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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

historic name Magnolia Public Library
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 2801 34th Avenue West not for publication
city or town Seattle vicinity
state WA code WA county King code 033 zip code 98199

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

Allyn M. 5-29-15
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official Date

Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register determined eligible for the National Register
 determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National Register

other (explain): _____

For Edson H. Beall 7-21-15
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION / library

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION / library

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Modern Movement

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: CONCRETE

walls: WOOD

roof: SYNTHETICS

other:

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Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

The Magnolia Public Library is located in Magnolia, a neighborhood in northwest Seattle that developed largely in the post-World War II era. The building and site were designed by Seattle architect Paul Hayden Kirk, FAIA, a founding principal of Kirk, Wallace, McKinley, AIA, & Associates and landscape architect, Richard Haag, ASLA. The original 6,523 square foot, wood-clad, single story building is largely intact, although it was slightly expanded with a meeting room addition on the rear, secondary facade in 2008.

Both the original design and the recent addition integrate the landscape, architecture, and structure in a holistic interdisciplinary expression. The building remains an unusual and highly successful synthesis of traditional Japanese bypass structural techniques and Modern-era exposed wood and timber framing, with open interior volumes, amply lit by natural daylight from an abundance of windows and clerestories. Original library tables and chairs, which were designed and built by mid-century master craftsman, George Nakashima, were refinished in 2008 and remain in use by library patrons.

Urban Context

The Magnolia Library is located in Seattle's Magnolia neighborhood, on the northwest corner of the intersection of 34th Avenue West and West Armour Street, three blocks northwest of the community's small commercial center. The library sits at the southeast corner of the block bounded by West Barrett Street to the north and 35th Avenue West to the west. To the east, across 34th Avenue West, is a partial block of houses and beyond that a park, the Magnolia Playfield. Toward the south end of this block are the Catherine Blaine K-8 School and the Magnolia Community Center. This location, near a public school and several blocks from a commercial center, is consistent with the siting of many earlier Carnegie grant-funded public libraries constructed in the early 20th century.

The residential blocks immediately surrounding the public library developed largely during and after World War II, and most of the buildings embody architectural styles and character contemporary with the post-war era (Woodbridge, p. 201). In contrast to small residential plats in older areas of the neighborhood, the typical parcels surrounding the site are larger and more uniform, having all been platted at the same time. The dominant buildings are modest, Modern-period single-family dwellings built for middle-class families in the 1940s through the 1970s. In close proximity to the library are several small institutional buildings of the 1950s and 1960s, designed in the Modern styles popular during the post-war era.

The Site

The site is a rectangular-shaped corner parcel, situated on the west side of 34th Avenue West, at the northwest corner of the intersection with West Armour Street. It rises to a relatively level area approximately eight to ten feet above the grade of 34th Avenue West, and measures approximately 151.5 feet in length and 124.5 feet in width for a total parcel size of 19,395 square feet or 0.45 of an acre (King County Department of Assessments). According to architect Paul Hayden Kirk, the design for the Magnolia Library was influenced significantly by its site, which was a heavily wooded vacant lot in a residential area, providing the building with an intimate landscape setting. An aerial photograph of the property, from the Seattle Municipal Archives, dating from November 1966, confirms the presence of these trees after the building's construction, with a dense grove along the north edge of the site and the balance of the block to the north (Seattle Municipal Archives, Item No. 76093). Trees that pre-existed on the site, which were incorporated in the original design, included seven madrona trees (*Arbutus menziesii*). One of the madrona trees, which was to be retained near the building's main entry, determined the resulting position of the building footprint and its roof form. The site design included a circle of brick paving around this tree to emphasize it. However, the original madrona trees, which are sensitive to changes in soil and water, died. The primary one near the front entry was soon replaced with a magnolia tree, which has a present canopy and height of approximately 30 feet.

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The primary portion of the library building is oriented north/south, parallel with the length of the site, and set back 20 feet from 34th Avenue West. A narrow concrete stairway rises between two low serpentine walls of brick masonry, to provide public access from the sidewalk on the east side of the building. A curved brick path connects the upper stair landing to the main entry at the south end of the library. Another stairway, at the south part of the site, connects West Armour Street to the concrete-aggregate walkway and the main building entry on the south facade, within the 26.75 feet south setback. A small, five-car parking lot, with a driveway off West Armour Street, is located on the western part of the site, where it replaced the original 16-stall lot. A concrete aggregate walkway, dating from 2008, leads from the parking area to a secondary entry to the meeting room addition on the west side of the site.

Two small gardens, separated by a wood-shingled partial-height wall, are located along the north end of the building. These original outdoor spaces were created for viewing by the public and staff with views from the interior rather than for direct access. These gardens remain visually accessible from the library interior, but they remain enclosed by an extension of the interior partition wall, which is shingle clad, and by a wood fence comprised of tightly spaced 1 x 2 vertical members. Each of the gardens contains some original plants. In 2008 an additional landscaped courtyard was created at the northwest corner of the property; it is also fenced and gated on its perimeter. This small courtyard contains spaced concrete pavers with low ground cover plants, and landscaping with shrubs, grasses and trees. It is accessible to the public through a secondary door on the north wall of the new meeting room.

The natural grade of the property, which was retained at the southwest when the library was constructed, remains. It slopes down generally from the northwest to the southeast, and eastern and southern portions of the site rise up approximately eight feet above the levels of the sidewalks. These areas are retained by stone rockeries, and are planted with native plants. Landscape architect Rich Haag's original design called for brick pavers, which were used as an edge band and to encircle a large tree near the main entry on the south side of the building, and for a narrow curved walkway and serpentine steps that lead down to the sidewalk on the east side. He also placed three rock outcroppings from nearby Mount Si near the wide concrete aggregate steps on the south side leading to the main entry. His plant palette, noted on a Landscape Plan of November 4, 1963, called out for blueberries, cranberries, Manzanita, periwinkle, vine maple, salal, and Boston ivy, along with silver lace vine, and vine maple, Honey Locust and Sourwood.

Additional native plants have been added to portions of the front plant beds, in the new rear plant bed south of the new addition and in the new rear courtyard, in accordance with a design by landscape architect Barbara Swift of the Swift Company as shown on the Planting Plan of January 22, 2007. These include native Oregon grape, New Zealand sedges, Irish moss, western sword ferns, serviceberry, a dogwood and strawberry trees (*Arbutus marina*), planted in rows

Exterior public artwork installed as part of the 2008 renovation and addition project includes two metal and glass sculptural pieces, titled "Catch + Release," by Northwest artist Kristin Tollefson, which are based on the form of a flowering magnolia tree. One of these two pieces is positioned in a landscape bed between the parking lot and the meeting room addition. (The other piece is mounted on the wall of the new meeting room.) Another outdoor sculpture, by well known northwest artist Glen Alps, is an original bronze piece dating from the early 1960s. Titled "The Activity of Thought," it is placed on an exterior wall within the original north garden visible from the reading room.

The Structure and Exterior

The Magnolia Library is notable for its wood frame structure. The original building footprint was approximately 119.5 feet in overall length and 59.5 feet in width. The flat roof was a simple rectangular shape that featured overhangs over deep projections and recesses in the planes of the east façade and the eastern portion of the north and south facades. The original building contained 6,523 net square feet in area. Its structure consists of a reinforced concrete slab with concrete foundations and walls in the small, partial basement at the northwest corner, and a complex wood post and beam arrangement in "bypass" system that supports the roof. Exposed pairs of large beams are set apart from another, passing on both sides of structural posts, and with multiple sets of layered smaller beams above, set perpendicular to each other. On the perimeter, large panels of glazing and wood-framed walls infill the areas between posts. The framed wall areas are typically clad with shingles, both at the exterior and in some areas of the interior. The flat roof varies in height between the staff core area and the public spaces to clearly distinguish them in a hierarchal massing. Four monitors with clerestory glazing break the ceiling plane, and rise above the adjacent upper roof levels.

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The roof is supported by two sets of glu-lam beams. The placement of these two sets of beams defines the ceiling heights of the main reading room space and those in the staff and service areas. Upper beams (8-1/8 x 26 inch) are set at approximately 13.25 feet from the finished floor, and are routed at the bottom to key into 4 x 4 spacers. Four clerestory roof monitors are set above these upper beams, and extend to 19.75 feet above the finished floor. The lower set of beams is made up by a pair of 2 x 10s, aligned below the glu-lams and set at a height just over 9 feet from the finished floor. A third pair of 2 x 8 beams runs north-south along the length of the building, set directly below the paired 2 x 10s. The beams span the full length and width of the building, and are stabilized by wood spacers. The beams bypass either side of the 4-7/8 inch-deep glu-lam perimeter posts, and extend beyond the perimeter walls to create overhanging eaves that emphasize the overt horizontality of the structure. The eaves, which are soffited with stained tongue and groove wood boards, vary in depth on each elevation.

Both the staff areas and the public library spaces are clear rectangular volumes, composed of seven east-west bays, divided by the glu-lam posts. The six bays, which make up the library reading room, vary in dimension from just over 6 feet to 11 feet, with the posts spaced accordingly, and span 40 feet from east to west. The walls of the 40 by 106 foot reading room are divided into two horizontal bands that correspond to the heights of the structural beams. At the lower portion of these walls are book alcoves, which are set at heights of approximately 7.75 feet. These project 6 feet from the building perimeter at alternate bays. Exterior walls of these alcoves are completely opaque, and clad with wood shingles. Between the alcoves are glazed windows resting on low, 2 foot-tall wood framed walls clad with shingles. A continuous band of clerestory windows line the entire perimeter of the main library space. The corners of the public library space are consistently glazed. The four glazed roof monitors, which align with the alcoves in addition to one near the northwest corner, are positioned over a reading lounge area.

