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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

MAR 31 1993
FBI

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 an 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 Roffler, John House

other names/site number Roffler I House

2. Location

street & number 1437 NE Everett St. not for publication

city or town Camas vicinity

state Washington code WA county Clark code 011 zip code 98607

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 Rappan 3/11/93
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Washington State Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
State of 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 the 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

Melore B **Entered in the National Register**

Date of Action

4/29/93

John Roffler House
Name of Property

Clark Co., WA
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 include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: Single dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: Single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian: Queen Anne

Early 20th Century: Post-Victorian

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

walls Wood: weatherboard

roof Wood: Shingle

other _____

Narrative Description

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

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.

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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1906 - 1911

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Roffler, John

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Roffler, John

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 Buildings Survey # _____
- 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:

John Roffler House
Name of Property

Clark Co., WA
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

1	0	5	4	6	4	6	0	5	0	4	8	5	4	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

3

Zone		Easting				Northing								

See continuation sheet

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 Significance: Sally Alves (edited by L. Garfield)

organization Heritage Trust of Clark County date Nov. 1, 1992

street & number Officers' Row telephone (206) 699-2361

city or town Vancouver state WA zip code 98661

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 SHPO or FPO.)

name Sally and Jerry Alves

street & number 1437 NE Everett St. telephone (206) 834-7002

city or town Camas state WA zip code 98607

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Section number 7 Page 1

John Roffler House
Camas, Clark County, WA

Description

The John Roffler House is a two-story wood frame residence located in Camas, Washington. Built as the family home of the community's most prolific architect-builder, the house is characterized by intersecting gabled wings, projecting bays, and a conical turret that serves as a focal point of the design. The house was constructed in 1906, and reflects an integration of Victorian Queen Anne elements, including irregular plan and picturesque profile, with the strong massing and subdued classical trim favored in the post-Victorian era. Although some interior finishes have been modified, the house retains outstanding exterior integrity.

The Roffler House is located at the southwest corner of Northeast 15th Street and Everett Street across from Crown Park in the upper residential area of Camas. The corner lot is well landscaped, and features a large Yew tree planted on the southeast corner of the property in the early 20th century. A variety of plantings, including old-fashioned rose bushes, lilac bushes, and perennials, provide a garden setting. A picket fence surrounds the perimeter of the house and garden.

The Roffler House is built on a L-plan composed of two intersecting two-story gabled wings. At the juncture of the wings, an open porch wraps across the facade between the wings to shelter a square entry bay. Above the porch roof, an engaged turret rises through the eaves and above the roofline. A small projecting porch is located on the west elevation.

The Roffler House rests on a concrete foundation and is sheathed in drop siding with cornerboards on the first story and in shingles on the upper story. The roof is faced in wood shingles added in a recent rehabilitation. A brick chimney rises above the roof ridge at the juncture of the wings.

The first floor of the house is lighted by large bay windows in the gable ends. A cutaway bay projects on the first floor of the east wing, and is lighted by three tall double-hung wood sash windows with one-over-one lights. The windows are framed with plain wood surrounds. Above the bay in the gable end of the east facade is a single double-hung window with one-over-one lights, enframed by a plain surround.

The northern gable end features a shallow box bay window on the first floor sheltered by a pent roof. The bay is lighted by a tripartite group of windows, composed of a central double-hung window flanked narrower

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John Roffler House
Camas, Clark County, WA

double-hung sidelights. As on the eastern wing, the upper story gable end of the north facade is punctuated by a single double-hung sash window with wood surround.

The eaves of the gable ends are trimmed with projecting boxed cornices. A plain frieze band trims the walls beneath the cornice. The original king-post truss gable ornament, with decorative spool and spindle work, was removed but has been replaced with similar bargeboard ornament by the current owners.

In the "L" formed by the two wings, an open hipped roof porch shelters the entry bay in the reentrant angle between the wings. The porch roof is supported by unfluted Tuscan columns and corner pilasters, joined by a spindle railing. At the center of the roof, a pediment rises above the front entry. The tympanum of the pediment is trimmed with shingles. The square bay beneath the porch has a chamfered corner which houses the single leaf, paneled front door. A short flight of steps lead to the porch deck.

Rising from the roof of the porch is the engaged turret. The turret, which forms a half-circle at the juncture of the east and north wings, is lighted by a band of three double hung windows with one-over-one sash. The turret is surmounted by a conical roof with projecting eaves.

The interior of the Roffler House reflects a typical Victorian floor plan, with a front entry hall, a front parlor to the left, and dining room to the right with a rear kitchen. The central stairs lead to three upstairs bedrooms. The upstairs turret room features bent arched ceiling supports. Originally the house had no interior plumbing; plumbing was added to an upstairs bathroom sometime in the early 20th century.

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John Roffler House
Camas, Clark County, WA

Statement of Significance

Constructed about 1906 by a prodigious local architect-builder, the John Roffler House was both the original residence and the first major commission of a designer whose career left an indelible imprint on the community of Camas. The transitional Queen Anne-post Victorian house reflects many of the themes and features that distinguished Roffler's later work and illustrates the eclecticism that he mastered during a career that spanned several decades and numerous structures. On its own merits, the well-preserved house is a fine example of post-Victorian architecture in the community; from a broader perspective, the Roffler House is an important milestone in the career of a local master who more than anyone else shaped the built environment of the area.

Background: In 1883, Portland industrialist Henry Pittock and his associates organized the LaCamas Colony Company and purchased 2,600 acres of land located on the Washington side of the Columbia River near Lacamas Lake and Creek with the intention of founding a lumber mill and platting a new townsite. By 1885, the mill was in operation and an addition to the original townsite had been platted, businesses had opened, and a school district and several churches had been organized.

