

SPOKANE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Nomination Form

City/County Historic Landmarks Commission
Sixth Floor - City Hall
Spokane, Washington 99201-3337

Type all entries--complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic The Opportunity Township Hall
and or common Opportunity Townhall

2. Location

street & number 12114 East Sprague Avenue
city/town Spokane vicinity of
state Washington 99206 county Spokane

3. Classification

Category <input type="checkbox"/> district <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) <input type="checkbox"/> structure <input type="checkbox"/> site <input type="checkbox"/> object	Ownership <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public <input type="checkbox"/> private <input type="checkbox"/> both Public Acquisition <input type="checkbox"/> in process <input type="checkbox"/> being considered	Status <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress Accessible <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes restricted <input type="checkbox"/> yes unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> no	Present Use <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> museum <input type="checkbox"/> park <input type="checkbox"/> private residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious <input type="checkbox"/> scientific <input type="checkbox"/> transportation <input type="checkbox"/> other: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social history/ community
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4. Owner of Property

name Spokane County Engineers
street & number 811 N. Jefferson Street
city, town Spokane vicinity of state WA

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds etc. Spokane County Courthouse
street & number West 1116 Broadway
city, town Spokane state WA 99201

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title _____
date _____ __ federal __ state __ county __ local
depository for survey records _____
city, town _____ state _____

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Bounded by busy and bustling Sprague Avenue on the north, a tavern on the east, and parking lots on the south and west, the Opportunity Township Hall, erected in 1912, is a one-and-one-half story Spanish Colonial Revival style building with a gracefully shaped roof parapet. It stands at 12114 East Sprague Avenue in the Spokane Valley in what was once the township of Opportunity. With its expertly crafted Mission-inspired architectural style, the Opportunity Township Hall was noted as the only "first-class" township hall in the state. Because the Opportunity Township Hall's architectural style and design are rarely seen in Spokane and the Valley, the building is set apart from the other vernacular commercial buildings. The Hall's design achieves the purpose for which it was intended: it draws a look of wonder, nod of respect, and serves as a community meeting place. With "Opportunity Anno 1912" emblozoned in terra cotta relief over the front entry, the Hall continues to represent the birth of a community nearly a century ago.

The rectangular-shaped building encompasses 3130 square feet, and sits on a 50-by-150 foot lot. It supports a built-up tar-surfaced, cantelevered flat roof. Shaped roof parapets border the perimeter of the roofline on all sides of the building. Red clay tiles form the coping on the east and west sides of the building. Molded plaster forms the coping on the building's curvilinear roof parapet outlining the north facade. To discourage vandalism, most of the windows have been closed on the exterior with painted plywood boards, and on the interior with wallboard and plaster; this work was completed between 1975 and 1980. The original windows are encased and preserved between protective layers of wood and wallboard (Figure 1: May 1958 Photocopy of Township Hall).

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Windows open on three sides of the building: the north facade and east and west elevations. They are constructed in two parts: an upper fixed half showing panes depicting a diagonal lattice pattern, and a lower half divided into three panes. Molded sills project from under the windows. Arched windows with fixed panes and a fan design are set above the lattice patterned windows. Windows on the east and west sides of the building have shutter hinges next to the window casing, suggesting that shutters once covered the windows.

A terra cotta or molded plaster relief sculpted in the image of a banner unfurled arches high over the front entry. The emblazoned banner reads "Anno Opportunity 1912". A quatrefoil appears directly below the banner in the center of the building facade. The majestic front entry projects from and dominates the north facade of the building, and is located directly below the banner fenestration. Rounded pilasters support a curvilinear shaped parapet designed as a hood molding over the front entry. An arched fan window caps the front door. The window and door together are under the hood molding. The two original front doors have been replaced by a single security door with no windows or outside latches. The exterior walls of the building are clad of finely textured stucco over red brick, and are painted white. The foundation supporting the building is poured cement, and is not visible except from the basement, as the building is constructed at grade.