The two volumes made up by the public and service spaces of the original library are represented clearly by the building's north and south facades. The reading room on the east and the staff workroom and circulation desk on the west are joined by the main entry and vestibule entry and a corridor that extends northward from it. The south entry is reflected by the full-height glazing at the north facade. A deep overhang and canopy created by the beams extending beyond the building's perimeter walls, protects the glazed wall and the main entry. A similarly deep overhang along the north side protects the glazed walls at the far end. Light fixtures in the soffits illuminate the entry and exterior overhangs.

The east facade serves as the most public face of the library, as it faces onto the primary street of 34th Avenue West. However, mature vegetation on the steep slope between the street and the building partially obscures the library from views at the street level. Here, the shingle-clad alcoves alternate with areas of glazing at every other bay (with the exception of one bay), which gives the facade an asymmetrical quality. The projecting alcoves and beam extensions animate this facade with a complex rhythm.

The original west facade mirrored the structural configuration of the east facade. However, the wood-framed infill wall, set between posts, extended to the building's full height, and was clad entirely with stained shingles to minimize any interruptions of the wall plane. A single, solid door provides exterior access to the staff space on the interior, which contains the book processing room. Even with the expansion of the staff area in 2008, which added a few single windows, the largely opaque walls that enclose these spaces remain indicative of the service functions along the western part of the library building. The west side also faces onto the parking lot and an on-grade area for service vehicle loading, along with the new meeting room addition. The original wood shingles that clad the original library have been cleaned and re-stained along with some in-kind replacement.

Interior Layout and Features of the Reading Room

The original floor plan of the library reading room was open and uninterrupted, and surrounded by the alcoves containing full-height shelving, and low perimeter shelving that rose to the sill height of the windows. Low, freestanding bookcases, computer stations, and George Nakashima-designed, solid oak tables and chairs occupied the center of the floor plan. The volume and complex details of the relatively simple plan testified to Kirk's opinion that ". . . fundamentally the interior is more important than the exterior" (*Seattle Times*, August 13, 1978).

The main entry is sheltered by a roof canopy supported by posts. Glazed doors open into a 142 square foot vestibule. The main circulation deck is directly in front (north) of the entry vestibule, which is flanked by the Children's Department to the east and a staff area to the west. The layout, furniture and collections in the children's area are set to accommodate

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the library's youngest patrons. Ebba Rapp McLauchlan's sculpture, "Girl Holding Doves," was situated in the southeast corner window, easily visible to children as well as adults.

The ceiling plane of the building is of considerable visual interest within the interior, filled as it is with bypassing wood beams, and by daylight that varies with outside conditions. The four tall roof monitors contain clerestory glazing at their north ends, with narrow slots of glazing at the east and west. These monitors, and the generous area of glazing at the building perimeter, bring considerable daylight into the building. The placement of glazing and exposed roof framing was a conscious effort by architect Paul Kirk "to give the building the best possible reading light and . . . give the building (interior) variation and relief from the look of flat ceilings" (*Queen Anne News*, June 24, 1964).

Roof overhangs at the south end of the building is deeper than the overhang at the east, presumably to shade western sun. Natural light in the library was complemented originally by four, ceiling-mounted can light fixtures, which were set into each of the monitors, and by fluorescent strips mounted at the ceiling of each book alcove. Indirect light fixtures, set into the pairs of beams, washed the ceiling plane. The new lighting system, dating from 2008, features energy-conserving lamps in largely indirect light fixtures.

Original shelving was wood or steel faced with teak-grain plastic laminate, which contrasted with the hand-made wood reading tables and chairs. The floor was initially covered with resilient flooring tiles, and the ceilings with acoustical ceiling tiles centered between the beams with 10 inch-wide surround.

Changes to the Property

Modifications to the Magnolia Library up through the four decades that followed its original construction had little impact on the architectural design. Lighting and electrical upgrades were completed in early 1983, and again in the mid-1990s, along with accessibility and barrier-free improvements in the mid-1990s in accordance with a 1994 design by Goforth Gill Architects of Seattle. As with the other Seattle libraries, the interior became more crowded over time due to the addition of computer equipment, expanded services, and increased patron usage.

These conditions led to a bond-funded program, "Libraries for All," which was approved by Seattle voters in November 1998. This program by the Seattle Public Library called for the construction, renovation, and expansion of 27 branch facilities, and replacement of the downtown library. Work on expansion of the Magnolia branch began with planning in 2001, and resulted in the public bid award to Graham Contracting, Ltd. Construction began in May 2007 and the expanded library reopened 16 months later in July 2008 to considerable public approval. The entire project budget was \$4.3 million. Some funds were provided by the Seattle Public Library's Opportunity Fund, which paid for the expansion and provision of a public meeting room.

The Expansion and New Meeting Room

The library building was composed originally with two separate volumes that defined programmatic spaces: the taller public library with its open reading room to the east, and the staff and service core to the west. The reading room, illuminated by projecting roof monitors containing clerestory windows, was the tallest volume, rising to approximately 19 feet within the monitors, while the service spaces were lower with an overall height of approximately 13 feet. The original building's rectangular building footprint was nearly 120 by 60 feet, and contained 6,523 net square feet in area.

A 2008 project extended the original to the west, into the northern portion of the parking lot, to create a third volume and an asymmetrical, T-shaped plan. The project included conservation treatments, system upgrades and in-kind repairs, and select replacement of timber structural elements along with the expansion of the staff work room and the new 1,443 square foot meeting room. It was designed in 2007 by Snyder Hartung Kane Strauss Architects (SHKS) with Swenson Say Faget, structural engineers, and Swift & Company, landscape architects. The addition extends to within 5 feet from the west property line and contains a public meeting room of approximately 29.5 by 19 feet, linked by corridor to the original building. The linking section also contains a small study space and an additional restroom. In addition, the staff workroom was expanded with a 9 by 23.5 foot addition to include an open area, a small office, and a book return. The present building totals 7,966 net square feet, with 7,799 square feet at the first floor and 167 square feet in a small basement mechanical room.

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In honoring the original building, the architects maintained the original hierarchy of space and mass, with the overall height of the flat-roof addition held to a height of 19 feet, or 9 inches below that of the roof monitors above the original reading room, and the height of the linking corridor slightly below the main roof line. To further differentiate old and new portions of the building, the new exterior west wall of the staff room consists of a rain screen of spaced stained cedar boards set over a tall concrete wall, in contrast to the original building's wood shingles, and the meeting room exterior rain screen of stained horizontal wood siding. New wood elements within the addition include two deep framed windows with built-in seats, and perforated wall and door panels. Interior finishes within the old and new sections of the building include new linoleum flooring and new interior paint.

In an early 2011 article in a technical conservation journal, Architect David Strauss described the designers' effort to expand the building with an addition that would harmonize with, yet be distinct from, the original design, noting, "*The trabeated construction, the deep cantilevers of primary structure and the shingle siding remain defining characteristics of the original library. The addition, however, conceals the frame and gives primacy to walls and punched openings. Like the original building, the meeting room benefits from a balance of clerestory light and windows framing views to gardens on the north and south.*" (Strauss, *APT Bulletin*, 2:3, 2011, p. 19).

The upgraded building contains a revised, open layout in the children's area; upgraded electrical and mechanical systems; upgraded communication and technology systems with wireless cabling within the floor slab of the reading room; a new circulation desk and larger staff work areas; and an updated and expanded book collection. In undertaking the 2008 project, the designers narrowly considered all required repairs. They were guided by preservation goals advocated by the Seattle Public Library and the Seattle Landmark Preservation Board, as well as by Magnolia residents and other library patrons. The resulting upgrade, largely unseen, included the following changes to the original building:

- Repairs to four of ten original cantilevered beams on the east side with epoxy filler, in-kind replacement of two beams and beam-end of four others, and replacement of copper end caps at the exterior exposed beam ends
- Addition of new cambered beams and new tapered roof insulation for active roof drainage, along with salvage and reuse of original copper downspouts, and introduction of new copper rain chains
- Replacement of original 1/4-inch-thick, uninsulated, untempered, non-laminated window glass with energy-efficient insulated and coated glazing units, detailed to maintain the original appearance of sills and glazing stops
- Replacement of the original concealed-spine ceiling tiles with a suspended acoustic tile system to preserve the appearance of the original continuous ceiling surface
- Retention of sound exterior wood shingles with limited replacement of rotted and severely weathered shingles, all stained to a uniform color
- Addition of several new, solid wood, furniture elements and casework, custom-built by a local woodwork shop to complement the refinished Nakashima furniture.

The resulting library, with its consciously reflective addition, is largely intact and consistent with its original design. It conveys the architectural principles of Northwest Modernism in its sensitive response to the site, structural clarity, spatial hierarchy, and careful use of local, largely wood materials and daylight.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1964

Significant Dates

1964 (original construction)

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Kirk, Wallace & McKinley (Architect)

Cruver-Coyne (Builder)

Hagg, Richard, (Landscape Architect)

Snyder, Hartung, Kane & Strauss (Architect)

Graham Construction (Builder)

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance begins and ends with the date of construction of the building, 1964.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

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Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

The Magnolia Library, in northwest Seattle is historically significant at a local level under Criterion A for its direct connection to the growth and development of the City of Seattle Library system. As a public institution, the nominated building is integral to the intellectual and social development of the citizens of City of Seattle. The building was part of an expansion building program by the Seattle Public Library System that produced a new central library in the downtown and six new branch libraries, which replaced or augmented its earlier Carnegie-era facilities. This program and its resulting buildings reflected the growth of the city, and its cultural identity as a major late 20th century metropolis. The library, built in a residential neighborhood that developed largely in the post-war era of the 1950s and 1960s, reflects this cultural context. Its selected site was situated several blocks away from the neighborhood's commercial center, and was chosen instead for its close proximity to public schools and surrounding residences. This location continued a pattern established in the early 20th century by the Carnegie funded libraries, and it represented an educational outreach effort to both children and adult patrons. The Magnolia Library underscores the enduring principles of the public library as an American institution promoting self-taught knowledge and civic engagement.

