



Historic Signage

The Neighbor-Bennett House, Fall City

The Neighbor-Bennett house, built in 1904, became a King County Landmark in 1996 and was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2004. It is located across 337th PI SE from the 1895 Masonic Lodge and the 1898 Methodist Church.



Snoqualmie Valley Historical Museum

Early Owners

The house was built in 1904 by Emerson Neighbor. In 1895, Justin Neighbor and his son Emerson purchased a building located in Block 3, Lot 1, which had been built in about 1890 by the Bertrand Brothers and was the first saloon of record in Fall City. They converted the building into a small general store. At this time also, Justin Neighbor began a five-year stint as Fall City Postmaster. Justin died suddenly in May 1900 and Emerson took over the

store. Around 1900, a phone in the Neighbors' store was connected to the long distance line between the newly built Snoqualmie Falls Power Plant and Seattle, allowing local merchants to call Seattle. In 1905 Emerson borrowed money from Julia Harshman to fund the first telephone line connecting Fall City, Tolt (now Carnation), and the Northern Pacific Depot at Fall City and installed the first telephone switchboard in his office at the store. In 1908, Emerson got a job in Seattle and gave the telephone system to Julia to repay his debt.



Early Owners (continued)

Emerson Neighbor sold his house in 1912 to Frank P. Bennett, who had been a blacksmith in Tolt before he and his wife Lula moved to a farm west of Fall City in 1908. In 1912, Frank and his son Ernest began hauling milk by horse and wagon from Fall City to Tolt. In the early days, the route ran along a rough trail with an 18-mile round trip requiring a relief team of horses. In 1917 they converted the business to truck delivery and in 1918 bought the lot at Block 8 Lot 1 (across from the Masonic Hall and next door to the Neighbor-Bennett House) where he later built a garage for his milk trucks. By 1921 the Bennett Trucking Company operated a fleet of four Milk Trucks (shown above).



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Setting

The house stands on a large property taking up most of the east side of Block 8. The period fence along the front of the house (right) is made of metal pipe and woven-wire in a pattern of repeating arches. There is one major outbuilding: a large carriage house that originally served as horse stable/wagon shed and later as automobile garage and storage. The southern half of the property has been cultivated as large vegetable and fruit garden with later additions of chicken coop and other small buildings. The Fall City Methodist Church was located in the garden area before it was wheeled across the street on peeler logs in 1927. See more photos, next page.



FALL CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



In the background, left, of the early photo above, the Neighbor-Bennett house is visible, and just south of it, the early church building.

Photo left, the carriage house in 2015.



Aerial view of Block 8, with its four large properties, showing the use of the large Neighbor-Bennett lot in the mid-1980s by Bette Stuart.



House

It was common in the early 1900s and before for houses to be built to plans purchased from well-known catalogs. The overall plan, building form, construction materials and architectural detail for this house so closely follow those described for “Design No. 72” in *The Radford Ideal Homes: 100 House Plans* that the design most certainly is directly or indirectly associated with this source.

Exterior: The house is rectangular with horizontal beveled cedar siding and a steeply pitched roof. The high front gable has fishscale shingles in its upper half and a diamond-shaped window which is bordered in diamond-shaped panes. (The dormers on north and south sides also have windows with diamond-shaped panes in the upper portions of the windows.) A prominent cornice bisects the gable, supported by curved brackets.



The porch extends along the front (east) and about one-third of the way along the sides of the house. Turned posts support the low pitched hip roof. Each post has a bracket that connects to a frieze of circular ornaments. (Left)

The posts' pattern is repeated on the balusters that run the whole length of the porch. In the photo, left, the balusters have been removed for porch repair.)



The paneled front door is original. Of special interest is the old twisting ting-a-ling doorbell (to the left of the doorknob) fondly remembered by local children at Halloween.



The upper half of the wood door has an ornate etched glass panel, showing an elk surrounded by elaborate designs, with the name of the designer "Suess" still visible. Max Suess started the Suess Ornamental Glass Company in Chicago in 1889. He patented the sand-blast technique used to make these complex designs in 1893 and was a Gold Medal recipient at the Co-



lumbian Exposition the same year. His great-granddaughter recently shared the company catalog with us, where number 1602 (shown at right) graces the Neighbor-Bennett house. In the 1940 Washington State Archives photo (below) the front door can be seen on the north side, entering from the porch.



