



STATE OF WASHINGTON
Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
1063 S. Capitol Way, Suite 106 - Olympia, Washington 98501
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(360) 586-3065 Fax Number (360) 586-3067

April 27, 2007

Teresa Brum
City/County Historic Preservation Program
808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd.
Spokane, WA 99201

Dear Ms. Brum:

I am delighted to inform you that the **Gus & Florence Ehrenburg House in Spokane**, has been submitted for placement onto the National Register of Historic Places. However, before a property or properties within the jurisdiction of the Certified Local Government may be considered by the State to be nominated to the National Register, per the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Title 1: section 101, c2A) and the State of Washington CLG Requirements & Procedures (Amended 2002, IVA), the Certified Local Government is required to comment on the nomination.

As such, your local preservation commission and elected official, after reasonable opportunity for public comment, is asked to fill out the attached form as to whether or not the subject property, in its opinion, meets the criteria of the National Register. The form must be received by DAHP five days in advance of the State Advisory Council meeting to assure that the property will be reviewed at the scheduled meeting.

You are also cordially invited to attend the Governor's Advisory Council on Historic Preservation meeting on Friday, June 15, 2007, in Windriver, WA at the Forest Service Personnel Training Center. You are welcome to observe or participate in the process.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns over the CLG review process or the nomination of this resource.

Sincerely,

Michael Houser
State Architectural Historian. DAHP
360-586-3076
Michael.Houser@dahp.wa.gov

* Enclosure

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

Historic name EHRENBERG, GUS & FLORENCE, HOUSE

Other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 1304 S. Cook Street _____ not for publication

city or town Spokane _____ vicinity

State Washington code WA county Spokane code 063 zip code 99202

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.

See continuation sheet

determined eligible for the National Register.

See continuation sheet

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not incl. previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Non-Contributing	
2		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
2		Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Functions or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19th & EARLY 20th CENTURY

REVIVALS: Craftsman

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: basalt

walls WOOD: clapboard and shingle

STUCCO

roof ASPHALT

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property.)

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
X C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
B removed from its original location.
C a birthplace or grave.
D a cemetery.
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
F a commemorative property.
G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1911 - 1912

Significant Dates

1911 / 1912

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Ehrenberg, John Walter (carpenter/builder)

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property.) SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.) SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
previously listed in the National Register
previously determined eligible by the National Register
designated a National Historic Landmark
recorded by Historic American Engineering
Record#

Primary location of additional data:

- X State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
Federal agency
X Local government
University
Other

Name of repository:

Spokane City/County Historic Preservation Office

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM References on a continuation sheet.)

1 [11 | 4 | 719 | 48 | 527 | 673 | 8] 3 [] [] [] [] [] [] []
Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing
2 [] [] [] [] [] [] [] 4 [] [] [] [] [] [] []
Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property.) See continuation sheet.

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected.) See continuation sheet.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Linda Yeomans, Consultant
organization Historic Preservation Planning & Design date 1 May 2007
street & number 501 West 27th Avenue telephone (509) 456-3828
city or town Spokane state WA zip code 99203

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) 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.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner (Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Christina Marino and Phillip B. C. Jones
street & number 1304 S. Cook Street telephone (509) 534-6766
city or town Spokane state WA zip code 99202

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet -

EHRENBERG, GUS & FLORENCE, HOUSE
SPOKANE COUNTY, WASHINGTON

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NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Completed in 1911, the Gus & Florence Ehrenberg House is a fine example of a Craftsman style Bungalow. Located in the East Central area in Spokane, Washington, the home retains identifying elements of the Craftsman tradition which include a one and one-half-story single-family house form with strong horizontal lines, a low-pitched side-gable roof, center gabled dormers, wide barge boards with cut-out ends, wide eaves with exposed rafter tails and decorative brackets, a full-width covered front porch, thick tapered porch pillars, an enclosed porch wall, a combination of clapboard-shingle-stucco cladding, and a tapered clinker brick chimney. Of noteworthy attention, the home has numerous leaded-glass windows (some with two-inch-deep-plus bevels) that display both rhythmic circular and geometric diamond-patterned designs. Prominent foundation walls are embellished with black basalt ashlar masonry. Built in 1912, a single-car garage is located behind the house in the southwest corner of the property and is clad in materials that match the house. The home's interior embodies Craftsman-style ideals featured in hardwood floors, a prominent formal staircase with cut-out balusters, Craftsman-style antique light fixtures, built-in bookcases and casework, a spacious open floor plan, and the fine vertical grain red fir woodwork which has time-burnished to a deep reddish brown/ebony hue. Well-preserved, the Ehrenberg House retains excellent exterior and interior architectural integrity in original location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association as an early 20th-century single-family home built in Spokane, Washington.

CURRENT APPEARANCE & CONDITION

Site

Identified as tax parcel number 35214.2613, the Ehrenberg House is built on all of Lot 1 and a north portion of Lot 2, Block 23 in the Ehrenberg Subdivision in the Altamont Addition in East Central Spokane.¹ The lot measures 50 feet wide and 241 feet deep, and fronts onto South Cook Street. The house is built towards the front of the lot, and a graveled driveway leads along the south border to a single-car garage in the southwest corner of the property. The home is framed by mature deciduous and evergreen trees, shrubs, and a manicured lawn. Remnants of an original basalt rock garden wall, rock gateposts, and brick pathway are located behind the house and next to the garage. The property is surrounded by tree-lined streets that traverse a north-facing hillside, resulting in curvilinear and diagonally placed roadways. Single-family homes built from the 1890s to mostly 1945 comprise the residential area, which was platted as the Altamont Addition (of which the Ehrenberg Subdivision is a part).

¹ Spokane County Tax Assessor Records. Spokane County Courthouse, Spokane, WA.

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House Exterior

The Ehrenberg House measures 30 feet wide and 59 feet deep. It is one and one-half stories with a side-gable composition shingle roof. The roof is articulated with two clinker brick chimneys and has widely overhanging eaves with exposed rafter tails and tongue-in-groove soffits. A covered front porch spans the full width of the house at the façade and is supported by thick tapered porch pillars which are anchored to an enclosed porch wall. The house is clad in a combination of original materials: black basalt ashlar masonry foundation, narrow-width wood horizontal clapboard siding, cedar shingle siding, and coarse-grained stucco. The home retains original doors and windows, many of which are leaded-glass units.²

East Facade

The front of the house faces east along South Cook Street. Prominent façade features include a full-width hip roof covered front porch and a broad center gabled dormer. The dormer is articulated with widely overhang eaves, exposed rafter tails, ten-inch-deep bargeboards with cut-out ends. The gable peak overhangs a ribbon of four multi-paned windows, and a combination of wood shingle and stucco cladding. The peak is clad with original coarse-grained stucco infill and false half-timbering which curves outward and upward to join exposed rafter tails under wide eaves. The gable peak overhang is embellished with a wide stringcourse which is supported by decorative modillions with beveled ends. Two thick engaged tapered pillars define the southeast and northeast corners of the center facade dormer.

A low-pitched hip roof with widely overhanging eaves and exposed rafter tails covers a full-width front porch below the center gabled dormer. The porch is 30 feet wide and nine feet deep and is supported by thick square tapered wood pillars which are anchored to a solid porch wall. The pillars are embellished with small wood brackets all around on four sides. The solid porch wall is clad with horizontal narrow-width wood clapboard siding and is accentuated by a ten-inch-deep horizontal water table that separates the porch wall from the foundation. The foundation for the porch and the house is made of black basalt rock ashlar masonry with thick convex-curved mortar joints. The porch deck is constructed of painted fir planks and the ceiling is made of tongue-in-groove wood paneling. A front door is located at the covered front porch and is flanked by two leaded-glass windows. The window at the south end of the front porch is

² New windows in the house include three contemporary windows installed in 1979-80 at the back of the house, one small window installed in 1979-80 in a bathroom off the master bedroom at the north elevation, and three architecturally appropriate multi-paned double-hung wood-sash windows installed in 2005 at the east façade in the master bedroom which replaced contemporary windows that had been installed when the original windows were replaced in 1979-80—see Section 7 of this document.

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embellished with leaded-glass lights that depict a rhythmic circular pattern. In contrast, the window to the north of the front door is a wide tripartite unit with thick two-inch-deep beveled glass that is divided with lead strips to form geometric diamond-shaped lights. The intricate design of the multi-paned and multi-faceted diamond-patterned beveled-glass produces reflected and refracted light that sparkles with jewel-like brilliance at the beveled window. A wide staircase with three steps descends from the porch deck to a brick-lined walkway that curves through the front yard to a concrete sidewalk which runs parallel to Cook Street. Basalt rock walls flank the steps and are capped with painted concrete coping. The first floor of the house is clad with narrow-width horizontal wood clapboard siding and the second floor is clad with wood shingles.

