

Spokane Register of Historic Places Nomination

*Spokane City/County Historic Preservation Office, City Hall, Third Floor
808 W. Spokane Falls Boulevard, Spokane, WA 99201*

1. Name of Property

Historic Name **SPOKANE PUBLIC BATH HOUSE**
and/or Common Name Sinto Triangle Park Public Bath House
Mission Park Public Bath House

2. Location

Street & Number 1414 E. Mission Avenue
City, State, Zip Code Spokane, WA 99202
Parcel Number 35162.0701

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both		<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> residential
	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes, restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes, unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other

4. Owner of Property

Name City of Spokane
Street & Number 808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd.
City, State, Zip Code Spokane, WA 99201
Telephone Number/E-mail City of Spokane Parks & Recreation
(contact: Lynn Mandylke, 625-6680,
lmandylke@spokanecity.org)

5. Location of Legal Description

Courthouse, Registry of Deeds Spokane County Courthouse
Street Number 1116 West Broadway
City, State, Zip Code Spokane, WA 99260
County Spokane

6. Representation of Existing Surveys

Title City of Spokane Historic Landmarks Survey
Date Federal____ State____ County____ Local____
Location of Survey Records Spokane Historic Preservation Office

Final nomination reviewed & recommended by SHLC on Nov 16, 2011

7. Description

Architectural Classification (see nomination, section 8)	Condition __excellent <u>X</u> good __fair __deteriorated __ruins __unexposed	Check One __unaltered <u>X</u> altered Check One <u>X</u> original site __moved & date_____
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Narrative statement of description is found on one or more continuation sheets.

8. Spokane Register Categories and Statement of Significance

Applicable Spokane Register of Historic Places Categories: Mark "x" on one or more for the categories that qualify the property for the Spokane Register listing:

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of Spokane history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method or construction, or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory history.

Narrative statement of significance is found on one or more continuation sheets.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography is found on one or more continuation sheets.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property	Less than one acre.
Verbal Boundary Description	Portion of School Sub, Sec 16, Blocks 1 & 2
Verbal Boundary Justification	Nominated property includes parcel part and urban legal description for building only.

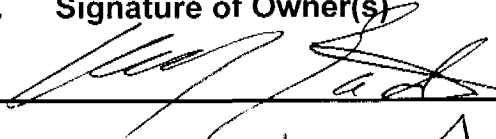
11. Form Prepared By

Name and Title	Linda Yeomans, Consultant
Organization	Historic Preservation Planning
Street, City, State, Zip Code	501 West 27 th Avenue, Spokane, WA 99203
Telephone Number	509-456-3828
Email Address	lindayeomans@comcast.net
Date Final Nomination Heard	16 November 2011

12. Additional Documentation

Map	City/County of Spokane current plat map.
Photographs	Black & white prints, CD-ROM color images.

13. Signature of Owner(s)


12/6/11

14. For Official Use Only:

Date nomination application filed: _____


Date of Landmarks Commission hearing: _____

Landmarks Commission decision: _____

Date of City Council/Board of County Commissioners' hearing: _____

City Council/Board of County Commissioners' decision: _____

I hereby certify that this property has been listed in the Spokane Register of Historic Places based upon the action of either the City Council or the Board of County Commissioners as set forth above.

 11-21-2011

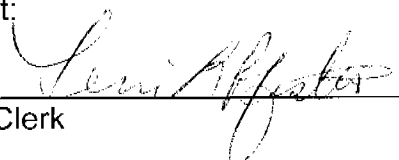
Kristen Griffin

Date

City/County Historic Preservation Officer

City/County Historic Preservation Office
Sixth Floor - City Hall, Spokane, WA 99201

Attest:


City Clerk

Approved as to form:


