

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 for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name Cissna Cottages Historic District

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number area roughly bounded by H, Halleck, G, and Girard Streets

☐ not for publication

city or town Bellingham

☐ vicinity

state Washington

code WA

county Whatcom

code 73

zip code 98225

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

 national statewide X local

Signature of certifying official

Date

Title

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official

Date

Title

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

 entered in the National Register

 determined eligible for the National Register

 determined not eligible for the National Register

 removed from the National Register

 other (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

☒	private
☐	public - Local
☐	public - State
☐	public - Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box)

☐	building(s)
☒	district
☐	site
☐	structure
☐	object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
8	2	buildings
		sites
0	3	structures
		objects
8	5	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC / SINGLE DWELLING

DOMESTIC / MULTIPLE DWELLING

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC / SINGLE DWELLING

DOMESTIC / MULTIPLE DWELLING

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN / Queen Anne

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: STONE

walls: WOOD / clapboard, shingle

SYNTHETICS / vinyl

roof: ASPHALT / composition shingle

other:

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

See Continuation Sheet

8. Statement of Significance**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

☐ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

☒ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply)

Property is:

☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

☐ B removed from its original location.

☐ C a birthplace or grave.

☐ D a cemetery.

☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

☐ F a commemorative property.

☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Commerce

Period of Significance

1888 - 1904

Significant Dates

1888 - Utter builds the first house in the district

1898 - Cissna obtains block from Utter

1900 - Cissna obtains two more lots from Utter

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above)

Cissna, Charles

Architect/Builder

Latta, Marion C. (architect)

Narrative Statement of Significance See Continuation Sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets)

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

Name of repository: Whatcom Museum - Photo Archives

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.94
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	<u>10</u> Zone	<u>537990</u> Easting	<u>5400922</u> Northing	3	<u>10</u> Zone	<u>537988</u> Easting	<u>5400826</u> Northing
2	<u>10</u> Zone	<u>538031</u> Easting	<u>5400873</u> Northing	4	<u>10</u> Zone	<u>537914</u> Easting	<u>5400842</u> Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (describe the boundaries of the property)

See boundary map in Additional Documentation

Boundary Justification (explain why the boundaries were selected)

See Continuation Sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title David Pinyerd and Kolby LaBree

organization Historic Preservation Northwest date July 31, 2009

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Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

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NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Summary

The Cissna Cottages Historic District is a small portion of the larger Lettered Streets Neighborhood. The district encompasses a one-block plus two-lot area developed by Charles Cissna between 1900 and 1904 and contains intact houses built in the Queen Anne style. Over time this distinctive collection of residences has locally come to be known as the "Cissna Cottages."

The Lettered Streets Neighborhood, named for its series of streets "A" through "J," grew from the site of Bellingham's origins at Whatcom Creek on the northeast shore of Bellingham Bay. It is one of the city's oldest areas and retains the 1856 Captain George Pickett House at 910 Bancroft Street and the 1858 T.G. Richards Building, at 1308 E Street. The neighborhood is distinctive for its street grid platted parallel to the bay, in contrast to the cardinal layout of the surrounding neighborhoods, illustrating the neighborhood's identity as the original 1853 Euro-American settlement on Bellingham Bay.

Methodology

In 2008 and 2009 an historic resource survey of the Lettered Streets Neighborhood was completed and a small grouping of distinctive, high-integrity houses emerged as a potential National Historic District. Research revealed that this collection of distinguished Queen Annes represented the largest residential development of local Bellingham entrepreneur Charles Cissna. Surprisingly little had been compiled about the history of the Cissna Cottages, but research ranging from deeds to census to Cissna descendants helped fill-in some of the blanks. Local newspapers, the still existing *Bellingham Herald* and the defunct *Whatcom Reveille*, also provided a wealth of information.

Architecture

Contributing buildings in the Cissna Cottages Historic District are in the Queen Anne style, with only one non-contributing house built in 1999 and three non-contributing outbuildings. The Queen Anne style is characterized by asymmetrical massing, wrap-around porches, and a variety of decorative cladding materials. Towers are a common feature, as are a variety of window types and turned wood details. The style dates back to the 1876 U.S. Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia, where the British sought to re-create the era of Queen Anne in their pavilion buildings. The Queen Anne style was most popular in Washington State between 1880 and 1900. A subset of the style is categorized as "Free Classical" and overlaps with the end of the Queen Anne movement, around 1900 when the Colonial Revival styles began to become popular. Free Classical style buildings retain the Queen Anne asymmetry and cladding variety while also incorporating colonial details such as Tuscan columns, eave returns and dentil courses as decorative features. The Cissna Cottages reflect the stylistic transitions that were occurring at the turn of the century between the former Queen Anne and later Colonial Revival influences.

The Cissna Cottages brought no new style trends to Bellingham and do not appear to have influenced other houses to be built in a similar fashion. The design and detailing of the Cissna Cottages can be found on houses built during the same time period, as well as on other Bellingham residences built before 1900. Historical research suggests that the Cissna Cottages' designs may have originated with pattern books. For example, the house at 2001 G Street and its mirror image at 2015 G Street were reported to have been "designed" by Maud Cissna. It is more probable however, that Mrs. Cissna picked the plan out of an architectural pattern book. The Cissna Cottages' high style and lack of an attributable builder and/or designer

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in addition to the existence of an identical house in Blaine, Washington support the theory that the building designs came from a pattern book. As a group, the houses are notable for their architectural compatibility. All of the houses in the main block are architecturally distinct except for two that are mirror images of each other.

Historically, the Cissna Cottages "block" stood apart from its neighbors. The 1904 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map shows Cissna's Cottages surrounded by relatively undeveloped, empty blocks. Today, the Cottages' prominent Queen Anne stylistic details and 2-1/2 story height continue to set them apart from houses on neighboring blocks. The larger residences of the group are located at block corners with the smaller, but still finely detailed houses filling the mid-block lots. The imposing size of the buildings is especially noticeable along H Street, despite the presence of the non-contributing 1999 house. The collective presence of the houses has helped them to retain their identity as the "Cissna Cottages," and as a historic district convey a quality of individuality combined with stylistic harmony.

Conclusion

Collectively, the Cissna Cottages retain a high degree of historic integrity. When experienced together as a district the Cissna Cottages have the ability to convey their period of significance and retain integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. The integrity of their setting has been somewhat compromised by the in-fill house constructed in 1999 (built on a vacant lot that was once the site of an additional Cissna Cottage); however, the presence of the newer building detracts only minimally from the overall setting of the district. The Cissna Cottages Historic District is Bellingham's most cohesive and distinctive block of Victorian-era residences.

The following pages contain a list of principal structures and their contribution to the Cissna Cottages Historic District.

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2001 G STREET

Parcel Code: 380330074532

Date of Construction: c. 1898

Historic Name: Cissna, Charles and Maud, House

District Contribution: Contributing

Secondary Bldgs: Contributing: 0 Non-Contributing: 0

Physical Description: The house at 2001 G Street is a single-family dwelling facing southeast on a corner lot. It is a mirror image to that of 2015 G Street and one of several houses on this block built under the aegis of Charles Cissna. Built circa 1898 (according to the County Assessor), this house is a good representation of the Queen Anne style standing 2.5 stories with an irregular plan shape and only slight alterations. While the central roof is a truncated hip roof, there are a variety of roof lines and projections on the house. Roofing material consists of asphalt composition shingle. Bargeboards with applied moldings, cornice moldings and frieze boards enhance the roof lines. There are two brick chimneys on the rear ridge of the house both with concrete flue caps. Windows are primarily 1/1 double-hung wood sash with lamb's tongue detailing and hood moldings. There are two vinyl windows on the south side of the house on the second floor. The house is clad in intact lap siding with corner boards. There is a water table with a large cap shielding a stone foundation.

A 2.5-story front gable projects at the north end of the façade. A two-story polygonal bay projects from it in turn. The overhanging boxed eaves created by the slanted sides of the bay are supported by scrolled brackets. All three of the bay's sides have 1/1 wood sash windows with lamb's tongues. The openings on the first floor terminate in a belt course with molding, those on the second are topped by the frieze, also with molding. The front gable's tympanum is accented with fishscale and coved shingles. It is pierced by a single-pane attic level window topped by a horizontal trim board and dentil molding. The elaborate bargeboards flare at the base to cover the boxed eaves. The applied ornaments appear to be constructed from half-round molding, with bull's-eyes at the apex and bases, with the latter forming part of a sunburst motif. Bargeboards with the same motifs in miniature can be found on the gabled dormer, located near the south edge of the front roof slope. The façade's south corner includes a three sided rectangular bay set on angle to the corner. On the 1904 Sanborn map the bay is fronted by a circular platform. Its roof is split, rising up the front and south walls much like a circus tent. The two roof peaks are topped by turned finials. There are stained glass windows set high in the wall above a string course on all three sides of the bay. All have a Queen Anne style muntin configuration, with a narrow perimeter incorporating colored glass surrounding a larger center. Additionally, the center window includes beveled leaded glass at the center. The entry porch is centered in the façade and projects relative to the south corner bay and the front gable. Its pediment-like roof has eave returns linked by a dentil course. The tympanum is filled with fishscale and coved shingles, much like that of the larger front gable. The roof is supported by four large, ornately turned columns. The four steps leading up to the wooden deck are newer concrete with a minimal wood railing on the north. The front door is of the same period as the house, with a single pane of glass in the upper half and wood paneling above and below it. The north and south side gables are flush relative to their respective elevations and are detailed in much the same manner as the front gable, but with multiple windows at the attic level. The rear gable is detailed in the same manner as well, but projects from the core volume. A second story sleeping porch is nested between the rear and south side gables. The sleeping porch is cantilevered over the first floor and is supported by turned posts supplemented by modern simple posts. Newer stairs lead up to the porch which has fixed multi-pane glazing. A small one-story volume is nested between the rear and north side gable.

The plan appears to have only slight alterations. There is no discernable alteration to the original cladding. There appear to be slight alterations to the original windows. Due to the level of integrity of the original building, this resource would be considered contributing to the historic district.

Statement of Significance: The house at 2001 G Street is located in the Lettered Streets neighborhood. According to the Whatcom County Assessor's office, this resource was built in 1898. This construction date is supported by Sanborn maps and physical evidence. The house at 2001 G Street is notable among the Cissna cottages in that Charles Cissna himself was the first occupant.

According to Deed indexes, the property (Block 189, lots 1-8) was deeded from William A. Utter to Charles Cissna (Deed Book 49, p 274) on July 27, 1898; however, the books also show lots 1-4 as deeded from the City of New Whatcom to Charles Cissna (Deed Book 49, p 250) on July 27, 1898. These actions were a sheriff's sale through which Cissna acquired the entire block. The August 3, 1898 issue of the Whatcom Reveille newspaper states that "Charles Cissna is moving into his new home, the Utter homestead, this week." As William Utters' house at 2007 G was the only house already on the property at the time, Charles Cissna must have moved into it first while building his other "cottages."

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In the 1899 city directory, Charles Cissna is listed as residing at 2550 20th Street (now Girard). It is unknown whether this 20th Street address refers to 2001 G or 2007 G Street. 2001 G Street seems most likely since it indeed borders what was then 20th Street (now Girard), while 2007 G is mid-block facing G Street; however, the 1890 city directory describes William Utter as residing at "20th corner G," as well (see also Van Miert 276-77).

The 1899 directory lists Charles Cissna as proprietor of The Fair, his grocery business, as well as listing Kittie Clark, a clerk at The Fair, as a boarder. Kittie Clark was likely a relative of the Clark family who later lived at 2015 G Street.

Charles Cissna sold The Fair in late 1899, and by 1901 was in the business of "loans" according to the city directory. In the 1900-1901 directory, Charles Cissna is listed as residing at "G and 20th," along with Ray C. Cissna, boarding.

In the 1901-1902 directory Charles Cissna is listed for the first time as residing at the official address 2001 G Street, with wife Maud also listed. On July 10, 1902, Charles Cissna and wife deeded all of the lots on this block (1-8) to his Home Security Savings Bank. In the 1902-03 directory Charles Cissna is listed as president of Home Security Savings in the Whatcom city directory, along with son Ray Cissna, assistant cashier for the same.

In 1903, Ray and his mother Maud Cissna both suffered attacks of pneumonia. Maud Cissna died in the house on March 2, 1903 (Fairhaven Times). After her death, Mr. Cissna moved downtown, selling the house to Benjamin H. Silver, a local realtor with a prominent office in the Sunset Building.

Chicago Title's tract books show Home Security Savings Bank sold the property to Benjamin Silver on July 31, 1903, while the Fairhaven Times reported the sale as early as April (Fairhaven Times, 4/4/1903). Benjamin Silver lived in the house through 1909. Mr. Silver deeded the house to his mother Rebecca Misenhimer (Fairhaven Times, 5/9/1903) on May 5, 1906. Ms. Misenhimer sold the property back to Ben Silver three years later in October 1909. Ben Silver turned around and sold the property to Charles S. Hills just a week later. One year later Charles Hills sold it back to Ben Silver. Mr. Hills was the secretary of the B.H. Silver Real Estate Company.

George J. Hohl lived in the house during the year of 1910. George Hohl was a former mayor of Fairhaven, and the founder of a feed and seed business that still exists today on Railroad Avenue known as Hohl's Feed and Seed. In the 1910 directory, Ross J. Hohl, an accountant, is also listed at the address.

In 1915 the Gillies family is listed at the address. Peter Gillies, a laborer and wife Anna are listed as the householders, with Laura Gillies, a stenographer for Wilber Gibbs; Mabel C. Gillies, a clerk for J.B. Wahl; and Robert Bowles, a wireman for Puget Sound Traction, Light & Power Co., all residing. Peter Gillies was the brother of John C. Gillies of Gillies Funeral Home.

Between 1917 and 1924 the house was home to the Reverend William F. Reager and family. Reverend Reager was the pastor for the First Christian Church. His wife Emma is also listed at the address as well as Ruth Reager, a clerk for Harter & Wells Piano Company, and William Paul Reager of the U.S. Navy. In 1918 Maurice L. Walker is listed as the taxpayer in the Bellingham block books, turning the property over to William F. Reager in 1921.

William F. Reager sold the property to Edward J. and Anna Ritchie between 1926 and 1927. Mr. Ritchie was an engineer. The Ritchies are listed at the address in city directories through 1934. In 1933 Ralph Johnson, a meat cutter for the Elm Meat Company also occupied the house.

The house saw a high turnover with various occupants listed in the city directories after this time. In 1935 Milton A. and Faye R. Andersen are listed along with Robert V. and Dorothy Quinian. In 1936 Mrs. Ella M. Leal and Vernon and Violet Prigmore were the occupants. Mr. Prigmore was a meat cutter.

Between 1938 and 1942 Harvey R. Kennedy, a mechanic at A.E. McKenzie Motor Company, and wife Flora E. are listed at the house, along with Mrs. Emma C. Martin, widow of Martin Martin.

Alfred H. Force and wife Pearl occupied the house between 1944 through at least 1957 with various other roomers. In 1950 Mrs. Mabel Anderson; Mary L. Goebel, a YWCA teen program director; Mrs. Affie Vanderpool; and Laura Wyman, a county extension agent, all were listed as residents along with Mr. and Mrs. Force. By 1955 Pearl Force is listed as widowed and as a clerk at the Columbia Hotel. In 1959 son Alf E. Force is listed as the householder. Due to the level of integrity of the house, coupled with the building's history, this resource is considered contributing to the Cissna Historic District.