The front door opens up to a large multi-purpose room with a linoleum tile floor laid over a fir plank floor. The walls are made of plaster and lathe, and are painted with antique white semigloss paint. The ceiling is dropped and false, and support modern light fixtures. A sizable addition including a fully appointed kitchen was added in the 1950's by Hefte Construction (Valley Herald). The kitchen is located in the southwest corner of the room. Separate men and women's lavatories are located in the northwest corner of the building. A storage room with a door is in the northeast corner of the room. Another storage room and stairs to the basement are located in the southeast corner. The basement supplies room for the oil tank and furnace only. An attic once used as a projection room for silent, and later, talking movies is accessible from the northeast corner storeroom.

A paved asphalt parking lot lies directly to the south of the building and flows into the parking lot to the west, adjacent to the building. The parking lot is used by Hall patrons and belongs to the County. A narrow three-foot strip of pavement divides the east side of the Hall and a tavern to the east. The north facade of the building abuts a cemented sidewalk that is joined by a curb running along Sprague Avenue. The Opportunity Township Hall stands as rare and fine example of Spanish Colonial Revival architecture found in the Spokane Valley.

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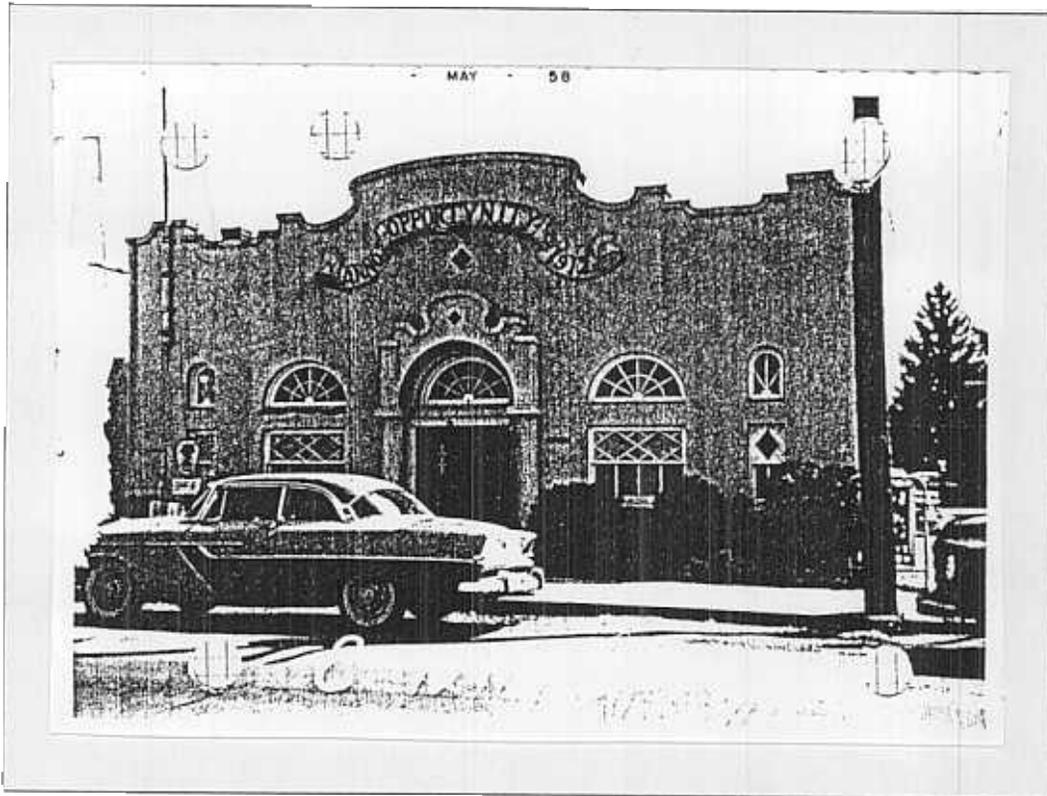


