

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

FEB 16 1989

NATIONAL REGISTER

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Cambern Dutch Shop Windmill
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number South 1102 Perry not for publication
city, town Spokane vicinity
state Washington code WA county Spokane code 063 zip code 99202

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	_____ objects
			_____ Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Charles E. Shaw 2/7/89
Signature of certifying official Date
Washington State Office of Archaeology & Historic Preservation
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

Alvina Byer Entered in the National Register 3/16/89

[Signature] Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE: business

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE: business

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Other: novelty (windmill)

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

walls stucco

roof other: composition shingle

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Cambern Dutch Shop Windmill is a small commercial structure designed to evoke the form and character of a Dutch windmill. The shop is sited at a prominent intersection in a residential neighborhood on the south side of Spokane. Although residential in scale, the unusual form of the building is a striking architectural novelty in a neighborhood otherwise characterized by bungalows and cottages.

The windmill is a frame structure composed of a one story, hipped roof, rectangular shop, with a one story, hipped roof rear wing, and an octagonal tower to which is attached the four arms, or blades, of the windmill. The walls of the structure are faced in stucco, the roof is covered with composition shingles, and the eaves of the roof widely overhang the walls.

The lower level of the windmill is dominated by the polygonal corner entry bay, which projects from the main structure at the intersection of Perry and 11th Streets. The first floor of the entry pavilion is lighted on three sides by single light windows in wood frames, with a single leaf door (not original) in the center facet of the bay. The overhanging eave above the lower level is supported by decorative brackets.

Rising from the roof above the bay is the octagonal tower, which serves as the shaft for the windmill. The tower is lighted by a wood framed window, with three lights stacked vertically, and has a domical roof. Projecting from the roof is a small gable to which the revolving arms of the windmill are attached. The four arms are built of an open framework of light wood members. The arms no longer rotate.

To either side of the entry bay on the first story are projecting bay windows, which flare out slightly at the sill. Each bay is lighted by a single pane of glass set in a wood frame. The bays have wood lintels and bracketed sills. Above the east side bay is a shaped parapet which provided a surface for the shop sign. The rear wing, which projects from the west elevation of the main shop, includes a single leaf door with a glazed upper panel, and two wood sash windows with six lights. A brick chimney rises from the valley where the intersecting hipped roofs of the main unit and the rear wing meet.

The interior plan of the shop includes an entry vestibule, the main shop room, and the rear storage annex. The interior is characterized by simple plaster walls and plain wood trim around the windows. The windmill is located on a small lawn of grass with concrete walkways. The exterior retains good integrity, with the only noticeable change being the replacement of the original roofing material and replacing the multi-light bay windows with single panes.

See continuation sheet

8. Statement of Significance

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

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1929-1938

Significant Dates

c. 1929

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Charles Wood

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

The Cambern Dutch Shop Windmill is a significant example of novelty commercial architecture from the 1920s. Built by a local bakery and dairy, the shop was one in a chain of at least nine similar retail outlets located at prominent sites in Spokane's residential neighborhoods. The windmill design by architect Charles Wood was a bold advertisement for the firms's line of "Dutch Main" products, whimsically enlisting architecture in the cause of commercial promotion. It is the best preserved of the Cambern windmills, and one of the finest examples of novelty architecture in Spokane.

Historical Background: The windmill shop was a reflection of the expansion of the wholesale bakery and dairy established in Spokane in 1924 by the Cambern brothers. J. Robert and Cecil M. Cambern were raised on their family's wheat and dairy farm north of Spokane near Colbert, Washington. After leaving the farm, Cecil worked in a bakery and Robert worked in the Sperry Flour Mill, both learning skills they would use later in their own business.

In 1924, the brothers pooled their money and bought out the Ken McWilliams Bakery on North Ash Street in Spokane. Within five years, the brothers also owned a wholesale bakery on West Augusta, an ice cream plant on North Wall, and a dairy plant in Spokane, marketing products to independent grocers. The size of the firm required the brothers to employ family members in every capacity from corporate officers to drivers, bakers, clerks, and bookkeepers.

As the business prospered, the Cambern brothers decided to market directly to consumers. They retained local architect Charles Wood to design a unique retail shop that would both symbolize the wholesomeness of their products and reflect their familiar "Dutch Main" trademark. Wood, who previously had been employed by Kirtland Cutter and had designed the Charles Smith House (National Register, 1985), designed 13 windmills for the Camberns, of which at least nine were built in the city's residential areas. The retail shops were located at S. 307 Cedar, W. 831 Garland, S. 1318 Grand, N. 1818 Hamilton, N. 126 Howard, N. 5112 Market, W. 401 Sprague, and W. 1627 First in addition to the nominated shop, located at 1102 Sperry. Under the Dutch Main label, the shops sold dairy products, breads, and 150 varieties of pastries. Symbols of Dutch culture, including windmills and Dutch girls, were used in all the shops' advertisements.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Spokane Daily Chronicle, February 19, 1929, p. 1.
Spokane Spokesman-Review, February 20, 1929, p. 13; August 18, 1929, pp. 10-12; March 23, 1935, p. 38.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property less than one

Quadrangle Name: Spokane NW Quadrangle Scale: 1:24000

UTM References

A

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5	2	7	6	7	2	0
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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is described as Lot 1, Block 2, Look and Byers Additions, City of Spokane, Washington.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with the Cambern Dutch Windmill Shop.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Nancy Compau, historian; Scott Brooks-Miller, Hist. Pres. Officer; edited by L Garfie
organization City of Spokane date July 19, 1988
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city or town Spokane state Washington zip code 99201

United States Department of the Interior
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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

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But despite rapid growth, the Cambern business failed during the Great Depression. By 1933, the firm was sold to Ken McWilliams, who had sold the brothers their original bakery. McWilliams continued to operate the windmill shops for a few years, selling Dutch Main products and calling the windmills "Naborhood Dutch Shops." But by 1943, most of the windmills had been demolished or sold.

Today, only three Cambern windmill shops remain. Of these, one has been moved from Sprague Avenue to First Street (although the windmill itself is in good condition and the blades still rotate). The windmill on S. First was converted to a private residence and somewhat altered. Only the windmill on Perry, now an antique curio shop, remains in nearly original condition at the original location, still serving a commercial function more than 50 years after its construction.

Novelty commercial architecture, in which the form of the structure was an eye-catching advertisement for products within, was a popular motif in the 1920s and 1930s. To some extent, it was an imagery designed for the new automobile society, aimed at passing motorists unlikely to appreciate more subtle statements. Several national surveys, including J.J.C. Andrew's The Well Built Elephant (1984) and John Margolies' The End of the Road (1978), have catalogued examples around the country, and discussed their contribution to American commercial architecture. In Washington State, informal surveys have identified about a dozen significant examples including the Benewah milk bottles in Spokane (one of which was listed in the National Register in 1986) and the Teapot Dome Service Station in Zillah (listed in the National Register in 1985).