In addition, the Magnolia Library is historically significant under Criterion C as a project that embodies the distinctive characteristics of its type and period of construction, as all as a project that represents the work of the noted architectural firm of Kirk, Wallace & McKinley. Completed in 1964, the library received several local, regional and national awards and has been featured in a variety of publications since its construction. The building embodies the artistic values of the then emerging Northwest Regional style. The period of significance, begins and end with the date the building was completed, 1964.

Historic Development Magnolia Neighborhood

The Magnolia neighborhood, located northwest of downtown Seattle, is a peninsula, topographically distinct and separated from the rest of the city. The peninsula has two prominent north-south ridges separated by a wide valley, known historically as "Pleasant Valley." It is bordered on the west by Puget Sound, with Elliott Bay to the south. On the north are Salmon Bay and the Hiram Chittenden Locks, which were completed in 1916. On the east is Interbay, once a tidal wetland area that presently contains a rail yard, industrial facilities, and a growing commercial and multifamily district.

The first significant development on the peninsula began in 1900, when the U.S. Army established Fort Lawton in the northwestern part of Magnolia. The fort, overlooking Puget Sound, was one of a series of fortifications built to protect the sound and the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard in Bremerton. It was accessed on West Government Way, which extended from Grand Boulevard along the north edge of Magnolia. Small vernacular-style residences and scattered commercial buildings were built along the route. A streetcar line began serving the fort in 1905, running from Grand Boulevard generally along West Government Way (Blanchard: 64). Magnolia was annexed by the City of Seattle, along with a number of other communities, in 1907.

Beginning about 1900, small truck farms and orchards were established in Pleasant Valley. The land was particularly suitable for pasture, and more than a dozen dairies operated in the vicinity between 1900 and 1930 (*Magnolia*: 5). In the 1920s, a commercial district, Magnolia Village, emerged along West McGraw Street in the southern part of the valley (*Magnolia*: 32-33). In 1935 the Magnolia Post of the American Legion purchased a portion of the wetland, and WPA crews cleared and filled the area, establishing the West Magnolia Playfield (Sherwood, "History of W. Magnolia Playfield," ca. 1976).

During the 1920s and 1930s, residential construction took place on the ridges of Magnolia. A 1935 aerial photo shows development along 28th Avenue West (the arterial along the top of the east hill) and at the south end of Pleasant Valley, near the budding commercial district. Magnolia School, located on 28th Avenue West, opened in 1927 and was expanded in 1931, and again in 1941 and 1969 (Thompson and Marr: 193). The hilly southwestern portion of the peninsula was platted with curvilinear streets in 1915. The plat, called Carleton Park, had requirements to ensure that high quality, well-designed houses were built (Carleton Park Plat Map). It remains today a neighborhood of Revival-style houses (many clad with brick) and well maintained gardens.

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During World War II, Magnolia was transformed by intensive military activity, attracting new residents and businesses. In 1940, the U. S. Navy acquired the Interbay piers and uplands to build a Naval Supply Depot, filling the former tide flats with warehouses, barracks and other structures. Fort Lawton grew from a sleepy base to a major troop processing and embarkation point. Buildings were quickly constructed to house up to 20,000 people; 1.1 million troops were processed through the fort during the war. It served the same function in the Korean War. This activity provided jobs for many civilians and naturally required housing, transportation and commercial support throughout Magnolia.

Once wartime restrictions were lifted, residential construction in the neighborhood proceeded exponentially. Magnolia residents could enjoy new homes similar to those built in the suburbs, yet still be close to downtown Seattle and its employment centers. Over the next two decades, the City made significant investments to develop the infrastructure needed by the rapidly-increasing population. Magnolia Manor reservoir was completed on the east hill and an enlarged water tower was erected on the west hill. A new electrical substation was built on West Dravus Street, Magnolia Boulevard was widened and improved in 1953-1954, and streets and sewer lines were extended to serve many previously undeveloped areas in the mid-1950s. Briarcliff School, located between Carleton Park and Fort Lawton, opened in 1949. Catherine Blaine Junior High School was built in close proximity to the future library site in 1952; it was the first Seattle school to incorporate a community center. The school's adjacent playfield was expanded significantly soon after, requiring demolition of a number of residences. By this time, the library was a long-anticipated addition to the community.

Physical Development of the Area

Construction of the Magnolia Branch of the Seattle Public Library in 1964 recognized the significant growth that had occurred in the neighborhood during and after World War II. Since it was relatively isolated, the Magnolia neighborhood grew slowly in the early 20th century, but between 1940 and 1960, acres of pastureland were converted to a relatively dense, single-family community.

The 1912-20 Kroll map indicates the library site was then part of a 17.29 acre property owned by Soren Kregg (or Krogh). Smaller parcels on 34th Avenue West to the south were held by William Auckland and Annie C. Lorentzen; the property had no buildings and was probably used as dairy pasture. In 1939-40, the area to the west of the library site was platted by C. F. Bishop, Jr. and Elizabeth Bishop. A 1940 Kroll map shows that these blocks developed quickly with modest single-family houses. The plat that includes the library site, Carleton Park Terrace Division No. 3 (made up by the two blocks between West Barrett and West Ray Streets, and 34 Avenue West and 35th Avenue West), was not platted until October 1941. The 1940 map shows no buildings on the property. The half-block on the east side of 34th Avenue West remained vacant until the mid-century era (Kroll Atlas of Seattle, Map 26 E; King County plat maps).

A 1936 aerial photo confirms that the library vicinity was vacant and covered with woods. Only 34th Avenue West had been paved by this date, while access to the east and west was provided only by winding and unpaved drives that led to scattered farmhouses (King County i-map, 1936 aerial photograph). The property on the east side of 34th Avenue West contained a few residences at that time, but it was largely a wetland, drained by Wolf Creek. However, a 1946 aerial photo shows dramatic change in the physical context: although the half-block with the library site is still wooded, the surrounding blocks (except for the wetland) are almost completely developed (Aero-Metrix Magnolia 1946 Aerial Map).

Planning, Design and Construction of the Library

In 1932, with a neighborhood population of 5,000, Magnolia residents began campaigning for a community library. By placing collection cans next to cash registers in local stores, they raised approximately \$1,500 for a new building. An additional \$300 was donated by the Magnolia Community Club from its treasury. However, due to the Depression, the Seattle Public Library System could not respond to Magnolia's request for a neighborhood library until 1943, at which time it agreed to furnish books and a part-time librarian with the condition that Magnolia residents identify a location and facilities. Soon thereafter, the Magnolia Manor station opened in rental quarters in the commercial district at 3200 - 3202 West McGraw Street. The Seattle Public Library took over the lease in 1945, moving the book stacks to a larger leased

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property nearby on West McGraw Street, where the library remained for several years. The needs of the library grew rapidly, and in January 1959 it moved into a rehabilitated Safeway building, also located on West McGraw Street.

Meanwhile, two library bond issues to fund a new Central Library and additional branch libraries were put before voters in 1950 and 1952. Both of these bonds failed, largely due to the unstable economy, inflationary rising costs, limited materials, and the onset of the Korean War. Then in 1956, a separate \$5 million library bond issue passed, the bulk of which was designated to fund a new Central Library. The remaining funds were allotted for construction of three additional new branch libraries and the purchase of a new library site in Lake City. The site for the Magnolia Library was acquired in 1958. The Southwest and the Ballard Libraries opened in 1961 and 1963, respectively. Upon its completion in 1964, the Magnolia Library was the last of the three new branch facilities under the post-war bond program.

The Seattle architectural firm of Kirk, Wallace, McKinley & Associates were commissioned to design the new Magnolia library in April of 1962. Main principle Paul H. Kirk's reputation as a designer was well established by the late 1950s due to his work on single-family residences, medical clinics, and churches. His firm was selected for the library project, in part because of a previous project that presented similar site challenges as the library site, the University of Washington Faculty Club Building, which he had designed with architect Victor Steinbrueck. The Faculty Club had been described as a building "that rises on a hillside and seems to spring from the trees that surround it" (*Magnolia News*, "Library Nears Completion," June 25, 1964).

Other members of the original design team for the library included Kirk's partners – Donald Wallace and David McKinley, Jr. – along with Skilling, Worthington, Helle & Jackson, Structural Engineers; James B. Notkin & Associates, Mechanical Engineers; Thomas E. Sparling & Associates, Electrical Engineers; and Richard Haag, Landscape Architect. Furniture designer and woodworker, George Nakashima, of New Hope, Pennsylvania, provided library tables and chairs. The general contractor, Cruver-Coyne, of Issaquah, Washington, began construction began in 1963. The completed building's construction cost was approximately \$214,000. The library was opened to the public with a dedication on July 16, 1964. Seattle Mayor Don Braman and other city officials participated in opening. Other speakers included the chief librarian, Willard O. Young; the superintendent of the branch libraries, Roman Mostar; and the president of the Seattle Library Board, Wayne Booth. Friends of the Library, a local non-profit organization, held a social hour following the dedication ceremonies, with public tours of the building afterwards (*Seattle Times*, July 12, 1964).