FIGURE 1: May 1958 Photocopy of The Opportunity
Township Hall

8. Significance

Period

Areas of Significance-Check and justify below

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

Specific Dates 1912 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Located at 12114 East Sprague Avenue in the center of the Spokane Valley, the Opportunity Township Hall was erected in 1912. It borders the west end of the original "Opportunity Block" - a cluster of buildings set close to the street that represented the original business district and heart of the community called Opportunity. The well-preserved Township Hall is the oldest and only completely intact building of the original Block, surviving a 1921 fire that gutted and destroyed Block buildings and left only one building shell standing. The Township Hall is one of the oldest township halls in Washington State. The Opportunity Township Hall is built in the Spanish Colonial Revival architectural style - a style rarely seen in the area - and represents one of the Valley's finest examples of the style. The Township Hall was planned by the community to house Opportunity's new, local form of government called a "township." With Washington noted as the only state west of Nebraska to permit New England-inspired township government, the Opportunity Township and its bright, new Hall were noted in the Valley Herald as the "only first-class township in the state" (Boutwell, 1995). Cementing community fellowship and pride, housing the community's first unified voice, and located squarely in the center of area activities, the Opportunity Township Hall became a beacon lighting the community and displaying its name for any who would seek an opportunity in the Spokane Valley. The Hall continues to remind newcomers and oldtimers alike that Opportunity was founded on hope and optimism. That the building remains today is a tribute to the people who have lovingly used and preserved it. The Opportunity Township Hall, an area landmark, is treasured by the community, and represents the birth of a community called Opportunity.

At the turn of the century when Spokane was fast becoming a modern, cosmopolitan center for lumber, mining, agriculture, and hydro electric power, the Spokane Valley ten miles to the east continued to be a hot, dry, dusty, sparsely inhabited wasteland unable to sustain crops. "Early settlers who came seeking the rich soil of the Palouse Area, a few miles south of the Valley, were dismayed to discover gravelly soil here. Thwarted in planting wheat, farmers tried to establish orchards, though with little early success" (Buckham, 1995). The settlers dug wells and found water, but "didn't realize the unlimited store of liquid wealth under their feet" (Goffinet, 1963).

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D.K. McDonald, R.Hutchinson, and A.C. Jamison were intrigued with a local Valley florist's success at irrigating the dry, rocky soil. In 1905 these three men purchased 3000 acres of sunbaked, weed-choked Valley land and formed the Modern Irrigation and Land Company. Their sister company, Modern Electric Water Company, continues to operate today. The three men platted the land, dug wells, and pumped water from the expansive natural underground aquifer to the dusty, arid land. The company's first irrigation pump was located a few blocks from the 1912 Opportunity Township Hall. "With irrigation, the Valley came alive. It was fertile, and the rocky quality of the soil held the sun's heat. 'Hearts of Gold' cantaloupes and pickles bottled from cucumbers grown in the Valley became known all over the country" (Boutwell, 1987).

Even though Opportunity was an "irrigation project" community, the residents of the area wanted a name for their township. "The name 'Opportunity' was selected from contest entries devised as a real estate promotion to name the area. The winner received a grand prize of ten dollars" (Buckman, 1995). Miss Kelsey, daughter of a prominent onion raiser, chose the inspirational name, and was named the winner. The name inspired one woman to comment that "she'd prefer living at Opportunity because the very name should keep one's thoughts to the possibilities of life, rather than to become bogged down with daily routine" (Webber, 1987). The years to follow proved Opportunity lived up to its name.

In 1908 the Washington State Legislature passed a law enabling unincorporated communities to form local units of government called townships. Until that time, Opportunity was just a small community of orchardists, farmers, and a few businessmen. With the promise of increased crop production due to their newly irrigated land, and with State law supporting them, enterprising and energetic men of the community organized the Opportunity Township - a quasi-municipal corporation with certain, but limited, legal authority. The township was given the power to sue and be sued, to acquire, hold and dispose of property, and to exercise certain restricted functions (Spokane County Planning Commission, 1995). The township had its duties; now it needed land and a township hall.

