom clutched the bridle rein of my horse, which, taking fright, reared frantically, loosening his hold. I lost no time in making good my escape. On another occasion, accompanied by fear and caution, I traveled many miles across the broad prairie only to find myself at the door of a little log cabin, called a schoolhouse, in which the teacher had twelve students seated on hewed slabs, which were laid upon sawed cuts of logs. In most of these schools the children were accustomed to talk aloud and it did not seem to be any part of their program to devote their time to study. A typical recitation would be like this: Teacher -- 'What do you think, Nellie, about this lesson in addition?' 'Well, I don't know much about it,' replied Nellie. Teacher -- 'Harry, have you thought anything about it?' 'No-o-o-o-o' responded Harry. I normally found that when asked if the 'professors' had a teaching certificate, they would reply, 'Why, no, I didn't s'pose in a little school like this that we needed any surtificut.' In those

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days, I had little time for filing office reports, spending, as I did most of my time traveling."<sup>20</sup>

### III. WINDSOR GRANGE HALL, THE FRANZENS AND "WINDSOR CASTLE"

On February 12, 1998, I was exploring the layout of the original Windsor property, which is the large shaded portion on the current map,<sup>21</sup> (see enclosure, item 3). As I drove up Assembly Rd., heading for Windsor Elementary School, I noticed two pickup trucks in the parking lot of the Windsor Grange Hall. After looking at the current location of the school, I decided to stop at the Grange Hall to see if the drivers of the trucks might have useful information. Inside I found George Sarfort and Jeff Stragier, the Grange Master. After I explained who I was and why I was there, we had a fruitful conversation. As we talked about the Grange's history, George told me about the ponderosa pine tree out front which was planted in 1925, when the Grange was first dedicated. George stated, "that tree is now over ninety feet tall and massive."<sup>22</sup> As we talked about the Grange, George asked me if I knew about the foundation of the "Windsor Castle", which is still standing. I had heard about a four story house from Don Windsor.<sup>23</sup> I also confirmed the existence of this marvelous house, in the brief biography of William R. Windsor in Edward's History of Spokane County,<sup>24</sup> so I was very interested in viewing the foundation.

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On February 14, 1998, Linda and I drove out to the site George had told us about. There we met the current owner of the property where the house was built. His name and address will remain unknown, as he would not appreciate people "nosin around on my place, bothering my stock." Linda and I passed the afternoon in conversation with the gregarious elderly gentleman, who was glad for the company. He proceeded to tell us about the layout of the buildings, as they were back in the 1800's. The barn, constructed with hand hewn timbers and planks, fastened together with dowel pins, is still standing. It has been in continuous use since it was finished in 1877, only the roof has been replaced.<sup>25</sup> The root cellar, which was built first as a temporary lodging for the Windsors until their home was finished in 1880, is also standing. It is constructed of basalt blocks up to about five feet above the ground and the remainder is hand hewn timbers, with a shake roof. Across the road is the foundation of the "Windsor Castle". What remains today, of the house is spectacular in its own right. The walls of the first floor are of hand chiseled granite blocks, from the Medical Lake area. "Getting them blocks here, with some of them three foot by eight foot by one and one-half foot, must have taken some doing, let alone lifting them so's to make the walls", stated our interviewee.<sup>26</sup> He also told us that he had set a transit up on the basalt hill behind the foundation and discovered "that the walls are true and plumb to this day".

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As we talked, he mentioned that a descendent of the Windsors was his housekeeper and that she might have a photo of the house. Before we left, he gave us a guided tour of the remaining first floor. We were amazed at the amount of skill and labor involved in just that portion of the house, not to mention the other three floors. The floor of the remaining part of the house is made up of irregular, polished slabs of granite, which look brand new, even now!

When we were leaving, our new friend gave us his telephone number and told us to be sure to "ring up Barbara, 'cause she is a direct descendent of the folks who were firstcomers on this land." On February 20, 1998, I had the opportunity to interview Barbara Franzen-Armstrong, his housekeeper, and her cousin Bob Franzen. They are the children of Russell Franzen and Francis Franzen, the children of Gertrude Windsor-Franzen and Frank Franzen (see enclosed item 1). Barbara and Bob had some valuable documentation, information and most importantly, pictures of the "Windsor Castle", (see enclosed item 4). They were also able to describe the interior of the house, having been raised in it, and in Barbara's case being born in it.<sup>27</sup> The description of the interior of the house is one of careful construction and beauty. As an example, the door casings, window casings and a staircase going up to the fourth floor were all mahogany. The doors were solid oak with fixtures of brass and marble knobs.<sup>28</sup> The interview with Bob and Barbara also filled in some gaps in my

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research, answering questions that I couldn't satisfy. As an example, Frank Franzen and William Windsor became partners in buying the California House, (at the corner of Howard and Trent) after the Spokane fire<sup>29</sup>. They rebuilt the hotel and made it the luxurious Windsor House<sup>30</sup>. Frank and Gertrude's son Russell, (see enclosed item 1) also started the Franzen Dairy, using the original Windsor barn. This dairy would remain in operation until 1970 when the current owner purchased the property.

