

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED SEP 17 1976
DATE ENTERED DEC 18 1976

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Donald House

AND/OR COMMON

Woman's Century Club

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

304 North Second Street

__ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Yakima

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

__ VICINITY OF

#4 - The Honorable Mike McCormack

STATE

Washington

CODE

53

COUNTY

Yakima

CODE

077

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

__DISTRICT

__PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

__AGRICULTURE

__MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

__UNOCCUPIED

__COMMERCIAL

__PARK

__STRUCTURE

__BOTH

__WORK IN PROGRESS

__EDUCATIONAL

__PRIVATE RESIDENCE

__SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

__ENTERTAINMENT

__RELIGIOUS

__OBJECT

__IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

__GOVERNMENT

__SCIENTIFIC

__BEING CONSIDERED

__YES: UNRESTRICTED

__INDUSTRIAL

__TRANSPORTATION

__NO

__MILITARY

__OTHER: Club Hou

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Woman's Century Club

STREET & NUMBER

304 North Second Street

CITY, TOWN

Yakima

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

Washington

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Assessor's Office, Yakima County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Second & "B" Streets

CITY, TOWN

Yakima

STATE

Washington

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Washington State Inventory of Historic Places

DATE

January, 1975

__FEDERAL STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

CITY, TOWN

Olympia

STATE

Washington

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Occupying a corner lot at North Second Street and Lincoln Avenue in downtown Yakima is a substantial stone residence owned and maintained since 1930 by the Woman's Century Club. The mansion is the former house of George Donald, prominent banker, rancher, and railroad man, and is thought to have been designed for Mr. Donald by the architect William Henry Harrison Weatherwax in 1907-1908. Although it is today a part of Yakima's commercial district, North Second Street is a tree-lined avenue flanked by low-lying office structures and well-landscaped residences. The Congregational Church stands directly across the street from the mansion. The Donald House itself is presently surrounded on three sides by lawn, trees, and shrubbery. A parking lot has been added to the rear for the use of Club members.

No clear-cut architectural style can be associated with the Donald House, for it incorporates a number of stylistic tendencies. Its shingled second story, shed dormers, and bold couple brackets are suggestive of popular bungalow construction. However, its asymmetrical massing, its broad roof overhangs, and its emphasized horizontality are progressive in character and show Prairie style influences.

The structure is two and one-half stories in height, and basically rectangular in plan. Its materials of construction are varied, presenting an interesting overall texture. The foundation of the house is of brick masonry, while the first story and verandah walls and piers are of cut sandstone. These units are rock-faced and laid in broken courses. The second story of the Donald House is of frame construction, sheathed with wood shingles. In relatively recent years, both porch and main roof surfaces have been resealed with cedar shakes.

The broad verandah is a particularly striking feature of the mansion. It has undoubtedly proven itself a valuable amenity throughout hot Yakima summers. From the Second Street, or east elevation, the verandah extends around the south side of the house. Its configuration on the facade is asymmetrical, however. On the elevation, the formal entrance to the building is situated just to the north of the center. It is marked by a shallow gable which terminates the strong horizontal line of the porch roof. The verandah flooring itself is of wood and is enclosed by a low sandstone wall.

The doors and windows of the Donald House are of considerable interest from an exterior viewpoint. The main entrance on Second Street features leaded glass sidelights patterned in distinctive Craftsman style designs, in shades of dark green, yellow and rose. Access to the dining room from the south verandah is provided by French doors with similar leaded sidelights. On the north elevation, a double doored entrance to the main stairhall was installed by the Woman's Century Club.

Windows are generally arranged in groups of three on the ground floor. Sashes of varying size are separated by heavy mullions, and each unit is framed by dimensioned stone surrounds and sills. At second-floor level, the fenestration apparently underwent alteration concurrently with remodeling of the second-floor interior. For instance, the large triple window units which now extend across the east elevation were originally fewer and were rhythmically interspersed with units of half their height.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED SEP 17 1976

DATE ENTERED DEC 12 1976

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

The mansion retains a number of original details which give it a high level of architectural distinctiveness. Massive wooden brackets are aligned above each stone pier, appearing to support the overhang of the verandah roof. The main roof overhang is accented by coupled brackets of unusual design. Other features of note include dormer windows with six-over-six light double-hung sash, a rockfaced sandstone chimney at the north end, and handsome copper lanterns which flank the gabled access to the front door.