The next three years proved to be a busy time for the townspeople of Opportunity. In 1910 Modern Irrigation and Land Company sold a parcel of land measuring 50-feet by 150-feet in the southwest corner of Pines Road and East Sprague Avenue to the newly formed Opportunity Township. The deed carried a water right provision enabling each tract owner to own a share of company stock. With deed in hand, land of their own, and a just-formed township, the citizens of Opportunity began to plan for their Township Hall.

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The community of Opportunity produced a township hall so unique in design that one's eye is immediately drawn to it when scanning the street. The Opportunity Township Hall is a beautifully designed Spanish Colonial Revival style building and represents one of the finest examples of the style in the area. With its majestic curved parapet and pristine whitewashed stucco walls, the Hall glistens in the sunlight. Arched and latticed windows set high above the foundation permit abundant light and energy to flood the interior. Set at the west end of the Opportunity Block's cluster of square red brick buildings, the Township Hall's graceful lines and sparkling white walls are framed in stark relief. The Township Hall, by virtue of its unusual style and design for the area, speaks volumes. The pioneers of Opportunity who began and started the town created a design for their hall that required specialized craftsmen who were accomplished in plaster work. The designer of the building was one who knew and understood the popular Spanish Colonial Revival style that evolved from the California Mission influence of the time (1905-1915). Architectural detail is elaborate but appropriate to the style; building materials are style-coordinated, and the completed Township Hall bespeaks trained eyes and hands. The Hall stands as a symbol recognizing the energy, strength, and pioneering spirit that cemented the townspeople to one another. The Township Hall quickly became the central focal point and gathering spot for the community. Friends gathered and laughter rang, stories were shared and tears were shed; people looked to each other for help in time of need, and the little community of Opportunity grew stronger.

From the time the Opportunity Township Hall was built in 1912 to the mid-1920's, the Spokane Valley experienced its boom years. The May 7, 1920 Valley Herald gives a report of optimism: "Those with keen insight into the future know that the day is near at hand in which [the] Spokane Valley will be so productive of wealth, and so filled with homes that it will be one of the richest districts in the entire Northwest". This statement proved to be true. "At that time apples were the principal crop of the cultivated sections of the Valley. The blocks of orchards, large and small, that lined the main highways and back roads made a colorful and fragrant spectacle that attracted visitors far and near" (Boutwell, 1994). Sprague Avenue, the busiest east-west road in the Valley and the street on which stands the Township Hall, came to be called "The Appleway" for all the apple trees lining the roadside. Merchants today continue to retain the name. Opportunity and the Spokane Valley became one of the most productive fruit and vegetable-producing areas in the country. Apples, pears, berries, cantaloupes, cucumbers, tomatoes, beans, and onions flourished in the irrigated, fertile soil. The Valley is blessed with abundant resources, and also produced quarried rock and stone, lumber, and building and paving bricks.

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The Opportunity Block at Sprague Avenue and Pines Road became the busiest haven of activity in the area with the Township Hall as the central gathering spot. Various business enterprises were represented on the Block: a grocery store and meat market, a pharmacy, "mom and pop" cafes, a dry goods and shoe store, a plumbing and hardware shop, doctor and dentists' offices, a jewelry store, a mechanics' garage, a five and ten-cent variety store, and a post office. Among those businesses, and representing the heartbeat of the community, stands the Opportunity Township Hall. After it was erected in 1912, it became the official home and meeting place for the local township government. It shared duties as an early voting precinct and as a public health vaccination station. Community issues involving street lighting, road maintenance, and future sewer systems were discussed in the Hall. Mrs. Kathryn Epton, a resident of Opportunity in the 1930's, remembers and is very thankful for the street light installed next to her home by the Township. In 1925 the Opportunity Township, along with the Valley Women's Club and other citizens, organized groups to install street signs (Boutwell, 1995). A Hall Board of Supervisors member stated that "not a night goes by that some civic or community group isn't using the Hall, and sometimes more than one meeting is held a day" (Valley Herald).

