

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

PH0694690

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JAN 8 1979

DATE ENTERED MAR 9 1979

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 Lewis P. Larson House
AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
Fifth and Pend Oreille Blvd. ___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CITY, TOWN
Metaline Falls ___ VICINITY OF CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
STATE
Washington CODE 5th - Thomas S. Foley
053 COUNTY CODE
Pend Oreille 051

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Erwin P. Jones ✓
STREET & NUMBER
Fifth and Pend Oreille Blvd.
CITY, TOWN
Metaline Falls ___ VICINITY OF STATE
Washington

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Pend Oreille County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN
Newport STATE
Washington

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Washington State Inventory of Historic Places
DATE
November 1974 ___ FEDERAL STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS OA & HP 111 W 21st Ave.,
CITY, TOWN Olympia STATE Washington 98504

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input 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

Located on a partially wooded site, the Larson House is rectangular, with its longitudinal axis running east and west. The house, which has four levels, is built on the side of a cliff, and the principal entrances, both of which are in the south facade, are at the third level.

The house has a gable roof, with the gable ends being on the east and west elevations. There are wings on both ends, which also have gable roofs. Roofing is composition shingle. The south slope of the roof is broken by a pair of large dormers capped with a sweeping eyebrow roof line that joins the main roof near the gable ends. This feature is the dominant element of the south facade. Each of the large dormer windows is arched in close conformity to the roofline, and each consists of three vertical segments with many small panes. There is stucco facing on that part of the dormer facade not occupied by the windows.

The foundation of the house and part of the walls on all sides are built of smooth, river-washed stones joined by mortar. The interstices are attractively decorated with mortar tooled to appear as if it were extruding uniformly from between the stones. These stone walls, which are three feet thick in places, extend from the ground to the top of the window openings of the third level. There are impressive stone chimneys on both the east and west ends of the house, and the long south facade, where all four levels are fully exposed, is a remarkable expanse of meticulous stone craftsmanship. Above the stone walls, the house is sided with wood shingles.

The styling of the house is reminiscent of English cottage architecture. The dormer design simulates the light openings in a thatched roof, and the stone work has a rural English or Irish character.

Entry to the house is made either at the east end of the south facade to a service porch adjoining the kitchen or through a door in the center of the south facade to a mezzanine entrance area.

The kitchen, which has been modernized, opens to a spacious dining room with a northern exposure. This room is notable mainly for the wainscoting. It is deeply embossed with an intricate pattern and has a shiny, non-porous surface. It might be panels of wood fiber embossed before hardening or paper backed with felt and painted.

The mezzanine has a closet, built-in benches, and openings to stairways leading up to the top floor of the house and down to the living room and den. On the top floor are two large bedrooms and two smaller ones. The mezzanine floor is at the third level, and the living room floor is at the second level, which is about eight feet lower. The ceiling of the mezzanine, which is supported by exposed beams, extends over the living room. Thus, the living room is a much higher room. The sense of space is at once enhanced by huge window openings and lessened by the small panes of the windows themselves. The dominating nature of the windows is balanced by an enormous fireplace. It, like the outside walls of the house, is built of smooth stones which show no sign that they have been cut or shaped to make them fit together. The fireplace stones, which are sizeable boulders, fit together as voussoirs to

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form an arched opening. Even if some shaping of these stones was done in places that are not visible, it is still apparent that they were selected very carefully. This massive fireplace adds to the room's feeling of spaciousness, but the room can also seem intimate. Part of the south and east walls are below ground level and, having no windows at normal eye level, form an enclosed, secure-feeling area. Six small light fixtures hang on chains from the ceiling and mitigate the sense of the room's height. Thus, this interesting, arresting room can seem both grand and cozy.

The Larson House shows careful craftsmanship throughout and has several interesting features. In warm weather screens are installed on the inside, and the casement windows are opened and closed with a lever built into the wall. When the weather turns cold, the screens are removed and storm windows are installed in their place. This feature has several practical advantages. The north wall forms a passage way from the mezzanine to the living room and den. Windows opened inward would get in the way. Also, the north wall is on the side of a cliff. To install and take down screens and storm windows from the outside would be hazardous. Another interesting feature is the heating system. Using the original steam radiators, it operates with warm water heated electrically by a compact modern water-heating device manufactured by General Electric. This represents an adaption to changing energy costs which the present owner Erwin P. Jones, finds superior to the oil furnace he had before. The change was made without any visual change in the house's original radiators, which form an integral part of the interior design.

The care to preserve the house's original fabric reflected by the new heating system is evident throughout. The house is essentially unaltered from its original conception.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1910

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Lewis P. Larson/Kirtland Cutter

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Larson House is notable as the home of L.P. Larson, founder of the town of Metaline Falls and an important industrialist, and as an example of the work of Kirtland Kelsey Cutter, the most eminent architect in Eastern Washington during the late 1800's and early 1900's.

Lewis P. Larson, who was born in 1876 in Denmark, became a notable prospector, miner, metallurgist, promoter, financier and industrialist. After coming to the United States in 1895, he worked at various jobs in the West. As early as 1904 he explored the Metaline area around the Pend Oreille River. This remote valley in the foothills of the Rockies was unsettled, having no railroads, roads, or even trails. Attracted by the undeveloped mineral resources he found in the area, Larson energetically began promoting its development in several ways. By 1911 he had already accomplished a great deal. Because of his encouragement, the Idaho and Washington Northern Railroad, now the CMSP&P, was extended at great expense to Metaline Falls. He organized the Pend Oreille Mines and Metals Company, which is now a division of the Bunker Hill Company. He promoted the development of a cement plant for the area and succeeded in persuading the Inland Portland Cement Company, now Lehigh Portland Cement Company, to build a plant in Metaline Falls. He incorporated the Metaline Falls Light and Water Company to insure adequate supplies of electricity and water for the new town. He founded the Larson Realty Company, which platted the town of Metaline Falls and built a hotel. Finally, he built a home suitable for his town's most important citizen.

