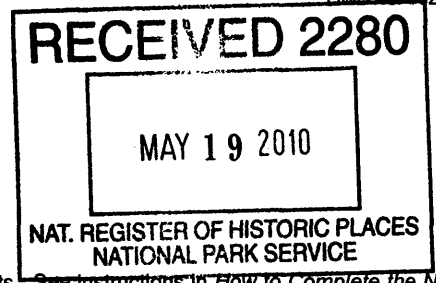


417

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 DODD, JOHN BRUCE & SONORA SMART, HOUSE  
Other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Location

street & number 603 South Arthur Street not for publication  
city or tow Spokane vicinity \_\_\_\_\_  
State Washington code WA county Spokane code 063 zip code 99202

### 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.)  
  
[Signature] 5-18-10  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
WASHINGTON STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE  
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. [Signature] Signature of the Keeper 7/3/2010 Date of Action  
 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:) \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Classification**

<p><b>Ownership of Property</b> (Check as many boxes as apply)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> public-local</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> public-State</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal</p>	<p><b>Category of Property</b> (Check only one box)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> district</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> site</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> structure</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> object</p>	<p><b>Number of Resources within Property</b> (Do not incl. previously listed resources in the count.)</p> <table style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Contributing</th> <th style="text-align: left;">Non-Contributing</th> <th></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black;"></td> <td style="text-align: right;">buildings</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black;"></td> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black;"></td> <td style="text-align: right;">sites</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black;"></td> <td style="text-align: right;">structures</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black;"></td> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black;"></td> <td style="text-align: right;">objects</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black;"></td> <td style="text-align: right;">Total</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Contributing	Non-Contributing		2		buildings			sites	1		structures			objects	3		Total
Contributing	Non-Contributing																			
2		buildings																		
		sites																		
1		structures																		
		objects																		
3		Total																		

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

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

N/A

N/A

**6. Functions or Use**

<p><b>Historic Functions</b> (Enter categories from instructions)</p> <p>DOMESTIC: single dwelling</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<p><b>Current Functions</b> (Enter categories from instructions)</p> <p>DOMESTIC: single dwelling</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
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**7. Description**

<p><b>Architectural Classification</b> (Enter categories from instructions)</p> <p>Late 19<sup>th</sup> &amp; Early 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS:</p> <p>Craftsman</p> <hr/> <hr/>	<p><b>Materials</b> (Enter categories from instructions)</p> <p>foundation <u>STONE: basalt</u></p> <p>walls <u>WOOD: shingle</u></p> <p>roof <u>ASPHALT</u></p> <p>other _____</p> <hr/>
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**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property.)

**SEE CONTINUATION SHEET**

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.
X B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
X 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL HISTORY

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1913-1950

Significant Dates

1913

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

DODD, SONORA SMART

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property.) SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.) 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 Engineering
Record#

Primary location of additional data:

- X State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
Federal agency
X Local government
University
Other

Name of repository:

Spokane City/County Historic Preservation Office

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property Less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM References on a continuation sheet.)

1 [ 11 ] [ 4 | 70 | 421 ] [ 52 | 77 | 374 ] 3 [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing
2 [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] 4 [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

Verbal Boundary Description

Liberty Park Addition, Lot 23, Block 6

Boundary Justification

Nominated property includes entire parcel and urban legal description.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Linda Yeomans, Consultant
organization Historic Preservation Planning & Design date April 2010
street & number 501 West 27th Avenue telephone (509) 456-3828
city or town Spokane state WA zip code 99203

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 Jerry & Beverlee Numbers
street & number 603 S. Arthur Street telephone (509) 953-4503
city or town Spokane state WA zip code 99202

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

- DODD, JOHN BRUCE & SONORA SMART, HOUSE  
SPOKANE COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Section number 7

Page 1 of 5

### NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Built in 1913 and 1922 respectively, the John Bruce & Sonora Smart Dodd House & garage are fine examples of the Craftsman style. They are prominently sited on the southeast corner of Celesta Avenue and South Arthur Street, a busy thoroughfare area in the Liberty Park Addition in the East Central neighborhood of Spokane, WA. Craftsman-style architectural features at the Dodd House are illustrated by the home's 1.5-story residential single-family bungalow form with a low-pitched side gable roof, widely overhanging eaves and eave brackets, a prominent use of vesicular black basalt rock, and a horizontally oriented full-width covered front porch at the first floor which is supported by massive square porch posts and a black basalt porch wall. Interior Craftsman-style features include an open floor plan, hardwood floors, wide square-cut woodwork, and built-in bookcases and china cabinets. The house is surrounded by a manicured lawn, century-old pine and deciduous trees, and a black basalt rock retaining wall which was built with the house in 1913. Exterior modifications to the house and garage are few and are limited to replacement roof shingles and a small sunroom addition which was constructed on the back of the house in 1934. The Dodd House, garage, and rock retaining walls retain excellent exterior architectural integrity in original location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association as a single-family residence built in the early 20<sup>th</sup>-century in the East Central neighborhood of Spokane, WA.

### CURRENT APPEARANCE & CONDITION

#### *Site*

The Dodd House & garage are located on a north-facing slope at Lot 23, Block 6 in the Liberty Park Addition in East Central Spokane. Like most of the plats in the Liberty Park Addition, the lot measures 50 feet wide and 135 feet deep. The property is surrounded by a grid work of paved streets and a mixed-use residential neighborhood which is predominately composed of single-family homes built between the late 1880s and 1945, two historic parks (Liberty Park and Grant Park), historic churches, and contemporary multi-family and commercial infill development, some of which has replaced historic homes and one historic school building. In contrast to the Dodd House, which retains its original single-family use, many of the original historic homes in the neighborhood have been altered for use as multi-family apartment houses or duplexes.

#### *Garage (built in 1922, contributing)*

A double-car garage was built in 1922 just behind the Dodd House in the northeast corner of the lot.<sup>1</sup> Set just a few feet from the street, the garage was built into a north-facing slope, and faces north onto East Celesta Avenue. The north façade of the garage is exposed at grade while the east, west, and south elevations are mostly covered by the surrounding hillside. The garage is a wood frame structure built on a

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<sup>1</sup> Spokane Building Permit #18114, dated 14 September 1922. Spokane City Hall, Spokane, WA.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

- DODD, JOHN BRUCE & SONORA SMART, HOUSE  
SPOKANE COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Section number 7

Page 2 of 5

basalt rock foundation, and measures 18 feet wide and 20 feet deep. It has a front gable roof with widely overhanging eaves, knee-brace brackets, and deep bargeboards with pointed ends—all Craftsman-style details that match those on the Dodd House. The roof is covered with composition shingles, the north gable peak is clad with horizontal clapboard siding that matches the clapboard siding on the house, and the south, rear gable peak has a multi-paned wood-sash window which is covered by plywood boards. Original wood carriage house doors open from the north face of the garage.

### *Rock Walls (built in 1913, contributing)*

Abutting a paved public sidewalk, three-to-four-foot-high black basalt rock retaining walls front the west façade of the house, wrap around the northwest corner of the lot, and extend east along Celesta Avenue to the west elevation of the garage. An entrance is located in the retaining wall between the garage and the house; concrete steps lead up from the retaining wall entrance to a higher grade in the back yard and to the rear east elevation of the house. Another basalt rock wall is located at the rear east border of the property, wraps around the southeast corner of the lot, and continues west along the south boundary. This wall is two to three feet in height and retains a soldier course of sharp basalt rocks which point upward like pointed pickets on a picket fence. Most of the basalt rocks used in the retaining walls and the backyard wall are made of vesicular basalt, an indigenous material found in Eastern Washington. Contributing historic resources of the property, the rock walls are prominent features of the grounds surrounding the Dodd House and retain fair to good architectural integrity.

### *House Exterior (built in 1913, contributing)*

The Dodd House has an irregular footprint which measures 38 feet wide and 40 feet deep. A small addition is located on the rear, southeast corner of the house and measures 20 feet wide and 10 feet deep. The home is 1.5 stories high and has a low-pitched side-gable roof which is distinguished with widely overhanging eaves, tongue-in-groove soffits, exposed rafter tails, knee-brace brackets, and deep bargeboards with pointed ends. The principal roof extends over the front of the house, producing a strong horizontal emphasis as a cover over a full-width inset front porch. The foundation of the house is made of black basalt rock, the house is clad in horizontal wood clapboard siding, and the roof is covered with composition shingles. Fenestration is original and includes an original wood-paneled front door and a combination of stationary wood-sash, multi-paned wood-sash, and diamond-paned leaded-glass wood-sash windows, and original wood-sash window screens.

### *West Façade of House*

The façade of the Dodd House faces west onto South Arthur Street, has a symmetrical façade design, and is articulated with a center gable dormer on the second floor and a full-width covered front porch on the first floor. The center gable dormer has widely overhanging eaves, exposed rafter tails, and knee-brace brackets. A fixed wood-sash window pair is located in the dormer. Below the dormer, the covered inset

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

- DODD, JOHN BRUCE & SONORA SMART, HOUSE  
SPOKANE COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Section number   7  

Page 3 of 5

---

front porch measures eight feet deep, 38 feet wide, and is supported by thick square wood posts which rest on a thick black basalt porch wall. The porch wall encloses the porch and porch deck except for an entrance opening at the center of the porch. Four concrete steps rise from a concrete walkway at grade in front of the house to the porch deck which is made of fir planks. The basalt rock porch wall is protected with molded concrete coping. The ceiling of the front porch is made of tongue-in-groove wood paneling. The west façade of the house and dormer are clad with painted horizontal wood clapboard siding. A center front door is located at the first floor and is flanked by two original tripartite wood-sash windows.

### *North Elevation*

The north elevation of the Dodd House faces north along East Celesta Avenue and is dominated by a prominent black basalt rock chimney which is tapered and extends past the edge of the roof through the eave. The north elevation features the gable end of the home's side gable roof and is articulated with the aforementioned basalt rock chimney, widely overhanging eaves, tongue-in-groove soffit, knee-brace brackets, asymmetrical fenestration patterns, paired double hung windows, horizontal wood clapboard siding, and a black basalt foundation wall. A small box bay at the first floor projects two feet from the house, measures 16 feet wide, and is covered with a small gable roof. Flanking the chimney are small, rectangular leaded glass windows.

