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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 an 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 DeVoe, Emma Smith, House

other names/site number Villa DeVoe

2. Location

street & number 208 East 133rd Street  not for publication

city or town Tacoma  vicinity

state Washington code WA county Pierce code 053 zip code 98445

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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.)

Mary Thompson 3/11/93  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Washington State Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation  
State of 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 the 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): \_\_\_\_\_

Delores Byrne 5/6/93  
Signature of the Keeper entered in the National Register Date of Action

DeVoe, Emma Smith, House  
Name of Property

Pierce Co., WA  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
2	0	Total

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

N/A

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

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single dwelling

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**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single dwelling

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**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

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**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

walls wood: weatherboard

roof asphalt

other \_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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.
B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Social History

Period of Significance

1911-1927

Significant Dates

1911

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

DeVoe, Emma Smith

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Pierce County Planning and Land Services

DeVoe, Emma Smith, House

Pierce Co., WA

Name of Property

County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property less than one

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	10	543200	5220270
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4			

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Caroline Gallacci and Gene Grulich

organization Clio and Associates date June 28, 1992

street & number 2723 North Starr Street telephone (206) 572-8779

city or town Tacoma state WA zip code 98403

**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 SHPO or FPO.)

name Mr. Fred R. Michelson

street & number 208 East 133rd Street telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town Tacoma state WA zip code 98445

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior  
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Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 1**DeVoe, Emma Smith, House, Pierce County, Washington**PRESENT AND HISTORIC PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The DeVoe House is located on a 60,060 square foot parcel in the northwest corner of Block 51 of the Brookdale Addition to Pierce County, Washington. Brookdale is an older suburban development located south of Parkland and Tacoma. Early in the history of Pierce County this area developed as a farming community and the rural character associated with its early history are retained in that part of Brookdale surrounding the DeVoe property.

The house is a two story wood framed foursquare vernacular residential structure with several projecting elements which give it its unique design. It may be that an earlier building was substantially altered and enlarged to form its existing scale and design. The interior room arrangement and other details suggest that it may have undergone significant enlargement before the DeVoes acquired the house in 1911. The building has several minor changes to the historic design; the changes occurring over time and confined to the rear of the house.

The foursquare design is manifested by its square two story form and pyramid roof. The house has horizontal cedar siding with trimmed corners. The entry portico is the most impressive feature of the building. A large classically inspired porch, two stories in height, has a colonial pediment supported by two fluted Roman-style wood columns giving this feature a neo-classical form. The portico intersects a broad porch on the first floor which extends the width of the building. Beneath the upper roof of the portico there is a second story porch defined by a solid railing and roof supports formed by three unfluted columns spaced a foot apart at each corner of the porch. Although the portico is centrally located in the front elevation, the main entry door is off-center. The concrete steps which lead to the porch are aligned with the entry door and are therefore also off-center.

The entry door and the exterior windows have a simple molding forming an entablature within the trim. The windows are simple one over one double hung units with the exception of larger facade windows of a large single fixed panes below a leaded glass upper unit. An enclosed sleeping porch with a continuous set of multi-pane casement units, located on the rear of the house, is the other

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exception.

The rear of the house has experienced changes over time. Some changes were obviously modern while other may date from earlier times. A small addition has been constructed in the southeast corner with large windows and a hipped roof. A new kitchen projects from the center of the south (rear) elevation. The enclosed space is contemporary in design and is constructed beneath a larger roof supported by wood columns. A large deck projects from the southeast corner of the building and confines the modern addition to a singular area.

The interior has been changed over time, however, the large rooms maintain the original order of the house. This includes a central stairway and second store bedrooms. The large lot contains extensive plantings along the north, east and west sides. The landscaping includes a significant number of mature trees and shrubs which provide screening and seclusion to the house.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Emma Smith DeVoe House is significant as a residence associated with the campaign to persuade state legislators nationwide to grant women the right to vote. Emma DeVoe, as an organizer for Carrie Chapman Catt, came to Pierce County, Washington in 1906, headed the Washington Equal Suffrage Association, and led the State to equal suffrage in 1910. She worked toward national suffrage, and saw her relentless speaking campaign rewarded with the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment. The DeVoe property, which she and her husband, John Henry, bought in 1911, relates to that period of time when Emma Smith DeVoe was campaigning for national suffrage.

Emma Smith DeVoe was fifty-six years of age when she and John Henry moved to Pierce County in 1906. She was born in Roseville, Illinois in 1848, studied music and joined the music staff at Eureka College. According to one local historian, "a lecture by Susan B. Anthony...changed her life. When the famous suffragette asked persons to stand who were in favor of equal rights, little Emma was the only one to rise." (Whitney, p.23) As a result, she traveled the Midwest and Plains states speaking to the cause of

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women's suffrage. She developed a reputation for eloquence and level-headedness at a time when the combined issues of suffrage and temperance were creating divisions within the women's movement.

