

SURVEY-INVENTORY FORM
COMMUNITY CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY

1. NAME

Historic Spokane Public Library - East Side Branch

Carnegie Library of Washington

and/or Common

2. LOCATION

Street & Number
25 Altamont St.

Spokane NE, 1:24000

UTM References:
Zone 11 Easting 471930
Northing 5278000
- not for publication

City, Town
Spokane

- vicinity of

State
Washington

County
Spokane

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: Offices

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

Name
James M. Frank

Street & Number
N. 410 Pines Road

City, Town
Spokane - vicinity of

State
Washington 99206

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

Spokane's East Side branch library is located in a neighborhood of modest residences just off a busy commercial street. It is a rectangular building with the long side and principal facade facing west. Constructed of red brick, it has a hip roof of red tiles. The front entrance is in the center of the west facade and features a modest pediment supported by two Doric columns and an arched transom above glass-paned doors. The entry is flanked by pairs of floor-to-ceiling casement windows decorated with cast-iron balcony railings. Under the eaves is a stone frieze and bands of tiny dentils, eggs and darts.

Verbal boundary description: Lots 11 & 12, Block 4,
Kaufman's Addition.

Acreage: Less than one

8. SIGNIFICANCE

Specific dates

1914

Builder/Architect

Albert Held

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 East Side Branch. It served the city until 1980. In 1981 the city sold it, and it is now owned by an attorney who intends to use it for his own office and that of an engineer with whom he is associated.

b. Evaluation of Significance

The East Side branch is a good example of a Carnegie library. It is important to the neighborhood it served for nearly 70 years. The architect, Albert Held, was one of the busiest in Spokane. He came to Spokane in 1889. Among his works were the North Central high school, the Place department store, the Marshall-Wells Hardware Company building, and works in the Riverside Historic District.