### *South Elevation*

The south elevation of the house features the gable end of the home's side gable roof and has widely overhanging eaves, tongue-in-groove soffit, knee-brace brackets, horizontal wood clapboard siding, black basalt rock foundation, and asymmetrical fenestration patterns. A small box bay with a shed roof at the first floor projects two feet from the planar wall surface of the house and is 13 feet wide.

### *East, Rear Elevation*

The east elevation comprises the rear of the house and features widely overhanging eaves, exposed rafter tails, horizontal wood clapboard siding, and asymmetrical fenestration patterns. Like the west façade, the rear elevation has a center gable dormer at the second floor with a low-pitched roof, widely overhanging eaves, exposed rafter tails, knee-brace brackets, and a pair of 1/1 double-hung wood-sash windows. Located below grade, a cellar door is sited at the northeast corner of the east elevation and opens to an unfinished basement. Constructed in 1934, a single-story frame sunroom addition with a shed roof is located at the southeast corner of the east elevation of the house. It measures 10 feet deep and 20 feet wide and is clad with horizontal wood clapboard siding like the rest of the house. A horizontal row of multi-paned wood-sash windows illuminates the addition.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

- DODD, JOHN BRUCE & SONORA SMART, HOUSE  
SPOKANE COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Section number 7

Page 4 of 5

### *House Interior*

According to Spokane County Tax Assessor records, the first floor of the Dodd House contains 1,474 finished square feet of interior space, the second floor contains 620 finished square feet, and the basement contains about 800 square feet (unfinished).<sup>2</sup> A wood (fir) front door with three vertical lights in the upper portion is well-preserved as the original front door of the house and is located on the west façade at the center of the front porch. It retains original brass hardware, including a brass door handle which has a textured finish that resembles tree bark (a Craftsman-style motif). The front door opens into a large living room which is in the northwest corner of the first floor of the house. Centered on the living room's north wall, a fireplace with a brick and concrete surround and concrete hearth is flanked by two built-in bookcases with glass doors. A wood mantel extends over the fireplace and the bookcases, and small diamond-paned leaded-glass windows are located above the bookcases. The ceiling in the living room has intersecting boxed beams and is eight feet high. A five-paneled wood door opens from the living room on the east wall to a bedroom in the northeast corner of the house.

Producing the characteristic bungalow colonnade effect, a partial-height screen wall separates the living room from a formal dining room.<sup>3</sup> Thick square, tapered wood pillars are anchored to the top of the screen wall which, on the dining room side, frames twin built-in four-foot-tall china cabinets with glass doors (the living room side of the screen wall is plain). Like the living room, the ceiling in the dining room has boxed ceiling beams, and both rooms retain original lathe-and-plaster construction, eight-foot-high ceilings, wood floors, and wide Craftsman-style square-cut fir woodwork. The woodwork is currently covered with paint but was originally finished in a walnut color. The wood plank floor is made of a combination of solid oak and solid fir, and has a unique design. A rectangular area which measures 12 feet wide and 15 feet deep is centered on the living room floor and is made of fir planks which are stained a rich walnut brown. A similar design which measures 12 feet wide and 12 feet deep is located in the center of the dining room floor. Lighter-colored oak planks surround the darker-colored fir planks in both rooms.

A door in the dining room opens east into a kitchen which is located in the rear southeast corner of the house. It has recently rehabbed with period appropriate cabinetry and countertops.<sup>4</sup> Between the kitchen and northeast corner bedroom is a bathroom, a center service hallway, and an interior staircase. The kitchen opens east to a sunroom addition at the back of the house.

<sup>2</sup> Spokane County Assessor's Records. Spokane County Courthouse, Spokane, WA.

<sup>3</sup> Duchscherer, Paul and Douglas Keister. *Inside the Bungalow: America's Arts & Crafts Interiors*. New York: Penguin Publishing, 1997, p. 70.

<sup>4</sup> Previous remodel - Spokane Building Permit #57751, dated 1 April 1942. Spokane City Hall, Spokane, WA.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

- DODD, JOHN BRUCE & SONORA SMART, HOUSE  
SPOKANE COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Section number   7  

Page 5 of 5

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An interior staircase by the first-floor bathroom leads up to the second floor. At the second floor, a central hall is flanked by two bedrooms and a bathroom which were modified for use as a private suite in 1943 (the south bedroom was remodeled into a kitchen, and the hall and part of the east bedroom were remodeled for use as a living room).<sup>5</sup> The basement is unfinished and the house is heated by forced-air gas which replaced forced-air oil heat.

### ORIGINAL APPEARANCE & SUBSEQUENT MODIFICATIONS

Except for a sunroom addition at the southeast rear corner of the house, the original exterior appearance of the home appears to be retained with intact original design, materials, and workmanship as seen today. Modifications to the house include the following:

- 1934* Sunroom addition was built on the southeast rear corner of the house.
- 1942* Kitchen and first-floor bathroom were remodeled.
- 1943* Second floor was remodeled for use as a private suite.
- 1955* Composition shingles installed over original roof (wood shingles).
- 1980s* Composition shingles installed on roof.
- 2009* All previous roof shingles removed, roof repaired, and new composition shingles installed on roof.
- 2010* Kitchen remodeled with period cabinetry and finishes.

With few modifications, the Dodd House retains excellent exterior architectural integrity in original location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association as a single-family home built in the early 1900s in Spokane.

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<sup>5</sup> Spokane Building Permit #72430, dated 13 Sept 1943. Spokane City Hall, Spokane, WA.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

- DODD, JOHN BRUCE & SONORA SMART, HOUSE  
SPOKANE COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Section number 8

Page 1 of 10

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The John and Sonora Dodd House is historically significant under criteria "B" in the area of "social history" for its direct association to Sonora Smart Dodd who is recognized nationwide as the founder of Father's Day. The property is also significant under criteria "C" in the area of "architecture" as a resource that embodies the distinctive characteristics of its type and period of construction in Spokane, Washington.

The period of significance for the property begins in 1913, when the home was built, and ends in 1950, when the home was sold to a new family. Due to the widely held acceptance that Sonora Dodd was the founder of Father's Day, the property is historically significant at the national level of significance.

John Bruce Dodd, was a Spokane businessman and Prudential Insurance Company agent. His wife, Sonora Smart Dodd, was a prominent Spokane artist, poet, social and civic benefactor, and philanthropist. After a lifetime of promoting the idea of a Father's Day holiday and meeting merchants and businessmen, civic and religious leaders, and politicians and government legislators across the country, Dodd's idea of honoring fathers eventually led to a proclamation signed in 1972 by United States President Richard Nixon to make Father's Day an official American holiday, observed each year on the third Sunday of June. During her lifetime, Dodd was praised for enriching "*the religious, civic, and cultural life of Spokane,*" and for "*giving Spokane credit in the eyes of the nation and the world,*"<sup>1</sup>

### HISTORICAL CONTEXT

#### *Early Spokane*

Located on the banks of the Spokane River, the small settlement of Spokane was founded around 1873. In the 1880s, prosperity shone on the town when abundant gold and silver lodes were discovered in the Coeur d'Alene mining region just east of the city. Transportation was needed to haul the gold and silver out of the mines, and by the late 1880s, railroad routes linking Spokane to the Midwestern and Eastern United States were established. The Spokane community grew and gained national recognition as a center for mining, lumber, agriculture, and rail transport. The town experienced phenomenal growth with a population explosion that swelled from 20,000 in 1890, to over 36,000 by 1900. Ten years later in 1910, the city's population had surged at an unprecedented rate to over 100,000. Single-family homes, built at a rapid pace throughout the city, were erected in Spokane's central business district and in outlying areas that surrounded the downtown. Sited more than a mile from the city's commercial core, these neighborhoods constituted Spokane's first suburbs and provided suburban living within easy reach of downtown via

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<sup>1</sup> "Father's Day Gave City Fame." *Spokesman-Review*, 23 March 1978.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

- DODD, JOHN BRUCE & SONORA SMART, HOUSE  
SPOKANE COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Section number 8 Page 2 of 10

---

graded roads which were designed for horse-drawn buggies, the city's first automobiles, and public transportation such as streetcars.

### *East Central Spokane*

East Central Spokane, located a mile east of Spokane's downtown business district, was one of the city's earliest mixed-use commercial and residential suburbs.<sup>2</sup> Before the late 1890s and early 1900s, the East Central Spokane area was initially dotted with pine trees, covered with wild grasses and meadowland, and was inhabited by Indians who lived, fished, hunted, and traveled there on a regular basis. As reported in an April 20, 2000 article in the *Spokesman-Review*, Southeast Boulevard, which winds up the hill above Liberty Park to 29th Avenue, was originally an Indian trail that was made into a road by pioneers who later settled in the area: "Immigrants were attracted to Spokane with promises of work and farmland, and traveled here on immigrant trains. Scandinavians, Italians, Russians, African Americans, French, and Poles settled into the East Central neighborhood, one of the oldest parts of Spokane. It was a good place to build...because it was flat and easily accessible..."<sup>3</sup>

In January 1910, John Bruce Dodd, the owner/proprietor of the J. B. Dodd Barbershop at 414 W. Main in downtown Spokane, purchased Lot 23, Block 6 in the Liberty Park Addition in East Central Spokane for \$1,525.<sup>4</sup> Three years later in 1913, John and his wife, Sonora Smart Dodd, contracted with the Ross Investment Company in Spokane to build a single-family home at 603 S. Arthur Street, one block south of Liberty Park, a prominent Olmsted-designed public park and popular city landmark. The estimated cost of construction for the home was reported in 1913 on Spokane Building Permit #4587 at \$1,800. After moving into their new home, John was employed at Prudential Life Insurance Company as an insurance and sales agent, and Sonora became engrossed in her work, promoting Father's Day. After 37 years, the Dodd family sold the property in 1950 to Albert & Fay Grover, who sold it in 1972 to Gerald & Beverlee Numbers, Spokane public school teachers and well-known neighborhood and civic leaders.

## HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

### *Criterion B*

The Dodd House is historically significant under Criterion B as the home of Sonora Smart Dodd, the internationally recognized founder of Father's Day. Sonora lived in the home for nearly four decades from 1913 to 1950, the most productive time of her life in which she successfully petitioned for local and federal government sanction of the third Sunday in June to be nationally observed as Father's Day. Over the years,

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<sup>2</sup> 1887 Aerial Perspective map. Northwest Museum of Arts & Culture, Spokane, WA.

<sup>3</sup> Compau, Nancy. *Spokesman-Review*, 20 April 2000

<sup>4</sup> Spokane County Warranty Deed #267287, book 253, page 461. Spokane County Courthouse, Spokane, WA.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

- DODD, JOHN BRUCE & SONORA SMART, HOUSE  
SPOKANE COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Section number 8

Page 3 of 10

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her work to create Father's Day has been recognized in a variety of publications from Spokane, Washington to St. Petersburg, Florida; and from Fredericksburg, VA to Berkley, CA.

### *Sonora Smart Dodd (1882-1978)*

Sonora Louise Smart was born in 1882 in Jenny Lind, Arkansas. In 1889 the Smart family, with seven-year-old Sonora in tow, "joined other pioneers, seeking a better life in the West" and settled near Spokane.<sup>5</sup> In 1898, tragedy struck the Smart family when Sonora's mother died, leaving six motherless children, ranging from three to sixteen years of age.

As the oldest [child] of the family [at age 16], Sonora recognized the magnitude of the problems confronting her father and tried to do her part in caring for her five younger brothers. In admiration, she watched her father work and sacrifice to raise his children.

She would never forget his courage and devotion.<sup>6</sup>

By the time Mother's Day dawned in May 1909, Sonora Louise Smart had become the wife of Spokane businessman John Bruce Dodd, the loving mother of John "Jack" Bruce Dodd Jr. (the Dodd's only child), and a woman with an idea that would touch the lives of millions of people throughout the world. Sitting in Central Methodist Church in 1909 in downtown Spokane on Mother's Day Sunday, Sonora thought of her father, Civil War veteran William Jackson Smart, who had taken on the difficult role of both father and mother after her mother died, and decided that fathers deserved recognition just as much as mothers did.

A year later in June 1910, Sonora had developed an idea she called "Father's Day," which she created in honor of her father. Sonora discussed the idea with her minister, and met with Spokane clergy of the Ministerial Alliance of Spokane and leaders of the Spokane Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA). Remembering with affection and thankfulness the examples of love, courage, protection, and selfless devotion shown by her father to her and her five younger siblings after her mother's death, Sonora suggested that all fathers be honored on June 5<sup>th</sup>, which was her father's birthday. Spokane's Ministerial Alliance liked the proposal but felt they would not have enough time to prepare special father-honoring sermons before June 5<sup>th</sup> of that year. They instead designated the third Sunday in June as Father's Day.

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<sup>5</sup> Beetler, Dianne L. "The Mother of Father's Day." *Modern Maturity*. June-July 1978, pp. 17-18, and Dodd Family archives and genealogical records.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid*, p. 17.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

- DODD, JOHN BRUCE & SONORA SMART, HOUSE  
SPOKANE COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Section number 8

Page 4 of 10

The first Father's Day sermon was given at the Centenary Presbyterian Church in Spokane (now Knox Presbyterian) on June 19, 1910, and after that sermon, Sonora "began her campaign" to promote the idea of Father's Day beyond Spokane.

Don Ball whose family opened a funeral home with the Dodds in the 1930s recalled that Sonora was a "real promoter and had lots of char". She was well-known around town as a poet, a scribe, and a sculptor. She promoted Father's Day "out of love for her father...and never wanted to make a big deal" about her own role.<sup>7</sup>

The Mayor of Spokane proclaimed a citywide Father's Day celebration, and the Governor established official observance throughout Washington State.<sup>8</sup> Spokane community women's groups prepared home dinners, distributed roses to commemorate fathers past and present, and made gifts for shut-in fathers. Spokane businesses, shop owners, and city merchants used their store windows to display appropriate Father's Day gifts, men from the YMCA wore roses (red for living, white for deceased) in honor of fathers, and city newspapers helped spread the word about Father's Day. A June 6, 1910 article in the *Spokane Daily Chronicle* was the first newspaper in Spokane to publicize Sonora's suggestion that there be a "Father's Day" with Spokane as the originator city. The article reported that the Spokane Ministerial Alliance and the YMCA "enthusiastically endorsed the proposition" and "hoped that other cities" could be "persuaded to celebrate" which might lead to the entire world eventually observing the day.<sup>9</sup>

Sonora's Father's Day idea gained momentum and quickly spread in the hearts of hundreds of thousands of people across the nation. The *Spokesman-Review* recounted that "following the first observance of the first Father's Day" in 1910, "a deluge of congratulatory telegrams poured in upon Mrs. Dodd." The first message was from the great American public orator, William Jennings Bryan, who "warmly complimented Mrs. Dodd on her inspirational idea,"<sup>10</sup> and whose message was followed by a "flood of publicity in American newspapers which quickly gave the idea [of Father's Day] a national vogue."<sup>11</sup> Sonora's ideas gained momentum and continued to motivate countless communities, churches, civic groups, service clubs, politicians, and finally the Federal Government. Two National Father's Day committees were formed, one in Virginia in 1921,<sup>12</sup> and one in New York City in 1936, to promote the idea.<sup>13</sup> In time, the father-

<sup>7</sup> "Father's Day Founder Left Big Legacy." *Moscow-Pullman Daily News*, 18 June 1999.

<sup>8</sup> "Mother's Day Sermon Inspired Father's Day." *The Victoria Advocate*, 14 June 1974.

<sup>9</sup> "Plan Father's Day." *Spokane Daily Chronicle*, 6 June 1910.

<sup>10</sup> "Father's Day: Do You Remember How It All Began?" *The Evening Independent*, 16 June 1976.

<sup>11</sup> "Honor Father of Father's Day Founder." *Spokesman-Review*, 20 June 1926.

<sup>12</sup> "Pastors Plan Father's Day Sermons This Morning." *St. Petersburg Times*, 21 June 1942.

<sup>13</sup> "Father's Day Got Belated Recognition." *The Free Lance Star*, 11 June 1974.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

- DODD, JOHN BRUCE & SONORA SMART, HOUSE  
SPOKANE COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Section number 8

Page 5 of 10

honoring day was adopted by a variety of local, state, and national groups. It was promoted heavily by the Boy Scouts of America, the National Federation of Women's Clubs, the International Father's Day Association, and the National Father's Day Committee in New York, where a "Father of the Year" was elected annually. Sonora had contacted William Jennings Bryan to help endorse Father's Day, and he became one of the first of many political luminaries, legislators, governors, and Hollywood stars to promote the holiday. Bryan wrote to Dodd *"too much emphasis cannot be placed upon the relation between parent and child"*. United States Presidents Woodrow Wilson and Calvin Coolidge added their support, resulting in Congressional endorsements and recommendations in 1913, 1916, and 1924.<sup>14</sup> President Wilson sanctioned Father's Day in 1913 and visited Spokane in 1916 to celebrate Father's Day. In 1924, President Coolidge recommended Father's Day "be noted in all states,"<sup>15</sup> and in 1937 a plea for national official Congressional recognition of the third Sunday in June of each year as Father's Day was made to "pay homage and respect to the fathers of America."<sup>16</sup>

While the idea of a Father's Day took tremendous hold around the country, it was not liked by some politicians who thought the day celebration would become too commercially oriented and could be seen as a self-serving pat on the back. On the congressional side, the first effort to have the holiday officially proclaimed at the federal level was in 1957 when a bill was introduced by U. S. Senator Margaret Chase Smith from Maine. Smith wrote, *"Either we honor both our parents, mother and father, or let us desist from honoring either one. But to single out just one of our two parents and omit the other is the grievous insult imaginable."* In 1966, Sonora Dodd sent a letter to United States President Lyndon B. Johnson, urging support for congressional action that would make the third Sunday in June a national holiday called "Father's Day."<sup>17</sup> Four years later in 1970 Joint Resolution 187 was passed in both houses of the United States Congress requesting that then President Richard Nixon proclaim the third Sunday in June as father's Day. In 1972, United States President Richard Nixon signed a congressional resolution which proclaimed the third Sunday in June be celebrated *every year* as Father's Day. The act—finally completed—fulfilled a lifelong ambition of Sonora Smart Dodd.

Sonora Smart Dodd is universally recognized as the one and only founder of Father's Day. At least one report claims that the earliest occurrence of a Father's Day celebration may have been in 1908 (in West Virginia) —the same year Mother's Day was founded, and a Chicago group erroneously claimed their Father's Day idea was the first to be created in 1915—five years *after* Sonora Smart Dodd's first Father's

<sup>14</sup> "Father's Day Founder Dies." *Spokane Daily Chronicle*, 22 March 1978.

<sup>15</sup> *Spokesman-Review*, 17 June 1973.

<sup>16</sup> Leavy, Hon. Charles H. "The Origin of Father's Day." Speech. U. S. Federal Government, 18 June 1937.

