

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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OCT 1 1989

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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 Moore, Miles C., House  
other names/site number N/A

### 2. Location

street & number 720 Bryant  not for publication  
city, town Walla Walla  vicinity  
state Washington code WA county Walla Walla code 071 zip code 99362

### 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	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>1</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>1</u>	<u>1</u> objects
			<u>1</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.

Jacob E. Johnson 10/3/89  
Signature of certifying official Date  
Washington State 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.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

Arlene S. Byers 11/13/89  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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**6. Function or Use**

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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**

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Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)Late Victorian: Queen Anne

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Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation stonewalls wood: weatherboard

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roof synthetic: fiberglassother wood

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**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

The Miles C. Moore House is a well preserved late Victorian residence located on heavily landscaped, four-acre grounds in southeastern Walla Walla. Constructed in 1884-1885 by a prominent businessman and territorial governor, the wood frame house rises two and one half stories and is characterized by projecting gabled bays, stick and spindle ornament in the Eastlake fashion, and an interior distinguished by high ceilings and restrained classical mouldings. The house retains excellent integrity and is among the finest examples of the early Queen Anne Style from the 1880s in southeastern Washington.

The Moore House is composed of a central hip roofed cube with a flat deck, and full height gabled cutaway bays projecting on all four sides, creating a cross plan. The overall dimensions of the house are approximately 30 feet across the facade and 30 feet from front to rear. The house rests on a cut stone foundation (shielded by a lattice skirt) and the walls are faced in horizontal drop siding with corner boards and fishscale shingles in the upper gable ends. The roof was covered with fiberglass shingles in 1984.

The house is lighted by tall, regularly spaced, one-over-one wood sash windows, surrounded by plain architraves. The exterior surfaces are further enlivened by decorative stick work, which divides each surface into panels. The divisions between floors are demarcated by a flared shingle band and by heavy entablature mouldings, which feature decorative frieze boards and projecting cornices. The frieze above the first story is divided into panels; above the second story, the frieze features arched panels with small perforated circular moldings. Large kneebrace brackets support the second story frieze where it overhangs the cutaway bays.

The eaves of the roof are boxed and treated as classical cornices, with scrolled brackets and cornice returns. The eaves of the gable ends are decorated with bargeboards ornamented with incised blocks and supported by scrolled brackets. A veranda wraps around the north, east and south sides of the house and is composed of a shed roof supported by chamfered posts with fan shaped brackets and scrolled consoles beneath a delicate spindle frieze. The porches are enclosed by railings with turned balusters. The porch decks are wood and are approached by flights of wooden steps. Above the porch on the east side is a screened sleeping porch that is reached through one of the bedrooms, with an open balcony, with spindlework railing, at the south end. A porte cochere (perhaps added in the early 20th century) extends from the east porch. The porte cochere is composed of a massive entablature featuring a decorative frieze with arched panels, supported by paired classical columns.

The house is entered through double doors on the front facade, and several single leaf doors at the side and rear porches. The front door is paneled (with an upper glazed panel) beneath a large transom light. Four brick chimneys with clustered shafts and corbelled caps, rise

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from the crest of the gable roofs. The only notable loss of exterior integrity is the replacement of several double hung sash windows with single panes and the construction of a flat roof, two car garage on the rear of the house.

The interior of the house is characterized by a floor plan in which a large central vestibule leads to spacious parlors and a dining room on the first floor. The first floor features tall ceilings, maple floors, and redwood trim. Door and window architraves are fluted with corner blocks and paterae mouldings. The walls are ornamented with chair and cornice mouldings. Fireplaces in the parlor and dining room feature classical mantelpieces. The kitchen is the only space that has been substantially remodelled on the first floor. A stairway with turned balusters and a massive newel post leads to the second floor, where four bedrooms are organized around the central hall. The second story floors are fir. The house has an unfinished attic of 2,520 square feet and a basement.

The house is sited on 3.8 acres of landscaped grounds, which includes the large grassy lawn surrounding the house, densely planted deciduous and coniferous trees surrounding the lawn, a creek, and a stone wall that borders the property along Bryant Street. The property also includes a discretely sited swimming pool with a bath house located to the rear of the house but sheltered from view by a hedge and rose bushes.

