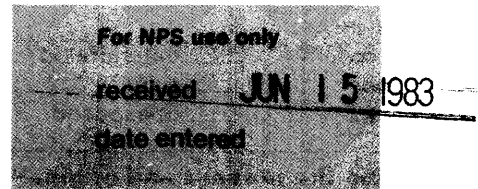OMB No. 1024-0018
EXP. 12/31/84

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic   Shelton Public Library and Town Hall

and/or common   Shelton Public Library

2. Location

street & number   5th Street and Railroad Avenue   ___ not for publication

city, town   Shelton   ___ vicinity of   ~~congressional district~~

state   Washington   **code**   053   **county**   Mason   **code** 045

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	_X_ public	_X_ occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
_X_ building(s)	___ private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	_X_ educational	___ private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	___ yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	_X_ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	n/a	___ no	___ military	___ other:

4. Owner of Property

name   City of Shelton

street & number   2nd and Franklin

city, town   Shelton   ___ vicinity of   **state**   Washington 98584

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.   Mason County Courthouse

street & number

city, town   Shelton   **state**   Washington 98584

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title   Washington State Inventory of Historic Places   has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes _X_ no

date October 1974   ___ federal _X_ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records   Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

city, town   111 West 21st Avenue, Olympia   **state**   Washington 98504

7. Description

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Shelton Public Library and Town Hall is a one story, flat-roofed structure with an L-shaped floor plan. The building has been well maintained and alterations to the original plan have carefully emulated its classical detailing. The Shelton Public Library is located on the southeast corner of the intersection of Railroad Avenue and Fifth Street at the end of a block of commercial buildings which face Railroad Avenue. It is set back from the sidewalk by a strip of lawn and shrubbery.

The building is constructed of poured concrete and is finished in rough stucco. The parapet walls have a coping ledge that has recently been covered with metal flashing. Originally, the building was rectangular with five bays on the west side and three on the north. The most dramatic features on both of these primary facades are indentical centrally placed porticos. These porticos project only slightly from the wall plane and consist of two Tuscan columns and two Tuscan pilasters supporting a plain, partially stuccoed entablature that is topped by a segmentally-arched pediment. The pediment is boldly scaled and has large mutules beneath its soffit. A similarly appointed cornice extends from the corners of the pediment around the perimeter of the structure. The height of the parapet wall is elevated slightly above the pediments and there is a flagpole here on this portion of the Fifth Street facade. Originally, the entrance to the Town Hall section of the structure was on this facade and the library entrance was on Railroad Avenue. The Fifth Street entrance has two wood and glass doors; the Railroad Avenue entrance has a single door with sidelights. Both entries have commemorative plaques. The Fifth Street entry is flanked by Palladian windows. The elements of these windows are separated by stucco rather than wood trim and a thin cement architrave lintel is similarly elevated above the tops of the windows. All of the building's window and door trim follow this unusual scheme. The outside bays on the Fifth Street facade are made up of paired six over one windows. Single eight over one sash windows flank the Railroad Avenue entrance.

An early feature of the building is the small extension on the south end which once housed the town fire engine. Its large door was later altered. Other alterations include the closing of windows on the east facade and the addition of a reading room. The Town Hall moved to a separate building in 1924 and in 1930, Joseph Wohleb, a prominent Olympia architect, added this reading room and his design imitates the original. A boiler room was added to the south side of the reading room in 1956.

Much of the original interior has been removed or obscured by alterations; however, examples of the original paneling do remain.

In the eclectism of the early twentieth century, many styles were employed and combined. Classically ordered motifs, and their reinterpretations from the Renaissance to the American Colonial periods were often mixed at will. Such is the case in the Shelton Public Library and Town Hall. Stylistically, the building falls most nearly in the Georgian Revival mode. The segmentally-arched pediments and Palladian windows were elements strongly associated with colonial architecture and often employed by revivalists. Nevertheless, the plain stucco wall, the use of the parapet, overstated cornice and severe separation of components imply a debt to the Classical Revival also popular at this time.

