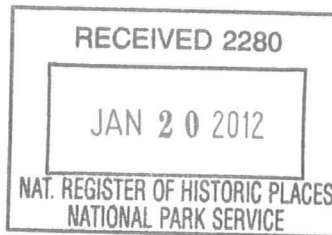


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# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. 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 entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

## 1. Name of Property

Historic name Axtell, Dr. William H. & Frances C., House

Other names/site number Axtell Apartments

## 2. Location

street & number 413 East Maple Street N/A not for publication

city or town Bellingham \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity

State Washington code WA county Whatcom code 073 zip code 98225

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature]  
Signature of certifying official/Title

12-22-11  
Date

WASHINGTON STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

## 4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.

See continuation sheet

determined eligible for the National Register.

See continuation sheet

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other (explain:)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

[Signature] 3/7/2012

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- X private
public-local
public-State
public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- X building(s)
district
site
structure
object

Number of Resources within Property

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

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Non-Contributing. Rows for buildings, sites, structures, objects, Total. Values: 1, 1.

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

6. Functions or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: Single Dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: Multiple Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and Early 20th Century Revivals:

Classical Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone, Concrete

walls Stucco, Wood

roof Asphalt

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property.)

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet -

DR. WILLIAM H. & FRANCES C. AXTELL HOUSE  
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### NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION:

The Dr. William H. & Frances C. Axtell House is located just south of downtown Bellingham, Washington at 413 East Maple Street. The home faces towards the southwest on a slightly sloping lot adjacent to an alley on one side and a three story apartment on the other side. The sloping site allows for a daylight basement on two elevations. Landscaping on site is limited to a shallow grass lawn, some foundation plantings and a large evergreen tree on the far south corner of the lot. The rear of the lot has been graveled for a parking area for the various units inside the nominated resource.

The nominated house reflects a conversion of a clapboard-sided 2.5 story Classical Revival style home into a stucco clad apartment complex. The transformation into an apartment house was completed during the historic period of significance by the original owner in 1926. Based on historic images, elements that defined the original character of the home remained after the conversion into apartments. This alteration included a reworking of the porch, an addition to the east and west facades, as well as a new stucco veneer.

The original house, influenced by the American Foursquare design motif was popular in Bellingham when the home was constructed in 1902. In its original form, the dwelling was a 45 foot square 2.5 story box with a hipped roof, four small dormers, a full length front porch, and a small widow's walk. Groups of Doric style columns highlighted the front entry as well as two story bay windows.

Today the nomination property boasts a heavy textured stucco exterior with a variety of roofs, projections and porches. Vestiges of the original porch were retained on the ends (but enclosed with multi-light windows), the central portion of the porch was cut and received a two story portico holding up a small balcony for a 3<sup>rd</sup> story apartment. A distinct pent roof, supported by modillions, surrounds the top of the second floor and defines a short parapet wall hiding a flat roof deck. The main asphalt-covered hip roof of the home is visible from a distance, but the original small hip roof dormers were replaced with larger hip roof units to accommodate larger windows and doors for balcony access. These dormers have exposed rafter tails. A shingle brick chimney with a corbeled top can be found on the southern slope.

All windows on the home are original wood units in a variety of shapes and sizes. Most are one-over-one units, however multi-pane fixed units can be found on the porch, and lozenge style cottage type units are found in the two-story bay windows on the main façade. A single round window is found on the second floor of the west façade.

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The original home has a coursed stone foundation, while the additions are concrete. The east facade was extended approximately eight feet outward and has an irregular footprint with two entrances and a second story balcony highlighted by arched openings.

Inside the home was divided into 8 apartment units in 1926, however many of home's original interior elements, such as moldings, trim, fireplace surround and flooring remain. The original "grandeur of the rooms" is echoed in the current high ceilings, and spacious apartment on the ground floor apartment (unit 8) which was originally occupied by Frances Axtell. Despite the 1926 modifications, relatives note that this space looks much as it did when the home boasted a "parlor where horse hair formal furniture and an upright piano" were at the service of Frances Axtell's "numerous committees".

Also inside are two original fireplaces reportedly carved by Frances Axtell. All of the apartments retain their original hardwood flooring, window and door trim and many plumbing and lighting fixtures. Two sets of heavy wooden doors which slide into the walls are preserved in the apartments. Antique leaded and beveled windows remain in the rooms on the first two floors. The third story apartments reflect Axtell's decision to add a modern, Art Deco flair to the converted apartments achieved by enlarging the dormers and replacing their windows with floor to ceiling wood framed swiveled window panels.

For her 1926 conversion, Frances Axtell, is remembered by her daughter as an "avid re-builder" and creator of "clever apartments". She ambitiously added a two story front portico, enclosed the sun porch, sealed off the front entry and servants' staircases, and constructed two one-floor extensions from the front bay windows. Axtell also replaced the wood stairs leading to the front entrance with cement steps and created a basement apartment from the large basement which had originally served as the home's laundry equipped with a big furnace supplied with wood delivered by the nearby Bloedel-Donovan Mills.

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.
X 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

Period of Significance

1902 - 1942

Significant Dates

1912 -1915

1926

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Axtell, Frances S. Cleveland

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property.) SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.) SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
previously listed in the National Register
previously determined eligible by the National Register
designated a National Historic Landmark
#
recorded by Historic American Engineering
Record#

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
Federal agency
Local government
University
Other

Name of repository:

Blank lines for repository name.

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet -

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## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The Dr. William H. & Frances C. Axtell House is historically significant under Criterion B for its direct association with Frances Cleveland Axtell (1866 – 1953), who was active throughout her life in local, state and national politics. Frances was one of the first two women elected to the Washington State Legislature and narrowly missed becoming the first woman senator in the United States. The nominated dwelling served as her home from 1902 until 1942. The Axtell home, which later became the Axtell Apartments, served for forty years as a gathering place for a variety of politicians, suffragists, clubwomen and celebrated personalities such as David Starr Jordan, the first president of Stanford University and Dr. Frederick Cook, whose hotly contested claim to be the discoverer of the North Pole, Axtell supported. The period of significance begins in 1902, the date the home was built, and ends in 1942, the year Frances moved out of the house/apartment. While altered, the home's transformation into an apartment reflects the life story of Frances Axtell and today remains the only direct connection to the life and work of Frances C. Axtell. Due to her various political positions and affiliations, the house is significant at the national level.

Born June 12, 1866 in Sterling, Illinois, Sevilla "Frances" Cleveland Axtell had a rollicking childhood. Her sturdy frame, auburn hair, and blue eyes were accompanied by an abundance of courage and a sense of humor. She was educated in a one-room schoolhouse, and earned her master's degree and then a doctorate in philosophy from DePauw University in 1889. Attracted by the "wildness of the frontier," through a teacher's agency in Chicago, she accepted a teaching post in Latin and Mathematics at the Northwest Normal School in Lynden, Washington. The Normal School, then a woman's teaching college, later became Western Washington University. Previously she had declined an offer to teach at Stanford University, which she thought was too "sissy-fied". While she thought she had come west to teach Latin and mathematics, she soon found herself on call for a variety of subjects and by 1894 became the assistant principal.

While at DePauw, Sevilla had met her future husband, William Henry Axtell, who at the time was a medical student. Before they married in Bellingham on June 11, 1891, Sevilla studied and toured Europe, a popular way to "round out" a young woman's education at that time.

In the Black Forest of Germany as a graduate student of the University of Hanover, she learned woodcarving, a skill that she later employed to construct panels flanking the staircase, and the mantels of the nominated home. She and William built the Classical Revival style two-and-a-half story home in 1902, eight years after settling in Bellingham. It was a warm and welcoming place for the family that by then included two daughters, Ruth and Frances. Grandson William Hussey recalls that Frances was "a fantastic cook." Christmas, especially, with the house thoroughly decorated, brought him memories "that warmed my whole life."

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In 1894 the Axtell's moved to Bellingham. Quickly the couple became involved in a variety of clubs and associations devoted to social reforms and to promoting improvements in the physical and cultural conditions of Whatcom County citizens. Her husband, William Henry Axtell (1863 – 1927), was a graduate of the Medical Collage of Ohio and became a prominent physician in Whatcom County. During the early part of his career he invented a digestive drug which sold under the name "Dr. Axtell's Pills" (Pat. No. 234.948) into the early 1940s. He was a member of Kiwanis, the American Legion, Knights of Pythias, the Odd Fellows and the Elks club, as well as served as an officer in the local Fraternal Aid Association and was the founder of a local science club.<sup>i</sup> Dr. W.H. Axtell, who served as an Army doctor in WWI rising to the rank of major, also balanced his thriving medical practice duties as a surgeon for the Northern Railway Improvement Co. and the Northern Pacific Railway. He also served as a medical examiner for a number of fraternal organizations and life insurance companies.<sup>ii</sup>

During the early part of her career, Sevilla "Frances" Axtell helped found the Aftermath Club, and the Literary Fraternal Club of Bellingham; became the first President of the New Whatcom Ladies Cooperative Society; and was a member of the Associated Charities in Whatcom, the Bellingham Bay Red Cross and the Washington State Federation of Women's Clubs. Her first run at political office came in 1897 when she ran an unsuccessful campaign for director of the New Whatcom School District. For a short time, she taught carving at the Immanuel School of Industries, and rose to a variety of state and national positions of several social and fraternal club; such as serving as chairman of the Washington State delegation for the National Convention of Women's Clubs.