**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

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Period of Significance

1884-1914

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person

Moore, Miles Conway

Architect/Builder

Not Known

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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

Distinguished by its well preserved Victorian design and landscaped grounds, the Miles C. Moore house is historically significant for its association with a prominent Walla Walla merchant, banker, and grain dealer who served as the last Governor of Washington Territory. Architecturally, the house is among the earliest and best remaining examples of the Queen Anne Style in southeastern Washington, reflecting the spindlework, Eastlake ornament, and multiple cutaway gabled bays that were hallmarks of the style. Today, the property retains almost complete exterior integrity, and is a significant reminder of the history and architecture of the Washington Territory on the eve of statehood.

Historical Background: Miles Conway Moore was born in Muskingum County, Ohio, in 1845, and moved with his family to Point Bluff, Wisconsin, in 1856. In 1863, at age 18, Moore began the westward journey and peripatetic career that characterized his early adulthood. That year, he joined his uncle and cousin on a wagon train bound for the Montana mining district. After briefly working claims at Bannack and Virginia City, Moore headed for Oregon's Willamette Valley. En route, he joined a party on the Mullan Road headed for Fort Walla Walla, and arrived in the city in August, 1863.

At the time, Walla Walla was the largest town in Washington Territory, a booming outfitting center for the mining districts of Idaho and Montana, as well as a commercial center for the growing population of settlers and stockmen in southeastern Washington. After joining Captain John Mullan on a short-lived prospecting expedition to the Metaline Falls area, Moore settled in the city and worked as a clerk for a local mercantile firm. But anxious to establish his own fortune, Moore left his position the next year and went to the mining town of Blackfoot City, Montana, where he opened a supply store and express agency. In the fall of 1866, however, he returned to Walla Walla and became a partner in the book and stationary store of H.E. Johnson and Company. Two years later, he sold his interest, returned briefly to Wisconsin, and the following year returned again to Walla Walla (bringing his parents with him) where he remained until his death.

Shortly after his return in 1869, Moore became a partner in the mercantile firm of Paine Brothers and Moore, where he stayed for nine years. Responding to the growing agricultural economy in the region, Moore converted the concern to an agricultural implements business, considered to be the first in eastern Washington. His involvement in agriculture was soon

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

- H. K. Hines, Illustrated History of the State of Washington (Chicago: Lewis Publishing Company, 1893).
- Werner Lenggenhager and Lucile McDonald, Where the Washingtonians Lived (Seattle: Superior Publishing Company, 1969), p. 208.
- W. D. Lyman, History of Old Walla Walla County (Chicago: S.F. Clarke, 1918) pp. 396-400, and p. 286-287.
- Clair Mitchell, Walla Walla Remembers (Walla Walla: Summerfest, 1969).
- Miles C. Moore, Report of Governor of Washington Territory (Washington, D. C.: Government Printing Office, 1889).
- Clinton Snowden, History of Washington (New York: Century History, 1909), pp. 151-155. Moore is listed as a consulting editor for this history

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 3.8

**UTM References**

A 1 1 3 9 8 0 6 0 5 1 0 0 9 2 0  
 Zone Easting Northing

C \_\_\_\_\_

B \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zone Easting Northing

D \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The property is legally described as parcel number 85-1128-36-07-28-85-1128 in the City of Walla Walla, Washington.

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**Boundary Justification**

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

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Leonard T. Garfield  
 organization Office of Archaeology and Historic Pres. date May, 1989  
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to expand, however. In 1873, Moore married Mary Baker, daughter of Dr. Dorsey S. Baker, Walla Walla's pioneer railroad promoter, banker, and grain dealer. In 1878, Moore formally associated with his father-in-law and became a leading grain dealer in the region, handling (together with Baker) the first large wheat shipments from Eastern Washington to west coast ports.

Moore and Baker remained in the grain sales business until 1879, at which time Moore and his brother Charles formed the firm of C. and M. C. Moore, which dealt extensively with wheat sales from the Palouse and Snake River districts. By 1889, the Moore firm was reputedly the largest wheat brokerage in the region. Moore also retained a partnership with Baker until the later's death in 1888, and together they constructed a logging railroad in Walla Walla County and engaged in other enterprises. Upon Baker's death, Moore became an administrator of his estate.

In addition to his business interests, Moore was active in local and territorial politics, serving as Walla Walla postmaster in the late 1860s, city councilman in 1877, and mayor in 1878, during which time he officially hosted General William Tecumseh Sherman during the war hero's visit to Walla Walla. In 1884, Moore served as chairman of the Republican Territorial Convention.

