

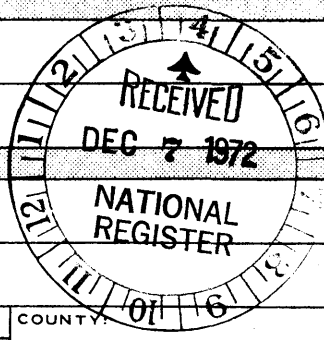
Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Washington	
COUNTY: Whitman	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
DEC 11	1972



1. NAME

COMMON:
Perkins House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
North 623 Perkins

CITY OR TOWN:
Colfax

STATE: Washington CODE: 53 COUNTY: Whitman CODE: 075

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/> Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Mr. & Mrs. John H. Bodley

STREET AND NUMBER:
North 623 Perkins

CITY OR TOWN: Colfax STATE: Washington CODE: 53

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
None

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
None

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Washington

COUNTY: Whitman

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ENTRY NUMBER: DEC 11 1972

DATE:

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Perkins property consists of a two-story house, log cabin and small garage. It is situated on two acres of land settled in 1870 by one of the two founders of Colfax, James A. Perkins. The other man was T. J. Smith.

The house, including porches and balconies, measures about 50' X 60' and has five rooms downstairs and four upstairs, plus a bathroom on each floor. There is no finished attic and the basement contains only two small fruit rooms with dirt floors. (what, in the midwest, is referred to as a "Michigan basement")

The exterior of the house, as well as the inside, appear to be exactly as when built in the mid-1880's. Both are very ornate and bespeak a Victorian elegance.

Inside are found rooms with 12' high ceilings, several of which appear to have the original wall coverings. Downstairs, there is a parlour, living room with a large fireplace, dining room, kitchen and bath. Upstairs, are four large bedrooms with a bathroom. A broad stairway with a wide balustrade leads from the first floor to the second and arises in a wide hall or vestibule.

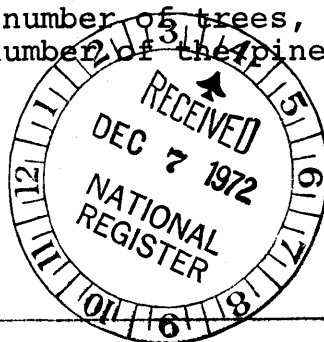
Hardware on the doors, including the hinges, are of brass and very ornate.

Behind the house is a log cabin and shed combination which measures about 30' X 25'. The log cabin has been covered with siding which has served to preserve the structure. The logs appear to be very sound. Attached to the back of the cabin is a shed which appears to have been built about 1920 and served as a full storage area. The two structures have a roof in common.

A small frame garage (15' X 20') on the north side of the property completed the structures on this site.

The eastern and northern margins of the property are bounded by a low stone fence which at one time was surmounted by ornate cast iron grillwork. A small portion of this metal work has been preserved by the present owner.

There are a large number of trees, deciduous and coniferous on the property. A number of the pines exceed four feet in diameter.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

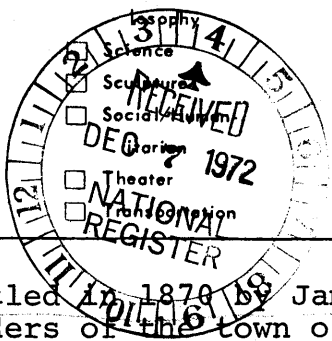
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry		<u>Local History</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention		_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Military		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Perkins property was settled in 1870 by James A. Perkins, one of the two original founders of the town of Colfax and it was Perkins who built the first house in Colfax. It is stated by the old families in Colfax that the log cabin on the Perkins property was built in 1870 and is that first house. The main house was built in the mid-1880's and is a rare remnant of a period of elegance in early western American History. As the log cabin and house have undergone little modification since they were constructed, they constitute valuable historic treasures which warrant preservation.

In addition to Mr. Perkins' position as a founder of Colfax, the County seat of Whitman County, it is the architecture of the residence and the original log cabin which possess the significance of this historic resource. Each side of the house has a balcony and features certain details in the woodwork which are unique to each side of the building, thus presenting a different appearance from each view. One of the particularly distinctive features is the method of simulating masonry corners. From a distance, it is easy to mistake this frame structure for brick construction. The eaves are decorated with a simple wooden loop design while gable cornices feature a step pattern with elaborate scroll work supports. Windows have rounded corners and at one time had inside shutters. Inside, the house features sliding doors, arched doorways, twelve-foot ceilings, transoms of different colored glass, and careful detailing of the woodwork. The one obvious change to the interior is the modernization of the fireplace front.

Mr. Perkins played a founding role in the development of this farming community some 60 miles south of present Spokane. Settlement in Colfax was, in fact, prior to that of Spokane.

Perkins was one of a relatively small group of men to initially try farming in the Palouse Country of Eastern Washington. The Palouse soon proved to possess one of the richest soils in the world, comparing favorably with sections of China which have been productive for hundreds of years. Later, James Perkins engaged in banking and commerce in Colfax which grew to be the

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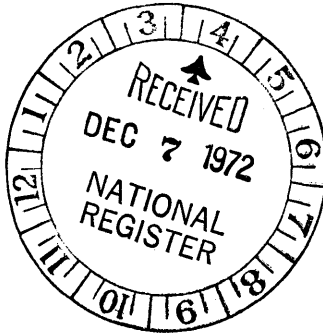
STATE Washington	
COUNTY Whitman	
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#8 - Continued

(Continuation Sheet)

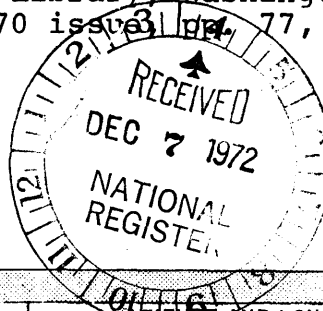
(Number all entries)

hub of the surrounding agricultural region. He was one of the leading citizens in that city and his home was the center of social activity well before the turn of the century.



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

THE RECORD - Friends of the Library, Washington State University, 1970 issue 3, pp. 77, 82, 85.



10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		46° 53' 15"	117° 22' 00"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

11/472072
5192511
CD

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 2

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Mrs. Norma McGregor, President

ORGANIZATION: Whitman County Historical Society DATE: 8/27/72

STREET AND NUMBER: 430 S.E. Crestview

CITY OR TOWN: Pullman STATE: Washington CODE: 53

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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 National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: Charles H. Odegard
Charles H. Odegard

Title: Director - Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission

Date: November 24, 1972

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Robert W. Utley
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 12/11/72

ATTEST:

[Signature]
Keeper of The National Register

Date: 12/11/72