Along with Tacoma's Emma DeVoe, Sevilla led the successful 1910 campaign that restored women's right to vote, which the Washington Supreme Court had struck down in 1887. Bellingham voters rewarded her with election to the Washington House of Representatives in 1912. During this campaign, at the urging of her cousin former President Grover Cleveland, she adopted her daughter's first name, Frances, believing it would be more familiar to voters than Sevilla. Her campaign manager was Ella Higginson, Washington State Poet Laureate and Whatcom County pioneer. Higginson, served as Frances' campaign manager, and capitalized on Frances' pioneering spirit, characterizing her as "*well-fitted to undergo the hardships of the pioneer*" and the perfect woman to "*blaze the trail*" in Olympia.<sup>iii</sup> After her election, Axtell and Higginson were featured in a full page Seattle Post Intelligencer article which included a photograph of Axtell's home and commentary on the steady stream of visitors in and out of her Maple Street home who were seeking special legislation through the new female Representative.

After winning the hotly contested race, Axtell focused her efforts on minimum wage legislation, public safety issues and worker's rights. She served on the Appropriations Committee, Education Committee, State University Committee, and the Water & Water Rights Committee. Axtell also sponsored several bills during the 1913 legislative session relating to Remington & Ballinger's Code. This included HB 19 amending section 2457 of the Code defining the crime of adultery. While this bill made it out of the committee it did not pass. HB 20 wanted to add language into section 2436 relating to carnal knowledge of children, but also died on arrival to the legislative floor. However, Axtell's proposed changes to the Code to adjust the rule of evidence in cases of crime against morality and repealed section 2443 (HB 21) did pass and was signed into law by then Governor Lister. Other legislation included the construction of a

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woman's building for the University of Washington (HB353), adjustment to the way members of the State Board of Control were appointed (HB472), and language relating to city health officers (HB 626) which did not pass.

During her tenure in Olympia, Axtell maintained a determined independence which earned her praise from the press as "*the lady from Whatcom who votes as she pleases.*"<sup>iv</sup> The Western Woman's Outlook reported on "*her ability to outwit fellow representatives through her expert use of parliamentary procedure when the House attempted to repeal a law protecting women.*"<sup>v</sup> While in Olympia, she also initiated legislation guaranteeing a minimum wage law for women. And she promoted reform measures for public safety, workers' rights, improved child labor conditions, better schools, mothers' pensions, and improvements to rules of evidence in cases of violent assault.

In Bellingham, Representative Axtell served as the head of the Woman's Good Government League and bravely led a failed but vociferous campaign for a special election to establish a commission form of city government in 1909.<sup>vi</sup> At the time, commission governance was a nationally popular Progressive reform idea aimed at counteracting the perceived evils of ward politics and mismanagement. By 1912, such governance had been tried successfully in many Washington state cities including Tacoma, Spokane, Yakima, Walla Walla, Chehalis, and Centralia. Ignoring Axtell's cogent public pleas, the Bellingham Herald and its editor heightened its rhetoric against her campaign, labeling her initially as "obsessed" and later, accusing her of promoting an expensive "fad", using "tactics" to garner voter petition signatures which were not "aboveboard" and were "misleading."<sup>vii</sup>

Axtell successfully balanced a professional career with her role as wife and mother, raising two daughters, one of whom was only ten when her mother moved to Olympia to serve in the state legislature. Her eldest daughter, Ruth Axtell Burnet, became an assistant professor of English at Western Washington College of Education and two of her grandchildren, Jean Burnet and William Hussey, attended the University's Campus School, a unique teacher training elementary school.

Earlier than any other woman, in 1916, Frances C. Axtell made a bid for the federal legislature running for a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives from the 2<sup>nd</sup> District as a Democrat against the Republican incumbent, Lindley H. Hadley. Despite the local newspapers denigration of Axtell's campaign, calling it an "advertising stunt" and comparing it to a vaudeville show the early returns were so close that Axtell initially refused to concede to her opponent.<sup>viii</sup> However, when the final votes were tallied, she lost the race by just 3,000 votes. Had she won, Axtell would have joined Jeanette Rankin as one of the first women in Congress.<sup>ix</sup>

Impressed by her skills and tenacity, on January 5, 1917 President Woodrow Wilson appointed Axtell as Vice Chairperson of the U.S. Employees Compensation Commission (1917-1921). At the time she was the only woman ever to be named by any President for such a federal commission.<sup>x</sup> As part of her duties she made a tour of the nation's arsenals researching employee working conditions. A reporter noted that her "*exceptional business qualifications*" did not detract from her femininity and that she was just as happy tramping over the "*dusty trails of navy yards*" as she was sitting near "*the pleasant nook by the home*

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*hearth in her western dwelling at Bellingham, Washington*".<sup>xi</sup> During her tenure, the commission helped draft some of the nation's first labor laws.

While in Washington, D. C., Axtell joined many organizations promoting social and economic welfare including the College Women's Club of Washington, the Woman's City Club, the State Federation of Women's Clubs, the Consumer's League, the National League of Women Voters and the "women's cabinet" composed of the first women to hold high positions in the government service.<sup>xii</sup> She also attended the convention of the National American Woman Suffrage Association in December 1917, where feminist leaders were proud to introduce her and Montana legislator Margaret Hathaway.

On her return to Bellingham in 1922, Axtell became a newspaper columnist for the Bellingham American. Her column, "What Women are Thinking and Doing," addressed questions sent directly to her home via telegrams and covered a wide variety of such topics as the need for education in nutrition and hygiene; a call for social legislation for unemployment insurance; old age retirement; health insurance; child labor laws; and the need for civil service reform to require the merit system instead of political patronage.<sup>xiii</sup>

In 1922, she began to be acknowledged by the press as one of the "*pioneer suffragists in the west*," and Frances decided to make a run for a U.S. Senate seat, this time as a Republican, her party of choice.<sup>xiv</sup> Despite her support from a variety of organizations which included the State Federation of Labor, the Railway Men's Political Club, the League of Women Voters, the Parent-Teachers' Association, and the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, she lost the race to incumbent, Miles Poindexter.<sup>xv</sup> Still wanting to be involved in national politics, she served as chairperson of the Washington State Organization for Reduction of Armament by International Agreement.<sup>xvi</sup> During the course of this bitterly fought campaign the Bellingham Herald continued to attack Axtell, accusing her of "*double-dealing and underhanded dishonest work*".<sup>xvii</sup> In her column of the previous spring, Axtell had revealed the spirit behind her campaign platform calling for citizens in places of public trust to have a "*vision of service to humanity*" regardless of partisanship and remarking that with the informed concern demonstrated by women politicians and voters it was "*no wonder ward-healing machine politicians hate and fear us*."<sup>xviii</sup>

In 1924, between campaigns, Axtell remained in the national consciousness as acting chair of the Women's Division of the Progressive Party's Washington State LaFollette-Wheeler presidential race.<sup>xix</sup> As one of thirteen women appointees from various states Axtell was part of a special drive to attract the woman's vote which LaFollette organizers believed was more important to the race than "*at any time since the national suffrage was accomplished*".<sup>xx</sup> Ultimately Axtell served as the head of the Washington State organization for LaFollette supervising the men as well as the women.<sup>xxi</sup>

In a final campaign, Frances C. Axtell ran unsuccessfully as a Democrat for the U.S. House of Representatives, District 2 seat in 1926. Once again, the Bellingham Herald seized the opportunity to chastise her for changing parties to run as a Democrat stating that she did not seem to "*care much what party tag*" she wore.<sup>xxii</sup> Although running against a ten year incumbent, Axtell made a respectable show garnering 15,876 votes to Hadley's 38,510.<sup>xxiii</sup>

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For reasons unknown, the Axtell's decided to remodel their home into several apartments over the summer of 1926.<sup>xxiv</sup> Ever resourceful, Frances who made most of her own clothes, did not shrink from planning and reportedly whenever possible undertook the physical labor of the extensive conversion work. Within the year the remodel was complete and the Axtell Apartments were advertised in the Polk Directory. Within one year there were as many as ten tenants living in the newly remodeled home.<sup>xxv</sup> Frances and William lived in apartment unit number 8 which was comprised of the formal parlor, grand staircase, the library and dining room, and a bathroom. An addition to the east allowed for a ground floor apartment for Frances' sister.