Assistant City Attorney

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY***Summary Statement***

Constructed in 1914, the Spokane Public Bath House is located in what was previously called the Sinto Triangle Park, part of East Mission Park, at the time the building was erected. The Bath House was built on level ground in the center of a triangular-shaped wedge of land bordered by East Mission Avenue to the north, the Spokane River to the east, and the Northern Pacific Railroad tracks and Mission Park to the west. An excellent example of the Italian Renaissance tradition, the historic Spokane Public Bath House well illustrates prominent features of the architectural style, including the building's rectangular form, brick masonry construction, symmetrical design and fenestration patterns, low-pitched hip roof, widely overhanging eaves, decorative eave brackets, arched windows, and an accentuated center front entrance adorned with classical columns and a classical pediment. The appellation "Spokane Public Bath" is located on the face of the pediment's cornice, and describes the building's intended historic use—a building that housed bath house/swimming pool equipment, bath house offices, lavatories/showers, and private dressing rooms in which patrons could change into swim suits. Outdoor public swimming pools, or plunges as they were called in 1914, were constructed west in front of the Spokane Public Bath House. The pools were removed in the 1960s, but the Spokane Public Bath House is well-preserved in fair to good condition, has had little exterior alteration since it was built, and retains good exterior architectural integrity in original location, design, materials, workmanship, and association as a public park bath house building constructed in the early 1900s in Spokane, Washington.

CURRENT APPEARANCE & CONDITION***Site***

The Spokane Public Bath House was built on a triangular-shaped piece of land originally called the Sinto Triangle Park when the building was constructed in 1914. The parkland is considered part of Mission Park, a multi-acre public park that is located west of the triangle (Mission Park is situated between East Mission Avenue to the north and East Sharp Avenue to the south, and between North Superior Street to the west and the Spokane River to the east). The triangular park is located in the northeast corner of Mission Park and measures 248 feet at its north boundary, 588 feet at its west boundary, and about 650 feet along the east boundary (Spokane River). The Bath House is located in the center of the south half of the triangle park and is surrounded by public parkland to the south and west; the Spokane River to the east; and Witter Pool & Bath House, Mission Avenue and commercial infill (Washington Water Power Building/Avista) to the north. The area around Mission Park comprises a mixed-use built environment on numerous city blocks, a directionally correct grid work of paved streets, historic homes built between the late 1890s and 1945, East Mission Park, and the East Mission Avenue Historic District. Located northwest of the Bath House, the historic district was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1986, and includes seven blocks of architecturally significant homes that were built along the north and south sides of East

Mission Boulevard, a treed and grassy boulevard parkland that runs east and west through the center of East Mission Avenue.

Spokane Public Bath House

The Spokane Public Bath House measures 74 feet wide and 35 feet deep. The building follows a rectangular footprint, rises two stories, and faces west. Set on a concrete foundation, the bath house building is constructed of brick masonry with red face bricks laid in stretcher bond over red common bricks that form 12 to 14-inch-thick walls. The roof has a hip design with a very low pitch, is covered with composition shingles, is punctuated by a single brick chimney on the east slope, and has widely overhanging eaves that are supported by decorative brackets. The overhanging eaves are unboxed, have a 30-inch overhang, and are finished with tongue-in-groove wood soffits. The west façade of the Bath House has a symmetrical design and fenestration patterns, and is divided into nine bays by full-height square, brick pilasters. Each bay has a recessed tripartite window at the first floor, and a recessed arched tripartite window at the second floor. Each brick pilaster forms an arch over the second-floor windows as it terminates at the roof eave, and is distinguished with radiating voussoirs and a center keystone. Each keystone is made of molded concrete. Stucco infill cladding is located between the arched pilasters that frame the recessed windows at the second floor. The first and second floors are separated by brick soldier courses that ring the perimeter of the building and project outward two inches. Each window at the west façade's first floor has a window sill and header cap made of brick soldier courses. Each second floor arched window has a brick soldier course sill. A double-brick dripstone course is located at the bottom of the exterior wall, and is level with grade and projects outward. A front entrance is located in the center bay at the west façade of the building and is flanked on the north side of the entrance by four bays, and flanked on the south side of the entrance by four bays. The center front entry way is conspicuous and accentuates the west front (façade) of the building. It is one story high, is recessed, and is made of molded concrete originally painted white. The concrete is smooth and forms round classical columns that support a projecting crown (pediment) located above the front entrance door. The columns have a Doric-style base at grade, and a capping capital with a barley twist design. The classic pediment has a course of dentils and a prominent cornice. Etched letters in the cornice spell the name of the building: "Spokane Public Bath."

