

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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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 William J. Canton House
other names/site number n/a

2. Location

street & number 305 West Ash Street not for publication
city, town Waterville vicinity
state Washington code WA county Douglas code 017 zip code 98858

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 2 Noncontributing 0 buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____ structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____ objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	2 0 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.

3-30-88

Date

Signature of certifying official

Office of Archaeology and 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.

Entered in the
National Register

6-16-88

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian: Queen Anne

Other: Post-Victorian domestic

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

walls weatherboard

roof other: composition shingle

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The William J. Canton House is a one and one-half story wood frame structure built in 1905 and designed in a turn-of-the-century vernacular idiom that reflects both the late Victorian Queen Anne Style and the simplified massing and surface textures of post-Victorian domestic architecture. Located on a five lot parcel in a residential neighborhood northwest of downtown Waterville, the house is surrounded by a row of coniferous trees that have matured in the years since construction. About 30 feet to the rear of the house is a two-story frame water tower with one story wings that housed a wood shed and garage. The water tower and sheds were constructed at the same time as the house.

The house, which rests on a concrete block foundation, is faced in narrow gauge clapboard siding with cornerboards and shingles in the gable peaks. The house is built on an irregular plan formed by intersecting gable roof wings which project from a central hipped roof cube on the front (south), rear, and east side elevations. A single stack chimney with corbelled cap rises from the center of the hipped roof. A veranda wraps around the southeast corner of the house between the front gabled wing and the east wing. An enclosed porch joins the east wing and the rear wing.

The house features restrained ornamentation typical of early 20th century house design. The eaves of the house are boxed and treated as simply molded cornices underscored with plain frieze boards. The front gable wing has cornice returns. Fenestration on the front gable wing consists of double-hung one-over-one wood sash windows framed with simple surrounds on both stories. The first floor window has a slightly projecting hood molding; the upper sash has decorative interlacing muntins. The window on the second floor is set below the plain frieze board. The east gable features a projecting three-sided bay window with double-hung wood sash windows with projecting hood moldings beneath a plain frieze and cornice. The bay is capped by a plain balustrade. The upper story of the east wing features a pair of one-over-one double-hung wood sash windows. Windows on the rear gable wing and the west side elevation include double-hung sash. An engaged hipped roof dormer window projects from the south slope of the hipped roof.

The front veranda is composed of a shed roof with a cornice with dentil course and plain frieze supported by a colonnade of six unfluted Tuscan columns with plain capitals and plinths. A seventh column was added recently to prevent further sagging of the porch roof. A lattice-work skirting surrounds the base of the porch. The porch is approached by two shallow sets of four steps each at both the front and side doors. The doors are single leaf with operable transoms above.

The interior of the house includes front and rear parlors on the first floor with sliding pocket doors, an original fireplace surround, and plain classical door and window sur-

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

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rounds, baseboard trim and picture rail moldings. The upstairs includes bedrooms organized around the stairwell. The interior is being restored by the present owners.

The water tower is a two story structure built on a square plan and capped by a pyramidal hipped roof. The structure is faced with clapboard siding on the lower stage and wood shingles on the upper. The original water tank is gone, but the 50 foot well is still intact. The flanking sheds are faced in clapboard siding.

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
Politics/Government

Period of Significance

1905-c.1915

Significant Dates

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Significant Person

William J. Canton

Architect/Builder

W.C. Calhoun

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above. Reflecting both the irregular forms of the late Queen Anne Style and the simplified ornament of post-Victorian domestic architecture, the William J. Canton House is a significant example of turn-of-the-century residential design in the small farming community of Waterville, Washington. The house is one of the best preserved and most elaborate from an early boom period in the city's history, and is closely associated with the career of attorney William Canton, a long-time Waterville lawyer, Douglas County prosecuting attorney and adjutant general of the Washington State National Guard.

William J. Canton was born in Leeds County, Ontario, on November 5, 1861, and raised on a farm in that rural community. After receiving a law degree from a Canadian university in 1879 (the youngest member of his class), he taught school at New Market, Ontario. In 1883, Canton enlisted in the United States Infantry. After serving four years, and attaining the rank of sergeant, Canton was discharged and settled in Nebraska until 1890 when he came West to South Bend, Washington. By June 1891, however, he arrived in Waterville and established a law practice in the young county seat.

Canton was a successful attorney in Waterville and was instrumental in the establishment of local and state militia. In 1892, he organized a National Guard company in Douglas County (which met in the Armory Hall in the Kincaid Building on Chelan Avenue) and, in 1898, he was appointed adjutant general of the state militia by Governor John Rogers. In that capacity, Canton was responsible for preparing Washington units for actions in the Spanish-American War. In the fall of 1898, Canton was appointed major of the first company of Washington volunteers sent to the Philippines and he remained at the warfront for nearly a year. In November 1899, he was mustered out and returned to his law practice in Waterville.

In 1904, Canton was elected prosecuting attorney for the county and served several years in that capacity. In 1905, he hired W.C. Calhoun, a local builder, to construct a house for \$3,500 on a large parcel west of downtown. The newspaper reported that the building was "the handsomest structure in town." An informal survey of the city indicates that the house is one of only a few turn-of-the-century residences which reflect popular styles and retain integrity. The water tower on the property reputedly supplied water for the west end of the community. In 1912, the property was purchased by rancher Charles Fletcher, whose family owned the property until about 1950.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Big Bend Empire, September 28, 1905.

An Illustrated History of the Big Bend Country, Western Historical Publishing Company,
Chicago, 1904.

Seventh Biennial Report of the Adjutant General of the State of Washington, 1897-1898,
State Printer, Olympia, 1898.

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

Acreage of property One acre

Quadrangle Name: Waterville

Quadrangle Scale: 1:24,000

UTM References

A	1 0	7 1 9 6 0 0	5 2 8 0 1 7 0
Zone	Easting	Northing	

B	_____	_____	_____
Zone	Easting	Northing	

D	_____	_____	_____

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Lots 16-20, Block 27, Greene's 2nd Addition, City of Waterville.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with the property.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Leonard T. Garfield with information provided by Phyllis Rigge

organization Office of Archaeology & Hist. Pres. date September 1987

street & number 111 West 21st Avenue telephone 206/586-2901

city or town Olympia state Washington zip code 98504