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HISTORIC PRESERVATION

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 Spokane Club Building; Legion Building
other names/site number Chamber of Commerce Building; Hotel Assemblée Building; Metals Building and presently Legion Building;

2. Location

street & number 108 North Washington Street not for publication
city or town Spokane vicinity _____
state Washington code WA county Spokane code 063 zip code 99201

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.)

Mary M. Thompson 6/5/94
Signature of certifying official Date
Mary Thompson, State Historic Preservation Officer
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 commenting or other official 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 Keeper Date of Action

Property Name Spokane Club Building Legion

County and State Spokane County Washington

B. 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.
- 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.)

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

Social History (fraternal organ)

Period of Significance

1901-1912

Significant Dates

1901

1912

Cultural Affiliation

Significant Person

Architect/Builder

Dow, John K. - Architect, Peterson, Peter - Contractor

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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7. Description

The Legion Building is a five story buff-colored brick and sandstone building, with terra cotta detailing. The basement with basalt ashlar walls, granite piers in the interior corners, and steel I-beam posts (resting on granite bases) and beams provide structural support. The building's symmetrical west facade, centered on the main entry, is along Washington Street. Its seven-bay south facade, also symmetrical, fronts on Riverside Avenue. Rusticated sandstone blocks (painted) face the first and second stories, while the third, fourth, and fifth stories are faced with buff-colored brick. Creme-colored terra cotta balconies, window heads and sills, belt courses, and entablature richly embellish the brick field. Centered over the main entry and extending from the fourth floor balcony to the ornate terra cotta entablature is a Ionic colonnade of colossal order. A brick parapet completes the building. Behind the parapet wall is a flat built-up tar composition roof and partial sixth story. Two brick chimneys are at the north end and show evidence of the original steep mansard-roofed sixth story that was destroyed by fire. The east and north facades are plain and unremarkable.

At the northeast corner of Washington Street and Riverside Avenue, the Legion Building fully occupies a 60' X 142' lot with a north-south longitudinal axis. The building is five stories and approximately 74 feet from grade to the top of the parapet. (It originally had six stories and an attic within a tall mansard roof that rose to a total height of 105 feet.)

A fire in 1939 destroyed the roof which was never rebuilt. Furthermore, all detailing above the parapet was removed. This included ornate terra-cotta-faced dormers which extended flush with the parapet wall from the top of the entablature. The dormers were aligned over the three-window grouping in the center of the south facade and the three-window groupings flanking the entry on the west facade. The extant parapet balconies fronted the three dormer groupings. Stacked over the center bay of the three-bay group was a second story barrel-vaulted dormer. The one-story flanking bays were delineated by an open balustrade. Flanking barrel vaulted single-story dormers, spaced one bay-width, completed the ensemble

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The building's main entry, centered in the west facade, is composed two glass entry doors, separated by a fixed glass panel of the same size. Flanking the doors and extending to the top of the opening are six-panel glass sidelights. Over the doors and between the sidelights is a glass transom panel divided into six segments (two columns and three rows). Framed by aluminum sash, the entry doors are inset from the facade. This arrangement, completed circa 1948, is the third configuration for the main entry. The first consisted of a three semi-circular arched sections (small-large-small) divided by square columns. Two steps provided access to the main entry landing (the entry is now at grade). A balcony similar to those extant was above the entry but was removed during the second version of the entry. This version also removed the semi-circular arches and steps. Remaining were the pilasters which framed a triple-door central entry (large arch) and fixed glass panels on each side (small arches). (A 1938 Spokesman Review photograph shows the second version of the entry.) In the 1948 remodel, the columns were removed and replaced by the round steel support columns covered with "stream-lined" aluminum cloaks (now painted black). The tops of the steel columns are exposed. The original carved stone pilasters at the corners of the entry remain. Details include honeysuckle foliage and egg and dart molding on the capitals and bead and reel molding around the recessed vertical panel of the pilaster shafts.

The arrangement of the west facade's first floor is asymmetrical. South of the main entry is a single door opening (approached by two sandstone steps and covered with plywood) and two display window bays divided by a rusticated stone pier (access on the south facade). The original transom windows have been covered with opaque glass panels, alternating rows of gray and gray-green. North of the main entry is the Time Jewelry shop with a centered two door entry (aluminum-framed glass panel) and one display window on each side. North of Time Jewelry is a smaller shop bay that is vacant. This bay consists of a centered wooden door with flanking glass block walls and display windows that are painted (this space has historically been either a restaurant or tavern). The original transoms are covered with a variety of materials.