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2007 G STREET

Parcel Code: 380330078526

Date of Construction: c. 1888

Historic Name: Utter, William A. 'Billy', House

District Contribution: Contributing

Secondary Bldgs: Contributing: 0 Non-Contributing: 0

Physical Description: The house at 2007 G Street is located in the Lettered Streets neighborhood. The house is midblock facing roughly east. It was built circa 1888 (by William A. "Billy" Utter soon after his father, William Utter's, death) in the Queen Anne style with Italianate elements. The house has an irregular plan and stands on a stone foundation. The two-story building has varied roof lines roof clad in composition shingles with boxed eaves. The wall cladding is wood lap. Trim features include cornice molding, rake board and molding, frieze board, rounded corner boards with small molded capitals, and a water table and cap. The principal window type is 2/2 wood sash with lamb's tongues.

A gabled projection on the central façade features fishscale shingles in the gable and paired 2/2 wood sash windows with pointed gothic hood molding on the second floor. A three-sided polygonal window bay, also with 2/2 windows, is present on the lower story of the front gable. It has a truncated polygonal roof with elaborate brackets supporting its boxed eaves at each of the bay's facets. Molded panels lie between the brackets. Based on an undated assessor photo as well as remnants of turned wood attached to the upper story windows' casing, the bay was once topped by a fancy wood railing. The upper story 2/2 windows in the main volume, to either side of the front gable, are topped by gablets that interrupt the main eave and echo the gothic molding of the center windows. A vertical beadboard frieze with a stringcourse molding follows the roofline in a decorative pattern, again echoing the gablets above the second story windows.

The entry is located to the south of the front gable. It was enclosed at an early date and features a hipped roof with decorative brackets and a single pane/panel door with glass side panels and a transom window. The entry volume is mirrored to the north of the front gable where a hipped one-story projection appears to be an early enclosed porch. It features two sets of 4/2 fixed wood sash windows. A one-story projection on the southwest side of the building is original or an early addition, as it is shown as early as 1904 on the Sanborn maps. Several internal brick chimneys are present. One on the south roof ridge, one on the northwest roof slope. One is found on the southwest roof slope and one on the south slope of the one-story projection. The plan appears to have only slight alterations. There is no discernable alteration to the original cladding. There appear to be slight alterations to the original windows. Due to the level of integrity of the original building, this resource would be considered contributing to the historic district.

Statement of Significance: The house at 2007 G Street is located in the Lettered Streets neighborhood. This resource was built circa 1888. This construction date was derived principally from physical evidence, city directories and newspaper articles. Unfortunately the Sanborn maps prior to 1904 do not cover this area.

This house was built for William A. "Billy" Utter, son of pioneer William Utter. After William Utter Sr. died in 1887, son Billy handled the affairs of the estate, selling the original donation claim that became the York Addition. "With profits (from land sale)...Billy Utter built his new house at the corner of 20th (Girard) and G Street, now 2007 G Street. M.C. Latta was the architect and builder of the Utter House, described with pride in the Reveille: 'No other building in Whatcom County so completely embraces the requirements of a comfortable home as does this residence. There are two full stories - nine main rooms - hard finish - wide cornices - brick chimneys - painted in cream - trimmed in darker colors - cost \$3,500'" (Van Miert 276-77). An orchard formerly surrounded the property.

Marion C. Latta was Bellingham's first prominent architect and also a Mayor of Whatcom. Marion C. Latta was born in 1845 in East Palestine, Ohio. He attended public school in Ohio and worked on the railroad, coal mining and farming as a young man before taking up the carpenter's and builder's trade in 1875. At that time he moved west to Seattle, where he was "connected with building interests" and was elected master of St. John Lodge, the oldest and largest Masonic lodge in Seattle (Bellingham Herald, 12/9/1924). In 1883 he came to Whatcom (now Bellingham) (Prosser, Vol 2, 265). He erected many important buildings in Whatcom and Seattle. As well as being responsible for the construction of this house, "for many years considered the most palatial home on Bellingham bay," (Prosser, Vol 2, 265), he built the Bellingham Hotel and the First National Bank building.

Marion Latta was long identified with Whatcom county politics. He was involved in the organization of the government of the old town of Whatcom in 1884 and served on the first city council. He was elected mayor in 1889; and county commissioner in 1890. He went on to serve in other civic positions over the years. Twice he ran for the state legislature but lost. At age 80, Marion C. Latta passed

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away in 1924 at his home on Williams Street.

W.A. Utter is listed in the 1890 city directories at "20th corner G," as the Proprietor of Whatcom Iron Works. Billy Utter's wife, Etta, died in 1891. Sometime in the late 1890s, Utter left Bellingham for Nebraska. His property was sold through the sheriff to Charles Cissna in July 1898, who then built his speculative houses, the Cissna Cottages, where the orchards had been.

According to the federal census from 1900, William Utter was living with his in-laws and daughter in Nebraska. Utter came back to Bellingham for a time, then went back to Nebraska and died there in the 1920s.

According to deed records, on July 10, 1902, Charles Cissna and wife deeded all of the lots on this block (1-8) to his Home Security Savings Bank. The Home Security Savings Bank (Charles Cissna was president) sold the property to Mary E. White on August 18, 1903. The Fairhaven Times reported the sale on August 22, 1903, "the consideration being \$3,300." Mary E. White, widow of Louis P., is listed as the householder at the address through 1908, along with Lillian White, a student, and L. Pinkney White, a clerk, both boarding. Louis P. White was a prominent banker, he died in 1903. Mary White remarried Fred Schuh circa 1909, and continued to reside in the house. Mr. Schuh was a salesman. The family occupied the house through 1948. After being widowed for the second time, Mary Schuh took in various renters between 1936 and 1948.

Due to the level of integrity of the building, coupled with the building's history, this resource is considered contributing to the Cissna Historic District.

2015 G STREET

Parcel Code: 380330083531

Date of Construction: c. 1900

Historic Name: Clark, Adelbert and Mary, House

District Contribution: Contributing

Secondary Bldgs: Contributing: 0 Non-Contributing: 0

Physical Description: The house at 2015 G Street is located in the Lettered Streets neighborhood. It is a mirror image to that of 2001 G Street and one of several houses on this block built under the aegis of Charles Cissna. The house faces roughly east on a corner lot. It was built in 1900 (according to the County Assessor) in the Queen Anne style. The house has an irregular plan and stands on a stone foundation. While the central volume is a truncated hip, the 2.5-story building has varied roof lines roof clad in composition shingles with boxed eaves. The wall cladding is wood lap. Trim features include decorative bargeboard with shaped ends, cornice molding, rake board, frieze board, corner boards and a water table and cap.

A 2.5-story front gable projects at the south end of the façade. A two-story polygonal bay projects from it in turn. The overhanging boxed eaves created by the slanted sides of the bay are supported by simple console brackets. All three of the bay's sides have 1/1 windows, wood with lamb's tongues on the first floor, and vinyl replacements on the second. The openings on the first floor terminate in a belt course, those on the second are topped by the frieze, also with molding. The front gable's tympanum is accented with octagonal shingles. It is pierced by a single-pane attic level window topped by a horizontal trim board and dentil molding which forms the transition to the fishscale and coved shingles at the apex. The bargeboards, slightly less elaborate than at 2001 G, flare at the base to cover the boxed eaves. The applied ornaments appear to be constructed from half-round molding, with a bull's eyes at the apex. Bargeboards with the same motif in miniature can be found on the gabled dormer, located near the north edge of the front roof slope. The façade's north corner includes a three sided rectangular bay set on angle to the corner. On the 1904 Sanborn map the bay is fronted by a circular platform. Its roof is split, rising up the front and north walls much like a circus tent. The two roof peaks are topped by turned finials. The boxed eave is supported by modillion brackets. There are stained glass windows set high in the wall above a string course on all three sides of the bay. All have a Queen Anne style muntin configuration, with a narrow perimeter incorporating colored glass surrounding a larger center. Additionally, the center window includes beveled leaded glass at the center. The entry porch is centered in the façade and projects relative to the north corner bay and the front gable. Its pediment-like roof has eave returns linked by a dentil course. The tympanum is filled with horizontal shiplap. The roof is supported by four modified Tuscan columns that rest on square plinths. On the sides the plinths are linked by a turned balustrade. The wood entry deck is accessed via five newer wood steps. The front door is of the same period as the house, with a single pane of glass in the upper half and wood paneling above and below it.

The south side gable is flush relative to the wall while that on the north projects slightly. The rear gabled ell projects and was extended by 1913 according to Sanborn maps. There are two gabled dormers on the north slope of the rear and one on the

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south, at the west end. A large shed dormer or projection is present on the south towards the back. The house was used as a rooming house and as apartments for a number of years. An open side porch on the south side appears to have been enclosed. A small side porch on the north side features a turned porch post. Two internal brick chimneys are present, one on the south roof slope near the ridge, and a second farther back to the west on the roof ridge of the back addition. The plan appears to have only slight alterations. There is no discernable alteration to the original cladding. There appear to be slight alterations to the original windows. Due to the level of integrity of the original building, this resource would be considered contributing to the historic district.

Statement of Significance: The house at 2015 G Street is located in the Lettered Streets neighborhood. According to the Whatcom County Assessor's office, this resource was built in 1900. This construction date is supported by Sanborn maps and physical evidence.

The house was built by Charles Cissna as one of his ten "Cissna Cottages." On July 10, 1902, Charles Cissna and wife deeded all of the lots on this block (1-8) to the Home Security Savings Bank, of which he was president.

According to Chicago Title's tract books, the Home Security Savings Bank sold the house to Adelbert B. and Mary Clark on May 18, 1905. At the time, A.B. Clark was the president of "The Fair" grocery store, a business started by Charles Cissna, who sold the enterprise in 1899. A.B. Clark was also the first President of the Whatcom Commercial Club. When Mr. Clark passed away shortly after in 1905, all of the businesses of Bellingham closed to attend his funeral at the house. His widow, Mary Clark, had an addition to the house constructed around this time, continuing to live in the house, while taking in boarders.

In 1907 Herman and Charles Himelhoch (Himelhoch Brothers and Company), proprietors of the Leader, a store selling dry goods, are listed at the address along with Mrs. Clark. In 1915 the George W. Ford family is listed at the address. Mr. Ford was president-manager of the Bellingham Flour Mills Company. Claude and Anne Ford are also listed as residents. At this time, Mary Clark is listed as living on W. Holly. She is listed at the house again between 1918 and continued to live in Unit A until 1939.

Virgil D. Thomason, a real estate broker, and wife Edith were longer term owners and occupants, between 1940 and 1954, along with various boarders. The Reverend A. Van Bronkhurst owned and occupied the house in the 1950s and early 1960s, also renting rooms. The house remained an apartment building until 2008, when Colin and Sarah Naylor restored it back again to a single-family residence. The main floor of the house is still in its original state, including woodwork, pocket doors, fireplace and windows. Mary Clark engraved her name and date in the living room woodwork. The third floor is in original condition where the Clark children's toy boxes and prints on the walls still remain.

Due to the level of integrity of the building, coupled with the building's history, this resource is considered contributing to the Cissna Historic District.

1910 H STREET

Parcel Code: 380330055515

Date of Construction: c. 1901

Historic Name: Walsh, William and Lottie, House

District Contribution: Contributing

Secondary Bldgs: Contributing: 0 Non-Contributing: 1

Physical Description: The house at 1910 H Street is located in the Lettered Streets neighborhood. The house is midblock facing roughly west. It was built in 1901 (according to the County Assessor) in the Queen Anne style with Vernacular elements. It is one of several houses in this vicinity built under the aegis of Charles Cissna. The house has a rectangular plan and stands on a concrete block foundation. The 1.5-story building has a cross gable roof clad in composition shingles. The eaves are shallow, boxed, and trimmed with bargeboards and cornice molding. The wall claddings are wood lap with wood shingle accents in the gables. Other wooden trim includes a water table and cap, frieze boards, some corner boards, and some window hood moldings. The principal window type is 1/1 wood sash. One notable exception is on a small bump-out to the rear and north of the porch which features a shallow window with 36 small square panes set high in the wall.

The façade features a recessed porch at the north corner. The structure above is supported by heavy turned posts. The balusters that bound the north edge of the porch are turned as well. The first floor wall to the south of the porch is chamfered, with 1/1 windows on the slanted sides. The front window is fixed, with a 3/1 muntin configuration. The transition to the gable is marked by a wooden belt course with molding. The square shingles above this flare slightly and are interrupted by a band of

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varied imbrication. The paired gable windows are 1/1 wood sashes and terminate with a dentilled belt course. The apex of the gable above this repeats the square shingles with a band of varied imbrication. The gables on the north and south elevations are clad in square shingles only, but feature the same belt courses and resulting wall flare. There are single 1/1 openings on the upper and lower levels of the side gables. The north gable includes an oddly chamfered wall segment that forms a triangular recess between it and a front vestibule. The south elevation includes a long, rebuilt wooden staircase that runs up along the front gable to a second story entry. Though this feature appears to be well integrated into the house, Sanborn maps do not indicate that it was ever used as a multi-unit dwelling. The rear includes a nearly full-width one-story shed roofed service porch.

The plan appears to have only slight alterations. There are no discernable alterations to the original cladding or windows. Due to the level of integrity of the original building, this resource would be considered contributing to the historic district.

An outbuilding lies at the south-most corner of the property. It has lap siding, a front gable roof, and hinged doors. It is accessed via an unpaved driveway from H Street. It could not be easily surveyed; however, an outbuilding footprint similar to this one appears on the 1913 and 1950 Sanborn, but not on the 1904 Sanborn.

Statement of Significance: The house at 1910 H Street is located in the Lettered Streets neighborhood. According to the Whatcom County Assessor's office, this resource was built in 1901. This construction date is supported by Sanborn maps and physical evidence.

According to deed records, in April 1900, the Cissna Loan Company bought this lot along with that of 1914 H Street from William "Billy" Utter. Mr. and Mrs. William W. Walsh are listed at this address in directories between 1901 and 1903. Mr. Walsh was a stevedore, and his wife's name is recorded as Lottie. Miss Mabel Edwards, a schoolteacher is also listed.

According to Chicago Title's tract books, the Home Security Savings Bank sold the property to John C. Boyer on May 28, 1903. John C. Boyer was the proprietor of the Holly Press. He remained at the house a short time, and no listing for the house was found in 1905. The Home Loan Company must have taken or purchased the property back from Mr. Boyer. In 1906-07 Charles Cissna, president of the Home Loan Company, is listed as the householder at this address, with Magna Mattisen, a domestic.

According to the general Deed index, the Home Loan Company sold the property to Mrs. Althea Adams on March 23, 1908. Mrs. Adams was an abstractor for Muir and Muir and later deputy county clerk. Her husband Winfield Scott Adams was a millwright at Larson Lumber Company. The Adams family occupied the house through 1915. The tract books show Althea Adams sold the property to Carl E. Bell in October 1918. Carl E. and Lillian Bell are listed as the householders between 1919 and 1922. Mr. Bell was a salesman and later vice president and assistant manager for Diehl and Simpson, later known as Diehl Motor Company.