This project hasn't all been happy endings, since the upper part of the house is no longer standing.<sup>31</sup> In the early 1960's, after the house which now stands in front of the original was completed, the roof was stolen from the castle. Normally a roof would not be stolen, but this one was made with three-eighths thick copper sheets. After the roof was stolen, the pictures, books and other valuables in the old house were moved to the first floor, which was then sealed off from the remaining floors. Plans for replacing the roof with shakes or possibly sheet metal were made, but for lack of funds never carried out. In 1971, the house was set on fire by vandals who started a fire in the mahogany staircase. By the time the fire department had put the fire out, everything combustible in the entire house had been destroyed. Even the brick walls of the top three floors had collapsed. All the treasured pictures, photographs, books, documents, furniture and so forth, which were on the first floor went up in smoke.<sup>32</sup>

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#### IV. A HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

In 1875 Jackson and Lucinda Windsor had agreed that their profitable business in California was dwindling. As increasing numbers of miners and camp followers left the gold fields there was less demand for their goods. From the time of their marriage in 1852, they had made handsome profits from the grain, produce and animals they raised, by selling them to the miners. After much discussion and many attempts to dissuade them, they had decided on moving to the new frontier in the Washington Territories. According to a letter from Lucinda to her mother: "Our friends were just wearing us out with their talk of staying put and playing it safe. Thank God we didn't listen, this is a truly beautiful, fertile land of many opportunities. Like you always said, 'nobody ever got nothing done by playing it safe'".

With their decision to move made, the next question was where to? It's a big territory! Some people had been telling them about a place with a spectacular waterfall and land for the homesteading. According to what they had heard, just about anything would grow there and the Indians were friendly. This is the area which would become Spokane Falls, and their choice proved to be sound. All that was left to do was liquidate their assets, hire a sailing ship, say good-bye to their friends and family and go. Jackson and Lucinda took three of their children with them on this monumental move. They were, Margaret (16), Henry (12) and Henrietta (8). Their daughters Sarah (18), and

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Catharine (14), would be staying with family until Sarah was married to George Philbert. Their oldest sons, William (21), and James (20), were students at the University of California, and would stay to graduate. William and James were in the first class to complete all four years at the newly established University.

Upon contracting a ship, Jackson and family loaded the stock and goods they would be taking with them, and set sail from San Francisco. The departure date they had decided on was July 1, 1875, to take advantage of the best possible weather along the coast. After an "exciting and wondrous" voyage up the coast, they crossed the Columbia Bar on July 7. The Bar crossing was terrifying, "I thought I would never get my stomach back down, I was so sick," Lucinda would later say to her son William. When they put in at Portland two days later, they moved their goods and stock to a steam boat, so they could continue up river. The trip up the river was not without its hardships, with portages, rapids and the other usual inconveniences. Arriving at the mouth of the Palouse, they once again transferred their goods, this time to wagons, and continued to the falls (Spokane). "When we arrived at the falls we were much taken by the natural splendor, and the rich prospects of the area.", Jackson later said in a letter to his son, William.

On August first, Jackson and Henry staked out the first Windsor homestead where Thorpe Rd. and Abbott St. are today. The



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first order of business was to build a temporary shelter against the coming winter. They dug down about three or four feet, laid planks they had hewn from near by trees, and built four walls about eight feet high from basalt blocks which were scattered about. Next were more planks and a pull down staircase, topped with boards for another eight feet, and a shake roof. This would become their root cellar and cool room in later years, but it was their home for almost five years. With Jackson and Henry busy building the "root cellar", Lucinda, Maggie, and Henrietta used some mules rigged with a travois, to begin clearing land for planting in the spring. Today we may view this daylight to dark type of toil as grievous, but to settlers it was, "what needed doing". Having completed the "root cellar" before the cold of winter set in, they were spared one hardship many pioneers had to face. Many who came unprepared spent their first winter either in a tent, a crude dugout or in their wagons.

In the spring, after the area that was cleared in the fall was plowed and disked. The first crop of oats and barley was planted. In the early years, wheat was not a good crop, because there was "no grist mill of any account nearer than Waitsburg or Walla Walla". After the planting, the family began hewing timbers, planks and joists to build the barn. As the lumber was ready the barn began to go up. This project would take almost two years. During the construction, planting, harvesting and growing produce for themselves had to go on. Care of the stock

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could not be neglected either, as that would result in loosing some of their most valuable assets. With the completion of the barn, the house "of Lucinda's dreams" could be built. Granite blocks from the quarries near Medical Lake were brought to the building site by wagon, with eight yoke of oxen. Jackson also bought irregular slabs of flat granite for the floor of the first level.

In the summer of 1878 the remainder of their children arrived in Spokane Falls. With them were William's new wife, Uretta Clark-Windsor, James' new wife Jennie Philbert-Windsor, and Sarah's new husband Major William Philbert. With all of the new hands, the building of the "Windsor Castle" could be started in earnest. Before the work was started William, James and Major Philbert staked out their homesteads and built shelters for their stock. As Lucinda, Maggie and Etta had done, the "women folk" cleared land while the men worked on the building. Once the granite blocks were set and mortared, the flat granite slabs for the floor were put over a foundation of basalt blocks. The basalt blocks were placed in an excavation dug down about three feet. This foundation would prove to keep the massive house level for more than ninety years. When the first floor was completed, a saw mill which could produce the needed timbers, joists, beams and boards was operating in Spokane Falls. The bricks for the outer walls and some of the fireplaces were made at the Spokane Brick Works. "Smack dab" in the middle of the

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construction of the house Major Philbert, Sarah and their daughter Nettie Alice, gave it up and went back "home" to California in the summer of 1879. This event was not pleasing to Sarah's parents as their first grandchild, Nettie Alice was born to Sarah and Major Philbert on 1/14/79. Evidently there had been some disagreement about Jackson not "pulling his freight". This should have warned them about Jackson's health, but sadly, their thoughts didn't "run that direction".

