

SURVEY-INVENTORY FORM
COMMUNITY CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY

1. NAME

Historic Seattle Public Library - Queen Anne Branch (*Carnegie Library of Washington TR*)
and/or Common Same

2. LOCATION

Street & Number 400 W. Garfield Street
City, Town Seattle - vicinity of _____
State Washington County King

UTM References:
Zone 10 Easting 547970
Northing 5275590
1:24,000 - not for publication

3. CLASSIFICATION

Ownership: public private both
Status: occupied unoccupied work in progress
Present Use: agriculture commercial educational entertainment government
industrial military museum park private residence
religious scientific transportation other: Library

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

Name City of Seattle
Street & Number 600 - 4th Avenue
City, Town Seattle - vicinity of _____ State Washington 98104

5. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

6. FORM PREPARED BY

Name/Title J.H. Vandermeer, Historian
Organization Office of Archaeology & Historic Preservation Date August 1981
Street & Number 111 West 21st Avenue Telephone (206) 753-9685
City or Town Olympia State Washington 98504

7. DESCRIPTION

Condition: excellent good fair deteriorated ruins unexposed
Circle one: unaltered altered
Circle one: original site moved date _____

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

The Queen Anne library is located on a quiet street in a neighborhood of attractive homes. The site, which is dotted with large trees and shrubs, is surrounded by a brick retaining wall. The building is rectangular, with a gable roof of slate shingles. The brick exterior extends above the roofline to form a parapet at the gable ends. A broad stairway leads from the sidewalk to the front yard and continues up into the building. The entry is located in the center of the south facade, one of the longer sides. It is emphasized by a terra cotta arch. Fenestration consists of series of slightly arched openings with many tiny leaded glass panes. These sets of windows are surrounded with terra cotta. The building, which the architects described as English Scholastic Gothic style, presents a quiet, almost cloistered image behind and under the trees that surround it.

Verbal boundary description: 526' of Lot 9 and all
of Lots 10, 11, and 12, Block 27, Lows' 2nd Addition.

Acreage: Less than one

8. SIGNIFICANCE

Specific dates 1914

Builder/Architect W. Marbury Somervell &
Harlan Thomas

a. History

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

The Queen Anne branch was one of two libraries built with a Carnegie grant of \$70,000, which was promised to the city in 1911. The lot was purchased for \$7,200 of which \$500 was provided by Col. Blethen, a local newspaper publisher. Opened in 1914, it has been the neighborhood library ever since. There have been no significant alterations, although plastic skydomes have replaced the original skylights and stained glass murals have been installed in place of four of the original windows.

b. Evaluation of Significance

This building is a well-preserved example of a Carnegie Library and has been an important focus for the intellectual and social life of the neighborhood it serves. The architects are both well known locally.