The east, rear wall of the Bath House faces the Spokane River and is near mirror image of the west façade except for three, plain wood exterior doors which open from the east elevation (the west façade only has one exterior door). The north end of the building has three blind window arches at the second floor. The blind arches are clad with red face brick (an original design). Two doors are located on the north wall and open into lavatories designed for use by men and women. The doors are plain wood. The south end of the building has three tripartite windows on the first floor and three blind arched windows at the second floor. Like the north end of the building, the blind arches are clad with red face bricks. All of the exterior doors of the building have been replaced by plain

wood doors (1970s-1980s), and all of the windows on the building are covered with plywood boards to discourage vandalism (original windows are visible from the interior). The interior of the Bath House includes a first floor, second floor, and a partial basement with a concrete floor. All windows have four-inch-wide surrounds and window sills made of wood (simple and square-cut). The interior of the building is mostly unfinished and used for storage.

ORIGINAL APPEARANCE & SUBSEQUENT MODIFICATIONS

An original sketch of the Spokane Public Bath House was printed in the *Spokesman-Review* newspaper on May 10, 1914, and gave the following caption and description:

Spokane's First Public Bath House

The building is 74 feet long by 35 feet wide... The bath house will be two stories high with a basement of concrete, and a superstructure of brick. The roof will be shingled in the beginning but the intention is eventually to finish it with red tiling. The building will be subdivided into departments for men, women, and boys, and with lockers for private bathing equipment. The general type of architecture is Italian Renaissance with ornamental main entrance and plaster [stucco] panels about the [second floor] windows. The estimated cost [of the building] ranges from \$7,000 to \$7,500.

Two Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps—one upgraded in 1922 from a 1910 map, and one from 1953—pictured the west-facing rectangular brick masonry Bath House at two stories with dressing rooms on the first floor and offices on the second floor. Two outdoor public swimming pools were located west directly in front of the Bath House—one built for men and boys, and one built for women and girls. An outdoor public wading pool for children was sited north and a few yards from the Bath House.

A photograph taken in 1933 pictured the Spokane Public Bath House and the two adjacent west swimming pools, which were also depicted with footprints on the Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps (see above-referenced pools). The outdoor wading pool and two outdoor swimming pools were removed in the early 1960s, leaving the Bath House intact in its original location. A new public bath house building and an outdoor public swimming pool (now called Witter Pool) was built just north of the 1914 Spokane Public Bath House. Today in 2011 the Spokane Public Bath House looks the same as it did in the 1933 photograph (minus the outdoor swimming pools) except for the following modifications:

- Round roof vents with fans (pictured in 1933 photograph) removed in 1940s
- All windows covered with boards in 1960s-1970s
- Original front door replaced with simple plain wood plywood door (1970s-1980s)

- One first-floor window north of center front entrance was partially covered with bricks in 1940s
- One first-floor window south of center front entrance was partially covered with bricks in 1940s
- Two single doors installed at east, rear face of building at first floor, replacing original windows in 1940s-1950s; doors replaced by plain wood doors in 1970s-1980s
- Door installed at northwest corner of north end of building at first floor (opened to lavatory built in northwest corner of building—designed for use by men/boys) in 1940s
- Original roof recovered with asphalt shingles perhaps in 1950s-1960s—there is no indication that “red tiling” was ever installed as was described in 1914 newspaper article written about building when erected

To summarize, the Spokane Public Bath House is in fair to good condition, retains good exterior architectural integrity, and looks like the original Bath House built in 1914. It well conveys its original Italian Renaissance design, circa 1914 materials/workmanship, and location in the northeast corner of Mission Park.

