

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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

GEORGE LUDWIGS HOUSE

and/or common

2. Location

street & number

125 Newell Street

___ not for publication

city, town

Walla Walla ___ vicinity of

congressional district 5th - Norm Dicks

state

Washington

code

053

county

Walla Walla

code 071

3. Classification

Category

___ district

building(s)

___ structure

___ site

___ object

Ownership

___ public

private

___ both

Public Acquisition

___ in process

___ being considered

Status

occupied

___ unoccupied

___ work in progress

Accessible

___ yes: restricted

yes: unrestricted

___ no

Present Use

___ agriculture

___ commercial

___ educational

___ entertainment

___ government

___ industrial

___ military

___ museum

___ park

private residence

___ religious

___ scientific

___ transportation

___ other:

4. Owner of Property

name

Patrick and Margaret Tyson

street & number

125 Newell Street

city, town

Walla Walla ___ vicinity of

state Washington 99362

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Assessor's Office, Walla Walla County Courthouse

street & number

321 Main

city, town

Walla Walla

state Washington 99362

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Catherine Street-Eagan Avenue
title Historic District, Preliminary

has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes no

National Register Survey

date April, 1978

___ federal state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records Washington State Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

city, town

Olympia

state Washington 98504

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The George Ludwigs House in Walla Walla, Washington, stands in the heart of a residential district composed of large gracious homes dating chiefly from the turn of the century. This handsome two and one-half story structure is situated on Newell Street on a lot three-quarters of an acre in size. A stream runs through the rear of the lot, and a recently built frame garage now stands behind the house. The yard is landscaped with several mature shade trees and a variety of flowering shrubs and other plantings. Along the sidewalk on Newell Street, the property is fronted by a low wall of river rock.

Basically square in plan, the Ludwigs House is a frame structure entirely faced on the first story with river rock. The second story is sided with fishscale shinglework still stained its original dark brown. A broad, slightly bellcast hipped roof is broken by several hipped dormers with tripartite Roman-arched windows. Three brick chimneys with randomly arranged river rock, still intact, are said to have attracted much attention from passers-by in early years.

All original fenestration remains in place, including a number of leaded glass transoms. There is a centrally placed formal entrance with sidelights and a transom. A spacious front porch on the south elevation wraps around gracefully to the east side of the house. The base and low walls of the porch are constructed of river rock. Supported on both elevations by wooden columns, the porch roof features a projecting pedimented portico above the front steps, and a full frieze and cornice with decorative "consoles." This rather formal entablature is repeated at the base of the main roof, and at each dormer roofline. At the rear of the house on the north elevation are two small columned porches and a single story rock-faced kitchen and laundry wing.

The current owners of the Ludwigs House are working to restore the house to its original state. Original exterior colors have been retained and the interior walls have been stripped and returned wherever possible to their early color schemes. In the kitchen, a false ceiling has been removed and an original skylight opened up. Upstairs, a large bathroom has been divided into two baths; but otherwise, no major alterations of any sort have been made to the Ludwigs House.

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1904 **Builder/Architect** William H. Meyer, architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The George Ludwigs House in Walla Walla was the substantial turn-of-the-century home of a prosperous local businessman. Part of the Walla Walla business establishment since 1880, the Ludwigs family jewelry and gift shop remained in operation for some 90 years. The Ludwigs home, built in 1904 by local architect William H. Meyer, stands in the heart of a proposed historic district of high quality residences. Its materials and design are distinctive among its counterparts, and it remains an exceptionally well-preserved example of Walla Walla's fine domestic architecture.

George Ludwigs, who commissioned the construction of the house in 1904, immigrated with his wife Emma to the United States from Germany in 1868. After spending time in the East, the family moved to St. Louis where George learned the business of jewelry sales and watch repair. In 1880, the Ludwigs arrived in Walla Walla, Washington Territory, after an interim move to Boise. In the very same year, Ludwigs opened a jewelry and watch repair shop with a partner by the name of Hunziker, about whom little is known.

The business of Ludwigs and Hunziker, known simply as Ludwigs after 1921, expanded its inventory of goods and services over the years to include china, gifts, and a resident optician. An 1883 article on Walla Walla business published in a local newspaper stated that Ludwigs "has done an exceptionally good business the present year" with stock valued at \$10,000 (Walla Walla Washington Territory, December 29, 1883). George died in 1931, but his sons and other family members continued the business until 1970.

The Ludwigs House was one of many built during Walla Walla's building boom of 1904 - 1905. The total amount spent on construction in the community over a six-month period in 1904 was slightly over \$300,000, a substantial sum in those days. The architect for the Ludwigs House was William H. Meyer. According to local business directories, Meyer divided his business career between a brief architectural practice and the proprietorship of a bicycle and sporting goods store. He is believed to have been responsible for the design of several Walla Walla residences, apparently during the years of the local building boom. On the Ludwigs House project, Meyer "experimented" in several areas with generally unsuccessful results. One of these experiments involved the placement of the water pipes immediately inside the exterior walls, making hot water difficult to obtain in the cold winter. Another experiment involved the use of sawdust for insulation. The Ludwigs House cost \$7000 - a rather high figure at the time - owing to the handwork associated with the rock construction. Some 80 wagonloads of rock hauled from Mill Creek were required to complete the project.

Within the cohesive residential neighborhood in which it stands, the Ludwigs House is visually distinctive, particularly in terms of the materials used in its construction. In its generous proportions and its rather rambling, loosely neo-classical style, it is similar to the bulk of the imposing turn-of-the-century homes in the district. Its lavish, handsome rockwork and its use of stained shingle siding, however, contrast with the

9. Major Bibliographical References

Ludwigs, Frank H. Interviews, June 16, 1980 and June 8, 1981.
Sanborn Map Company. Insurance Maps of Walla Walla County, Washington, 1905. Revised 1938.
Walla Walla City and County Directories, 1880 - 1970.
Walla Walla Union, February 28, 1905.

10. Geographical Data

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Acreege of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Walla Walla

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

UTM NOT VERIFIED

A

1	1	3	9	6	9	8	0	5	1	0	1	7	8	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 and justification

The nominated property occupies Parcel # 15, Block 28, Roberts Addition to the City of Walla Walla, Washington.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ann Hinkley Costello

organization Private Researcher

date June 1980

street & number 531 Lincoln

telephone (509) 529-8569

city or town Walla Walla

state Washington 99362

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title James E. Irons

date 2/22/82

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the National Register

Keeper of the National Register

date 4/12/82

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
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For HCRS use only
received
date entered

2
02

Continuation sheet

Item number

8

Page

2

more prevalent white, "wedding cake" colonial exteriors of many of its neighbors. Although there are a number of Craftsman influenced mansions in the district, the Ludwigs House, with its rock and shinglework, is perhaps more clearly related to the Craftsman and Shingle Style aesthetic. The house contributes substantially to the architectural character and quality of the neighborhood.