John Roffler was ten years old when he accompanied his mother, sisters, and brother to the Camas area from their home in Minnesota in 1889. The family lived in a small cabin on their rural property until 1895 when they built a larger house on the homestead. Although altered, the house remains today at its original site.

As a young man, Roffler's interests tended toward construction of furniture and boats. But in 1902 he had his first experience in house construction when he worked on the Pittock-Leadbetter House (known as "Lakeside") overlooking LaCamas Lake, three miles north of Camas. Henry Pittock built the house as a wedding gift for his son Frederick and Frederick's bride Bertha Leadbetter. The house, which reflects elements of the Victorian Shingle Style and the Colonial Revival, is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Roffler's involvement with Lakeside set him on a career as a carpenter-builder, and some details from the house appear throughout his work. Of particular interest are the bold forms and massing of Lakeside; the transitional employment of both Queen Anne and post-Victorian influences;

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the dramatic corner tower that provides movement and coherence to the composition; and the use of bold classical columns on the portico.

In 1905, Roffler married Ethel Bartow and within the year he was at work on a house for himself, his new wife, and their still unborn child. The family home that Roffler built incorporated some of the elements of the Pittock-Leadbetter House on a reduced scale.

Located in the city of Camas at the intersection of Northeast 15th Street and Everett Street, the first John Roffler House reflects a transitional Queen Anne-post Victorian style. The house is composed of two intersecting gabled wings, joined at the corner by a turret that rises above the roofline and serves to both anchor the house and give it strong vertical movement. The composition incorporates the irregularity of the Queen Anne Style with the simplified massing and detail of the post-Victorian "comfortable house."

John and Ethel Roffler had their first child, Irene, on April 13, 1907, after the house was completed. The Rofflers lived there until 1911, when Roffler constructed a new residence for the family. The John Currie family moved into the original Roffler house. (The house was owned in the 1920s by the Stanley Ports family.)

Although smaller than his first house, the second John Roffler House showed a marked movement toward the Colonial Revival influences earlier exhibited in the Pittock-Leadbetter House. Roffler II (as it is known) has a simplified massing unified by a broad gable roof that overhangs the facade and a full-width front porch. The tower, so dramatic in the first Roffler house, is reduced here to a rooftop dormer.

About 1913, Roffler built a house for his brother Ulrich, located in the country several miles from Camas. Perhaps in recognition of its rural setting, the house had a large cubic character, similar to the Foursquare farmhouses of the early 20th century. But Roffler was careful to ornament the house with distinctive Neoclassical influences, including dramatic pedimented cornices and a curved veranda.

Some of these same themes received fuller articulation a few years later when Roffler designed a house for his brother-in-law and sister, Charles and Ursula Rose Roffler Farrell. Built in 1915, the Farrell House is an imposing Neoclassical residence, generally considered Camas' finest historic house. Family legend attributes the design to a postcard that Rose had seen. But close inspection indicates similarities with the

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Ulrich Roffler House as well. Like that house, the Farrell House has a cubic plan with a hipped roof and a classical cornice underscored by brackets. But the pedimented gabled elements seen in the Ulrich Roffler House are here projected outward to become the pediment for a colossal portico supported by monumental fluted columns. Among other innovations in the Farrell House was the use of concrete blocks, simulating masonry construction, in the foundation. Similar concrete blocks would become known locally as "Roffler Rock."

Many of the features that distinguished the Farrell House were repeated in a fourth residence that Roffler built for his own family in 1920 (Roffler IV), this time in the Oak Park neighborhood of Camas near the Columbia River. Like the Farrell House, Roffler IV has a monumental pedimented portico and a projecting bracketed cornice with a balustrade that virtually replicates the one at the Farrell House. But this time, the entire house is constructed of concrete block. Roffler IV served as the family home until 1929.

Roffler's attention to new materials and his apparent familiarity with patternbook design is seen in other houses that he constructed in the period. Perhaps the most unusual is the Anna Roffler Eddy House, constructed about 1920, which reflects the strong horizontal lines, planar surfaces, and geometric massing of the Prairie Style. The style, which had widespread popularity in the upper Midwest at the time (including Minnesota, which may explain Roffler's source of inspiration) is rarely seen in Washington State despite the availability of patternbook plans. Roffler built another house in the same period at Cape Horn, and incorporated the banded windows and strong horizontal lines of the Prairie Style with the broad overhanging eaves and decorative brackets of the Craftsman Style.

Roffler's career as a housebuilder and architect was unusually successful. By August 1911, for example, he boasted that he had built 54 houses in 55 months. Assuming that this rate of productivity continued unabated throughout his relatively short career, it is likely that Roffler designed and constructed well over one hundred houses. The extent of this work is attributable in part to the fact that no other professional builder lived in the community during the period when Roffler practiced (1906-1924). In terms of house construction in Camas, he was a one-man industry.

Unfortunately this prolific career was brought to an early end in 1924 when Roffler died at the age of 45. In retrospect, it is clear that the

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Camas, Clark County

variety of his houses in both style (ranging from post-Victorian to Neoclassical to Prairie) and scale (from mansion to cottage) illustrate a mastery of the building arts of the age and a familiarity with the eclecticism available to early 20th century housebuilders. A survey conducted by Sally Alves of the Heritage Trust of Clark County indicates that Roffler left a body of residential architecture, much of it extant, that includes most of the community's important examples of early 20th century design. Collectively, these buildings lend a distinctive character and quality to the building stock of the community. As the first work in that oeuvre, the John Roffler House is a significant landmark in Camas.

Bibliography

Alves, Sally. John Roffler, Camas Craftsman (Vancouver: Heritage Trust of Clark County, 1991).

Verbal Boundary Description: Lot 4, Block 26, Replat of Cowans Addition.

Boundary Justification: The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with John Roffler's residency.