Other than fenestration changes, the only exterior alteration of major importance has been the 1975 addition of a small raised portico to the rear kitchen door. Wooden posts, brackets, railings and cedar shakes were utilized in this construction in an effort to maintain the integrity of the mansion's appearance.

A comprehensive interior decorative scheme and an interesting spacial arrangement once contributed to the richness of the Donald House interior. Although certain elements of woodwork have been obscured with light colors of paint, substantial areas of the original dark-stained, varnished surfaces remain exposed. The balustrade of the main staircase is in just such original condition. It features key-hole shaped motifs that reoccur throughout the house. The library is situated in the north forward corner of the house. In this room all elements of woodwork remain intact and exposed. One wall is entirely occupied by handsome multi-paned bookcases. The dining room is an equally impressive space in terms of its total architectural treatment. Its features include segmentally-curved, sheathed beams arranged in a coffer pattern, and panelled wainscotting approximately seven feet in height. In addition, the room contains custom designed furniture - buffet, china cabinet, dining table and twelve chairs. These pieces were obviously designed by craftsmen sensitive to the ornamental theme of the mansion as a whole.

Major alterations on the first floor have included the insertion of accoustical ceiling tiles, the laying of new floors, and the updating of kitchen equipment. A fireplace located on a wall opposite the main entrance hall was removed by the Woman's Century Club at an early stage. In the same vicinity, certain partition walls were removed, enlarging the living room and establishing free-flowing circulation between entrance hall and living room.

The second floor of the Donald House is unfortunately no longer intact. The Woman's Century Club, after purchase of the mansion in 1930, gutted the upstairs and opened the entire space to the roof to create an auditorium. Several original filagreed radiators as well as doors and elements of woodwork remain. These provide evidence of early bedroom partitions, and suggest that the second floor was once ornamented as richly as the rooms at first-floor level.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
___PREHISTORIC	___ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	___COMMUNITY PLANNING	___LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	___RELIGION
___1400-1499	___ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	___CONSERVATION	___LAW	___SCIENCE
___1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	___LITERATURE	___SCULPTURE
___1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	___EDUCATION	___MILITARY	___SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
___1700-1799	___ART	___ENGINEERING	___MUSIC	___THEATER
___1800-1899	___COMMERCE	___EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	___PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	___COMMUNICATIONS	___INDUSTRY	___POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	___OTHER (SPECIFY)
		___INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1907-1908

BUILDER/ARCHITECT W. H. H. Weatherwax

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Donald House, constructed 1907-1908, was the fashionable stone residence of George Donald, a pioneer Yakima businessman. Donald was influential in the development of local transportation, economics, and agriculture in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The design of the mansion is attributed to William Henry Harrison Weatherwax, an architect connected with major exposition projects throughout the country. The Donald House exhibits elements of the newly-developing bungalow and "craftsman" esthetic, as well as distinct influences of the Prairie style. At the time of its construction it represented surprisingly progressive trends in architecture and interior design. Since 1930, the mansion has been in the hands of the Woman's Century Club and has undergone a certain degree of interior alteration.

Born in Ontario, Canada, in 1859, George Donald was the son of Scotch immigrants. At the age of nineteen he crossed the border to the United States, taking a job with the Grand Trunk Railway Company in Chicago. The young Donald was apparently intrigued by the railroad's rapid expansion westward, for in 1881 he traveled by stage from North Dakota to Montana to work for the Northern Pacific Railroad. He was soon transferred to Yakima, in 1884, to take charge of construction operations in that area. It was in this vicinity that Donald established his railroad contracting business on a broad scale.

For several years after his arrival in central Washington, Donald was stationed in the mountain town of Roslyn where he supervised railroad expansion. He was responsible for construction of the Lewiston extension and the Farmington branch to the east, and coal roads on the western slope of the mountains. In 1905, the North Yakima and Valley Railway Company was organized and George Donald was elected to serve as its president by the directors of the Northern Pacific. The following year Donald platted the townsite of Naches, and carried out the laying of tracks from Yakima to Naches, Zillah, Moxee, Sunnyside, White Swan, and Cowiche. By the time the Northern Pacific absorbed the North Yakima and Valley Railway Company in 1914, George Donald had achieved completion and successful management of essentially all branch lines in the Yakima Valley.

In 1888, Donald was the prime mover behind the organization of the Yakima National Bank, and served as its first cashier. Elected to the presidency in 1892, Donald continued in that capacity for over 25 years. He played a major role in establishing the bank's policy, directing its activity and promoting its growth during that period. In 1903, the bank's financial success permitted the construction of a new bank building at First Street and Yakima Valley, now the site of a Rainier National Bank.