<sup>17</sup> "Official Status: Father's Day Sanction Sought by Originator." *Spokane Daily Chronicle*, 13 July 1966.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

- DODD, JOHN BRUCE & SONORA SMART, HOUSE  
SPOKANE COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Section number 8 Page 6 of 10

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Day was celebrated. Lying to rest unfounded claims, the *Spokesman-Review* newspaper reported in 1973 that "it was a Spokane woman, Mrs. John Bruce Dodd, who became the most influential promoter of Father's Day."<sup>18</sup>

Throughout her lifetime, Sonora Dodd received many praises and accolades, honors and gifts, and was featured as the national recognized founder of Father's Day in hundreds of thousands of stories and photographs printed in newspapers throughout the country. For example, she was honored as founder of Father's Day at a small ceremony at the 1939 World's Fair in New York; later that year she received a "Friend in Deed" metal from Columbia Broadcasting Company in appreciation for her Father's Day Efforts. On May 26, 1943, she traveled to New York City to receive a \$500 World War II bond from Hollywood actor, Ralph Bellamy, who helped launch a "billion-dollar 'Buy-a-Bond-for-Father's Day' drive" which was sponsored by the National Father's Day Committee.<sup>19</sup> Locally in 1948, a bronze memorial plaque was installed at the YMCA in Spokane, and honored Sonora Smart Dodd with the following proclamation:

Within this building [on] June 6, 1910, "Father's Day" was founded by Mrs. John Bruce Dodd as tribute to her father, William Jackson Smart, a pioneer, and to all devoted fathers. This plaque is an honor gift from Spokane County Pioneer Society, June A.D. 1948.<sup>20</sup>

Further accolades continued to come for many years. In 1952, Sonora was featured in a newspaper article when her son, John Bruce Dodd Jr., was named "Ideal Father of the Year" in Washington, D.C. in a contest sponsored by the Washington Post.<sup>21</sup> In 1968, she was pictured in a newspaper photograph when she was presented a plaque by the Spokane Retail Trade Bureau as the official "Founder of Father's Day."<sup>22</sup> In 1971, a feature newspaper article with a photograph of Sonora Dodd and Sigman Schlesinger, chairman of the National Father's Day Committee, was circulated around the country and reported that "Mrs. John Bruce Dodd of Spokane, 89-year-old founder of Father's Day...will become the first woman ever to receive the traditional silver 'Father of the Year' Award Bowl presented by the National Father's Day Committee" of New York.<sup>23</sup> Today, Father's Day is observed and enjoyed around the world. According to

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<sup>18</sup> Ibid.

<sup>19</sup> "Wirephoto: Spokane's Founder of Father's Day Honored." *Spokane Daily Chronicle*, 26 May 1943.

<sup>20</sup> "Father's Day Founder Remembered." *Spokesman-Review*, 1948.

<sup>21</sup> "Father's Day Founder..." *Spokane Daily Chronicle*, 19 June 1955,  
and "Dad's Day Mrs. Dodd Still Active." *Spokesman-Review*, 21 June 1970.

<sup>22</sup> "Founder Hopes for Peace." *Spokane Daily Chronicle*, 16 July 1968.

<sup>23</sup> "Mrs. Dodd Cited." *Spokane Daily Chronicle*, 2 June 1971.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

- DODD, JOHN BRUCE & SONORA SMART, HOUSE  
SPOKANE COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Section number 8

Page 7 of 10

the Greeting Card Association of America, more than “97 million Father’s Day cards are purchased annually in the United States...and [the holiday] is the fifth-largest card-sending occasion” in the country.<sup>24</sup>

In addition to her creation and promotion of Father’s Day, Sonora also gained prominence locally for her artistic endeavors in painting, sculpture, and poetry. She studied sculpture and ceramics at the renowned Chicago Art Institute and later taught at the school for a time. She wrote and illustrated a series of children’s books on Native Americans call Children of the Sun. She received an education in poetry in from the LuValiean School of Poetics in Long Beach, California, and in Spokane became a well-known regional poet where her poem called the “Lilac Way” became the official poem for the city’s Lilac festivities, and her poem “Bide Here With Us” became the City of Spokane’s official welcome poem. Some of her poems were set to music, and her poem for peace was read at the United Nations. In 1937, Sonora Dodd became part owner of the Ball & Dodd Funeral Home in Spokane and held the position of vice president for more than 30 years. Donald B. Ball, president of the funeral home, explained that Sonora “became involved in this business because she liked people.”<sup>25</sup>

In 1978, Sonora died at the age of 96. The *National Inquirer* reported that “*although she’s been a successful business woman, civic leader, gifted painter, poet and ceramics designer as well as mother, Mrs. Dodd said she considers her part in making Father’s Day a national holiday the most important thing she’s done.*”<sup>26</sup> At her death in 1978, Sonora Smart Dodd’s work was praised and summarized in Spokane’s *Spokesman-Review* in the following statement:

*“Honor for thousands of fathers everywhere and for her home city [of Spokane] through [the] establishment of Father’s Day is an everlasting epitaph for Mrs. John Bruce Dodd.”*<sup>27</sup>

Her grave marker at Greenwood Cemetery in Spokane reads:

*Sonora Smart Dodd  
Founder of Father’s Day  
1882-1978*

<sup>24</sup> “Father’s Day Founder Left Big Legacy.” *Moscow-Pullman Daily News*, 18 June 1999.

<sup>25</sup> “Father’s Day’s Mom Is Praised.” *Spokane Daily Chronicle*, 25 Mar 1978.

<sup>26</sup> “The Mother Who Invented Father’s Day.” *National Inquirer*, 1977.

<sup>27</sup> “Father’s Day Gave City Fame.” *Spokesman-Review*, 23 March 1978.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

- DODD, JOHN BRUCE & SONORA SMART, HOUSE  
SPOKANE COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Section number 8

Page 8 of 10

On June 12, 2008 U.S. Congressional Representation Cathy Rogers McMorris introduced House Resolution 1274 in the 110<sup>th</sup> congress. The Resolution was to commend Sonora Smart Dodd for her contribution in recognizing the importance of Father's Day and recognizing the important role fathers play in our families. While the resolution was referred to House Committee on Education and Labor and died in committee, it shows the overall level of recognition that has been afforded to Dodd in the present day. And she continues to be acknowledged on countless websites, newspaper and magazine articles, as the official founder of Father's Day.

### ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

#### *Criterion C*

In addition to Criterion B, the Dodd House is also significant under Criterion C because it “embodies distinctive characteristics of a type, period, and or method of construction.<sup>28</sup> The Dodd House is a fine representative of the Craftsman style and clearly illustrates identifying elements of the style.

#### *Bungalow Form & the Craftsman Style*

The Dodd House is a bungalow embellished in the Craftsman style. The bungalow building type is described as a “*form* of house, a type of structure designed in a number of architectural styles; *style* by contrast, is a particular period and genre of design. The bungalow house type is a single-family residence, one or one-and-one-half stories high, and designed in elevation, plan, and roofline to achieve a horizontal and rectangular emphasis.”<sup>29</sup>

The American word “bungalow” was derived from the British and East Indian word “bangla” which referred to low, one-story thatched huts with wide verandas that were built in Hindi East India during British occupation during the 1800s. The 19<sup>th</sup>-century bungalow became popular with the British and was eventually built around seaside resorts in England. The appeal of the bungalow house form and its more affordable construction cost grew tremendously during both the English and American Arts & Crafts periods in the late 1800s and early 1900s, and was described by Gustav Stickley, a prominent voice in the American Arts & Crafts movement, as “a house reduced to its simplest form which never fails to harmonize with its surroundings...”<sup>30</sup> Ideal values attributed to bungalows afforded descriptive adjectives such as simple, comfortable, nature's materials-colors-forms, modest, crafted by artisans, integrated with the natural environment, affordable, and art in form and function.<sup>31</sup> The bungalow house form was

<sup>28</sup> Ibid, p. 18

<sup>29</sup> Cigliano, Jan. *Bungalow: American Restoration Style*. Salt Lake City: Gibbs-Smith Publishers, 1998, pp. 10-11.

<sup>30</sup> Ibid, p. 12.

<sup>31</sup> Ibid, p. 13.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

- DODD, JOHN BRUCE & SONORA SMART, HOUSE  
SPOKANE COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Section number 8

Page 9 of 10

particularly popular in the United States, especially along the West Coast in areas like Pasadena, California. Along with the Craftsman style that was applied to so many bungalows in this trend-setting area along the West Coast, the bungalow house form was sometimes called a "California bungalow" or a "Pasadena bungalow."<sup>32</sup>

The Craftsman style has its roots in nature. Natural materials were revered such as indigenous river rocks or field stones, brick (especially clinker brick), hand-split wood shingles, wood clapboard siding, coarse to fine stucco, leaded-glass windows, burnished copper and brass, and hand-forged wrought iron. The liberal use of natural woodwork which was hand-rubbed to a rich patina was chosen for interior treatments and included oak, ash, walnut, chestnut, tamarack, fir, cedar, mahogany, and other woods. Along with natural building materials, the Craftsman style emphasized horizontal prominence, and designers and architects plied their "tricks of the trade" in achieving this emphasis. Some of these design tricks included the application of architectural forms and elements such as one-and-one-half-story bungalow house forms, low-pitched roofs with widely overhanging eaves, wide bargeboards with tapered or cut-out ends, exposed/extended rafter tails, numerous horizontal bands and string and belt courses that separated siding treatments or the juncture between floors, horizontal rows of windows, solid porch walls, thick battered/tapered porch supports, battered/tapered walls and fenestration surrounds, partial or full-width covered front porches, and *porte cocheres*. The Craftsman style was heartily adopted and became one of the most popular architectural styles in America where it dominated domestic architecture from about 1900 to 1930.<sup>33</sup>

The Dodd House is a fine depiction of the Craftsman style and specifically illustrates the following Craftsman style elements: documented built date of 1913 (which is within the prescribed time period for the style), typical 1.5-story bungalow form, low-pitched side gable roof, widely overhanging eaves, exposed rafter tails, knee-brace brackets, wide bargeboards with pointed ends, full-width covered front porch, thick square wood porch posts, prominent black basalt rock porch wall, tongue-in-groove paneled wood soffits, horizontal wood clapboard siding, black basalt rock foundation wall and chimney, multi-paned leaded-glass windows, diamond-paned leaded-glass windows, solid wood front door with vertical plank design, forged-brass door handle (design simulates tree bark), spacious living/dining room, hardwood floor, simple wide square-cut woodwork, and numerous built-ins (bookshelves, china cupboards/bookshelves).

