

SURVEY-INVENTORY FORM  
COMMUNITY CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY

1. NAME

Historic Spokane Public Library (*Carnegie Libraries of Washington*  
and/or Common The Carnegie (TR')

2. LOCATION

Street & Number 10 South Cedar  
City, Town Spokane - vicinity of  
State WA County Spokane

UTM References:  
Zone 11 Easting 467590  
Spokane NW Northing 5278030  
1:24 000 - not for publication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:

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

Name Pete Rayner  
Street & Number 611 Peyton Building  
City, Town Spokane - vicinity of State WA 99201

5. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Garrett, Patsy M., and Potter, Elisabeth W.  
National Register nomination of Riverside Historic District. January, 1976.  
Historic building file of the Spokane City/County Office of Historic Preservation.

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 WA 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 old main library in Spokane occupies a small city block of irregular size on the outskirts of the central business district. It is a rectangular building of gray-buff brick. The main entrance is centered on the east facade, one of the long sides of the rectangle. In the rear a wing extends to the west and, attached to this, a very early addition of matching materials extending to the south. The most prominent feature of the building is its monumental portico supported by four Corinthian columns, which rise from near ground level to the portico at the roofline. The building is two stories above a daylight basement, except for the addition, which has an extra story. Its rests on a foundation of rock-faced blocks of Tenino sandstone, the same material used for the columns. Fenestration consists of very large one-over-one double-hung windows. Some of these are slightly arched and have simulated brick voussoirs of unusually great size. Just beyond the entry vestibule is an interior courtyard under a skylight. Large rooms, several with impressive fireplaces, open onto the tile floor of the courtyard or onto a balcony above. Cast iron railings and stairs add to the ambiance of this pleasant space.

Verbal boundary description:

Acreage: Less than one

Lots 1-6, Block 1, Browne's Addition

## 8. SIGNIFICANCE

Specific dates    1905

Builder/Architect    Preusse & Zittel

### a. History

The history of the public library system in Spokane began in 1880 when a group of women sponsored sociables to raise money to purchase books. Several small libraries were formed in the 1880's, and in 1891 three of them merged to form the Union Library. Later the same year the city initiated partial public support, and assumed full responsibility in 1894 when the library was moved to the basement of City Hall. The city's application for a Carnegie grant was approved in 1903. The site, which was on the outskirts of the central business district, was donated by a prominent mining magnate, A. B. Campbell. The building, which was designed by the local firm of Preusse and Zittel, cost \$100,000, of which Carnegie paid \$85,000. An annex was added in 1930, but the building was still too small, and the library moved to another building in 1962. The old one was leased from the city for various purposes, including a training facility for nurses. It is now being renovated by an attorney for his own office and for office space to be leased to others.

### b. Evaluation of Significance

The significance of this building was recognized by its placement on the National Register on July 30, 1976 as a structure of primary importance within the Riverside Historic District.