8. Significance

Period

___ prehistoric
___ 1400–1499
___ 1500–1599
___ 1600–1699
___ 1700–1799
___ 1800–1899
_X_ 1900–

Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

___ archeology-prehistoric
___ archeology-historic
___ agriculture
_X_ architecture
___ art
___ commerce
___ communications

___ community planning
___ conservation
___ economics
_X_ education
___ engineering
___ exploration/settlement
___ industry
___ invention

___ landscape architecture
___ law
___ literature
___ military
___ music
___ philosophy
_X_ politics/government

___ religion
___ science
___ sculpture
___ social/
    humanitarian
___ theater
___ transportation
___ other (specify)

Specific dates   1914   **Builder/Architect**   Fredrick H. Heath

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Shelton Public Library and Town Hall is a fine example of that juncture in the history of many Western towns when primitive settlements struggled to develop into established communities. As these boom camps started to gain permanent residents, social hierarchies and financial security, many of them began to redefine their image and prominent citizens often launched campaigns of civic improvement. The Shelton Public Library and Town Hall was not only evidence of past successes, but was also a promise of future prosperity. Its symbolic importance as such cannot be overstated; for as Mark Reed declared at the dedication in 1914 "with the conjoined town hall and library...we have... the fundamental equipment of a rational, well balanced community, a place of social and political assemblage and a resort for the seekers of knowledge, or diversion, in books."

The Shelton Public Library and Town Hall was built in memory of Sol G. Simpson, Shelton pioneer and founder of the Simpson Timber Company. The building was a gift to the people of Shelton from Simpson's widow, Mary Garrard Simpson (nicknamed Tollie), and Alfred Anderson, another pioneer of Shelton and the Simpson Timber Company. It was through the efforts and insights of these two men and their successor, Mark Reed, that the future of Shelton as a center of the forest products industry was secured.

Sol Simpson arrived in Mason County in 1878 to supervise construction of the Port Blakely Mill's logging railroad at Kamilche. With the help of other investors, Simpson was able to start his own operation along this line, and in 1890 organized S.G. Simpson and Company. Alfred Anderson came to Shelton in 1889 to effect a reorganization of the bankrupt Satsop Railroad. In 1895, Simpson and Anderson merged their interests to form the Simpson Logging Company and the Peninsular Railway Company. During the following year, Sol Simpson hired a man who would become his son-in-law and ultimate successor. This man was Mark Reed, the single most influential person in Shelton's history. By moving the corporate offices of the Simpson Timber Comapny from Matlock to Shelton, Reed cemented the community's place as the civic and cultural center of Mason County. While both Simpson and Anderson dabbled in politics, Reed, in addition to managing the Simpson Timber Company, launched a career in politics that spanned two decades. Towards the end of his first elected post as mayor of Shelton, Reed organized the construction of the Shelton Public Library and Town Hall. The new building provided a home for the long-standing private circulating library group.

With gifts from Mrs. Simpson and the recently deceased Mr. Anderson, Mark Reed was able to purchase a lot on the corner of Railroad Avenue and Fifth Street from newspaper publisher Grant Angle. Ground was broken in May 1914 and the building was dedicated on August 1st of that year. The architect chosen to design the building was Fredrick H. Heath, a noted Tacoma architect whose practice spanned many years and who has left many works including Tacoma's Stadium High School. Though Heath's design for the Shelton Public Library was a simple interpretation on a small scale of popular civic architecture of the day, it nevertheless was one of the finest structures in town; well-balanced and purposeful. The single line moulding applied over the windows, the heavily scaled cornice and articulated entries work together to create an image of importance beyond the

9. Major Bibliographical References

Ficken, Robert E. Lumber and Politics: the Career of Mark E. Reed. University of Washington Press, 1979, Seattle.

Tostevin, Sarah. History of Shelton Public Library. Unpublished, Community Library Association, 1972. Copy from the Shelton Public Library.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property __less than one__

Quadrangle name __Shelton__   Quadrangle scale __1:62,500__

UMT References

A |1,0| |4,9,2|2,0,0| |4,2,2|8,6,5,0| B |_|_| |_,_,_|_,_,_| |_,_,_|_,_,_|
   Zone Easting   Northing   Zone Easting   Northing

C |_|_| |_,_,_|_,_,_| |_,_,_|_,_,_| D |_|_| |_,_,_|_,_,_| |_,_,_|_,_,_|

E |_|_| |_,_,_|_,_,_| |_,_,_|_,_,_| F |_|_| |_,_,_|_,_,_| |_,_,_|_,_,_|

G |_|_| |_,_,_|_,_,_| |_,_,_|_,_,_| H |_|_| |_,_,_|_,_,_| |_,_,_|_,_,_|

Verbal boundary description and justification   Lot 4, Block N, David Shelton's First Addition, Shelton, Washington. Property line extends east 60 feet from the corner of Railroad Avenue and Fifth Street. From the same corner going south along Fifth Street, the property extends 100 feet to the alley.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state		code	county		code
state	n/a	code	county		code
state	n/a	code	county		code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Bruce T. Weilepp, Development Chairman		Edited by Mark L. Brack O.A.H.P.
organization	Mason County Historical Society	date	October 17, 1982
street & number	West 621 White Road	telephone	(206) 426-0144
city or town	Shelton	state	Washington 98584