Donald has also been credited with construction of the first large irrigation ditch in the Yakima Valley - the Kiona Canal - completed in 1889. Later he was connected with the construction of Sunnyside Canal and the promotion of other major irrigation projects. He

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	SEP 17 1976
DATE ENTERED	DEC 12 1976

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

personally developed several ranches in the area as well.

Donald was active in the organization of community service groups, and in local affairs of the Republican Party. He was a downtown property owner and, in 1888, purchased the lot upon which the stone mansion was eventually built. As one of his children was born in a large frame house on the property in 1906, it may be assumed that the family either acquired a residence with the lot, or built upon it themselves. The frame house was burned c. 1906-1907, thus necessitating new construction. George Donald died in March, 1919, survived by his second wife and five children.

Although no documents have been uncovered to confirm the claim, and there exists some confusion as to chronology, the architectural firm of William Henry Harrison (Harry) Weatherwax is credited with the design of the Donald mansion. A local craftsman who, in conjunction with his father, was involved in the fabrication of furnishings for the new home, is the source of this information. Weatherwax, throughout his career, was associated with major national expositions in a supervisory capacity. He first served as a drafting room foreman for the Columbian Exposition project in Chicago, where he had lived since 1879. Expositions in Omaha, Buffalo, St. Louis, and Jamestown, Virginia attracted Weatherwax in subsequent years. The precise year of the architect's arrival in the northwest is not known; however, he did participate in the Alaska-Yukon Exposition of 1909, in Seattle, for which he designed approximately three-fourths of all concession buildings erected on the fair grounds.

Weatherwax had apparently set up a practice in Yakima by 1910. His firm is listed as Harry Weatherwax and Son in a Yakima directory of 1911. The partnership occupied offices in George Donald's bank building on First Street and Yakima Avenue. Numerous schools, commercial buildings, residences, and warehouses were designed by the office in communities throughout the Yakima Valley. Although the Yakima practice was evidently not officially established until 1910-1911, it would seem possible that Weatherwax had made business connections in the Yakima area by 1907-1908, the construction date of the Donald House. Because Weatherwax had begun his career in the architecturally fertile Chicago environment of the 1880's and 1890's, the Prairie style influences detectable in the Donald House tend to substantiate his involvement in its design.

Living members of the Donald family claim that the sandstone used in construction of the house was transported by George Donald from quarries in the vicinity of his native Kingston, Ontario, and that craftsmen from that region were imported to supervise the work. However, as Donald was involved in the construction business as well as in local banking, it is probable that he obtained both materials and craftsmen in the environs of Yakima.

Harry Weatherwax was apparently also responsible for the design of major interior furnishings for the Donald mansion. The furniture was fabricated by A. W. Ambrose and his son E. J. Ambrose, craftsmen employed by the local custom furniture and woodworking plant of

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	SEP 17 1976
DATE ENTERED	DEC 12 1976

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 3

the Cascade Lumber Company. In addition to the dining room pieces which remain in the house today, other furnishings now unknown may well have been made to order for the new Donald residence.

On both interior and exterior, the Donald House expresses modern trends in massing, plan, and detail. Early photographs of the interior of the house demonstrate the carefully planned cohesiveness of the interior design. Carved floral reliefs set within simple geometric shapes were repeatedly applied to door panels and frames, wainscotting, and pier: Original light fixtures, wallpaper borders, and curtains used as room dividers participated in the overall theme - one of uncluttered, bold lines and smooth surfaces with rich but sparingly applied decorative patterns. This concept was clearly carried out in the custom furniture as designed by the project architects. The dining room table and chairs in particular exhibit a geometric solidity and sparseness of relief ornament that are reminiscent of furniture by Prairie school architect George W. Maher. In terms of the high quality of its overall architectural and decorative scheme, the mansion is an appropriate monument to the pioneer progressiveness of George Donald.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED SEP 17 1976

DATE ENTERED

DEC 18 1976

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

History of the Yakima Valley, Volume II, S. J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1919

McDonald, Lucille, Where the Washingtonians Lived, Superior Publishing Co., Seattle, 1969

Yakima Bountiful and Beautiful, Brooks and Schrieber, North Yakima, 1909

Yakima Morning Herald, "Pioneer Banker Taken by Death", March 5, 1919