

Spokane Register of Historic Places Nomination

*Spokane City/County Historic Preservation Office, City Hall, Third Floor
808 Spokane Falls Boulevard, Spokane, Washington 99201-3337*

1. Name of Property

Historic Name: Libby Junior High School
And/Or Common Name: Libby Middle School, Libby Center

2. Location

Street & Number: 2900-2912 East First Avenue
City, State, Zip Code: Spokane, WA 99202
Parcel Number: 35222.0901

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> residential
<input type="checkbox"/> object	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<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: Spokane School District #81
Street & Number: 200 North Bernard Street
City, State, Zip Code: Spokane, WA 99201
Telephone Number/E-mail: Mark Anderson – 509-354-5900 (contact)

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 in Existing Surveys

Title: Libby Junior High School
Date: 11/30/2001
Federal State X County Local
Depository for Survey Records Spokane Historic Preservation Office

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(see nomination, section 8)

Condition
 excellent
 good
 fair
 deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check One
 unaltered
 altered

Check One
 original site
 moved & date _____

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

8. Spokane Register Criteria 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 of 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: 2.09 acres

Verbal Boundary Description:

Verbal Boundary Justification: The nominated property is at the east end of the within the block bounded by First Avenue on the north, Haven Street on the east, Pacific Avenue on the south, and Lacy Street on the east.

11. Form Prepared By

Name and Title: Jim Kolva

Organization: Jim Kolva Associates LLC

Street, City, State, Zip Code: 115 South Adams Street, Spokane, WA 99201

Telephone Number: 509-458-5517

E-mail Address: jim@jimkolvaassociates.com

Date Final Nomination Heard:

12. Additional Documentation

Map:

Photographs:

13. Signature of Owner(s)

Greg Forsyth

14. For Official Use Only:

Date nomination application filed: June 30, 2021

Date of Landmarks Commission Hearing: July 21, 2021

Landmarks Commission decision: Approved

Date of City Council hearing: August 16, 2021

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

Megan Duvall

8/26/21

Megan Duvall
City/County Historic Preservation Officer
City/County Historic Preservation Office
Third Floor – City Hall
808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd.
Spokane, WA 99201

Date

Attest:

Approved as to form:

Leri L. Hjort

City Clerk

Michael J. Peck

Assistant City Attorney

Nomination Signature Page - Libby

Final Audit Report

2021-07-28

Created:	2021-07-28
By:	Stephanie Bishop (sbishop@spokanecity.org)
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"Nomination Signature Page - Libby" History

-  Document created by Stephanie Bishop (sbishop@spokanecity.org)
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DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

Description -Summary

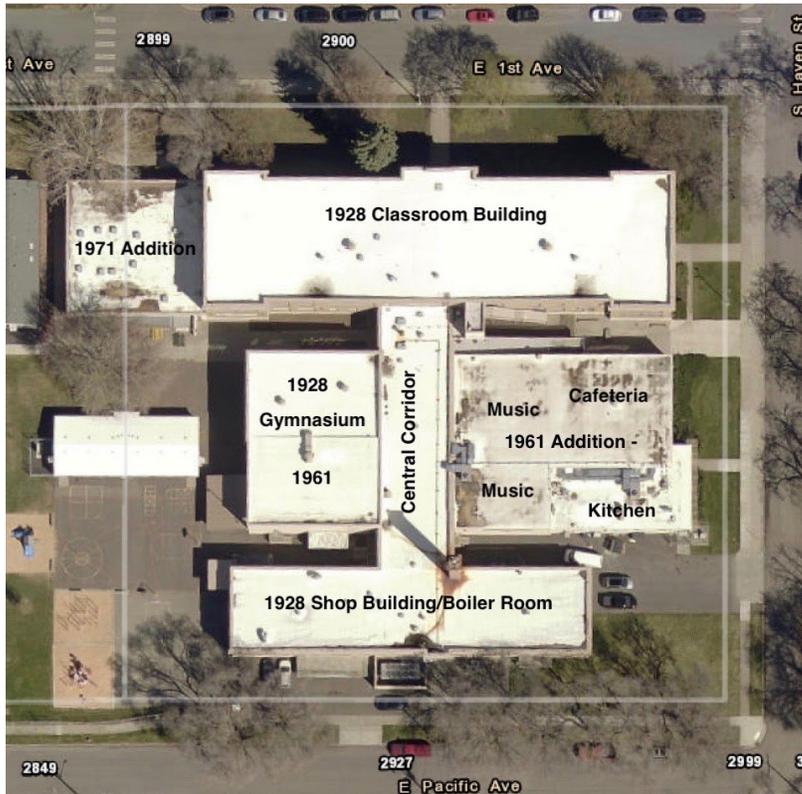
Libby Junior High School, built in 1928, is a nicely proportioned two-story brick building that incorporates classical design elements to provide a formal and stately demeanor to a center of learning. As Spokane's first junior high school, the building carries the two-story, classically inspired model of Spokane's early elementary schools. Roland M. Vantyne, a prominent Spokane architect and F. O. Hughes partnered to design the building. Carl Vantyne, Roland's son and a noted Spokane modernist, designed the 1961 addition to the building. As originally constructed, the east wing was added to provide a cafeteria, kitchen and music rooms, was a "crystal palace" with full glass-panel walls, a striking, yet elegant contrast to the classical 1928 building designed by his father. The 1971 addition to the west end of the 1928 classroom building is a simpler building and reflects the materials usage and economy of the early 1970s.