South Elevation

The south elevation of the house abuts a graveled driveway along the south border of the property and features a gable-end roof with widely overhanging eaves, exposed rafter tails, and ten-inch-deep bargeboards. The ends of the bargeboards are articulated with cut-out designs. The foundation is made of black basalt rock ashlar masonry, the first floor is clad with narrow-width horizontal wood clapboard siding, the second floor is covered with wood shingles, and the gable peak is clad with false half-timbering and coarse-grained stucco infill. The gable peak overhangs the second floor and is emphasized with modillions that have beveled ends. A ten-inch-deep water table separates the foundation from the first floor, two ten-inch-deep stringcourses separate the first floor from the second floor, and a modillioned overhang separates the second floor from the gable peak. Fenestration is asymmetrical and features a combination of original leaded-glass fixed-pane and casement windows and 9/1 double-hung wood-sash windows. The multi-paned pattern in the windows features six divided lights arranged in a Prairie-style geometric pattern.

North Elevation

Like the south elevation, the north elevation has a prominent side gable roof with widely overhanging eaves, exposed rafter tails, and a ten-inch-deep bargeboard with cut-out ends. The foundation is exposed black basalt rock ashlar masonry, the first floor is clad with narrow-width horizontal wood clapboard siding, the second floor is covered with wood shingles, and the gable peak features false half-timbering with coarse-grained stucco infill. Like the gable peak design at the south elevation, the gable peak at the north elevation overhangs the second floor and is supported by decorative (non-structural) modillions with beveled ends. Fenestration is asymmetrical and includes leaded-glass casement and 9/1 double-hung wood-sash windows. The north elevation has two focal points: a tapered stepped clinker brick chimney that protrudes through the roof eave, and a box bay which is located at the first floor. The single-story box bay has a very low-pitched pent roof with wide eaves, exposed rafter tails, and deep bargeboards. The bay

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is supported by four wood knee-brace brackets and is illuminated by a tripartite window that matches the multi-paned beveled and leaded-glass diamond-patterned window at the east façade.

West Elevation

The west elevation is at the rear of the house and features a center gabled dormer on a side gable roof. A clinker brick chimney projects through the roof eave at the dormer and is flanked by two 9/1 double-hung wood-sash windows. The dormer is clad in wood shingles and has widely overhanging eaves with exposed rafter tails and deep bargeboards with cut-out ends. A wood deck is attached to the back of the house. Two back doors are located at the rear elevation: the door at the south end opens to the first floor and the door at the north end opens to stairs at grade that descend to the basement. Like the rest of the house, the first floor is clad in narrow-width horizontal wood clapboard siding and the foundation is made of black basalt rock ashlar masonry.

House Interior

The interior of the Erhenberg House has 1,311 of finished square feet on the first floor, 700 finished square feet on the second floor, and 300 partially finished square feet in the basement.³ The front door is made of honey-colored solid oak and has a thick beveled diamond-paned light. The door opens from the southeast corner of the house to a reception hall. The hall opens north through a wide flat-arched spandrel to a formal living room and dining room, and west to an interior hallway which leads to a small powder room and a library. The library opens north through double doors to the dining room and west to a kitchen, TV/sitting room, an enclosed stairway to the second floor, and a back porch deck.

The reception hall is dominated by a formal staircase that ascends west along the south wall of the house to the second floor. The staircase is made of vertical grain red fir and is embellished with a closed stringer, a paneled-wood newel post, and a cut-out balustrade. The cut-outs in the balustrade depict a stylized floral motif. The living room features a center fireplace on the north wall and is flanked by two leaded-glass fixed-pane windows. The fireplace has a fir mantel with decorative brackets, a ceramic tile surround, and a glazed ceramic tile hearth. The ceramic tiles in the surround are glazed and feature a pinecone design in *bas relief*. A gridwork of boxed beams accentuate the ceiling. A flat-arched spandrel separates the living room from the dining room and is supported by two half-walls atop which are anchored massive tapered pillars. The dining room's focal point is a box bay at the north wall which has a tripartite beveled and leaded-glass window with diamond-paned patterns. Double doors with multi-paned lights in the upper leaf

³ Spokane County Tax Assessor Records. Spokane County Courthouse, Spokane, WA.

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open from the south wall of the dining room to a library. The library features built-in bookcases with original leaded-glass doors.

A kitchen is located in the rear southwest corner of the house, and an enclosed stairwell which was specifically designed for use by domestic help is located in the northwest corner of the house. Remodeled in 1979-1980, the kitchen features built-in casework and an oak floor. Period pendant-drop light fixtures were installed in 2006. The original staircase in the northwest corner ascends to the second floor and features built-in cupboards and linen shelves with leaded-glass doors on the east wall of the stairwell at the first-floor landing. Some of the leaded-glass is colored with floral designs. The stairwell and casework are made of hand-polished red fir and reveal an age-old patina. The kitchen opens west to a TV/sitting room at the back of the house. Except for the kitchen (which is painted pine) the entire first floor of the house is finished with vertical grain fir. The walls and ceilings are made of original lathe-and-plaster construction, the doors and woodwork are ebony-finished red fir, the floor is solid oak, ceiling height is eight feet, and most of the attached light fixtures are original antique Craftsman-style chandeliers and pendant drop lights made of wrought-iron and hammered brass and copper.

The second floor has a long east-west oriented hallway which leads to three bedrooms, a bathroom, and a master bedroom *en suite* with bathroom, which is at the east end of the hallway. The bedroom in the southwest corner of the second floor was designed for use by domestic help (close to interior servants' stairway in the northwest corner of the house). The bathroom at the west end of the hall retains original fixtures, including an oval-shaped porcelain wash basin, porcelain toilet, and a cast-iron/porcelain claw foot bathtub. The woodwork on the second floor is painted pine, including a built-in linen closet with drawers at the west end of the hall by the servants' stairs. The basement is partially finished with a laundry room, storage room, furnace/mechanical room, and a large multi-purpose room. The floor is made of poured concrete. The home retains its original heating system—gas-fired hot-water radiant heat which is transported through original cast-iron radiators.

ORIGINAL APPEARANCE & AND SUBSEQUENT MODIFICATIONS

The original appearance of the Ehrenberg House is pictured in a 1928 black and white photograph of the home's east facade.⁴ The photograph reveals the original design for the house included an open second-floor sleeping porch in the center dormer above the front porch and a small multi-paned window in the

⁴ Eastern Washington State Historic Society, L2000-7.1/L81-656. Northwest Museum of Arts & Culture, Spokane, WA

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gable peak. The original footprint of the house at the west elevation featured a small porch at the southwest rear corner of the house.⁵

Modifications to the Ehrenberg House include the following:

- 1967: Original wood shingle roof was recovered with composition shingles.⁶
- 1974: Kitchen enlarged and remodeled, and original back porch enclosed.⁷
- 1979-80: Kitchen enlarged and remodeled again with a six-foot-deep addition at the rear of the house (original back porch replaced by this addition); deck built onto addition. Second-floor sleeping porch enclosed with four windows and modified to enlarge master bedroom. Bathroom installed on second floor in master bedroom in attic space on north wall.⁸ Roof on house and garage covered with composition shingles. Fixed multi-paned window above sleeping porch replaced with louvered wood vent; multi-paned window installed on garage above garage door.
- 2002: Living room fireplace remodeled with glazed ceramic tile surround and hearth in Craftsman style. Interior and exterior of house repainted. Deck repaired and remodeled.
- 2005: Four contemporary c. 1979-80 windows in enclosed facade dormer were replaced with architecturally appropriate aluminum-clad double-hung wood-sash windows with 9/1 multi-paned lights that replicate the pattern of divided lights on original bedroom windows located throughout house. Clinker brick chimney repaired. Plumbing in house repaired and re-plumbed. Original clay sewer pipe replaced (in house and front yard).
- 2006: Exterior: basalt rock ashlar masonry foundation repaired, repointed, cleaned, and oiled; exterior repainted; back storm door refinished; roof eaves-soffits-brackets

⁵ Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1935 revised in 1953. Spokane Public Library, Northwest Room, Spokane, WA.

⁶ Spokane City Building Permit #B66855, dated 25 Sept 1967. City Hall, Spokane, WA.

⁷ Ibid, #B-7768, dated 15 May 1974. City Hall, Spokane, WA.

⁸ Ibid, #B-3743, dated 1 Feb 1974. City Hall, Spokane, WA.

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repaired and repainted; replaced non-compatible aluminum window wells with appropriate basalt rock retaining walls around basement windows.

Garage and Rock Hardscape Features

Built in 1912,⁹ the Ehrenberg Garage is a one-story frame building constructed for one automobile. It has a low-pitched front-facing gable roof with widely overhanging eaves, exposed rafter tails, and ten-inch-deep bargeboards with cut-out ends—all architectural features that match those on the house. The garage is clad in narrow-width horizontal wood clapboard siding and wood shingles in the gable peaks. A ten-inch-wide wood stringcourse, splayed inwards towards the middle, separates the cladding from the wood shingles. An overhanging wood-paneled garage door opens from the east façade of the garage. A small fixed multi-paned wood-sash window is located in the center of the gable field above the garage door. Below the window is a small wood window box supported by wood knee-brace brackets. Multi-paned windows are located on the garage at the north, south, and west elevations. These also have window boxes supported by wood knee-brace brackets. Repaired and repainted in 2006, the garage is in excellent condition.

