



**CITY OF BOTHELL
LOCAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC LANDMARKS
NOMINATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. For aid in completing this nomination form, see applicable instructions in "Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms" (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking an "x" in the appropriate space or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable". For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. Please use the official continuation sheets if additional space is needed. This form must be type written and have a 4" x 6" black and white photo of the property nominated attached above. DO NOT ENTER INFORMATION IN SHADED AREAS.

Name of Property (Common) _____ (Historic) James Skirving House
 Street Address 10425 E Riverside Drive
 Parcel No. _____ Plat Name _____ Block ____ Lot ____
 Present Owner Name and Mailing Address _____

 Signature: _____

Original Owner _____ Original Use _____

Architect UNKNOWN Builder UNKNOWN

Present Use DOMESTIC / Single dwelling

1. Classification of Property

Ownership:	Category:	Number of Resources within Property:	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>2</u>	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> public (local)	<input type="checkbox"/> district	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> public (state)	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> public (federal)	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____
	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	<u>1</u>
	Totals:	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>

Number of contributing resources previously listed on the:

_____ Local Register 2 State Register _____ Federal Register

Name of related multiple property listing: Historic Resources of Bothell,
(Example: Historic Resources of Bothell, Washington) Washington

2. Function or Use (enter categories using federal guideline instructions)

Historic Functions	Current Function
<u>DOMESTIC / Single dwelling</u>	<u>DOMESTIC / single dwelling</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

3. Description

Architectural Classification (enter categories from federal guideline instructions):

LATE 19th AND EARLY 20th CENTURY AMERICAN
OTHER: American Box
OTHER: Classic Box

3. Description (continued)

Materials used in (enter categories from federal guideline instructions):

Foundation Brick

Walls WOOD/Weatherboard

Roof Asphalt

Other WOOD/shingle

Describe present and historic physical appearance:

The James Skirving House is an American Foursquare Style residence located near the south banks of the Sammamish River in the suburban King County community of Bothell, Washington. Characterized by cubic massing, a hip roof with broad eaves and dormers, and an imposing scale, the house rests on a double lot on the southeast corner of East Riverside Drive and Eason Street. To the north, the house faces the winding Sammamish. To the south along Eason, and to the east and west, the neighborhood—once dotted by farms and Victorian houses—is now characterized by a mix of early 20th century housing, contemporary residential structures, and scattered commercial properties. The rural ambience of the neighborhood is currently under pressure from the burgeoning growth of Bothell and the contiguous Seattle-Everett urban corridor, and the Skirving House is one of the most distinctive reminders of the area's original character as a small town in an agricultural hinterland.

The Skirving House is a two-story balloon frame structure built on a square plan that measures approximately 40 feet across all four sides. The structure rests on a brick foundation faced in concrete, which is scored to resemble ashlar. The walls rise to a low-pitched hipped roof with asphalt shingles and overhanging eaves which shelter the house and emphasize its horizontal massing. The open eaves feature exposed rafter tails which were trimmed in 1976 when metal gutters were installed. The cubic massing of the house is further reflected in square dormers which project on all four slopes. Characterized by low-pitched hip roofs and broad eaves similar to the main roof, the dormers are nestled into, and extend the horizontal lines of, the main roof. A central brick chimney, with corbeled cap, rises from the central ridge.

The exterior walls of the Skirving House are sided with narrow clapboards, with a shingle skirt overhanging the foundation. A simple stringcourse runs across the facade between the first and second floors, and a broad fascia board runs along the top of the walls beneath the eaves.

X See continuation sheet

4. Statement of Significance

The City of Bothell Landmark Preservation Board has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: ___ Nationally ___ Statewide Locally

Please check which of the following statements apply:

- 1. It is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of national, state or local history.
- 2. It embodies the distinctive architectural characteristics of a type, period, style or method of construction, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.
- 3. It is an outstanding work of a designer, builder or architect who has made a substantial contribution to the art.
- 4. It exemplifies or reflects special elements of the City's cultural, special, economic, political, aesthetic, engineering or architectural history.
- 5. It is associated with the lives of persons significant in national, state or local history. (check and circle which one or ones)
- 6. It has yielded or is likely to yield important archaeological information.
- 7. It is a building or structure removed from its original location, but which is significant primarily for architectural value, or which is the only surviving structure significantly associated with an historic person or event.
- 8. It is a birthplace or grave of a historical person of outstanding importance and is the only surviving structure or site associated with that person.
- 9. It is a cemetery which derives its primary significance from age, from distinctive design features, or from association with historic events, persons or cultural patterns.
- 10. It is a reconstructed building that has been executed in an historically accurate manner on the original site.
- 11. It is a creative and unique example of folk architecture and design created by persons not formally trained in the architectural or design professions, and which does not fit into formal architectural or historical categories.