<sup>32</sup> Duchscherer, Paul. *The Bungalow: America's Arts & Crafts Home*. New York: Penguin Publishers, 1995.

<sup>33</sup> McAlester, Lee & Virginia. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Knopf Publishing Co, 1989, p. 453-54.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

- DODD, JOHN BRUCE & SONORA SMART, HOUSE  
SPOKANE COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Section number   8  

Page 10 of 10

---

Located in the Liberty Park Addition in the East Central neighborhood of Spokane, the Dodd House can be compared with hundreds of bungalows which were built in the area during the period from about 1900 to 1930 as described in two historic resource inventories completed in 2004 and 2006.<sup>34</sup> As surveyed in the Liberty Park/Grant Park neighborhood in East Central Spokane, most of the historic homes in the area were built as bungalows with vernacular styling, plain with no embellishment. Typical vernacular homes in the Liberty Park/Grant Park neighborhood include “no frills” examples like the Anderson House built in 1910 at 1215 S. Helena, the Wehtje House built in 1906 at 1608 E. 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and the Shoff House built in 1904 at 1623 E. 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue. In contrast, the Dodd House is artfully embellished with architectural details of the Craftsman style. The Dodd House is also distinguished for its side gable roof—a design in contrast to most of the bungalows built in the Liberty Park/Grant Park neighborhood which have front-facing gable roofs. An exception is the Mallery House at 1601 E. 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue. It has a side gable roof like the Dodd House but in contrast to the Dodd House, the Mallery House has lost most of its exterior architectural integrity due to an application of aluminum siding which covers the house.

In addition to its Craftsman-style articulation, the Dodd House is distinguished for its particularly robust use of vesicular black basalt rock which is featured in the home’s front porch wall, foundation wall, chimney, garage, and rock retaining walls. Black basalt, a common indigenous rock in Spokane, was used extensively for homes and rock walls which were built in the area during the early 1900s. To compare, the use of plain basalt with no vesicles is the norm and is commonly seen throughout the community while the use of specifically culled vesicular basalt rock is not as common as plain basalt and thus produces a unique and prominent architectural feature at the Dodd House.<sup>35</sup>

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<sup>34</sup> Yeomans, Linda. *Historic Resource Inventory for Grant Park Neighborhood, 2004*, and *Historic Resource Inventory for Grant Park/Liberty Park Neighborhood, 2006*.

<sup>35</sup> Classed as extrusive igneous rock, hot lava escaped from volcanoes and/or cracks in the earth and when cooled, formed black stone called basalt. “Rapid cooling of lava...gives the rock a fine-grained texture” but some lava held trapped gasses which escaped as the lava cooled, leaving small holes, called vesicles, or vesicular basalt. *Modern Physical Geography, Fourth Edition*, 1992.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet -

DODD, JOHN BRUCE & SONORA SMART,  
HOUSE  
SPOKANE COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Section number 9&10

Page 1 of 3

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet -

DODD, JOHN BRUCE & SONORA SMART,  
HOUSE  
SPOKANE COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Section number 9&10

Page 2 of 3

---

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet -

DODD, JOHN BRUCE & SONORA SMART,  
HOUSE  
SPOKANE COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Section number 9&10 Page 3 of 3

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“Wirephoto: Spokane’s Founder of Father’s Day Honored.” *Spokane Daily Chronicle*, 26 May 1943.

*Spokesman-Review*, 17 June 1973.

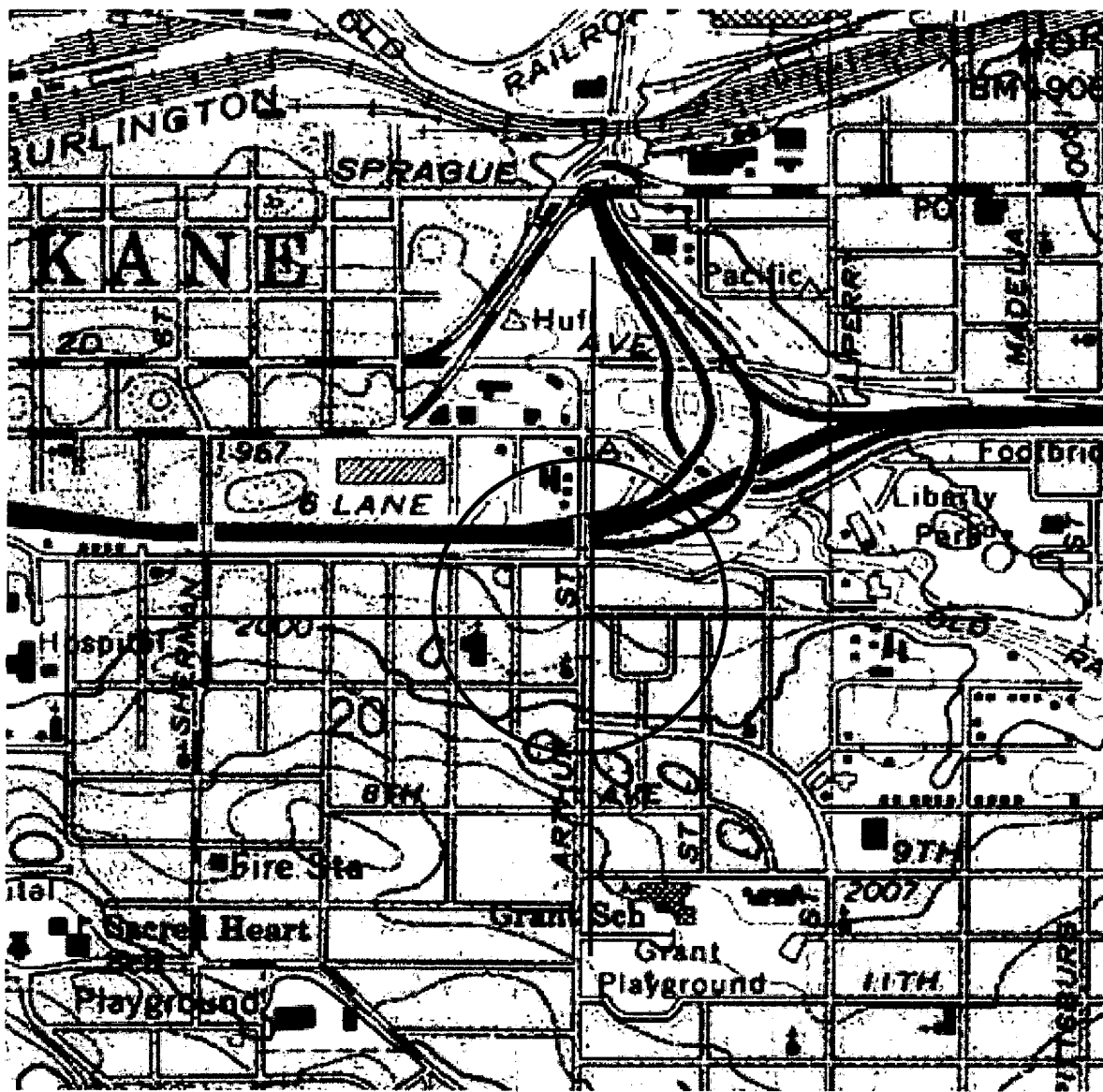
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### PHOTOGRAPHS

All photographs were taken by the author in 2009 and 2010.

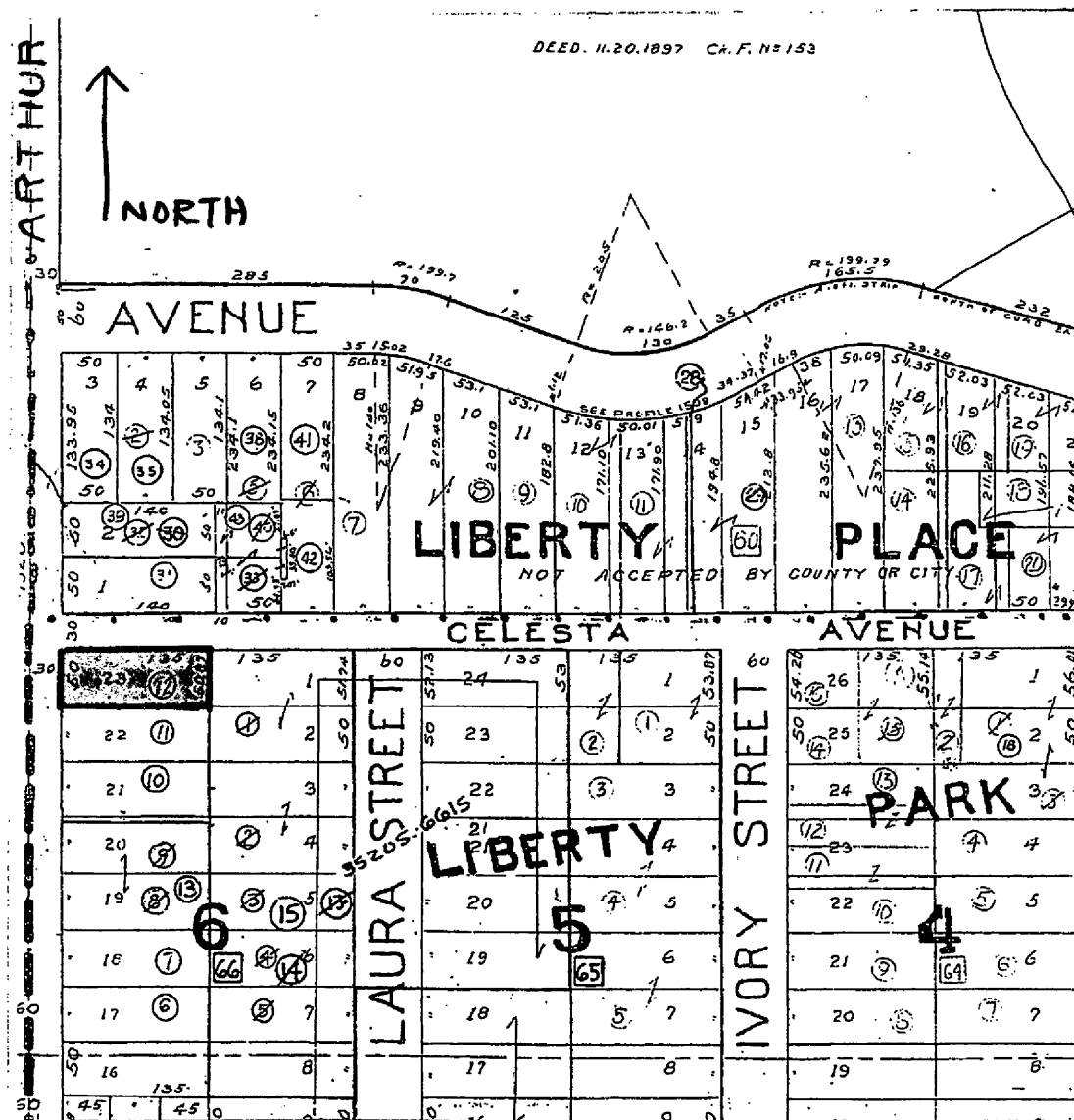
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|----------|--|
| Photo 1  | Spokane County Tax Assessor circa 1960, southwest corner façade.           |
| Photo 2  | Northwest façade corner of house in 2009, looking southeast.               |
| Photo 3  | North elevation in 2009, looking south.                                    |
| Photo 4  | West façade of house in 2009, looking east.                                |
| Photo 5  | Southwest façade corner of house in 2009, looking northeast.               |
| Photo 6  | Northeast corner and east elevation of house in 2009, looking southwest.   |
| Photo 7  | Southwest corner of garage in 2009, looking southwest.                     |
| Photo 8  | South elevation of garage in 2009, looking north.                          |
| Photo 9  | South elevation of basalt stone retaining wall, looking northwest in 2009. |
| Photo 10 | Living room in 2009, looking north.  |
| Photo 11 | Dining room in 2009, looking north.  |
| Photo 12 | Kitchen in 2009, looking south.  |
| Photo 13 | Sonora Smart Dodd, circa 1920s.  |