The year of 1880 proved to be one of great blessing and great sadness. In March of that year while working on the fourth floor of the house, Jackson "keeled over dead"! No one knew exactly why his heart had stopped. No doubt the hard work of a pioneer and the loss of his daughter and grandchild played a major part in it. Just months after his funeral "Windsor Castle" was completed, Maggie married T.J. Halsell and was elected to be the Superintendent of Education. Two other events occurred that year to help assuage the loss of Jackson. William's daughter Gertie was born in April and James' daughter Maggie May was born in December. With the house finished, all the folks who lived in the area were invited to a "house warming ho-down".

"What a house it was, four floors, and more"! On the first floor was the kitchen and dining rooms were. The quarters for the hired help was also on that floor. The family took all their meals in a dining room on that floor. Lucinda never treated the help like servants, preferring instead to treat them like family.

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"Cause she shore liked them folks", William would later tell his grandson Russell Franzen. On the east wall was a bank of ovens where the baking was done, sometimes with unexpected results. During the winters, "Indians would come and take hot bread right out of the oven, leaving goose eggs to pay for it". According to Henry, "when ever we had enough to feed everyone, Ma would do up a special meal for everyone, doing the cooking herself".

The second floor had a library containing not only books, but important papers, letters, pictures of the family and other memorabilia. Jacksons's desk was there but no one used it, and William brought his from California. The library also had a large oak table with finely upholstered chairs for people to sit when using the room. There were three other rooms on that floor, each with it's own fireplace to keep everyone warm in the winter. The fireplaces in the library and parlor were marble with mahogany mantles and sides. "Ma's" sewing room was on that floor with cedar lined closets and another fine oak table with chairs. The third room had "tubs and the like for our baths". The Tubs were granite and the fixtures were copper and brass. The fourth room on that floor was a beautifully decorated parlor. The parlor was where folks visiting us could sit and socialize, again decorated with fine furnishings. The women, most often, visited in the sewing room. In the parlor the men would be smoking and generally using language not proper for a woman's ears. Sometimes Indian women would join the men, "cause they could

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smoke in public without getting a bad name." Oddly enough, Henry said; "no one gave a thought to their language when squaws were around".

In later years, people catching the trolley from or to Spokane would sit in this room, drinking coffee and visiting while they waited. This arrangement was preferable to waiting in the weather at Windsor Station, about a tenth of a mile away. The station was an open wooden kiosk beside the tracks. Today you can still see the right of way for the trolley tracks, however the tracks and Windsor Station are long gone.

The next floor up had the bedrooms, eight in all, with beautiful floors and mahogany door casings. The doors to each room were mahogany, with etched glass panels, and brass fittings. Instead of opening out like a conventional door, these doors, as well as those on the second floor, slid into a recess in the wall. Each of the bedrooms had a brick fireplace in them.

The entire top floor was a beautiful ballroom. "Will, Jim and the gals could entertain their society friends there. Jim even bought a fancy piano from some gent down to Walla Walla", Lucinda would write in a letter to Sarah. There were also four ornate marble fireplaces at each corner of the ballroom. Right up the center of the house was a beautiful wooden staircase, going all the way to the fourth floor. "Windsor Castle" had a roof made with plates of three-eighths inch copper, soldered at

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each seam. On top of the roof was a big copper water tank, that was Jackson's innovative idea. "He had that monster carted all the way from Missouri", Henry said, "it was Pa's pride and joy". In one corner of the fourth floor, was a fold down stairway which gave access to the roof and water tank. They used a hand pump to fill the tank, which was later replaced with an electric one. All of the water used in the house for sinks and baths came from that tank by copper pipes. All of the windows on every floor had "god-awful" expensive casings, of granite on the outside with mahogany casings inside. 'Retta and Jennie made hangings for the windows, each beautiful in it's own right. The first floor windows had solid wooden shutters, three inches thick with rifle slits in them, (which are still there today), just in case they were needed. "In those days", Henry liked to tell his children, "it was likely the most comely place in all the territory, 'Windsor Castle', is what folks liked to call it". There was a massive granite stairway leading up to the big double doors on the second floor, however, it was stolen in the 1930's during the great depression. William told Henry that "when we were all down to Windsor, CA, visiting family, thieves came, busted the stairs up and carted the granite off"!

#### IN CONCLUSION

In the ensuing years, the Windsor family endured through tragedy and exalted in triumph just like other pioneers. From this point the histories branch off in many directions as Jackson

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and Lucinda's children make their own way. With the information and sources I now possess, I could write several books, in due time, perhaps I will. Linda and I have discussed a few of the possibilities, but for now they are on the back burner. I have found this project to be stimulating and inspiring, provoking questions which beg answers. There are at least eight branches of the family tree, yet to be explored. Many of Linda and I's ancestors, pioneered west of the Mississippi River. Some of them famous, and some living in quiet obscurity, making their way in a "New Land". The good news is that obscurity does not mean failure, surviving and raising families in spite of struggles is true success. Will our descendants, 120 years from now, be able to point to the heritage we have left them? Will they be as proud of us as we are of Jackson and Lucinda?