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line) set 2-feet-4 inches above the terra cotta course that divides the stone and brick sections. The sides of the openings are integral to the common bond brick facade. Flat arches framed by terra cotta molding which extends beyond the jambs frame the paired and the single windows bays. The molding includes, beneath a projecting head, a raised pattern in the form of a narrow ribbon which connects square involutes located above each window corner. The moldings of the paired windows encompass both openings. The windows beneath the balconies are headed by voussoired brick (alternating double stretchers and single stretchers with headers flanking) in a flat arch. The four consoles supporting the balcony partially frame and separate the three window bays.

The arrangement of the fourth and fifth floor windows of the west facade are slightly different than the lower floors. This results from the two story colonnade over the main entry which begins on the fourth floor balcony. Since its 27-foot width is greater than the entry bay, the flanking two-bay arrangement on both the fourth and fifth floors has been reduced to single window bays that are centered in the sections. In addition, the small window openings on the second and third floors of the south corner have been eliminated. The configuration of the remaining bays and the sash is the same as for the lower floors. The wall behind the colonnade is recessed approximately seven feet to form a loggia. Within each of the fourth and fifth floor walls are three paired-wood sash windows. The openings extend the same height and are the same width of the windows of the flanking bays, but they are divided and hinged vertically to form a sash pair which opens from the center, and topped with transom windows.

Ornate terra cotta detailing embellishes the south and west facades. Sills and arch moldings are described above. Beginning at the demarcation of the rusticated stone facing and brick facing is a light gray terra cotta belt course (all other terra cotta is cream colored). Above this flat course is a projecting terra cotta molding along the recessed sections of the facade. This course is omitted along the three-bay sections that are flush with the facade

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and sporadically, fifth and sixth floor rooms. The north facade is along an alley and has a door and two high window openings on the first floor. Five windows (groups of two sharing a sill, and three sharing a sill) and an emergency exit door are on the second story (door is on west end). The exit door replaced and widened an original window opening that was approximately half the size of the others. An identical window is intact, directly above, on the third story. With the exception of the west window of the fourth story, the configuration of the remaining window groups of the third and fourth floors is the same as the second floor (sills extend beneath all the bays except the west end). On the fourth floor, the western window is the same size as the others of that floor. The fifth floor has two bays aligned over the two eastern bays of the lower floors, and three individual bays. The sash are wood one-over-one double-hung. The top of the openings are segmental arches with four rows of voussoired headers. Sandstone sills are beneath the windows of the first and second stories. White terra cotta is used for the sills beneath the third, fourth, and fifth stories windows. The fifth story window openings are formed by the terra cotta entablature which terminates the building.

Rising approximately 31 feet above the parapet at the north end of the building are two red brick chimneys. White terra cotta molding with dentiled projecting cornices cap the chimneys. They exhibit evidence of the former roof line.

Interior

The second and third floors which were originally the Hotel Assemblée have been completely altered and retain no integrity. The fourth and fifth floors, although having been altered, retain varying degrees of integrity. The predominant feature of the fourth floor is the central hall which is distinguished by white hexagonal tile edged by a fretwork of black and white square tiles. Marble base strips and oak trim (painted) contribute to the richly detailed corridor. Also contributing to the character of the hall are oak glass panel doors with original hardware, glass panel

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Built by businessman, mining tycoon, and yachtsman F. Lewis Clark to house the Spokane Club, the building is significant on the local level for architecture and its associations with the commercial and social/fraternal growth of the city. The building is a manifestation of the wealth generated by the Coeur d'Alene mining district, and of the most significant period of the city's growth. F. Lewis Clark, a charter member of the Spokane Club, offered to the Club a building which would house its membership and bear its name. His intent in hiring J.K. Dow as architect was to build and furnish one of the finest club quarters on the west coast. Built at the same time as the Empire State Building (NHR), also owned by Clark and his partner Charles Sweeny and designed by J.K. Dow, the Spokane Club Building touted fireproof structural steel construction and high speed electric elevators. Thus, along with the Empire State Building, it was one of the first two buildings in Spokane to incorporate these elements of the modern technological era.