The Opportunity Township Hall became home to other community activities as well. It housed the "first group of organized books that later became the Opportunity Branch of the Public Library" (Boutwell, 1987). Longtime residents of Opportunity remember that the southeast corner of the Hall was devoted to and used as the library, and was run most efficiently by Mrs. M. Delano (Buelow, 1995). County library records indicate that a \$5 rental fee was paid monthly. County records also show that of the 100-plus people who registered for library cards in April 1944, 82 registrations came from Opportunity. The most popular books requested that April were Plowman's Folly, Five Acres and Independence, and Winter Wheat - all subjects of interest to the farmers, orchardists, and citizens of Opportunity. Residents recall that the community donated books to the Township library, and that it was an active place. As the Township Hall's library sparked community interest in reading, an Opportunity resident, Mrs. Frazier, wrote and published her own book, which was listed in 1947 as the newest book "most in demand" by Spokane County readers (County records).

The Township Hall served as home to many of the community's churches. The Opportunity Presbyterian, United Methodist, and St. John's Vianney Catholic churches all used the Township Hall as their first house of worship. Today the Township Hall is still rented to church groups needing a gathering place.

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Various fraternal, philanthropic, civic, and social organizations claimed the Opportunity Township Hall as their place of meeting. Oldtimers remember that in the early days "neighbors were the only hope of help should a disaster strike" (Boutwell, 1987). Many residents of Opportunity belonged to clubs and organizations committed to lending a helping hand to their neighbor. The Opportunity Township Hall became the meeting place for these clubs. The Independent Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF), the Royal Neighbors of America, the American Legion, the Masons, and the Opportunity Grange met regularly in the Hall. The IOOF eventually constructed their own building a few doors down the Block. The Grangers have continued to meet in the Hall since 1921.

As the community grew and prospered, many more groups called the Opportunity Township Hall their home: Girl and Boy Scout troops, the Spokane Valley Women's Club, the Iris Society and various garden clubs, Campfire Girls, the Ancient Order of United Women, Eastern Star, and Rainbow Girls. Rummage sales, bake sales and contests, dinners, soup kitchens, dances, couples' clubs, card parties, bingo games, receptions and installations all took place in the Hall. Mr. Robert Nelson, a longtime resident of Opportunity, remembers watching the "All-American Cowboy" - Tom Mix - "shoot-em-out" in silent movies shown in the Hall on Saturdays. He added that while the movie was silent, the piano in the Hall was not. The pianist pounded the keys in anxious anticipation of Tom Mix's every move. Mrs. Elaine Smith - great-granddaughter to J.W. Knight who constructed the Knight Block and the Opportunity Christian Church (close to the Township Hall) - recalls travelogue movies shown in the Hall. Another resident of the community remembers craft shows and an antique auction held in the Hall. The Opportunity Township Hall served to solidify the community. As citizens of Opportunity tell it, the Township Hall was the quintessential meeting place - "the hub of the community" - (Buelow, 1996).

The Opportunity Township Hall has seen many changes, updates and remodels, patchings and mendings. Townships, as a form of local government, were dissolved in 1972. Opportunity is now a part of larger Spokane County. Uses of the Hall have changed little over the years. Fraternal and civic organizations, educational and recreational activity groups, churches, and the community's citizens continue to use the Hall. Many people agree with retired Parks Director, John Tuft, who looked after the Hall for many years. He fondly describes the Hall as an old but sturdy building, and claims that "it should be used seven days a week" (Spokesman-Review, 1989).

Citizens of the Valley, and especially those of Opportunity, have a special affinity for the elegantly designed Spanish Revival style Township Hall. It will always be a center of community pride - a community landmark symbolizing Valley opportunity to anyone who would seek it.

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Hansen, Dan. "Opportunity (Township Hall) Presents Itself." Spokesman-
Review (3 August 1989).

"Township Hall in Opportunity is Converted to Community Show Place."
Valley Herald (no date).

