

# Spokane Register of Historic Places

## Nomination Form

City/County Historic Landmarks Commission  
Fourth Floor - City Hall  
Spokane, Washington 99201-3333

OPR 86-365

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

### 1. Name

historic North Monroe Branch, Spokane Library

and/or common

### 2. Location

street & number West 925 Montgomery

city, town Spokane, \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of

state Washington county Spokane

### 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input 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 L. NEIL AXTELL and KEITH E. BRIGGS

street & number Presently E. 220 Wellesley, Suite 206, Spokane, Washington 99207  
(Will be moving to the building at W. 925 Montgomery)

city, town Spokane, \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of state WA 99207

### 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Courthouse

street & number Spokane County Courthouse

city, town Spokane state Washington

### 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

1.  
title Spokane Historic Landmark Survey

date 1. September, 1978 2. 1981 \_\_\_\_\_ federal 2 state \_\_\_\_\_ county 1 local

depository for survey records Historic Preservation Office, City Hall

city, town Spokane state Washington

21-2

9. Major Bibliographical Reference

Two Surveys - Community Cultural Survey

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreeage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Less than one acre

**Verbal boundary description and justification**

North Half of Lots 1 and 2, Block 26, Moore's Addition,  
according to Plat recorded in Volume "A" of Plats, Page 159, in  
the City of Spokane, Spokane County, Washington

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

state \_\_\_\_\_ county \_\_\_\_\_

state \_\_\_\_\_ county \_\_\_\_\_

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title L. Neil Axtell

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date 5/12/86

street & number E. 220 Wellesley, Suite 206 telephone (509) 487-2774

city or town Spokane, state WA 99207

**12. Signature of Owner(s)** L. Neil Axtell  
Keith E. Bupp

For Office Use Only:  
Date Received: 5-8-86  
Date Heard: 6-11-86  
Commission Decision: APPROVED  
Council/Board Action: APPROVED  
Date: June 23, 1986

Attest: Christine Davidson  
Deputy City Clerk  
Approved as to form: J. Schwart  
Ass't. Corporation Counsel

We hereby certify that this property has been listed on the Spokane Register of Historic Places:

Thickie S. McNeill  
Mayor, City of Spokane or Chair, Spokane County Commissioners  
Paul Clum  
Chair, Spokane City/County Historic Landmarks Commission  
Steven R. ...  
City/County Historic Preservation Officer

A G R E E M E N T

OPR 86-365

This Agreement is entered into this 14 day of June, 198  , by and between the City of Spokane (hereinafter "City"), and L. Neil Axtell and Keith E. Briggs

(hereinafter "Owner(s)", the owner of property located at W. 925 Montgomery, in the City/County of Spokane.

WHEREAS, the City of Spokane adopted Ordinance C-26353 on November 23, 1981; and

WHEREAS, the County of Spokane adopted Ordinance 82 0038 on January 12, 1982; and

WHEREAS, both Ordinance C-26353 and Ordinance 82 0038 are identical and provide that the City/County Historic Landmarks Commission (hereinafter "Commission") is responsible for the stewardship of historic and architecturally-significant properties in the City and County; and

WHEREAS, the City has authority to contract with property owners to assure that any owner who directly benefits by City action will bind his/her benefitted property to mutually agreeable management standards assuring the property will retain those characteristics which make it architecturally or historically significant;

NOW, THEREFORE -- the City and the Owner(s), for mutual consideration, hereby agree to the following covenants and conditions:

1. Consideration. The City agrees to designate Owner's property an Historic Landmark or District, or Conservation Landmark or District on the Spokane Register of Historic Places, with all the rights, duties, and privileges attendant thereto. The Owner(s) agrees to abide by the below-detailed management standards for his/her property.

2. Covenant. This Agreement shall be filed as a public record. The parties hereto intend this Agreement to constitute a covenant that runs with the land, and that the land is bound by this Agreement. Owner intends his/her successors and assigns to be bound by this instrument. This covenant benefits and burdens the property of both parties hereto.

