

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 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 Thompson, Gaylord house

other names/site Snyder, Gary and Cara

2. Location

street & number 1824 Seventeenth Avenue

n/a not for publication

city, town Lewiston

n/a vicinity

state Idaho

code ID

county Nez Perce

code 069

zip code 83501

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

Category of Property

No. of Resources within Property

☒ private

☒ building(s)

contributing

noncontributing

☐ public-local

☐ district

1

☐ buildings

☐ public-State

☐ site

☐

☐ sites

☐ public-Federal

☐ structure

☐

☐ structures

☐ object

☐

☐ objects

Name of related multiple property listing:

1

☐ Total

n/a

No. of contributing resources previously
listed in the National Register n/a

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.

Thomas J. Green
Signature of certifying official

3-19-92
Date

Idaho State Historic Preservation Office
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:)

Antoniella J. Bee

5/4/92

for Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Functions or Use

Historic Functions

(enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

DOMESTIC: institutional housing

Current Functions

(enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Colonial Revival

Materials

(enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

walls wood: weatherboard

roof asphalt

other n/a

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

X See continuation sheet

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 N/A

Areas of Significance

(enter categories from instructions)

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

Community Planning and Development

1904-1907

1904

Architecture

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Significant Person

n/a

Architect/Builder

Nave, James

Chaffee C.B.

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

X See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

X See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS): n/a

- ☐ 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:

- X State Historic preservation office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local Government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Less than 1 acre

UTM References

A 1/1 4/9/9/6/6/0 5/1/3/8/5/9/0
Zone Easting Northing

B / / / / / /
Zone Easting Northing

C / / / / / /

D / / / / / /

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Lots 1,2,3,10,11,12 of Block 19, Blanchard Heights Addition

☐ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary is based on the legally-recorded boundary lines of the property. The boundary includes the house, and it contains the area which has historically been associated with the Gaylord Thompson house since at least 1913.

☐ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Elizabeth Eggleston, State Architectural Historian

organization Idaho State Historical Society

date 1/31/92

street & number 210 Main Street

telephone (208) 334-3863

city or town Boise

state Idaho zip code 83702

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Constructed in 1904 as part of the Blanchard Heights development in Lewiston, the Gaylord Thompson house is a fine example of the Dutch Colonial Revival style. The house is situated on a steep hill facing north, and has a view of Lewiston, the Clearwater River and valley. Originally, nine houses were built as part of the development and were scattered over a sixteen-block area; this has all been filled by post-World War II houses. Two Blanchard Heights houses, however, are located in the block behind the Thompson property, so that the three buildings convey a sense of the original development.

The house is cross-gabled -- each gable has a broad gambrel profile. It has three stories, and is sheathed with wooden clapboards. The house rests on a concrete foundation; the roof is clad with asphalt shingles. There is an exterior, stone chimney on the west wall. Most of the windows are single-banked, with a twelve-over-one light configuration. In the gable end on the third floor of the north wall is a Palladian window; triple-banked, twelve-over-one light windows can be seen in the same location on the south and east walls. A bay window, supported by heavy brackets, is located on first floor on the east elevation. A dentil course can be seen under the roofline of the first story.

On the north facade is a curved, one-story porch. It extends across the center and right bays; on the left bay it becomes a pergola that wraps around the northeast corner, stopping at the bay window. The roof of the porch is supported by plain columns with Ionic capitals. The porch has a metal railing, not original to the house, on the first floor. On the ceiling of the porch is a similar railing, which outlines its curve. In the center of the north wall on the second floor is a single door that opens out onto the porch roof. A one-story, covered porch is located on the south elevation.

The Thompson house has undergone a few alterations. The pergola replaced an open porch that had an open balustrade with plain rails. On the north elevation, the curve of the porch extended across all three bays; the second floor of the porch had a balustrade with a combination of clapboard walls and open rails. A similar profile, including the second floor balustrade, outlined the bay window on the east wall.

Although the original porch reinforced the Colonial Revival and classical tenor of the house, the Thompson property continues to maintain a high degree of integrity. The broad gambrel roof and sense of massiveness place the house firmly in the rubric of the Dutch Colonial Revival, while the Palladian window, dentil course and Ionic columns provide the classical details that were freely used with the revival styles of this period. The materials, design and workmanship of the house ensure that it conveys the original intent of the architect, James Nave. The mature landscaping, coupled with the proximity of two of the houses originally associated with the Blanchard Heights development, provide the property with high integrity in terms of feeling and association.