Areas of Significance	Social History, Architecture
Period of Significance	1914-1959
Built Date	1914
Architect	Harold C. Whitehouse

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Summary Statement

Built in 1914 and owned by the City of Spokane, the Spokane Public Bath House, located in what was originally called the Sinto Triangle Park (part of East Mission Park) in the Logan-Gonzaga University Neighborhood in northeast Spokane, was touted in the *Spokesman-Review* newspaper as “Spokane’s first public bath house,”¹ and the “star attraction for 1914.”² A preliminary sketch of the building was featured in the article and reported the project was estimated to reach a construction cost of \$7,000 to \$7,500. The newspaper also stated that the Spokane Public Bath House was designed by Harold C. Whitehouse, a professional master architect who founded the Spokane architectural firm, Whitehouse & Price. Whitehouse and the firm were responsible for numerous single family homes, apartments, commercial buildings, churches, and college/university fraternity and sorority houses built throughout Washington, Idaho, Oregon, and Montana. Perhaps Whitehouse’s most ambitious and well-known individual commission was the Gothic Revival style-inspired Episcopal Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist, an architectural and historic treasure on Spokane’s South Hill. The Spokane Public Bath House is a fine example of the Italian Renaissance style, a tradition infrequently seen in Spokane and illustrated by a handful of examples in the area. Achieving local architectural significance in the area of “architecture” during its period of significance from 1914 to 1959, the Spokane Public Bath House is nominated to the Spokane Register of Historic Places under Category C.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Spokane Parks

In 1891, Anthony M. Cannon, developer of Cannon’s Addition, and J. J. Browne, developer of Browne’s Addition, donated nearly 10 contiguous acres in the center of the Browne’s Addition neighborhood to the City of Spokane. The donated land formed a square area, covered four city blocks, and was named Coeur d’Alene Park. The generous donation made by Browne and Cannon sparked other donations. For example, Spokane pioneer Jay P. Graves gave over 90 contiguous acres of rugged land and ponds to the City of Spokane; the land was developed as Manito Park, Duncan Gardens, and Manito Playground. Other donations in the early 1900s added more than 500 acres which were eventually developed as High Bridge, Grant, Down River, Audubon, Cliff, Hays, and Cannon Hill parks.

¹ “Spokane’s First Public Bath House.” *Spokesman-Review*, 10 May 1914

² “City to Conduct 8 Playgrounds.” *Spokesman-Review*, 12 Feb 1914

In 1907, the Spokane City Council adopted an amendment to the Spokane City Charter that formed the Spokane Park Board, an independent organization which was to provide “systematic direction and control of public park affairs by an authority free from political interference.”³ Aubrey L. White, a Spokane pioneer businessman with a keen interest in public parks, was elected the Park Board’s first president, and described park activities at that time:

These early parks were little more than groves where the citizens might picnic on a holiday. Carriages carried ladies and gentlemen dressed in...elaborate ‘sport’ apparel, shirt waists, and daring ankle-length skirts, side by side with tight ankle-length checkered trousers and flannel blazers. During the day there would be eating, games for the children and men, gossip for the women, and speeches, and then eating again. Everybody would have a good time, and nobody expected more of the park than space, shade, and a cool breeze now and then.⁴

Between 1907 and 1909, the newly organized Spokane Park Board realized the need for professional help so they sought the nation’s finest park planners and landscape architects. John Charles Olmsted and Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., principles of Olmsted Brothers, the nationally acclaimed architectural landscape firm from Brookline, Massachusetts, were hired. Popular and successful, the Olmsted Brothers’ had popularized public park designs/uses with their rendition and development of New York City’s Central Park and Boston’s linked-park system, called the Emerald Necklace. For Spokane, the Olmsted firm proposed a comprehensive, long-term park plan complete with developed public parks, playgrounds, parkways, greenbelts, and open space expansions and designs. Many of the proposed plans were followed and immediately adopted, and by 1913, Spokane’s park system had grown to nearly 2,000 acres and was nationally recognized as a leader in park planning and implementation.⁵

By 1932, the Spokane park system had skyrocketed to include 48 developed public parks with more than 3,600 acres of parkland, all for public use.