#### ADDENDUM

There are a couple of amusing stories concerning early pioneer life which I will throw in for free:

Around the turn of the century, after Gertie Windsor and Frank Franzen were married, an event involving their first child took place. It seems that while Frank was in the fields, Gertie was working in the vegetable garden just behind the house. While she was weeding the garden, their son, whom she had left in a crib in the kitchen, woke up and started to cry. Since she was behind the house, she didn't hear him right away. About the same time an Indian from a local clan was walking by the house and

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heard the crying. Not seeing anyone around and thinking the baby had been left alone, he took action. In the Spokane Indian culture, babies were not left alone, so he picked the baby up and took him home to his lodge. Consequently, when Frank came in for lunch, he and Gertie couldn't find the baby. In a state bordering on panic, they rounded up the neighbors, armed themselves and started to search for the kidnapper(s). After a few hours they stopped by the Indian camp. While there, the Indian who took the baby came out and told them that he had the baby, and not only that, he wasn't giving it back to people who didn't care enough to take care of the child. After a lengthy lecture from the men and women in the camp, they finally got the child back and went home. Among other things, they were told that if you are going outside, strap the baby on your back and take it with you. The Indians also warned them that the next time they wouldn't get the baby back so easily. Many who hear this tale will be outraged at the Indians for taking the baby. However, the idea of not leaving children alone for extended periods of time is still a difficult concept for "White Folks".

The other story is one of a dispute between two families in the frontier days. Having met in school, in Loomis, WA., Nell Windsor (daughter of Henry and Ella Windsor, who had moved to Loomis to homestead 400 acres under the New Lands Act of 1902) and Paul Loudon (the sixth of ten children born to George and Maria Loudon, wealthy cattle and sheep ranchers) fell desperately



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in love. This presented a couple of problems, not the least of which being that Nell was only fourteen at the time. When Paul who was seventeen, asked Henry if he could marry his daughter, an indignant Henry gave an emphatic NO! With her being so young at the time, the two lovers seemed to have no where to turn. Not only that, the Loudon family wanted Paul to have nothing to do with any "no account Windsor". No one remembers why there was such animosity between the families, but to this day, most Loudons have very little good to say about the Windsors. In any case, with both families so adamantly opposed to their union things looked doomed. Not to be "snookered by the old fogies", Paul and Nell made plans to elope. In the spring of 1919, eighteen year old Paul and fifteen year old Nell ran off to Penticton, British Columbia. Once there they lied to a magistrate about her age and were "hitched". In time the two families accepted the marriage, when they realized that the kids were "serious as a freeze during calving". Paul and Nell stayed married until her death in 1973. I guess it is safe to say that they were serious about loving each other. Family disputes over marriages were common in those days, but most, like Paul and Nell's, were worked out before it came to bloodshed. In those days, parents usually exerted more control over the lives of their children than we do today. Progress is grand ain't it?!

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<sup>1</sup> Conversation with Douglas W. Loudon, born 12/2/1920, Oroville WA., son of Paul Loudon and Nell Windsor-Loudon, 1/1998.

<sup>2</sup> Township Maps of Spokane County, Washington 1905, (Fidelity Abstract Company, Spokane, WA.), Pgs. 21,26 & 27

<sup>3</sup> 1880 US. census, 6/80, 1st Distr., 046, Washington Territories.

<sup>4</sup> 1900 US. census, 6/90, 1st Distr., 046, Washington State.

<sup>5</sup> Windsor Family Bible, American Bible Society, (New York, New York, 1855), currently in the possession of Don Windsor, grandson of Jackson Windsor.

<sup>6</sup> 1870 US. Census, 9/70, 4th Distr., 093, Sonoma County, CA.

<sup>7</sup> Township Maps of Spokane County, Washington 1905.

<sup>8</sup> Rand McNally map of Spokane WA., (Rand McNally, PO. Box 7600, Chicago, IL., 60680, 1995).

<sup>9</sup> Interview with Don Windsor, grandson of Jackson Windsor, born 12/20/1911, as related 2/1/1998.

<sup>10</sup> IBID.

<sup>11</sup> Windsor Family Bible, American Bible Society.

<sup>12</sup> Probate of the Estate of Jackson Windsor, Stevens County Distr.. Court hearing 1956, case #3, 9/1880.

<sup>13</sup> Township Maps of Spokane County, Washington 1905.

<sup>14</sup> Foreclosure of real property held by William R. Windsor, Spokane County Distr.. court, Hearing 806, case #1380, 1884.

Foreclosure of real property held by James N. Windsor, Spokane County Distr.. court, hearing 857, case #1430, 1884.

<sup>15</sup> Township Maps of Spokane County, Washington, 1905.

<sup>16</sup> Suit for collection of a legal debt, Henry E. Windsor, plaintiff v. William R. Windsor defendant, Spokane County Court, hearing 1470, case #1470, case #1470 judgment in favor of plaintiff, 1887.

<sup>17</sup> An Illustrated History of Spokane County, State of Washington, Rev. Jonathan Edwards, (W. H. Lever Publisher 1900), Pg., 120.