The Architects – Kirk, Wallace & McKinley

Paul H. Kirk was born in Salt Lake City, Utah, on November 18, 1914, moving to Seattle in 1922 with his family. After graduating from the University of Washington with an architectural degree in 1937, Kirk worked under various Seattle architects, including Floyd Naramore, A. M. Young, B. Dudley Stuart, and Henry Bittman, before opening his own practice in 1939. Not unlike many of his peers, Kirk's early career was dominated by residential design, for which he was commended for possessing a "competent command of historicist forms and details" (David Rash in Ochsner: 252).

Early tendencies toward simplified forms and details emerged in Kirk's designs for a speculative housing development on Columbia Ridge, where limited materials and budget necessitated a functional solution. During World War II, Kirk joined with other architects to take advantage of war contracts, partnering with former employer Stuart, and Robert Durham. In 1944 Kirk formed a partnership with architect James J. Chiarelli. Together, the firm of Chiarelli & Kirk produced a variety of modernist structures which epitomize the Pacific Northwest Regional style. Notable structures include Crown Hill Medical-Dental Clinic in Seattle (1947); the Dr. Schueler House (1947) in Port Angeles; a variety of buildings at Camp Nor'wester (1946-62) on Lopez Island; the Lakewood Community Church (1949); the Samuel Crockett House (1950) on Mercer Island; the C & K Apartments (1949) and several homes in Bellevue's Norwood Village (1951).

Many of their designs were featured in a variety of publications including *Sunset*, *Better Homes & Gardens*, *McCall's Book of Modern Houses*, *Architectural Record*, and *Small Homes Guide*. The partnership of Chiarelli and Kirk lasted for six years until 1950.

From 1950 to 1957, Kirk worked again as a sole practitioner. During this time, his designs for single family residences displayed characteristics of the International Style: flat roofs, bands of windows, and simple cubic shapes. Although Kirk

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eventually dismissed the International Style “as an architecture which has been imposed on the land by Man,” his blending of modernist principles and Northwest vernacular first emerged during this period of work (*ibid*, p. 253). It was during this period, in the mid to late-1950s, that Kirk’s projects displayed an increasing tendency toward complex structural detailing, often using wood. This was visible in his design for both the Group Health Cooperative Northgate Clinic (1957 – 1958, demolished), and the University Unitarian Church (1955 - 1959). Both buildings were constructed with exposed wood members arranged in a bypass or layered fashion that clearly delineates the primary, secondary, and tertiary elements of the structure. During this period Kirk focused on many medical and dental clinics and published a book on the subject. He called for simplicity and the use of landscaped courtyards as a visual healing space. These qualities are clearly represented in his design for the Blakeley Clinic of 1956.

Although Kirk rejected the International Style, he continued to adhere to the Miesian principle that “God is in the details.” Structural complexity and attention to detail became signature elements of his work. Kirk’s residential work during this period gained national attention. In 1957, his projects were selected by a jury for *House and Garden* magazine to receive four of five national design awards. With the designs for the Bowman, Lakeside Evans, Putnam, and Russel houses, Kirk was clearly a recognized winner, although other Northwest architects gained recognition as well (*House and Garden*, “H & G’s Architectural Awards,” January 1958, p. 62 – 63). The *House and Garden* jury included California architect William Wurster, Portland architect Pietro Belluschi, and former Seattle architect Minoru Yamasaki. Of these awards, the *Seattle Times* notes, “The 1957 results ought to settle which region is leading the nation in home architecture. Kirk says, ‘Of course architects around here have an advantage in interesting topography and in the climate. A fellow designing for flat land doesn’t have the same inspiration.’” (*Seattle Times*, December 19, 1957).

As accolades came in, business increased for the firm. In 1957, he established Paul Hayden Kirk & Associates. Three years later, after promoting Donald S. Wallace, and David A. McKinley to the partnership level, the firm was reorganized as Kirk, Wallace, McKinley & Associates in 1960. In addition to the Magnolia Library, notable projects from the following decade included the Exhibition Hall, Resident Theater (Intiman Theater); the parking garage on the Seattle Center grounds (1962); the Japanese Presbyterian Church (1963); the IBM Office Building (1965) in Spokane; the French Administration Building at Washington State University (1967); and Balmer (1964) and Edmond S. Meany (1966-1974) Halls on the University of Washington Seattle campus.

Although the scale of his commissions grew with his reputation, Kirk never strayed completely from residential design, because “a house, he feels, presents all of the root problems of architecture in their most compelling form.” Kirk was recognized nationally for finding his inspiration in the individual conditions of each site, resulting in a diversity of design solutions (*Architectural Forum*, “Paul Kirk of Seattle,” August 1962). His designs for two high-rise cast concrete framed dormitories, McCarthy and McMahon Halls, at the University of Washington (1963 and 1965, respectively), however, sparked controversy. Critics and advocates had varying responses to the buildings, calling them “brutal and impersonal, ‘lacking in humility’... and ‘exciting, yet economical high-rise urban buildings.’” (Unsourced article in the *Architectural Scrapbook*, Seattle Public Library Seattle Room, ca. 1965).

Between 1945 and 1970, designs by Paul Kirk, and Kirk Wallace McKinley, were cited in over 60 articles in various national architectural publications (Rash in Ochsner, 1998: 252). Kirk’s professional engagement, and his design work, which was well known and recognized both locally and nationally, led to Kirk’s election to Fellow of the American Institute of Architects in 1959. Soon after this, Seattle architect and historian, Victor Steinbrueck, a contemporary and colleague, praised Paul Kirk for his “masterful spatial design and composition, and fine knowledge of wood construction as a design consideration” (Steinbrueck, 1962). *Architectural Forum* concurred in August 1962, commending Kirk’s work for its “clarity, suitability, and restraint.”

Kirk was active in civic affairs in Seattle. Throughout his career he was a frequent juror of professional design competitions. He was appointed to the city’s Housing Board, and served as president of the Seattle Art Museum’s Contemporary Art Council and the AIA’s Washington Chapter, and as a trustee on the Boards of the Arboretum Foundation and the Bloedel Reserve. With architect John Morse he authored a plan to purchase and rehabilitate buildings in the Pike Place Market as a city facility in 1969, a step that led to the Market’s eventual preservation. Paul Hayden Kirk retired from practice and transferred his firm to partner David McKinley as the McKinley Architects in 1979. He died on May 22, 1995 at the age of 81.

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Kirk's partner, Donald Sheridan Wallace was born in Spokane, Washington on October 24, 1915. He initially attended Eastern Washington State College in Cheney (1933-34) and then transferred to the Kinman Business College (1936-37) in Spokane. During WWII he served with the U.S. Army (1943-1946), rising to the level of staff sergeant, and upon being discharged, enrolled at the University of Washington to study architecture, receiving his BA in architecture in 1952. Upon graduation he became a draftsman with the firm Hovind, Harthorne & Smith in Seattle (1953) for about a year (Note: Duane Dietz, "Architects and Landscape Architects of Seattle," typescript, 1994, n.p., indicated that Wallace worked for Harold A. Hovind from 1951-1954). He then went to work for Paul Hayden Kirk, quickly rising to the level of associate and eventually partner. Reportedly Wallace's main roll in the firm was the supervision of specifications writing and contracts, as well as job supervision. He passed away on September 7, 2004.

Kirk and Wallace's younger partner, David Alexander McKinley, Jr. was born in Spokane on March 7, 1930, and educated at the University of Washington where he received a Bachelor's degree in Architecture in 1953. His early design skills are evident in the design of his own steel-framed house at 2600 West Bertona Street in Magnolia, built in 1953 when he was only 23 years old. This two-story house with a low shed roof and cantilevered rooms above a carport and a cable-supported deck. McKinley worked with Seattle architect Paul Thiry for a brief period in 1953-1954, and subsequently for the Army Corps of Engineers in 1954-1956. He joined the firm as a designer in 1956 and was made a partner in 1960.

Together the three worked on a number of buildings scattered across the Pacific Northwest. Projects include several designs for the University of Washington such as McMahan Hall (1965) and the Odegaard Undergraduate Library (1972); Washington State Clement French Building (1968), the Seattle World's Fair Playhouse, Fine Arts Building and Garage (1962); the Japanese Presbyterian Church (1964); the IBM Office Building in Spokane; and the Jefferson Terrace Apartments (1968). Biographical listings in the 1970 *AIA Directory of American Architects* attribute many of the projects in the 1960s to both Kirk and McKinley. The IBM Office Building and the French Administration Building (1968) were apparently designed by McKinley. Newspaper articles in the *Seattle Times* also indicate that he was responsible for the firm's designs of the Alaska Airlines Corporate Headquarters near Sea-Tac; the Physio-Control Building in Redmond; and the Seattle Community College Master Plan (1974).

In August 1978, after Kirk had retired, McKinley and Wallace created a new firm. Projects during this period included a large 1980 addition to the KING TV broadcasting building. By 1980, Wallace had retired from the company. After this date it appears that McKinley focused his architectural career largely on large commercial projects. He partnered with architect Patrick Gordon in a new firm that focused on high-rise office buildings. Resulting projects included several in downtown Seattle, including 1111 3rd Avenue (1980, with John Graham Architects) and the First Interstate Center/Wells Fargo Center at 2800 3rd Avenue (1983). McKinley is also credited as the designer of the Symetra Financial Center in Bellevue, Kruse Woods Athletic Club in Lake Oswego, Oregon, and the Sacred Heart Medical Center in Spokane. McKinley was associated with other architects in the 1980s and 1990s, including architect Jerry Gerron on One Bellevue Center (1982-1983) (*Seattle Times*, March 21, 1982). In 1988 McKinley's firm served as the local associate architect with Kohn-Pederson-Fox on the 1201 3rd Avenue Building, in Seattle. In 1993 the architectural firm of Mahlum & Nordfors acquired McKinley's firm. McKinley became a partner in semi-retirement until his formal retirement in 1998.