Stanley D. White and wife Alberta occupied the house between 1928 and 1954. Mr. White was a shoe repairman for Champion Shoe Shop. In 1955 and 1956 the house was vacant. Between 1957 and at least 1960 the house was occupied by Kenneth Lohman, a student, and wife Iris.

Due to the level of integrity of the building, coupled with the building's history, this resource is considered contributing to the Cissna Historic District.

1914 H STREET

Parcel Code: 380330059517

Date of Construction: c. 1898

Historic Name: Morgan, Emrys and Mabel, House

District Contribution: Historic Non-Contributing

Secondary Bldgs: Contributing: 0 Non-Contributing: 1

Physical Description: The house at 1914 H Street is located in the Lettered Streets neighborhood. The house faces roughly west on a corner lot. It was built in 1898 (according to the County Assessor) in a simple Queen Anne style. The house has an irregular plan and stands on a stone foundation. The 1.5-story building has a cross gable roof clad in composition shingles with boxed eaves. The primary wall cladding is vinyl designed to resemble lap siding. The principal window type is 1/1 vinyl sash.

The projecting front gable end is roughly centered and features a chamfered first floor. The windows on all three sides are fixed vinyl sashes. A circa 1950 assessor photo shows a 3/1 fixed sash at the center. The wall area above the windows on the slanted sides has panels of vertically installed vinyl siding. There is one 1/1 vinyl sash window on the upper level of the front

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gable. The assessor photo shows a belt course above and below this window and imbrication at the apex. The entry is located to the north of the front gable, nested between it and the north side's gable end. The small entry porch is topped by a gabled roof. Its bargeboard, like that of the main gable, has been encased in vinyl or metal veneer. The roof is supported by a single turned post at the front corner. A turned balustrade on the north links to the post to the house wall. Five newer concrete steps lead up to the concrete porch deck. The front door dates to the same period as the house, with a single pane of glass over wood paneling. An exterior brick chimney is attached to the south elevation, nested at the intersection between the front and south side gable. The plan appears to have only slight alterations. There appear to be moderate alterations to the original cladding. There appear to be extensive alterations to the original windows. Due to the amount of alteration to the original building, this resource would be considered non-contributing to the historic district.

A two-car garage is present on the southeast corner of the lot, featuring a gabled roof clad in composition shingles, drop siding and newer paneled-roll up doors facing north to Girard Street. The garage appears to have been built after 1950 according to the Sanborn maps.

Statement of Significance: The house at 1914 H Street is located in the Lettered Streets neighborhood. According to the Whatcom County Assessor's office, this resource was built in 1898. This construction date is supported by Sanborn maps and physical evidence.

According to deed records, the Cissna Loan Company bought the property along with the neighboring lot of 1910 H Street from William "Billy" Utter in April 1900. It is uncertain whether the house was on the lot at the time, though it is likely that the Cissna bought the house with the land.

According to Chicago Title's tract books, Charles Cissna sold the property to the Home Security Savings Bank in July 1902. The earliest known occupant of the house was Emrys (alternately Emerys) B. Morgan, a cashier for Home Security Savings Bank, listed in the 1904-05 Bellingham city directory at the address. In 1915 Emrys B. and Mabel H. Morgan are listed as the householders, with Clarence G. and Sophie White also listed as householders. Mr. White worked for Peerless Furniture Company. Also listed as a resident is James C. Hayes. Morgan is listed as the householder at the address in city directories through 1917, when he was a superintendent at the Pacific American Fisheries.

Deed records show the Cissna Loan Company deeded the property to Emrys Morgan's father, Jenkins Morgan in August 1913. Jenkins Morgan was an English grocery merchant who lived at 1323 Franklin Street. Jenkins Morgan deeded 1914 H Street to Emrys B. Morgan in February 1915. Emrys Morgan continued to be listed as the taxpayer on the house through 1925 although not listed as residing at the address during much of that time. Occupants remain unknown.

In 1923 Emrys B. and Mabel Morgan sold the property to Christine W. Nygren. The widowed Mrs. Nygren was of Swedish descent and never occupied the house at 1914 H, but rather lived in the York neighborhood. During the 1920s Mrs. Nygren built the nearby "Christine Apartments" at Girard and F Street. Mrs. Nygren sold the property to Henry L. and Theresa C. Siegel in 1928. Lewis Auberton, a meat cutter, and wife Luella are listed as the occupants circa 1931. The Siegels are listed at the address in the 1932 and 1933 city directories. In 1933 they are listed as selling the house to Louise and D. Ebeling et al. in the tract books.

In 1934 the city directory lists Amandus Barlindal, a painter, and wife Mattie at the address, along with Clarence Barlindal, a millworker; Ferne Barlindal, a page at the public library; and Percy Barlindal, a dental technician, all residing. Harry and Bertha Clow lived in the house in 1935. Peter and Agnes Claus occupied the house in 1936 through 1955. Mr. Claus was the proprietor of Pacific Meat and Sausage Company, as well as Stop & Shop Meat Market and Peter Claus & Sons Meat Market. Between 1956 and at least 1960 Glenn A. Claus, of Peter Claus & Sons Meat Market is listed at the house with wife Carol.

Due to the amount of alteration to the original building, this resource is considered historic, non-contributing to the Cissna Historic District.

2000 H STREET

Parcel Code: 380330065527

Date of Construction: c. 1900

Historic Name: Brand, George, House

District Contribution: Contributing

Secondary Bldgs: Contributing: 0 Non-Contributing: 0

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Physical Description: The house at 2000 H Street is located in the Lettered Streets neighborhood. It is one of several "Cissna Cottages" located on the same block bounded by H, Halleck, G, and Girard Streets. The house faces roughly west on a corner lot. It was built circa 1900 in the Queen Anne style. The house has a rectangular plan and stands on a stone foundation. The 2.5-story building has varied roof lines clad in composition shingles. A brick chimney emerges from the roof toward the front (west) of the ridge. Another rises from the rear slope of the central gable on hip. The eaves are boxed and supported by scrolled, jigsaw brackets at the corners of the main volume. The wall claddings are wood lap and wood shingles. Trim elements include a water table and cap, corner boards, and frieze boards. The principal window types are 1/1 wood sash and vinyl sash.

The core of the structure has a gable on hip roof with secondary, slightly lower gables on the front, rear and south sides. A boxy, two-story volume with a hipped roof is attached to the rear. Based on Sanborn maps, this structure was raised from one- to two-stories sometime after 1950. The entry porch is recessed under the south corner of the façade. A low, siding-clad perimeter wall lies at the south. It supports a multi-pane glazed enclosure as well as a single square box column with a molded base and capital. The porch is accessed via three newer concrete steps. The entry is ornamented with a ball and spindle rail. The door, located on the east wall (rear), is of the same period as the house, with a single pane of glass and wood paneling above and below. A polygonal bay window with three 1/1 wood sashes with lamb's tongues lies to the north of the porch. It and the porch are visually joined by a frieze with dentils and a flaring pent roof clad in fishscale shingles. The second story of the façade has two 1/1 vinyl sash windows that are placed between the flared pent roof and a frieze board. The front gable, located at the north end of the façade, is pedimented and accented with varied imbrication. Its four-pane wood sash window is topped by a trim board and dentils, with more imbrication at the gable's apex. The main roof's gablet lies to its south. It is accented with imbrication as well. The south elevation includes a slightly projecting gable-end. It is detailed in the same manner as the front gable, with a full pediment and imbrication. A blocked coal chute appears to puncture the stone foundation at the base of the projection. The windows on this elevation are a combination of 1/1 vinyl sashes and 1/1 wood sashes with lamb's tongues. The north elevation appears to have mostly vinyl replacement windows. The two-story rear addition has a period paneled door on its south side, apparently confirming the first floor's original status. The windows are 1/1 wood sashes. The upper story, accessed via a wooden exterior stair attached to the east has narrow, horizontally oriented 1/1 wood sashes (east) that are more typical of the post-WWII era, as well as a larger 6/6 opening (south).

The plan appears to have only slight alterations. There is no discernable alteration to the original cladding. There appear to be slight alterations to the original windows. Due to the level of integrity of the original building, this resource would be considered contributing to the historic district.

Statement of Significance: The house at 2000 H Street is located in the Lettered Streets neighborhood. This resource was built circa 1900. This construction date was derived principally from physical evidence and Sanborn maps.

According to Deed indexes, the property (lots 1-8) was deeded from William A. Utter to Charles Cissna (Deed Book 49, page 274) on July 27, 1898. Cissna transferred the ownership to his business, the Home Security Savings Bank on July 10, 1902, along with all of the lots on this block (1-8). According to Chicago Title's tract books, the Home Security Savings Bank owned the property through 1909.

The 1902 city directory lists David E. Lain, patent attorney, as a resident at this address. Also listed in that year is his wife, Adena. David Lain came to Whatcom in 1901, and was also an electrical engineer who graduated from Cornell University (Roth, 838-41).

The tract books list the sale of the property by the Home Security Savings Bank in June 1909 to Julia K. Brand. However, according to the Fairhaven Times the Brands bought the house in 1903: "Mr. and Mrs. George E. Brand have bought the handsome Cissna residence at the corner of H and 20th streets, Whatcom" (Fairhaven Times, 5/16/1903). George E. Brand and family moved to the house from J Street and are listed at the address from 1903 to 1912 in city directories.

Mr. Brand was a wholesale grocer on Railroad Avenue. He eventually went in with P.P. Lee as the Pacific Grocery Company, building the Pacific Block on Elk Street in 1909. Brand was bought out by Lee and started the Bellingham Investment Company.

The Brand family continued to own the house through 1917, apparently renting it out for five years before selling to Thomas Stockham. Thomas Stockham is not listed at the address during the two years of his ownership. Mr. Stockham sold the property to Clarence Pride in December 1919.

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Occupants during this period of rental include Louis A. Swem, a sawyer, and wife Edith, listed as householders in 1913, along with George L. Swem, also a sawyer; Norman F. Swem, a helper at Munroe and Haskell; Maybelle Conklin, a teacher at Washington school and Mrs. Jessie N. Priest, a high school teacher, all residing. In 1914 Albert C. and Pauline A. Grimes were the householders, with Geraldine and Paul Grimes residing. Mr. Grimes was a missionary. Elroy M. and Belle R. Thayer took up residence in 1915-16. Mr. Thayer was a salesman for A.D. Frets. In 1917 Alonzo and Elizabeth Bennet are listed at the address.

Clarence and Lois Pride are listed at the address in 1919 and 1920 in city directories. According to the block books, they owned the house between 1920 and 1923. Mr. Pride was a sawyer for Bloedel Donovan Lumber Mills. Between 1922 and 1923 Clarence Pride sold the property to F.H. Dillabaum, who in turn sold to A. Strandell. Occupants of the house between 1921 and 1923 remain unknown. In 1924-25 A. Strandell sold the property to O.A. Brock. Ora Albert Brock, a contractor, and wife Myrtle lived in the house between 1924 and 1926, as well as Lulu Cozier, a deputy county auditor. Mr. Brock was born in Dallas, TX, in 1879, and learned the carpenter trade before coming to Washington in 1905 (Roth, Vol II, 580-81). O.A. Brock built at least ten houses in the South Hill neighborhood in the late 1920s.

The house continued to see a high turnover of various occupants in the years that followed. Henry J. Adema, a salesman, and wife Lucille A. lived in the house in 1929. In 1931 William C. Rae, a baker, and wife Victoria H. are listed as the householders, with Mrs. Violet V. Gurney, Marjorie K. and Stella Gurney all residing. The house is listed as vacant in 1933. John R. Walters, a mill worker for Bloedel Donovan Lumber Mills, and wife Ella lived in the house in 1934. In 1935 Mrs. Rowena E. LaPlant occupied the house along with John and Juanita Forrest. Mr. Forrest was a window trimmer. The house was vacant in 1936.

Around 1937 the house may have been divided into apartments, as three to four distinct occupancies appear in city directories after this time. In 1940 the house was occupied by Mrs. Ethel Smith, a seamstress; Mrs. Lucile Boyer, widow of Fred; and Ralph Nesmith, a bus operator for Bellingham Transit Company, with wife Evelyn. John M. Starnes, a policeman, Darlene Starnes, an usher at the Mount Baker Theater, and Elmer Manning lived in the house in 1941 and 1942. Mrs. Juliet B. Meachem was a long term occupant between 1947 and at least 1960, as was Mrs. Lillian C. Downs, widow of Ernest, listed between circa 1948 and 1955.

Due to the level of integrity of the building, coupled with the building's history, this resource is considered contributing to the Cissna Historic District.

2004 H STREET

Parcel Code: 380330068530

Date of Construction: 1999

District Contribution: Non-Historic Non-Contributing

Secondary Bldgs: Contributing: 0 Non-Contributing: 0

Physical Description: This resource was built in 1999 as a Habitat for Humanity project. The house is a one-story, front-gabled rectangle. It is clad in T1-11 siding with lap siding in the gables. Windows are vinyl, foundation is poured concrete. It has a small gabled entry porch on the front and an identical one on the rear. The house is incongruous to the architecture of the block. It is on the same lot as one of the former Cissna Cottages and had been removed prior to 1999.

Statement of Significance: This resource was not surveyed as it was built in 1999 (according to the Whatcom County Assessor) as a Habitat for Humanity project; therefore, the resource is considered non-historic, non-contributing to the historic district.

2006 H STREET

Parcel Code: 380330070533

Date of Construction: c. 1900

Historic Name: Forbes, Robert and Elizabeth, House

District Contribution: Contributing

Secondary Bldgs: Contributing: 0 Non-Contributing: 0

Physical Description: The house at 2006 H Street, one of the "Cissna Cottages," is located in the Lettered Streets neighborhood. The house is midblock facing northwest. It was built circa 1900 in the Queen Anne Cottage Style and was used historically as a single family house. The house has a rectangular plan and stands on a stone foundation. The 1.5-story building has a cross gable roof clad with composition shingles. A corbelled brick chimney sits at the center of the rear gable. The roof has a boxed

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eave and diminutive eave return formed by a flaring bargeboard with cornice molding. The primary wall cladding is wood lap siding finished with corner boards and a frieze. The gables are accented with coved and hexagonal shingles. A belt course with dentils marks the transition from the primary cladding to the imbricated gables.

The front gable is slightly offset to the south, with an entry porch nested between it and the north gable. A hipped pleat extends from the north side of the front gable and forms a vestibule behind the porch. The porch roof is gabled and features imbrication and a frieze with dentils. It is supported by a turned post at its north corner. The entry is accessed via four wood steps with a simple wood rail at the north. The north side of the porch is bounded by a turned wood balustrade. The front door is of the same period as the house and features a single pane of glass above a shelf and wood paneling. The front gable and north gable ends are chamfered, without brackets. The south and rear gables merely project. The principal window type is 1/1 wood sash with hood molding and lamb's tongues. The plan, cladding and windows all appear to have no discernable alterations. Due to the level of integrity of the original building, this resource would be considered contributing to the historic district.

Statement of Significance: The house at 2006 H Street is located in the Lettered Streets neighborhood. This resource was built circa 1900. This construction date was derived principally from physical evidence and Sanborn maps.