The grounds that surround the Ehrenberg House reveal highly articulated plantings. Deciduous trees frame the east façade of the home along with a manicured lawn. The backyard features two flower garden sections which are separated by a north-south-oriented wood fence. The garden section just behind the house retains an original basalt rock wall, basalt rock gateposts, and red brick pathway. The pathway curves in a westerly direction under a mature Japanese Maple tree to a wood fence. A wood gate in the fence opens to a rear garden which is surrounded by mature deciduous and evergreen trees and shrubs, annual and perennials, and a manicured lawn.

⁹ Spokane City building permit, dated 23 January 1912. Spokane City Hall, Spokane, WA.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Gus & Florence Ehrenberg House was built in 1911 in the Ehrenberg Subdivision, part of the larger Altamont Addition in East Central Spokane, Washington. Well-preserved, the home is in excellent condition and is a hallmark example of the Craftsman style. Prominent Craftsman-style architectural elements include the home's low-pitched roof, widely overhanging eaves, exposed rafter tails, deep bargeboards with cut-out ends, covered full-width front porch and thick square tapered porch supports, wood and stucco cladding, and a variety of original multi-paned windows. Artfully articulated, some of the windows have thick beveled-glass lights that are divided by lead strips which form multi-faceted geometric diamond-shaped patterns. Other windows have circular leaded-glass designs, and second-floor windows feature 9/1 multi-paned geometric patterns which are typical of Craftsman and Prairie traditions. Interior Craftsman-style details include a spacious living/dining room, finely crafted fir woodwork, boxed ceiling beams, and numerous built-in cabinets, cupboards, linen shelves, and bookcases, some with leaded-glass doors. The home's design, horizontal emphasis, and natural building materials (stone, stucco, clinker brick, wood, metal) all work together to form a "back to nature" aesthetic which is synonymous with the Craftsman tradition.

The house was built for Gus & Florence Ehrenberg and their family who made the property their residence for more than 60 years. A Spokane hotelier, Gus Ehrenberg was a proprietor of the Palmerston Hotel in downtown Spokane, manager of the Palmerston Hotel Company, and was invested in area mining operations. Florence Ehrenberg gained notoriety as an accomplished "piano teacher," "pianist and composer,"¹ and was praised in numerous Spokane newspaper articles and the March 1931 edition of *Better Homes & Gardens Magazine* for her talent as an amateur gardener and winner of numerous local, state, and national garden contests during the 1920s and 1930s.² During its period of significance begins in 1911, the year in which the home was built and ends in 1912, the year the garage was built. The Ehrenberg House achieved importance in the context of "architecture" for its high artistic values and fine rendition of the Craftsman style. Architecturally significant, the Ehrenberg House appears to meet registration requirements for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The Ehrenberg House is located within the Altamont Addition of Spokane, WA. Platted in 1888, the Altamont Addition was located outside and east of the city limits and was legally referred to as the Town of Altamont. The word "altamont" means "high mount" and was used to describe the high, steep rocky basalt

¹ "Mrs. Gus Ehrenberg." *Spokane Daily Chronicle*, 23 Jan 1975.

² "Elliott and Alan Ehrenberg Tell How They Won the 1930 National Garden Contest." *Better Homes & Gardens Magazine*. March 1931, pp. 31 and 114.

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bluffs that characterize the area's topography. In 1906-07, the Addition was re-platted and annexed to the City of Spokane. The Altamont Addition contained affordable lots for sale that radiated from a circular tree-lined street which was located in the center of the neighborhood, and offered building sites with panoramic views of the city. Although somewhat remote in the early 20th century, the Altamont Addition's picturesque setting beckoned prospective homeowners to enjoy life in the country while also enjoying city amenities conveniently located in the area. These amenities included the development of mixed-use commercial/residential services along nearby South Perry Street, public transportation and public schools, buried sewer lines, delivered electricity and fresh tap water, graded streets with poured concrete curbing, and newly planted street trees. From 1888 to mostly 1945, the Altamont Addition was developed as a residential urban neighborhood with single-family dwellings. Homes spanned a plethora of styles and sizes, from small vernacular bungalows to large landmark Queen Anne, Colonial Revival, and Arts & Crafts examples. One of the Arts & Crafts homes was the Gus & Florence Ehrenberg House which was built in the Ehrenberg Subdivision Plat (part of the original Altamont Addition).

John Walter Ehrenberg

According to Spokane County Tax Assessor records, the Ehrenberg Subdivision was platted in 1910 as part of Block 23 in the Altamont Addition, and was named for John Walter Ehrenberg, the owner of the property. With four 50-foot-wide lots and two 85-foot-wide lots, the Ehrenberg Subdivision afforded the Ehrenberg family an opportunity to claim whatever subdivision lots they wanted on which to build their home, and to develop or sell off unused lots to prospective home buyers. The Ehrenbergs chose to keep Lots 2 through 6, and in 1909, John Ehrenberg built a small frame vernacular bungalow on Lot 2 at 1308 S. Cook Street for himself and his family. Around his home and on Lots 3, 4, 5, and 6, John Ehrenberg planted fruit trees and managed a small orchard. He was listed in city directories as a "fruit grower" and a "carpenter" from 1909 through 1913. After 1913, the John Ehrenberg sold his property and left Spokane.

Gus & Florence Ehrenberg

In September 1910, John Walter Ehrenberg obtained a \$2,400 construction mortgage to finance the construction of a home on Lot 1 at 1304 S. Cook Street, which was located adjacent (to the north) of his home. After the house was built, John sold the home to his brother and sister-in-law, Gus & Florence Ehrenberg, who officially purchased the property on November 20, 1911, assuming the \$2,400 construction mortgage. As recorded on Spokane County warranty deed #342590, a joint easement agreement was reached between the two Ehrenberg families who shared a graveled driveway between the two properties.

Gus Ehrenberg worked as a hotel manager and proprietor with his father, Charles Ehrenberg (hotel owner), at the Palmerston Hotel in downtown Spokane at 104-106 S. Post Street, and was active in area mining investments and operations. His wife, Florence Ehrenberg, gained local notoriety as an accomplished

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EHRENBERG, GUS & FLORENCE, HOUSE
SPOKANE COUNTY, WASHINGTON

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pianist, composer, music teacher, and writer. During her career as a musician, she “turned out words and music for a very catchy piece” called “The Pixilated Peas,” which proved to be a “clever novelty number,” and was given “considerable local promotion...and...featured regularly on radio programs” in Spokane.³ Gus & Florence Ehrenberg raised two sons in the Ehrenberg House, Elliott and Alan Ehrenberg, and lived at the property for 60 years.

During their residency at the Ehrenberg House, the Ehrenberg family (including sons Elliott and Alan) became proficient amateur gardeners and won several garden contests. In Spokane in the 1920s and 1930s, area homeowners organized garden clubs and horticulture societies for all ages, and garden contests were held throughout the city. In 1938, a Spokane newspaper claimed that home and garden contests were so popular during the previous years that “owners of 2,878 Spokane homes” had participated as contestants with an average of “nearly 320 [contest] entries yearly.”⁴ National contests were also popular at the time and were sponsored by organizations such as the National Yard & Garden Contest Association of America.⁵ The results of local and national home & garden contests were beneficial to Spokane, and were described as “city-wide beautification movements” that brought “happiness and contentment into the daily lives of...fellow citizens.”⁶

As such in 1928, Gus & Florence Ehrenberg were awarded the “Sweepstakes Cup” in Spokane for the “city’s best garden.”⁷ Newspaper headlines announced: “*Judges in Spokesman-Review Garden Contest Give Highest Honor to Mr. and Mrs. Gus Ehrenberg, S. 1304 Cook [for] Some Unusually Artistic Effects.*”⁸ The Erhenbergs won several more home and garden contests, and in 1930, the *Spokesman-Review* reported the following:

*“Spokane Garden, S-R Winner, Wins First in National Contest
Ehrenberg Grounds, Four-Time Winner in Spokane, Are Highly Praised”*

After their first prize in the national garden contest, the Ehrenberg sons, Elliott and Alan, wrote a story about their involvement as garden helpers. An article with their story, their photographs, and a photograph

³ “California Calls.” *Spokesman-Review*, 1965.

⁴ “Garden Contests Help Make Spokane Truly City Beautiful.” *Spokesman-Review*, 27 March 1938.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ “City’s Best Garden Wins on Plan and Color.” *Spokesman-Review*, 2 Sept 1928.

⁸ Ibid.

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National Park Service

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EHRENBERG, GUS & FLORENCE, HOUSE
SPOKANE COUNTY, WASHINGTON

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of their mother, Florence Ehrenberg, in the garden was published in the March 1931 edition of *Better Homes & Gardens Magazine*, a national home and garden publication. Today, only remnants of the elaborate, award winning gardens remain. These include a basalt rock wall and gate posts, and some maple trees which were planted along Cook Street when the house was built.

