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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See Instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the Instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900-a). Type all entries.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name SHOUDY HOUSE

other names/site number Shoudy Mansion

### 2. Location

street & number 309 West Fifth Avenue

not for publication

city, town Ellensburg

vicinity

state Washington

code WA

county Kittitas

code 037

zip code 98115

### 3. Classification

Ownership of Property

private

public-local

public-State

public-Federal

Category of Property

building(s)

district

site

structure

object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing

Noncontributing

1

—

buildings

—

sites

—

structures

1

objects

1

0

Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

### 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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.  See continuation sheet.

Mary M. Kempner

Signature of certifying official

9/29/92

Date

Washington State Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

### 5. 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): \_\_\_\_\_

Guy M. Lapley

entered in the  
National Register

11/12/92

for Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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## 6. Function or Use

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Multiple Dwelling

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## 7. Description

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Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian: Queen Anne

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation	brick
walls	wood: weatherboard, shingle
roof	wood: shingle
other	NA

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Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Located in downtown Ellensburg, the Shoudy House is a picturesque Victorian cottage built in 1889 and characterized by an irregular plan and profile; a variety of projecting bays and an engaged tower; and decorative millwork trim. The house rests on a lot measuring 120 feet by 130 feet in a modest residential neighborhood just west of Ellensburg's historic commercial district. It is one of the oldest and most distinctive houses in the community. The property features a flat lawn set several feet above street level and surrounded by a stone retaining wall, with spruce, pine, and larch trees.

The Shoudy House is a one-and-one-half story building reflecting a vernacular Queen Anne design. The house is composed of a central hip roof cube from which project a variety of bays with cross gable roofs. The main block measures about 34 feet across the south facade and 61 feet along the east and west side elevations. It is sheltered by a steeply pitched truncated hip roof with deck and overhanging boxed eaves.

Projecting from the central block are a full-height gabled bay with chamfered sides on the south facade; a similar full-height gabled bay on the east side; a full-height gabled bay with bowed face on the west side elevation; and, most dramatically, an engaged box bay on the southwest corner which rises through the eaves of the main roof. The tower culminates in a steep pyramidal roof which flares outward at its base and spires above the house, crowned with an ornamental finial. An open porch, with a shed roof and pediment above the front entry, spans the facade. A rear porch, enclosed in the 1920s, covers the width of the rear elevation.

The Shoudy House is constructed of a wood frame resting on a brick foundation faced in stucco. The walls are faced in wide drop siding, framed with cornerboards, and surmounted by architrave and cornice moldings. The gable ends are sided with alternating bands of diamond and rectangular shaped shingles. The roofs are faced in sawn shingles (original shingles intact on the tower), which are laid in alternating bands of rectangular and diamond shingles on the tower roof. The overhanging eaves are boxed, with projecting cornice moldings supported by decorative console brackets (paired on the tower); decorative panels ornament the

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frieze beneath the eaves of the main block and tower. The gable ends feature raking cornices with plain architrave moldings.

Fenestration on the house includes tall and narrow double hung wood sash windows, with one-over-one lights, on the first floor. On the upper level, the tympanum of the gables are lighted by Palladian windows, each composed of a single central casement flanked by narrow sidelights and surmounted by a fanlight with radiating muntins (added sometime in the early 20th century). A small single light rectangular window illuminates the upper level of the tower and a central dormer window (added before 1906) projects from the front slope of the main hip roof. The dormer features a double hung window with a multi-light upper sash. Banded double hung windows light the enclosed rear porch. All the windows are crowned by molded entablature hoods.

The front porch, which runs from the corner tower to the gable bay, features turned colonnettes resting on square plinths and topped by rounded capitals. Eastlake style brackets with pendants support the entablature, and a pediment rises above the entry. The solid railing of the porch (replacing an original railing with turned balusters) is faced in bands of decorative diamond and rectangular shingles. The porch deck is reached by a flight of three steps. Located in a recess beneath the pediment, the front door of the house is a single leaf paneled door with vertical lights in the upper panel. A glazed transom surmounts the door.

The interior of the Shoudy House features a central hall, front living room, rear dining room and two rear bedrooms. Each space is lighted by a bay window. Walls and ceilings are plaster on lath, and the original 12 foot ceiling height has been restored. The living room and dining room have fireplaces, and paneled pocket doors divided the two rooms. Upstairs, the house featured four bedrooms around the central hall, a rear maid's bedroom, and a small tower room in the southwest corner bedroom. Floors downstairs are hardwood and softwood, while floors upstairs are only softwood. Millwork includes door and window architraves with corner blocks, baseboards, and other trim executed in rosewood. Much of the original bronze hardware remains on the doors. An Italian marble fireplace is located in the dining room.