Although the integrity of the original classroom building as well as the 1961 addition have been diminished by the energy upgrades of the 1980s and the replacement of the original sash in the 1928 building, the 1928 building retains its original form, materials, detailing, and high level of craftsmanship. It is recognizable for both its function as a public school and its original architectural style.

Libby Center (Junior High and Middle School) - Building Description Context

Libby Center is at 2900 East First Avenue in the East Central neighborhood of Spokane. First Avenue is a residential street one block south of Sprague Avenue, a major arterial and business street. Pacific Avenue, bordering the south side of the campus is also a residential street with single-family and multi-family housing along both sides. The majority of the neighboring single-family bungalows were built between 1900 and 1912. Most of the residences in the blocks between Pacific and Interstate 90 have been cleared for future expansion of the Interstate corridor. Haven Street forms the eastern boundary, and the west boundary abuts the back and side yards of housing units that front either along Pacific or Lacey Street. The primary entrance and the two-story classroom building face north on First Avenue toward the new "Hive" complex, a joint venture between the Spokane Library and School District 81, which will occupy that entire block. The area between First and Sprague avenues is transitioning to commercial use.

The Libby campus occupies a flat site of about 3.68 acres in area. The classroom buildings occupy the eastern half while a grass turf playfield covers the western half. A chain link fence runs along the perimeter of the playfield back to the west ends of the classroom buildings. The building complex, originally an "H" shape formed by the two-story brick 1928 classroom building, 235' x 66', at the north end, the one-story brick 1928 shop building, 183' x 45' at the south end, connected by a 133' x 35' north-south corridor. The 1928 gymnasium formed a rectangular knob on the west side of a north-south connecting corridor. The corridor was both a straight passageway to the south shop wing and, along the west side, included dressing, shower rooms, toilet rooms, and storage.



1. Libby Junior High School showing additions and overall campus

Subsequent additions in 1941 filled in a rectangular notch in the north side of the second floor of the classroom building, and in 1961 added a cafeteria, kitchen, and music rooms to the east side of the corridor and lengthened the original gymnasium. In 1971 a one-story concrete block classroom addition was attached to the west side of the two-story 1928 classroom building. Driveway access from Haven is at the southern portion of the campus and provides access to the kitchen and the shop building. A driveway is along Pacific and provides access to a loading dock along the south side of the shop building. Three wood-frame portable classroom units are west of the classroom and gymnasium wings. Asphalt play courts and sand box play areas are along the west side of the shop and gymnasium wings with the grass playfields beyond.

The building received a major energy upgrade ca. 1986 during which insulated metal panels were placed over the upper sections of the original steel sash, and the upper glass walls of the 1961 cafeteria. Additionally, the interiors of the 1971 addition and 1928 classroom building were extensively remodeled in 1995. In spite of its additions and the partial covering over and replacement of the original steel sash windows, the building retains its original form, crisply rendered detailing, quality materials, and skill of craftsmanship.

The two-story brick building incorporates classical design elements to provide a formal and stately demeanor to a center of learning. The original building was designed by Roland M. Vantyne and F. O. Hughes. Vantyne was a prominent Spokane architect who practiced through the 1930s and who, with Archibald Rigg, had designed the 1921 Hutton Elementary School (SRHP). The 1961 addition to the building was designed by Roland's son, Carl Vantyne, a noted Spokane modernist architect. Originally, the east wing which was added to provide a cafeteria, kitchen and music rooms, was a "crystal palace" with full glass-panel walls, a striking, yet elegant contrast to the classical 1928 building designed by his father. The 1971 addition to the west end of the 1928 classroom building, is a simpler building and reflects the materials usage and economy of the early 1970s.

The building is typical of the classically-inspired grade school buildings that had been built between 1900 and 1920: raised basement podium with a short run of steps to the first floor, two story brick façade dominated by banks of windows, classical proportions and design elements,

with a cornice and parapet wall fronting a flat roof. In the 1920s, the new grade school designs were horizontal one-story buildings with Classical design elements, parapet walls and flat roofs as illustrated at Finch, Wilson, and Hutton elementaries. Hutton's design, however, stood out with a gable roof - the only example in Spokane. In spite of the horizontal one-story buildings that were popular, Spokane's first junior high school used the two-story concept.