Subsequent Homeowners

From 1972 to 2003, the Ehrenberg House was owned by a succession of nine owners. In 1972, Kirk & Marilyn Keuter bought the Ehrenberg House for \$20,400. Kirk Keuter worked as an assistant manager of the Towne Equipment Company in Spokane. David & Muriel Lindsay bought the property in 1975 for \$35,500 and sold it two years later in 1977 for \$40,000 to John & Linda Kauzloric. John Kauzloric was a program director for KJRB radio station in Spokane. One year later in 1978, the Kauzlorics sold the property to insurance salesman, William Burns, and his wife, Susan Burns, for \$68,000. In 1984, Deborah & Donald Jensen, general manager of Pinnacle Production Incorporated, purchased the property for \$106,500. In 1994, Gunnar Holmquist and noted Spokane musician, Kendall Feeney, bought the house for \$118,000. They sold it to Robert & Carol Eichler in 1994 for \$185,000. In 2001, Chadwick & Mary Gladhart bought the property for \$229,900, and sold it two years later in 2003 to current owners Christina Marino and Phillip Jones. Christina Marino is a board-certified physician specializing in dermatology in Spokane, and Phillip Jones is an attorney who is self-employed as a writer and historian.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (Criterion C)

The Craftsman Style

With high artistic values revealed in its design and construction, the Ehrenberg House is remarkably well-preserved and is architecturally significant as a fine example of the Craftsman style designed as a single-family dwelling. Heavily influenced by the 19th-century English Arts & Crafts Movement which rejected the mass reproduction and mediocre design associated with the Industrial Revolution, the Craftsman style developed in America in the early 1900s with an aesthetic that applauded nature and the environment. Traditional handcraftsmanship and "natural" materials such as native field stone and basalt rock, irregular clinker brick, coarsely textured stucco, hand-split wood shingles, and smooth-finished hand-polished natural woodwork were revered and used. As a reflection of the environment, the natural building materials were used to help organically integrate the house to its natural site and surroundings.

Identifying Elements of the Craftsman Style

Identifying elements of the Craftsman style were popularized as broad house forms with a strong horizontal design emphasis which was achieved by low-pitched roofs, widely overhanging eaves, exposed rafter tails, deep bargeboards, horizontal bands that separated different wall claddings, decorative brackets, battered walls and surrounds, covered front porches, and thick square and tapered porch piers, posts, and pillars.

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EHRENBERG, GUS & FLORENCE, HOUSE
SPOKANE COUNTY, WASHINGTON

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Horizontal lines were further achieved by narrow-width wood clapboard siding, porch walls, and horizontal shadows cast by widely overhanging eaves. The Craftsman style quickly spread throughout the United States by builder's pattern books, pre-cut house packages, and home design magazines, especially Gustav Stickley's publication called *The Craftsman* (1901-1916). The architectural style was enormously popular in America from about 1905 to 1930, at which time it began to fade from fashion.

Craftsman-style Elements Depicted on the Ehrenberg House

The Ehrenberg House is an excellent reflection of the above-mentioned architectural and aesthetic elements of the Craftsman style which are illustrated in the property's documented history and prominent artistic and stylistic features:

- Horizontal design emphasis
- Low-pitched side-gable roof
- Widely overhanging eaves
- Exposed rafter tails with knee-brace brackets
- Deep bargeboards with cut-out ends
- Full-width covered front porch with thick, square, tapered porch pillars
- "Natural" building materials, including a combination of basalt stone foundation, wood clapboard siding, wood shingles, coarse stucco, clinker brick)
- Craftsman-style divided light patterns for multi-paned windows
- Artistic beveled and leaded-glass windows and doors
- Spacious floor plan on first floor
- Golden-colored quarter-sawn solid oak floors
- Numerous built-ins (window seat, cupboards, linen closet, medicine cabinet, bookshelves, pantry)
- Leaded-glass built-in cabinet doors
- Fine-quality vertical-grain red fir woodwork

Of all the homes built in the Altamont Addition, at least half are plain vernacular bungalows with little to no embellishment. The Ehrenberg House, however, stands out as a landmark example of the Craftsman style along with two other equally fine examples of the style in the area. Including the Ehrenberg House, three homes were built in a row on the west side of South Cook Street at house numbers 1204, 1214, and 1304. Erected between 1907 and 1911, the homes were designed as single-family dwellings in the Craftsman style, and display a high level of artistic qualities in their features and craftsmanship. Like the Ehrenberg House, the two adjacent homes have similar false half-timbering details (including curved timbering) and an articulate use of wide eaves, exposed rafter tails, prominent bargeboards, knee-brace

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EHRENBERG, GUS & FLORENCE, HOUSE
SPOKANE COUNTY, WASHINGTON

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brackets, and wide covered front porches. Both the Ehrenberg House and the home at 1214 S. Cook, employ ashlar masonry made of black basalt rock. The foundation of the Ehrenberg House is made of ashlar masonry while the 1214 S. Cook House features an exposed foundation wall, front porch wall, and front porch pillars all made of ashlar masonry. All three homes feature identical wood shingles and wood clapboard siding, and all three homes feature bands of inlaid walnut which ring the perimeter of the living and dining rooms. The architect for all three homes is unknown but it seems possible that the same architect designed all three homes due to so many design similarities. While the architect may have been the same, the homes at 1204 and 1214 S. Cook were constructed by Amil T. Johnson, a prominent builder who practiced in Spokane in the early 1900s.⁹

Builder and Architect

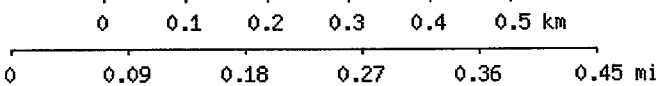
As previously mentioned, the builder of the Ehrenberg House was the homeowner's brother, John Walter Ehrenberg. Little is known about John Ehrenberg. He was listed in city directories as a carpenter, and lived in Spokane from 1909 to 1913. To date, his name has not been associated with any known architectural firms, construction companies, or plan books, or with any other erected homes or buildings in Spokane (except his own home at 1308 S. Cook Street and his brother's house at 1304 S. Cook Street).

Due to its high level of stylistic and artistic qualities, the Ehrenberg House appears to be architect-designed. However, after exhaustive research, the architect for the House to date remains unknown. It is interesting to note that the design for the Ehrenberg House is very similar to house plans drawn by the Ballard Plannary, a popular and prominent architectural firm that designed many homes in the Craftsman style in Spokane from 1908 to 1925. A particular architectural design element featured in many Ballard Plannary-designed homes in Spokane can be found in the Ehrenberg House. It consists of a double or triple border band of inlaid walnut or mahogany which marks the perimeter of the living room and dining room floor and forms a stylized geometric "knot" in the corners of the rooms. This design feature may represent a signature design, or cipher, used by the Ballard Plannary for their work in Spokane.

Conclusion

Architecturally significant, the Gus & Florence Ehrenberg House retains excellent exterior and interior integrity and is able to convey through its original essential physical features early 20th-century building materials, original construction methods, and its significance as a hallmark rendition of the Craftsman style. The Gus & Florence Ehrenberg House appears to meet registration requirements for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C.

⁹ Spokane building permits, Spokane City Hall, Spokane, WA.