According to Deed indexes, the property (lots 1-8) was deeded from William A. Utter to Charles Cissna (Deed Book 49, page 274) on July 27, 1898. On July 10, 1902, Charles Cissna and wife deeded all of the lots on this block (1-8) to his Home Security Savings Bank, of which he was president. Chicago Title's tract books show the Home Security Savings Bank selling the property to the Home Loan Company, another Cissna family business venture, in November 1905.

The earliest known occupant of this house was Norman R. Messerly, of the printing firm Dunton and Messerly, in 1904. In 1905 Robert G. Galbraith, a comp (possibly a comptometer) for the Reveille, is listed at the address. Hiram M. Cade, a jailer at the city jail, is listed in 1906, along with Marvin Cade, a student, and Richard E. Cade, a clerk for LDP Collins, both boarding. Ray Cissna, eldest son of Charles Cissna and secretary for the Home Loan Company, is listed as the householder in 1907 and 1908. Ray would build his own residence in 1909, the large "Ray Cissna House" at 2010 Eldridge.

The Home Loan Company sold the property to Robert Forbes in October 1908. In 1909 Robert Forbes is listed as the householder in the city directory. Lizzie M. Tack was the domestic for the Forbes in 1909.

Forbes is listed at the house on and off through 1915 in city directories along with various other occupants. Arthur E. Yeoman, a traveling salesman, boarded at the residence in 1910 and his wife, Elizabeth Yeoman, was employed as the Forbes domestic. Howard E. Mills, an electrician for Rives and Clark, lived in the house with wife Mildred in 1911. Mr. Mills went on to establish an electrical company that is still in business today in Bellingham. Robert Forbes is listed again in 1912 with wife Elizabeth, remaining at the house through 1915. Forbes is listed as the superintendent for the Pacific American Fisheries cannery during this time. Elizabeth Yeoman is listed as a domestic for the Forbes in 1914. In 1915 Arthur H. Tatman, a salesman, and wife Emma are listed as residing with the Forbes at the address. In 1916 the Tatmans are listed without the Forbes. Robert Forbes is listed as the taxpayer on the lot through 1924-25, when he sold to Arthur Watts.

Mr. Watts is listed as the taxpayer through at least 1929, though he doesn't appear to have lived at the house. Between 1924 and 1931 Allen W. Hibbard (also spelled Hibberd) and wife Alma were the occupants. Mr. Hibbard was a carman for Puget Sound Power and Light Company. In 1933 Lewis D. Underhill is listed as the householder.

Henry L. Siegel, a shingleweaver, lived in the house with wife Tressa between 1934 and 1938. George and Hazel Martin lived there between 1939 and 1941. Mr. Martin was a pitman for Puget Sound Power and Transit Company. Wiliard M. Bookter, of the U.S. army, and wife Eileen are listed at the address in 1942. Charles and Della Schwinn were the householders circa 1945. Mr. Schwinn worked for R & S Food Store. In 1947 Sylvester and Ethel Kentch are listed as the homeowners. In 1948 Mrs. Bertha L. Herrin, widow of Walter and a laundress at St. Luke's General Hospital, is listed as the owner. Everett R. and Winifred Compton occupied the house circa 1950 through at least 1960. Mr. Compton was a driver for Model Truck and Storage. Mrs. Winifred Compton worked in television promotion for KVOS.

Due to the level of integrity of the building, coupled with the building's history, this resource is considered contributing to the Cissna Historic District.

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Parcel Code: 380330073535
Date of Construction: c. 1900
Historic Name: Olson, H.M. and Margaret, House
District Contribution: Contributing
Secondary Bldgs: Contributing: 0 Non-Contributing: 0

Physical Description: The house at 2010 H Street is located in the Lettered Streets neighborhood. It is one of several "Cissna Cottages" located on the same block bounded by H, Halleck, G, and Girard Streets. The house is midblock facing roughly west. It was built circa 1900 in the Queen Anne Cottage style. The house has a cruciform plan and stands on a stone foundation. The two-story building has a cross-gable roof clad in composition shingles. The primary wall cladding is wood lap with wood shingle accents. Trim elements include a water table and cap, corner boards, frieze boards, rake boards with molding, and bargeboards with cornice molding. The bargeboards flare at the open eaves and combine with the fascia give an impression of boxed eaves. The principal window type is 1/1 wood sash with lamb's tongues.

The entry porch is nested between the front and south gable ends. It has a small, front-facing pediment with imbrication. A turned post supports the roof structure at its south corner. The south edge of the porch is bounded by a railing with turned balusters. Three wood steps lead up to the wood deck and the period front door. It has a large square pane of glass with wood paneling above and below. A large 1/1 front window with hood molding is centered in the wall to the north of the porch. The windows above it are paired 1/1 sashes. They terminate in a trim board with dentil molding that marks the transition to the imbricated gable apex. The apexes of the side gables are ornamented with simpler molding and square shingles. A one-story service porch is nested into the area between the south and rear gables. There are two brick chimneys. One emerges from the ridge toward the front of the gable's intersection and is corbelled. The other emerges from the south slope of the rear gable, near the ridge.

There is no discernable alteration to the original plan, cladding, or windows. Due to the level of integrity of the original building, this resource would be considered contributing to the historic district.

Statement of Significance: The house at 2010 H Street is located in the Lettered Streets neighborhood. This resource was built circa 1900. This construction date was derived principally from physical evidence and Sanborn maps. This house has featured a high turnover of occupants.

According to Deed indexes, the property (lots 1-8) was deeded from William A. Utter to Charles Cissna (Deed Book 49, page 274) on July 27, 1898. On July 10, 1902, Charles Cissna and wife deeded all of the lots on this block (1-8) to his Home Security Savings Bank, of which he was president.

The earliest known occupants of the house are the Olson family, listed at this address between 1902 and 1903. H.M. Olson, a filer, and wife Margaret are listed along with J. Edward and Harry Olson, both of Olson Lumber Company. Also residing at the house during those years are Earl E. Richards, a court stenographer, and wife Lucy. By 1905 William J. Barrett, a blacksmith for the Bellingham Bay & British Columbia Railway, lived at the house with Mrs. Mary Barrett, a waiter at J.J. Conway.

Charles Cissna's Home Security Savings Bank transferred the property along with neighboring lot 8, to the Home Loan Company, another Cissna family enterprise, in 1906. Orville W. Ames, president-manager of Excelsiar [sic] Carbide and Gas Machine Company is listed as the householder in 1906, with Hazell Ames and Harry J. Ames, a plumber for Morse Hardware, boarding.

In October 1907 the Home Loan Company deeded the property with neighboring lot 8, to Mary Barrett, however, no Barrett family members are listed on H Street in city directories at this time.

In 1910 painter George W. Ryckman occupied the house, and in 1911 Eli and Rachel Bean were the householders. The Edward S. Alley family occupied the house during 1913, including wife Cora, Claude W. Alley, a student, Leigh E. Alley, a clerk at the Leader, as well as Mrs. Catharine Porter, a book agent, all residing. Clayton S. and Inez M. Teel occupied the house in 1914.

In 1915 Charles E. Bell, a traveling salesman, and wife Grace lived in the house. Charles E. Bell is listed as the taxpayer on the lot through 1920. In 1916, the house was occupied by Joseph S. Houghton, foreman for the Bellingham Herald, and wife Margaret, as well as their daughter Myrtle R. Houghton, a teacher. Henry Borchardt, a linotype operator for the Herald, resided with the Houghtons in the house between 1916-19.

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Michael J. and Camilla Cashion purchased the house from Charles Bell in 1920. Mr. Cashion was an insurance agent, a teacher, and a scout executive for the Boy Scouts of America. M.J. Cashion owned the property through at least 1929, however, the couple was only listed at the address through 1924.

Lewis D. and Louena B. Underhill occupied the house between 1928 and 1932. The house was vacant in 1933. John and Ingeborg Severson lived in the house between 1934 and 1949. In 1950 D.E. Smith and wife Esther are listed as the householders. Mr. Smith worked for Sears Roebuck and Company. Mrs. Edythe F. Starnes is listed as the homeowner in the 1952 city directory. Richard I. Jensen, a clerk for the City Water Department, lived at the house with wife Carmen circa 1955-60.

Due to the level of integrity of the building, coupled with the building's history, this resource is considered contributing to the Cissna Historic District.

2012 H STREET

Parcel Code: 380330075538

Date of Construction: c. 1899

District Contribution: Contributing

Secondary Bldgs: Contributing: 0 Non-Contributing: 1

Physical Description: The house at 2012 H Street (historically also addressed at 2014 H) is located in the Lettered Streets neighborhood. The house is on a corner lot facing northwest. It was built in 1899 (according to the County Assessor) in the Queen Anne style and is one of the "Cissna Cottages." Historically and presently, it is a single-family house, but the 1950 Sanborn maps show that it was also used as a two-unit dwelling. The house has an irregular plan and stands on a stone foundation. The transition from the foundation to the exterior walls is marked by a water table and cap. The 2.5-story building has a hip roof with secondary gables on the front, north, and rear. A two story shed roofed volume is attached to the rear. Based on Sanborn maps, this volume was only one-story in height as late as 1950. The roof is clad in composition shingles, with a boxed eave trimmed with a frieze board. The gables have pent roofs and diminutive eave returns formed by flared bargeboards and cornice molding. There are two brick chimneys, one on the center ridge and the other towards the rear. The original wood lap siding is the primary cladding and is supplemented by coved, hexagonal, and fishscale shingles in the secondary gables. In addition to the imbrication, the gables are ornamented with possibly newer fretwork at the peaks. The principal window type throughout the house is 1/1 wood sash with lamb's tongues and hood moldings. Exceptions include a stained glass window in the front gable's pediment. The entry is located to the north of the front gable. Originally and open recessed porch with turned posts, it was enclosed somewhat recently. The infill, inserted above a lap siding clad bulkhead, consists of large sheets of glass separated by mullions and with a square post at the corner. The entry into the porch, located toward its south end, consists of newer wood steps with a wood railing of simple balusters. The entry into the house lies near the north corner. This door dates to roughly the same period as the house, with a single pane of glass in the upper half and wood paneling below. A polygonal bay lies to the south of the south of the porch. The windows on its three sides are 1/1 wood sashes with lamb's tongues. It is topped by a flaring pent roof clad in fishscale shingles that extends to the north corner. The frieze below the boxed pent roof eave includes dentil molding. The plan appears to have only slight alterations. There is no discernable alteration to the original cladding or windows. Due to the level of integrity of the original building, this resource would be considered contributing to the historic district.

Facing roughly north and opening up onto Halleck Street is an eaveless, one-car garage dating to post-1950 based on Sanborn maps. It has T1-11 over its garage opening and on its east side. The gable above the filled-in door is clad in horizontal lumber. The rest of the building is clad in shiplap.

Statement of Significance: The house at 2012 H Street is located in the Lettered Streets neighborhood. According to the Whatcom County Assessor's office, this resource was built in 1899. This construction date is supported by Sanborn maps and physical evidence. This house was formerly addressed 2014 H Street.

According to Deed indexes, the property (lots 1-8) was deeded from William A. Utter to Charles Cissna (Deed Book 49, page 274) on July 27, 1898. On July 10, 1902, Charles Cissna and wife deeded all of the lots on this block (1-8) to his Home Security Savings Bank. The Home Security Savings Bank transferred the property along with neighboring lot 7 to the Home Loan Company, another Cissna family enterprise, in 1906.

Several boarders are listed at the address in the 1905 Bellingham city directory: Frank C. Doig, a telegraph editor at the Puget Sound American; William T. Prosser, the editor of the Puget Sound American and son of William F. Prosser, author of "History of

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Puget Sound Country"; and George B. Smith, a city ticket agent for the Great Northern Railway.

According to Chicago Title's tract books, P.C. and Dora Smith deeded the property to Albert Pettit in November 1915. Albert Pettit is listed as the taxpayer on the lot between 1918 and 1921, when it transferred to Katherine L. Jamieson. Ms. Jamieson is listed through 1928-29, when she sold to O.A. Brock, who then sold to Nora M. Moody. None of these names were found listed in the city directories at the address. Occupants of the house during the 1910s and 1920s remain unknown.

Separate listings are found for 2012 and 2014 H Street in the reverse address directories after 1931. In 1931 Herbert L. Howard, a clerk at the Olympic Billiard Academy, is listed as the householder at 2012 H with wife Gertrude M. Jonas Triggve, a fisherman, and wife Solvig, are also listed as householders at 2012 H Street during that year. 2014 H is listed as vacant.

In 1932 Fay Matthews is listed as the householder at 2012 H, with Louise Matthews, a beauty operator at the Rockwood Beauty Shoppe. 2014 H is listed as vacant. 2012 H is listed as vacant in 1933, and Henry Richard is listed at 2014 H Street.

Robert W. Farmer, a baker at Model Baking Company is listed with wife Olive at 2012 H in 1934 and 1935. Andrew and Lettie Aadland were at 2014 during those years. Mr. Aadland was employed as a watchman.

In 1936 Moses E. and Helen Bird resided at 2012 H Street, and William E. and Sadie Slater were at 2014 H. Mr. Slater was employed as a loader at Bloedel Donovan Lumber Mills. In 1937 Moses Bird moved over to 2014 H and left 2012 vacant. In 1938 and 1939 Sardie S. Olney occupied 2012 H Street. John Severson is listed at 2014 H in 1938, however, this may be a misprint, as he lived at 2010 H Street at this time, and in 1939 Moses Bird is again listed at 2014.

James H. and Anna J. Bartlett were the occupants of 2012 in 1940, and 2014 was vacant. 2012 was vacant in 1941 and 1942. Various other occupants are listed at 2014 in the 1940s. Leonard Burchett, a logger, and wife Bertha, lived at the house circa 1945.

Oscar Harry Bolin, a salesman for Thiel and Welter Inc., and wife Alice S. are listed as owners and householders at 2012 between 1947 and 1950, with Dorothy Bolin, a clerk at Hindman's Inc., residing. 2014 had various occupancies during this time. Ansgar E. Pors, a fisherman, and wife Marie K. were the occupants of 2012 between 1954 and 1956. Calvin Foster occupied 2012 in 1957. Larry Bye and Mrs. Mary Payton lived at 2014 H Street that year. By 1960 the address was consolidated to 2012 H Street, which is listed as vacant, and 2014 is not listed.

Due to the level of integrity of the building, coupled with the building's history, this resource is considered contributing to the Cissna Historic District.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Period of Significance

The period of significance for the Cissna Cottages Historic District is defined as 1888 to 1904. This period begins with the first house built on Block 189 of the Supplemental Map of Whatcom Plat in 1888 and ends with the last Cissna Cottage built on the block in 1904. The period of significance spans the construction dates of nine of the ten houses within the district boundary, excluding only one non-historic, non-contributing house built in 1999.

Summary

The Cissna Cottages Historic District is eligible for the National Register under *Criterion B: Association with Important Persons* as an intact, tangible representation of Charles Cissna's contribution to the housing history of Bellingham. Though he was responsible for the construction of several commercial buildings, the Cissna Cottages Historic District is the only single-family residential block he developed. So strong was Cissna's association with these houses that they have continually been known as the "Cissna Cottages" since their construction more than a century ago. Over time, Charles Cissna and his family lived in two of the houses on the block. Other prominent Bellingham figures involved in the creation of the buildings include William A. "Billy" Utter, the owner of the lots before Cissna, and Marion C. Latta, Bellingham's first prominent architect/builder and a city mayor.