<sup>18</sup> IBID.

<sup>19</sup> IBID.

<sup>20</sup> IBID.

<sup>21</sup> Rand McNally Map, 1995

<sup>22</sup> History of the Windsor Grange Hall, posted on the Wall of Honor, dated 6/25/1925.

<sup>23</sup> Interview with Don Windsor, 2/1/1998.

<sup>24</sup> An Illustrated History of Spokane County, Washington, Pg. 668.

<sup>25</sup> Interview with current owner of the site of the Windsor house, barn and root cellar, 2/14/1998. Interview with Don Windsor, 2/1/1998, An Illustrated History of Spokane County, Washington, Pg. 668.

<sup>26</sup> Interview with current owner of the Windsor house, barn, and root cellar, 1/14/1998

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<sup>27</sup> Interview with Robert Franzen, Spokane, WA., and Barbara Franzen-Armstrong, Spokane, WA., 2/20/1998, at the site of the original Windsor house.

<sup>28</sup> Interview with Robert Franzen and Barbara Franzen-Armstrong, 2/20/1998. Interview with current owner of property, 2/14/1998. Interview with Don Windsor 2/1/1998.

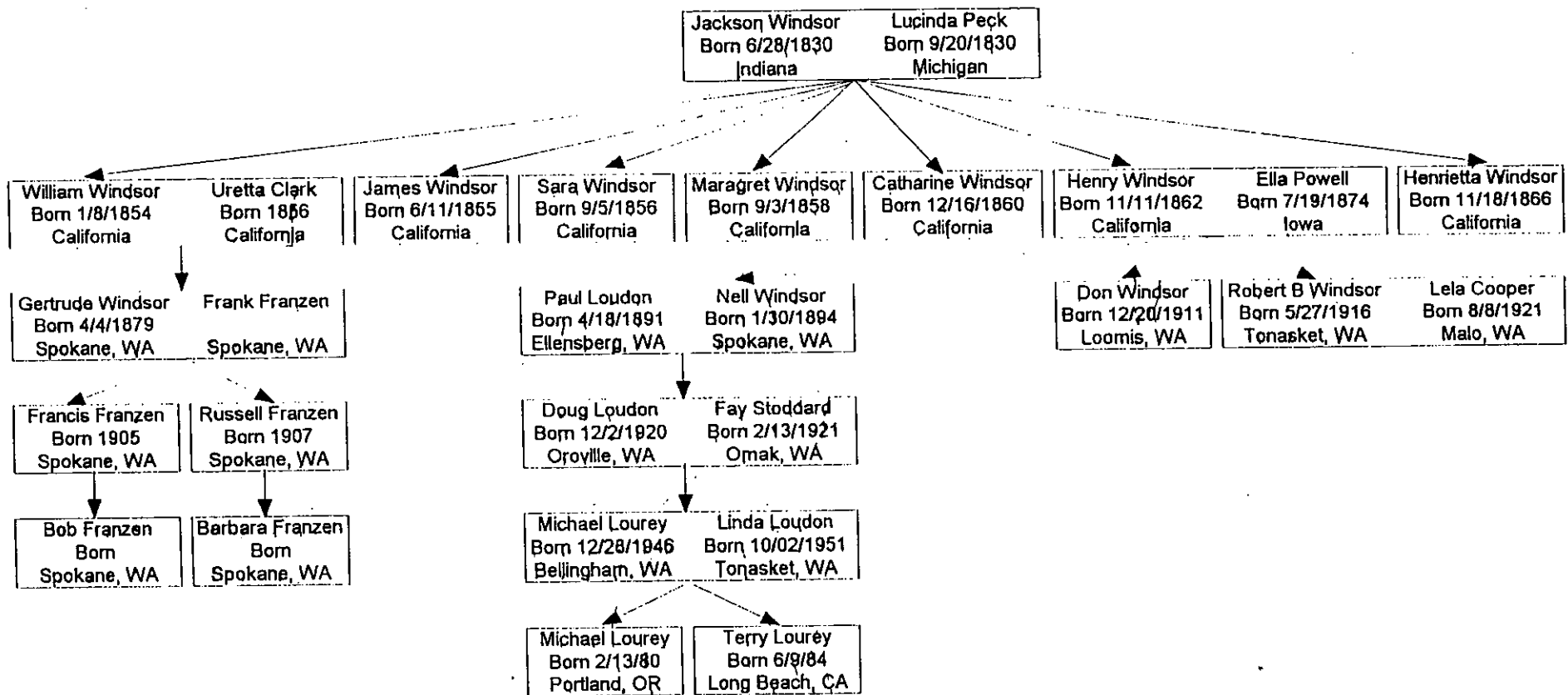
<sup>29</sup> *Reminiscences of James N. Glover*, (Fairfield, Washington: Ye Galleon Press, 1985) Pg. 111.

<sup>30</sup> *Early Birds in the Northwest*, by Rowland Bond, (Spokane House Enterprises, Nine Mile Falls, Washington, 1971-2) Pg. 217.

