

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

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NATIONAL REGISTER

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 Yakima Indian Agency Building
other names/site number Mary L. Goodrich Library and Toppenish Historical Museum

2. Location

street & number 1 South Elm not for publication
city, town Toppenish vicinity
state Washington code WA county Yakima code 077 zip code 98948

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u> </u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> 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.
James E. Thor 3-29-88
Signature of certifying official Date
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. Entered in the National Register 5-19-88
 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:)

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Government: Government Office

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Education: LibraryRecreation and Culture: Museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and 20th CenturyRevivals: Classical Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concretewalls brickroof other: compositionother

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Yakima Indian Agency Building is a two story brick structure designed in a Classical Revival Style and located at the corner of South Elm and Washington Avenue near the commercial center of Toppenish. The building faces southeast and is the most prominent structure on the entryway to the city. The structure is situated on a parcel of approximately one-half acre and is surrounded by a lawn and grounds landscaped with a variety of flowers and juniper, pine, and cherry trees. Constructed in 1921 as a one story structure, the building was expanded ten years later to include a second story.

The rectangular building measures approximately 45 feet across the front and rear elevations and 66 feet across the sides. A rear bay (fifteen feet wide) projects five feet from the back wall of the building. The building rests on a concrete foundation and has exterior walls of wire-cut sawn finish brick laid in stretcher bond. Fenestration is placed symmetrically across the facade. A prominent stringcourse (the cornice of the original one story building) separates the first and second stories. The roof is flat with a composition finish; a tile-covered skirt roof with boxed eaves runs across the entire building. Parapet walls rise at the four corners of the building. A single stack chimney is located in the southwest corner of the roof.

The facade of the building is dominated by a central portico which shelters the double leaf front doors. The portico features a full entablature (with plain frieze, architrave, and projecting cornice) supported by unfluted Ionic columns. A balustrade surmounts the portico. The front doors, which have an upper glazed panel of multiple lights, are set within a wood frame beneath an elliptical fanlight with radiating muntins. The fanlight is framed by a brick arch with keystone. The entry portico is approached by two tiers of steps with concrete walls.

Multi-paned casement windows, with wood frames and muntins and slipsills, are disposed symmetrically across the facade. On the first floor, the windows are located on either side of the entry. The windows rest within round headed, arched panels with terra cotta keystones. The lunette of each arch is laid in header bond. Windows on the upper story facade are also multi-paned casements with rectangular wood frames. The upper windows have brick heads laid in header bond. Smaller windows in the rear are four-over-four double-hung wood sash. The southwest elevation features a covered stairway that leads to the second story; a short stairway in the north rear portion of the building leads to the back door.

The first floor interior consists of a central entry hall with large rooms, now used as library stacks, on either side. Two smaller rooms in the rear are used for storage and clerical duties and a third is used for books. The entry hall leads directly to a straight stairway to the second floor. The staircase has a hardwood bannister. The upper floor

See continuation sheet

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consists of six rooms, which now house the museum's permanent exhibits, arranged around the central hallway. The interior features molded hardwood trim, including door and window surrounds, and a few original light fixtures.

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)

Politics/Government

Ethnic Heritage: Native Americans

Period of Significance

1922-1937

Significant Dates

1922, 1931

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

John Maloney/William Yeaman

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

The Yakima Indian Agency Building is historically significant for its association with the Yakima Indian Nation and the federal bureau responsible for providing the Nation with economic and social services. Constructed in 1922 by a group of Toppenish civic leaders, and expanded by the federal government in 1931, the building served as agency headquarters until after World War II. From this building, the agency administered land leases, commodity sales, construction projects, and employment programs on the reservation. Designed in a Classical Revival Style, the well preserved building is one of the most distinguished landmarks in the city.

The Yakima Indian Agency was established by the United States Department of the Interior to oversee operations within the Yakima Indian Nation reservation which had been formed by treaty in 1855. The agency's primary responsibility was to assist with the health, education, and economic needs of tribal members. Originally, the agency was located at Fort Simcoe but, in 1922, in an effort to be closer to the commercial center of the reservation, the agency moved 25 miles east and located in a one-story brick structure in Toppenish which had been constructed exclusively for that purpose by the Toppenish Commercial Club.