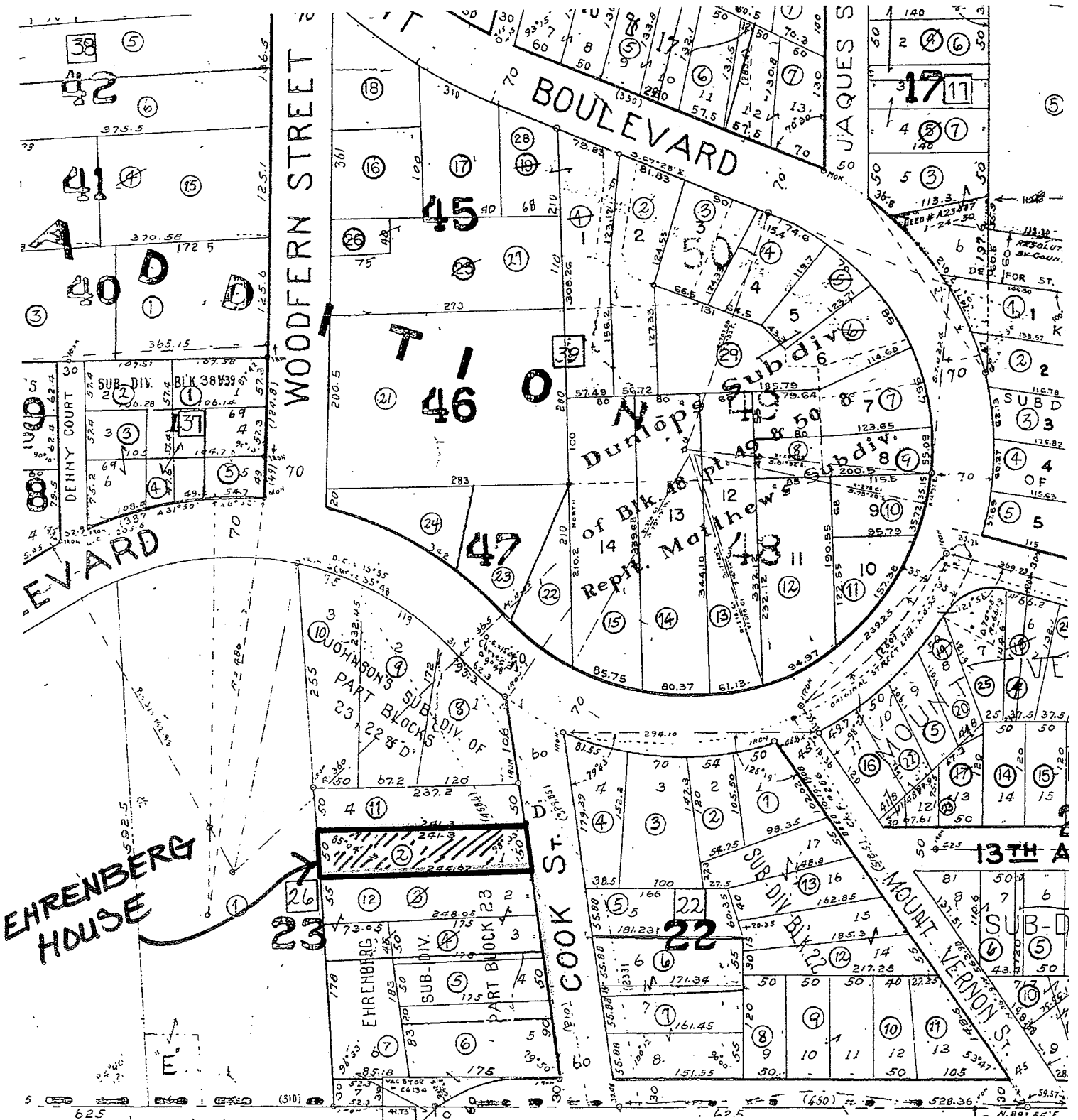


UTM 11 471948E 5276738N (NAD83/WGS84)
USGS Spokane NE (WA) Quadrangle
 Projection is UTM Zone 11 NAD83 Datum