On May 16, 1927 Dr. William H. Axtell died at age 64 after a month-long illness. With the death of her husband and the pressure of the Great Depression looming, in 1929 at the age of sixty-three, Axtell became a parole officer for Whatcom County.<sup>xxvi</sup> Her duties included acting as a probation officer for girls and she was in charge of the Mothers' Pension Department where she was relentless in extracting child support from absentee fathers.<sup>xxvii</sup> She continued to live in the newly remodeled house, residing in unit Number 8, and served as manager of the apartment complex until 1942. In 1942, Axtell moved to Seattle (5033 16<sup>th</sup> Ave NE) to care for her daughter, Frances, who had been diagnosed with Poliomyelitis (infantile paralysis). Although seventy-five at the time of her move, her daughter, Ruth, described her as "*as giddy as a school girl going off to a new school year.*" She became active in several Seattle organizations and women's groups, most notably the Woman's Century Club, a limited membership club.<sup>xxviii</sup>

Frances C. Axtell died in Seattle on April 1, 1953 at the age of 86. In a field dominated by men, Frances Axtell was highly regarded by her peers as an ethical and gifted legislator, pioneering in the struggle for women's suffrage and championing the cause of good government and social justice. Axtell is now best remembered as one of the first two women to win a seat in the Washington State Legislature in 1912, eight years before the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment of the Constitution guaranteed women's voting rights nationally. A prominent member of the National Women's Party, she later continued her political career, running three times unsuccessfully for the United States Congress, narrowly missing becoming the first woman senator in the United States. Despite her failure to gain office, she made a deep and lasting impact on a variety of national social reforms and political processes.

<sup>i</sup> Bellingham Herald - May 16, 1927, pages 1 & 5; Koert and Biery, 2003, page 353.; Daily Reveille - August 13, 1895

<sup>ii</sup> Northwest Medicine, volume 6, 1908, page 192

<sup>iii</sup> McNutt, William Slavens, "Washington's New Political Boss - A Woman" Seattle Post-Intelligencer, December 29, 1912).

<sup>iv</sup> Political Pioneers: the Women Lawmakers/ Elected Washington Women, 1983, pages 13 -14).

<sup>v</sup> Putman, John C., Class and gender politics in progressive-era Seattle, University of Nevada Press, 2008, page 134.

<sup>vi</sup> Bellingham Herald - October 15, 1913, page 5; Oakland Tribune - October 9, 1913, page 1.

<sup>vii</sup> The Bellingham Herald - October 4, 1913, page 1 and 3; October 11, 1913, page 4 October 17, 1913, page 4.

<sup>viii</sup> The Bellingham Herald - November 6, 1916; Reno Evening Gazette - November 16, 1916, page 3; Fort Wayne News - November 8, 1916, page 8

<sup>ix</sup> Bismarck Daily Tribune- October 6, 1916, page 5

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- <sup>x</sup> The Tribune-Republican- December 12, 1917, page 11.
- <sup>xi</sup> Hughes, Agnes L., "Only woman on the United States Employees' Compensation Commission," Sunset, November, 1917, page 45.
- <sup>xii</sup> The Oakland Tribune - 7 Nov 1920
- <sup>xiii</sup> Bellingham American - June 2, 3, 9 & 10<sup>th</sup> - 1922, page 4.
- <sup>xiv</sup> Iowa City Press-Citizen - August 21, 1922, page 1.
- <sup>xv</sup> The New York Times - August 27, 1922
- <sup>xvi</sup> The New York Times - September 4, 1922
- <sup>xvii</sup> Bellingham Herald - September 8, 1922, page 1
- <sup>xviii</sup> Bellingham American - May 27, 1922, page 4.
- <sup>xix</sup> The Woman Citizen, November 1, 1924, page 22
- <sup>xx</sup> Modesto Evening News - July 15, 1924, page 1
- <sup>xxi</sup> A Room at a Time, 2002, page 187
- <sup>xxii</sup> Bellingham Herald - September 14, 1926, page 12
- <sup>xxiii</sup> The Bulletin Yearbook and Almanac 1927, Page 61
- <sup>xxiv</sup> William Hussey, personal communication, March 25, 2010
- <sup>xxv</sup> R. I. Polk & Co's Bellingham Directory of Householders, 1938, page 542.
- <sup>xxvi</sup> Polk's Bellingham City Directory, 1936, page 416.
- <sup>xxvii</sup> William Hussey, personal communication, September 18, 2009
- <sup>xxviii</sup> Obituaries of Whatcom County, Washington, [http://theusgenweb.org/wa/whatcom/wgsobits/deathsat\\_az.htm](http://theusgenweb.org/wa/whatcom/wgsobits/deathsat_az.htm) , Reviewed on September 20, 2009

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(Axtell/Commission Form of Government), The Bellingham Herald, 1913, October 4:1; October 6, 10; October 7: 2; October 8: 1 and 4; October 10:1; October 11:1and 4; October 13, 4: October 14:4; October 15:5; October 14: 4; October 17: 4; October 18: 4; October 20: 4; October 22:4; October 24: 4; and, October 31: 4.

(Axtell/Hadley, 1916 U. S. Congress race), The Bellingham Herald, 1916, September 11: 11; September 14: 1; November 6; November 8: 1-2; and, November 9.

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet -

DR. WILLIAM H. & FRANCES C. AXTELL HOUSE  
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Section number 9 Page 2 of 4

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet -

DR. WILLIAM H. & FRANCES C. AXTELL HOUSE  
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Section number 9 Page 3 of 4

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**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

# **National Register of Historic Places**

## **Continuation Sheet -**

DR. WILLIAM H. & FRANCES C. AXTELL HOUSE  
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Section number   9   Page 4 of 4

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10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property Less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM References on a continuation sheet.)

UTM grid with 4 columns (Zone, Easting, Northing) and 2 rows of input boxes.

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property.) See continuation sheet.

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected.) See continuation sheet.

11. Form Prepared By

Form fields for name/title (Thelma Follett), organization, date (September 29, 2008), street & number (P. O. Box 28804), telephone (360- 671- 0434), city or town (Bellingham), state (WA), zip code (98228).

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

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.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner (Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

Form fields for name (Patrick M. Gallery), street & number (1010 Harris Ave - #201), telephone, city or town (Bellingham), state (WA), zip code (98225-7070).

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet -

DR. WILLIAM H. & FRANCES C. AXTELL HOUSE  
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Section number 10 Page 1 of 1

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## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

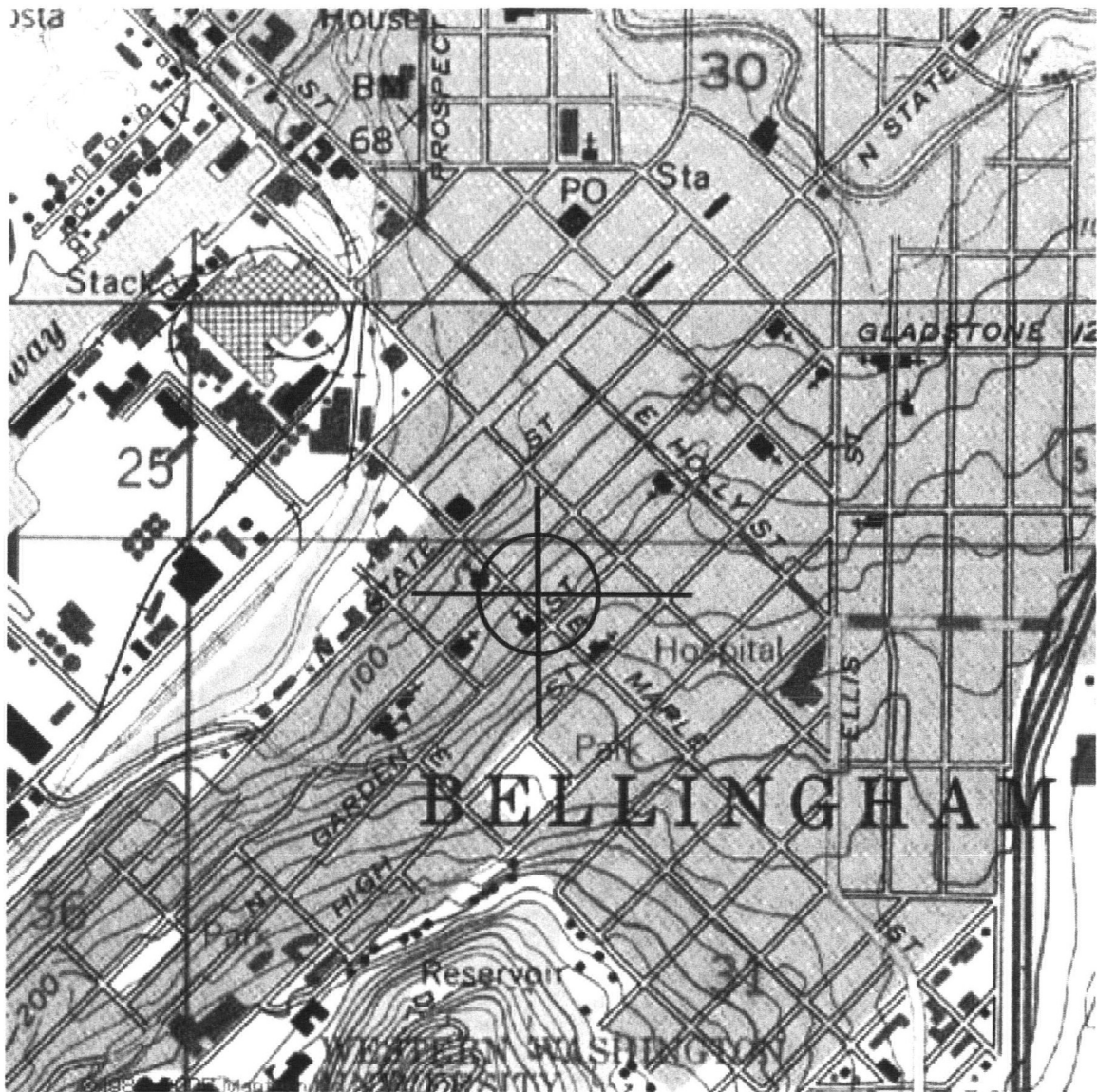
The nominated property is located at 413 East Maple Street, Bellingham (Whatcom County), Washington. It is found in the plat of New Whatcom, lots 9 & 10 in block 79 in Township 38N, Range 03E, Section 31.

