

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: 92000280 Date Listed: 3/31/92

William N. Irish House
Property Name

Yakima WA
County State

N/A
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.

Antoinette Lee
for _____
Signature of the Keeper

4/2/92
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

Function or Use: The Current Functions should be amended to read: hotel.

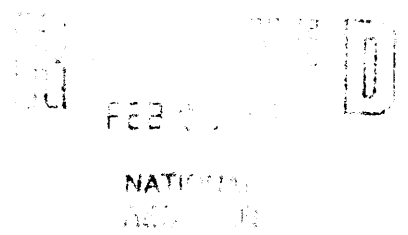
This information was confirmed with Leonard Garfield of the Washington State historic preservation office.

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 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 Irish, William N., House
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 210 South 28th Avenue not for publication
city, town Yakima vicinity
state Washington code WA county Yakima code 077 zip code 98902

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>1</u>	<u>1</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>1</u>	<u>1</u> objects
			<u>1</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.

James E. [Signature] 12/16/91
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. *Autawith Area* 3/21/92
 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 Date of Action

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
Other: Post Victorian: Colonial Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete
walls wood: weatherboard
roof wood: shingle
other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The William Irish House is a two-and-one-half story wood frame structure built in 1903 on Nob Hill overlooking Yakima to the east. The house sits on a lot measuring 100 feet by 150 feet, which was part of the original ten-acre orchard purchased by Irish in 1895. At the rear of the property, the original frame barn has been remodelled into a garage and workshop. The grounds include a variety of trees and shrubs, among them a black walnut that dates to the construction of the house.

The Irish House reflects a transition from the irregular plan and massing of the Queen Anne style with multiple gables and bays to the more restrained cubic form and simplified classical ornament of the post-Victorian period. Built on a rectangular plan measuring 30 feet by 38 feet, the house is constructed of a balloon frame resting on a concrete block foundation and rising to a steeply pitched hipped roof broken by cross gables and dormers. The Irish house is faced in narrow beveled siding reminiscent of the Colonial Revival style, trimmed with pilaster-like corner boards, a plain architrave and frieze, and a dentilated cornice.

The dominant hip roof of the house features overhanging boxed eaves supported by paired brackets, and is broken on the east facade and south and west elevations by cross gables. The cross gables have boxed eaves, raking cornices with dentil courses, and gable returns supported by paired brackets. The gable end on the east facade is lighted by a pair of tall, double-hung windows enframed by an architrave with entablature hood. The windows feature upper lights with triangular arch muntins. The hood features a dentil course and is supported brackets. An arched louvered vent is located above the windows in the gable peak. To the south of the cross gable, the second floor of the facade is lighted by a box bay with French doors leading to the second story balcony. The bay is sheltered by a shed roof with boxed cornice, supported by brackets. The doors feature multiple lights including arched muntins in the upper panes.

The lower story of the facade is spanned by a full-width front porch, with a solid, battered railing and Doric pillars rising to support a full entablature with plain frieze and projecting cornice. The porch roof is surmounted by an open railing with square balusters, enclosing a second floor balcony. Beneath the porch, the single leaf front door is lighted by one-inch beveled glass and is surrounded by a plain architrave. To the south of the door is a large window lighting the entry hall. The window features beveled glass in a large lower fixed sash, and leaded panes with intersecting comes in the upper sash. A similar window, with beveled glass and an upper panel with leaded glass set in intersecting comes, lights the front parlor.

The south side elevation features a variety of projecting elements. A first floor chamfered oriel

See continuation sheet

8. Statement of Significance

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

 nationally statewide locallyApplicable National Register Criteria A B C DCriteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture

Period of Significance

1903-1931

Significant Dates

1903

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Irish, William N.