## 8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

Settlement  
Architecture

1889-1895

1889

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Architect/Builder

Shoudy, John

Not known

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Built between 1889 and 1892 as a showplace residence for the city's founding family, and architecturally distinguished by its picturesque Victorian design, the Shoudy House is a significant reflection of the pioneer boom era in Ellensburg, Washington. The house was constructed by John Shoudy, who arrived at the future townsite in the early 1870s; ran the trading post; platted the city; and promoted trans-mountain roads and transcontinental railroads. His son Dexter, who lived in the house until the mid-1890s, managed the local electrical plant and flour mill. With its decorative millwork trim, projecting bays, and dramatic corner tower, the house is an outstanding example of the vernacular Queen Anne Style, and one of the best preserved historic residences in the city.

Historical Background: Today's city of Ellensburg is located on the site of a pioneer trading post, known as Robber's Roost, which was established in 1870 by Jack Splawn and Ben Burch near the confluence of Wilson Creek and the Yakima River. In 1871, John Alden Shoudy, brother-in-law of Seattle's pioneer banker Dexter Horton, bought the post (actually a 14 by 18 foot log cabin) along with 160 acres. Shoudy was born in Paw Paw, Illinois, in 1842. He moved to Seattle to work for Horton and married Mary Ellen Horton in 1867. In 1871, he sold his transfer business in Seattle in order to come to Ellensburg.

In 1873, Shoudy commissioned a civil engineer to survey an 80 acre townsite, which he named Ellensburgh in honor of his wife Mary Ellen. (The post office later dropped the "H.") Shoudy filed the townsite plat in 1875.

The site was a providential location for Shoudy, who owned a draying company and who, financed by Horton, improved the first wagon road from Seattle over Snoqualmie Pass to the fertile Kittitas Valley. The site was near a river ford and convenient to both north-south and east-west trails used by cattle drovers and others. By the early 1880s, Ellensburg boasted a variety of frame buildings (Shoudy himself built the first) housing stores, hotels, blacksmiths and carpenters, with nearby sawmills, brickyards, and even a brewery.

Shoudy actively promoted the townsite, earning the sobriquet "town father." As a member of the territorial legislature, he initiated the

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formation of Kittitas County in 1883, for which Ellensburg was named county seat; helped convince the Northern Pacific Railroad to build through the town; and later served as a member of the State Constitutional Convention.

Ellensburg was incorporated in 1884. In 1886, the railroad arrived, placing the new city squarely on the transcontinental line. The rail connection precipitated a boom; within two years the town's population had doubled, and Ellensburg was the dominant trading center in central Washington. So ambitious were the plans of Ellensburg that the city positioned itself as a serious contender for the state capital, but lost in an election in 1889. Nonetheless, in 1891 the state legislature rewarded the city with a Normal School, now known as Central Washington University.

Shoudy began to plan for his showplace home at the northeast corner of Fifth Avenue and Kittitas Street in 1889 (the year of the great Ellensburg fire); by 1892, it was complete. Shoudy and Mary Ellen occupied it for a short time but soon transferred the house to his oldest son, Dexter, and his son's bride, Hattie Johnson. Dexter and Hattie Shoudy lived in the house while Dexter managed the family-owned electric light plant and flour mill in Ellensburg. The depression of 1893-95 hurt the Shoudy businesses, however, and by mid-decade Dexter Shoudy had to give up the house and his other holdings. He served briefly as Kittitas County treasurer until 1897, when he moved to Portland, Oregon; he later moved to Spokane, where he served as manager of the Palmerston Hotel.

John Shoudy died in 1901, and his wife left for Seattle in 1903. That year, the Shoudy House was purchased for \$3,000 by Christian Charles Wirth, who completed the second story with four bedrooms, a sewing room, and a second living room. The house changed owners eight more times until 1980 when the house was purchased by Seattle architect Gil Braida who has completed an extensive rehabilitation, restoring deteriorated elements, removing the composition roof and 1920s additions, and replacing missing features based on historical photographs. Today, the house is one of the most distinctive Victorian residences in the city and an important reflection of the contributions of the Shoudy family.

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Ellensburg Maps 1889, 1897, Sanborn Map and Publishing Company, New York.

Shiach, William S., et. al. An Illustrated History of Klickitat, Yakima, and Kittitas Counties , Interstate Publishing Co., Spokane, 1904.

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 Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property Less than one

UTM References

A	1 0	6 8 6 2 9 0	5 2 0 7 5 2 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Lots 4 and 5, and the South 10 feet of Lot 3, Block 12, Depot Addition to Ellensburg.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with the Shoudy House.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

Name/title Gil Braida, edited by L. Garfield  
 organization owner  
 street & number 8222 Latona Avenue NE  
 city or town Seattle

date March 29, 1992  
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