

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Small-Elliott House

and/or common Elliott House

2. Location

street & number 314 East Poplar St. not for publication

city, town Walla Walla vicinity of congressional district

state Washington code 053 county Walla Walla code 071

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Breen

street & number 314 East Poplar

city, town Walla Walla vicinity of state Washington 99362

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Assessor's Office

street & number Walla Walla County Courthouse

city, town Walla Walla state Washington

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Preliminary National Register nomination survey:
title Catherine Street-Eagan Ave. Historic District property been determined eligible? yes no

date April, 1978 federal state county local

depository for survey records Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

city, town Olympia state Washington

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The residence at 314 East Poplar Street in Walla Walla was built in 1879 for David W. Small by the architect F. P. Allen. Shortly before its completion, the house was described by the Walla Walla Weekly Statesman (December 13, 1879) as "the nicest residence in the city." Its construction cost totalled a "remarkably cheap" \$10,000. Originally the Small House fronted on Birch Street to the south on a four-acre site which was being leveled in December of that year for landscaping with "the finest trees and shrubbery."

In appearance the Small House differed radically from its present-day Craftsman style design. In its original form, the house was a frame three-story building with shiplap siding and an elegantly crested Mansard roof. Its Italianate detailing included a panelled frieze and boldly bracketed cornice, as well as segmental-arch windows with handsome bracketed surrounds. The interior featured a frescoed ceiling, built-in clothes cupboards and other storage areas, and hot water plumbing from the kitchen range to the bathtub. The doors and woodwork were of cedar, although the balustrade of the formal staircase was of carved cherry shipped from Chicago. The intricate pressed leather wainscoting in the front hall continued up the stairs to the second floor hallway.

According to addresses given in the city directories and to some physical evidence within the structure, the house was rotated 180 degrees ca. 1893 so that it fronted on Poplar Street to the north, rather than Birch. The precise reason for this drastic change is not known, but presumably it coincided with the purchase of the house at that time by T. C. Elliott. Besides the awesome logistics of rotating a mansion of 6,000 square feet, several additional changes were apparently made at about this same time. A comparison of photographs of the house from 1885 and from ca. 1893 indicates that porches were added to surround the ground floor exterior and an annex was appended at the rear west side.

A major remodelling occurred, according to photographs in the collection of the Whitman College Library, about 1919 when the Second Empire-styled house was converted to the Craftsman or bungalow mode. On the exterior this stylistic conversion was quite complete. The Mansard roof was removed and replaced by a single hipped roof with shed roofed dormers at the attic level. All window detailing, brackets, porch posts, and balustrades were stripped. The bay windows were modified and some of the porches were enclosed. Much of the early fenestration was replaced by banks of multiple-over-single light sash, and the original shiplap was covered with narrow lapped siding.

At present, the house does retain many original features on its interior. The ground floor layout is essentially as it was in 1879, with a sunroom added from the 1919 remodelling. The sewing room in the annex off the kitchen was made into an apartment at some point, possibly for one of T. C. Elliott's daughters. The cherry stair railing, pressed leather work, and ceiling medallions remain intact. The fireplaces appear to be original as does the wallpaper in several of the rooms. A copper-etched fanlight over the doors of the main entry is assumed to be an original feature as well.

The fir and hardwood floors are hidden at present with a variety of coverings, for example particle board on the second floor. Some of the ceilings have been lowered and accoustical tile installed. The current owners intend to remove the floor coverings and restore the high ceilings. Upstairs are six bedrooms, the most interesting of which is T. C. Elliott's old suite. It served as his office and contained the only second floor fireplace and a tiny adjoining sleeping and dressing room. Two upstairs sleeping porches were added when the house was remodeled in 1919. The large, clean attic is in excellent condition, and the cellar, with access from the kitchen, shows some physical evidence of the turning of the house in 1893.

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Presently, Poplar Street curves away from the Small-Elliott House, thus preserving a bit of the originally expansive, four-acre setting. The City of Walla Walla would like to straighten Poplar Street. If the realignment plan is executed, the new street would cut much closer to the front door of the mansion.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1879, ca. 1919 **Builder/Architect** F. P. Allen

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Small-Elliott House in Walla Walla is locally significant in a number of areas. The house stands upon the site of the great Walla Walla Council of 1855, a gathering which led to the signing of the Umatilla Indian Treaty. Erected in 1879, the house itself has enjoyed two distinct architectural styles (see Description). Its original owner and builder, David W. Small, was a pioneer businessman of wide interests, known chiefly for his involvement in the development of early railroading in Washington. The house was purchased in 1892 by T. C. Elliott, a prominent banker, humanitarian, and Northwest historian, and it remained in the hands of the Elliott Family until 1979.

Isaac Ingalls Stevens, first governor of Washington Territory, led a delegation to the Walla Walla Council Grounds here in May, 1855. The group met with the Yakima, Cayuse, Walla Walla, Umatilla and Nez Perce Indians. Of 6000 Indians, more than half were hostile and planned a massacre. However, members of the Nez Perce tribe warned the governor and his party, thus preventing the confrontation. After 26 days, three treaties were signed. Governor Stevens left immediately to make similar treaties with Indians further north and east. The DAR commissioned a marker which may once have stood in front of the Elliott House, but now stands next to the Carnegie Art Center across the street.