The parks are in use...there is not a day in the year when one may not enjoy them. Early spring finds boys flying kites, playing ball away from the danger of busy streets, little girls picking buttercups and watching for the baby ducklings... Summer brings tired mothers and fathers from the close quarters of...residences out into the cool shade and grass of a near-by park. Fall offers a magnificent inspiration to tired eyes when the first frost turns the leaves. Winter brings safe coasting and skating for young and old alike. Not a day passes by [that] somebody in

³ Spokane Park Board. Report of Administrative Staff. “History of Spokane Park System.” 1970.

⁴ Aubrey L. White. *The Spokane Parks*. June 1932.

⁵ Spokane Park Board. Report of Administrative Staff. “History of Spokane Park System.” 1970.

Spokane seeks the sanctuary of a park.⁶

Today in 2011 there are 68 developed parks in Spokane, and the mission of the Spokane Park Board and the City of Spokane is as alive as it was in 1907 when the Spokane Park Board was first organized. Using the Olmsted Brothers' Report as a planning tool and looking proactively towards the future, the City of Spokane and Spokane Park Board are committed to "acquire, operate, enhance, and protect a diverse system of parks, boulevards, parkways, and open spaces for the enjoyment and enrichment of all. We who enjoy Spokane's parks and their recreational opportunities owe much to the vision of those early pioneers who saw the need to set aside park land in a rapidly growing community while it (the land) was still available."⁷

The Spokane Public Bath House

In the Olmsted Brothers' Report, landscape architect, John Olmsted, explained the need for parks when he said, "It is well-understood...that public parks...are...very important aids to the improvement and preservation of the health of the people—parks constitute one of the best means of drawing people out-of-doors."⁸ Spurred by his explanation for public parks/playgrounds and a concern for the general health and welfare of the public, Olmsted proposed numerous small parks for playground development, especially in working-class neighborhoods throughout the city.

In 1912, a working-class area in the Logan-Gonzaga University neighborhood in northeast Spokane was proposed for park and playground development by the Spokane Park Board. The area was to have numerous playgrounds designed for people of all ages, swimming and wading pools, and a public bath house building—a new concept for a public park in Spokane. One year later on March 24, 1913, John Forrest, a prominent Spokane building contractor, and his wife, Aza M. Forrest, sold Blocks 1 and 2 in Section 16 of the School Subdivision Addition to the City of Spokane for \$11,500.⁹ The newly purchased parkland was small at about 13 acres and was located on a triangular-shaped piece of land just south of East Mission Avenue, sandwiched between the Northern Pacific Railroad tracks and the Spokane River. Because of its unique triangular shape and location in the center of vacated East Sinto Avenue, the new public park was locally known as Sinto Triangle Park or Sinto Park¹⁰ instead of Mission Park (Sinto Park was part of Mission Park). To wit, the triangular-shaped parkland was listed between 1914 and 1970 in the alphabetical and classified sections of city directories as the Sinto

⁶ Aubrey L. White. *The Spokane Parks*, June 1932

⁷ City of Spokane Parks & Recreation Department. Special Report, 1999.

⁸ Olmsted Brothers, Landscape Architects, Brookline, Massachusetts. *Olmsted Brothers' Report*. Reprint in Board of Park Commissioners Annual Report. Spokane, WA, 1913.

⁹ Spokane County Park Board deed #88. Spokane County Courthouse, Spokane, WA.

¹⁰ If East Sinto Avenue had not been previously vacated, then it would traverse Sinto Triangle Park—therefore the use of the name Sinto in the park.