The district is also eligible under *Criterion C: Architecture* as an area that represents the work of master craftsmen and possesses the high artistic qualities of a turn-of-the-century residential development in Bellingham. While it is surmised that the house designs may have been derived from a pattern book, the collection stands out as a cohesive district representing the tenets of the Queen Anne style, exhibiting all the expected ornate characteristics common during the last years of the 19th Century.

Plats and Streets

The Cissna Cottages are located in the Lettered Streets Neighborhood, named for the series of streets "A" through "J." The neighborhood grew up from the site of Bellingham's origins at the mouth of Whatcom Creek on the northeast shore of Bellingham Bay. The neighborhood is distinctive for its street grid platted parallel to the bay, in contrast to the cardinal layout of the surrounding neighborhoods.

The land on which the Lettered Streets Neighborhood sits includes the original donation claims of Henry Roeder and Russell Peabody, as well as a small corner of the Page Donation Land Claim. Roeder's land claim includes the triangular area extending from Broadway and Holly Streets, up Broadway to Girard, then cuts straight south down to Roeder and C Streets, following the shoreline back up to Broadway. The largest portion of the Lettered Streets Neighborhood lies on Peabody's claim and includes the area bordered by Broadway north from Girard to North Street, east on North Street to Cornwall Avenue, south on Cornwall to Kearney Street, where it jogs to the west to Jenkins and B, then back south to where Whatcom Creek and Girard Street intersect. The small portion along Cornwall Avenue including all of New Street, and parts of Young, A and B Streets as well as the southeast ends of Irving and Halleck, fall on the Page Donation Land Claim. All but this strip was originally part of the first town plat on Bellingham Bay.

The town of Whatcom was platted by Alonzo Poe in 1858 and filed by Roeder and Peabody that same year. On November 13, 1885, a Supplemental Map of the town of Whatcom was also filed. These two documents

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together “shaped the heart of Bellingham” and set the property lines for the present Lettered Streets Neighborhood (Vintage Bellingham Neighborhood Preservation Project, 1980). Streets in the neighborhood were platted parallel to Bellingham Bay, while in the newer section of Whatcom beyond Broadway the plats resumed a north-south and east-west grid pattern. The streets were originally numbered from 8th Street out on the tide flats to 28th Street, but the names were changed at the time of consolidation in 1903 to avoid confusion with the town of Fairhaven, which also had numbered streets. What is now called West Holly Street was originally 13th Street. Today the streets northeast of Holly are named alphabetically beginning with Astor, followed by Bancroft and Clinton (formerly 14th, 15th, and 16th, respectively). The “lettered” streets running northeast uphill from the bay retained their original names. The numbered streets were changed to the Astor through Morris arrangement, named primarily after men who served in the Union during the Civil War.

The Lettered Streets Neighborhood initially grew from the mouth of Whatcom Creek, along the bay’s shoreline and filling in to the northeast. This expansion happened rapidly, with homes built between 1880 and 1900 found scattered throughout the entire neighborhood. Demolition and infill over time has increasingly brought newer buildings to the “lower” end of the lettered streets, southwest of Dupont Street, while the upper, residential area to the northeast has seen more gradual infill of primarily single family dwellings.

Streetcar Lines

In the Lettered Streets trolley routes were an important factor shaping the neighborhood’s development, as major investments, including the Cissna Cottages, were made along streetcar arterials. The Bellingham Bay Electric Street Railway was formed in 1890, with construction of the first line beginning in late summer of that year and service beginning in 1891. This line connected the towns of New Whatcom (Sehome) and Whatcom, via Holly Street (then named 13th Street) and helped lead to the consolidation of the towns, which collectively became “New Whatcom.”

Other electric railway companies soon sprouted, including the Lake Whatcom Electric Railway, which in 1891 installed a line through the Lettered Streets running north and west from the southern boundary of New Whatcom via Garden, Maple, Forest, Chestnut, Dock (renamed Cornwall Avenue), 24th (now Kearney), G, 16th (now Clinton), Elizabeth and Monroe Streets, allowing workers to commute from residential “streetcar suburbs” to the downtown central business district.

The streetcar line followed Clinton Street past the site of the First Congregational Church (currently the Bellingham Theatre Guild), which was built at that site in 1903 to take advantage of the trolley service – unfortunately just before the line was discontinued. The 1897 Sanborn map shows a “street railway trestle” running from the middle of the block between I, H and G Streets. In 1904, the trestle is still shown and the area next to the church is labeled “impassable.” The 1913 Sanborn map shows this portion of Clinton Street as a “planked walk.” Today it is part of the Old Village Trail and the parking lot of the Bellingham Theatre Guild.

The line was in competition with another Holly Street line. As the company changed ownership several times use of the line was discontinued, first briefly in the mid-1890s and then permanently in 1903, when Whatcom County Railway and Light constructed a new “Court House” line. This new line ran from West Holly to Prospect Street and entered the neighborhood on Prospect across Whatcom Creek onto Ellsworth. The line took a right off Ellsworth onto G Street, then turned left onto Girard by the Cissna Cottages, continued on Girard and crossed Broadway onto Meridian stopping at Monroe. In 1913, the line was extended to Illinois Street.

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The "Main Line" ran through the neighborhood down Holly Street and was the busiest, with large streetcars running on 15 minute service, connecting the residential Eldridge neighborhood with downtown and continuing all the way to Harris Avenue in Fairhaven (Turbeville 1976; Jewell 2008). The land owned by William "Billy" Utter was located in convenient proximity to streetcar lines. For Charles Cissna this was no doubt added incentive to acquire the land and build a fashionable development geared to businessmen like him, who could take the streetcar to their downtown offices.

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In July 1898 an entrepreneur from Indiana, Charles Cissna, purchased land in the heart of the Lettered Streets neighborhood. Cissna bought the 2000 block between G and H Streets from William A. "Billy" Utter – the only house on the site at the time being Utter's at 2007 G Street. The Utter House was built in 1888 for William A. "Billy" Utter, son of pioneer Captain William A. Utter. Captain William A. Utter was born in 1810 in New York, and on the Great Lakes learned the trades of machinist, millwright and shipwright, skills that were sorely needed in the early town of Whatcom. With Henry Roeder, Captain Utter set up and operated the saw mill on Whatcom Creek beginning in 1853. In 1854 Utter received a donation claim of 159 acres. His wife and son Billy arrived in the area in 1869.

After his father's death in 1887, Billy Utter took over management of the family property, selling the Utter Donation Claim in July 1888 – an area that became known as the York Addition. Billy took the profits from this sale and built his house at 2007 G Street. The rest of the block was his orchard. The Utter house was designed by Marion C. Latta, Bellingham Bay's first prominent architect/builder, who also served as the Mayor of Whatcom in 1889. The house was described in one of the local newspapers, the *Reveille*: "No other building in Whatcom County so completely embraces the requirements of a comfortable home as does this residence. There are two full stories—nine main rooms—hard finish—wide cornices—brick chimneys—painted in cream—trimmed in darker colors—cost \$3,500" (Roth, Vol I, 351).

Marion C. Latta was born in 1845 in East Palestine, Ohio. He attended public school in Ohio and worked on the railroad, in coal mining and in farming as a young man before taking up the carpenter's and builder's trade in 1875. At that time he moved west to Seattle, where he was "connected with building interests" and was elected master of St. John Lodge, the oldest and largest Masonic lodge in Seattle (*Bellingham Herald*, 12/9/1924). In 1883 he arrived in the town of Whatcom (Prosser, Vol 2, 265).

Marion Latta's career as an early Whatcom architect and builder is limited to a half-dozen known wood frame structures. His first known building in Whatcom is the Harry Austin House that still stands at 1504 Washington Street. As reported in the *Whatcom Reveille* on April 25, 1884: "Harry Austin and sons have completed one of the most commodious residences in the north part of the city. The main building is 20x30 feet, two stories high, with kitchen 16x24. The building contains nine rooms, and is furnished in a first-class, workmanlike manner. M.C. Latta was the architect and builder. This new residence fronts upon the city park."

Latta also received several commercial commissions. These include the First Bank of Whatcom (also known as the Phelps & Van Wyck Building and later the Purdy Opera House) built at the southwest corner of C and 13th (later West Holly) Streets in 1884-85. This two-story commercial block was the most substantial building in Whatcom for the next four years. Latta is also credited by the *Whatcom Reveille*, July 13, 1888, as being the builder-architect of The [Lew] Stenger Hotel on 13th and B Streets (now 606 West Holly). The largest structure credited to Latta was the three-story Bellingham Hotel on 13th Street (now West Holly) adjacent the

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Colony Wharf. Built in 1888-89 for John Stenger (Lew's brother), the Bellingham Hotel was Whatcom's premier hostelry and showplace. Decades later, during a remodel of the Bellingham Hotel, the *Bellingham Reveille* on February 2, 1926, recalled that "The Bellingham [Hotel]... was built by the late M.C. Latta from selected timber. It was constructed as carefully as a ship. Finished in 1890, it was long known as one of the most modern hotels in the state." Combined, these Latta-produced buildings were the most significant commercial structures in Whatcom at the eve of the early-1890s Railroad Boom. None of these buildings remain today.

As well as being responsible for the construction of the Billy Utter House, which "for many years [was] considered the most palatial home on Bellingham Bay" (Prosser, Vol 2, 265), Latta was long identified with Whatcom County politics. He was involved in the organization of the government of the old town of Whatcom in 1884 and served on the first city council. He was elected mayor in 1889, county commissioner in 1890, and went on to serve in other civic positions over the years. Twice he ran for the state legislature but lost. In 1924, at age 80, Marion C. Latta passed away at his home on Williams Street.

Billy Utter was the proprietor of the Whatcom Iron Works in 1890. Utter's wife Etta died in 1891, and in 1898 Utter left Bellingham for Nebraska and sold his house and the surrounding land to Charles Cissna, who soon after began to build his "cottages" where the orchards had been. The August 3, 1898 issue of the *Reveille* said, "Charles Cissna is moving into his new home, the Utter homestead, this week." According to the federal census from 1900, Billy Utter was living with his in-laws and daughter in Nebraska by that time. Utter returned to Bellingham for a period of time, then went back to Nebraska where he died in the 1920s.

Charles Cissna was born in 1860 in Indiana, most likely in Westchester Township, Porter County. His parents were Charles and Mary Jane (Higgins) Cissna, both natives of Ohio but of French ancestry. According to a sister's obituary, family lore had it that his great-grandfather, also named Charles Cissna, came to this country from France with the Marquis de Lafayette in 1777 (Obituary: Mrs. Anna Meyers, 1951). Charles' mother apparently died around 1869, leaving Charles Cissna Sr. with several young children. According to family recollections, Charles Senior was in poor health and felt he had not long to live, and placed the youngest three children with families "with the understanding that they should work for their support until they were of age." These three youngest Cissna siblings ended up in Michigan. It seems likely that Charles Cissna Jr. lived periodically with his older siblings after his father's death. The elder sister closest to Charles in age, Sarah Jane, is thought to have died young. In the 1880 U.S. Federal Census, at age 19 Charles Cissna is listed twice as living with his older brothers, Robert in Westchester township, and John in Michigan City, La Porte County, Indiana. Charles Cissna is listed both times as working as a house painter, which was also his brother John's occupation. Brother Robert is listed as working in a brickyard.

Charles Cissna was married to his first wife Maud in Michigan City, Indiana, where their eldest son, Ray Cissna was born in October 1882. Both Charles and his brother John and their families went to the Dakota Territory soon after. Charles, Maud and Ray are listed in Redfield, Spink County, Dakota Territory in the 1885 Territorial Census. By 1889 brother John Cissna and family relocated to Pierce County, Washington, where they are listed in a Washington State and Territorial Census, with John Cissna again identified as a house painter.

According to his obituary, Charles Cissna "engaged in merchandising" in Redfield, Dakota, however the 1885 census again shows him also working as a "painter." Charles Cissna's obituary described his coming to Whatcom County:

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“Advised by doctors to leave South Dakota if he wanted to live, Mr. Cissna arrived in Fairhaven on crutches in 1890, and according to his own words, recovered health immediately. He continued to enjoy good health up to the time he left Bellingham fifty-seven years later. Cissna brought his family, merchandise and furniture to Bellingham Bay after hearing glowing reports regarding Fairhaven from a brother, and in order to obtain a large household railroad car to move his possessions he had to have livestock. Thus an \$8 cow named Pansy made the trip with the Cissnas. Mr. Cissna operated a store at Fairhaven for four years and then moved to New Whatcom, at Bay and Holly streets, where he built the pioneer Fair Department store.” (*Bellingham Herald*, 4/27/1948)

In the 1890 Speirs Fairhaven directory, “C. Cissna” is listed as a “sign painter” with business headquarters on Harris Avenue and residing on 2nd Street. Likewise, his brother John is listed as a “sign painter” in the 1890 Polk Fairhaven Directory, residing on Mill Avenue between 13th and 14th Streets. At some point soon after Charles Cissna made a career change, opening the Fair Department Store which he operated for a few years in Fairhaven in the “Detrich block on McKenzie Avenue” then relocated to the Waldron Block, which was damaged by fire in 1893. In January 1893, Cissna had moved the Fair to a building at Bay and Holly Street. According to his obituary:

“It was then, following the panic of 1893 when banks were closing and money was short, the scrip issued by him [Cissna] was circulated for money throughout the county. He bought products of the farms and timberland with the scrip, and many mills met their payrolls with the same tender. Circulation of the scrip continued from 1893 to 1900 at which time the store was sold and Mr. Cissna turned his attention to other interests. He had already erected a business structure as well as several cottages for sale” (*Bellingham Herald*, 4/27/1948).

Reportedly some workers at shingle mills in the county resented getting paid in Cissna scrip and resented Charles Cissna, whom they deemed a “shark,” feeling that he came out ahead in the depression. Historians have not necessarily viewed Cissna’s issuing of scrip as predatory, but rather as a practical response to a banking and monetary crisis. Keith A. Murray, in his book *The Story of Banking in Whatcom County*, states that Cissna “realized that banking was almost paralyzed in the area, and [was] determined to do something about it himself.” The 1890s depression occurred, unlike the 2008-09 banking crisis, in an era before government bail-outs. Thus, in Whatcom County, Cissna Scrip “circulated for a few years as a local currency in the absence of other circulating money” (Murray, 19). Cissna himself bought commodities like potatoes and shingles using cash for half of the transaction, and his scrip for the balance. He shipped the goods to Eastern markets “and made enough profit to build a modest reserve of capital for his own future operations,” (Murray, 19) which would soon include the Cissna Cottages. The Whatcom County economy began its recovery in the late 1890s.

Charles and Maud Cissna first lived in the former William “Billy” Utter house at 2007 G Street, while the “Cissna Cottages” were built surrounding them. According to deed records, the property (lots 1-8) was deeded from William A. Utter to Charles Cissna (Deed Book 49, page 274) on July 27, 1898; however, the books also show lots 1-4 as deeded from the City of New Whatcom to Charles Cissna (Deed Book 49, page 250) on July 27, 1898 and lots 5-8 coming to Cissna on a sheriff’s deed. Either way, it is clear that Charles Cissna purchased the property in July 1898. The August 3, 1898 issue of the *Whatcom Reveille* newspaper states that “Charles Cissna is moving into his new home, the Utter homestead, this week.”

