

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

APR 10 1989

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 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Smith Hospital and Douglas County Press Building
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 109 North Chelan not for publication
city, town Waterville vicinity
state Washington code WA county Douglas code 017 zip code 98858

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
		<u>3</u>	<u>0</u> 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.
Jacob E. Thors March 30, 1989
Signature of certifying official 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:) _____
Alvina Byrum Entered in the National Register 5/10/89

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Health Care: hospitalCommerce/Trade: business

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: multiple dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Other: Early 20th Century CommercialVernacular

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concretewalls brick

roof other: compositionother wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Smith Hospital and Douglas County Press Building is a one story, three-part brick commercial complex located one-half block north of the Downtown Waterville Historic District (National Register, 1987). The building is located at the southeast intersection of Chelan and Ash streets and is bounded on the south by a surface parking lot. The structure is composed of three discrete but interconnected elements: the newspaper office building (the southernmost part, along Chelan Street), the adjacent doctor's office (on the corner), both constructed in 1913, and the hospital annex built east of the original along Ash Street in 1916. All three elements are constructed of local red brick and are mostly well preserved.

The original Smith Hospital, at the corner of Chelan and Ash, measures 30 feet by 30 feet, is constructed of red brick walls with a concrete foundation, and has a hip roof. The front (west) facade of the structure is symmetrically composed with two segmentally arched windows to either side of a recessed entry bay. The windows have wood frames with one-over-one double hung wood sash, and are surmounted by brick arches with keystones. Between the windows, the entry is set within a round arched opening, with brick voussoirs and a keystone inscribed with "1913", the date of construction. The entry is reached by a flight of five concrete steps. The door is composed of a single glazed panel, flanked by sidelights. The north side elevation along Ash street features two segmentally arched windows with double hung one-over-one wood sash, and a single leaf rear door toward the east end of the building. The hospital structure is crowned by a projecting corbelled brick cornice and parapet. The interior of the structure contains five rooms organized around a central hall.

The Douglas County Press Building is immediately south of the hospital and shares a party wall with the structure. The newspaper office measures 21 feet across the front (west) facade and 60 feet along the side elevations. The building is constructed of brick walls resting on a concrete foundation. The storefront is treated as a single panel, enframed by slightly projecting brick piers and crowned by a corbelled brick cornice and parapet. The storefront is composed of a metal cornice and posts which divide the front into two display window bays, with transoms and kickplates, flanking a center entry. The parapet is stepped down along the side elevation, following the pitch of the sloping roof. The interior includes the original plan, with a small front office and a large rear space (which originally housed the printing presses).

The Smith Hospital Annex located along Ash street is connected to the original hospital by a frame appendage that is composed of a central single leaf door and flanking wood sash windows. The annex itself is a brick structure resting on a concrete foundation. It measures 92 feet along the Ash street facade and 30 feet along the rear elevation. It is

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Continuation Sheet**

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lighted by regularly spaced segmental arched windows, with one-over-one double hung wood sash. The windows are crowned by arched brick hoods. The corbelled brick cornice of the building continues the same design as in the adjacent Smith Building. Single leaf doors are located along both sides and the rear. According to news accounts of the time, the interior of the annex originally included 15 rooms (with offices and operating rooms), since it was converted to apartments.

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) <u>Health/Medicine</u> <u>Communications</u> _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____	Period of Significance <u>1913-1939</u> _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____	Significant Dates <u>1913, 1916</u> _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____
Significant Person <u>N/A</u> _____ _____ _____	Cultural Affiliation <u>N/A</u> _____ _____ _____	
	Architect/Builder <u>Calhoun and Bell</u> _____ _____ _____	

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

The Smith Hospital and Douglas County Press building is significantly associated with both the medical and publishing history of Waterville and Douglas County in the early 20th century. From its construction in 1913, the complex served for many years as the region's leading private hospital, and only fully equipped medical center for a radius of about fifty miles. In addition, the complex was home to one of the county's two leading newspapers, providing information, entertainment, and a sense of cohesion to the widely scattered residents of the farming area. Although converted to apartments after World War II, the complex continues to retain sufficient integrity to convey these historic associations.

Historical Background:

Constructed in 1913, during a building boom along Chelan Street just north of the downtown business district, the Smith Hospital and Douglas County Press were built simultaneously by contractor John Calhoun using brick from the Waterville brickyard of Frank Malfa. Plans for construction at the site began that summer when Dr. J.F. Leslie, a prominent Waterville physician, purchased the corner lot.

Dr. Leslie was born in Kentucky in 1871, attended medical schools in his home state and Ohio, and came to Waterville in 1903, where he eventually built up a large practice. The doctor was described by newspapers at the time as "one of Waterville's best loved and most progressive citizens" and his professional stature was underscored by his two-term tenure as Douglas County health officer, physician, and coroner. When he built his new hospital in 1913, it was considered the most modern in the region, complete with office, treatment rooms, an infirmary, and modern equipment. The new building was the first such private hospital in the area, constructed at a time when Waterville doctors normally worked out of cramped quarters above downtown stores or from their homes.