Triangle, Sinto Triangle Park, Sinto Park, and the Sinto Triangle Playground & Plunge.¹¹ After 1970, the parkland was listed in city directories as Mission Park.

On May 10, 1914, the *Spokesman-Review* newspaper featured a sketch and description for a public bath house building—a building which had private dressing rooms, lavatories/showers, and served as a place for patrons to change into swim suit attire before entering public swimming pools. Public swimming pools were not located inside the bath house building but were rather built in a location *outside* of the building. At Sinto Park, two public outdoor swimming pools and one outdoor wading pool for children were constructed west and north in front of and beside the Spokane Public Bath House, and were also called “public plunges” in 1914.

Spokane's First Public Bath House

The...photograph [sketch] shows the penciled outlines of Spokane's first public bath house, to be erected at the outdoor bathing pools in Sinto Triangle, adjacent to Mission Park, East Mission Avenue, and the [Spokane] River. The building is to be 74 feet long by 35 feet wide... The bath house will be two stories high with a basement of concrete and superstructure of brick. The roof will be shingled in the beginning but the intention is eventually to finish it with red tiling. The general type of architecture is Italian Renaissance with ornamental main entrance and plaster [stucco] panels about the windows. The estimated cost ranges from \$7,000 to \$7,500.¹²

In 1914, Spokane's first public bath house building—the Spokane Public Bath House—was erected, and Sinto Park was developed with trees, grassy lawns, handball courts, paths, playgrounds, and outdoor public swimming pools. The Spokane Public Bath House and outdoor swimming pools/wading pool were so successful that they sparked the construction of five more city parks with outdoor public pools and public bath house buildings throughout Spokane.

In 1960, a new outdoor swimming pool and public bath house building were built north of the wading pool in Sinto Park. The new outdoor public pool was called Witter Pool in honor of Stanley Witter, who served as Spokane's park superintendent for 26 years.¹³ After Witter Pool and bath house were constructed, the 1914 swimming pools and wading pool located just west and north of the Spokane Public Bath House were removed, and the area was landscaped with grass and trees. The 1914 Spokane Public Bath House was no longer used as a public bath house but was instead used as a storage

¹¹ The word “plunge” was sometimes used to mean swimming pool.

¹² “Spokane's First Bath House.” *Spokesman-Review*, 10 May 1914

¹³ “Former Parks Director Witter Dies.” *Spokesman-Review*, 13 May 1989

facility for Spokane public parks. In 2000, the Witter Pool bath house built in 1960 was replaced with an updated bath house.

In summary, the 1914-built Spokane Public Bath House in Sinto Park was the first bath house building constructed in Spokane. Its success sparked the construction of five more bath house/outdoor swimming pools in Spokane public parks, including Cannon Park, Liberty Park, Hillyard Park, Comstock Park, and Shadle Park.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

Category C

To be architecturally significant, a property must “embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represent the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.”¹⁴ Nominated for its architectural significance, the Spokane Public Bath House is a fine example of the Italian Renaissance style and embodies distinctive characteristics of the tradition.

Italian Renaissance Style

The Italian Renaissance architectural style was directly influenced by the revival of architectural elements and traditions associated with the great renaissance villas and palaces of 16th-century Florence, Venice, and Rome. Italian prototypes were translated into contemporary architect-designed American landmarks, and were initially constructed in major cities and fashionable East Coast resorts of the United States. One of the most lavish examples of the style is found in Cornelius Vanderbilt’s Newport, Rhode Island home-turned-seaside-resort, called The Breakers. Interpretations of Florentine, Venetian, and Roman precedents were gained from increased early 1900 travel to Italy and from printed photographic documentation more readily accessible to designers and architects across America.