David W. Small bought four acres on the site from William Stephens in April, 1878. Small was born in 1838 in New Brunswick. Seven years later his family moved to Maine where he grew up. He married Martha F. Bradbury and fought in the Civil War. His wife died in 1871, so Small and two children came west to Montana to join his parents. In 1872 he and his brother Ira came to Walla Walla where Dorsey S. Baker, pioneer banker and railroad man, employed the Small brothers to superintend his fourth attempt at completing a narrow gauge railroad between Walla Walla and Wallula. The Smalls were instrumental in pushing the job to its successful conclusion, thus creating the first railroad in eastern Washington. In 1874, a third brother Albert joined them and the three went into the livery business. By 1876 they had assumed management of the Stine House, a local hotel, and had begun handling transportation and supply contracts for the federal government. In 1879 Small was married again--to Ella Dawson. This event may have been the impetus for the construction of his mansion, built in the same year.

In 1877-78 Small launched the steamer "Northwest" on the Snake River, an immediately profitable venture. Two years later Small and his brother Ira contracted to furnish timber for the Northern Pacific Railroad. In 1884 he began construction on Small's Opera House in Walla Walla. Before it was completed, all but the bottom floor collapsed and the hall had to be rebuilt. The opera house was one of the landmarks of Walla Walla until it was torn down in 1904. At the time Small sold his house to T. C. Elliott in 1892, he was active in real estate, the livery business, government contracts, and timber contracts for the railroads.

Thompson Coit Elliott, pioneer business leader and a well known and admired historian, was born in Connecticut in 1862. His father was a Congregational minister. He attended public schools in Hartford and graduated from Amherst in 1885. (In 1930, Amherst awarded him an honorary Doctor of Literature degree in recognition for his work on Northwest history.) He moved to Emporia, Kansas after graduation where he worked briefly as a

9. Major Bibliographical References

UTM NOT VERIFIED
ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Breen, Douglas, Personal interview. November 1, 1980

Hazard, Joseph T. Companion of Adventure. Portland: Binford & Mort, 1952

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Walla Walla, WA

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

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Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated property occupies Lots 5, 6, and 7 of D. W. Small's Addition, or Replat Blocks 3 and 4 of Roberts Addition, City of Walla Walla, Washington.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ann H. Costello

Edited by: F. K. Lentz, OA&HP,
Olympia, WA 98504

organization private researcher

date November, 1980

street & number 531 Lincoln

telephone (509) 529-8569

city or town Walla Walla

state Washington 99362

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title David E. Thom

date 1/4/82

For HCRRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

John A. Banger

date 3/1/82

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: Emma Jane Saxe

date 2-23-82

Chief of Registration

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title examiner for a loan company. The following year he arrived in Walla Walla as a representative of an insurance company. He later became an investment banker specializing in farm loans. In 1900 he founded the investment banking firm of Elliott and Company.

In 1890 Elliott married Anna Amelia Baker, the daughter of banker-railroadman Dorsey S., the patron of the Small brothers. Baker was also the co-founder of the Baker-Boyer National Bank (est. 1869), the first bank in Washington and still a vital participant in Walla Walla business. T. C. and Anna Elliott had seven children.

From the beginning, Elliott displayed a deep and continuing interest in the cultural life of the area. He was treasurer of Whitman College from 1895 to 1900. He was instrumental in securing funds from Andrew Carnegie to build the Walla Walla Public Library, now the Carnegie Art Center. The Elliotts donated part of their estate for the building of the library, so that today the old library stands just across the street from the Elliott House. Elliott became secretary-treasurer of the library in 1904, serving until 1929. From 1929 until his death in 1943, he was president of the board of trustees. He left \$20,000 to the library, as well as significant bequests to Whitman College, the Congregational Church, and the YWCA (in the form of a debt cancellation).

Beyond these varied activities, Elliott's consuming interest was Pacific Northwest History. In a tribute published after his death, F. W. Howay applauded his enthusiasm.

To research into Pacific coast history he devoted a lifetime, never counting the time consumed or the difficulties to be . . . overcome . . . In the identification of historic sites no travel was too severe or exhausting.... He delighted to follow the wanderings of David Thompson, , . and to settle the position of his trading posts, or to trace the footsteps of Lewis and Clark and the Overland Astorians. He was never happier than when engaged in editing some early journal; then his intimate knowledge of the country transformed . . . dry-as-dust record into an interesting human story. (British Columbia Historical Quarterly, vol. 7, no. 3, p. 197)

Although Elliott never wrote a full-length book, he did publish about 130 articles and book reviews, as well as acting as editor on over 30 original journals. He was president, and member of the Board of Directors, for both the Washington and Oregon State Historical societies.

When Elliott died in 1943 (his wife had died the previous year), their daughter Dorothy moved into Elliott House. She was born in the house in 1894, the third daughter of T. C. Elliott and Anna Baker Elliott. She graduated from Reed College in physical education and opened a private summer camp for children at Willapa Bay. During World War II she taught at the Topaz Japanese Relocation Camp in Utah. Later she taught at Reed College and Walla Walla High School.

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Dorothy Elliott was socially-oriented and active in several organizations, among them the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Daughters of Pioneers of Washington, and the Walla Walla Art Club. In 1971 she received the Walla Walla Area Chamber of Commerce's Woman of the Year Award. Her obituary states that "Miss Elliott was known for her community service and as mistress of Elliott House, an area landmark." (Walla Walla Union Bulletin, March 4, 1979)

Elliott House has been used through the years as a temporary repository for various sets of records, including those of the Art Club and the local historical society. The Historical society and the DAR held meetings there. Miss Elliott was for many years a member of the Washington State Lewis & Clark Governor's Committee. In that capacity she accumulated a body of papers on Lewis & Clark which were kept at Elliott House until she died in March, 1979. They have since been given to the library at Whitman College.

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Publishing Co., Inc., 1957.
Walla Walla Weekly Statesman. Dec. 13, 1879.