On March 21, 1889, newly inaugurated Republican President Benjamin Harrison appointed Moore to succeed Democrat Eugene Semple of Seattle as the last Governor of Washington Territory. Moore assumed the Governorship on April 9th, several months after Congress passed, and outgoing President Grover Cleveland signed, an enabling act that authorized Washington's final transition to statehood.

During his eight month term, Moore prepared an important report to the President and Congress on the status of the territory, noting that population and business were expanding rapidly, and that education and other activities were likewise booming. His report provided a graphic description of the maturity of the territory, underscoring the case for imminent statehood. Washington's recent growth, Moore reported, particularly in its largest cities, was "simply phenomenal."

In addition to the constitutional convention (convened in Olympia on July 4th) and other activity associated with coming statehood, Moore's tenure was marked by a series of devastating fires that laid bare the commercial districts of Seattle, Ellensburg, Spokane, Roslyn, and Goldendale. In response, Moore issued proclamations encouraging rebuilding and cooperation, and in his report to Congress he noted that in the wake of the fires "credit remains unimpaired, and abundant capital is at easy rates of interest, having been offered from the East for rebuilding. Not a word of discouragement is heard, but everywhere there is evidence of renewed energy and ambition."

Although brief, Moore's term was generally praised by the press. The Tacoma Ledger, for example, commented that "of all the able governors the territory has had...no one has brought to the office more intelligence, dignity, and grace than Moore." But perhaps the highlight of Moore's term came on the last day when he delivered a farewell address before turning the

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reins of government over to the Elisha Ferry, governor of the new State of Washington. In his address, Moore eloquently reviewed the status of the territory, the march toward statehood, and hopes for the future state. No doubt he was reflecting on his own life when he stated that "the old settler finds himself in the midst of a strange new age and almost uncomprehensible scenes. The old order of things has passed away." But, optimistically, Moore noted that "your sturdy self-reliant pioneer looks not mournfully into the past. He is with you here today, rejoicing in the marvelous prosperity everywhere around him..."

In the ensuing century, historians frequently seized on Moore's vision of the passing of an era. Even the authors of the most recent history of the state, Washington: A Centennial History (1988), write that "the passing of the power between the two governors was itself symbolic...Moore was a merchant and civic leader from Walla Walla, which in earlier days had been the most urban settlement of the region. Now there was Ferry, political leader and town booster from Seattle. Territory to state, Moore to Ferry, Walla Walla to Seattle: change was occurring, a new era was under way." Moore himself repeated this thought in the speeches that he gave in later years at pioneer gatherings. (The symbolism may not be entirely accurate, however. Ferry, after all, was a territorial governor before Moore-- serving the longest term of anyone in that office-- and he defeated Seattle Democrat Semple, Moore's immediate predecessor. Therefore, Ferry's election can be seen as a ratification of Republican policies and Ferry's leadership during the territorial period rather than the beginning of a new era.)

Upon his return to Walla Walla and private life, Moore concentrated on his banking interests, serving as vice president of his late father-in-law's firm, the Baker-Boyer Bank (oldest in the state). In 1898, he succeeded to the presidency of the institution. Moore also had an active interest in the First National Bank of Walla Walla, as well as banks in Spokane, Seattle, and smaller communities in Oregon and Washington. Through the investment firm of M. C. Moore and Sons, Moore acquired commercial property in Tacoma as well as farmland in eastern Washington, and other real estate in Pullman and Moscow. In later years, Moore served on the board of trustees of Whitman College.

Miles Moore was preceded in death by his wife (who died in 1904); Moore died in 1914. Following his death, the house passed to his son Frank (who established Walla Walla's first radio station, KOWW, in the house), and it was sold in the late 1930s to Dr. and Mrs. Arthur Yengling. In 1969, the property was sold to the third owners, Mr. and Mrs. John McGregor.

Architectural Significance: Throughout the early 20th century, the Moore House was described in histories and journals as among the most beautiful in the city, and today it retains most of that original character. Built in 1884-1885, the house is located on a wooded suburban site on the eastern edge of the city. Stylistically, the house reflects the Queen Anne style just then emerging as the dominant mode of residential architecture in the United States. The characteristic features of the style--including elaborate spindle work and sawn ornament in the Eastlake manner as well as intersecting multiple roof shapes and cutaway bays-- are well executed, and predate the widespread appearance of the style in Washington by at least a decade. The house remains one of the outstanding architectural landmarks in the community.