

SURVEY-INVENTORY FORM
COMMUNITY CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY

1. NAME

Historic

Seattle Public Library-Fremont Branch

*Carnegie Libraries
of Washington TR*

and/or Common
Same

2. LOCATION

UTM References:

Zone 10 Easting 549050

Street & Number

Seattle North

Northing 5277510

731 North 35th Street

1:24 000

- not for publication

City, Town

Seattle

- vicinity of

State

Washington

County
King

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 and 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 Fremont branch is located on a quiet street in the shadow of the huge Aurora bridge. It occupies a site that slopes away from the street toward the Lake Washington Ship Canal. The building is a well-maintained square structure with a smooth stucco finish. It has one story at street level and two in back. There are numerous small windows on the north side, which faces the street and a set of three large arched windows on the east. Decorative elements include red brick sills under the windows and a red brick band around the base of the building. There is also some restrained use of tiles and metal grills. The architect termed the style "Italian farmhouse," and the Mediterranean influence is obvious. The most notable exterior feature is the beautiful red tile roof. Inside, the main public area is a handsome room with timber supports under the open gable and flooded with natural light from the three arched windows.

Verbal boundary description: Lots 9 to 12 & W $\frac{1}{2}$ of
13, Block 34, Denny & Hoyts' Plat

Acreage: Less than one

8. SIGNIFICANCE

Specific dates 1921

Builder/Architect Daniel Huntington

a. History

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

Seattle's first branch library opened in the Fremont district in 1903 above a drug store, but the subject building was the first permanent library in the neighborhood. Contributions to purchase the land were solicited in a fund-raising campaign which collected \$7,000, and the city augmented this amount with \$3,000 of public funds. The Carnegie Corporation promised \$35,000 in 1917, but World War I curtailed construction activity, and the library was not finished until 1921. Commitments made before the war were honored, but no new ones were made after the death of Andrew Carnegie in 1919. The Fremont branch is the last Carnegie library to be built in the state of Washington. It continues to serve the citizens of the neighborhood in its original function and has not experienced any alterations.

b. Evaluation of Significance

This building has been an important center of community activity for sixty years. Architecturally, it represents a significant departure from the usual pattern for Carnegie libraries. Daniel Huntington was the city's architect from 1911 to 1925. He designed several fire stations and the Lake Union Steam plant. In designing this building, he was apparently not constrained by the guidelines which were imposed on architects who designed pre-World War I libraries financed by Carnegie.