Larson was a pioneer in the field of metallurgy. His company, the Pend Oreille Mines and Metals Company, was the first in the United States to use the Tainton Electrolytic process for reducing zinc ore, and a subsidiary company pioneered the Hybinette-Cary vacuum processing for smelting zinc, lead and cadmium.

Larson's plat of Metaline Falls shows a large lot which he labelled "Block A". This lot, which is perfectly flat on top, is on the edge of a high bluff above the Pend Oreille River. It commands a fine view of the river and the cliffs on the opposite side, and is probably the most desirable building lot in Metaline Falls. Block A is where Larson built his own house.

According to locally published accounts, the architect Larson chose was Kirtland Kelsey Cutter. Design features of the house itself tend to corroborate this. Cutter, the most famous architect in Eastern Washington at the time, was born in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1860, moved to Spokane in the late 1880's. A fire in 1889 in Spokane enabled young Cutter to start his career when there was a demand for his services. Cutter was among the earlier architects to view a building not solely as an envelope, but as an extension to sculpture. He reflected this in the free style of his buildings. From

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bradley, Stuart B., ed. The Big Smoke. Richards, Pflum, Karge, Inc.: Chicago, 1971.

Howe, M. Claire, ed. Historical Sketches of Pend Oreille County. The Miner Print: Newport, WA, 1976.

continued

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

QUADRANGLE NAME Metaline Falls

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1: 24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	1	4	7	2	6	3	5	5	4	1	2	1	2	0
ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING										

B

ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING										

C

ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING										

D

ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING										

E

ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING										

F

ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING										

G

ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING										

H

ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING										

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Block A, Plat of Metaline Falls, WA.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

J.H. Vandermeer, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

DATE

October, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

111 W 21st Ave.

TELEPHONE

(206) 753-9685

CITY OR TOWN

Olympia

STATE

Washington

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Janice M. Wilson

TITLE *Dep. S.H.P.O.*

DATE *12-25-78*

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Charles Atkins
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

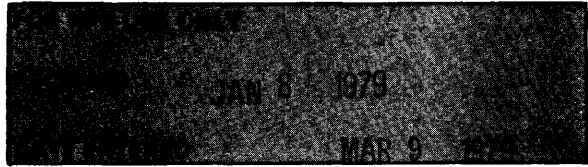
DATE *3-9-79*

ATTEST: *W. Ray*
for CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE *3/8/79*

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1889 to 1923, Cutter designed many of the great homes in Spokane: the Austin Corbin House, the Campbell House (National Register), the James N. Glover House (National Register), the F. Lewis Clark House, the Patrick Clark House and numerous others. Cutter's reputation as the designer of homes for the region's mining, railroad and financial magnates may have been a factor in Larson's decision to retain him.

Cutter also created some of the finest Spokane business buildings including the Washington Water Power Building (now the Spokane School District 81 offices), the Spokane City Club and the Sherwood Building. One of his finest Spokane designs is the superstructure of the Monroe Street Bridge which was the largest concrete span in the world in 1911. Another is the Davenport Hotel (National Register).

As his fame spread, he designed many structures throughout the United States and England. He designed the Racquet Club in the Adirondacks, Kirtland Hall at Yale University, the Rainier Club in Seattle, Glacier Park Hotel and numerous residences.

After World War I his business declined. In 1923, against advice of friends, he moved to California. The Chronicle Building, one of his largest Spokane designs, was completed under his direction from California. Despite stiff competition, Cutter was awarded the 1929 Southern California Chapter of the AIA Award for his work in Palos Verdes. He died in 1939 at Long Beach.

Although the Larson House is more modest than some of Cutter's other efforts, it bears many of the master architect's touches. Many of Cutter's other homes (e.g., Campbell House, Glover House) have dramatic fireplaces, as does the Larson House. Although Cutter's designs are markedly eclectic, many of his houses seem to have been inspired by English domestic architectural examples. Many also display modesty and understatement, rather than the ostentation often associated with the era. Finally, Cutter had a talent for designing interior spaces which, while grand, do not overwhelm. The Davenport Hotel is an example of this, as is the living room of the Larson House. In one of Cutter's earliest efforts, the Glover House, local granite was used because of the difficulty in obtaining materials in a near-frontier situation. A comparable problem could have existed in Metaline Falls at the time the Larson House was built, and there seems little reason to doubt the local tradition that the house was built of stones hauled up from the nearby Pend Oreille River.

Larson's ownership of the house did not last long. Because of his debts, he was forced to give up title to the local cement plant, which used the house as the home of its resident manager. In 1941 it passed into the hands of C.A.R. Lambly and, in 1952, to Erwin P. Jones.

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Kinney, L.M. "Lewis P. Larsen" Unpublished typescript at Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Olympia, WA. (Soon to be published by the Pend Oreille County Historical Society.)

National Register of Historic Places: Nomination files on Campbell House, Davenport Hotel, and Glover House.