It is legally described as parcel number: 380331 192537 0000

## BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

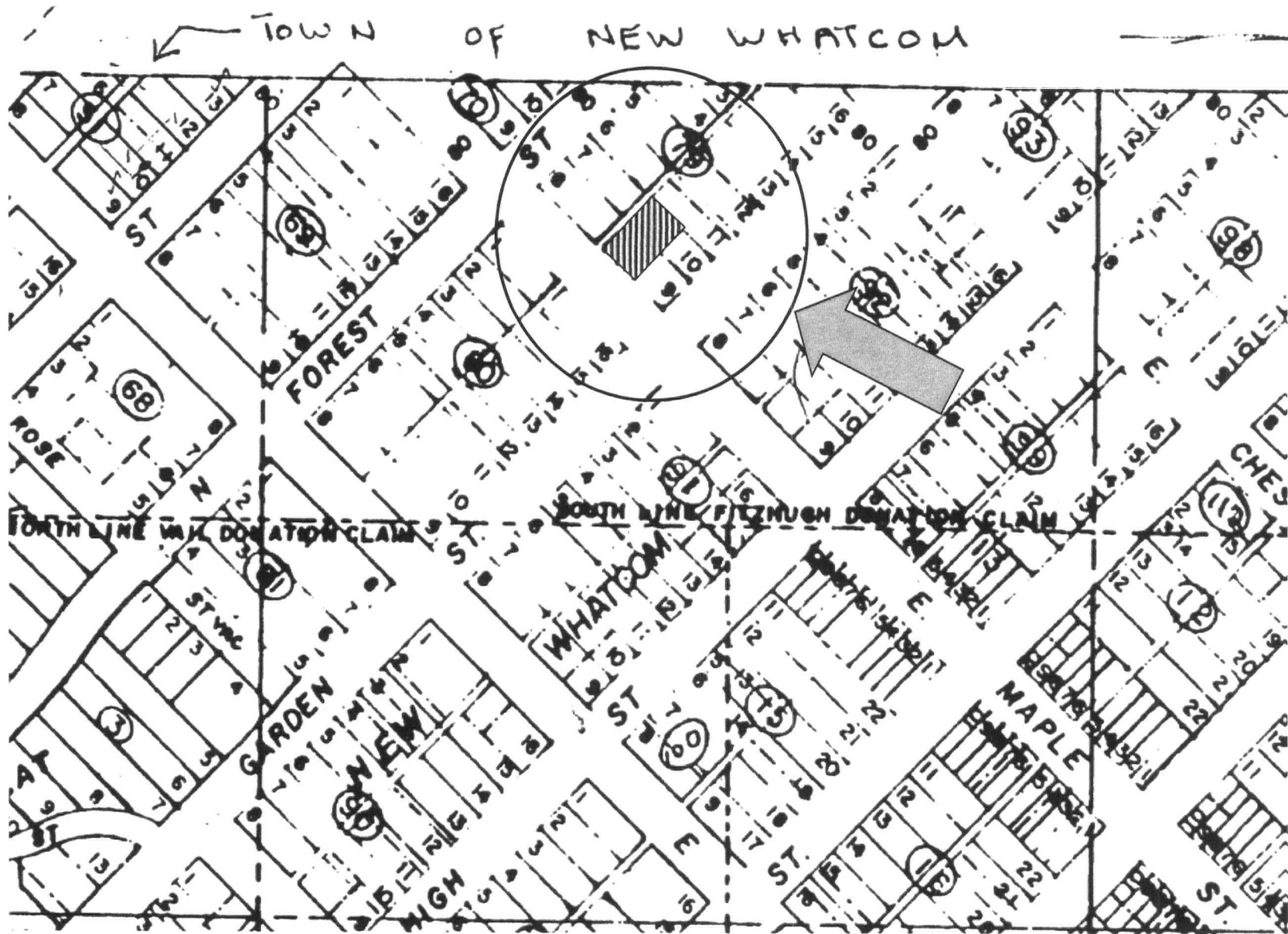
The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with Dr. William H. and Frances C. Axtell House.

## USGS Quad Map



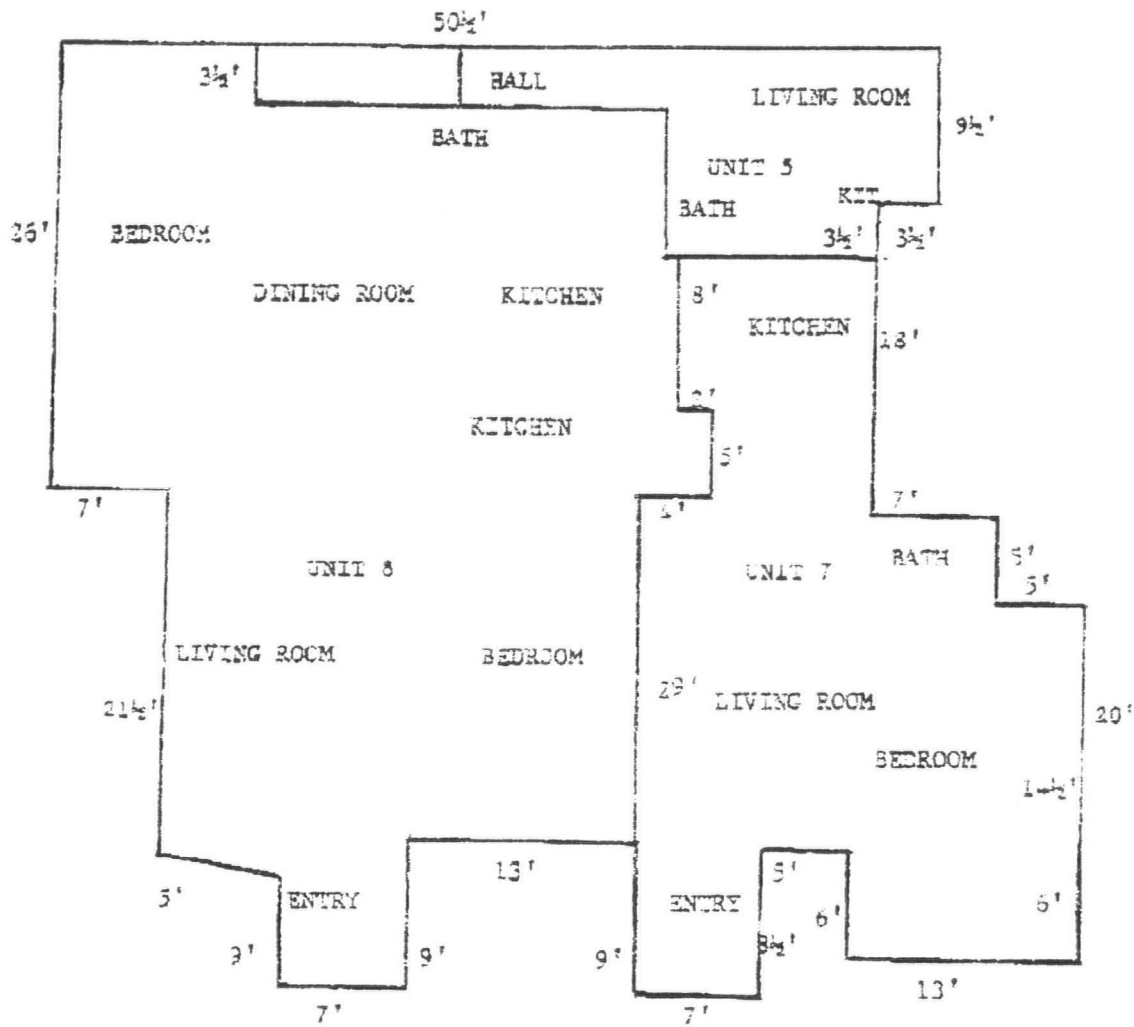
### Dr. William H. & Frances C. Axtell House