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In the 1899 city directory, Charles Cissna is listed as residing at "2550 20th Street" (currently Girard Street). It is likely this 20th Street address refers to the Utter Street house at 2007 G Street, with a slight possibility that this refers to 2001 G Street, since it indeed borders what was then 20th Street, while 2007 G is located mid-block. However, the 1890 city directory describes William Utter as residing at "20th corner G" as well, indicating the use of this wording also referred to 2007 G Street, i.e. the Utter House (Van Miert, 276-77) prior to the construction of 2001 G Street. At this time (1899) the directory lists Charles Cissna as the proprietor of The Fair, his department store. It also included a listing for Kittie Clark, a clerk at The Fair, as a boarder. Kittie Clark may have been a relative of the Clark family who later lived at 2015 G Street. Charles Cissna sold The Fair in late 1899, and according to the city directory, by 1901 was in the business of "loans."

In the 1900-01 city directory, Charles Cissna is listed as residing at "G and 20th," along with Ray C. Cissna, boarding. In the corresponding 1900 Federal Census, Charles Cissna is listed at 2055 G Street, with wife Maud and sons Ray and John R. "Jack". Here Mr. Cissna is identified as a "Dry Goods Merchant." No other addresses in the 2000 block were found on the nearby census records, indicating that the address likely still referred to the Billy Utter House at what is now 2007 G Street.

In the 1901-02 directory Charles and Maud Cissna are listed for the first time as residing at 2001 G Street, which is now known as the Cissna House. On July 10, 1902, Mr. and Mrs. Cissna transferred the deeds of all the lots on this block (1-8) to his Home Security Savings Bank. In the 1902-03 Whatcom city directory Charles Cissna is listed as the President of Home Security Savings, while son Ray Cissna served as an assistant cashier for the same.

According to her obituary, Maud Cissna drew the plans for the 2001 G Street house herself (*Fairhaven Times*, 3/7/1903). However, the house's high style and lack of a known builder suggests that she may have chosen the design from a pattern book. It appears to have been somewhat customary to credit the lady of the house with "designing" her home, which in reality meant she chose the plan from a pattern book (e.g., Mrs. R.I. Morse was credited with designing the "Morse House" at 1014 North Garden Street, when in fact it was a George Barber pattern-book design). Further evidence indicating the use of a pattern book can be found in nearby Blaine, Washington. The house at 492 F Street in Blaine is an apparent duplicate of 2001 G Street (see Additional Documentation Section at the end of this nomination).

In April 1900 Charles Cissna bought additional lots to the south of Girard Street addressed at 1910 and 1914 H Street from William Utter. It is unclear whether either of the current houses already existed on the lots or if they were subsequently built by Charles Cissna. Assessor's records give build dates of 1898 for 1914 H Street and 1901 for 1910 H Street and these dates could not be further refined through research.

Brother John Cissna and his family are listed in 1900 as residing in the 1400 block of H Street, with John and son Chauncey employed as candy merchants. John Cissna and family packed up and moved to Everett briefly, but were reported by local papers to be returning to Whatcom in 1903. The John Cissna family remained in Bellingham until the 1930s when they moved to Alameda, California. Brother Robert had also come to Whatcom and is listed in the 1900 federal census as a grocery salesman and may have been working for Charles. Robert and his family later moved to Yakima, where he worked as a beekeeper.

On February 7, 1903, the *Fairhaven Times* reported that Charles' eldest son Ray Cissna was recovering from an attack of pneumonia. On February 28th it was reported that Maud was seriously ill and had been unconscious for three days. On March 7, 1903 her obituary reported:

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"Mrs. Charles Cissna died in her home at 2001 G Street, Whatcom, on Monday, March 2, at 6:45 o'clock, the result of la grippe, from which she had suffered only two weeks. She was but 38 years old at the time of her death and seemed the personification of good health. The announcement of her death was a profound shock to the community, for Mrs. Cissna was in every way a woman of gentle mood and winning personality. The many friends to whom she was dear will mourn her death deeply, for she was sweet-tempered, kind and generous. The crowning circumstance of her untimely death is that she should die just at a time when she had, by a life of trying activity, won the position in life that makes for the joy of living. She leaves a bereaved husband, president of the Home Security Savings Bank, two sons, Ray and John Cissna, the former being assistant cashier in the bank, and five sisters residing in different parts of the country.

Funeral services were held in the home of which she herself had drawn the plans and in which she anticipated enjoying the ease and comfort that had been so well earned. Here, in the parlor in which she had received friends, the final rites were rendered, the remains reclining in a magnificent couch casket, over which was a canopy of lavender chiffon.

Rev. W.A. Mackey was in charge of the service, the funeral being under the direction of George W. Mock. A very large number of friends attended the funeral and five cars were used to convey the cortege to the cemetery. Mr. and Mrs. Cissna have been residents of Fairhaven and Whatcom since 1885, when they came here from Dakota" (*Fairhaven Times*, 3/7/1903).

After her death Charles Cissna moved downtown to 312 Champion Street, selling the house at 2001 G to Benjamin H. Silver, a local realtor with a prominent office in the Sunset Building. In April 1903, the *Fairhaven Times* reported that "Mr. and Mrs. B.H. Silver have purchased the handsome and spacious Charles Cissna home on the corner of G and 20th Streets."

Two of the Cissna Cottages reportedly sold during 1903. In May 1903 the *Fairhaven Times* and the *Weekly Blade* of Whatcom newspapers reported that Mr. and Mrs. George E. Brand bought the "handsome Cissna residence at the corner of H and 20th streets." Mr. Brand was a wholesale grocer on Railroad Avenue who eventually went in with P.P. Lee as the Pacific Grocery Co. The house at 2000 H Street was the Brand House for about a decade. In August, the *Fairhaven Times* reported that "Mrs. L.P. White has purchased the Cissna cottage on G Street, between 20th and 21st, Whatcom, the consideration being \$3,300." This is actually referring to the Utter House at 2007 G, built in 1888 by Utter rather than Cissna, but where Cissna had resided while building his cottages. Mary E. White, widow of Louis P. Utter, is listed as the householder at 2007 G in 1905. Mrs. White remarried Fred Schuh, a salesman. The Schuh family occupied the house through 1945.

Charles Cissna had begun his banking endeavors in 1902, opening the Home Security Savings Bank in Whatcom in partnership with E.B. Morgan and George Burke, two experienced local bankers. In October 1903 newspapers reported that Charles Cissna gave son Ray a one-fourth interest in the Home Security Savings bank, valued at \$25,000 as a present for his 21st birthday. In 1904 Charles Cissna established the Ferndale State Bank (later to become the First National of Ferndale), which he operated for two years and then sold to H.E. Campbell. Charles Cissna sold the Home Security Savings Bank to Harry J. Welty in 1905 and with the proceeds immediately started the Home Loan Company (later to be the Cissna Loan Co.) with his son Ray and the Citizens State Bank of Lynden (later Lynden State Bank and eventually the First National Bank of Lynden) with William H. Waples. Unfortunately, Harry J. Welty turned out "to be a swindler." As Keith A. Murray describes:

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“Welty had bought the bank [Home Security Savings Bank] with an alleged ‘certified’ check which in some manner he had obtained from a bank in Pullman. It was deposited in good faith by Cissna in the Home Security Savings Bank and Welty honored drafts on Cissna’s account from the funds of the depositors. His financial juggling was successful for five years, but profits did not come in fast enough for him to keep his falsification hidden permanently. He was exposed, and as a result, Welty spent a term in the state penitentiary. Cissna, himself, lost heavily from the affair” (Murray, 29).

Charles Cissna remarried in March 1905 to Sada (Watkins) Black. Sada was the daughter of Whatcom pioneers Richard Watkins and Catharine Wright. In 1906-07 Charles Cissna is listed as the householder at 1910 H Street, however, Sada is not listed with him. Tragically, in April 1907, Charles Cissna’s younger son “Jack” died of cerebrosplinal meningitis at age 16. A third son was born to Charles and Sada, Charles R. Cissna, in February 1908. Charles and Sada moved that year to a new home at 1810 Eldridge Avenue, a spacious bungalow completed at a cost of \$10,000 (*Bellingham Herald*, 3/14/1908). That same year Charles Cissna had a new two-story brick business block built in downtown Bellingham on the northeast corner of Champion and Prospect Streets. The “Cissna Building” had as its first tenant Cissna’s Home Loan Company, which occupied the ground-floor storefront at the focal corner of 100 Prospect Street. To this day, the Cissna name is spelled in tile on the step of the street entrance to the second floor. The Home Loan Company officers were Charles Cissna, President; William H. Waples, Vice-President; and Ray Cissna, Secretary. William H. Waples, it should be noted, was a pioneer merchant of Whatcom County and proprietor of the Lynden Department Store. Besides being Charles Cissna’s business partner in a number of real estate and banking ventures, Waples was also Charles’ brother-in-law, having married Arvilla Cissna in 1900.

By 1912, Charles Cissna had recovered financially from the “Welty Affair” and attempted yet another banking venture, consolidating and organizing as the Cissna Savings Bank. When the Washington State law forbidding private banking went into effect, Cissna applied for a charter as the Cissna State Bank, but was refused. Though he remained active in the loan business, this marked the end Charles Cissna’s banking career. Cissna closed up his banking businesses and went back to operating The Fair in 1913. The Fair building was destroyed by fire on July 3, 1928. On the former site of The Fair, Cissna enlisted local architect T.F. Doan to design an eight-story apartment building called the “Apartment Hotel Charles” to be financed by the Cissna Loan Co. Completed in 1929, the “Apartment Hotel Cissna” (the finalized name) was both a transient and residential hotel which, it was hoped, could cash in on a Bellingham tourist industry that had flourished throughout the 1920s. Charles, president of his new Apartment Hotel Company, put his sons Ray and Charles R. in charge of managing the daily business details. All might have run smoothly, if not for the on-set of the Great Depression. The Cissna sons suffered through the 1930s running their father’s Apartment Hotel, but in 1940 called it quits and sold the building, which was then renamed The Mount Baker Apartments and still is known as that in 2009 at 308 West Champion Street.

Charles and Sada Cissna lived “quietly” at their house on Eldridge until their deaths, Charles in April and Sada in October of 1948.

Charles Cissna was a pioneer merchant, banker, and real estate developer in Bellingham who came to Fairhaven during the Railroad Boom of the early 1890s, lured perhaps like other ‘boomers’ by the potential of making a quick fortune. However, unlike the vast majority of those boom-era businessmen who left Bellingham Bay when the financial bubble burst in 1893, Charles Cissna stayed and endured the economic depression that followed. Indeed, Cissna’s future business endeavors, as he changed from retail merchant to real estate banker, were shaped by the impact of that depression. The economy of Whatcom County was

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based on resource extraction and the selling of commodities that required a free flow of capital. When money dried up in the mid-1890s, Cissna issued his own scrip to keep markets from freezing up entirely. With economic recovery at the turn of the century, Cissna co-founded banks in Whatcom, Ferndale and Lynden. He showed his faith in the area's recovery by investing in the construction of the "Cissna Cottages," the first well-to-do residential development of its kind in Whatcom County, at a time when local citizens were looking for a sign that the area had weathered the economic downturn. As such, the "Cissna Cottages" brought the first rays of a renewed spirit of optimism to Bellingham Bay – an optimism that culminated at the ballot box with the consolidation of Whatcom and Fairhaven as the new City of Bellingham in 1903 (Jewell, 2009).

Conclusion

The Cissna Cottages Historic District is significant as a development by an influential individual central to Bellingham's history. The Cissna development took place within a four-year period (1900-04) and was created in the popular Queen Anne style. The district is eligible for the National Register under *Criterion B* as an intact, tangible representation of Charles Cissna's impact on the city's history. This is the only single-family residential block developed by Cissna and the houses were historically, and continue to be, known as the "Cissna Cottages." The district is also eligible under *Criterion C* as an area that represents the work of master craftsmen, embodies the distinctive characteristics of the Queen Anne style, and possesses high artistic characteristics of residential development in Bellingham.

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Verbal Boundary Description

The district encompasses Block 189 and part of Block 182 of the Supplemental Map of Whatcom (1883), Whatcom County, Washington. In the City of Bellingham, starting at the intersection of Halleck Street and H Street, head southeast one block to the intersection of Halleck Street and G Street. Head southwest one block to the intersection of Girard Street and G Street. Head northwest until Block 182, Lot 8 (1914 H Street) is reached. Head southwest along the southeast property lines of Block 182, Lots 8 and 7. Head northwest along the southwest property line of Lot 7 (1910 H Street) until H Street is encountered. Head northeast on H Street to the point of origin.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries encompass a block purchased by Charles Cissna in 1898 and developed within several years. Also included are two more lots adjacent to the block that Cissna bought in 1900 and developed the following year. The houses stand out from the neighboring blocks by all being high-style Queen Annes. The physical integrity of eight of the nine Queen Annes is excellent. Charles Cissna was a major property manager in Bellingham and an important businessman, and this was his only block-sized residential development.

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ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

Sample Views

The following table is summary information for the sample views at the end of this nomination. These are photographs taken by David Pinyerd during the creation of the Cissna Cottages Historic District in Whatcom County, Washington. All photographs are 2816 x 2112 at 300ppi in TIFF format. The photo number is referenced on the Photos Map at the end of this nomination.

Photo	View Description	View Direction	Date Taken	Image Name	Ext
V1	The 2001 block of G Street looking at the three Cissna Cottages on the northwest side of the street.	north	6/12/2009	WA_WHATCOM_COUNTY_CISSNA_HD_VIEW_01	.TIF
V2	The 2001 block of G Street looking at the three Cissna Cottages on the northwest side of the street.	west	6/12/2009	WA_WHATCOM_COUNTY_CISSNA_HD_VIEW_02	.TIF
V3	The 1900 block of H Street looking at the two Cissna Cottages on the southeast side of the street.	northeast	6/12/2009	WA_WHATCOM_COUNTY_CISSNA_HD_VIEW_03	.TIF
V4	The 2000 block of H Street looking at four of the remaining five Cissna Cottages on the southeast side of the street.	northeast	6/12/2009	WA_WHATCOM_COUNTY_CISSNA_HD_VIEW_04	.TIF
V5	The 2000 block of H Street looking at four of the remaining five Cissna Cottages on the southeast side of the street.	south	6/12/2009	WA_WHATCOM_COUNTY_CISSNA_HD_VIEW_05	.TIF

Photographs

The following table is summary information for the photographs at the end of this document. This is a sampling of photographs taken by David Pinyerd during the creation of the Cissna Cottages Historic District in Whatcom County, Washington. All photographs are 2816 x 2112 at 300ppi in TIFF format. The prefix to each of the image names is "WA_WHATCOM_COUNTY_CISSNA_HD_" in the table below. The photo number is referenced on the Photos Map at the end of this nomination.