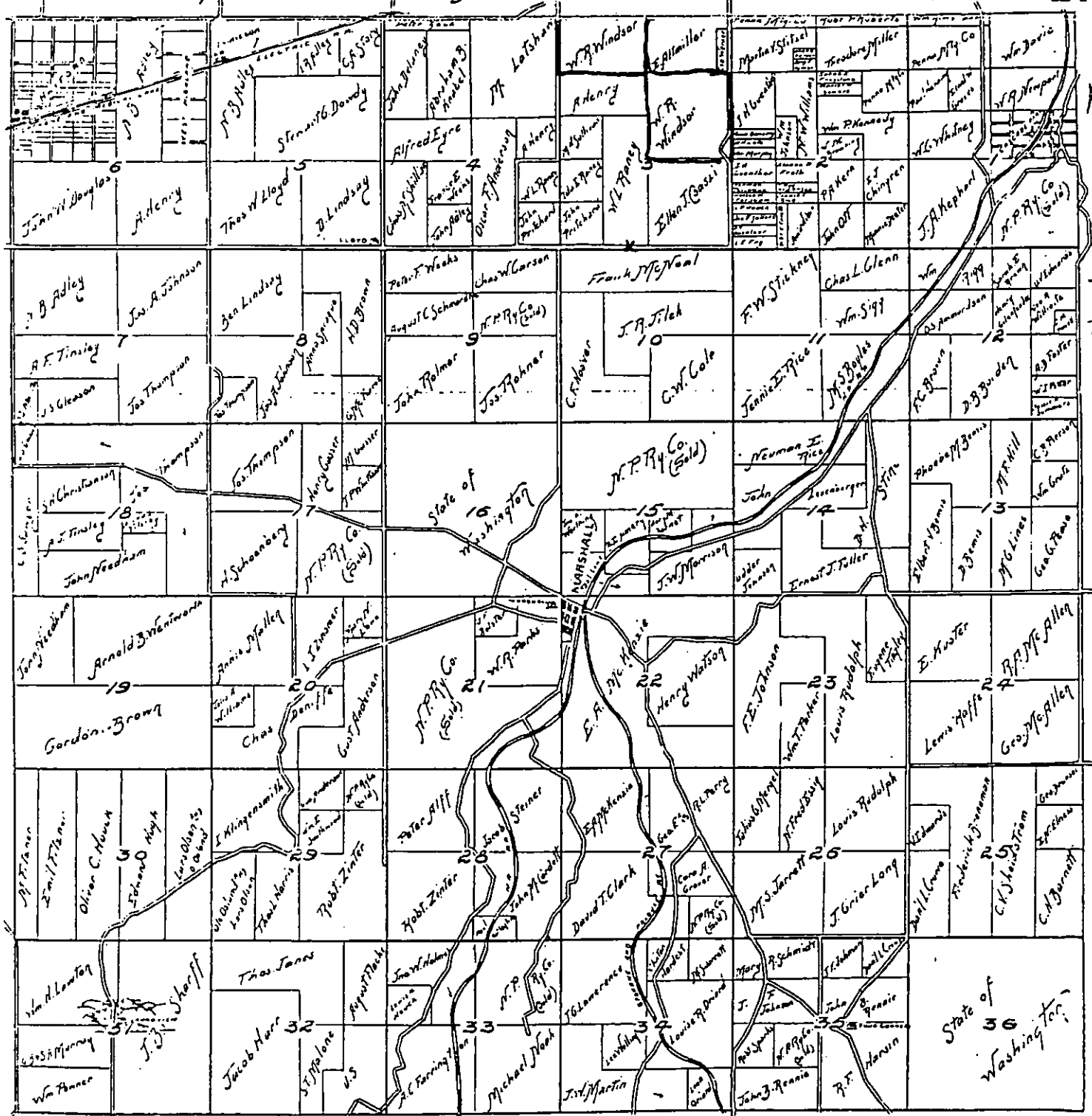
<sup>31</sup> Interview with current owner 2/14/1998. Interview with Bob Franzen and Barbara Franzen-Armstrong 2/20/1998.

<sup>32</sup> IBID.

