

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

**SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD**

**NRIS Reference Number: 95000221**

**Date Listed: 3/13/95**

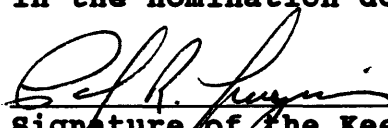
House at 605 South G Street  
**Property Name**

Pierce  
**County**

WA  
**State**

Hilltop Neighborhood MPS  
**Multiple Name**

-----  
This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

  
A. **Signature of the Keeper**

3/13/95  
**Date of Action**

=====  
**Amended Items in Nomination:**

**Classification:**

The historic wood-frame garage was incorrectly entered on the form as a structure. The nomination has been revised to change its classification to a contributing building.

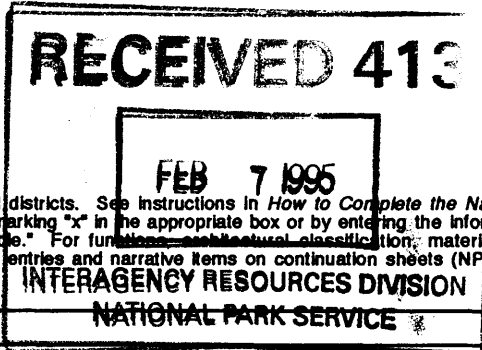
This information was confirmed with Lauren McCroskey of the WA SHPO.

**DISTRIBUTION:**

- National Register property file**
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)**

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 605 South G Street  
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 605 S. G Street not for publication  
city or town Tacoma vicinity  
state Washington code WA county Pierce code 053 zip code 98405

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. Sampson 1/31/95  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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 certifying official/Title 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 the Keeper Cath R. Ferguson Date of Action 3/13/95  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

605 S. G Street  
Name of Property

Pierce County, Washington  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not incl. previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Non-Contributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
1	0	structures
0	0	objects
2	0	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing:**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Hilltop Neighborhood

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Functions or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

DOMESTIC: multiple dwelling

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE: professional

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN: Queen Anne

LATE VICTORIAN: stick

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls WOOD: weatherboard

WOOD: shingle

roof ASPHALT: composition

other

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

605 S. G Street  
Name of Property

Pierce County, Washington  
County and State

**8. 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.

**Areas of Significance**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE  
EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT

**Period of Significance**

1890-1906  
1906-1945

**Significant Dates**

1906

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)  
N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

unknown

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

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

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**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 Engineering Record# \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository:  
City of Tacoma OHP

605 S. G Street  
Name of Property

Pierce County, Washington  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** less than one

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM References on a continuation sheet.)

1	<input type="text" value="10"/> Zone	<input type="text" value="5"/> <input type="text" value="41"/> <input type="text" value="950"/> Easting	<input type="text" value="52"/> <input type="text" value="33"/> <input type="text" value="750"/> Northing	3	<input type="text"/> Zone	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> Easting	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> Northing
2	<input type="text"/> Zone	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> Easting	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> Northing	4	<input type="text"/> Zone	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> Easting	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> Northing

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Cloantha Copass / Gerald K.B Eysaman  
organization eysaman + company date August 20, 1994  
street & number 405 Sixth Avenue, N° 200 telephone (206) 272-5924  
city or town Tacoma state WA zip code 98402

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

**Property Owner** (Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name \_\_\_\_\_  
street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

605 S. G Street  
Pierce County, WA

Hilltop Neighborhood MPN

## Description

A two-story building wood frame residential building, 605 S. G Street was constructed in 1890. Its design reflects a blend of details associated with both the Queen Anne and stick styles. Although converted historically from a single to a multiple dwelling, the home retains the outward appearance of a single dwelling, with the exception of secondary front and rear exits. The house represents the single dwelling property subtype described under the property type "Residential Resources" in the Hilltop Neighborhood Multiple Property Nomination.

## SETTING

The building stands on the east side of S. G Street, in a block with several other buildings of similar size, style, and age. Located above the break in the hill, the relatively flat site slopes gently to the east. A front lawn separates the building the street, and a narrow concrete walkway connects the sidewalk with the front porch. The building is set slightly north of center on two twenty-five foot wide lots, leaving a larger southern side yard. The depth of the building substantially fills the property and leaves a relatively small rear yard. There is a narrow concrete walkway cutting across the rear yard from to the rear out building.

Abutting the paved alley is a historic wood frame, single story garage building with large, diagonally framed, wooden barn-type sliding doors to the alley. This structure has a steep mono-pitch roof sloping to the alley. On the yard (west) elevation of the garage a pair of horizontal wood windows that appear historic with metal bars on either side frame a centered contemporary flush, swing door.

