

SURVEY-INVENTORY FORM
COMMUNITY CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY

1. NAME

Historic Spokane Public Library - Heath Branch *(Carnegie Library of Washington)*
and/or Common Spokane Public Library Mobile Library Service Center

2. LOCATION

UTM References:
Zone 11 Easting 469930
Northing 5279730
Street & Number 525 Mission Street Spokane NW, 1:24000 - not for publication
City, Town Spokane - vicinity of
State Washington County Spokane

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: Mobile library service center

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

Name City of Spokane
Street & Number W 711 Spokane Falls Blvd.
City, Town Spokane - vicinity of State Washington

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

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

This building is located in a neighborhood of pleasant homes on a tree-lined street with a wide grassy strip separating traffic. The south facade, which fronts the street, has a wide stairway leading to a white terra cotta entry in the center. The roof over the two intersecting gables is surfaced with bright green U-shaped tiles. A parapet surrounds both this and the flat roofs of two lower sections in the rear. The parapet, which is trimmed with terra cotta, is notched, squared, and raised to produce an intricate roof line. The most notable feature of this building is probably the extensive use of terra cotta. Every corner has terra cotta quoins, and every window is completely surrounded by it. The overall effect is one of checkerboard complexity, and the contrasting colors and textures of red brick, white terra cotta and green tile make this a very arresting building.

Verbal boundary description: Lots 7 & 8, Block 47,
Heath's 4th Addition (08-533-4706)

Acreage: Less than one

8. SIGNIFICANCE

Specific dates	1914	Builder/Architect	Julius Zittel
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a. History

This history of the Spokane Public Library's system of branches began in 1905 when one was opened in the basement of a school on the west side of Hangman (Latah) Creek. Other branches, usually established in response to neighborhood demand, followed soon thereafter. In 1912 Andrew Carnegie promised \$70,000 for construction of two permanent branches. The Library Board and the City Council disagreed on where the new buildings should be located, and the compromise that emerged was that the money would be used for three branches. Construction on all three soon began, and all opened in 1914. The Heath branch was the largest of the three, and \$35,000 of the \$70,000 was allocated for its construction. It was a library until early 1981, although the public area was moved to the basement sometime earlier. It is now headquarters for the system's mobile library service, which sends book-mobiles to outlying areas not served by branches.

b. Evaluation of Significance

The Heath branch is a good example of a Carnegie branch library. It is important to the neighborhood it served for nearly 70 years. Julius Zittel, the architect, was involved in many important projects, first in partnership with Herman Preusse and later on his own.