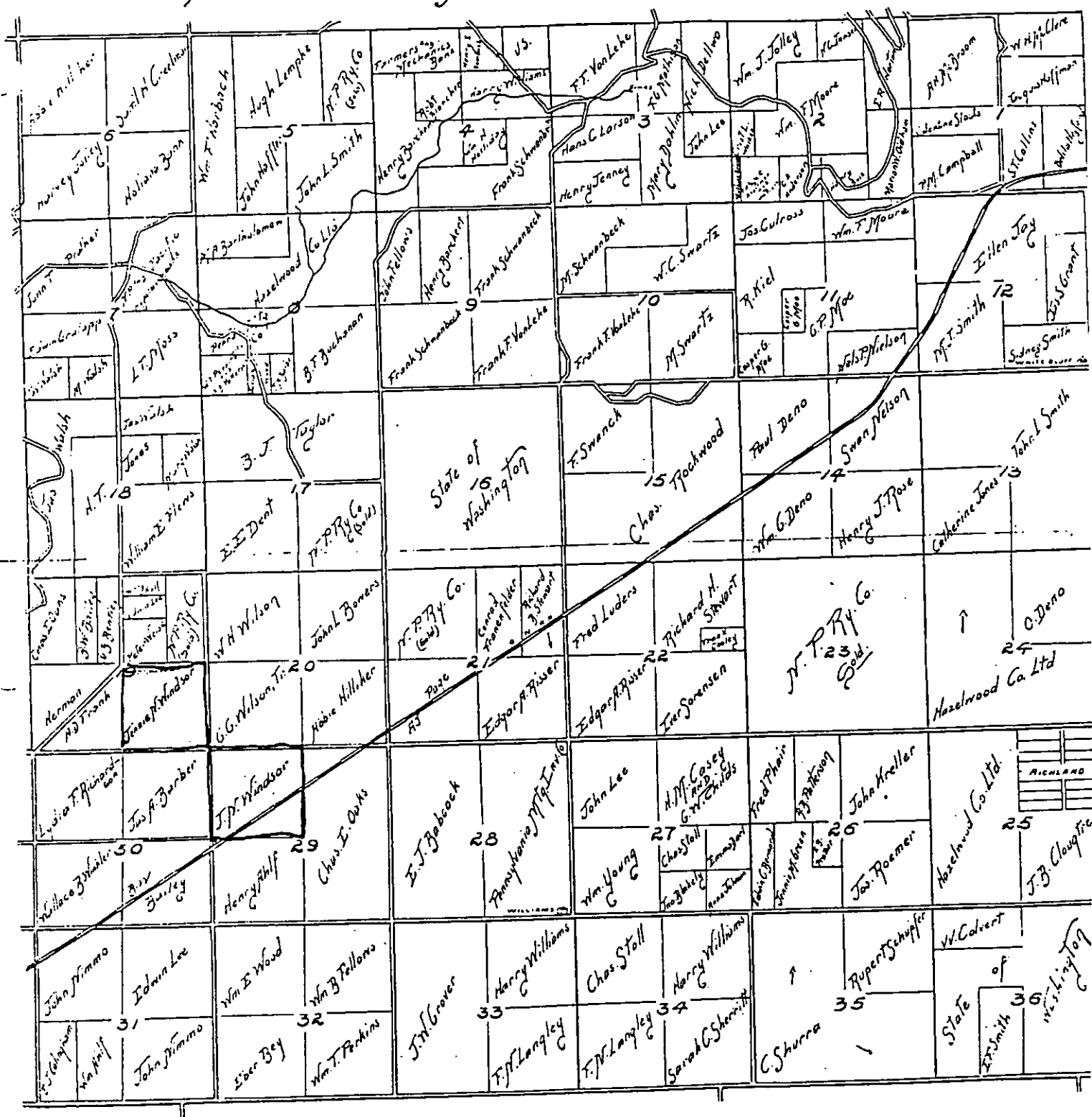
# WINDSOR FAMILY TREE



This partial family tree represents the generations involved in this account of early Cheney pioneers, Jackson Windsor and Lucinda (Peck) Windsor. There are descendants in each generation after Jackson and Lucinda's children who are not mentioned as they are not involved in this paper.