**Dodd House: Spokane, WA**

**UTM 11 4-70-421E 52-77-374N (NAD83/WGS84)**

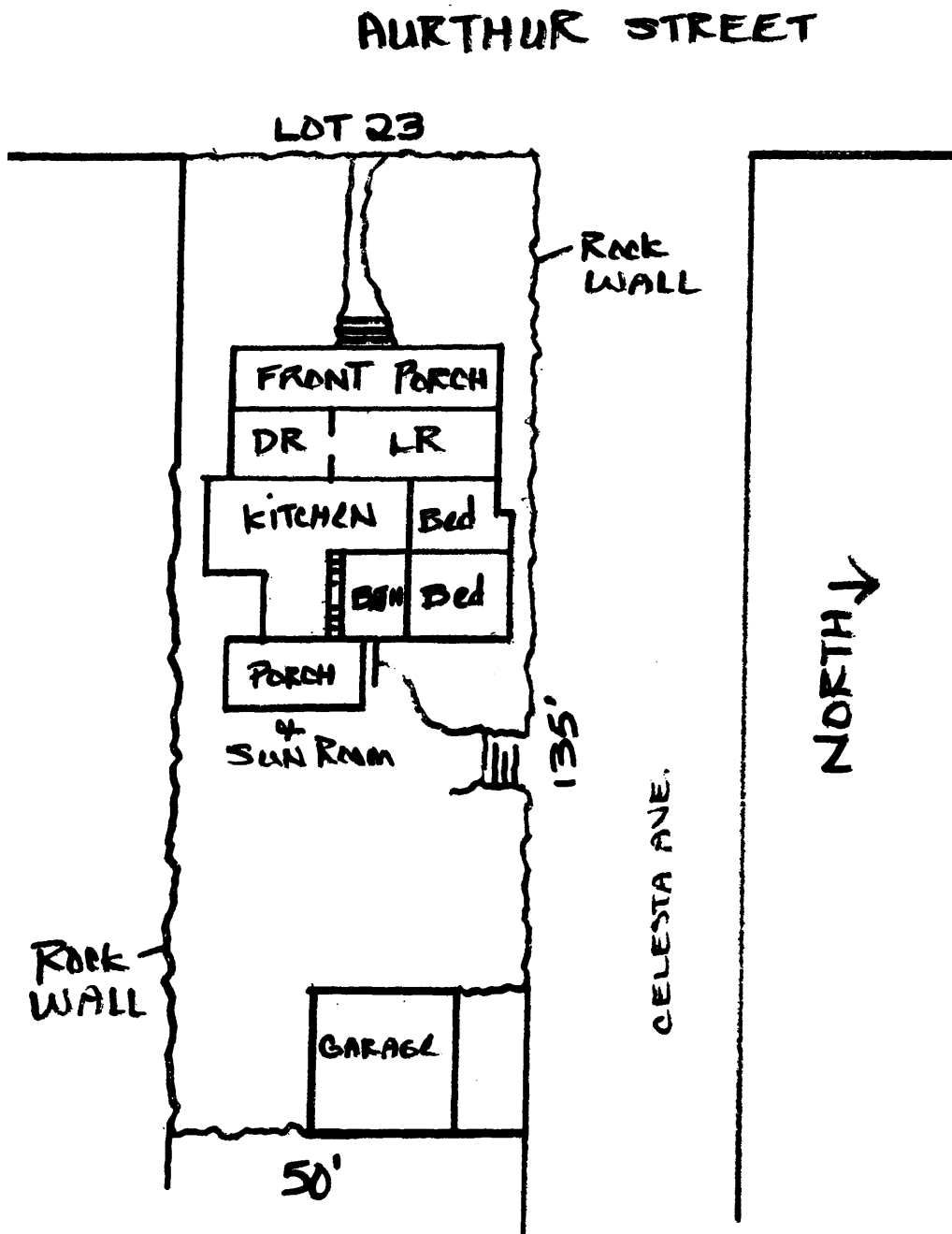
# SPOKANE PLAT MAP





**SITE PLAN and FLOOR PLAN**

For Dodd House at 607 S. Arthur Street, Spokane, WA



John & Sonora Dodd House  
603 S. Arthur Street  
Spokane, WA 99202

"Plan Father's Day." *Spokane Daily Chronicle*, 6 June 1910

CHRONICLE 1:1  
**PLAN FATHERS' DAY**

June 6, 1910

**Spokane Ministerial Alliance and Y. M. C. A. Indorse the Proposition.**

*Father's Day*

"Give poor father a chance."

All the country paid tribute to the mothers of the land on a special day set apart for the purpose a short time ago, and now a movement has been started in Spokane to do likewise for "father."

A national "Fathers' day," with Spokane as the originator of it, is the suggestion of Mrs. J. B. Dodd of 118 Sharp avenue, and this morning the Spokane Ministerial alliance and the Y. M. C. A. enthusiastically indorsed the proposition.

June 11 will be Fathers' day in Spokane, and it is hoped that other cities can be persuaded to celebrate the head of the house on the same day. It is the desire of the Spokane organization eventually to have the whole world observe the day.

**Official Alliance.**

The suggestion of Mrs. Dodd took the form of a petition to the ministerial alliance this morning. Besides Mrs. Dodd the petition was signed by Mark H. Wheeler and George A. Forbes. It reads as follows:

The beautiful custom of Mothers' day suggests the question, Why not a Father's day? This question is further emphasized by the celebration in our Sunday schools of Children's day. A Father's day would call attention to such constructive teachings from the pulpit as would naturally point out

The father's place in the home.

The training of children.

The safeguarding of the marriage tie.

The protection of womanhood and childhood.

The meaning of this, whether in the light of religion or of patriotism, is so apparent as to need no argument in behalf of such a day.

Your petitioners therefore urge you to set apart the third Sunday of June to be known as Father's day, and suggest the use of the rose as a suitable flower. Respectfully submitted,

MRS. J. B. DODD,  
MARK H. WHEELER,  
GEORGE A. FORBES.

Approved by the Spokane Ministerial association, Willis E. Pettione, secretary.

# LEMON PIE ART AT NIGHT SCHOOL

Women of Fathers' Day Association  
Attracted by Variety of Evening Classes.

## SOME DECIDE TO ENROLL

Furniture Making, Baby Culture,  
Sponge Cake and Spanish on  
Curriculum.

Members of the Fathers' Day association, headed by Mrs. J. Bruce Dodd, visited the night school in the Lewis and Clark high school last night and were ushered through the rooms by Frank H. Arnold.

The women evinced considerable interest in the wood working, sewing and military departments and several signified their intention of enrolling for the remainder of the term.

In the wood working department, under Byron Hroom, women as well as men were engaged in making furniture. Two of the visitors said they intended to enroll in this department.

There were 13 girls making lemon pie in the cooking department under Mrs. W. H. Phillips and sponge cakes and sugar cookies were being made in the class conducted by Miss May Worthington, who was asked for recipes for these concoctions by several.

The visitors were also given an idea of how "American" sounds in Spanish, the Spanish class singing it for them. J. A. Houston's class in salesmanship was giving a demonstration in selling accident insurance and coal when the

CHINA



to

In our file of twenty physicians' treatment skin trouble Ointment the itching clear away



The Spokesman-Review, Spokane, WA - February 19, 1917

## WELCOME P. E. O. CONVENTION

Today the Nation Honors

MRS. JOHN BRUCE DODD

of Spokane, Washington

Founder of FATHER'S DAY

which was sponsored through the inspiration of Father's Day Association of this city in 1910.

Today the American People, the American Press, legislative bodies, business concerns and individuals do much in honoring father on HIS DAY.

Father had the respect of the nation.

May Mrs. John Bruce Dodd receive such honoring pleasure in seeing the fulfillment of her hopes and ideals.

**John W. Graham & Co**

707-711 Sprague Ave.  
Telephone Main 1721

708-716 First Ave.  
Spokane

The Spokesman-Review, Spokane, WA - June 19, 1938

## Father's Day

Do You Remember How It All Began?