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The Gaylord Thompson house is eligible for the National Register under Criteria A and C. Historically, it is significant because it was part of an early twentieth century residential development, Blanchard Heights, that was unusual for its rural character. Located only a few miles from downtown Lewiston, Blanchard Heights was appealing to those who desired both urban convenience and country life. In turn, Blanchard Heights is associated with the history of Lewiston at the turn of the century, as the availability of such a concept to the town's residents indicates that the city had reached a period of stability and maturation. Architecturally, the Thompson house is significant because it represents the work of a prolific local architect, James Nave.

Like many communities in Idaho, Lewiston was settled in response to a mining boom, in this case that of the discovery of gold at the headwaters of Orofino Creek in 1860. Miners wanting to reach the gold camps as quickly as possible found that transportation via the Snake and Clearwater rivers provided the easiest access, and Lewiston was the result of the makeshift tent city the miners inadvertently created at the confluence of these rivers. Merchants soon established businesses to supply the miners, and the town grew quickly. The town's population and prosperity greatly fluctuated during its first decades, but by 1900 it had become the regional center of the northern half of the state, with a population of 2,500.

The Thompson house, constructed in 1904, was one of nine houses built as part of the Blanchard Heights development. They were situated on the steep hill south of the downtown commercial core, and southeast of the growing, affluent Normal Hill neighborhood. Blanchard Heights was promoted by six men, the most prominent being Wendell P. Hurlbut. Hurlbut was president of the Commercial Trust Company, a local bank, which owned much of the property surrounding the development. All of the houses associated with the development were constructed between 1904 and 1907, and were spread over what is now a sixteen block area (encompassing Fifteenth to Nineteenth streets and Eighteenth to Fifteenth avenues).

Blanchard Heights offered great views of the Clearwater River, close proximity to the downtown area and rural living. Houses were hooked up to city water sources, but owners did not have the constraints placed on their property had they lived in town. Furthermore, deed restrictions specifying that all houses must cost at least \$1,500 ensured an exclusive element to the neighborhood. For years the neighborhood had no defined streets; early residents speak of driving across fields in the most convenient direction (diagonally) to reach the town, and of having horses and livestock nearby. One owner of the Thompson house, Dr. D.K. Worden, who lived in the house from 1937 to 1988, provided his impression (if conjectural) of early

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Blanchard Heights:

At that time [about 1905] I think these houses were built here completely isolated -- for blocks there was nobody. My kids had a racehorse track down here -- they had the circus down below us. I think it was sort of a status thing to be up on the hill looking down ...¹

Little is known about Gaylord Thompson. He was associated with Wendell Hurlbut, as well as being affiliated with the Lewiston Land and Water Company that developed an adjacent area known as the Orchards. Hurlbut built two houses on Eighteenth Avenue, directly behind Thompson's, one for himself and one for his son Harold and his daughter-in-law, Maud Blanchard, from which the name of the neighborhood is probably derived. Deed records state that the Thompsons sold the property to John McCormack in 1913, and that he in turn sold it to H.L. Powers in 1915. Information about these early owners has not come to light at this writing.

In 1920, the house was sold for \$5,000 to the Children's Homefinding and Aid Society for use as a dormitory, isolation ward and home for a superintendent and his family. The Society had operated the North Idaho Children's Home from the Wendell Hurlbut house since 1912, providing shelter to orphans and children whose parents could not care for them; the availability of the Thompson house offered a convenient solution for additional space. A local chapter of the Knights of Pythias provided \$2,500, as the Society could only raise half of the purchase price. Under the ownership of the Society, the Thompson house became known as Friendship Hall.

By the late 1930's, the Society again needed more room, and decided to build a new isolation home and hospital on the grounds of its headquarters at the Wendell Hurlbut house. The Society sold the Thompson house to Dr. Worden in 1937 for \$4,200. Worden, opthamologist and ear, nose, and throat specialist, had recently moved from Montana -- as he put it, he was "an escapee from the Dust Bowl."² He became a prominent citizen of Lewiston, establishing the first medical clinic and serving as mayor for eight years. He lived in the house until it sold to the

¹ Interview with Dr. D.K. Worden, Lewiston, Idaho, 2 November 1983.