Dr. Leslie did not practice in the new hospital for long, however. Shortly after moving into the building, tragedy struck. On a foggy evening in November, 1913, while making a house call to a rural patient 13 miles from Waterville, Leslie's large Cadillac spun out of control and the doctor was found the next morning underneath the wheels of his vehicle.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

- "New Building Going Up," Big Bend Empire, July 31, 1913.
- "Another Brick Building for Waterville," Waterville Empire, October 16, 1913.
- "Dr. J.F. Leslie Killed by Auto," Waterville Empire, November 27, 1913.
- "Dr. Henry A. Smith Locates Here," Waterville Empire, December 4, 1913.
- "Waterville to Have Hospital," Douglas County Press, March 8, 1916.
- "Dr. H.A. Smith Commits Suicide," Douglas County Press, February 7, 1918.
- "Fatal Shooting Sunday Morning," Douglas County Press, January 31, 1918.
- "Big Bend In the Good Old Days," Waterville Empire-Press, December 18, 1958.

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

Quadrangle Name: Waterville Quadrangle Scale: 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	0
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7	2	0	0	6	0
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5	2	8	1	1	6	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Lots 1 & 2, North 10' of Lot 3, Block 2, Waterville.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with the Hospital and County Press.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Leonard Garfield, with assistance from Alice Jacobsen

organization Office of Arch'y and Hist. Pres. date February, 1989

street & number 111 West 21st Avenue, KL-11 telephone (206) 753-4011

city or town Olympia state Washington zip code 98504

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Within a month of Dr. Leslie's death, Dr. Henry Ashley Smith moved to Waterville, purchased the new facility from Leslie's wife, and established his own practice as a family physician and surgeon. Dr. Smith was born in Tennessee in 1868, graduated from the Tennessee Medical College in 1892, and practiced medicine in his home state for nearly 20 years, including six years as City Physician of Knoxville. In 1912, Smith came to Washington State as principal physician and surgeon for the Northern Pacific Railroad in central Washington, maintaining his residence and a private practice in Chelan. In Waterville, Smith was assisted in his practice by his wife and daughter, who both served as nurses.

Smith's Waterville practice was immediately successful, according to newspapers of the day, and he had a reputation for treating the indigent and disadvantaged as well as scores of local families. Within a few years, it was reported that "his present hospital arrangements have not been near adequate to accommodate his business", and in 1916, Smith announced plans to expand the facility, nearly tripling its size.

The contract for the expansion was let to Calhoun and Bell (builders of the original structure) and the completed annex contained operating rooms, offices, and the latest technology, valued at over \$12,000. It was, according to press reports, "first class in every way and in every respect equal to any city hospital." It was certainly the best of its kind in Douglas County.

Dr. Smith's career in Waterville, however, came abruptly to an end in 1918 when, despondent over his daughter's recent death and drinking heavily, he engaged in an altercation with a local man named Thomas Burk during an illegal card game. Leaving the game, Smith returned to his office, procured a revolver and tracked Burk to a downtown alley, where the doctor shot and beat the man. Hearing gunfire below his office, Dr. J.A. Adams, another of the city's physicians, rushed to the injured man's side and ordered Smith to surrender his weapon. In response, Smith fired at Adams, missing his target. Adams drew his own gun in defense and shot Smith in the leg. Burk died almost immediately from gunshot wounds, and Smith was taken to his own hospital for treatment. Several days later, after a coroner's jury charged him with murder, Dr. Smith ingested bichloride of mercury tablets and slashed his throat. He died shortly thereafter in his office. In the following weeks, the newspapers used the occasion to warn the shocked community against the "ruin caused by Demon Alcohol."

After Smith's death, the facility continued to operate as a private hospital by a succession of Waterville doctors (including Adams) and the site remained an important medical center in the county until the structure was converted to apartments after World War II.

The history of the newspapers in Waterville predates the city's incorporation (1902) by 14 years. In 1888, L.E. Kellogg began printing the community's first paper, the Big Bend Empire. Kellogg's venture was successful, and the Empire managed to absorb most of its short-lived competitors in the late 19th century. In 1902, a rival paper, the Douglas County Press, was established by Mssrs. Trimble and Jacobson, who sought to establish a Democrat mouthpiece in the county. The next year, Ben Spears bought the paper, and remained editor and publisher for the next 18 years.

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In 1913, Spears purchased the lot on Chelan Street adjacent to the hospital building, and constructed offices and a print shop. In 1921, Spears sold the paper to Mr. and Mrs. Joe Stoddard, publishers of the rival Big Bend Empire, who consolidated the papers into the Empire-Press. The Stoddards published the Empire-Press until 1936, when the paper was sold to George Hamilton. Hamilton later sold the paper to Mr. and Mrs. Glen Stinson (1943), who, in turn, sold to Howard Ordway (1952). The building was converted to apartments shortly thereafter.