Photo	Address	Circuit	Build Date	Style	Date Taken	Image Name	Ext
1	2001 G STREET	c.	1898	Queen Anne	2/1/2008	G_STREET_2001	.TIF
2	2007 G STREET	c.	1888	Queen Anne	2/1/2008	G_STREET_2007	.TIF
3	2015 G STREET	c.	1900	Queen Anne	2/1/2008	G_STREET_2015	.TIF
4	1910 H STREET	c.	1901	Queen Anne	2/1/2008	H_STREET_1910	.TIF
5	1914 H STREET	c.	1898	Queen Anne	2/1/2008	H_STREET_1914	.TIF
6	2000 H STREET	c.	1900	Queen Anne	1/31/2008	H_STREET_2000	.TIF
7	2004 H STREET		1999	None	6/9/2009	H_STREET_2004	.TIF
8	2006 H STREET	c.	1900	Queen Anne - Cottage	1/31/2008	H_STREET_2006	.TIF

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9	2010 H STREET	c.	1900	Queen Anne - Cottage	1/31/2008	H_STREET_2010	.TIF
10	2012 H STREET	c.	1899	Queen Anne	1/31/2008	H_STREET_2012	.TIF

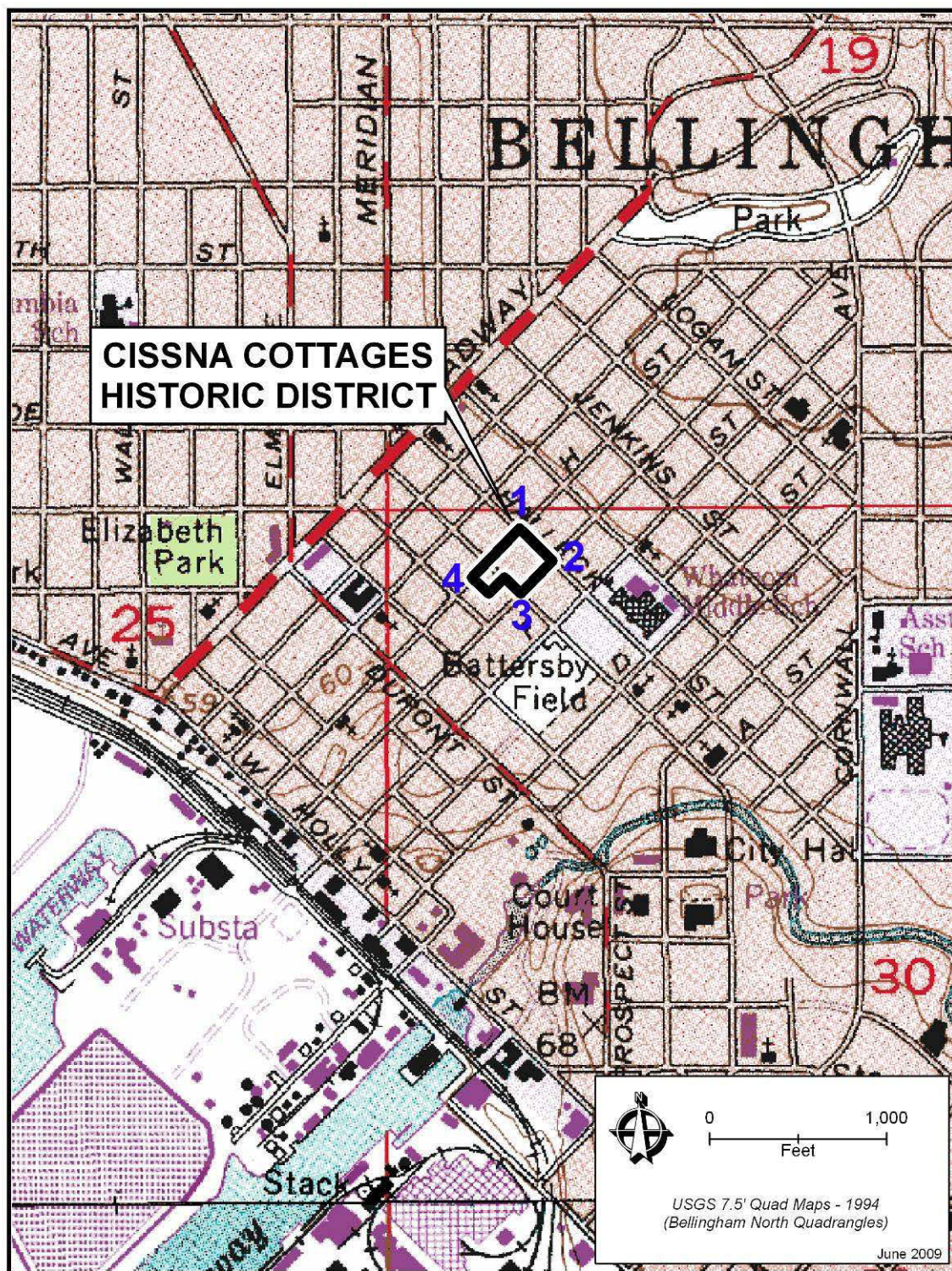
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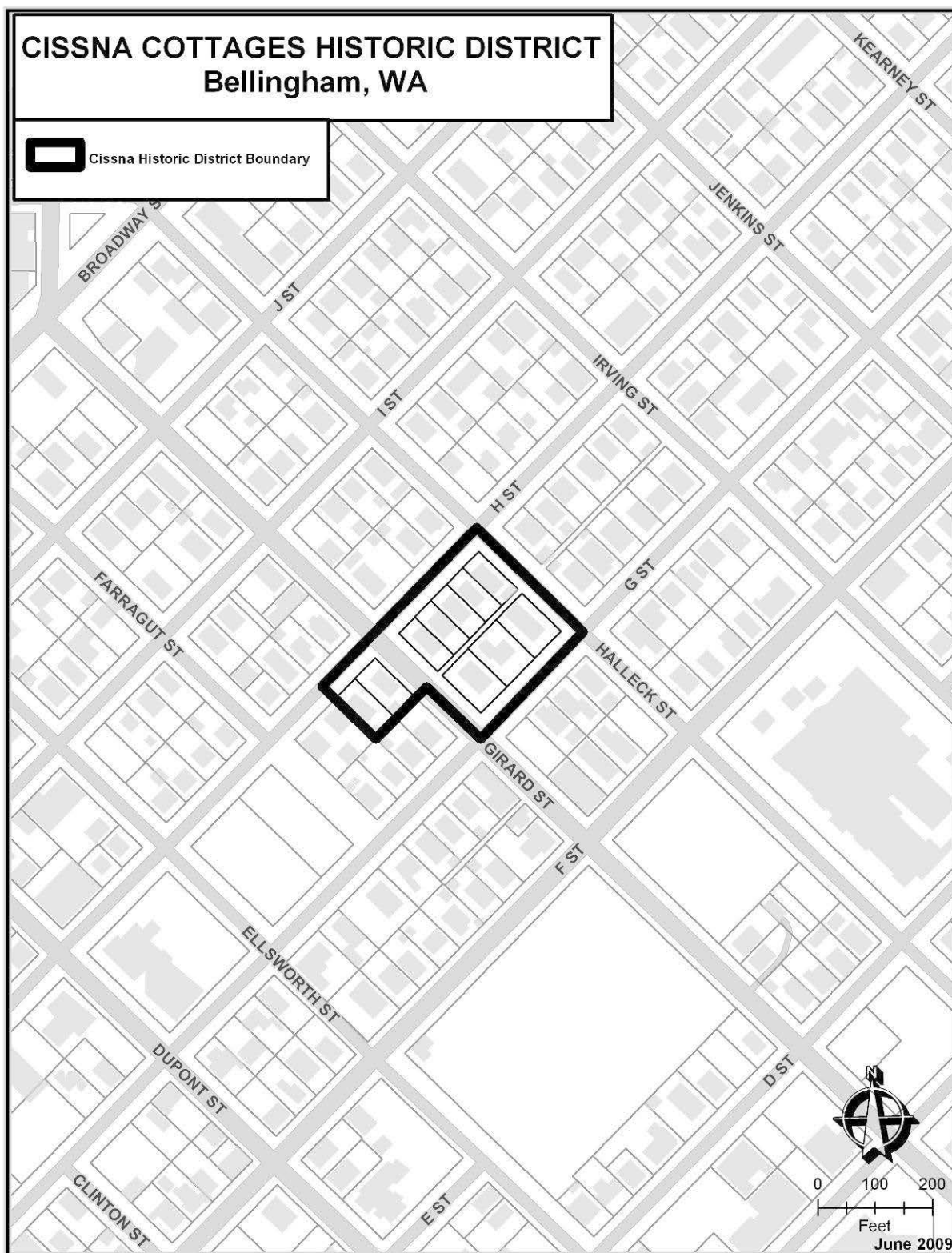
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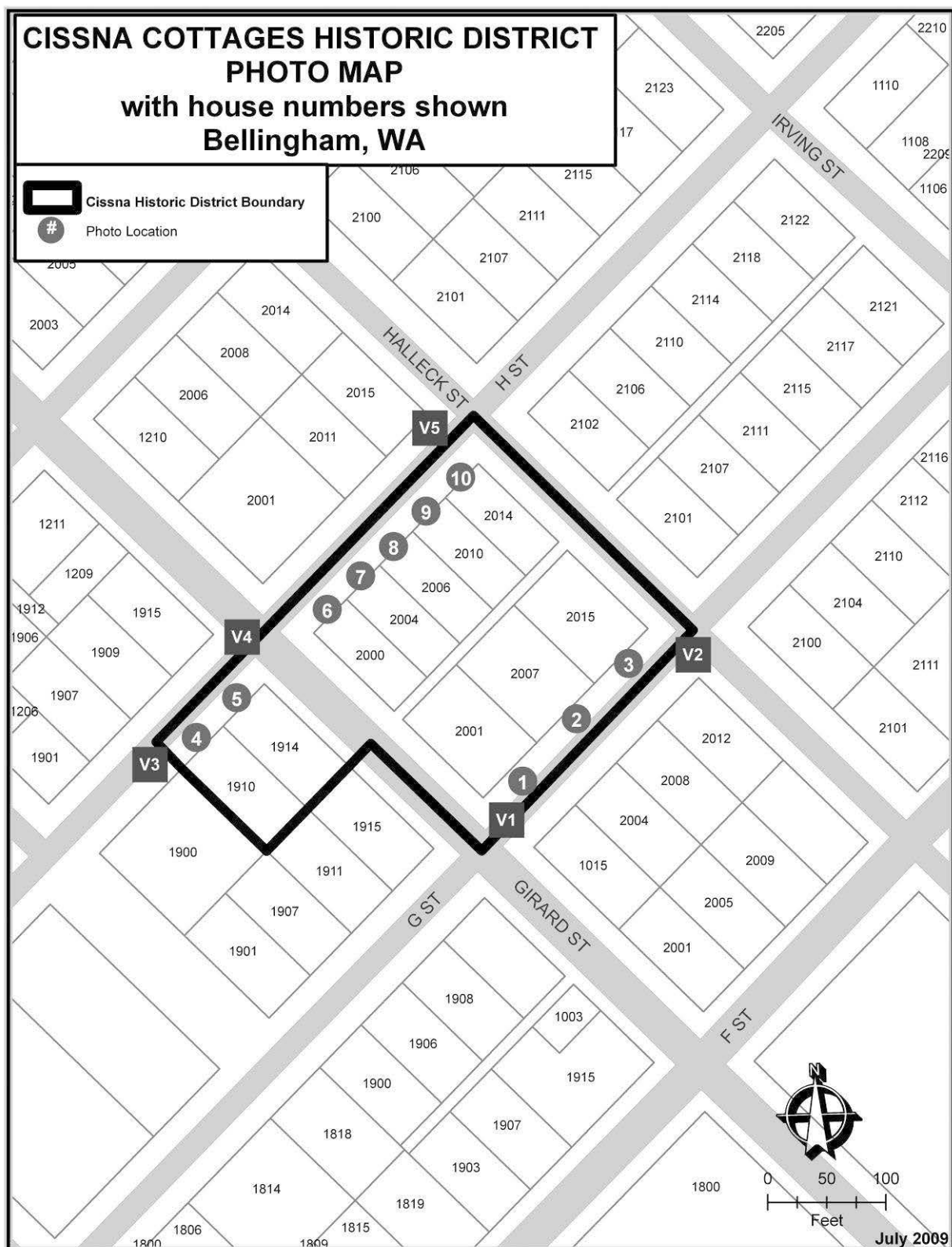
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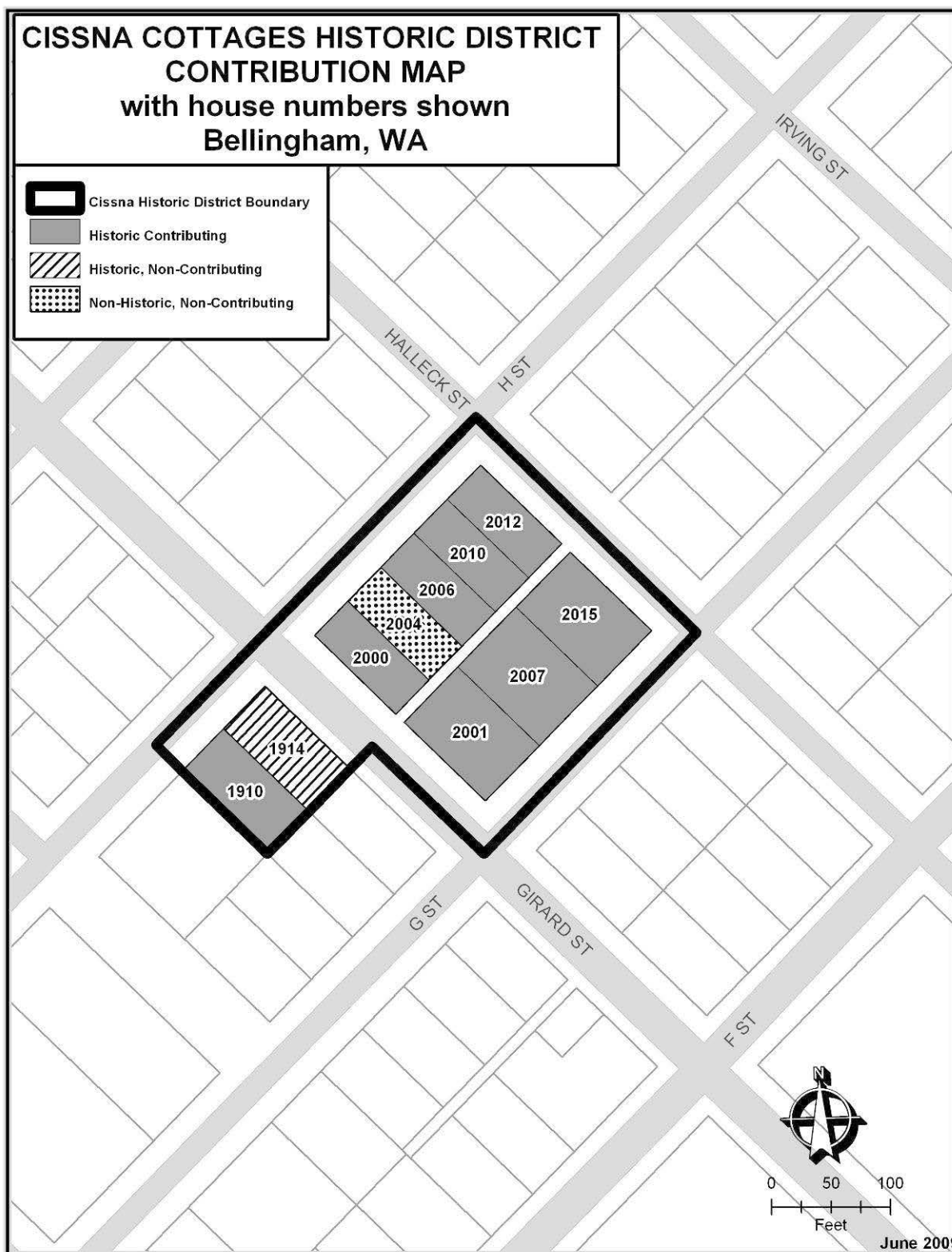
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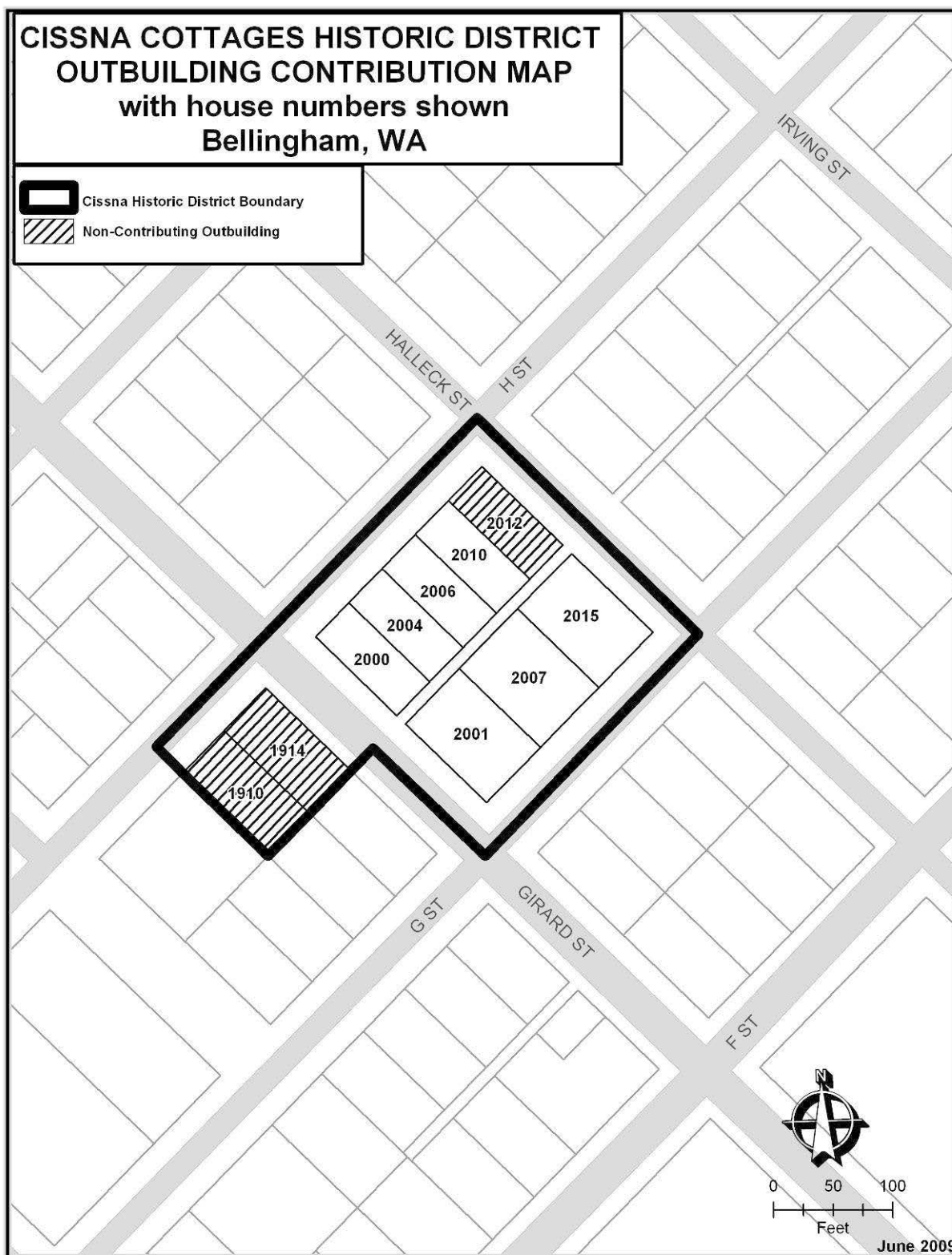
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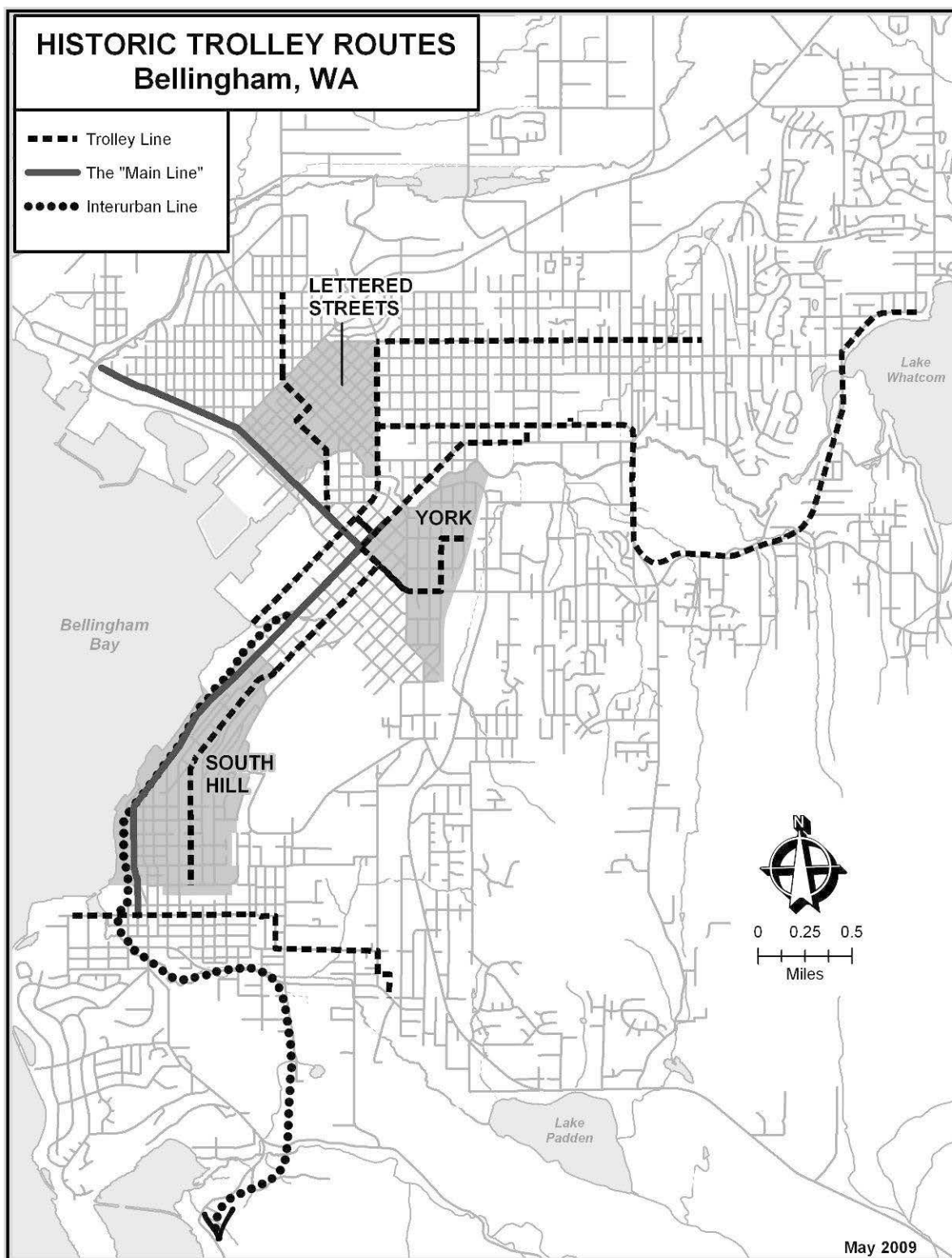
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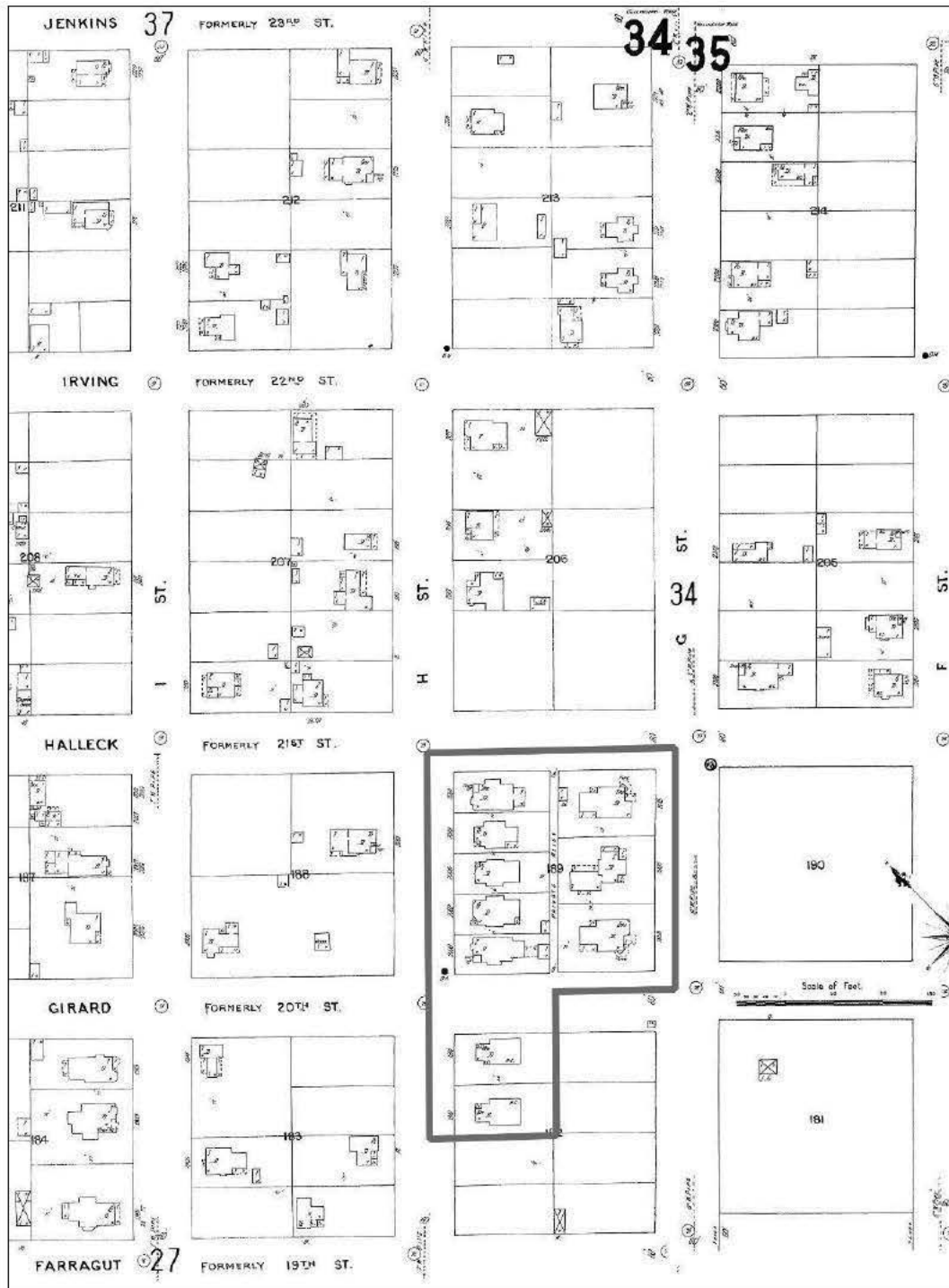
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1904 Sanborn Fire Insurance map for Bellingham (pages 34 and 35) with the Cissna Cottages Historic District outlined. Note the lack of infill around Cissna's Cottages.