The Toppenish Commercial Club was the leading civic organization in the city and, according to news reports of the day, "its activities . . . embrace almost every community interest." The club's Indian Affairs Committee--whose members included Toppenish mayor W.S. Doran (chairman), J.A. White, N. Patterson, L.C. Turley, Roscoe Maddox, and Dr. G.D. Dahlman--initiated the project to build the agency structure. Construction was financed by the Commercial Club and 20 businessmen who pledged \$500 each and incorporated as the Toppenish Indian Affairs Corporation. The building was designed by Yakima architect John Maloney (with plans approved by the federal government) and constructed by William Yeaman. When complete, the building cost \$12,000, all of it privately raised. The structure was leased to the agency (with an option to purchase) and was officially opened on December 18, 1922.

In the new location, the agency was closer to Indian clients and to others who did business with the agency or tribe. From the Toppenish office, the agency handled all leases for farming and forestry, assisted with finding employment for tribal members, administered construction projects, and served as a hiring hall for those projects. In addition, the agency handled the sale of agricultural products, had a nursing department, and maintained financial records.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Delaney, Richard. Story of a Library--The First Fifty Years 1922-1972, Friends of Library Publishers, Toppenish, 1972.
Johnson, Dr. H.M., et al. The History of Toppenish, Toppenish Review Publishing Company, Toppenish, 1928.
Toppenish Review, April 21, 1922; May 26, 1922; August 11, 1922; December 15, 1922; January 27, 1926; October 9, 1931; December 11, 1931.
Toppenish Tribune, April 26, 1922; May 10, 1922; December 18, 1922.

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 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

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property less than one
Quadrangle Name: Toppenish Quadrangle Scale: 1:24,000

UTM References

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7	0	6	5	7	0
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5	1	3	9	4	5	0
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Zone Easting Northing

C

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B

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Zone Easting Northing

D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Lots 1-8, Block 1, Mountain View Addition, City of Toppenish.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with the Yakima Indian Agency Building.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jeff Robinson; edited by Leonard Garfield
organization City of Toppenish date September 29, 1987
street & number 21 West First Street telephone 509/865-5000
city or town Toppenish state Washington zip code 98948

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Don M. Carr, a veteran of the Spanish-American War and former private secretary to the Secretary of the Interior, had served as Superintendent of the agency since 1912. Carr resigned when the agency moved and was succeeded by Evan Estep, who remained in the position for many years. Estep was active in Toppenish community affairs.

In late 1925, the Department of the Interior's Indian Bureau, responding to a Comptroller General ruling that the agency could not pay rent while federally-owned structures were available at Fort Simcoe, ordered the agency to return to the fort facilities. The order was delayed, however, possibly because of local protests, and in April 1927, the government announced plans to purchase the Toppenish building for \$10,000. In 1931, the government added a second story to the building to accommodate growth in the agency's business. A Mr. Denstad was in charge of the second floor construction. When complete, the floor contained the agricultural, education, legal, and inheritance departments as well as the superintendent's office and a hearing room.

In 1946, having outgrown the building, the agency moved to a structure just outside the city which had been built in 1928 to house a sanatorium. Following the move, the building in Toppenish was listed as surplus by the War Assets Administration. In early 1949, the school district acquired the structure to alleviate overcrowding and used the facility for junior high classes until 1954 when a new high school building was completed.

In 1953, the Library Board set its sights on the agency building. The War Assets Administration proved to be cooperative and the only delays were caused by the application forms and remodeling plans. The late Coleman Barthlow, then city fire chief, drafted the detailed floor plan required with the application. In March 1954, the city submitted the application to the federal government and Toppenish was given a conditional quit claim deed to the property in August. After 20 years, the title to the property became unconditional except that the United States retained all rights to any "uranium and thorium" that might be found on the land.

The city library fund provided only about half the amount needed to repair and remodel the building for use as a library. As a result, a community fund raising effort was undertaken. But plans for the building did not end with relocating the library. Another objective in obtaining the facility was to provide space for community and club meetings. Second floor space not used by the library was ideal for those purposes but required further refurbishing.

Prior to the library's move, the Business and Professional Women's Club, with the approval of the Library Board, addressed a letter to all clubs in town asking them to meet at City Hall to "discuss the possibilities of developing these rooms to be used by all women's groups." A Board of Control was organized at that meeting with Mrs. Gene Kelly as chairman, Mrs. Wilma Austin as Treasurer, and Miss Bertha Synder as Secretary. The meeting also planned for future fund raising efforts and Mrs. Art Berry was named general chairman of the fund raising events.

Currently, the building is the home of the Mary L. Goodrich Library and the Toppenish Museum. The library is on the main floor and the museum on the second. The goal of the Museum, which was established in 1976, is to "tell the Toppenish story and to build on the future by preserving the past."