Spokane County Planning Commission. Governmental Units in Spokane County.
Spokane, WA: 1955.

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 0.17

Verbal boundary description and justification

OPPORTUNITY L10 B.165

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

state _____ county _____
state _____ county _____

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Linda Yeomans, Historic Preservation Intern
organization City of Spokane-Historic Pres. date Feb. 29, 1996
street & number 808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd. telephone _____
city/town Spokane state _____

12. Signature of Owner(s)

For Official Use Only:

Date Received: _____

Attest: _____

Date Heard: _____

City Clerk

Commission Decision: _____

Council/Board Action: _____

Approved as to Form:

Date: _____

Asst. City Attorney

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

MAYOR, City of Spokane

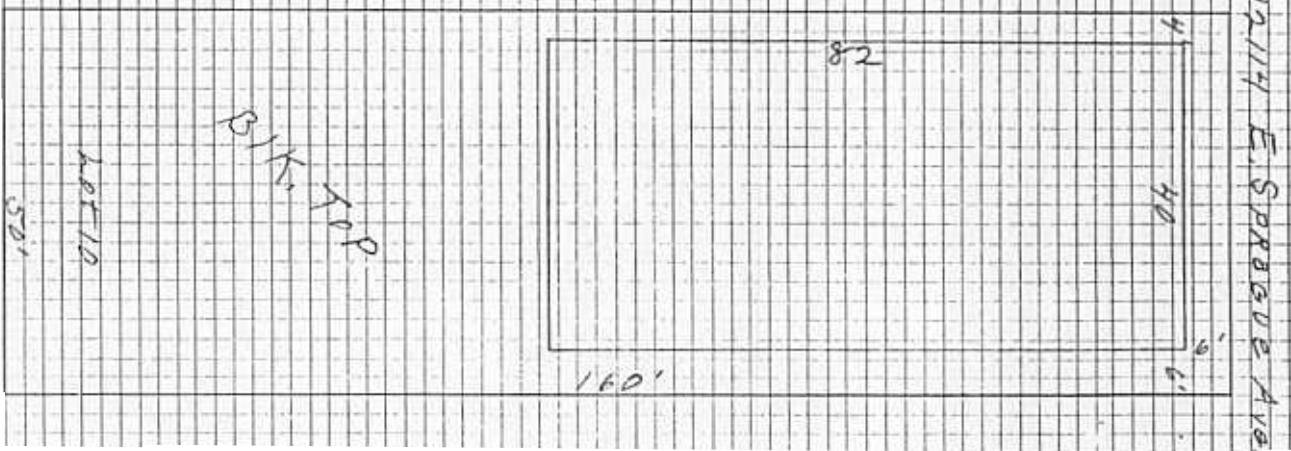
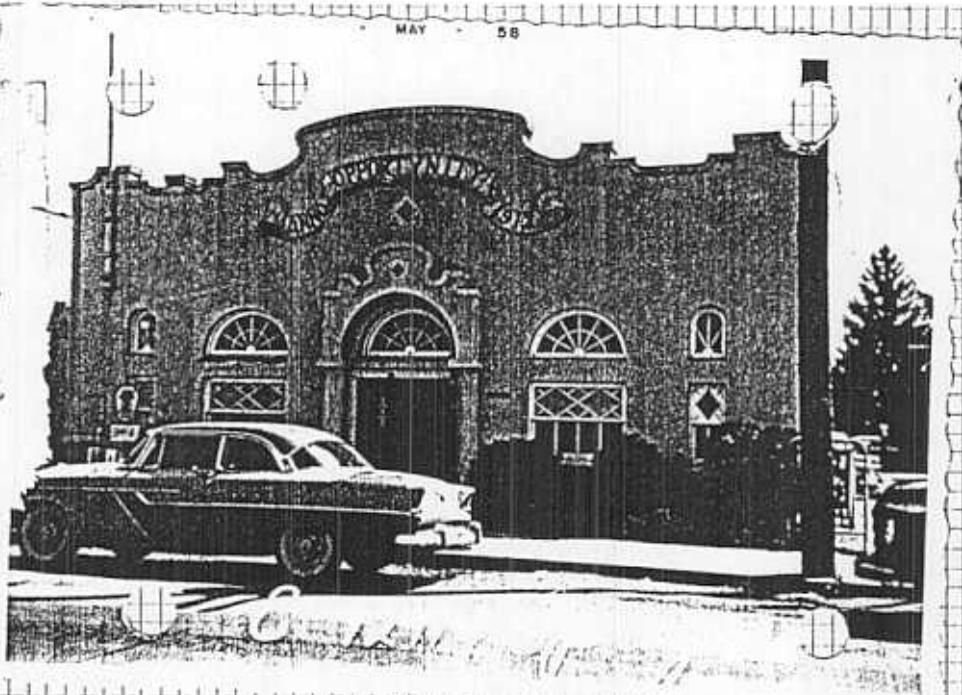
or