## EXTERIOR

605's is L-shaped in plan, with the short leg running north at the rear of the building. The home has a gable roof and a small hip roof with a dominant cross-gable over the short leg of the northeast corner. There are two two-story bays with projecting gables and a single story wrap-around porch extending across part of the main facade and along the inside of the L. There is a gabled dormer on the north roof. A gabled pediment is centered above the main entrance in the porch hip roof. Two brick chimneys pierce the roof. The roof has non-historic composition shingles but the original wood shingles are visible in the attic between spaced battens.

The exterior walls are ornately composed with a horizontal beveled, drop siding field atop vertical board skirting and a wide band of regular, square-cut shingles and fish-scaled shingles at mid-level that wraps around the building unbroken. Vertical wood trim frames the building at the corners and at all window penetrations. The lower third of the front bay has vertical wood siding. A broad paneled frieze runs beneath the projecting eaves above the heads of the windows. The gables are filled with square-cut regular shingles and fish scaled shingles.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

605 S. G Street  
Pierce County, WA

Hilltop Neighborhood MPN

### Description, cont.

The wrap around front (north) porch extends beyond the plane of both the front bay and the north elevation. There are six turned decorative porch supports in excellent condition. The front porch eave and the rear second floor rear porch have horizontal bands of open spindle work. The railing and balustrade to the front porch are non-historic.

The two-story, three-sided box bay on the front facade projects forward of the main gable. The bay has a single square post resting on the hipped porch roof and decorative scroll-swan brackets. The gable has a fixed multi-pane window with colored glass and a matching window in the frieze below between the brackets. Centered in the main front gable is a third matching decorative window. All the gables have returned eaves with square cut shingles. This creates a deep framed shadow effect, emphasizing the elements of the various elevations. First and second floor windows in the front bay feature matching large square view windows with transom lights. Non-historic aluminum storm window have been added over many of the original windows.

A two-story, three-sided bay extends from the south elevation with a projecting cross gable and patterned woodwork and trim. At the rear (east) elevation a two story wing projects with an upper floor open porch and a first floor extension with a corner cut-out porch. A contemporary wood stair descends from the upper floor.

### INTERIOR

The interior of the building retains much of the original plan, trim, and finishes. Modifications were made historically at the entry, stairway, and front room to convert the building into two units. The current occupants have removed some of these partitions, re-exposing the stair and its open balustrade with its delicate turned wood balusters.

Originally, the main door led to an entry hall; now the large front room is entered directly. The front room has a decorative fireplace with a wood mantel piece, tile surround, and decorative tile hearth in the opposite the entrance. A niche in the box bay features flat plaster bracket work.

Beyond the front room, a pair of French doors lead to another large room with the south facing bay window. To the side of this room a second pair of French door open to what was historically the dining room. This room has built-in wood cabinets and a pass through to the kitchen beyond. It also has an exterior door to the end of the porch.

The southeast corner on the first floor contains an additional large room. There is a bathroom in the rear wing. Between the corner room and the kitchen a steep stair, center axis to the building, descends steeply to the basement. The rear half of the basement is full and partially finished. The foundations are post and pier atop three courses of brick that sit at or near grade on the concrete foundation.

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7, 8, 9, 10 Page 3

605 S. G Street  
Pierce County, WA

Hilltop Neighborhood MPN

## Description, cont.

From the front room a stair up turns 90° to a central hallway on the building axis. Several rooms are entered from the hall and typically have operable wood transoms over original paneled wood doors, unpainted. Throughout the building, most of the trim has been painted. Door and window trim throughout the building is fluted with corner rosettes. Original metal hardware and black ceramic door knobs, remains on many doors. The upper floor front rooms has oak wood graining around the perimeter on the original fir floors.

## Statement of Significance

605 S. G Street is primarily significant architecturally as an example of residential architecture dating to the neighborhood's first phase of development. The property is secondarily significant for its association with the formation of the Hilltop Neighborhood. The home's uses over time as a single dwelling, rooming house, and duplex document housing options significant in neighborhood development. Within the framework of the Hilltop Neighborhood Multiple Property Nomination, associated historic contexts for the property are First Expansion 1875-1900, and Branching Out: 1900-1930. Specific periods of significance for the property are 1890-1906, documenting construction and early uses, and then 1906-1950, when it was occupied by members of the Johnson family. While members of the Johnson family occupied the home until the mid-1970s, the period of significance extends only until 1945, within the time period addressed by the Hilltop MPN.

605 S. G Street was most likely built by James Agnew, a carpenter. Agnew, along with his wife Amanda, owned property in various parts of the city, including land in Block 613 of New Tacoma. While the record is not clear as to when the Agnews acquired the property, in 1889 they lived in a house at 611 S. G Street. By 1891, the Agnews had moved to 605 S. G Street, suggesting a construction date of 1890. As with the histories of many of the independent builders who initially developed properties in the Hilltop, little is known about James Agnew. Shortly after the completion of 605 S. G, the Agnews moved out to live in the newly-developing southern part of Tacoma. By 1896, perhaps because development had slowed, James Agnew had moved to another area of the Hilltop, and was working as a laborer at the Northern Pacific shops.