Architect/Builder

Not Known

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

Built in 1903 in Yakima's Nob Hill district, the William Irish House is closely associated with a prominent Yakima Valley land developer, orchardist, banker, businessman, and civic leader. Irish arrived in the valley as the region boomed with the advent of large-scale irrigation and orchard production, and for nearly three decades was a leader in the regional fruit industry. The house he built overlooking his orchards and the city is an early example of post-Victorian architecture, reflecting a transition from the picturesque Queen Anne style to the more restrained Colonial Revival. Although today located well within the city limits, the Irish House still retains its character as the turn-of-the-century country home of one of the region's influential citizens.

Historical Background: William Nelson Irish was born January 18, 1857, in Erie County, New York, and moved with his family to Pine Island, Minnesota in 1870, where he was educated. Irish was a successful businessman in St. Paul, working 21 years for the Crescent Creamery Company, for which he served as Secretary-Treasurer. In 1895, he purchased ten acres of land in the city of North Yakima, Washington, and hired laborers to plant half the acreage to fruit and the other half to alfalfa. In 1903, Irish left St. Paul and moved to his North Yakima property, where he built a house commanding a fine view overlooking North Yakima from the western suburb of Nob Hill.

Founded by the Northern Pacific Railroad in 1884-85, North Yakima was originally surrounded by bunch-grass covered hills and its economy was dominated by stock raisers. But by the late 19th century, private irrigation systems were transforming the volcanic soils from grazing land to productive farmland. The transition was given an important boost in 1902, when the federal Reclamation Service unified irrigation systems and laid the groundwork for large scale orchards. The federal presence led to an immediate boom. The decade that Irish arrived in North Yakima, the population tripled and the city established itself as the commercial and civic center of the region.

Almost at once, Irish was an major figure in the rapidly advancing fruit industry. He immediately became an important land developer and orchardist in the region, buying and selling many tracts of orchard land in Grandview, Selah, and Parker Heights. Irish also was instrumental in establishing early growers' business organizations and promoting the industry. In 1903 Irish founded the cooperative Yakima County Horticultural Union (precursor to Sno-Kist) with other prominent growers in the region, and was elected secretary of the corporation and later president for five years. In 1910, Irish helped organize the Northwestern Fruit Exchange in Seattle, and served as its first vice president. In 1916, Irish founded and was first president of the Growers Service Company of

 See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

"Irish Succumbs to Heart Attack," Yakima Herald, May 13, 1923, p. 1.
Gary Jackson, Remembering Yakima By Those Who Were There (Golden West Publishing Company, Yakima, c. 1976), pp. 86-87.
U. D. Lyman, History of the Yakima Valley, (S. J. Clarke, Seattle), p. 382.
"The Famous Yakima Valley," promotional brochure published by Yakima Fruit Farms Company, c. 1906.
Tjarnberg, "William N., Irish Was Noted Horticulturalist," Yakima Herald-Republic, Tuesday, October 16, 1990, Extra p. 2.
"Yakima Trust Company," Yakima Morning Herald, May 13, 1923, p. 16.

See continuation sheet

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

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property one acre

UTM References

A	<u>10</u>	<u>688030</u>	<u>5163060</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	Zone	Easting	Northing
D	Zone	Easting	Northing

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Nob Hill Orchard Heights east half of lot 5; also east half of north half of lot 6, Yakima city, Yakima County.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The nominated parcel includes the house and lawn associated with William N. Irish.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

Name/title Gary Vance, edited by L. Garfield
 organization _____
 street & number 210 S. 29th Avenue
 city or town Yakima

date November 1991
 telephone _____
 state Washington zip code 98902

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window, supported on large knee braces, projects from the front entry hall. The oriel features leaded glass in the upper lights. To the west of the oriel, a cross gable shelters chamfered bay windows on both the first and second stories, lighting the dining room and master bedroom respectively. Both bays feature entablatures and double hung windows with leaded glass in the upper sash. A brick chimney rises against the south wall through the hip roof and culminates above the main roof ridge. A small gablet projects on the south elevation at the peak of the hip roof. A rear hipped roof addition, faced in drop siding, extends the south side to the west.