Architecturally, the symmetrically-arranged building is well proportioned and richly detailed in the Renaissance Revival mode. Grounded by stately rusticated stonework which transitions to a buff brick field festooned with terra cotta molded balconies, an Ionic colonnade of colossal order, belt courses, windows sills and heads, the building terminates in an ornate molded entablature with an overhanging cornice. The components combine into a building that has no parallel in the downtown core. Unfortunately, a fire in 1939 caused the removal of its original effusively ornate dormer-encrusted French roof of green Akron tile. The building was truncated at the existing parapet which is now capped by painted metal instead of its original molded terra cotta coping. In spite of the loss, it retains good exterior integrity and remains a significant and important downtown building.

Even though the interior has been significantly altered by various transitions in use, the fourth floor retains elements from the remodel of the former Spokane Club apartments to offices in 1913, and the fifth floor retains elements from the original Spokane Club. The fourth floor hallway retains its original octagonal

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business and cultural capital of the Inland Northwest. Clark's Spokane Club Building, built within one year of his elegant commercial edifice, the Empire State Building, was his eloquent pronouncement of Spokane's social/cultural position. With its soaring French-roof and its elaborately detailed dormers, the building made as grand a mark on the Spokane skyline as the Spokane County Courthouse and the Spokesman Review Building.

Several prominent buildings from the same era as the Spokane Club/Legion Building are nearby and support its position. The seven-story Hutton Building (1906, NHR) is one block south, the two Paulsen Buildings are kiddy-cornered at Riverside and Washington (15-story, 1928 and 11-story, 1906), the Old National Bank Building (15-story 1909) is one block west, and the Jensen Byrd Building (7-story, 1905) is one/half block east. These buildings represent the boom in Spokane's commercial skyline. The 1906 J.K. Dow-designed Paulsen Building, cloaked in rusticated terra cotta, was Spokane's first skyscraper and boasted the largest cornice west of the Mississippi. The 1909 ONB Building, clad in white terra cotta, was designed by Burnham and Root of Chicago. The Hutton Building, also designed by Dow, in buff brick with terra cotta trim includes a main entry embellished by an architrave consisting of four engaged fluted Ionic columns supporting an entablature topped with an open balustrade. This entry element is quite similar to that of the Spokane Club/Legion Building.

Other Second Renaissance Revival buildings in the downtown area include the Federal Building (NHR, 1908) at 904 West Riverside, the Roman Catholic Chancery (1910, remodeled 1923) at 1023 West Riverside, and former Elk's Temple at 1116 West Riverside (1920). Each building is distinctive, each possessing unique characteristics that contribute to their place in Spokane's architectural legacy. The combination of elements composing the loggia above the main entry of the Spokane Club/Legion Building is not duplicated in these other buildings. The projecting fourth floor balcony and Ionic colonnade of colossal order which rises through the fifth floor to a richly detailed entablature characterize the imposing stature of the building.

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Mr. Clark mysteriously disappeared in Santa Barbara in 1914; he was last seen on the night of January 16th. Only his hat was found in the surf the following day.

ARCHITECT

John K. Dow, although some sources list Charles Z. Hubbell as architect or jointly as architect, is the name lettered on the plans for the "Spokane Club Building," August 7 '00.

Dow was born in Gaylord, Minnesota in 1862. He arrived in Spokane in 1889. Here he practiced on his own and in partnership with several other architects including C.Z. Hubbell, and L.L. Rand. The Spokane Club and Empire State Buildings for Clark and Sweeny were his first major commissions. He followed with the Masonic Temple (original portion), August Paulsen residence, August Paulsen Building, Hutton Building, and M.M. Sellars/Jensen Byrd Buildings. The Paulsen, Hutton, and Sellars/Byrd buildings are within a block of the Spokane Club/Legion Building. He practiced in Spokane until 1937 when he moved to Seattle. He died on June 2 1961 at the age of 99 in a Kirkland, Washington nursing home.

SPOKANE CLUB/AMERICAN LEGION BUILDING - TIMELINE

A May 7, 1900 article in the Spokesman-Review reported a special meeting of the Spokane Club at which F. Lewis Clark's proposal to build a permanent home for the Club was accepted. The new home of the club was to be "...in point of arrangement, style of architecture and furnishings...a source of pride to both the city and the members of the organization." The fourth, fifth, and sixth floors of Mr. Clark's building would be occupied by the club. The interior finish would be oak or other hard wood, except for the kitchen and servant's quarters which would be pine. The floors of the dining rooms, billiard hall, card rooms, library and reception hall would be polished oak. According to the article, the club, "Looking at the matter of finance and the wider field of future usefulness of the club, and its great prestige as a social organization..." voted to amend its by-laws and expand its membership to 200 from its present 94 (pg. 8).