Over the course of his career McKinley was an active participant in a variety of professional activities. He joined the AIA in 1959 and was elected secretary, vice president, and president of the Seattle Chapter AIA in the 1960s. He and his wife established a scholarship at the University of Washington, and in 1974 he was elected as a Fellow in the AIA. After retirement, McKinley moved to Maui, where he reportedly still resides.

Upon competition, the Magnolia Library project received a wide variety of accolades and publication in local and regional magazines. It received a Seattle AIA Merit Award in 1965 and an National Honor award from the American Library Association & National Book Committee (1966). In 1966, the building was published in *Architectural Record* for "the modesty of its architectural solution, the unaffected residential scale appropriate to the area it serves, and the delightful use it makes of its wooded hill site" (*Architectural Record*). For several years, architecture students at the University of Washington were assigned to study the building and report on its design.

The design of the Magnolia Library, completed in 1964, has been cited by many as "a quintessential Paul Kirk building." The complex detailing of the bypass beam-work enforces the legibility of the exposed structure, and his conscientious

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siting of the building and use of indigenous building and plant materials indicates an understanding of Modernism that surpassed rote methods.

Furniture and Artwork in the Magnolia Library

Contributing to the unique design was a variety of custom-designed furnishings and artwork. Kirk turned to master woodworker and furniture designer, George Nakashima (1905 – 1990) to design several pieces for the building. Internationally renowned even by this date, Nakashima designed and built the library's original solid oak library tables and chairs.

Nakashima was born in Spokane, Washington, and completed his Bachelor's degree in architecture at the University of Washington. After receiving his master's degree from MIT in the early 1930s, he studied art in Paris. He moved to Tokyo to join the architectural office of Czech-American architect, Antonin Raymond. Nakashima returned to Seattle in 1940 with the intention of establishing a furniture workshop with his wife. Their workshop and home were located briefly on 16th Avenue near South Jackson Street. However, along with all Japanese-Americans on the West Coast, Nakashima and his family were moved to an internment camp in Idaho in early 1942. While interned, Nakashima created a small workshop and built furnishings from salvaged wood. To secure his release from the camp, Nakashima contacted Raymond, who had by then moved to Bucks County in Pennsylvania, for sponsorship. During the remaining war years, Nakashima lived on Raymond's farm, eventually settling on a nearby property in New Hope, Pennsylvania, where he built a series of modernist facilities to serve as his furniture workshop and home. The resulting solid wood tables that Nakashima built for the Magnolia Library were typical of his designs from this era: spare, fashioned from untrimmed slabs of book-matched walnut that are joined at the center with exposed mahogany dovetails. Nakashima's furniture was included in the general budget for the library. When a piece was stolen in the early 1970s, it was simply reordered.

There were no additional funds identified in the project budget available for the commission of public art, as the project was completed before the city established its "1% for Art" program. However, the local community had different ideas. A committee of philanthropic and culturally-minded Magnolia residents established a Library Art Fund, and raised over \$2,000. Artist Glen Alps (1914 – 1996) was selected by the committee to design a wall-mounted sculpture that was to be placed in the courtyard of the new library. Alps, an art professor at the University of Washington, was well-known in the Northwest and he had previously designed and fabricated a large metal screen for the Seattle Central Library building in the downtown. Alps worked in various media, gaining international recognition for his collages and printmaking. His piece for the Magnolia Library, "Activity of Thought," is comprised of a number of crisscrossing bronze rods. As Alps noted in July 1964 the non-objective piece was intended, "*not an abstraction nor...a representation of any one material object, but rather...an aesthetic identity all its own, without relying upon outside associational values for its existence*" (Seattle Public Library, Magnolia Library Opening brochure).

Remaining funds from the community's Library Art Fund allowed for the purchase of two freestanding high-fire clay sculptures by artist Ebba Rapp McLauchlan (1909 - 2010), titled "Doves on Driftwood" and "Girl Holding Doves." The "Doves on Driftwood" sculpture was given in memory of Muriel M. Monney, a pioneer in the Magnolia community and a supporter of the library.

In January of 1970, the Magnolia Library was burglarized, and a small Nakashima table and McLauchlan's "Doves on Driftwood" sculpture were stolen. The missing table was reordered and replaced in-kind by Nakashima's workshop. In the early 1990s, Alp's sculpture was stolen. It was later recovered and remains on display at the library.

Landscape Architect Richard Haag (b. 1923)

For the exterior landscaping work at the site, Kirk retained Richard Haag as the team's landscape architect. Haag's designs for other sites and landscape projects were well known by this date. His projects were known for being integral and complementary to architecture, certainly a featured that appealed to the Kirk, Wallace & McKinley firm. Since the mid-1960s, Hagg's reputation has grown, and today he is recognized as a pioneer in Modern American landscape architecture, notably for the Bloedel Reserve on Bainbridge Island, the Battelle Institute campus (Seattle), and Gas Works Park (1971-1975). His work in Seattle and the Northwest has been the subject of many publications and awards,

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including a Gold Medal from the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA). In addition, Haag has twice been recognized as a Fellow of the ASLA. At age 91, he continues to be a presence in landscape planning and design in Seattle and the Northwest.

Born in Louisville, Kentucky in 1923, Rich Haag received an undergraduate degree in landscape architecture from the University of California at Berkeley. He continued his studies at Harvard, where he received his Masters in Landscape Architecture in 1951. After graduating, Haag accepted a traveling fellowship to Kyoto University in Japan, returning to the states to work with renowned landscape architect Lawrence Halprin in San Francisco in 1956. Haag then moved to Seattle in 1958. At the time of his commission for the Magnolia Library, Richard Haag was associate professor in the Landscape Architecture Department at the University of Washington's College of Architecture. Frustrated with the rigidity of late-Modernist principles, students were drawn to Haag's deep convictions that "the individual's primary role in the landscape is to understand nature's work and disposition; the biological regime and its cosmological order" (Saunders: 75).

Haag's design for the landscape surrounding the Magnolia Library called upon his knowledge of architecture, light and native plant materials, which resulted in an integrated site and building design. Similar to Kirk's wood detailing and Nakashima's furniture, it expressed a respect for natural materials, Japanese aesthetic influences, and indigenous forms. The site had contained numerous trees prior to the development of the site for the library, and the landscape design retained many of these plantings. The dense trees along the north edge of the site served as a backdrop for the visual garden courtyards that Haag developed.

Modern Design Principles and Materials

The original Magnolia Library successfully promoted connections between exterior and interior space, and the natural and built environments. These Modern principles were embodied in the form of the building and the extensive use of glazing and material selection by Paul Kirk. Kirk designed the projecting interior alcoves, for example, to "provide as much shelf space as most library big rooms with the same periphery but which would leave large areas of glass opening to the trees outside" (*Queen Anne News*, "New Library Designed to Blend into Its Setting," June 24, 1964). Throughout the building, the wood shingles and structural members were left in their natural, unpainted state to express material integrity and provide a visual contrast, delineating the structure from interior infill and finishes

The original building materials were selected to reflect the native environment, and applied in an architectural style that was a regional variant of Modernism. The building reflects both Northwest vernacular buildings in the landscape and specific traditions in Japanese architecture that celebrates an exposed building structure. Kirk described the firm's intentions in using the wood materials: "We desperately wanted to give Magnolia a building residential in character, warm to match the fine madrona trees on the lot and yet functional inside as a modern library should be" (*ibid*). The red cedar shingle cladding was also selected for its low maintenance and long-lasting qualities.

The building's use of an exposed post and beam structure was commended for its detailing, abundance of natural day lighting, and sensitive siting. The Magnolia Library was honored with an Honor Award from the Seattle chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) in 1965, and by an Architectural Award of Excellence given by the American Library Association and the national AIA in 1966. A year later, the building was published in *Architectural Record*, where it was recognized for "the modesty of its architectural solution, the unaffected residential scale appropriate to the area it serves, and the delightful use it makes of its wooded hill site" (*Architectural Record*, 1967: 182).

The Public Library as an American Institution

The public library in America has played a critical role in promoting literacy and informing citizens who participate in self-governance. In this sense, this institution reinforces an essential American concept of democracy. Its existence as such has paralleled the emergence of architecture of increased access and openness.

Libraries, as buildings to store written materials, have existed since ancient times. Stacked rolls of cloth containing hieroglyphic information have been found in Egyptian archaeological sites, suggesting that special places were reserved for such functions. Libraries were established also in classical Greek, Roman, and Arab cities. In Europe, monasteries

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and universities served as repositories of information during the Middle Ages and Renaissance. During the Industrial Revolution, however, the public institution emerged, in part due to affordable mass printing technologies, which resulted in books available to many. Individuals and private clubs emerged to collect and share books.

In the U.S., the first "Public Library" was established by Boston clergymen in 1655. Other library collections in 17th and 18th century were supported by American clergy and ministries that emphasized religious works. During this period, the nation's system of public education expanded, with the library and the school evolving as twin institutions of learning. The nation's first public lending library was created in Philadelphia in the 1730s. It was essentially a book club, but with voluntary dues and an open membership that served merchants and working class patrons. A century later, in 1833, the first tax-supported library was established in Salisbury, Connecticut. In 1835, the State of New York passed legislation allowing schools to use tax funds to support school libraries open to the public.

In 1854, the first Boston Public Library opened. For more than half a century it served as a physical model for library buildings. Its design, with an interior courtyard and a reading room placed along the front facade, recalled the Italian Palazzo of the Renaissance era, the Bibliotheque St. Genevieve in Paris, and medieval monastery libraries. However, the Boston Library's interior layout, with its linear spaces, mezzanine, and alcove stacks, resulted in functional inefficiencies for both patrons and librarians.