The rear (west) elevation of the house features a cross gable lighted by double-hung sash in the upper story, and a large one-story gabled addition, constructed in 1979-80, that spans the elevation. The north side features double hung windows on the lower level and small rectangular windows above.

In recent years, two exterior alterations have changed the form of the house: (1) the hip roof (which originally terminated in a flat deck measuring 12 feet by 13 feet) was raised by carrying the lines of the roof slopes to a ridge and adding dormers to the north and south elevations; and (2) a large family room was added across the rear elevation. In addition, the original barn has been remodeled as a garage, with a cupola added on top, and is not considered a contributing element in the nomination.

The interior of the Irish house retains its original floor plan, lath and plaster walls and cove ceilings, wood floors, panelled doors and hardware, and much of the original millwork. The house features a relatively open plan, with a vestibule leading to an entry hall, which in turn opens to the front parlor and the rear dining room. The vestibule and entry hall are lined with paneled wainscoting with a shelf molding; a ceiling beam supported by a square pillar separates the two spaces. The entry hall includes a brick fireplace with a wooden mantelpiece that is integral to wainscoting. The dining room is separated from the entry hall by paneled pocket doors. Plate rails adorn the dining room walls and the room features a built-in fir hutch and china cabinet. The staircase that leads to the second floor features turned balusters. The four bedrooms are arranged around the stair hall, and include a master bedroom lighted by a bay window, with a built-in window seat and a plate rail surrounding the room. The original sunroom off the master bedroom has been converted to a bathroom. Other changes to the interior include enclosing the original open back porch for use as an eating area, remodeling the original laundry room, and adding the family room adjacent to the kitchen.

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Yakima, a fruit packing and shipping firm which handled "Skookum," "Pom-Pom," and "Yum Yum" brands of fruit with warehouses and offices on Second Avenue North.

Irish's knowledge of horticulture and irrigation was highly regarded, and he was a vigorous promoter of the Yakima Valley fruit industry. The Yakima Commercial Club delegated Irish to represent the region at large fruit exhibits in the east. In 1907, Irish displayed a railroad car of Yakima fruit at the Minnesota State Fair in St. Paul. During the same period, Irish boosted the region through promotional literature. In the "Famous Yakima Valley" prospectus (c.1906), Irish provided a testimonial of the income he received from his ten-acre home orchard.

Irish played an important role in the private irrigation movement as well, and served as vice-president of the Yakima Valley Canal Company (Congdon Ditch), one of the largest irrigation systems in the region. In 1908, Irish and other Nob Hill growers established a private company to bring water to Yakima's western suburb. The company hand-dug ditches and laid wooden pipes to the initial 23 customers. Irish served as president of the Nob Hill Water Company from 1912-1926.

In 1908, Irish was named an officer of the Yakima Trust Company and served over the next several decades as director, secretary, vice-president, and president of the Trust Company and (after a merger) the Yakima National Bank. He was a member of the board of directors of the Yakima National Bank when he died in 1931. Irish was also a member of the board of the Yakima Dairy-men's Association.

The Irish property on Nob Hill was first settled by George Brown, who bought it from the railroad in 1888. The house Irish constructed there in 1903 commanded fine views of both his orchard and the city to the east. Its architectural character reflected an early post-Victorian idiom, combining the projecting gables and bays and varied roof shapes of the Queen Anne style with the cubic massing and simplified classical imagery of the emerging Colonial Revival style.

Eventually, Irish platted his property as the Orchard Heights subdivision, which eventually was entered into the city of Yakima in 1936. After Irish died in March, 1931, the house remained in his family until 1959; in 1977, it was purchased by the present owners who have completed a rehabilitation and now operate the house as a bed and breakfast inn. Although the larger neighborhood is now densely settled, the house still reflects its turn of the century character.