↙ EHRENBERG HOUSE
 1304 S. COOK
 SPOKANE, WA
 99202

Gus & Florence Ehrenberg House
1304 S. Cook
Spokane, WA 99202

Spokane County plat map, 2007

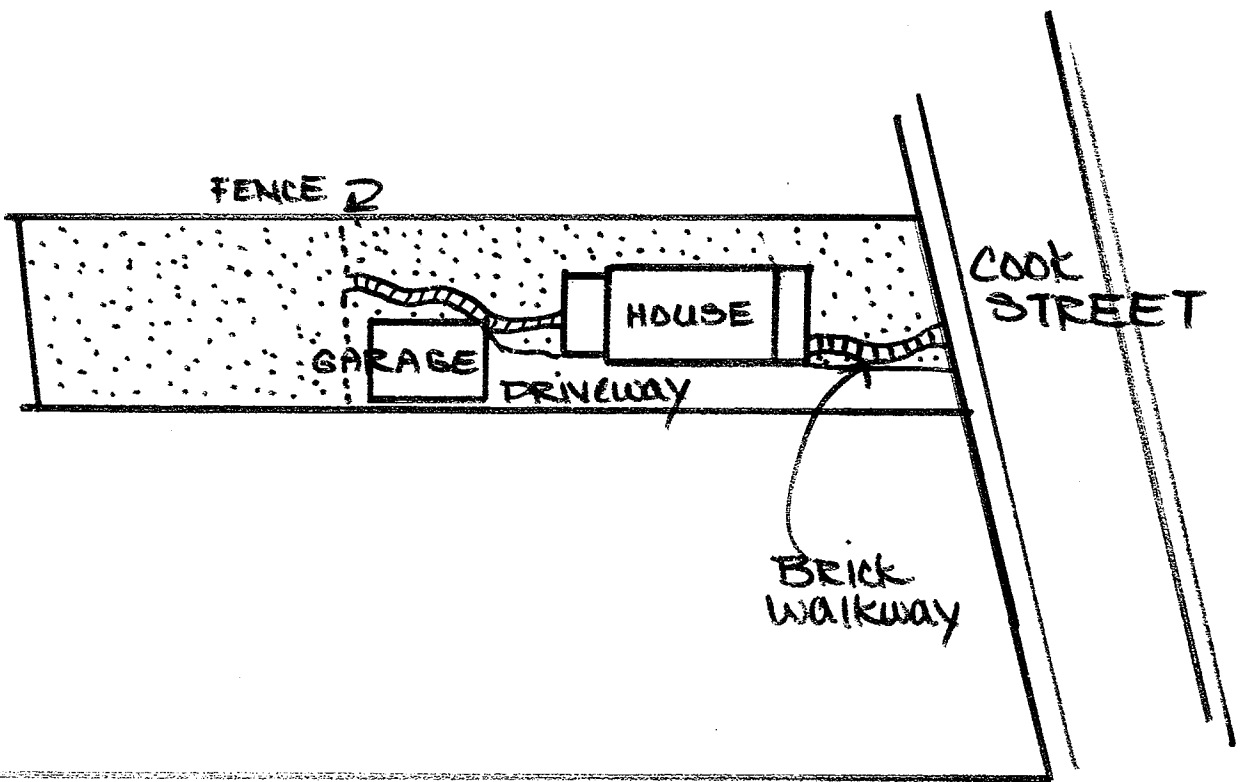


Gus & Florence Ehrenberg House

1304 S. Cook
Spokane, WA 99202

Site Plan of Property

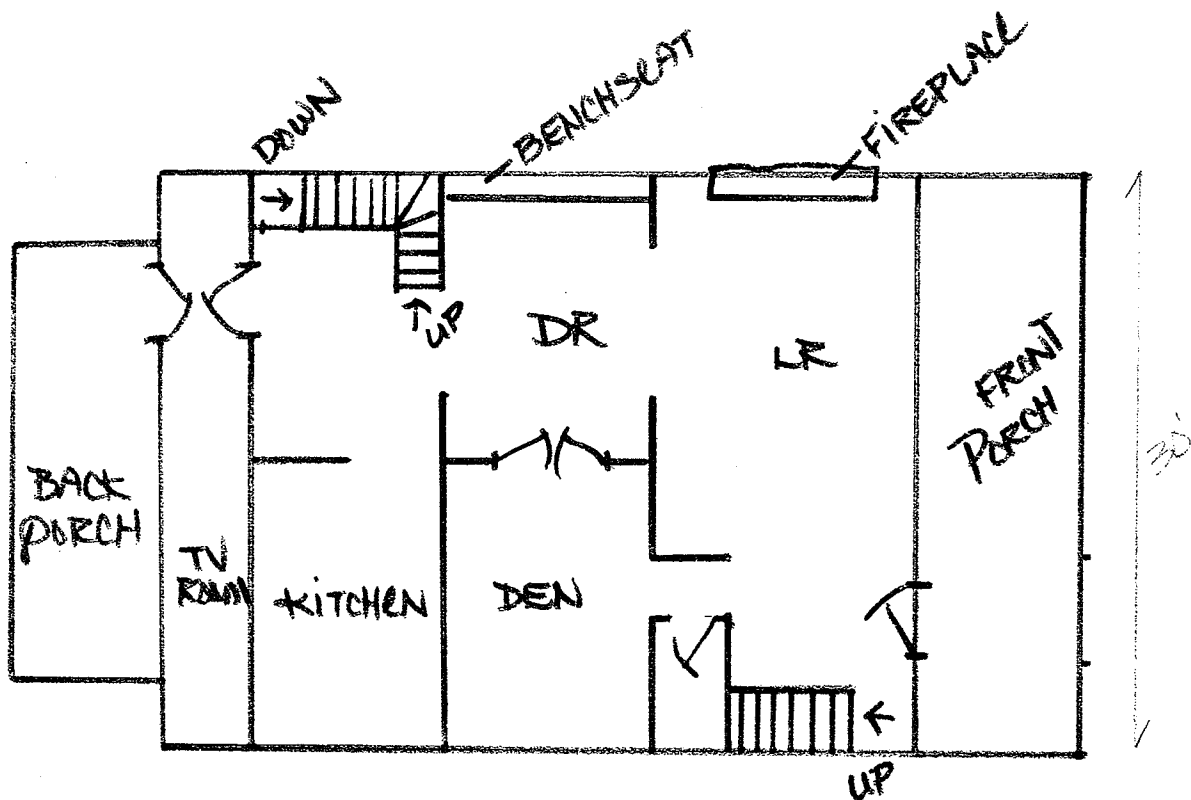
NORTH ↑



Gus & Florence Ehrenberg House

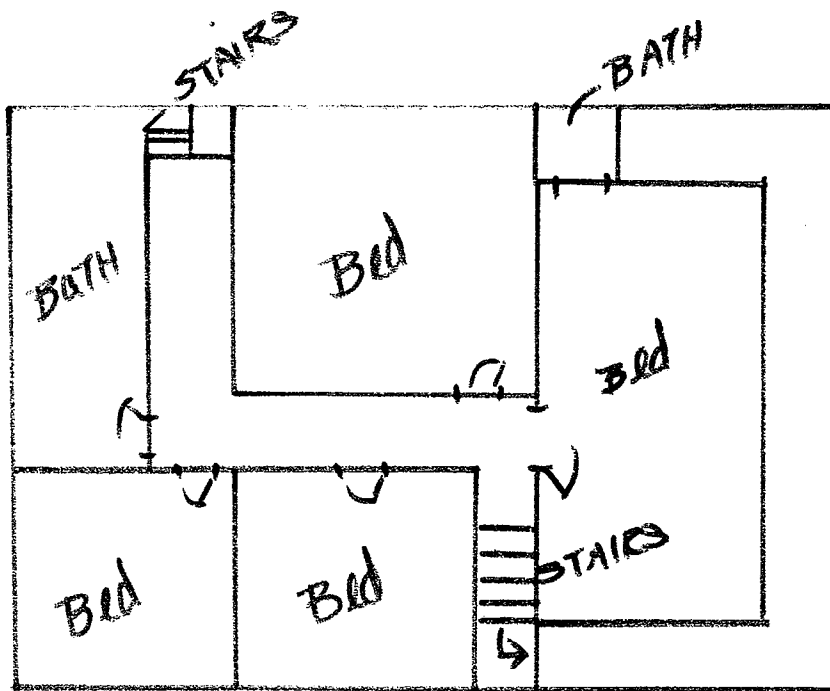
1304 S. Cook Street
Spokane, WA 99202

First Floor of House



Gus & Florence Ehrenberg House
1304 S. Cook Street
Spokane, WA 99202

Second Floor of House



Gus & Florence Ehrenberg House

1304 S. Cook Street
Spokane, WA 99202

"California Calls." *Spokesman-Review*, 1965
"Mrs. Gus Ehrenberg." *Spokane Daily Chronicle*, 23 Jan 1975

California Calls

Mrs. Gus (Florence) Ehrenberg, who turned out words and music for a very catchy piece a few years ago, "The Pixilated Peas," is heading for California tomorrow.

She's taking a recording with her and may offer it to one of the network television shows.

A clever novelty number, it was given considerable local promotion by Arthur Zepp and was featured regularly on radio programs here a few seasons ago.

1965

Mrs. Gus Ehrenberg ^{2 hr} 1-23-75

Mrs. Gus (Florence) Ehrenberg, 88, former Spokane resident well known in musical circles here, died Monday in Mill Valley, Calif., according to word received here by her niece, Mrs. Howard (Thelma) Brady.

A native of Wisconsin, Mrs. Ehrenberg was a longtime resident, living 60 years in the same home at S1304 Cook. She was a piano teacher, having taught both privately and in the schools. She was a pianist and composer and was a past president of Friday Musicales.

Mrs. Ehrenberg had lived here until about two and one-half years ago when she moved to a retirement home, The Redwoods, at Mill Valley.

Surviving are two sons,

Alan, Belvedere, Calif., and Elliott, Los Angeles, and four grandchildren.

Gus & Florence Ehrenberg House
1304 S Cook Street
Spokane, WA 99202

"Gardens in Spokane Win First Awards." *Spokane Daily Chronicle*, 23 May 1936

Gardens in Spokane Win First Awards

Spokane's gardens include the nation's best, having won first prizes in four different nation-wide contests conducted by the national yard and garden contest association.

First national honors for Spokane gardens were won in 1930 by Mr. and Mrs. Gus Ehrenberg, 81304 Cook. Miss Julia Laurance, W455 Sixteenth,

was the winner in 1931, and Mr. and Mrs. Theodore W. Tucker, W934 Sixteenth, won in 1932.

No local gardens were entered in the 1933 and 1934 contests. Mr. and Mrs. John Kakakes, E3203 Thirteenth,

gained the first prize award for 1935. Judges in the national contest make their selections of winners from photographs.

Gus & Florence Ehrenberg House

1304 S. Cook Street
Spokane, WA 99202

"City's Gardens Win Distinction." *Spokesman-Review*, 8 May 1933

CITY'S GARDENS WIN DISTINCTION SPOKANE—ISOPHANS

Entitle Spokane to Be Designated
"the City of Beautiful
Homes."

PRIZES ARE ON DISPLAY

Will Be Awarded to Home
Grounds That Are Best
Arranged This Year.

By A. L. W.

Spokane has had four city-wide yard and garden contests, and has entered photographs of its winning gardens in the national contest at Davenport, Iowa, for the last three years, and each year has won a first prize, last year competing with more than 700 communities.

Merchants, business men and clubs, recognizing the value to the community of such contests for home and city beautification, have donated prizes the last two years.

City of Beautiful Homes.

Because of winning a first prize three years in succession, Spokane this year has been granted by the national association the right to use the term "The City of Beautiful Homes."

Prizes being offered this year, with pictures of the Spokane winning gardens for the last several years, are on display in the windows of the former Vogue Hat shop, 917-919 Riverside, opposite the postoffice, an unusual display.

Any home grounds are eligible, and there is no charge for entry. Owing to the plan of judging, the small, well-kept place has an equal chance with larger ones. Cost does not figure in the winning. Arrangement, neatness and use of grounds are primary factors.

Donors of Prizes.

The following have donated prizes, and others will be published as they are announced:

To the Spokane Chamber of Commerce: Replying to your letter of April 4, we wish to say that it will give us pleasure to contribute one pair of capeskin garden gloves and one bottle of Joyner's Chapilla for the

THE JOYNER DRUG COMPANY.
By Mrs. Wilbur Newell Joyner.
Westlake's Bulb & Flower company
—100 extra Leon Douglas gladioli.
Balzer's Nursery—1 rustic bird bath.
Barrett Manufacturing company—
1 foot stool.
Spokane Concrete Pipe company—
1 bird bath.
Durkee's Seed company—2 bags of
Vigoro.
Washington Brick & Lime company
—1 Sweepstakes garden seat.
Big Square Sprinkler company—1
Big Square lawn sprinkler.
Joel E. Ferris—\$5 cash.
Hoyt Bros., florists—\$2 in merchandise.
The Crescent—50 feet of garden
hose.
Hughes Plumbing company—1 lawn
sprinkler.
Beneke Seed company—1 Brown
spray gun, continuous action.
Albert Burt, Inc.—1 field-grown
peony root.
Eastern Outfitting company—1
sweater.
C. M. Fassett company—1 Tyco's
minimum thermometer.
Peters & Son—1 four-foot spruce
and \$3 in merchandise.
Knight's nursery—1 Norway spruce
and 2 golden arbor vitae.
John L. Matthiesen—\$10 in dahlia
roots.
William R. Concie—1 rustic con-
crete urn.
Frank Gillom—1 rustic flower porch
urn.
Boyd & Conlee—Merchandise.
The Spokesman-Review—1 large
turquoise blue jar.
Gladding-McBean company — 1
glazed porch jar.
Inland Awning company—Lawn
furniture.
Crane company—1 lawn sprinkler.
Grossman Brothers—Paint.
Sherwin-Williams company—Paint.
Kilmer & Son—Rake, spade and
fork.
M. Sells & Co.—Candlesticks.
F. O. Berg & Co.—Lawn chair.
John T. Little & Co.—Fish pole.
W. P. Fuller & Co.—Mirror.
Washington Water Power company
—Electric wire for heating outside
cold frame.
Fratt Furniture company—Lawn
furniture.
Hoesly's Hardware company—1 rake.
Jensen-Byrd company—1 shovel.
Inland Fixture company—1 bench.
Pattee-Persons Lumber company—
1 trellis.

Gus & Florence Ehrenberg House
 1304 S. Cook Street
 Spokane, WA 99202

"Spokane Garden, SR Winner, Wins First in National Contest."
Spokesman-Review, c. 1930

**SPOKANE GARDEN, S.-R. WINNER,
 WINS FIRST IN NATIONAL CONTEST**

Ehrenberg Grounds, Four-Time
 Winner in Spokane, Are
 Highly Praised.

TWO OTHERS PLACED

Weholt and Larsen Places Win
 "Honorable Mention" in Yard
 and Garden Contest.

By Aubrey L. White.

Civic Development Department of The
 Spokesman-Review.

The Spokesman-Review is proud to announce today that out of four entries in the National Yard and Garden contest, submitted by its contest department, Mr. and Mrs. Gus Ehrenberg, 1304 Cook street, won the first prize in class one, the premier class. The prize is a beautiful ornamental carved stone bench with a bronze tablet bearing their name and the date.

Dr. and Mrs. E. E. Weholt, E3812 Twenty-eighth, won the second honorable mention in class two.

Mr. and Mrs. Lewis P. Larsen, E2314 Altamont, won first honorable mention in class three.

The national garden contest is fostered by the Yard and Garden Contest Association of America, established for the purpose of making America a more beautiful and fruitful nation. It is headed by W. M. Jardine ex-secretary of agriculture; Mrs. Henry Ford, president of the Woman's National Farm and Garden association; W. T. Waterman, attorney and founder; J. Horace McFarland, American Rose society; Professor W. Hedrick, director of the New York agriculture experiment station; Professor N. C. Hansen, director of the South Dakota experiment station; Dr. Stafford D. Brook, president of Missouri University and Judge Earl C. Bronaugh of Portland, Oregon.

