

SURVEY-INVENTORY FORM  
COMMUNITY CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY

1. NAME

Historic

~~Bellingham Public Library~~ - Fairhaven <sup>Library</sup> Branch

*(Carnegie Library of Washington 703)*

and/or Common  
Same

2. LOCATION

UTM References:

Zone 10 Easting 536670

Northing 5396400

Street & Number

1105 - 12th Street

Bellingham South  
1:24,000

- not for publication

City, Town

Bellingham

- vicinity of

State

Washington

County

Whatcom

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 Bellingham

Street & Number

City Hall

City, Town

Bellingham

- vicinity of

State

Washington 98225

5. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Potter, Elizabeth Walton. Fairhaven Historic District. National Register  
Nomination Form.

6. FORM PREPARED BY

Name/Title

J.H. Vandermeer, Historian

Organization

Office of Archaeology & Historic Preservation

Date

July 8, 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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

This building is rectangular, with the longer axis running north and south. On the principal facade, which faces west, there is a wide projection for a door and bay. The foundation is concrete and stone, and a high ground course of cast stone, which stimulates rock-faced masonry, rises to the level of the main floor. The walls are stucco, but this is a recent alteration. The original facing was concrete block and brick. A shingled gable roof overhangs the facade on either side of a central projecting section terminating in a Jacobethan gable with stepped shoulders and crown. End walls are topped with similar gables and are lighted by two ranks of linteled windows. The gable of the facade is lighted by three windows with diapered leaded panes. Beneath it are a small polygonal bay with an overhanging roof and a shallow porch behind a round-arched portal reached by a divided stairway.

Verbal boundary description: Lots 7 and 8, Block 17,  
Amended Plat of Fairhaven-

Acreage:

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## 8. SIGNIFICANCE

Specific dates 1904

Builder/Architect Elliot and West

### a. History

Now a branch of the Bellingham Public Library, Fairhaven's facility is an out-growth of a reading room established by private citizens as early as 1890 and operated at various locations, including the Mason Block. After 1892 the library gained fluctuating public support and continued operation in the Mason Block. Shortly before voters approved consolidation with Whatcom in 1903, Fairhaven had appealed to Andrew Carnegie for funds with which to erect a library building. A total grant of \$16,000 was received; the lots were donated by C.X. Larrabee; and the library was completed in December 1904 by a local contractor who modified the plans of the Seattle architectural firm of Charles N. Elliot and Thomas L. West. After the consolidation of Fairhaven and Whatcom into the city of Bellingham, the combined entity applied for another grant from Carnegie. After some correspondence and submission of a map, Carnegie's administrator decided that Bellingham, despite its small population, could use another library because of its geographical expanse. When the second one was built, the Fairhaven library became a branch.

### b. Evaluation of Significance

This building was placed on the National Register of Historic Places on August 19, 1977 as a primary structure within the Fairhaven Historic District. Its significance derives from its importance in the social and intellectual history of the community and from its architectural attributes.