Agnew probably drew on architectural pattern books to develop his design for the building. The home retains both the interior and exterior detailing associated with a property of its style and age, and is an outstanding example of residences built during the first wave of development in the northern part of the Hilltop. Characteristic features include its elaborate use of wood both functionally and decoratively, and the broad front porch. Although, as noted in the description section above, the property has undergone alterations associated with its conversion to a multiple dwelling, the original plan and decorative scheme remains clearly legible. Significant features, including the windows and wood trim, remain intact.



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National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 4

605 S. G Street  
Pierce County, WA

Hilltop Neighborhood MPN

### Statement of Significance, cont.

Designed as a single dwelling, over the years 605 S. G was used by extended families, rooming house boarders, and a multiple dwelling. These uses associate the structure with an important theme in the Hilltop's development, namely the provision of varied housing options for Tacoma's working people. After the Agnews moved in 1892, 605 S. G was used as a rental property until 1899 when the Agnews sold the property to the Prentzels. The Prentzels do not appear to have been Tacoma residents; they rented 605 S. G Street to tenants. In 1899-1900, the Robert and Belle Reid and their young daughter, all newly arrived in Tacoma from Minnesota, lived in the house. Robert worked as the Tacoma manager of the Western Union Telegraph Company, and Belle was an artist. As was typical at the time, the household also included other non-family members. Lou Coveney, a bookkeeper originally from New York, lived with the family; and Jena Peterson, a Norwegian woman, worked as a servant in the household.

In 1901, the Reids had moved to North Tacoma, and the home became a boarding house run by Mrs. Amanda B. Johnston. Having arrived in Tacoma c. 1896, Mrs. Johnston, initially worked as the proprietor of the Florence Hotel (701 St. Helens Avenue) before becoming the proprietor of a series of rooming houses. Apartment living had not yet become popular, and furnished rooms were an important housing alternative for people who were new to the area, and not able to afford a home, or otherwise in need of a place to live. Providing furnished rooms was an important livelihood for women--especially widows or other women who had to support themselves.

In 1906, Mr. Allen S. Johnson acquired the home at 605 S. G Street for his family. The home, eventually divided into two units, housed members of the Johnson family into the mid-1970s. Johnson was the proprietor of the A.S. Johnson Co., which sold decorating materials such as paints, oils, glass, wall paper. Johnson and his wife Marion had arrived in Tacoma in the 1880s, probably from Wisconsin, his home state. He first worked as a clerk for Kelly, Dunne and Company, a paint, glass, and wallpaper store on Pacific Avenue. In 1890, Johnson took advantage of the knowledge he gained at Kelly, Dunne and Company and opened his own store at 1129 Railroad Avenue. Two years later, Johnson had moved his store to 1309 Pacific Avenue. The Johnsons lived in the downtown area near the stores. While Johnson's company weathered the financial panic of the 1890s, he cut his housing costs by moving into the he same building as his store in the late 1890s.

In 1901, the business climate improved, and the Johnson family moved to a house in the Hilltop at 608 S. G Street. The neighborhood was a short walk up the hill from the family business, and well-connected by the street car lines to both the downtown and other parts of the city. Additionally, the newly-developed Wright Park lay only a block to the north, offering recreational opportunities for the neighborhood residents. In 1906, the Johnsons and their four youngest children (ages eleven to twenty-two) moved across the street to 605 S. G Street.

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National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8, 9, 10 Page 5

605 S. G Street  
Pierce County, WA

Hilltop Neighborhood MPN

### Statement of Significance, cont.

In 1917, Allen S. Johnson died, leaving his widow and their children to run the store. In a pattern typical for the time, the single children, who were in their twenties and thirties, lived at home and worked for the family business. Mrs. Johnson was not the only widow in the family; her widowed daughter Daisy Stewart returned to live at home. Except for Daisy, who taught school, the entire family worked at the paint and wallpaper store, serving as a stenographer, saleslady, and salesman respectively. By 1930, the second unit first appears as a separate address in the city directory at this time. The younger son, Frank, had married, and his wife joined the household. The creation of an upstairs apartment unit, with a second entrance next to the main entrance, offered the couple greater independence--but kept them close to the family.

Members of the family continued to move in and out of the family home as their personal circumstances changed. However, most continued to work for the family business. After Mrs. Marion Johnson died in 1946, Gladys continued to live in the home into the 1970s. Recently, the home has undergone another conversion: this time to professional offices. The division between the first and second stories has been removed, returning the home to its initial single dwelling configuration.

### Bibliography

*Polk's City of Tacoma Directories*  
Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1896  
U.S. Federal Census: 1900, 1910, 1920

### Verbal boundary description

Lots 3 and 4, Block 613, New Tacoma

### Verbal boundary justification

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