2











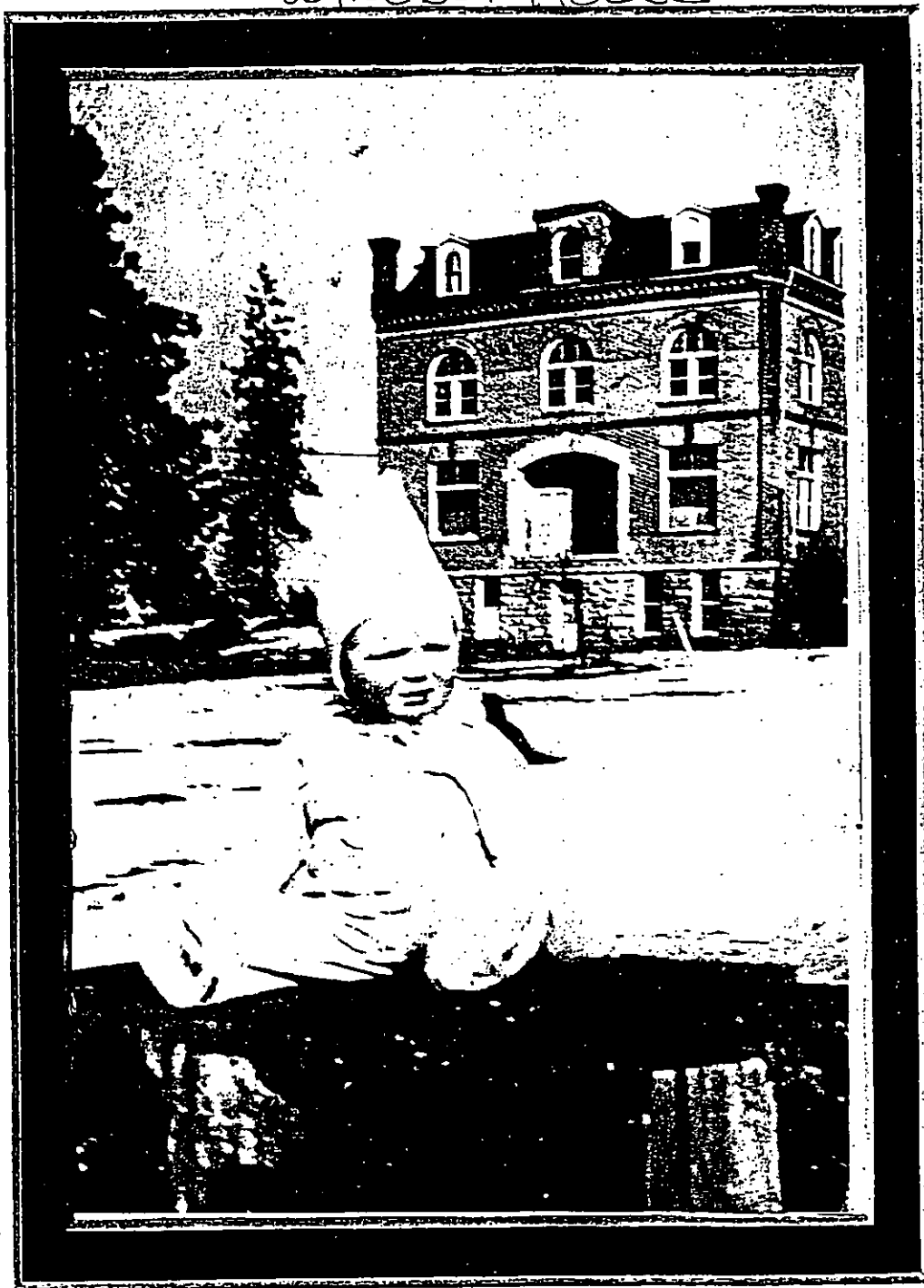


*The City Function*  
SPokane, WASH.

Maggie Windsor



Windsor House



Barbara  
Fran  
age 12

## LOOKING BACK: *California House*

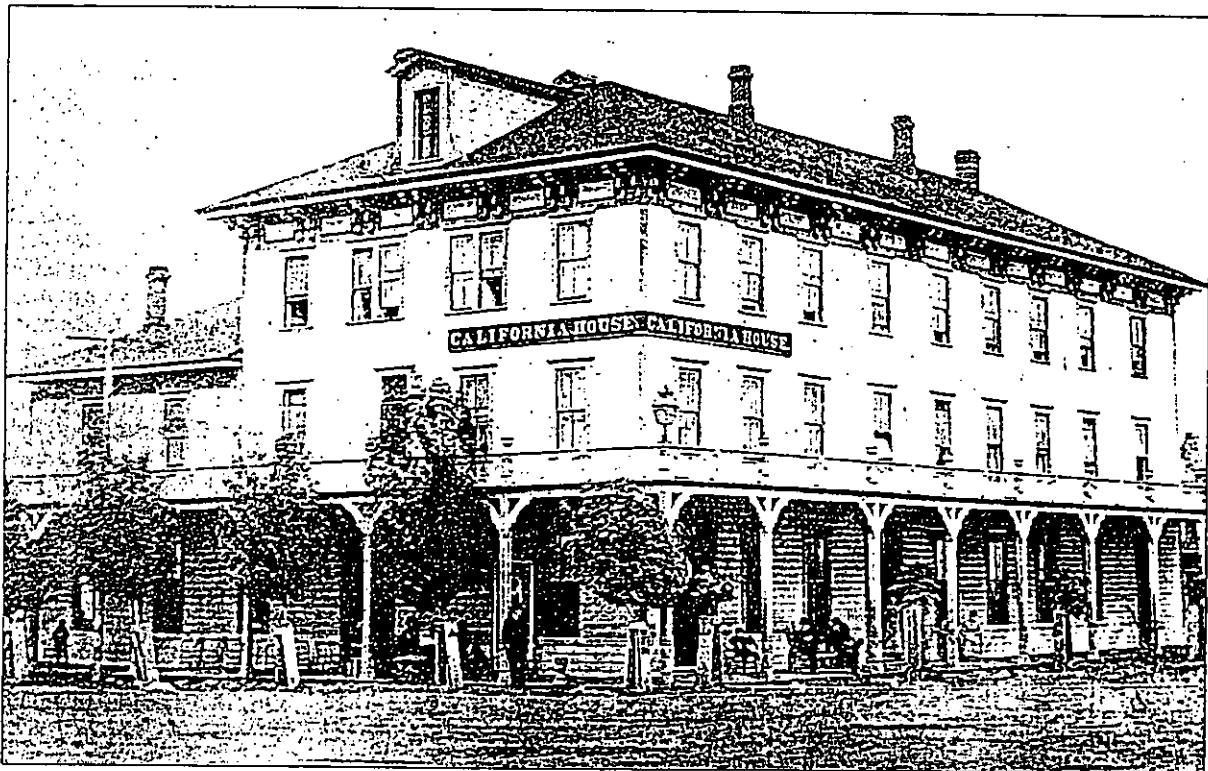


Photo archive/The Spokesman-Review

### Rooms for rent

Spokane's first hotel was built by Captain W.C. Gray in 1878 on the corner of Trent and Howard, and opened Thanksgiving eve with a dinner and dance. It had eight rooms and a big room upstairs, where men could bunk down with blankets when the other rooms were filled. Captain and Mrs. Gray ran the hotel for nine years. During that time the hotel was partially destroyed by fire, and was rebuilt and enlarged as the Windsor Hotel. The hotel was completely destroyed in the great fire of 1889.

If you have a historical photo you would like to see published, mail it to Historical Photos, 999 W. Riverside Ave., Spokane, WA 99210. Include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. We pay \$20 for images we publish. Copies of most photos may be purchased by calling 459-5416.