3. Alteration or Extinguishment. The covenant and servitude and all attendant rights and obligations created by this Agreement may be altered or extinguished only by mutual agreement of the parties hereto or their successors or assigns.

4. Promise of Commission. The City hereby promises to designate the Owner's property as an Historic Landmark or District or Conservation Landmark of District on the Spokane Register of Historic Places. This promise is dependent upon Owner's promise to agree to and fulfill the Management Standards, to be monitored by the Commission, and is not enforceable in the absence thereof.

5. Promise of Owner. Owner(s) agrees to and promises to fulfill the following Management Standards for his/her property which is the subject of the Agreement. Owner intends to bind his land and all successors and assigns. The Management Standards are:  
**The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings (Revised 1983).**

6. The Owner(s) must obtain from the Commission a Certificate of Appropriateness for any action which would affect any of the following:

- (A) Use of the landmark or property within a designated district;

- (B) The exterior appearance of the landmark or property within a designated district;
- (C) Demolition of the landmark or property within a designated district; or
- (D) New construction attached to the landmark or within a designated district.

7. In the case of an application for a Certificate of Appropriateness for the demolition of a landmark or property within a district, the Owner(s) agrees to meet with the Commission to seek alternatives to demolition. These negotiations may last no longer than forty-five (45) days. If no alternative is found within that time, the Commission may take up to forty-five (45) additional days to attempt to develop alternatives, arrange the salvage of architectural artifacts and arrange recordation of the building.

DATED this 14th day of June, 1984.

L. Neil Artell  
Owner

Keith E. Briggs  
Owner

STATE OF WASHINGTON )  
                                  ) ss.  
County of Spokane    )

On this day personally appeared before me L. Neil Artell Keith E. Briggs, to me known to be the individual/s/ described in and who executed the within and foregoing instrument, and acknowledged that ~~they~~ signed the same as ~~their~~ free and voluntary act and deed, for the uses and purposes therein mentioned.

Given under my hand and official seal this 14th day of June, 1984.

L. Bruce Meyer  
Notary Public in and for the State of Washington, residing at Spokane

CITY OF SPOKANE

Terry L. Munk  
City Manager *FL*

Attest: Elizabeth Davidson  
Deputy City Clerk

Approved as to form

S. Schubert  
Assistant Corporation Counsel

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	(Limited alteration)	

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Spokane Public Library, North Monroe Branch, was constructed in 1914, on the southeast corner of Monroe Street and Montgomery Avenue. The building which fronts on Monroe Avenue, is located in a primarily residential neighborhood, although retail establishments occupy both sides of Monroe Street.

The structure, which was designed by architect Albert Held, is rectangular in shape with a single story over a daylight basement. The construction material is primarily red brick topped by red, green and purple slate shingles on a hip roof structure. Below the ornamental fascia is a terra cotta frieze with a corbelled soffit. The main entrance, as well as the West entrance to the lower level, is topped by a classical terra cotta canopy supported by Doric order columns. Steps up to the porch consist of red brick pavers.

All first floor windows include a semi-circular transom with a brick arch and keystone. The north windows are of casement type, single pane and leaded, as are the transoms on the east and south sides. The metal awning which projects over the entry walk on the north and on the east will be removed. The character and features of the building display a subtle and restrained quality.

# 8. Significanc

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates**

**Builder/Architect**

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The building is a Carnegie Library built in 1914, which is on the National Historic Register. From the time of its' erection until the last few years, the building served as the North Monroe Branch of the Public Library of Spokane. It is a very classic design which would be a significant contribution to the beauty and history of the City of Spokane.

The history of the Spokane Public Library's system of branches began in 1905 when a branch 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 \$70,000.00 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. Of the \$70,000.00, \$17,500.00 was allocated for the construction of the North Monroe Branch. It served the community until 1967, when the city sold it to the local chapter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. They used it as a meeting hall, lounge and bingo parlor.

The North Monroe branch is a good example of a Carnegie library. The pattern which it represents was the most common one selected for Carnegie Libraries in Washington State. The architect, Albert Held, was one of the busiest in Spokane.