The role of the professional librarian emerged during the 19th century in America, and in the late 1870s the American Library Association (ALA) was founded. The ALA helped establish standards for the profession and developed the program for the public library with increased public access. Populist ideology encouraged such access. Nonetheless, the 19th century library plan was most often panoptical, with spaces visible to a centralized librarian's desk. For security of the collection and assistance to the browsing patron, the book stacks were in a separate room from the reading room. In larger libraries, many of the book stacks remained closed to the public.

The concepts of public access, education, and literacy were furthered by grants from Andrew Carnegie and later by the Carnegie Corporation which, between 1886 and 1919, provided grants to cities and towns across America. In Washington State, Carnegie grants (totaling \$1,046,000) funded construction of 43 library buildings, including Seattle's seven branch libraries and its Central Library, which served the city's downtown patrons. Carnegie's grant program had the effect in Washington, as it did elsewhere, of creating a permanent infrastructure for the public library with government funding of operations through tax revenues.

While the site selection for a Carnegie library was made by the participating community, its location was typically away from the commercial center of the neighborhood or town. Befitting a moral institution of learning, the library often was placed in or near a park. Branch libraries were situated near schools to encourage access by children, while the central libraries were located near or in downtown business cores. These determinants remained consistent throughout the mid-20th century when Modern style branch libraries, such as those in Seattle, were situated within their neighborhoods. The Magnolia Library is situated three blocks from the neighborhood's commercial center, in the middle of residential development, and in close proximity to a public school.

Development of Seattle's Public Library System

Seattle's first Library Association was organized on August 7, 1868. The next year, a small loan library opened with a collection of approximately one hundred books. Little is known about that particular library, as it folded after a few years, with the collection being sold to the Territorial University. In 1888, the Ladies Library Association was organized at the home of Mrs. Bailey Gatzert in a renewed effort to establish a free public library in the city. Assisted with seed money from Leigh S. J. Hunt (owner and editor of the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*) and businessman Henry Yesler, the library was eventually adopted as a branch of the Seattle City Government in October 1890. From 1891 to 1894, the library was housed in the Occidental Block in Pioneer Square. It then moved to the Collins block for two years, followed by another two-year stay in the Rialto building. In 1898, the collection was moved to the elegant, 40-room Yesler mansion, which provided ample room, light, and convenience for its patrons. Librarian C.W. Smith had an office in one of the bedrooms, and the kitchen became a bindery.

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By 1900, the library had over 25,000 volumes and close to 10,000 registered borrowers. Patrons were allowed to walk amongst the shelves to browse and select books, a rarity for libraries on the West Coast. The many rooms of the Yesler mansion allowed the library staff to establish separate departments, such as a Children's Room. However, on January 1, 1901, disaster struck when a fire swept through the building, destroying almost the entire collection. Librarian Smith was able to save records that allowed him to retrieve the 5,000 books out on loan at the time. News of the fire traveled quickly, and three days later the Carnegie Foundation provided necessary assistance. The Foundation had declined to provide funds to Seattle when approached in 1899, due to Carnegie's view that the city was a "hot air boom town." In the city's new time of need, his foundation donated \$200,000 for a new building. In 1901, the City of Seattle purchased the site of the Central Library's present location for \$100,000. Construction began in 1905, and the building opened in 1907, with a collection of 93,784 volumes and 29,118 borrowers. The new building provided for additional departments and services, such as a periodical room and a Fine Arts Division. That same year, the first embossed books for the blind were circulated, and several deposit stations were established.

Many city residents received their first municipal library services through the neighborhood stations which were managed by a separate Branch Department. A Carnegie grant to Ballard funded construction of its library in 1907, which was acquired by Seattle when that neighborhood was annexed. In 1908, the City received a Carnegie Foundation grant of \$105,000 for construction of three branches including the Green Lake, West Seattle, and the University branches, which all opened in 1910. These were followed by additional Carnegie libraries in Columbia City (1914) and Queen Anne (1915). Two additional branches – the Yesler/Douglass-Truth and Fremont Libraries – were partially funded by a \$70,000 Carnegie grant in 1911, and opened in 1914 and 1921, respectively.

By 1913, library patrons throughout the city were served from 495 distribution points: the Central Library, six drugstore deposit stations, seven branch libraries, six playgrounds, eight special deposit stations, 24 fire engine houses, and 443 separate schoolrooms. The library's Schools Division opened in 1910 under the supervision of the Children's Department. School children were served exclusively by SPL until 1927 when responsibility for library service shifted, and the Library System and Seattle Public Schools created the first model school library in its Hamilton Intermediate School in the Wallingford neighborhood.

Circulation during the 1920s and early 1930s grew along with the city's literate population. By 1930, the library collection had grown to nearly 450,000 volumes, serving over 100,000 borrowers. Nearly 25 percent of Seattle's residents had library cards. A large foreign section was in place, indicating the diversity of Seattle's growing population. In 1930, the Library published its Ten Year Program, which included studies of the population and collection growth; library revenues and endowment funds; school, municipal reference and county services; and expansion of the Central Library. All of this changed with the onset of Great Depression and cutbacks in municipal funds. Library staff, salaries, and benefits were cut, and for a full decade many services were curtailed. Although circulation reached a high point in 1932, library hours were restricted, extension services eliminated, and in 1933 all branch departments were abolished. All deposit stations were closed, book mobile services ceased, and only ten branches remained active. In 1935, workers organized the Seattle Public Library Staff Association, which led to their inclusion in the city's pension program, a return to pre-depression salary levels, and a 40 hour workweek.

Seattle boomed during World War II and its library expanded services vastly to serve military personnel as well as local residents. In 1940, the library system inaugurated its film library and Great Books Program, along with discussion groups and an art gallery in its downtown auditorium. Collections were expanded, including phonograph records. Free service was extended in 1941 to all military personnel in the Puget Sound region, and in 1942 to all war-industry workers. That same year, adult educational programs (organized initially in 1928 to provide individual reading), shifted in focus to group literacy classes. Between 1942 and 1948, 25 library stations were established, including several in Magnolia.

In 1943, the King County Library System was created, contracting with the Seattle Public Library for services. City Librarian, John Richards, immediately began planning for the city's post-war era. According to a contemporary report, his plans included much of what currently exists as the branch library system (*Library Journal*, "Proposed five-year postwar library program," December 15, 1944). In 1944, Richards promoted a specific \$1,425,000 line item in the city's proposed post-war annual budget for an addition to the Central Library and construction of several branch libraries.

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Expansion of post-war library services continued in the 1950s. In 1953, Seattle annexed nearly 15 square miles, including north-end neighborhoods such as Licton Springs, Lake City, and Northgate, increasing its population by 54,000. Library services in these new areas continued to be provided by the King County Library System which, by 1956, included 37 branches and two bookmobiles. Meanwhile, the Seattle Library System expanded its programs to include chamber concerts, teas, book clubs, and annual classroom visits to 150 public schools. In 1950, a \$5 million bond issue for a new Central Library and five new branches was defeated at the polls. After a second \$1.5 million library bond issue failed in 1952, City Librarian Richards successfully lobbied the Seattle City Council for funds from the City Cumulative Reserve Fund for three new branch libraries and the purchase of a second mobile unit. The City Council responded with \$492,000 in the 1953 budget to build the North East, Greenwood, and Capitol Hill Branches and purchase a second bookmobile. The Greenwood Branch opened on January 20, 1954, North East on June 3, 1954, and Susan B. Henry Library on Capitol Hill on August 26, 1954.

By 1950, the city had outgrown the half-century-old Carnegie-funded Central Library building. In 1956, city voters finally passed a third bond issue with \$5 million in funding that opened the way for construction of a new Central Library. The book collection was moved temporarily into the Seventh and Olive Building, while the original city library was demolished. In 1960, a Modern style library opened on the same site as the earlier building. By the end of that year, registered patrons in the city numbered 260,425, nearly half the city's total resident population. Other libraries that resulting from the bond issue funding program included a replacement of the original Ballard Carnegie Library with a new building on a separate site, and new libraries in the Greenwood, Lake City, and Southwest Seattle neighborhoods.

By the early 1990s, the Seattle Public Library system had grown to more than 25 branches. Its downtown hub was severely stressed in serving the needs of the system and its patrons. The Library proposed a major bond issue in 1994 to build a new central library facility and add several regional centers. This proposal was joined on the ballot with major bond issues for police precincts and the Seattle Public Schools. All of the bonds failed. Following the defeat, the Library Board launched another review of its capital needs with extensive citizen participation. This process confirmed the need for a new central library as part of a system-wide program of improvements. It resulted in the Libraries for All bond issue in 1998, which was passed with a majority of nearly 70 percent. An additional \$75 million was raised through private contributions. The resulting building program saw the construction of a new Downtown Library and new neighborhood libraries, several of which replaced post-war branch facilities on new or existing sites, along with renovation and expansion of six operating Carnegie-era libraries and three of seven Modern era libraries in the city's residential neighborhoods. One of these was the Magnolia Library.

Each of the older library buildings was upgraded with new systems (utilities, seismic/structural, mechanical, electrical, fire protection), finishes, and furnishings, works of art, and new technology. Endowment funds provided additional books, materials, and programs. Current data from Seattle's Public Library System reveals the significant impact of the institution in the city: its facilities include 26 neighborhood branches and mobile services in addition to the Central Library. It has a present collection of 6,272,360 circulating books and offers over 8,200 contemporary lecture, film, and concert programs attended by over 261,000 visitors and patrons. Its 2013 circulation included over 11,850,000 books, media, and digital media, and its service levels included nearly 14,000,000 patron visits with over 4,900,000 visits to the branch libraries (Seattle Public Library, "2013 Annual Report").

