

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>Washington</b>
COUNTY: <b>Chelan</b>
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE <b>JUN 4 1973</b>

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
**Wells House**

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**1300 Fifth**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Wenatchee**

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
**#4 - Hon. Mike McCormack**

STATE:  
**Washington**

CODE:  
**53**

COUNTY:  
**Chelan**

CODE:  
**007**

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
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 type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <b>Vacant</b>

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
**State Board for Community College Education**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**319 E. 7th Avenue**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Olympia**

STATE:  
**Washington**

CODE:  
**53**

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
**Chelan County Courthouse**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Orondo & Washington Streets**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Wenatchee**

STATE:  
**Washington**

CODE:  
**53**

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
**None**

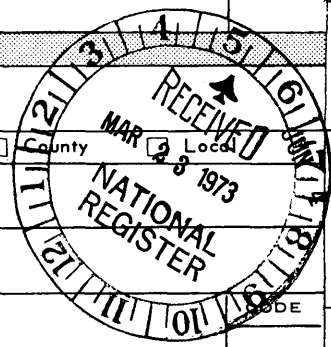
DATE OF SURVEY:  
 Federal  State  County

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input 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

Wells House is a well constructed, ten-room house not counting halls, baths, sleeping porches, etc. This imposing structure was once the most elegant home in Wenatchee; and although it is now sixty-three years old, its beauty leaves a lasting impression on all who see it.

Walls of the basement and first story are made of native hand-squared rock over a foot in thickness. Two upper stories are of wooden frame construction sheeted with cedar shingles. Shallow board moldings break up the expanse of shingles on the upper two stories giving the house a Tudor-like appearance.

A large tower, also made of native rock, extends from ground level to the overall height of the house. The rounded tower is surmounted by a crenulated battlement much like that seen on the Tower of London. No other structure of this design exists in the Wenatchee Valley.

The entry way has unique stained-glass windows of apple pattern design. Massive, tapering supports made of river cobbles and native rock support a carriage port and porch timbers. The use of native rock in a substantial part of the building, capped with wood in rustic tints, causes Wells House to blend effectively with the Wenatchee environment.

The house and mature trees and other plants which surround it makes this property one of the scenic attractions in Wenatchee.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**B. SIGNIFICANCE**

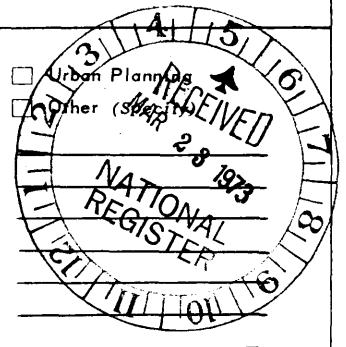
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian;       16th Century       18th Century       20th Century  
 15th Century       17th Century       19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **Built in 1909**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education   | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture  | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |  |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Wells House, the most historic building remaining in Wenatchee, was built in 1909 by W.T. Clark, known as the "Father of the Wenatchee Valley". It was he who brought water to the valley through the Highline Irrigation Canal, which in turn resulted in Wenatchee's becoming the "Apple Capital of the World".

The house was designed by Mrs. W.T. Clark and constructed by ranch hands under the supervision of C.A. Sterling. Mrs. Clark also designed the stained-glass windows, working out an apple pattern unique in Wenatchee.

Wenatchee, at this time, had approximately 4,000 inhabitants and had, for the previous few years, experienced a surge of growth. Irrigating canals had been constructed and the products of orchard, farm, and ranch from the surrounding area were brought to the city for shipment. It was in the context of this bustling growth of a frontier community that this extravagant residence was built. Even today, when we as a people are much more sophisticated about architectural styles and designs, this unique building catches and holds one's attention. The imposing mass of the native hand-squared rock imparts the feeling of the old, solid and traditional. The use of wood in the carriage-port and on the second story successfully combines with it to convey something of the future optimism of the region.

In 1919, the historic home became the property of Mr. and Mrs. A.Z. Wells who arrived in Wenatchee in 1902. Mr. Wells and a cousin A.L. Morris, established a hardware store, specializing in orchard and irrigation equipment. In time, Mr. Wells and a partner, J.M. Wade, expanded the Wells' business to include growing, packing and selling fruit. At the time of his death the hardware store had become the largest of its kind in North Central Washington and his orchard holdings totaling 900 acres.

Repaying a community which had given them prosperity, Mr. and Mrs. Wells set up a charitable foundation for the benefit of several North Central Washington beneficiaries.

In addition to gifts of money, Mr. and Mrs. Wells deeded their beautiful home to the Wenatchee School District as a place to develop a campus for Wenatchee Valley College. The house and five acres of landscaped land became the first unit among several buildings and a later-expanded campus of the college.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

- (1) Dow, Edson. Passes to the North: Wenatchee, Wash. Wenatchee Bindery and Printing Co. 1963.
- (2) Gellatly, John A. A History of Wenatchee, Wenatchee, Washington Wenatchee Bindery and Printing Co. 1962.
- (3) Miles, Charles and Sperlin, O.B. Building a State, Washington 1889-1939: Tacoma, Wash. Pioneer Incorporated, 1940.
- (4) Hull, Lindley M. History of Central Washington: Spokane, Washington. Shaw and Borden Co. 1929.

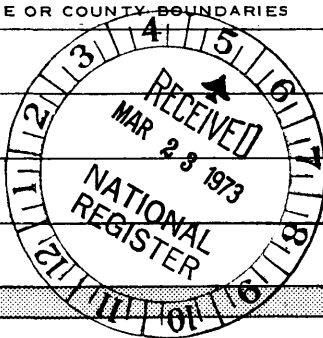
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	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	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		47 25 53	120 19 55	
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

10/701200  
5256340  
30

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than one  
 LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Leonard Ekman

ORGANIZATION: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: Oct. 25, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER: 2036 Valley view Blvd.

CITY OR TOWN: Wenatchee 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. Odegaard  
 Title: Director - Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission  
 Date: March 9, 1973

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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

Robert Van Utley  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 6/4/73

ATTEST:  
[Signature]  
 Keeper of The National Register  
 Date: 5/31/73

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Washington	
COUNTY Chelan	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JUN 4 1973

(Number all entries)

#8 Significance

Wells House

Wells House is a most deserving historic site. It is a memorial to W.T. Clark and A.Z. Wells - men who saw the potential importance of Wenatchee soil, climate and geographic location and persevered to develop opportunity for themselves and their neighbors, as well.

It is the belief of many that Wells House not only commemorates the history of two men, but represents a period of history in our valley where rugged pioneers like Clark, Wells and many others carved out of the sage brush the beginnings of civilization in our great valley. It is also a commemoration of other beginnings; those of a campus for a community college. The house, whether usable or not, should be preserved as a tribute to Mr. Wells and many other empire builders whose foresight has given us the flourishing industries and title "Apple Capital of the World" that we so proudly hold today.