1) 10 5-38-426E      53-99-095N



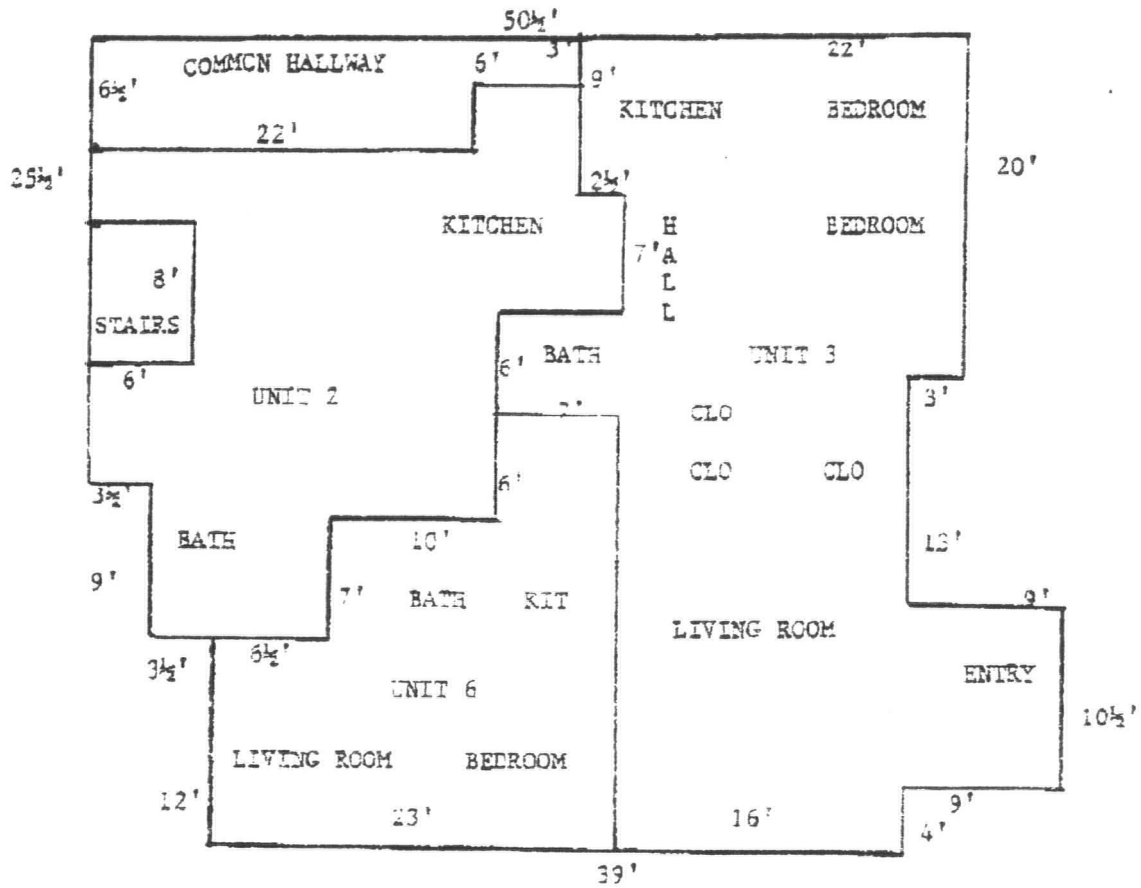
Dr. William Henry & Frances Cleveland Axtell House.  
Address: 413 East Maple Street, Bellingham (Whatcom County), Washington.  
Description: NEW WHATCOM; NWLY 62 1/2 FT OF LOTS 9-10 BLK 79.

**Axtell House / Apartments - First Floor Plan:** Configuration reflects Frances Axtell's conversion and the current apartments. Note unit 8: This was Frances Axtell's apartment from 1927 – 1942. For her own apartment she extended the wall of the library to create room for a closet and a Murphy bed. (William B. Hussey, email, March 22, 2010). The servants' staircase leading from the kitchen was sealed off.



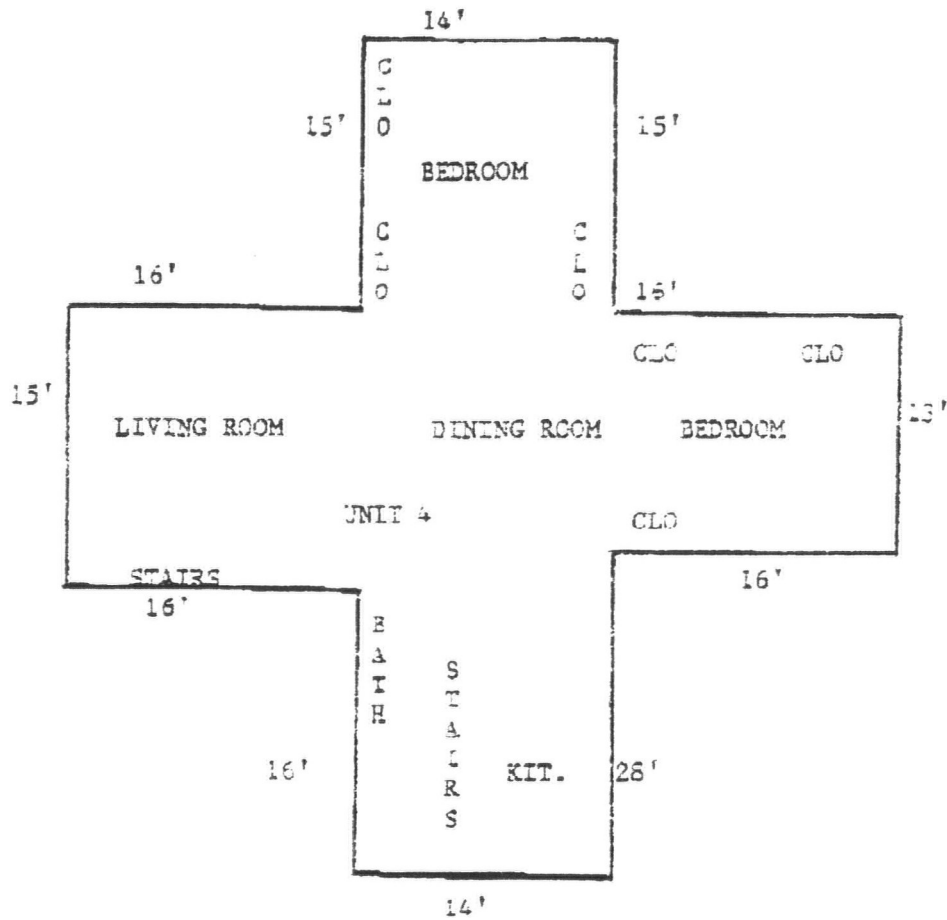
FIRST FLOOR PLAN  
SCALE 1" = 10'

**Axtell House / Apartments - Second Floor Plan:** Configuration reflects Frances Axtell's conversion and the current apartments. Axtell began the conversion to apartments with the second floor bedrooms (Helen Frances Axtell quoted in Hussey, correspondence, 1977). The large master bedroom covered the entire front of the house and included a dressing room/closet once containing Frances Axtell's hand carved dressing table, large stool and chiffonier. The formal staircase leading to the bedrooms on the second floor was sealed off at ceiling height leaving the stairs in place. (William B. Hussey, email, March 22, 2010).



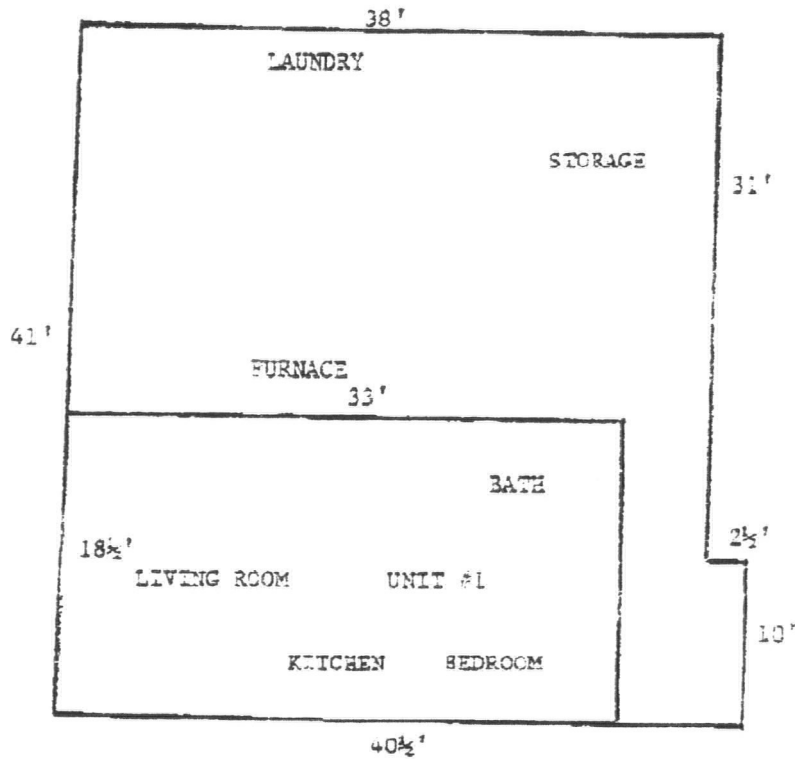
SECOND FLOOR PLAN  
SCALE 1" = 10'

**Axtell House / Apartments - Third Floor Plan:** Configuration reflects Frances Axtell's conversion and the current apartments. She "built one or two clever apartments on the third floor" (Helen Frances Axtell quoted in Hussey, correspondence, 1977). Originally a "finished maid's room" (William B. Hussey, email, March 22, 2010), the dormer windows on all sides have been retained but were remodeled by Axtell to give the apartments an updated look.