Magnolia Public Library
Name of Property

King Co., Washington
County and State

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Name of Property

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Name of Property

King Co., Washington
County and State

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County and State

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Susan Boyle of BOLA, and Mimi Sheridan of Sheridan Planning Group, December, 2014 and January 2015.

Susan Boyle of BOLA and David Strauss of SHKS Architects, November 2013 and February 2015.

Susan Boyle of BOLA and clerk Kris Baker of the Seattle Public Library, Magnolia branch, February 2014.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Seattle Public Library, Seattle Room

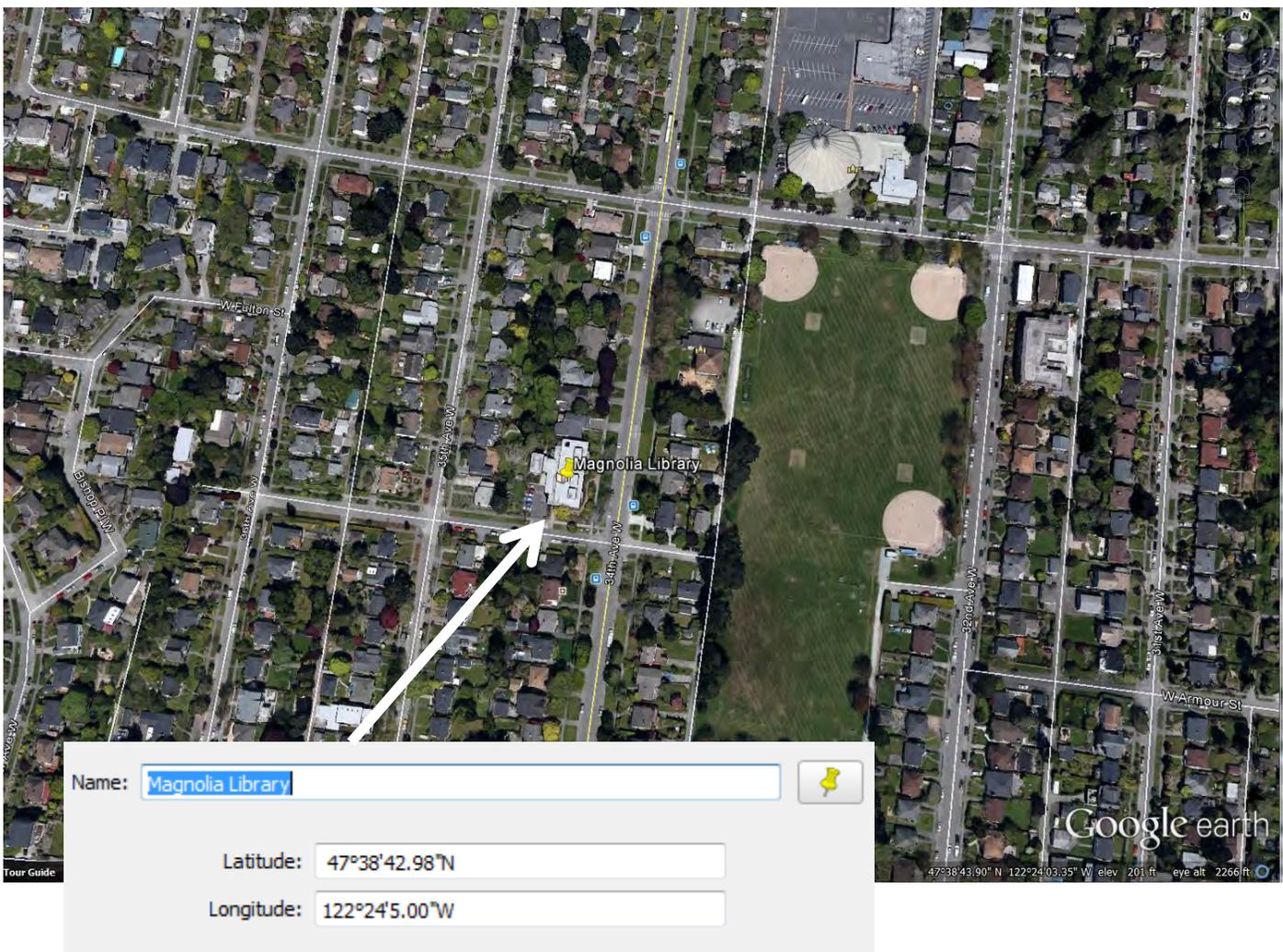
Magnolia Public Library
Name of Property

King Co., Washington
County and State

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)



Google Earth Map

Magnolia Public Library
Name of Property

King Co., Washington
County and State

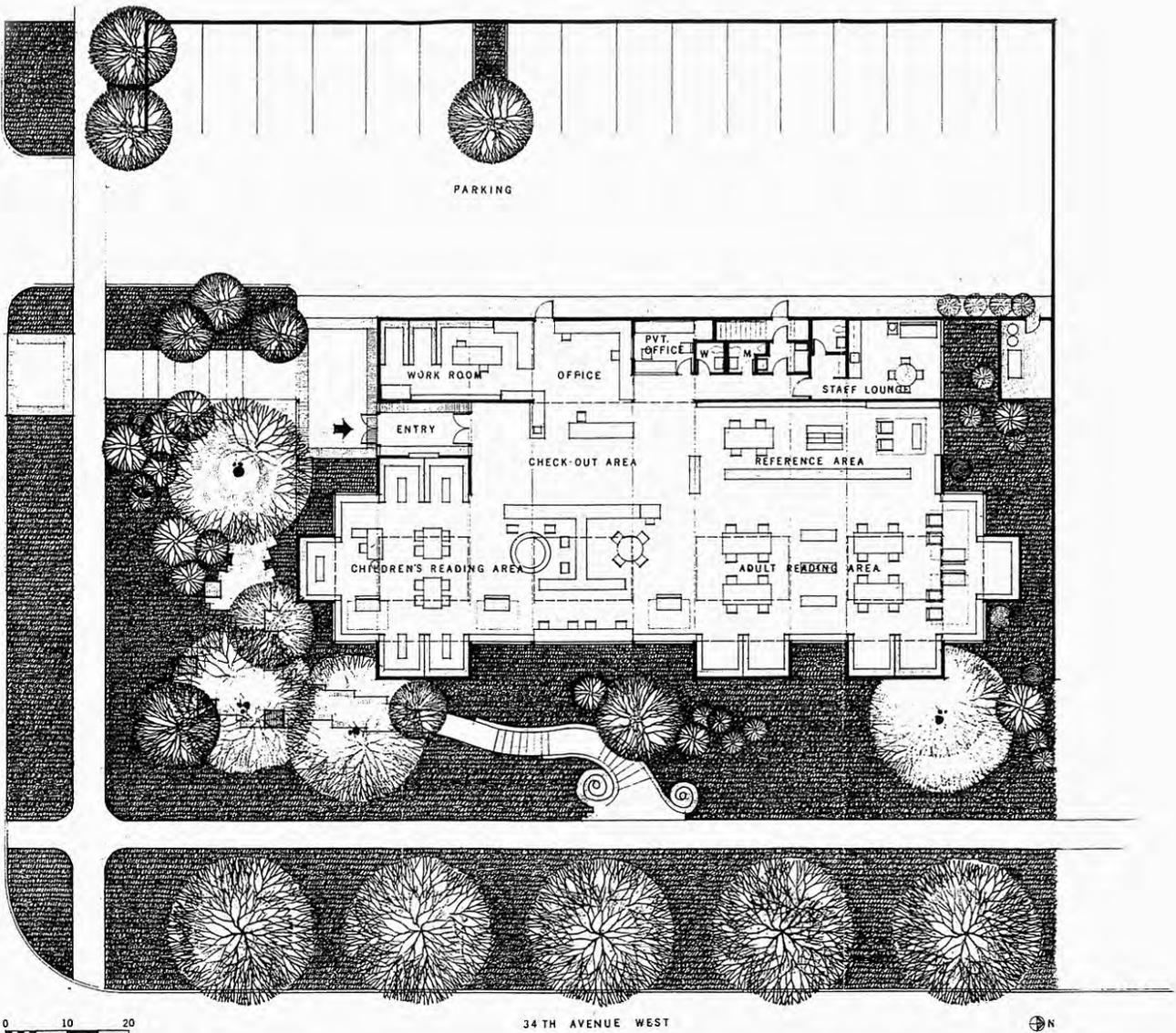


King County Assessor Map – Parcel No. 137780-0250

CARLETON PARK TERRACE DIV # 3
PLat Block: 4
Plat Lot: 1-2-3

Magnolia Public Library
Name of Property

King Co., Washington
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MAGNOLIA BRANCH · SEATTLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

KIRK, WALLACE, MCKINLEY, & ASSOCIATES, ARCHITECTS

Kirk, Wallace & McKinley original library plan — c. 1965

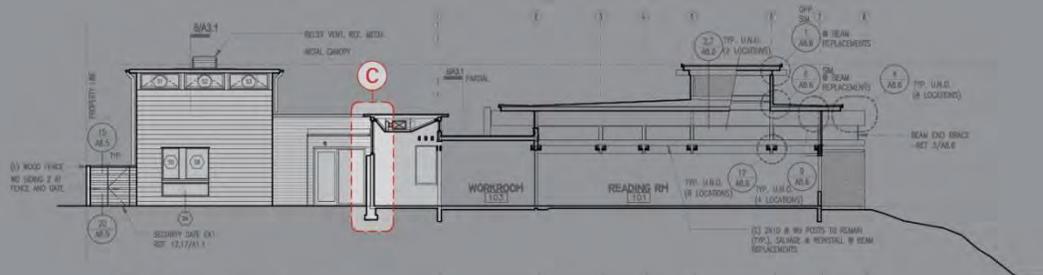
Magnolia Public Library
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MAGNOLIA LIBRARY