Spokane Leads Nation.

The pleasing fact is noted that out of 28 states that won prizes and honorable mention, among the 55 total winners, only two states had more than Spokane alone had, namely New York with five and California with four. Only five out of the 28 states had three, the same number Spokane alone placed among the winners. Spokane should be proud of its showing. No other single city in all the country had more than one winner.

Of the Ehrenberg garden, the official statement of George M. Sherts, director of the association, Davenport, Iowa, says:

"The national winner was chosen from hundreds of beautiful gardens. Each a first prize winner in its own home town. Selection was made by photograph. All parts of the country were represented.

"The Ehrenberg garden is striking proof that home grounds of surpassing beauty and charm can be developed on the average sized city place. The lot has but a 50-foot frontage.

Really a Fairyland.

"In spite of its small area, the Ehrenberg garden is a veritable fairyland of beautiful growing things. It is made colorful and interesting by almost every flower that blooms on the Pacific coast. Perennial plants in exquisite variety, shrubs in healthy proportion, trim, stately evergreens, shaded orchard trees, fruiting and flowering vines and a velvety carpet of soft green turf are all features of this prize-winning yard.

"The Ehrenberg place is maintained with the most extreme care. One of the reasons why this is so is because the two sons of the family, Elliott and Allen, 14 and 12 years old respectively, are enthusiastic garden helpers. These junior gardeners are also Boy Scouts and they do their good turns daily in the yard, helping mother with her planting. They are healthy, stalwart lads, for they have been reared in the garden since infancy.

Garden Before Golf.

"The father, a hotelman, prefers gardening to golf. He takes his daily ozen with the spade, right out in his own back yard. Were it not for the combined interest of every member of the family, the Ehrenberg place would not be so well planted.

"The Lady of the Garden" is a talented song writer as well as a garden lover. Her songs, over 20 in number, have been composed out in her beautiful garden, where the music of the birds is an ever-present inspiration.

"In spirit this prize-winning garden is thoroughly modern. It was rated in the first place because Mrs.

Ehrenberg and her husband felt the need of beautiful home surroundings. Their comfortable and nicely furnished residence left them wanting more fresh air, greater freedom and more soul-satisfying beauty.

Shrubs in Masses.

"And so they set to work, planting some trees for shade. They placed shrubs in masses along the lot borders and about the house foundations. They made an excellent selection of evergreens, utilizing their year-round decorative effect to nice advantage.

"They did not stint in their planting of flowers, finding how well the perennial varieties served their purpose. They left a sufficient open lawn area which Master Allen finds sport in keeping neatly trimmed and edged. Appropriately furnished, these home grounds provided the Ehrenbergs with the outdoor room shown in the above illustration.

Aid to Gracious Living

"The garden are invited the intimate friends and guests of the Ehrenbergs. The Lady of the Garden frequently entertains there at tea. It is a charming setting for these social acts which families nowadays find indispensable to gracious living.

"And for their own family life the Ehrenbergs use their beautifully planted yard daily during the outdoor season. There Mrs. Ehrenberg not only composes her songs, but also prepares the papers she reads frequently before the Spokane Garden club, of which she is a prominent member. The garden also furnishes on frequent occasions during the summer months a cool and refreshing luncheon table.

Won Spokesman-Review Contests.

"These beautiful home grounds were only selected as the representative of the Spokane community in the national yard and garden contest after they had won over several hundred other fine home gardens in the big local contest conducted by the Spokane Spokesman-Review, one of the enterprising metropolitan dailies of the Pacific coast. Prior to winning the 1930 city of Spokane sweepstakes this garden had won first prize in its district for three years in succession.

The judges were A. C. Hottes, associate editor of Better Homes and Gardens; Professor C. E. Cary, educational director of the national home planting bureau, and W. T. Waterman, founder of the yard and garden contest movement.

Gus & Florence Ehrenberg House
1304 S. Cook
Spokane, WA 99202

East façade of Ehrenberg House in the 1920s



Gus & Florence Ehrenberg House

1304 S. Cook Street
Spokane, WA 99202

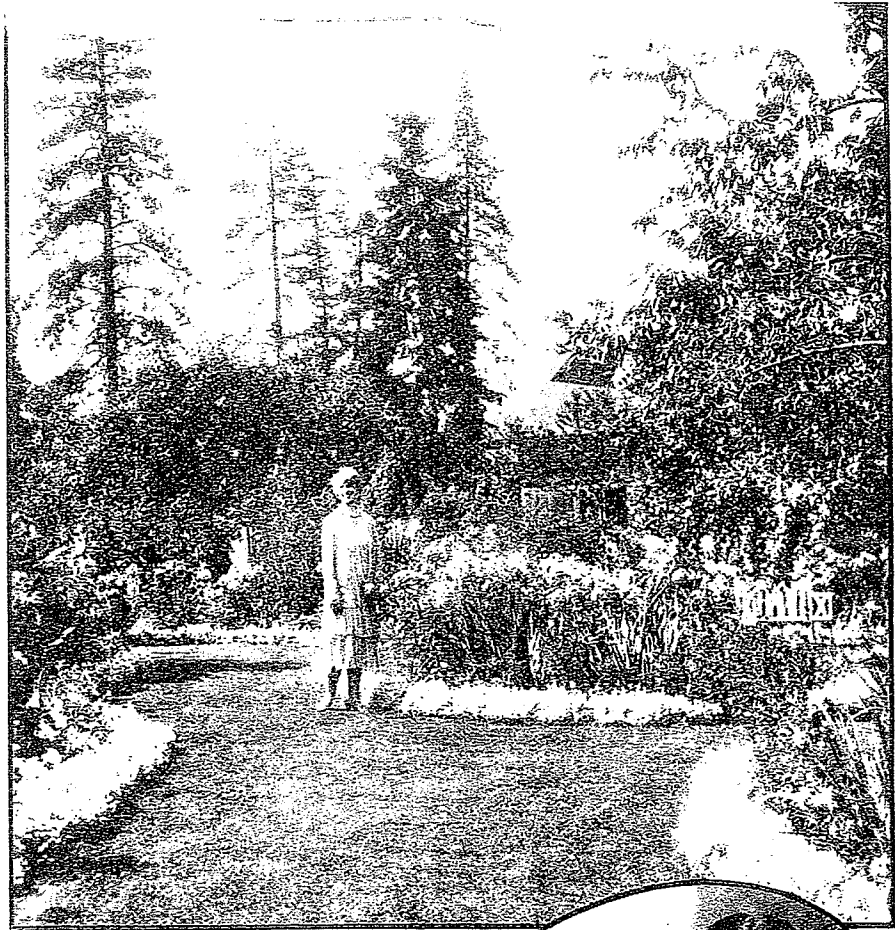
"Elliott and Alan Ehrenberg Tell How They Won the
1930 National Garden Contest."

Better Homes & Gardens Magazine, March 1931, pp. 31 and 114.

31

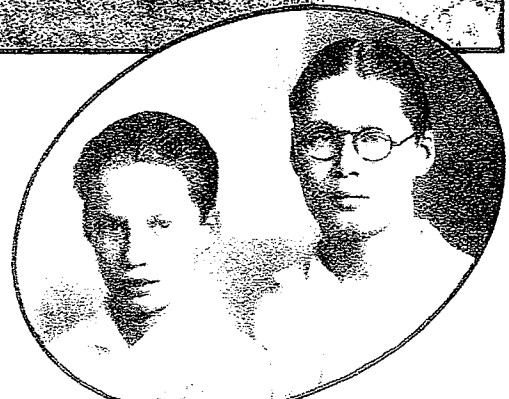
WHEN this story was written by Elliot (age 15) and Alan (age 13) Ehrenberg they did not know that they were the winners of the 1930 National Yard and Garden Contest. In 1928 when they were awakened in the night and told that they had won the city garden contest they murmured, "Uh, huh." What they said this time has not been recorded.