The Italian Renaissance style was built from about 1890 to 1935 but was not as popular as Craftsman, Tudor Revival, or Colonial Revival traditions. However, the Italian Renaissance style was easily adaptable to American homes, and promised dignity without the expense of a complicated building façade. In addition, masonry veneering techniques perfected after World War I made possible the construction of finely textured stucco wall cladding that mimicked original Italian prototypes.¹⁵

Identifying features of the Italian Renaissance style found at the Spokane Public Bath House include the following:

- Built date from 1890-1935
- Two-story rectangular form
- Low-pitched hip roof

¹⁴ National Park Service Bulletin 16A, p. 37.

¹⁵ McAlester, Lee & Virginia. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Knopf, 1989, pp. 398-407.

- Widely overhanging eaves supported by decorative brackets
- A symmetrical façade and fenestration patterns
- Brick masonry construction or masonry veneer wall cladding
- Stucco wall cladding
- Arched windows
- Recessed entryways
- Conspicuous front entrance accentuated with decorative pilasters, columns, and/or pediment

The above-stated identifying features of the Italian Renaissance style are prominent on the Spokane Public Bath House, rendering the building an excellent example of the style.

Harold C. Whitehouse, Architect (1884-1974)

Spokane architect, Harold C. Whitehouse, designed the Spokane Public Bath House. He was born in 1884, studied at the Boston Art Club, and worked as a draftsman for Fox, Jenney & Gale, marine architects in Boston. In 1907, Whitehouse came to Spokane where he was employed by John K. Dow, one of the leading architects in the city (American Legion Building, Paulsen Estate). In less than a year, Whitehouse met architect, George Keith (Levi & May Arkwright Hutton House), and partnered with him. After working together for a short time, Whitehouse went to Cornell University to obtain formal training in architecture.

In 1913, Harold Whitehouse returned to Spokane and formed a partnership with architect, Ernest Price, a fellow graduate in architecture who came to Spokane in 1911. The architectural practice founded by Whitehouse was called “Whitehouse & Price” and gained professional acclaim as one of Spokane’s premier architectural firms for 60 years. The firm was prominent and prolific, responsible for hundreds of homes, school buildings, churches, fraternity and sorority houses, and commercial buildings designed and built in a plethora of styles throughout Spokane and Washington, Idaho, Montana, and Oregon. The firm continued until Price’s retirement in 1964. Harold Whitehouse, a skilled metalwork designer and one keenly interested in ecclesiastic architecture, is best known for his church and cathedral designs, his *coup de gras*, the Gothic Revival style-inspired Episcopal Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist, located on Spokane’s South Hill.

Harold Whitehouse’s skill and genius are seen in his rendition of the Italian Renaissance style illustrated by the Spokane Public Bath House. Rarely seen in Spokane, the Italian Renaissance style has been used for only a handful of examples in the area: the Wilson House (built in 1911 at 128 W. Sumner Avenue), the Witherspoon House (built in 1912 at 2124 S. Rockwood Boulevard), the A. L. Porter House (built in 1913 at 725 W. 20th Avenue), and the Codd House (built in 1917 at 529 W. Sumner Avenue). All of the examples were designed as single-family homes but the Spokane Public Bath House remains the only commercial building type and the only public park building designed and built in the Italian Renaissance style.

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_____. *Archive photograph L2008-17.2, Frank Guilbert photo album, circa 1915-1925*. Northwest Museum of Arts & Culture, Spokane, WA.

Madunich, Tony (City of Spokane Parks & Rec Operations Manager). Personal interview, October 2011.

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Newspaper Articles

"City to Conduct Eight Playgrounds." *Spokesman-Review*, 12 Feb 19

"Spokane's First Public Bath House." *Spokesman-Review*, 10 May 1914

"Former Parks Director Witter Dies." *Spokesman-Review*, 13 May 1989





LAWN
BOWLING
CLUB
ESTABLISHED 1888



LAWN
BOWLING
CLUB
RESIDENT
OF HANCOCK COUNTY, MISSOURI

LAWN
BOWLING
CLUB
RESIDENT
OF HANCOCK COUNTY, MISSOURI



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INFORMATION

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