You can also see in this early photo a small 1918 addition, adding a small bathroom and new kitchen to the west end of the house. In 1980 the Stuarts replaced the 1918 work with a 20x40ft addition, enlarging the bathroom and kitchen, adding a breakfast nook and a generous

back porch. Original doors, windows and wood were used where possible and other parts were custom milled to match. For example, the turned support posts, brackets and spindle work on the back porch match those in front.



Interior Left: Original pocket doors into dining room, and the distinctive milled door trim seen throughout the house. Right: the inside of the back door, showing fir trim that matches the original flooring.



Inset: detail of baseboard and base blocks.



Left: detail of decorative plaster arch at entry to stairs.

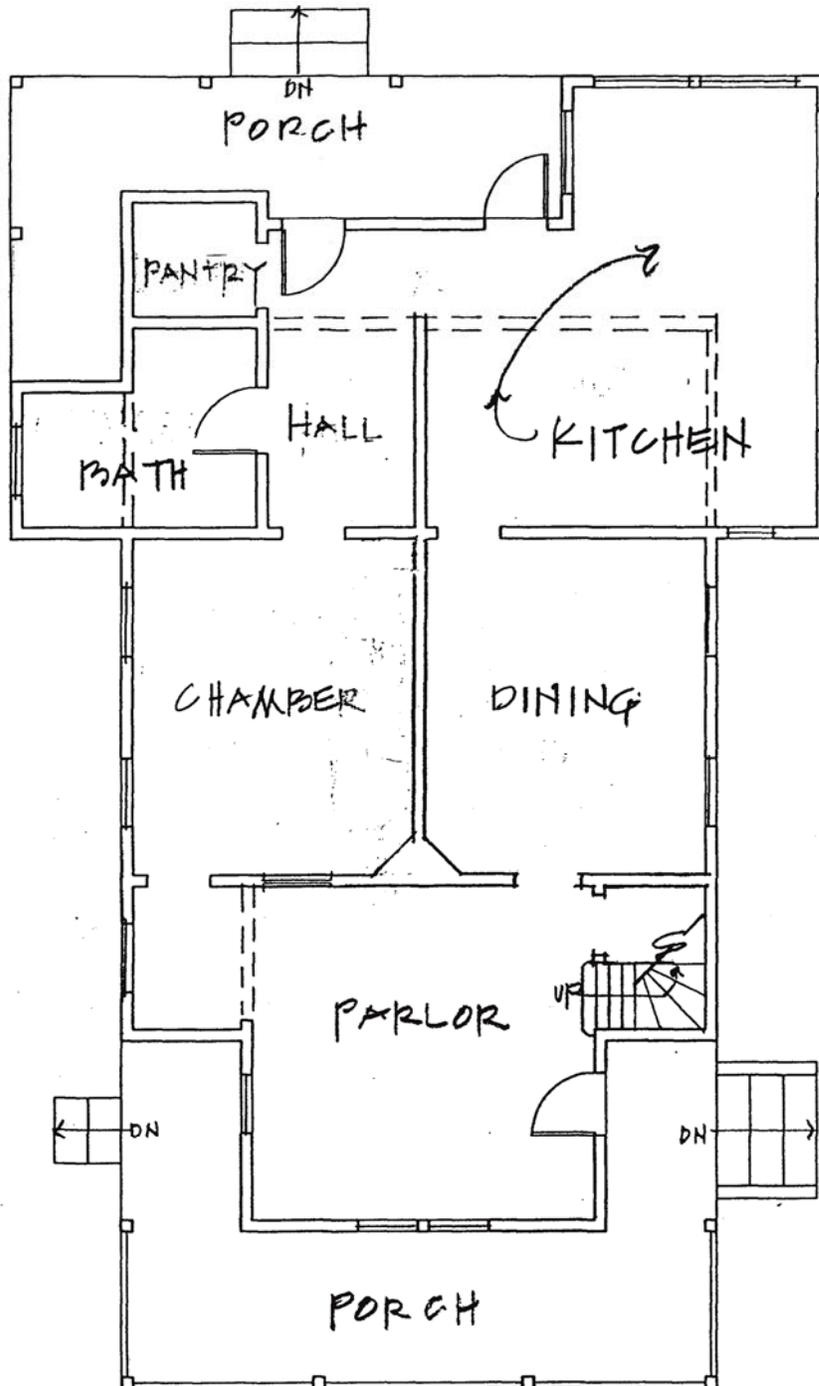
Right: dormer windows are visible in this upstairs closet, as well as in the stairwell. See dormer placement in Second Floor plan, page 8.