THIRD FLOOR PLAN  
SCALE 1" = 10'

**Axtell House / Apartments - Basement Plan:** Configuration reflects Frances Axtell's conversion and the current apartments. The basement, originally the full size of the house, retains the laundry and furnace area little changed from the mid 1920's when the laundry was hung to dry on rainy days and Frances Axtell's grandson, who lived in the home, "thought it a scary place and imagined all kinds of ghosts and other objects were lurking in the shadows" (March 22, 2010).



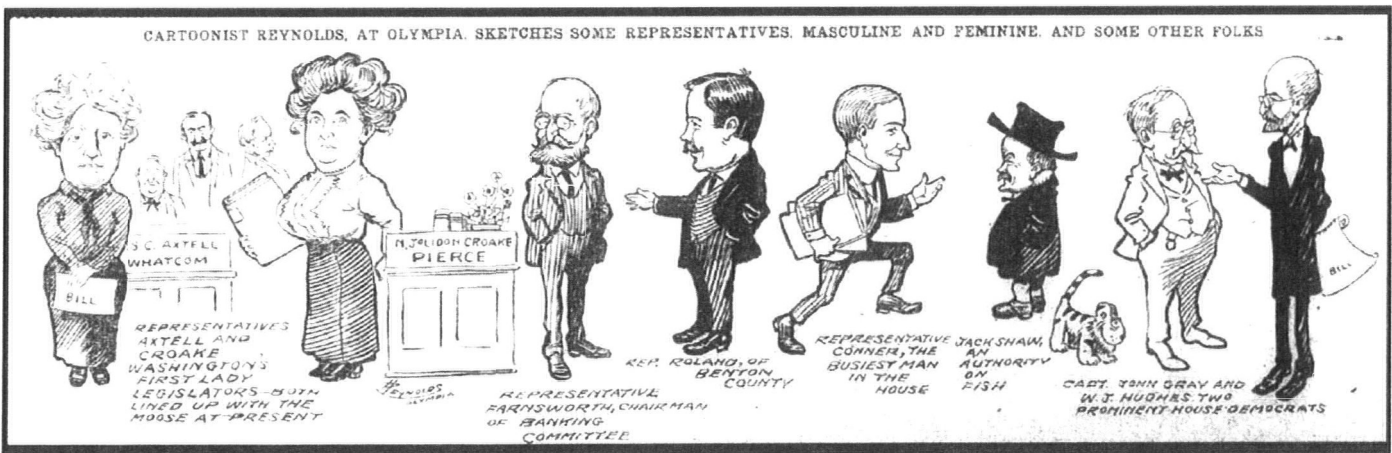
**BASEMENT FLOOR PLAN**  
SCALE 1" = 10'



Washington State House of Representative - 1913



Illustration of Frances C. Axtell – c.1913



"Cartoonist Reynolds, At Olympia, Sketches Some Representatives, Masculine and Feminine, and Some Other Folks." Political cartoon by Edward S. "Tige" Reynolds, The Oregonian, January 26, 1913.



**Frances Sevilla Cleveland Axtell, circa 1917** (Hughes, A. L., "Only woman on the United States employees' compensation commission," Sunset, November, 1917: 45).

**WOMEN  
VOTE IN  
WASH. STATE**

WASHINGTON, Oct. 23,--- In the general election two weeks from today women will vote in six states, California, Washington, Colorado, Wyoming and Utah, a fact which campaign managers of the various parties have taken into consideration. While the Progressive party was the only one of the three leading political organizations to give its official stamp of approval to the equal suffrage movement, the republican and democratic leaders have shown their appreciation of the importance of the movement by enlisting the services of women workers with an eye to the result in the six states in which women have been granted the full rights of franchise.

FRANCES AXTELL ---Mrs. Axtell's specialty is good government and in this she is earnest, honest, and enthusiastic it is the most vital and enduring of all issues. it is the solid foundation upon which all other issues for the welfare of our nation may be builded. If the people of this city desire good government between elections, as well as during campaigns, if they desire a representative who, being a wife and the mother of a family, is in hearty sympathy with the rights of women and children, and who will carefully consider all offered legislation; if they desire to make a test as to what women may accomplish when working with authority along lines of civic, municipal, economic and political reform--and last, but not greatest, the reform of everyday human selfishness--they will vote for Frances C. Axtell.

**MRS. AXTELL IS  
EASILY THE  
WINNER**

With returns to hand from all city precincts with the exception of the fourth precinct of the third ward, it is now certain that the race for state representative from the fifty-fourth district has been won by Mrs. W. H. Axtell and W. J. Hughes. It is not believed that the returns from the missing precinct can be compiled until this evening but when communication was made with the election officers at a late hour this

afternoon it was announced that the lead of Mrs. Axtell over J. P. deMattos had been increased by some sixty votes. This has the effect of rendering her position impregnable. The Hughes vote was also increasing proportionately.

Returns to hand show the candidates to stand as follows:

Axtell .....	2,122
DeMattos .....	2,071

**Campaign items:** 1912 Washington State Legislature Campaign clippings from The Bellingham Herald

# DEMOCRATS TO RALLY THIS EVENING

## MRS. AXTELL NAMED DEMOCRATIC NOMINEE

SEATTLE, Sept. 14.—Mrs. Frances Axtell, of Bellingham, was nominated for congress from the Second Washington district by the democrats in Tuesday's primary election. She is the candidate for congress also on the progressive ticket.

The Whatcom county democrats will hold their last rally tonight at the American Theater, beginning at 8 o'clock. There will be a special musical program and speaking by George Cotterill, Mrs. Frances C. Axtell and Mrs. Helen N. Stevens, editor of the Western Woman's Outlook. From 8 to 8 a reception for Mrs. Axtell and Mrs. Stevens will be held in the lobby of the theater. The chairman of the meeting will be Attorney Thomas R. Waters.

SUPPORT for Mrs. Axtell is urged on the ground that it would be "the greatest advertising stunt" ever pulled off in the West. Greatest advertising stunt, is right. Kind of continuous off agin-on-agin-gone agin vaudeville, as it were.

Campaign items: 1916 Washington State Legislature Campaign clippings from The Bellingham Herald

## Short Says Axtell Adherents Are Double Crossers and Denies That He Tried to "Put Over" Lamping

"Inside" of Anti-Poindexter Campaign Revealed By Labor Federation Head—Asserts Bellingham Woman Was Accepted "Under Duress" Because Few Women Threatened to "Bust Up" Conference—Sorry That Did Not Happen.

The Axtell adherents are "double-crossers" and are guilty of "double-dealing and underhanded dishonest work."

Mrs. Frances C. Axtell was not the real choice of the original conference which indorsed her, but was accepted "under duress" because a minority representation of women threatened to "bust up" the meeting and "walk out" unless she was indorsed.

These women did not represent the club women of Seattle and were repudiated by the latter.

The statement that he asked the "peace" conference to withdraw Mrs. Axtell and indorse George Lamping is a "malleous lie."

The laboring people throughout the state failed to respond to Mrs. Axtell's candidacy.

These are some of the high lights in a letter received here yesterday by J. S. Houghton, editor of the Bellingham Labor World, from William Short, president of the Washington State Federation of Labor.

Mr. Short's letter, apparently was prompted by the action of George I. Maston, chairman of the Railwaymen's Political club, in issuing a statement Sunday wherein it was stated that Short had attempted to get a conference of labor leaders at Seattle to indorse Lamping for senator. On Monday Short spoke at the Labor day celebration here. At the suggestion of C. E. Roaney, president of the Bellingham labor council,

who presided, no reference to the "controversy" was made at the meeting.

"This I readily agreed to," says Mr. Short in his letter, "and thought it the proper course, little dreaming that such a double-cross had already been planned by the Axtell adherents."

"In the first place," the letter continues, "many gross misrepresentations of the facts in the case are contained in the article; and in the second place, it was distinctly agreed at Mr. Maston's own suggestion that nothing that occurred at the executive meeting would be given out to the press or made public. Yet it seems his first act after we had left the room was to send out a circular letter on the subject and address it to the press."

"It is this sort of double-dealing and underhanded dishonest work that has confronted us at every step in the campaign that finally forced us to sever our associations with them. At no time have we had their honest co-operation in our endeavor to eliminate candidates and consolidate the progressive vote on one opponent to Senator Poindexter. But, on the contrary, every sincere effort made by us in the interests of our own people has been maligned and misrepresented just as grossly as is now being done in public."

"The statement contained in the article that I had proposed the candidacy of Mrs. Axtell in the original conference is absurdly untrue. Vice President Montgomery, of your city, will testify to the fact that we held out to the last

(Continued on Page Two)

## CANDIDATES SQUARING OFF FOR FINISHING TOUCHES

Eleventh Hour Interest Grows—  
Principal Interest Is In Senatorial Contest.

Candidates for office were squaring away today for the "last licks" in the pre-primary campaign, which will come to an end next Tuesday. Interest in the campaign this year has not been up to normal, but during the past few days some zest has been contributed to the finishing touches as the office-seekers peddled their wares among the electorate.

Primarily, interest here in the campaign has centered in the United States senatorial contest. This has been intensified considerably during the week owing to the growing split which has occurred in the anti-Poindexter ranks. Mrs. Frances C. Axtell, the only woman candidate for the nomination, took part at the Labor day celebration at orn-wall park Monday, and Colonel George B. Lamping gave a brief street corner address here Thursday night.