At the age of 32 she married John Henry DeVoe, a lawyer by training who supported his wife's work because he appreciated the care he received from nurses when injured during the Civil War. In her speeches, Emma would quote from a song he composed at that time which ended: "Then I swore to help the women, for their hearts are loyal too./ And my vote shall go to free them, for they nursed and brought me through."

By the end of the nineteenth century, Emma Smith DeVoe was an organizer for the National American Women's Suffrage Association (NAWSA) headed by Carrie Chapman Catt. The national organization, when assessing the suffrage attempts of Abigail Scott Duniway -- the primary suffrage organizer in Oregon and Washington -- saw her, in the words of Catt to Emma Smith, as "a jealous minded and dangerous woman." Susan B. Anthony thought Duniway's head "so full of crotchets that it is impossible for her to co-operate with anybody." (Larson, p.56) The Washington Equal Suffrage Association disintegrated following suffrage defeats in 1889 and 1898. Only five women attended the state convention in 1904.

One year later the DeVoes moved West from Illinois. Following a short trip to Oregon, in 1906, "she returned to Washington, sized up the situation, and convinced local leaders and the NAWSA that it was time to start another amendment campaign." (Larson, p.56) With funds from the national organization, she assumed the presidency of the Washington Equal Suffrage Association. Aided by a railway pass provided by her husband, now a Northern Pacific Railroad station agent, she toured the state, and spoke to the need to amend the Washington State Constitution to allow women to vote. The effort was successful in 1910. That same year DeVoe organized the National Council of Women Voters as a clearing house for the first five equal suffrage states (Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, Idaho and Washington).

While Emma led the Washington suffrage movement in Washington State she lived in a boarding house in Tacoma (612 Tacoma Avenue South -- the structure remains). Henry worked for the Northern Pacific

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Railroad in the rural coal mining communities of the state. Following five years of separation, in 1911, the couple acquired their farm in south Pierce county. (Documents do not tell us why the DeVoes settled in Pierce County. Various theories are possible. Some sources say they moved west to improve Henry DeVoe's health. Given his association with the Northern Pacific Railroad, and its association with the history of Pierce County, such a move would be logical, although sources do not indicate that he was employed by the railroad prior to the move west. On the other hand, suffrage activity in Oregon and Washington was of concern to the NAWSA. Given Emma Smith DeVoe's skills as a suffrage organizer and speaker, it is possible that the couple moved west to further Emma's work for the NAWSA and Henry found work after they arrived. This theory, however, does not explain why the DeVoes chose the Tacoma area, rather than Seattle or Spokane, where other state suffrage workers lived.)

The DeVoes selected a ten acre tract in Brookdale, a "streetcar suburb" of Tacoma. As judged by the correspondence between the couple, Henry established a farm on their property and Emma continued to help with the campaign to achieve national suffrage. Touring throughout the United States between 1911 and 1919, Emma DeVoe spoke to the logic of the vote for women. Her message was simple: "There is nothing in the Constitution of the United States or the Declaration of Independence that should prevent the women the right of franchise." (Whitney, p.23) The Nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution which allowed women the right to vote was adopted in time for the 1920 federal elections. With its passage, Emma Smith DeVoe retired, at the age of 72, to the farm in Brookdale that Henry created.

Emma Smith DeVoe was a peripatetic campaigner who, even before she moved to Washington State had organized suffrage clubs in twenty-eight states and territories throughout the nation. (Larson, p. 56) After her move to Washington State, and to Brookdale, she continued the national suffrage campaign with the "Villa DeVoe" as her home base. She spoke in a manner that was described by contemporaries as "sweet, womanly, ladylike, sophisticated, tactful, and spirited." (Larson, p.56-57) At a time when eastern and western suffragettes were at odds over temperance and campaign techniques she merged, in 1920, her National Council of Woman



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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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### DeVoe, Emma Smith, House, Pierce County, Washington

Voters with Carrie Chapman Catt's National League of Women Voters, thus forming the organization which exists to the present day. Emma Smith DeVoe died in 1927 after over a full half-century of work devoted to women's suffrage and the involvement of women in the political life of the nation.

#### MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Andrews, Mildred Tanner. Washington Women as Path Breakers. Tacoma, Junior League, 1989.
- Buechler, Steven M. Women's Movements in the United States. New Brunswick, Rutgers University Press, 1990.
- Larson, T.A. "The Woman Suffrage Movement in Washington." Pacific Northwest Quarterly. 67 (April 1976), 49-62.
- Pacey, Mary Susan. The Breakthrough State: The Washington State Suffrage Campaign of 1906-1910. Seattle, University of Washington Master's Thesis, 1978.
- Whitney, Marci. Notable Women. Tacoma, Tacoma News Tribune, 1977.

#### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Emma Smith DeVoe House is located in the northwest quarter of Section 16, T19N, R3E, WM. It consists of the northwestern part of Block 51, Brookdale Addition to Pierce County (parcel number 269500-465-4).

#### BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary includes that portion of the county lot (following a subdivision) that is historically associated with the property.