

SURVEY-INVENTORY FORM
COMMUNITY CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY

1. NAME

Historic Spokane Public Library - North Monroe Branch *Carnegie Library*
and/or Common Ens. John R. Monaghan Post No. 51, Veterans of Foreign Wars

2. LOCATION

Street & Number 925 W. Montgomery St.
City, Town Spokane - vicinity of
State Washington County Spokane

UTM References:
Zone 11 Easting 468080
Northing 5280430
Spokane NW, 1:24000- not for publication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: VFW hall

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

Name Ens. John R. Monaghan Post No. 51
Veterans of Foreign Wars
Street & Number 925 W. Montgomery
City, Town Spokane - vicinity of State Washington

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 North Monroe Branch is located on a small lot on the corner of Monroe Street, a busy thoroughfare, and Montgomery, a side street. It is a rectangular building fronting on Montgomery, across which is located a supermarket. The building is one story over a daylight basement, and is constructed of red brick. It has a hip roof of beautiful red, green and purple slate shingles. Below the eaves is a frieze which includes very small cone-like ornaments. The detail is restrained, but very fine. The main entrance is located in the center of the longer side and features a brick stairway and a small porch supported by Doric order columns. A metal awning which now covers the stairs is an intrusive, but superficial, addition. The outstanding features of this building are the roof and the main floor windows. Sets of three large windows flank the entrance, with an identical one on the end. They are casement type windows topped by an arched transom.

Verbal boundary description: N 60' of Lots 1 & 2,
Block 26, Moore's Addition (07-533-2602)

Acreage: Less than one

8. SIGNIFICANCE

Specific dates	1914	Builder/Architect	Albert Held
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a. History

This history of the Spokane Public Library's system of branches began in 1905 when one was opened in the basement of a school on the west side of Hangman (Latah) Creek. Other branches, usually established in response to neighborhood demand, followed soon thereafter. In 1912 Andrew Carnegie promised \$70,000 for construction of two permanent branches. The Library Board and the City Council disagreed on where the new buildings should be located, and the compromise that emerged was that the money would be used for three branches. Construction on all three soon began, and all opened in 1914. Of the \$70,000, \$17,500 was allocated for the construction of the North Monroe Branch. It served the community until 1967, when the city sold it to the local chapter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. They use it as a meeting hall, lounge and bingo parlor.

b. Evaluation of Significance

The North Monroe branch is a good example of a Carnegie library. The pattern which it represents was the most common one selected for Carnegie libraries in Washington state. The architect, Albert Held, was one of the busiest in Spokane.