Campaign items: 1922 Washington State Legislature Campaign clippings from The Bellingham Herald

Vote for



Mrs. Frances C. Axtell

for

Representative

2nd District

(Paid Advertising)

## MRS. AXTELL AND OTTO CASE TALK

Policies of Republican Party  
Are Attacked by Demo-  
cratic Candidates.

Policies of the republican party and the public records of United States Senator Wesley Jones, Seattle, and United States Congressman Lin Hadley, Bellingham, incumbent republicans up for re-election, were attacked in addresses by Mrs. Frances C. Axtell, Bellingham, democratic candidate for the congressional seat held by Mr. Hadley, and Otto Case, Seattle progressive, at Liberty hall last night. Approximately 200 persons attended.

Congressman Lin Hadley denied charges that he is reactionary and a corporation attorney in a speech at the hall Friday evening. Mrs. Axtell again hurled the charges, saying that in 1920 Mr. Hadley told her he was reactionary and that she judged he was a corporation attorney by the profession he followed before becoming a congressman.

Also she attacked Mr. Hadley for telling the Friday audience that he had voted for twenty-five of twenty-seven measures that affected the workers, because he did not cite the specific bills he voted for. The world court and war debt settlement issues were mentioned by both speakers.

In speaking of the recent probe of A. Scott Bullitt's campaign expenditures in Seattle, Mr. Case declared it was a wonderful thing for Bullitt's candidacy. Mr. Case predicted that Mr. Bullitt would carry King county by not less than from 6,000 to 10,000 votes over Senator Jones.

Both speakers closed their talks with pleas for the people to vote for progressive candidates for public offices. Mr. Case said that usually he voted the republican ticket but that he could not do so while the government of this country is being conducted as it is.

**am Beautiful Home Series---No. 36**

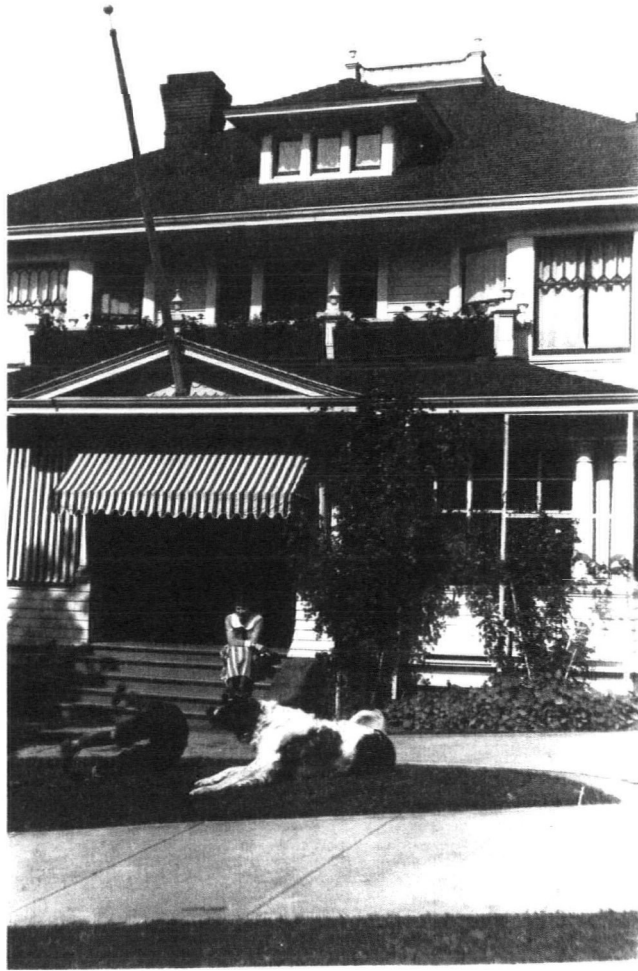


Residence of Dr. William H. Axtell, 413 Maple Street.

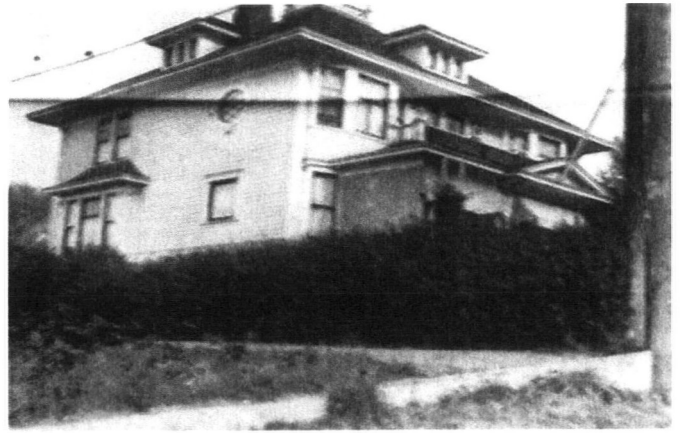
“Bellingham Beautiful Home Series, No. 36, The Bellingham Herald, June 8, 1907 page 20.



Axtell House, southeast corner. C. 1920. Photograph courtesy of William B. Hussey.



Bill Hussey playing with Mr. Montague's St. Bernard. Daughter of Frances Axtell, Ruth Axtell (Hussey) (Burnet), his mother, in background. C. 1921. Photograph courtesy of William B. Hussey.



Axtell House, c. 1913. Photograph courtesy of William B. Hussey.



Axtell House after conversion to apartments showing extension of portico, additional wing, stucco treatment, modernized roof and windows created for Frances Axtell's conversion of her home into apartments. c. 1926. Photograph courtesy of William B. Hussey.



Axtell Apartments showing extension of portico, additional wing, stucco treatment, modernized roof and windows created for Frances Axtell's conversion of her home into apartments. c. 1927. Photograph courtesy of William B. Hussey.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Axtell, Dr. William H. and Frances C., House

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: WASHINGTON, Whatcom

DATE RECEIVED: 1/20/12 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 2/21/12  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 3/07/12 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 3/07/12  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 12000087

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: Y

COMMENT WAIVER: N

\_\_\_ACCEPT \_\_\_RETURN \_\_\_REJECT \_\_\_\_\_DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

The Dr. William H. and Frances C. Axtell House is significant at the state level under National Register Criterion B in the area of Politics/Government. Built in 1902 and substantially altered into multi-unit apartments in 1926, the house served as the primary residence of state/local politician and civic leader Frances Cleveland Axtell. The first woman elected to the Washington State Legislature, Axtell was a pioneering figure in local and state politics during an era of significant political change. Issues such as woman's suffrage, minimum wage, public safety, worker's rights, and good government, along with other progressive issues dramatically reshaped state and national politics at the time. Axtell's leadership role at both the local/Bellingham level and in the state legislature made important contributions to Washington's political development. Her home during this period served as informal meeting place for many of her activities. At this point the current nomination fails to place Axtell's contributions in sufficient national context with the works of other early twentieth century woman politicians and leaders to evaluate her significance at the national level. Additional scholarly evidence or research may provide a better understanding of her influence on the national stage and her relative importance as a twentieth century figure in woman's history and U.S. politics.

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept Criterion B

REVIEWER Paul R. Lusignan DISCIPLINE HISTORIAN

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE 3/7/2012

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



AKTELL HOUSE  
413 E. MAPLE ST.  
BELLINGHAM, WA  
• WHATEUM CO.

- THELMA FILET
- JUNE 2011

"MAN FACADE"



Arrell House  
413 E. Maple St.  
Bellingham, WA  
Whatcom Co.

• THELMA FOLLETT  
JUNE 2011

"WEST FACADE"

2 OF 13



Axtell House  
413 E. Maple St.  
Bellingham, WA  
· Whatcom Co

· THEIMA FOLLETT  
JUNE 2011

"EAST FACADE"

3 of 13



TENANT  
PARKING  
JULY

AXTELL HOUSE  
413 E. MAPLE ST.  
BELLINGHAM, WA  
· WHATCOM CO.

THELMA FIBOT  
· JUNE 2011

"REAR FACADE"  
4 of 13



Axtell House  
413 E. MAPLE ST.  
BELLINGHAM, WA  
• WHATCOM CO.

• THEIMA FOLLETT

JUNE 2011

"WINDOW DETAIL"

5 of 13



ARTELL HOUSE  
413 E. MAPLE ST.  
BELLINGHAM, WA  
WHATCOM C.

THELMA FOLLET  
JUNE 2011

"TRANSON DETAIL"

6 OF 13



AXTELL HOUSE  
413 E. MAPLE ST.  
BELLINGHAM, WA  
· WHATCOM CO.

· THELMA FOLLETT  
JUNE 2011

"2ND FLOOR  
BALCONY"  
DETAIL"

7 of 13



AXTELL HOUSE  
413 E. MAPLE ST.  
BELLINGHAM, USA  
- WHATCOM CO.

THELMA FLETT  
JUNE 2018

" STAIR DETAIL "

8 OF 13



AXTELL HOUSE  
413 E. MAPLE ST.  
BELLINGHAM, WA  
· WHATCOM CO.

· THELMA FOLLET  
JUNE 2011

" FIRE PLACE "

· FORMER LIBRARY

9 OF 13



AXTELL HOUSE  
413 E. MAPLE ST.  
BELLINGHAM, WA  
WHATCOM CO.

