

SURVEY-INVENTORY FORM  
COMMUNITY CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY

1. NAME

Historic Vancouver Public Library *(Carnegie Libraries of Washington)*  
and/or Common Clark County Historical Museum

2. LOCATION

Street & Number 1511 Main Street  
City, Town Vancouver - vicinity of  
State WA County Clark

UTM References:  
Zone 10 Easting 525715  
Northing 5053150  
- not for publication

Vancouver 1:24 000

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:

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

Name City of Vancouver  
Street & Number  
City, Town Vancouver - vicinity of State WA

5. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

National Register nomination form prepared by Fort Vancouver Historical Society on file at Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Olympia, WA.

6. FORM PREPARED BY

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

## 7. DESCRIPTION

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

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

The Vancouver Carnegie library is a rectangular brick building with a concrete foundation. The principal facade is the west side, and two brick additions extend back from the east side. Most of the architectural features of the principal facade are hidden by a huge tree called a Camperdown elm. Its branches extend horizontally in all directions for remarkable lengths and provide a most pleasant shaded environment in front of the library and on the main steps. The building consists of two rectangular sections connected by a central rectangular section of approximately equal size. Each of the side wings has a steeply pitched roof, and the roof over the connecting section is much lower. The central section is slightly recessed on the principal facade, which further emphasizes the distinct separation of the three parts. There are large square windows in the front of each of the wings and smaller arched windows flanking the main entrance, which has a large arched transom. Two standing lamps flank the stairs, completing the symmetry of the east facade. The building has sheet

(continued below)

Verbal boundary description:

Lots 3 and 4, Block 67, East Vancouver. Recorded  
under Volume D, Page 20.

Acreage: Less than one

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## 8. SIGNIFICANCE

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Specific dates 1909, 1944, 1948

Builder/Architect Kaufman & Nichols

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- a. History        Although the Vancouver Catholic Library Association was formed in 1865, the direct descent of the present system began much later. The city of Vancouver had no library until 1909, when this building was constructed. The city applied for and was given a Carnegie grant for construction costs. The land was donated by L.M. Hidden, a local brick manufacturer whose product was used to construct this building. Additions of the same brick were built in 1944 and 1948, but the building was still too small. A new library was built in 1963 and since 1964 the building has housed the Clark County Historical Museum.

b. Evaluation of Significance

This building has played an important role in the cultural and intellectual history of the city, and it continues doing so in its present role as a museum.

## 7. DESCRIPTION (continued)

metal eaves and several cast concrete decorative details, including a large parapet above the main entrance.