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furnishing of the new quarters, but if the equipment of the rooms in the Lamona building is any criterion the future home will be magnificent."

By April the interior finish plans had been set and were detailed in a April 9, 1901 Spokane Daily Chronicle article. The J. K. Dow-designed interior would be dominated by oak and would be "...one of the best finished buildings to be found in the northwest." The second and third floors were to be arranged for apartments and most of the rooms supplied with baths. The fourth floor would be similar to the lower floors except used exclusively for club members. The fifth floor would be the principal rooms of the club with "...the grand hall [the] most imposing feature..." A library, committee rooms, card rooms, and billiard rooms were also on this floor. The sixth floor would have additional apartments, including ladies quest rooms, main and private dining rooms, and kitchen. (The plans for the Spokane Club Building list John K. Dow, architect, August 7 '00.)

With completion and occupation of the new club building set for around September 15th, the club began a membership drive in increase its membership. According to a August 14th Spokesman-Review article, the club's president, F. H. Manson had sent letters out to a number of Spokane gentlemen. The letter stated that the club had secured a "...very favorable lease of the entire building above the third floor." And that the club quarters would be "...handsomely furnished and equipped throughout at an expanse of \$12,500, with furniture, rugs, carpets, curtains, draperies and electric fixtures of special and novel designs....The Spokane Club in its new home will be most thoroughly modern and up to date; will contain many novel features and there will be few clubs in the country which will excel it in beauty and artistic appointments. It will be a splendid advertisement for Spokane."

Opening of the new Spokane Club Building was set for October 19th according to a October 7th Spokesman-Review article. "The club's new quarters rank as the most elegant in the whole west." The "living rooms" or "sleep chambers" are on the fourth floor.

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in the N110 Washington Street storefront (Polk 1918). With McNabb Pharmacy, drug stores under various owners would occupy the corner storefront for more than sixty six years until 1984. Similarly, hardware stores under different ownership would occupy N110 until 1942.

The Spokane Chamber of Commerce moved from the building around 1932, leaving the Hotel Assemblée the primary tenant. For two years the building was called the Assemblée Building. The remaining upper floors were offices with a mixture of tenants. At street-level the tenants included a variety of retail shops and services.

By 1934 the building was renamed the Metals Building after its owners the Metals Bank & Trust Company of Butte, Montana which had bought the building in 1926 (SDC 1979). Between 1934 and 1947 an assortment of mining companies and other businesses had offices on the fourth and fifth floors. A number of workers union organizations shared the fourth floor with the mining companies. The sixth floor was a laboratory. At street-level during this period, the uses gradually shifted towards taverns as three of the five storefronts were occupied by taverns by 1947. The storefront at W338 Riverside Avenue changed tenants a couple of times from a ladies clothing shop to a barber and beauty shop by the late 1940s (Polk 1934-47).

In April 1938 the building was sold to H. B. Gillingham for around \$100,000 according to a April 21st Spokesman-Review article. The article stated that the building was 93 percent occupied and that "The purchase of the Metals Building is a reflection of the great confidence in the future of Spokane...a city unequaled in opportunities and outstanding now among the cites of the county."

Around 7:00 am on March 2, 1939 a three-alarm fire started that destroyed the roof of the Metals Building. Between \$25,000-\$50,000 in fire and water damage resulted from the fire which most likely started in the grease flue from the sixth floor kitchen according to March 2nd Spokane Daily Chronicle article. Tenants of the

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Security to a group of Spokane investors for \$550,000 according to a January 22nd Spokane Daily Chronicle article. The investment group had planned on restoring the building for office use but sold it to the Legion Group Ltd. in July 1981. Career Path Services on the third floor was the sole occupant of the upper floors in 1984 and with their departure the next year, the upper floors would remain vacant. Only the corner storefront at W342 Riverside and Time Jewelry on Washington occupy the building. Metropolitan Mortgage and Securities Company, Inc. purchased the building from the Legion Group, Ltd. in July 1989.

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Catalogue of 700 photographs by Chas. A. Libby Sr. & C.A.L. Jr.
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Seattle Times. "96 Tomorrow". 20 September 1957.

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6.

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Building Blaze" (photograph). 2 March 1939, p. 1,

Spokane Daily Chronicle. "Building Sale Reported". 1 June 1973,
p. 3.

Spokane Daily Chronicle. "Old Legion Building Bought by
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Spokesman-Review. "Accepts The Offer". 7 May 1900, p. 8.