CHAIR, Spokane County Commissioner

CHAIR, Spokane City/County Historic Landmarks Commission

City/County Historic Preservation Officer

The 1912 Opportunity Township Hall



NO. 96 1054

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF SPOKANE COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING THE
DESIGNATION OF OPPORTUNITY
TOWNHALL AS AN HISTORIC LANDMARK
AND SETTING FORTH STANDARDS FOR THE)
MANAGEMENT OF SAID HISTORIC LANDMARK

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of RCW Chapter 36.32.120(6), the Board of County Commissioners of Spokane County has the care of County property and the management of County funds and business; and

WHEREAS, the Spokane Historic Preservation Office has advised the Board of County Commissioners that the Historic Landmarks Commission has approved the nomination of Opportunity Townhall as an historical landmark as set forth in Attachment "A", and in conjunction therewith, has requested that the Board of County Commissioners approve such designation and enter into a management agreement for the same; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of Spokane County Code Chapter 1.48, the Board of County Commissioners is required, in conjunction with the designation of properties as historic landmarks, to enter into a management agreement, the purpose of which is to ensure that the owners of such property agree to appropriate management standards of the same; and

WHEREAS, Spokane County is the owner of Opportunity Townhall;

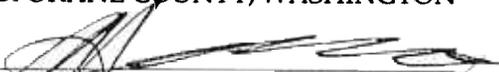
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Spokane County, based upon the recommendation of the Historic Landmarks Commission, that the Board does hereby approve the recommendation of the Historic Landmarks Commission that Opportunity Townhall be designated an historic landmark, and additionally, that Spokane County will agree to certain management standards in conjunction with the designation of the property as an historic landmark;

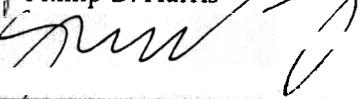
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners shall maintain the Opportunity Townhall as an historic landmark and shall maintain the property consistent with the management standards set forth in "THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR'S STANDARDS FOR REHABILITATION AND GUIDELINES FOR REHABILITATING HISTORIC BUILDINGS (Revised 1983)" attached hereto as Attachment "B", and Spokane County Code Chapter 1.48.

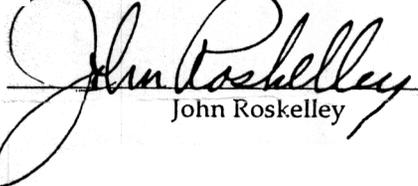
PASSED AND ADOPTED this 5th day of November, 1996.



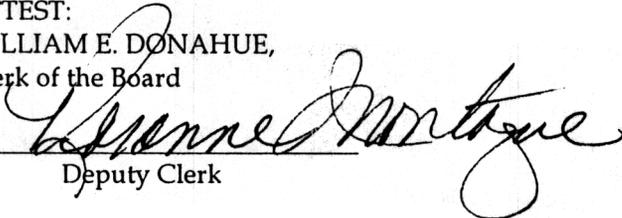
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF SPOKANE COUNTY, WASHINGTON


Phillip D. Harris


Steven Hasson


John Roskelley

ATTEST:
WILLIAM E. DONAHUE,
Clerk of the Board

By 
Deputy Clerk

SPOKANE HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION
FINDINGS OF FACT AND DECISION

Opportunity Township Hall
12114 East Sprague
November 5, 1996

SUMMARY

The Spokane Historic Landmarks Commission recommends that the Spokane County Commissioners list Opportunity Township Hall in the Spokane Register of Historic Places. The property is owned by Spokane County.