THELMA FOLLETT  
JUNE 2011

"SLIDING DOORS"

10 of 13



Axtell House

413 E. MAPLE ST.

Bellingham, WA

• WHATCOM CO.

• THELMA Follett

JUNE 2011

" UNIT 8 "

11 OF 13



AXTELL HOUSE  
413 E. MAPLE ST.  
BELLINGHAM, WA  
• WHATCOM CO.

• THEIMA FOLLET  
JUNE 2011

" UNIT 8 "  
SLIDING DOOR:

12 OF 13



AXTELL HOUSE  
413 E. MAPLE ST.  
BELLINGHAM, WA

• WHATCOM CO.

• THELMA FULLERT  
JUNE 2011

"UNIT 8"

FORMER

LIVING ROOM

FIRE PLACE "

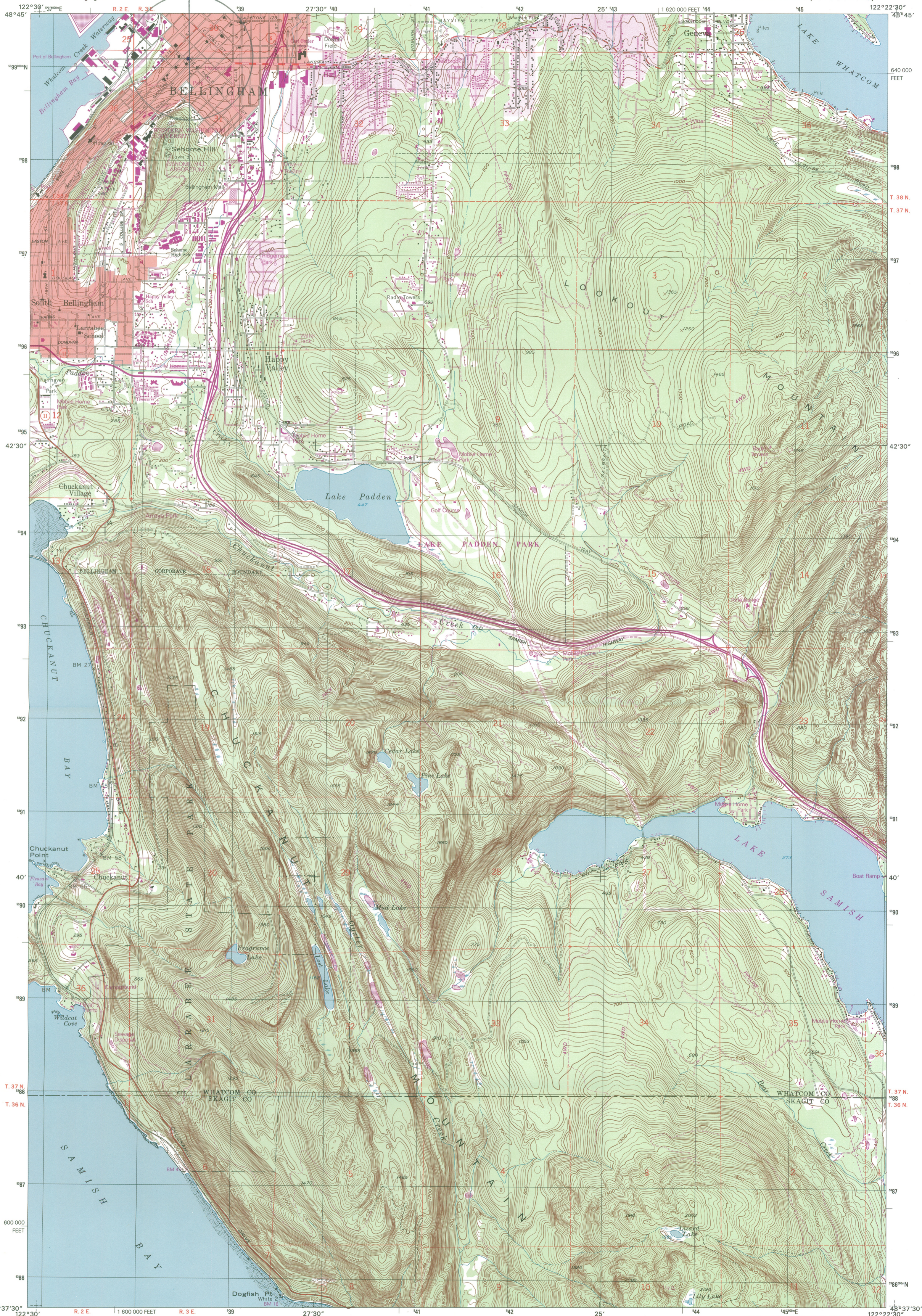
13 OF 13



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

BELLINGHAM SOUTH QUADRANGLE  
WASHINGTON  
7.5-MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

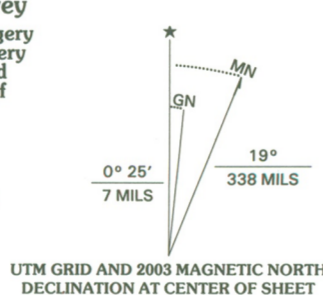
Axtell House  
ZONE: 10  
5-38-426E  
53-99-095N



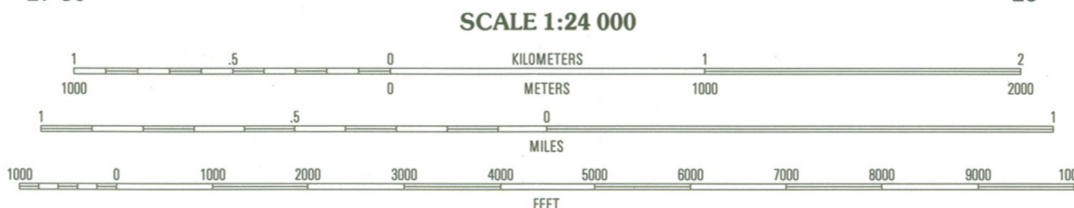
Produced by the United States Geological Survey  
Topography compiled 1949. Planimetry derived from imagery taken 1989 and other sources. Photospectroscopy using imagery taken 1998; no major culture or drainage changes observed. Public Land Survey System and survey control current as of 1990. Boundaries, other than corporate, verified 2002. Information shown in purple may not meet USGS content standards and may conflict with previously mapped contours.

North American Datum of 1927 (NAD 27). Projection and 1 000-meter grid: Universal Transverse Mercator, zone 10 10 000-foot ticks: Washington Coordinate System of 1927 (north zone).  
North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83) is shown by dashed corner ticks. The values of the shift between NAD 27 and NAD 83 for 7.5-minute intersections are obtainable from National Geodetic Survey NADCON software.

There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map.

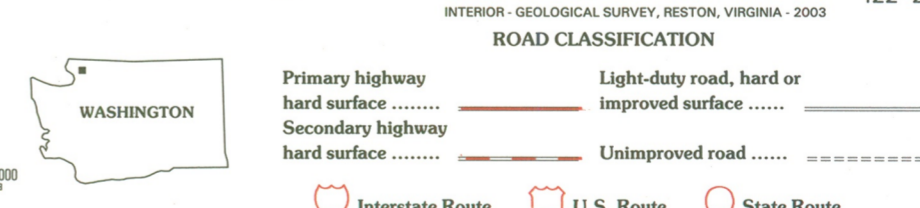


UTM GRID AND 2003 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET  
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929  
(TO CONVERT ELEVATIONS TO THE NORTH AMERICAN VERTICAL DATUM OF 1988, ADD 4 FEET)  
SHORELINE SHWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER  
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 5 FEET  
TO CONVERT FROM FEET TO METERS, MULTIPLY BY 0.3048

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, P.O. BOX 25286, DENVER, COLORADO 80225  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

1	2	3	1 Female
2	3	4	2 Bellingham North
3	4	5	3 Lawrence
4	5	6	4 Eliza Island
5	6	7	5 Lake Whatcom
6	7	8	6 Anacortes North
			7 Bow
			8 Alger

BELLINGHAM SOUTH, WA  
1998

NIMA 1581 III NW-SERIES V891





STATE OF WASHINGTON  
Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation  
1063 S. Capitol Way, Suite 106 - Olympia, Washington 98501  
(Mailing Address) PO Box 48343 - Olympia, Washington 98504-8343  
(360) 586-3065 Fax Number (360) 586-3067

January 10, 2012

Paul Lusignan  
Keeper of the National Register  
National Register of Historic Places  
1201 "I" Street NW, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Washington, D.C. 20005

RE: **Washington State NR Nominations**

Dear Paul:

Please find enclosed new National Register Nomination forms for the:

- **Charles & Mary Curran House – Pierce County, WA**
- **Dr. William & Frances Axtell House - Whatcom County, WA**

Should you have any questions regarding these nominations please contact me anytime at (360) 586-3076. I look forward to hearing your final determination on these properties.

Sincerely,

**Michael Houser**

State Architectural Historian, DAHP  
360-586-3076  
E-Mail: [michael.houser@dahp.wa.gov](mailto:michael.houser@dahp.wa.gov)