

SURVEY-INVENTORY FORM
COMMUNITY CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY

1. NAME

Historic

Auburn Public Library

(Carnegie Libraries of Washington TR)

and/or Common

Auburn School of Dance and Music

2. LOCATION

UTM References:

Zone 10 Easting 558420

Northing 5239620

- not for publication

Street & Number

306 Auburn Avenue

Auburn

1:24 000

City, Town

Auburn

- vicinity of

State

WA 98002

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: Dance Instruction

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

Name

Robert E. Smith

Street & Number

306 Auburn Avenue

City, Town

Auburn

- vicinity of

State

WA 98002

5. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Morley, Roberta. The Official Book of the City of Auburn from 1891 to 1976. Auburn, WA 1976.

Interview of Jim Shaughnessy, 119 M Street N.E., Auburn WA 98002 833-0504 conducted on 1-2-78 by Dwayne Nikulla.

6. FORM PREPARED BY

Name/Title

James H. Vandermeer, Historian

Organization

Office of Archaeology & Historic Preservation

Date

July 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 1914

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

The Auburn Carnegie library is a rectangular 2-story brick building with a cast concrete foundation. It has a hip roof with a slightly bellcast flare at the projecting eaves. The roof is composition tile. The building measures 35' x 50', and there is a 4' x 10' extension in the center of the west facade. This extension projects several feet above the eaves. It has a gable roof highlighted with a parapet trimmed with pressed metal. A 12' cast stone entrance arch with two panel doors in the face of the extension forms the main entry. Fenestration consists of long casement windows in front and smaller ones on the sides and in back. Above each is a small fixed window divided by muntins into eight triangular panes.

Verbal boundary description: Lots 5 and 6, Block D,
Condict Plat of Auburn.

Acreage: Less than one

8. SIGNIFICANCE

Specific dates 1914

Builder/Architect David J. Myers

a. History

Women volunteers promoted and staffed the early libraries of Auburn. In 1912 the city was promised \$9,000 by Andrew Carnegie for a new library, and it was constructed in 1914. The land was donated by Mr. and Mrs. Authur C. Ballard, who originally platted Auburn as the "Town of Slaughter." Their donation was made on the condition that the land would revert to the original owners if it should cease to be used for library purposes. The Carnegie building served the community for many years, but it ultimately proved too small to hold all the books and magazines it owned. In 1962 a \$225,000 bond issue was approved by the voters and a new library opened in 1964. The proviso about the land being used for library purposes was then discovered and the property reverted to the Ballard family. **They sold it to Robert E. Smith, who now uses the building for a dance and music school.**

b. Evaluation of Significance

This building is also listed in the King County Historic Sites Survey. Its significance derives from its importance in the intellectual and social history of Auburn. Even more significantly, it is a very pure and refined example of the typical Carnegie Library and is in a completely unaltered state of preservation. It is clear that the architect made a conscientious effort to incorporate all Carnegie's suggestions for library design, and all the elements of what Carnegie considered important are faithfully represented.

CARNEGIE LIBRARIES OF WASHINGTON STATE



Auburn

Address: 306 Auburn Avenue N.E.
Auburn (King County) WA

View: From the south

Photographer: J.H. Vandermeer

Date of Photo: June 1981

**Location
of Negative:** Office of Archaeology and
Historic Preservation
111 W. 21st St., KL-11
Olympia, WA 98504

**Date & Amount
of Carnegie Grant:** 1912, \$9,000

**Date of
Construction:** 1914

Architect: David J. Myers

Present Use: Dance instruction