FINDINGS OF FACT

The Spokane City/County Landmarks Commission recommended Opportunity Township Hall as a Spokane Landmark at its April 17, 1996 meeting. The decision was based on the property meeting Criterion A for its association with the historic events of the development of Opportunity Township.

AGE

Constructed in 1912, the Opportunity Township Hall meets the 50 year age criteria for listing in the Spokane Register of Historic Places.

CONDITION

Despite change in use over time, the Opportunity Township Hall is in fair condition. To discourage vandalism, the windows on the front facade have been closed on the exterior with painted plywood, and on the interior with wallboard and plaster. The original windows are encased and preserved between the protective layers of wood and wallboard.

INTEGRITY

The building retains the integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, and association.

ASSOCIATIVE VALUE (CRITERION A)

The historical value of a building's associations with a broad pattern of events is a critical factor in evaluating the significance of a property. In the case of the Opportunity Township Hall, the property is associated with the development of the town of Opportunity, and stands as a reminder of the birth of that community. In 1908, when the state legislature passed a law enabling unincorporated communities to form local units of government called townships, residents first formed Opportunity Township, an irrigation project community. The township purchased the land from the Modern Irrigation & Land Company in 1910 and constructed the building in 1912. The hall was built in the Spanish Colonial Revival style, a style that evolved from the California Mission influence of the time.

The Township Hall quickly became the central focal point and gathering spot for the community. From the time the Township Hall was built until the mid-1920s, Spokane Valley experienced a burst of growth brought on by the agricultural development of the area. The Opportunity Block at Sprague Avenue and Pines Road became the busiest haven of activity in the area with the Township Hall as the home of township government and center of community activity.

Remembrances about the building link the strength and development of the community with the property: many residents of Opportunity belonged to the clubs and organizations which met in the Township Hall-- these clubs were committed to lending a helping hand to their neighbor, recognizing that neighbors were the only hope of help should a disaster strike. The Township Hall was home to the first area library, was a meeting place for many churches, and to various civic and social organizations, silent movies, and a variety of activities including rummage sales, dances, bingo, receptions.

The Opportunity Township Hall building has been through several updates and remodels, patchings and mendings, although the uses of the hall have changed little over the years.. Townships, as a form of local government, were dissolved in 1972, and Opportunity is now a part of larger Spokane County. When the townships dissolved, the property was taken over by Spokane County. The building continues to be used for community events.

FINAL DESIGNATION DECISION

In conclusion, Opportunity Township Hall is architecturally significant under Criteria A for evaluating historic properties. The Spokane Landmarks Commission unanimously approved a motion to designate Opportunity Township Hall to the Spokane Register, based on the Findings of Fact, as set forth in this document.

Significant Features: all exterior portions of the building

PROTECTION MEASURES

Controls

No significant feature (as noted above) may be altered, whether or not a building permit is required, without first obtaining a Certificate of Appropriateness from the Landmarks Commission pursuant to the provisions of 82-0038. The following exclusion is allowed:

In-kind maintenance and repair.

Incentives

The following incentives are available to the property owners:

1. Eligibility for historic site maker (to be paid for by the property owner).
2. Eligibility for technical assistance from the Spokane Historic Landmarks Commission.
3. Eligibility for application to the Special Valuation tax incentive program.
4. Eligibility for application to the Open Space Special Assessment tax incentive program
5. Eligibility for application for Historic Building Code Relief.

Decision made April 17, 1996.

Spokane City/County Historic Landmarks Commission