Applicable National Register Criteria: ___ A ___ B C ___ D

Criteria Considerations (exceptions): ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D ___ E ___ F ___ G

4. Statement of Significance (continued)

List areas of significance from federal guidelines:

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance:

1902

Significant Dates:

1902

Cultural Affiliation:

N/A

Architect/Builder:

UNKNOWN

Person(s) of Significance in Local, State or National history:

N/A

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

Built in 1902 near the banks of the Sammamish River, the James Skirving House is a significant example of an American Foursquare Style residence in Seattle's rural hinterland, and the best surviving example of the type in suburban Bothell. The cubic massing, stately proportions, strong horizontal lines, and non-historic details distinguished the Skirving House from most of its post-Victorian neighbors. Today, as the area becomes increasingly urbanized with the growth of the Seattle-Everett metropolitan region, the Skirving House is a reminder of Bothell's turn of the century character, when the community was a quiet trade town on the urban hinterland.

Historical Background: A successful businessman and farmer, James Skirving arrived in the Seattle area from Nebraska at the turn of the century; in the early 20th century he owned a feed mill in Bothell as well as hay fields in Eastern Washington. Because his business interests were scattered, Skirving moved several times before settling in the Bothell house by 1909.

X See continuation sheet

5. Major Bibliographical References

King County Cultural Resources Survey, 1978.

Determination of Eligibility, Riverside Parkway/Bothell Bypass
Environmental Impact Study, 1986.

Bothell Cultural Resources Survey, 1988.

Seattle City Directories 1903-1916.

Seattle Times, March 29, 1961, page 67.

Squak Slough, Stickney and McDonald, Friends of the Bothell
Library, 1977.

(Standard references such as Bagley's Histories of King County
and Seattle were also checked.)

___ See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

___ Preliminary determination of individual listing has been requested (36 CFR 67)

___ Previously listed in the Bothell Register

___ Previously determined eligible for the Bothell Register

X Recorded in Bothell Inventory of Historic Places (Site No.)

43-408W

X Previously designated a National or State Historic Landmark (check and circle one)

Primary location of additional data:

X State Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

___ Other State Agency (Name: _____)

___ Federal Agency (Name: _____)

___ Local Government Agency (Name: _____)

___ University (Name: _____)

___ Other (Name: _____)

6. Geographical Data

Acreage _____

UTM References:

A
zone Easting Northing

B
zone Easting Northing

C
zone Easting Northing

D
zone Easting Northing

____ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The two adjoining (east/west) lots at the southeast corner of East Riverside Drive and Eason Avenue.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of this nomination correspond to the current and historical boundaries of this property as legally recorded.

Form prepared and submitted by:

Date Completed _____

Name and Title: Regan Sidie, Bothell Landmark Preservation Board

Organization: City of Bothell, Department of Community Development

Mailing Address: 18305 101st Avenue NE, Bothell, WA 98011

Telephone: (206) 486-8152

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The fenestration pattern provides the main decorative interest on the house, and relieves the cubic solidity of the massing. A two-story square bay window projects at the northwest corner of the house, sheltered by an engaged hip roof which extends from the slope of the main roof. The bay is lighted by large wood sash windows; the first floor windows feature decorative leaded glass in the upper sash with geometric comes. A one-

story bay, also sheltered by an engaged hip roof, projects on the southwest corner and is lighted by bands of one-over-one double hung wood sash windows. Similar bands of double-hung wood sash light the dormer windows, while small circular windows punctuate the second floor facade and west side elevation. Elsewhere, the exterior is lighted by one-over-one double hung windows. Across the house, windows are framed by flat architraves with molded entablature hoods.

A single story off-center front porch, which spans the north facade from the east corner to the west bay, shelters the front entry. The broad hip roof of the porch is supported by large square columns; a simple railing features square balusters. The front entry features a single leaf paneled door with a glazed panel in which new leaded glass has been installed. A double hung wood sash window to the east of the door lights the interior hallway. The rear elevation is accessed through an enclosed single story rear porch which spans the entire elevation. Historic photographs indicate that the rear porch was enclosed as early as 1910.