Mrs. Gus Ehrenberg, mother of the writers, in her prize-winning garden, Spokane, Washington



Both boys are members of the
Junior Garden Clubs of America

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v They Won the 1930
onal Garden Contest

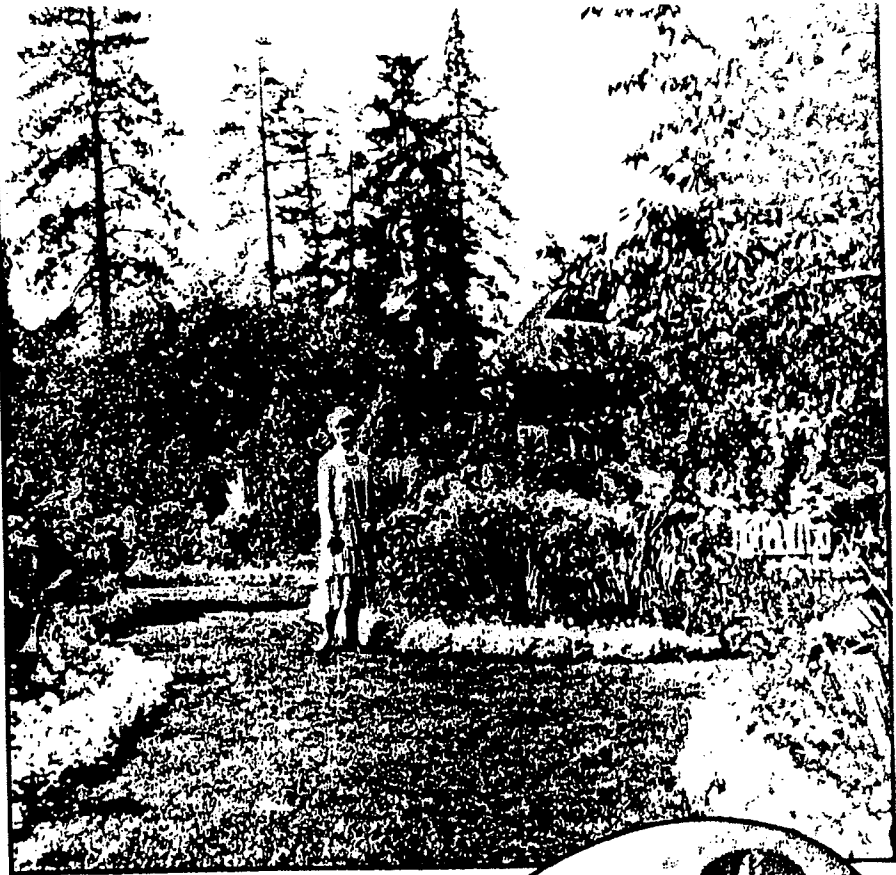


REPORTAGE - The Editors

WHEN this story was written by Elliot (age 15) and Alan (age 13) Ehrenberg they did not know that they were the winners of the 1930 National Yard and Garden Contest. In 1928 when they were awakened in the night and told that they had won the city garden contest they murmured, "Uh, huh." What they said this time has not been recorded.

Mrs. Gus Ehrenberg, mother of the writers, in her prize-winning garden, Spokane, Washington

1964 Cook



Both boys are members of the Junior Garden Clubs of America



Elliott and Alan Ehrenberg Tell How They Won the 1930 National Garden Contest

SOME boys are born gardeners, some become gardeners professionally, and some have gardening thrust upon them, as my brother and I did. Of course, our flower garden started long before we were old enough to help care for it. The lawn and shrubbery were planted when we were very young. Later the pergola was built, but we were still too young to remember much about it, except that it was great fun to climb up the sides. Even now we enjoy climbing it to feast on the blue and green Concord Grapes that hang in bunches from the crossbeams.

Our first garden venture was four years ago, with vegetables, in a secluded corner in the back of our grounds. During the early spring months we carefully selected our seeds from the colored pictures in seed catalogs, according to our own tastes. We had to have separate plots of ground because we each wanted different kinds of vegetables. At first

we were very enthusiastic about spading and raking the ground, fertilizing it, and planting the seeds in rows. One of us planted carrots, head lettuce, and peas; the other, radishes, onions, and beans. It wasn't very long until the garden was thick with weeds. This was discouraging, because we hadn't counted on these. Dad came to our rescue and helped us out. After that we cultivated between the rows and kept them away.

The next year we decided to try our luck growing flowers. We used the same plots of ground, spaded and raked them carefully. From a nearby vacant lot we gathered rocks for bordering the beds and making narrow paths.

NEXT we scattered seeds in the open ground. These were zinnias, China-asters, marigolds, and nasturtiums. After they began to grow we had to thin them out and help Mother transplant snapdragons, petunias,

phlox, and stocks she had grown in the cold frame on the north side of the garage. For edging these beds we used our favorite small flowers—pansies, English Daisies, and rockroses. (Mother calls them by some dizzy name like Portulaca.)

WE BEGAN to learn that plants need a lot of care, watering, weeding, and cultivating; and let us say, we had to watch our step so we didn't pull plants instead of weeds, but we soon learned to recognize the first leaflets of the tiny plants. During the summer months we had our beds full of blossoms that were used for cutting for the house and giving away to friends.

One day we found great mounds of fresh soil in the gladiolus bed, and some of the stalks were leaning over. This happened a week before the garden was to be judged in the contest. It was a tough break just at the time the glads [Continued on page 114

How They Won the 1930 Garden Contest

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were beginning to bloom and we wanted the garden to look its best. We soon discovered the trouble—a mole at work with his underground shovel. Dad bought some traps, but we hadn't counted on our gray Maltese cat that lay sunning himself nearby, and who winked his eye and fairly licked his chops while he slyly watched Mr. Mole at work. The next day while walking thru the garden we heard a growling noise from underneath some raspberry bushes and there we found puss with a big fat mole. We got a real kick out of it and told Mother that even the cat knew her slogan, "Keep the Home Flowers Blooming." You see, we had heard it ever since we began gardening.

THE next year we had new duties added that included watering a balcony box of petunias and taking care of five flower vases built on the stone wall along the south side of the garden entrance. My brother and I divided all jobs evenly, to be sure neither of us was overworked. We took turns in mowing and trimming the lawn, for which we received a weekly allowance. To earn extra money we dug plantain and dandelion weeds for 10 cents a hundred. Sometimes our boy friends took a hand and helped fill our pails. Part of the time we used a dandelion rake that just cut off the tops of the weeds, but to get the roots of the plantain and dandelions we had to use a long screwdriver. After the weeds were dug Dad sprinkled the lawn with ammonium sulphate, and it grew so fast we had to cut the grass oftener. This was a gyp, because our pay wasn't increased.

We were anxious to earn more money during vacation days, so we each took care of a neighbor's lawn while he was out of town for a month. Besides mowing and trimming the lawns we had to learn just where to set the sprinklers to keep the grass from drying out. We were thankful for a shower of rain to relieve us during the hot spell.

There is lots of fruit to be picked from five trees that give shade to the back lawn on hot days. One plum, one pear, and three cherry trees: Bing, Lambert, and Royal Anne. The cherry-picking comes in the hottest part of the summer, in the middle of July. Last summer we picked more than 300 pounds from two trees and sold them for 10 cents a pound. Competition was so keen between us that one morning one of us got up at 4 o'clock to catch up with the other. With this hard-earned money we each bought a band instrument—one a trumpet, the other a clarinet—and now we are going thru the stage of blowing our heads off, but we enjoy taking lessons.

EVERY year the plum tree is so loaded with fruit that we have to prop up the branches to keep them from breaking under the weight. These plums are large and easy to pick, and most of them we pack in baskets for our friends to enjoy. They just melt in one's mouth.

yard—and every year during the summer months she has had teas and dinner parties there. This yard is wired for lights, and at night when these are on, inclosed in Japanese lanterns, it looks like a movie setting with all the bright-colored furniture. On hot summer evenings we have our family dinners in the pergola. Each one carries a tray a la cafeteria style—serve and save yourself a lot of work. By this we mean the dishes, because we take turns—a week at a time—doing the dinner dishes.

LAST spring our Boy Scout troop painted a "model" bungalow for the Scout exposition, held in the Armory. We were taught how to mix and apply the paint. Mother decided the pergola seats and pillars needed painting, so we practiced on them. After this job was done she inspired us to repaint the garden furniture a bright orange color. Mother painted the tables and allotted the chairs to us, six each, for which we were paid by the piece. Had we worked by the hour we would have made more money, but Mother was too smart for such a bargain. We did the paint job in the garage, giving each chair two coats. Mother said we painted ourselves up pretty well and thought the job on the chairs was not so good.

The pergola gate opens into our flower garden, where we have a dandy sprinkling system that saves a lot of work. It is made of long pipes with sprinkler heads in them 2 feet apart. This runs on top of the fence that incloses the garden. All we have to do is open a valve and adjust the pipe at any angle we wish and the water falls like rain from both sides. The fence posts are set in a cement wall, and we helped Dad build the forms to hold the concrete mixture. And right here let us tell you something about Dad: Mother's garden wouldn't get to first base without him. In his garden outfit he's no sheik, but he surely does his stuff.

Mother is such a garden enthusiast that she wasn't content with just our own garden, so last summer she had us gather a lot of rocks, and under her supervision we built a rock garden on the neighbor's side of our community driveway.

TWO years ago, and again this year, Mother won the sweepstake prize for the best amateur garden in the city garden contest. It created much excitement at home, and I know Mother was never so thrilled before. In the first contest she received word at about 10 o'clock at night, after we boys were sound asleep. She dashed upstairs yelling "extra paper" and woke us up, so she claims. She said she sat us both up in bed and just shouted, "We've won the garden contest." The next morning we asked her why she had such a broad smile on her face, and she said, "Well, don't you remember what I told you last night when I awakened you?" We were so sound asleep we hadn't even heard her, tho we did say "Uh, huh"—and turned over in bed. We surely helped celebrate the next few days. A great many people visited our garden, and it was such a thrill to know that we too had helped in winning this grand honor. We felt rewarded for the hard work, the keeping on the job, and the teamwork of the whole family.