² Ibid.

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Thompson, Gaylord house

current owners, Gary and Kara Snyder. Dr. Worden died in 1988. The Thompson house was designed by a Lewiston architect, James Nave. Nave was born in Fort Wayne, Indiana, in 1864 and arrived in Idaho from Iola, Kansas, in 1903. Ninety-four commissions are attributed to his firm in the period from 1903 to 1923, and represent works in Lewiston, surrounding small towns in the north Camas Prairie and Clearwater Valley regions, and eastern Washington. Residential commissions, including seven other houses in Blanchard Heights, comprised the bulk of his work during the early years of his Lewiston tenure. These works were generally Queen Anne and Colonial Revival in style, and Nave's residential practice seems to have been overtaken by another Lewiston architect, Ralph Loring, whose work exhibited a Craftsman influence.

By 1909 Nave was obtaining commissions for commercial and institutional buildings, and his residential business declined. His institutional work was usually Georgian Revival, while his commercial commissions were completed in the Romanesque and Renaissance Revival styles. In her book, Building Idaho, Jennifer Eastman Attebery writes that Nave's work shows a preference for stone and a "fragmented use of classical motifs."³ This affinity for stonework is not surprising, given the fact that he owned a stone quarry in nearby Clarkston, to which he devoted his energy after he left architectural work in 1933.

The Thompson house represents Nave's early work, and is indeed in a Colonial Revival style, in this case Dutch Colonial Revival. The Thompson house is the only home in the original Blanchard Heights development of this style -- the other eight houses display Queen Anne, and Georgian and Tudor Revival motifs. According to Allen Gowens, the author of The Comfortable House, Dutch Colonial Revival did not gain national popularity until about 1917, making the Thompson residence an early example of the style. The house has the qualities Gowans cites as contributing to the style's appeal: a gambrel roof, an extensive porch, and the "romantic regional association with roots and the solid virtues of sturdy God-fearing pioneers."⁴

³ Jennifer Eastman Attebery, Building Idaho, Moscow, ID.: University of Idaho Press, p. 88.

⁴ Allen Gowans, The Comfortable House, (Cambridge, Mass.: The MIT Press, 1987), p. 129.

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In conclusion, the Gaylord W. Thompson house is significant for its association with a unique suburb in Lewiston, which in turn indicates the presence of increased sophistication in a town barely fifty years old. It is an outstanding example of the Dutch Colonial Revival style and of the work of the local architect, James Nave.

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Books

Attebery, Jennifer Eastman. Building Idaho. Moscow, ID.: University of Idaho Press, 1991.

Gowans, Alan. The Comfortable House. Cambridge, Mass.: The MIT Press, 1987.

Hibbard, Don. Normal Hill: An Historic and Pictorial Guide. Lewiston, ID.: Luna House Historical Society, 1978.

Newspaper Articles

Lewiston Morning Tribune. 16 June 1904, p. 10.

----- 16 April 1905, p. 5.

----- 30 April 1905, p. 5.

----- 22 February 1906, p. 5.

----- 19 April 1907, p. 2.

Other Sources

Deed records, 1904-1987. Nez Perce County Courthouse, Lewiston, Idaho.

"Just a Humble Beginning." Flashes, Fall, 1978. North Idaho Children's Home, Lewiston, Idaho.

Sanborn Maps: 1888-1928.

Simon-Smolinski, Carole. "North Idaho Children's Home...an Island in the Storm." The Journal of the Nez Perce County Historical Society, Fall/Winter 1984, pp. 4-11.

Snyder, Kara. Lewiston, Idaho. Interview, 27 June 1991.

Worden, Dr. D.K. Lewiston, Idaho. Interview, 2 November 1983.



Gaylord Thompson house
1824 Seventeenth Avenue, Lewiston
Nez Perce County, Idaho
Elizabeth Eggleston
June 27, 1991
Idaho State Historical Society
view from the east



Gaylord Thompson house

1824 Seventeenth Avenue, Lewiston

Nez Perce County, Idaho

Elizabeth Egleston

June 27, 1991

Idaho State Historical Society

view from the north