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national   ____ state   _X_ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89–665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.
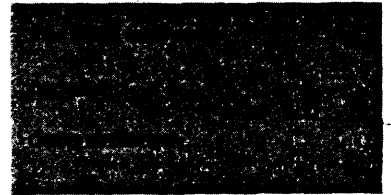
State Historic Preservation Officer signature _Jacob E. Thon_

title   State Historic Preservation Officer   date   6/6/83

NPS Form 10-900-a
(7-81)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

| Continuation sheet | Item number | 8 | Page 2 |

size of the building. The concrete construction is particularly important in light of the major fire which destroyed a large portion of the business district less than a month after the dedication ceremony.

One of the primary motivating factors in the development of the library involved the leisure pursuits of the transient and single lumbermen in town. Leading citizens hoped that the "purposeful repose" of reading a book would present an alternative to the not-so-purposeful repose available at local brothels. This factor should not be overlooked, and in fact it is obliquely referenced to in the dedication ode composed for the opening ceremony:

> "Nor harken thou to sirens' song,
> But walk in truth and light
> The ways that lead to ruin dire
> Are traveled in the night."

This ode also speaks of "civic pride sublime." The Public Library and Town Hall is certainly the oldest reminder of that virtue in Shelton and it symbolizes the arrival of culture to this rough, young logging town.
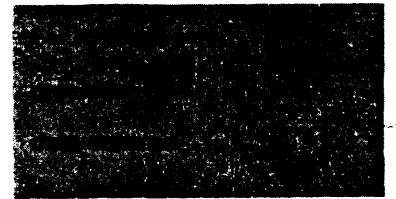
Fredrick Heath 1861-1953

Fredrick Heath became one of Washington's most prominent architects in the beginning decades of this century. His early career was typical of many designers in his day, with practical training taking the place of formal education. Yet Heath's many accomplishments emphatically prove that his skills and talents were considerable, and he has left an important architectural legacy in the Northwest.

Fredrick Heath was born in Wisconsin and spent his early life in Minnesota. He worked for several years in the printing business, but later decided to become an architect. He secured a position in the offices of Warren H. Hages of Minneapolis and remained with him for twelve years. He apparently devoted much study to the theoretical and practical aspects of architecture for when he relocated to Tacoma in 1893, he brought with him one of the best architectural libraries to be found on the Coast. One of his first important commissions was the construction of Tacoma's Stadium High School on the ruins of an old hotel. He later designed the great amphitheater next to the school which, at the time of construction, could hold 32,000 people and was one of the largest such structures in the world. The structure also made pioneering use of reinforced concrete.

Mr. Heath went on to enjoy great success in his field, designing buildings from Alaska to Los Angeles. During his career he and his partners designed a wealth of schools, commercial buildings, homes, and churches: more than 600 buildings in all. Like most architects of the period, he was an eclectic, designing in a variety of styles, often combining different stylistic influences. One of his structures, the Wilkeson School (National Register, 1976), is similar to the Shelton Public Library in its use of Georgian and Classical motifs. Other buildings of his that have been listed on the National Register include: the Swiss Hall (with Gove, 1913), Lindstrom-Berg Cabinet Works (1908), the Park Hotel (1909), Rhodesleigh (with Gove, 1913), and the G.A. Stanley Residence, all in the Tacoma vicinity; and the Paradise Inn at Mt. Rainier (1916). Mr. Heath continued working until he was 90. He died in Tacoma in 1953.

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"Shelton Library" Shelton-Mason County Journal. August 7, 1914, p. 4, Shelton Library.

Simpson Memorial Town Hall and Public Library, Dedication Program, August 1, 1914. Copy at Shelton Public Library.

Snowden, Clinton. History of Washington, Vol. 6, p. 19. Century History Company, New York, 1911.

Tacoma News Tribune, April 15, 1936, p. 1 and April 18, 1976, p. A-7. Washington State Library.