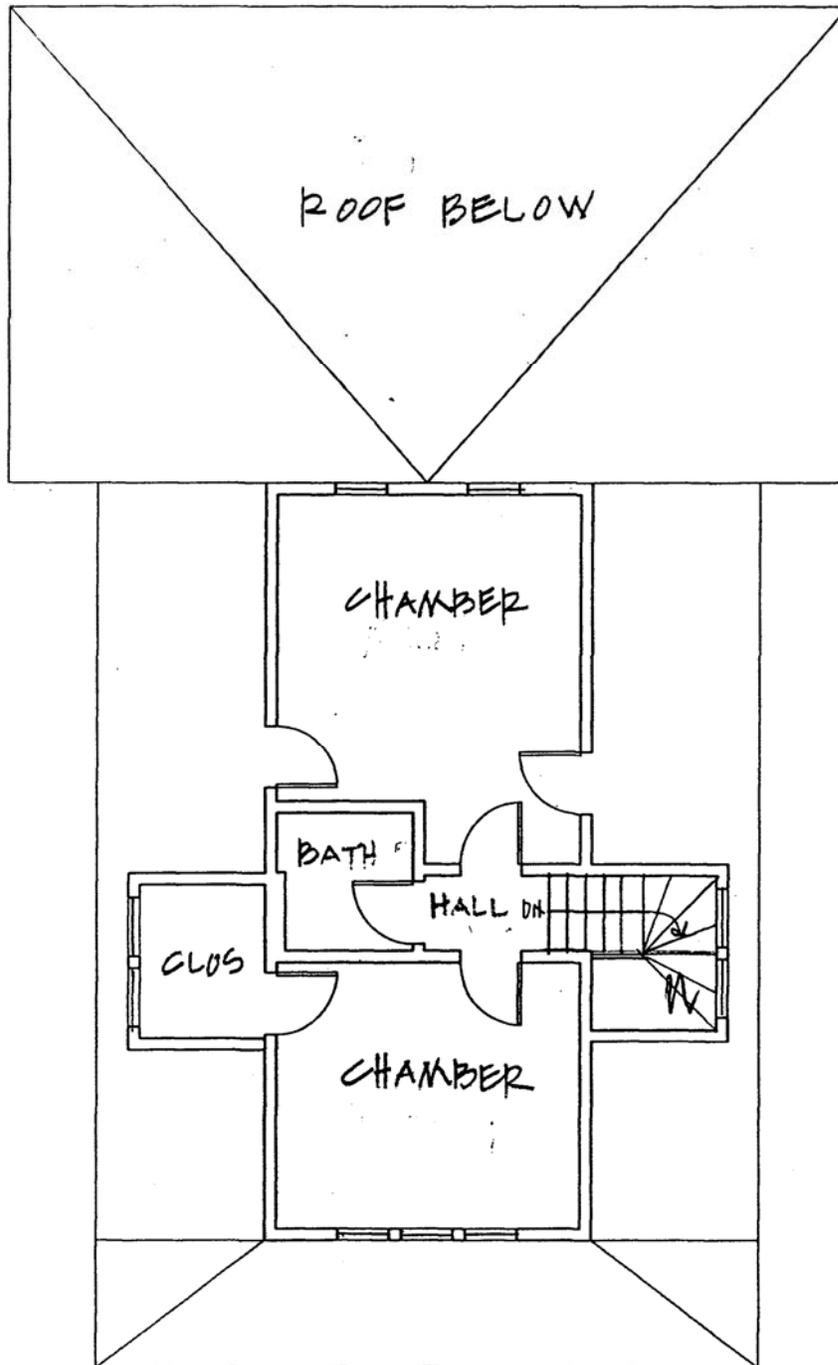
Left: in the breakfast nook added in 1980, floor and trim match the original flooring and details are carried in from the rest of the house. French doors open on to the back porch.

Right: a clawfoot tub was added in the new larger bathroom.





NEIGHBOR-BENNETT HOUSE
FIRST FLOOR PLAN N.T.S.



NEIGHBOR-BENNETT HOUSE
SECOND FLOOR PLAN N.T.S.