The interior of the Skirving House features a typical Foursquare plan, with an offset square entry hall, two large front rooms, two rear rooms, and three bedrooms on the second floor organized around the stairhall. The interior features milled trim; plaster over lath walls; and four-inch fir flooring. The entry hall features a staircase, with turned newel post and spindles. An oversized opening with a single pocket door gives access to the west parlor and a single leaf door opens to the kitchen to the south. All of the interior doors are solid five panel doors with decorative oval knobs and brass plates. Other trim includes wide baseboards capped with deep-cut moldings and turned corner protectors. The current owners are working on a rehabilitation of the attic space.

Despite its stately proportions, the Skirving House is not large in terms of interior area. The current owners have solved the modern dilemma of inadequate kitchen and laundry space and the lack of a downstairs bath by designing a one story hip roof addition on the rear of the east side of the house and by rebuilding the enclosed rear porch. The addition is proportionately compatible with the original design and sensitively constructed with similar materials and trim, but its scale does impact the overall massing of the Skirving House. It does not, however, damage or obscure the principal character-defining features of the house.

X See continuation sheet

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Two outbuildings are located on the property. A contributing I-shaped frame garage facing Eason Street has two sliding doors; one-over-one double hung windows; and a wood shingle roof. The garage appears in

photographs that date to 1910. A freestanding "play house," built shortly after 1930, is a frame structure with drop siding located on the southeast property line. It does not contribute to the significance of the house.

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From 1905 until 1908, Skirving and his family are listed in Seattle city directories at several addresses, first on Woodlawn and then on 3rd Avenue Northwest. During these years, Skirving was employed with the Palmerton-Harvey Grain Company in Seattle, while another family member, who lived nearby, was listed as the manager of a farmer's warehouse and, after 1910, a carpenter.

By 1909, Skirving had "removed to Bothell," according to directories, and managed the Bothell Feed Mill. The feed mill, which stood next to the Cooperative Mercantile Company at 102nd and Main, advertised "wholesale and retail flour, feed, grain, hay, and building materials." Skirving no doubt had good contacts, through family and business, with the building trades of Seattle. His close relationship to a Seattle carpenter and his own building materials business likely would have familiarized him with the builders' catalogs of the era, which were popularizing the Foursquare Style.

The Skirvings lived in the house until the early 1920s, when the property was sold to the Page family. In the 1930s, the house was purchased by the Wrights, who lived there approximately 35 years. They sold to the John Peterson family who in turn sold the house in 1980 to the current owners.

Architectural Significance: The American Foursquare style was widely popularized in the first decades of the 20th century through pattern books; its simple lines and restrained ornament posed an attractive "modern" alternative to the complex and decorative designs of the Victorian era. As its name implied, the Foursquare house was characterized by a roughly symmetrical plan, strong horizontal lines, a lack of historical ornament and, above all, cubic proportions. The house type was both substantial and affordable, and was a favorite among speculative builders in the post-Victorian age. In Seattle, for example, streetcar suburbs, like the Capital Hill Addition, boasted block after block of these "classic boxes" (as the style is alternatively known).

But the American Foursquare was never as popular in rural Bothell, where Victorian cottages and post-Victorian Craftsman style houses dominated the building stock. A historic photograph, dated about 1910, does identify a Foursquare across Riverside Drive from the Skirving House, suggesting that the style was briefly preferred for some of the large new suburban residences of the era. But eighty years later, the Skirving House is the only well preserved example of the form, and one of the few properties of any type from the first decade of the century.

x See continuation sheet

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Continuation Sheet

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The comprehensive architectural survey of Bothell (1989) identified the Skirving House as the last preserved example of the American Four Square style in the community. The house is a good example of the type because it clearly embodies the characteristic features of the style. Its cubic massing, hipped roof with hipped dormers, wide overhanging eaves, square bay windows, off-center entry and front porch with square posts all reflect the hallmarks of the style. But its importance as a representative example is heightened by its singularity as the only surviving example of a house type so rare in the community that older residents referred to it as a "city house." Despite an addition which expands the rear, the house meets the registration requirements for the residential property type as established in the Bothell Multiple Property Documentation Form because the essential character-defining features are intact.