ELMON AMES  
New York News

NEW YORK — Most of us think of Father's Day, which is Sunday, as a day to give dad a gift; a day of remembrance of those no longer living fathers. Of course gifts are in order, but let's remember how it all began.

According to the National Father's Day Committee, the first Father's Day was celebrated in Spokane, Wash., in 1910. At a time when many women feel that in business and social life, men are their opponents, and a time when sociologists and psychologists are concerned about the problems of the head of a single parent family, it seems fitting to point out that, as is frequently the case in many things, a woman started it all. And the father first honored was the head of a motherless family.

It was in 1909 that Mrs. John Bruce Dodd had the happy thought of honoring fathers like hers. But it wasn't until a year later that, having taken her idea to her own minister and, through him, to the Spokane Ministerial Association, she saw her dream begin to materialize.

Mrs. Dodd had always stood in awe of her father, William Smart, a Civil War veteran, whose selflessness and deep sense of responsibility got him through the rearing of his brood of five sons and a daughter (Mrs. Dodd) after the death of his young wife. Her suggestion of a special day for such fathers was a spontaneous expression of love, devotion, and gratitude for him.

She glowingly described the love and sacrifice of her father in raising six children on a frontier farm in east-west Washington; but she was actually talking of all the fathers who helped shape the destiny of the country in those pioneering days.

The Spokane Young Men's Christian Association supplied the support and momentum that led to the first Father's Day when Spokane officially set aside a Sunday to "honor thy father."

William Jennings Bryan was one of the first national leaders to formally endorse the movement. He warmly complimented Mrs. Dodd on her inspirational idea, saying: "Too much credit cannot be placed upon the



Mrs. John Bruce Dodd had the thought in 1909.

relationship between parent and child."

On April 24, 1972, former president Richard Nixon signed legislation creating a national holiday for Father's Day. This act fulfilled the lifelong ambition of Mrs. Dodd.

Although it was not yet a national holiday before William Smart died in 1919, he had the happiness of knowing that Father's Day, started by his daughter, was becoming a reality throughout the United States.

As 94, Mrs. Dodd, who still lives in Spokane, is watching the Dodd concept of honoring American fathers spread beyond our country, and Father's Day observed in more than 30 nations.

Let's not forget how one woman's love and respect for her father started it all.

The Evening Independent,  
St. Petersburg, Florida -  
June 16, 1976

Flash Floods

# Father's Day got belated recognition

CHICAGO (AP) — Father's Day which this year is celebrated on June 16, was ironically inspired by a Mother's Day sermon.

Mrs. John Bruce Dodd, a Spokane, Wash., artist, is credited with honoring Father's Day according to researchers for The World Book Encyclopedia. She got the idea while listening to her minister deliver an impassioned sermon on Motherhood.

Mrs. Dodd's mother had died young, so her father had to raise six children alone. As she listened to the minister praise mothers for the hardship they endured in raising their children and tending to all the family needs, she reflected on her father's sacrifices and speculated that there must be

other fathers whose similar sacrifices went unrecognized.

In a letter to the president of the Spokane Ministerial Association, Mrs. Dodd proposed a day to honor fathers. She suggested June 5, her father's birthday.

The association approved the idea, and the Spokane YMCA publicized it. However, the suggested date didn't allow the ministers enough time to prepare sermons, so the celebration was scheduled for the third Sunday in June. Thus, on June 19, 1910, Spokane became the first city to honor fathers with a special day.

The mayor proclaimed a city-wide celebration, and the governor established observance throughout the state.

A strong push for a national Father's Day came from Harry C. Meek, a president of the Uptown Lions Club of Chicago. Though the Lions crowned him the "Originator of Father's Day," Meek admitted that the idea first occurred to him in 1915, five years after Mrs. Dodd's suggestion. He suggested it in speeches before several Lions Clubs, and the idea caught on. The Lions also celebrated the third Sunday in June. That was the Sunday closest to Meek's birthday.

The following year, President

Wilson participated in the Father's Day ceremony by presenting a button in the nation's capital which unfurled a flag in Spokane. Despite this national gesture, though, many sections of the country did not take part.

President Coolidge also showed interest in creating a national day "to establish more intimate relations between fathers and their children" while in office. And, in 1934, a National Father's Day Committee was formed in New York City to promote the celebration actively on a national level.

Perhaps the most notable recent effort to make Father's Day "official" was by Maine's

Sen. Margaret Chase Smith in 1967. She said the official recognition of Mother's Day required that Father's Day receive the same honor.

"... Congress has been guilty now for 40 years of the worst possible oversight, to say the least, perpetrated against the gallant fathers, young and old, of our land," she said in her proposal.

In 1972, the long wait for national recognition came to an end when President Nixon signed a Congressional resolution giving Father's Day the same status as Mother's Day.

**PIZZA**

Ready in 15 minutes

at

**My Brother's Place**

806 William St.

Carry-out phone:

**371-3659**



**How does water put out a fire?**

Win the New Book of Knowledge (20 volumes). Send your questions, name, age, address to "Tell Me Why!" care of this paper. Include Zip Code. In case of duplicate questions the author

hot enough, oxygen can begin to combine freely with it. The paper then bursts into flames.

There are three main ways in which a fire can be put out. In each, one of the three things

Free Lance Star, Fredericksburg, VA June 11, 1974

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ING, M. D.

**SOWE'RE TOLD**  
By HAL JOHNSON

**FATHER'S DAY**

Tomorrow—from getup to bed-down—the "old man" will be the king fish in every American home. He can spill the ashes from his pipe on the living room rug without even so much as raising eyebrows in his household to be lifted.

There will be neckties—the one gift that always fits the neck even if it gives the recipient a fit. Father will long for a summer cold so that he can use some of the handkerchiefs that will be showered upon him. If he smokes, there will be, perhaps, a new pipe, a humidifier, cigarettes or boxes of cigars. He'll be re-shirted and socked—this time on the receiving end.

Yes, tomorrow is Father's Day. The other 364 days of the year he may be just a biological necessity in the American home, the meal ticket, the rent or taxpayer, the second fiddle for the sake of home harmony, the recipient of sons' snags and daughters' diplomatic demands for dough.

Tomorrow he will be king for a day. Mrs. John Bruce Dodd of Spokane is generally credited with discovering that at least once a year, like a dog, every dad should have his day. Seeking a suitable tribute for her own father, Mrs. Dodd wrote to the Spokane Ministerial Association.

She proposed that the third Sunday in June be set aside for the celebration of Father's Day. Spokane's observance and undoubtedly the first in the world was held in June 1910. Sons and daughters wore red roses in honor of living fathers, white roses for those departed.

Apparently the Spokane Chamber of Commerce kept this Father's Day more

able tribute for her own father, Mrs. Dodd wrote to the Spokane Ministerial Association.

She proposed that the third Sunday in June be set aside for the celebration of Father's Day. Spokane's observance and undoubtedly the first in the world was held in June 1910. Sons and daughters wore red roses in honor of living fathers, white roses for those departed.

Apparently the Spokane Chamber of Commerce kept this Father's Day more or less a local municipal secret, for in 1911 Chicago thought it had found something new and discussed giving the old man a day. The Chicago Uptown Lions Club started a Father's Day celebration the third Sunday in October.

Then came Mrs. Walter Hamlet Burgess of Pennsylvania who thought fathers should have some recognition. She took out a charter for National Father's Day and registered it in the United States Patent Office. Later she withdrew in favor of the Spokane Mrs. Dodd's Father's Day Association.

It was not until June 1934 that it was generally agreed throughout the Nation that the third Sunday in June should be dedicated to the nominal but generally the mythical head of the family. Since then Father's Day has been a national institution.

But listen to this: In 1924 the Wilkinsburg (Pa.) Bible Class voted unanimously to make the humble dandelion the official Father's Day flower, stating: "Fathers are like dandelions; the more they are trampled on the more they grow."

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Berkeley Daily Gazette, Berkeley, California - June 14, 1941

CHURCHES

# Pastors Plan Father's Day Sermons This Morning

In keeping with the spirit of today, local churches will honor fathers in song and program. Texts of sermons will, for the most part, be centered around this theme.

Although not as generally known or celebrated as Mother's Day, the idea of honoring fathers on a special day is not exactly a new one for, according to The Christian Advocate (June 11 issue) the third Sunday in June of 1910 was the first time special honor was given fathers, a Mrs. John Bruce Dodd having been the originator. The publication states that, however, it was not until May of 1921 that a national Father's Day association was founded in Virginia.

It is especially timely to honor fathers during these tense times when fathers are playing such a vital part in our national defense program.

### Bethel AME Church

The services for today in the above named church promise to be inspiring. This being "Father's day," the pastor will be heard in two special messages. At the morning service, 11 a.m., the Rev. Wayman A. Jennings, pastor, will preach from the text, "Our Father." This sermon will be dedicated to patriotic American fathers.

Special music will play a great part in helping to lift the hearts

of the Rev. John J. Brooks, former pastor of the church, was presented and remarked on the progress of the church since his last visit and also concerning the present church that he now directs at Lake Wales. Reverend Brooks is spending a few days in the city, stopping at the parsonage as a part of a month's vacation given him by his congregation at Lake Wales.

### Macedonia Baptist

The services throughout the sixteenth annual session of the Women's Home Mission convention held here recently were all spirited. The literary program under the direction of the vice presi-

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St. Petersburg, Time, St Petersburg, Florida June 21, 1942

## Origin Of Father's Day

The mother of Father's Day is a mother. She is Mrs. John Bruce Dodd of Spokane, Washington. The idea for "Father's Day" came to her one morning in 1909 as she was washing dishes while her son, John Bruce Dodd, Jr., gurgled happily beside her in a high-chair. It was her way of honoring her father who raised her and five motherless brothers. This was a natural expression of love, devotion and gratitude of this daughter toward her Dad, and as such it has touched the life of America. According to Mrs. Dodd, Father's Day would be the way to fulfill the need of calling attention to Father's place in the home, training the children, the safeguarding of the marriage tie, the protection of womanhood and childhood.