ADDITION

2801 34TH AVENUE WEST
SEATTLE, WA 98199



B BUILDING SECTION
Scale: 1/8"=1'-0"



A FLOOR PLAN
Scale: 1/8"=1'-0"

SHKS Architects – Showing addition to Kirk, Wallace & McKinley original library plan – 2008

Magnolia Public Library
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Aerial view of Magnolia Playfield and Surroundings
Photographer: Unknown
Seattle Municipal Archives, November 1966 (Item No. 76093)



Photos of model of the Magnolia Public Library
Photographer: Hugh N. Stratford
Seattle Public Library Photograph Collection, date unknown (spl_shp_35095)

Magnolia Public Library
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County and State



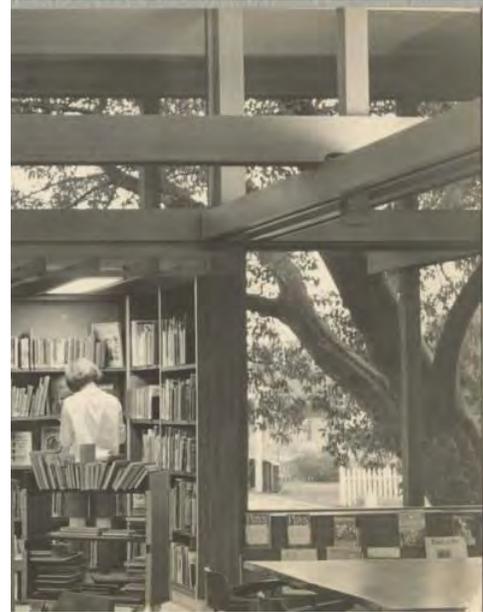
Main entry and southwest corner, camera facing northeast
Photographer: Unknown
Seattle Public Library Photograph Collection, February 1968 (spl_shp_35096)



Main reading room, camera facing north
Photographer: Unknown
Seattle Public Library Photograph Collection, c.1966

Magnolia Public Library
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King Co., Washington
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Interior details
Photographer: Unknown
Seattle Public Library Photograph Collection, c.1966

1966 *Library Buildings* AWARD PROGRAM



Cover of Library Building Award Program
Photographer: Unknown
Seattle Public Library Photograph Collection, 1966

Magnolia Public Library
Name of Property

King Co., Washington
County and State

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

Name of Property: Magnolia Public Library
City: Seattle
County: King County
State: WA



Photo #1
Exterior view of site and building, camera facing northwest
Photographer: Susan Boyle, January 14, 2015

Magnolia Public Library
Name of Property

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County and State



Photo #2
Exterior view of south facade, camera facing north
Photographer: Susan Boyle, January 14, 2015



Photo #3
Exterior view of main entry, camera facing northeast
Photographer: Susan Boyle, January 14, 2015

Magnolia Public Library
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Photo #4
Exterior view of landscaping at main entry, camera facing west
Photographer: Susan Boyle, January 14, 2015



Photo #5
Exterior view, expansion and addition, camera facing north
Photographer: Susan Boyle, January 14, 2015

Magnolia Public Library
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Photo #6
Exterior view, partial west façade, staff room expansion, camera facing east
Photographer: Susan Boyle, January 14, 2015



Photo #7
Exterior view, north façade, addition, camera facing south
Photographer: Susan Boyle, January 14, 2015

Magnolia Public Library
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Photo #8
Exterior view, west facade, north end, camera facing east
Photographer: Susan Boyle, January 14, 2015



Photo #9
Exterior view, east facade, showing pedestrian sidewalk entry.
Photographer: SHKS Architect, July 2008

Magnolia Public Library
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Photo #10
Interior view of reception desk and beams in reading room, camera facing north
Photographer: Susan Boyle, January 14, 2015



Photo #11
Interior view of northeast corner of reading room and roof overhang, camera facing northeast
Photographer: Susan Boyle, January 14, 2015

Magnolia Public Library
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Photo #12
Interior view of Nakashima furniture and reading room, camera facing east
Photographer: Susan Boyle, January 14, 2015



Photo #13
Interior view of southeast corner of reading room, camera facing south
Photographer: Susan Boyle, January 14, 2015

Magnolia Public Library
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King Co., Washington
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Photo #14
Interior view of southeast corner of reading room, camera facing south
Photographer: SHKS Architect, July 2008

Property Owner: (Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Seattle Public Library, City Librarian Marcellus Turner
street & number 1000 Fourth Avenue telephone (206) 386.4147
city or town Seattle state WA zip code 98104-1109

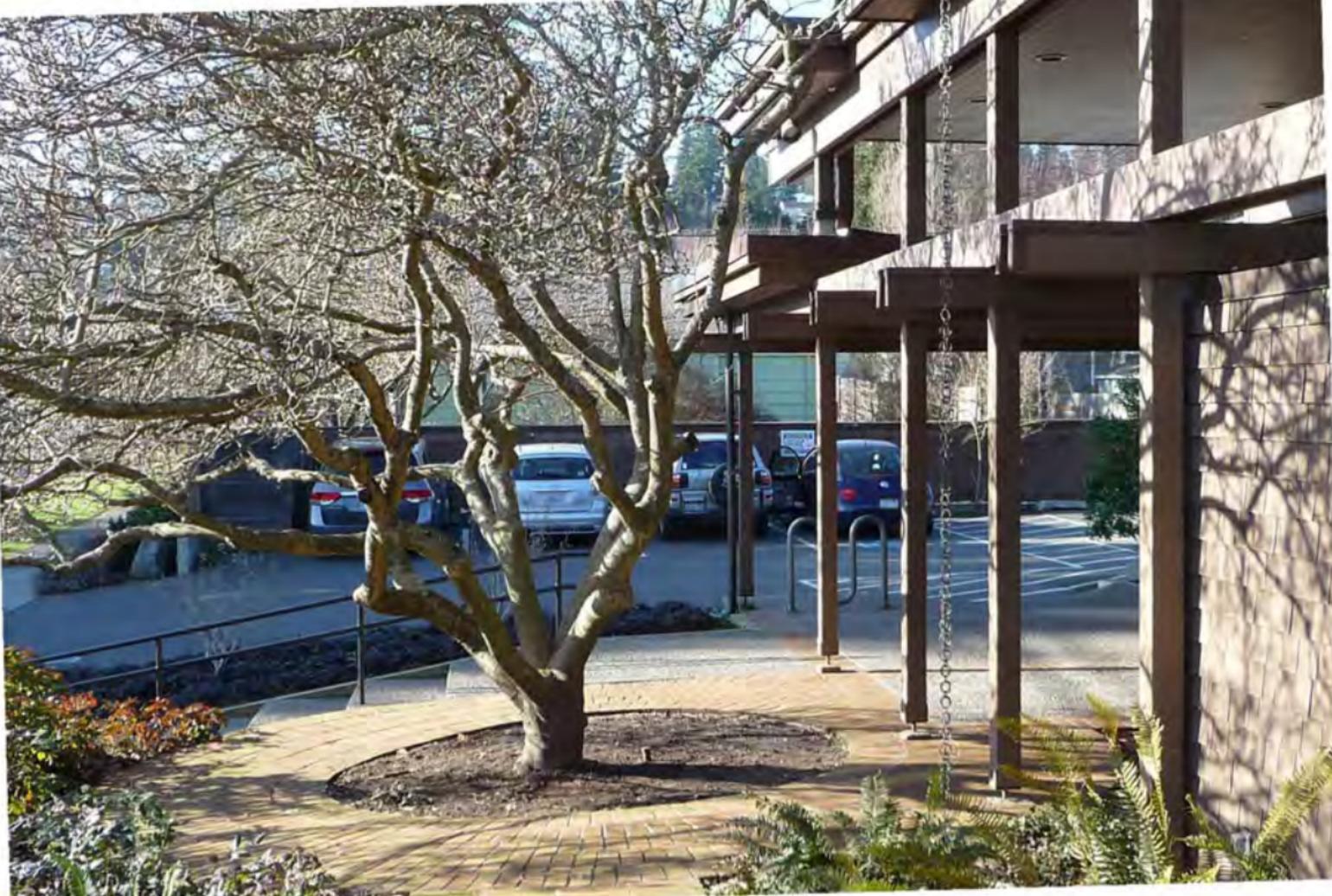
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.























Novelty





Children's
Fiction



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Magnolia Public Library

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: WASHINGTON, King

DATE RECEIVED: 6/05/15 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 7/07/15
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 7/22/15 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 7/21/15
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 15000453

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 7.21.15 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



Allyson Brooks Ph.D., Director
State Historic Preservation Office
RECEIVED 2290

JUN - 5 2015

**Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service**

May 29, 2015

Paul Lusignan
Keeper of the National Register
National

Register of Historic Places
1201 "I" Street NW, 8th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005

RE: Washington State NR Nominations

Dear Paul:

Please find enclosed a new National Register Nominations form for:

- **Magnolia Public Library – King County, WA**
(an all-electronic nomination!)
- **Orchard Terrace Apartments – Whatcom County, WA**
(an all-electronic nomination!)

Should you have any questions regarding these nominations please contact me anytime at (360) 586-3076. I look forward to hearing your final determination on these properties.

Sincerely,

Michael Houser
State Architectural Historian, DAHP
360-586-3076
E-Mail: michael.houser@dahp.wa.gov