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Portraits of Charles Cissna and Maud Cissna, c.1895. Courtesy of Whatcom Museum - Photo Archives.

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Charles Cissna with son, Charles "Chuck" Cissna, in 1909. The vehicle is an Oldsmobile and the house in the background is one of the Cissna Cottages, 2001 G Street. At the left edge is 1915 G Street. The *Weekly Blade* (May 13, 1903) stated that, "Charles Cissna is now the possessor of a fine 12 horsepower automobile, which he received a short time ago from Toledo, Ohio." Courtesy of Whatcom Museum - Photo Archives.

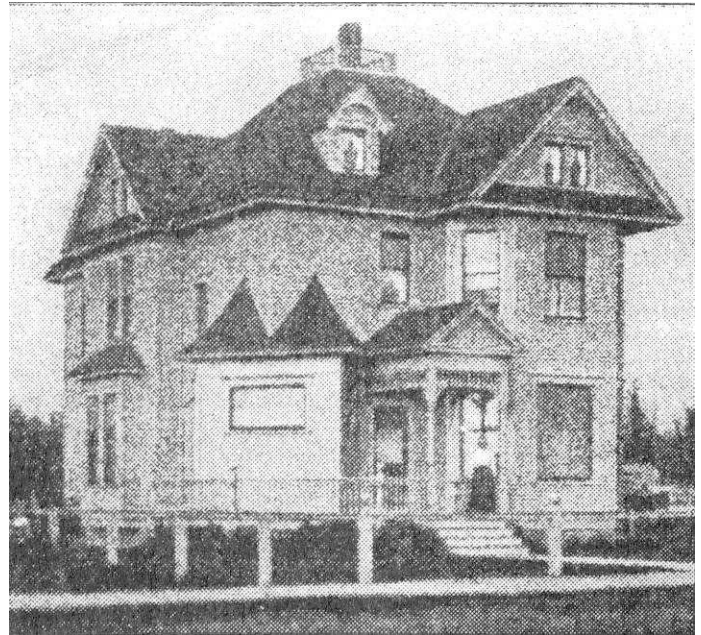
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On the left, the Charles and Maud Cissna House (c.1898) at 2001 G Street in Bellingham. On the right, the Gundlach House (1903) at 492 F Street in Blaine, Washington. Many or all of the Cissna Cottages were likely built based on pattern books, however, that has not been confirmed. Courtesy of Whatcom Museum - Photo Archives.

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Summary of District Properties

<u>Address</u>	<u>Parcel Code</u>	<u>Date of Construction</u>	<u>District Contribution</u>
2001 G STREET	380330074532	c. 1898	Contributing
2007 G STREET	380330078526	c. 1888	Contributing
2015 G STREET	380330083531	c. 1900	Contributing
1910 H STREET	380330055515	c. 1901	Contributing
1914 H STREET	380330059517	c. 1898	Historic Non-Contributing
2000 H STREET	380330065527	c. 1900	Contributing
2004 H STREET	380330068530	1999	Non-Historic Non-Contributing
2006 H STREET	380330070533	c. 1900	Contributing
2010 H STREET	380330073535	c. 1900	Contributing
2012 H STREET	380330075538	c. 1899	Contributing

TOTAL: 10