When the idea for Father's Day came to her, Mrs. Dodd went to her own minister with it, and through him, to the Spokane Ministerial Association. Mrs. Dodd embodied her thoughts in a letter to the Spokane Ministers Alliance which favorably received it. She told of the love and sacrifices of her own father, William Smart, a Civil War veteran, who reared his six motherless children in an eastern Washington farm. William Jennings Bryan was one of the first to give formal endorsement to Mrs. Dodd's idea when he said, "Too much emphasis cannot be placed upon the relation between parent and child," and complimented Mrs. Dodd on her inspiration. The Spokane Young Men's Christian Association put the Father's Day idea into active motion and Spokane, in 1910, was the first city to set aside a day for honor to Father. From a humble beginning, the day of remembrance grew to national importance with President Woodrow Wilson having a Father's Day button pressed in the White House in 1916, and with President Calvin Coolidge recommending national observance of Father's Day in 1924.

Mrs. Dodd wanted Father's Day to be held on June 5th, her Father's birthday, but there wasn't time for the ministers to prepare sermons for the first Father's Day, and so the third Sunday in June was chosen. Since 1910 Father's Day has been celebrated on the third Sunday in June, and so this year, 1956, marks the 46th anniversary of the First Father's Day.

William Smart, her father, the man who inspired Father's Day died in 1919, but he lived long enough to see Father's Day become a growing reality throughout the nation.

Mrs. Dodd, who is now retired, was an active business woman in Spokane, Washington, where she still lives. Her husband, a life insurance company employe, died eleven years ago, and her only child, John Bruce Dodd, Jr., is associated with the National Park Service in the national capital.

It was also Mrs. Dodd who selected the rose as the official Father's Day flower—a white rose for remembrance and a red rose for living tribute.

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The Palm Beach Post, Palm Beach, Florida - June 16, 1956

## Mother's Day Sermon Inspired Father's Day

CHICAGO (AP) — Father's Day, which this year is celebrated on June 16, was, ironically, inspired by a Mother's Day sermon.

Mrs. John Bruce Dodd, a Spokane, Wash., artist, is credited with fostering Father's Day, according to researchers for The World Book Encyclopedia. She got the idea while listening to her minister deliver an impassioned sermon on motherhood.

Mrs. Dodd's mother had died young, so her father had to raise six children alone. As she listened to the minister praise mothers for the hardship they endured in raising their children and tending to all the family needs, she fretted on her father's sacrifices and speculated that there must be other fathers whose similar sacrifices went unrecognized.

In a letter to the president of the Spokane Ministerial Association, Mrs. Dodd proposed a day to honor fathers. She suggested June 4, her father's birthday.

The association approved the idea, and the Spokane YMCA publicized it. However, the suggested date didn't allow the ministers enough time to prepare sermons, so the celebration was scheduled for the Third Sunday in June. Thus, on June 19, 1910, Spokane became the first city to honor fathers with a special day.

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Perhaps the most notable recent effort to make Father's Day "official" was by Maine's Sen. Margaret Chase Smith in 1967. She said the official recognition of Mother's Day required that Father's Day receive the same honor.

"... Congress has been guilty now for 40 years of the worst possible oversight, to say the least, perpetrated against the gallant fathers, young and old, of our land," she said in her proposal.

In 1972, the long wait for national recognition came to an end when President Nixon signed a Congressional resolution giving Father's Day the same status as Mother's Day.

The Victorian Advocate, Victorian BC — June 14, 1977

## Father's Day, Begun By A Woman In 1910 Is Now An American Institution

A Baby gurgles happily in his high chair, his Mother busy with the noon-day dishes. Now, the Mother's face is softly glowing with a kind of radiance, born of excitement and satisfaction. She has an idea. An idea, that in less than a generation was to become a now celebrated American Institution.

Always deeply reverent and devoutly grateful to her Father, she yearned to express her devotion in some greater way. So, why not a "Father's Day"? It could be a day to honor not only her Father, but all American Fathers for their dedication to the ideal of a life pattern, unique to the United States, and reflective of the pioneer spirit.

That was in 1909. But it was another year before Mrs. John Bruce Dodd's inspiration

would bear fruit as the first Father's Day — in Spokane, Washington. The year of the first Father's Day was 1910.

Father's Day would be a spontaneous expression of love, devotion and gratitude of one daughter to her father for what he did for his motherless family. And it would be the beginning of my long crusade to fill a need, says Mrs. John Bruce Dodd, whose idea Father's Day was, "to recognize Father's unique role in the home — to discipline, to encourage moral understanding, to protect the sanctity of the family — all embodied in the undertaking of the marriage vow.

Mrs. Dodd took her idea to her own minister, and through him, to the Spokane Ministerial Association. Her original concept, embodied in a letter to the Ministerial

Association, won its quick approval. She described the love and sacrifices of her father, William Smart, a Civil War veteran, raising his family of six on a frontier farm in eastern Washington. But she was addressing her message to the role of all fathers, who helped shape the destiny of the United States in those pioneering days of the early Twentieth Century.

The Young Men's Christian Association of Spokane supplied the ingredients of support, and the momentum that led to the first Father's Day in 1910, when Spokane set aside a day to "Honor Thy Father".

William Jennings Bryan, the great populist, was one of the first national leaders

to understand and formally endorse the embryonic Father's Day Movement, saying "Too much emphasis cannot be placed upon the relationship between parent and child," and he warmly complimented Mrs. Dodd on her inspirational idea.

President Wilson, in 1910, had a button pressed in the White House to symbolize the national impact of the growing Father's Day concept.

In 1924, President Coolidge urged the observance of Father's Day on a national scale.

So, although William Smart, Mrs. Dodd's father, died in 1910, it was not before he saw Father's Day become a growing reality throughout the United States.

Sarasota Herald Tribune, Sarasota, Florida — June 7, 1977

## John & Sonora Dodd House

603 S. Arthur Street  
Spokane, WA 99202

### DEDICATED

to

MRS. JOHN BRUCE DODD

Lilac Poet of 1954

### LILAC WAY

You will return to me when May is new  
And lilacs bloom.  
We then shall walk the ways of purple hue  
And breathe perfume.  
Remembering the dreams of yester-spring  
In lilac maze,  
And gather boughs to which frail blossoms cling  
In fragrant haze.  
We then shall hear the call of birds on high  
That wake the night,  
While watching candles burn in mystic sky  
With softest light;  
And we shall pledge our troth for years to be  
When lilacs drop their stars from full blown tree.

By MRS. JOHN BRUCE DODD

LILAC WAY is one of several lilac poems written by Mrs. John Bruce Dodd.

It is a Lu Vailean Sonnet first published in Chromatones with many reprints.

It was set to music by Blu Mundy, and introduced by Byron Swanson during the Lilac Festival, 1951, on his KGA program, "Serenade in the Night," sponsored by the First National Bank of Spokane.

It was again presented on KGA, by Blu Mundy and her Treble-Aires with Byron Swanson as soloist.

It was used for the Spokane Federation of Women's Organizations at their annual luncheon in June, 1952, with Jerry Taylor as soloist.

LILAC WAY was used as the grand finale of the Spokane Park Board's annual pageant at Manito and Mission Parks in 1952, with Jerry Taylor as soloist.

Red Henderson gave a dance interpretation of LILAC WAY, by his Silver Spurs upon this occasion.

Mrs. H. F. Wilkening presented the same group in an interpretation of this song on the night of November 6, 1953; on the International Night program at the Women's Club, in Spokane, Washington, with W. F. Henderson as soloist.

It was given by the Composers, Authors and Artists of America at their annual luncheon.

This song was sung at the Lilac Show at Civic Center in Spokane 1953.

It has been used extensively by the Past Matrons of Eastern Star in their ceremonials and broadcast within the state and internationally over the radio.

**John & Sonora Dodd House**

603 S. Arthur Street  
Spokane, WA 99202

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MRS. JOHN BRUCE DODD

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**My Prayer for Peace**

Supreme Father: At this time of estrangement and strife, I offer my prayer, an intercession for universal peace. I pray that all peoples, as world citizens, shall read together the Twenty-third Psalm and make its text plural.

I ask that all nations may be moved to unite in one voice saying, "The Lord is OUR Shepherd, WE shall not want," and to these words of assurance may we add: "The Lord is OUR Shepherd, WE shall have peace." Believing, Father, that if we might hold this thought in unison, as an affirmation of compassion, this bond of brotherhood would disarm all motives of destruction.

I implore that Thou wilt, in the spirit of fatherhood, bombard all hearts with the fire of tolerance, charity and faith, and that Thou wilt cause a miracle of love to encompass the earth with the glory of peace. —Amen.

By permission of The Spokesman-Review

Published in Spokesman-Review Christmas, 1952

Read over KXLY Christmas day, 1952

Published by Spokesman-Review Father's Day, 1953

Read at the spring session of the Washington State Legislature 1953

This prayer was sent to President Harry S. Truman, to the United Nations and to the Chief of Chaplains of the Armed Forces in 1952, by the Spokane Council of Churches.

**Immortality**

I sometimes can see all my dreamings  
Arise as brave phoenix again.  
They lift in dim mists with faint gleamings,  
They soothe or they wound with new pain.

Immortals are faithfully fanning  
Aflame the dull sparks of the past.  
I pray that I hold them unbanning,  
So long as all dreamings shall last.





**John & Sonora Dodd House**  
603 S. Arthur Street  
Spokane, WA 99202

"Founder Honored *Spokane Daily Chronicle*," 21 July 1966.



## **Founder Honored**

Mrs. John Bruce Dodd, founder of Father's Day, stands beside granite boulder bearing commemorative plaque at the new Spokane YMCA building. Mrs. Dodd was honored at dedication ceremonies yesterday by city and county officials, church and YMCA representatives and members of the Spokane County Pioneer Society. Smaller plaque at right explains that original plaque (left) was moved from old YMCA Building at First and Lincoln, where Father's Day was started in 1910.