

SURVEY-INVENTORY FORM

COMMUNITY CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY

1. NAME

Historic Seattle Public Library-University Branch *Carnegie Libraries of Washington, etc.*
 and/or Common Same

2. LOCATION

Street & Number 5009 ^{Roosevelt} University Way, N.E. | Seattle North | UTM References:
 City, Town Seattle - vicinity of 1:24 000 Zone 10 Easting 551320 Northing 5279120
 State Washington County King - not for publication

3. CLASSIFICATION

Ownership: public private both
 Status: occupied unoccupied work in progress
 Present Use: agriculture commercial educational entertainment government
 industrial military museum park private residence
 religious scientific transportation other Library

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

Name City of Seattle
 Street & Number 600 - 4th Avenue
 City, Town Seattle - vicinity of State Washington 98104

5. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

6. FORM PREPARED BY

Name/Title J.H. Vandermeer, Historian
 Organization Office of Archaeology & Historic Preservation Date August 1981
 Street & Number 111 West 21st Avenue Telephone (206) 753-9685
 City or Town Olympia State Washington 98504

7. DESCRIPTION

Condition: excellent good fair deteriorated ruins unexposed
Circle one: unaltered altered
Circle one: original site moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance
attach photo

The University branch is a long, rectangular building facing on a busy commercial street. It has one high story above a daylight basement, but it seems quite high and imposing because the site is well above street level. The main entrance, which is approached from the east by broad stairs, is centered between sets of four tall windows and features attached columns and an arched transom. The building has a gable roof of composition shingles, which replaced the original tiles. The surface treatment is stucco. The most noteworthy decorative elements are the carved roof brackets and the tile and terra cotta panels between them.

Verbal boundary description: W 180' of E 210' of N 180'
of S 210' of NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$.

Acreage: Less than one.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

Specific dates 1910

Builder/Architect

Somervell & Cote

a. History

(A general history of the Seattle Public Library and its buildings follows the inventory form for the West Seattle Branch.)

A branch library was opened in the University district on March 9, 1906. It was located in the back of a pharmacy at the entrance to the University grounds. A promise of funds from Andrew Carnegie in 1908 led to the planning for this building. The site was donated to the city by Watson and Cornelia Allen, and the building was designed by Somervell and Cote. It cost \$38,935 to build, and Carnegie supplied \$35,000. Except for the removal of a skylight and new aluminum doors, the building remains unaltered and continues to serve its original purpose.

b. Evaluation of Significance

This building is a very good example of a Carnegie Library and the site is one of the few non-commercial places on this busy street. The firm designed several other libraries in Seattle, and general remarks about their work may be found in connection with the inventory form for the West Seattle Branch.