1928 Two-Story Brick Classroom Wing

The two-story brick classroom wing faces and fronts along the south side of First Avenue with Haven Street forming its east boundary. Constructed of masonry, the symmetrical facade is faced with "Masonic" rug-face brick in common bond. The color is variegated and ranges from tan to orange to red. Rising approximately 33 feet from a three-foot concrete foundation wall to the top of the coping course atop the flat parapet wall, the building is topped by a flat built-up roof. The front façade consists of the central entry salient, flanking midsections, and projecting end wings. The mid-

sections are identical, but with a slight variation in the window arrangements: the east side which is the same on both the first and second floors, has two wide bands of five sets of steel sash, and in the inside bay, an opening with a set of paired, but wider, steel sash. On the west side, the second-floor mid-section is identical to the east, but the first-floor arrangement is different. On the first floor, from the center to the west end, is a double-sash



2. 1928 Front Entry

bay identical to the east side; a separated pair of high-set short and narrow vertical openings; and three equally-spaced double-sash openings. The first-floor easterly bay is aligned with the west edge of the second-floor easterly window band, the second and third bays are aligned with the east and west edges of the westerly second floor window band. (Note that an illustration of the front façade published in 1927, showed the first-floor windows to be the same as the second floor.)

The square end wings step out from the façade plane three feet and are detailed identically to the mid-section—brick foundation wall, variegated brick, long window bands of five sash sections on the first and second floors, belt courses and cornice. The parapet walls, however, step up slightly and frame a decorative terra cotta panel in the middle of the wall.

Each window opening is framed by a brick header course, running vertically on the head, stacked horizontally on the jambs; and on the sills, running vertically and projecting slightly. The sills

extend to the inside edge of the openings and the juncture of the jamb and sill courses is marked by a 4-inch square terra cotta tile. On both sides, the mid-section jamb courses of the five-sash openings extend vertically through the brick field between the first and second floors and connect the window openings. This is not the pattern, however, for the inside paired sash bays where the headers wrap only the openings. On the westerly mid-section, the first-floor brick header courses of the window heads and along the sill lines continue beyond the jambs to connect the openings and form a single rectangular pattern that emulates the five-bay enclosure of the second-floor openings. The same brick header pattern is used on the end wings and central entry salient.

The central entry salient, and as mentioned, the end wings, project three feet from the façade plane (mid-sections). Likewise, they project above the mid-sections of the façade. The parapets of the wings step up about 8-inches at the juncture corners, then inset from each corner, rise six more inches to form a flat pediment. The entry salient is articulated to emphasize the front entry—a centered entry bay with flanking buttresses. The entry bay is adorned by a pink terra cotta entablature formed by flat recessed-panel Doric pilasters rising from molded square bases and terminating in flat Doric capitals supporting a relatively plain entablature. Atop the projecting entablature cornice is a balustrade with turned spindles between molded pedestals aligned with the pilasters and the inside of the recessed mid-section of the salient. A large steel sash window is set within a narrow brick field within the span above the balustrade and extending the molded belt course at the window heads. The opening is framed by brick header courses as previously described. The upper third of the original steel sash has been covered by solid metal (aluminum) insulated panel.

The buttresses flanking the entry bay are identical and each side contains a single centered window opening on the first and on the second floor. The openings are framed with brick headers identically to the mid-sections and the jamb course from the first floor extends through the brick field to also frame the window opening of the second floor. The top half of the 24-light steel sash windows have been covered by an insulated metal panel with louvered vents. A pink molded terra cotta (or pressed tin) belt course tops the window heads and extends across the recessed center section, the flanking buttresses, then turns the corner back into the mid-section and extends to and around the projecting end wings. Six courses above the belt course is a much more elaborate and wider cornice molding that runs the same route as the belt course. The parapet wall above the cornice steps on two planes to a low triangular pediment atop the center section. The middle of the buttress pediment steps up to frame a terra cotta shield set in the brick field. As with the window frames below, the bas relief shield which depicts the book and torch of learning is framed by brick headers. The more pronounced recessed center entry bay section rises above the buttress walls to a low triangular terra cotta pediment set atop the molded pressed tin coping. The coping caps the entire parapet wall of the building. Relieving the step from the flanking walls to the center section are scrolled wings of pink terra cotta. A flat rectangular panel inscribed with “LIBBY MIDDLE SCHOOL” is within the brick field beneath the pediment.

Within the entablature framing the main entry, is a secondary brickwork frame: a segmental arch composed of three courses of vertical brick headers embellished by pink terra cotta keystone and

skewbacks. Jambs composed of a double column of stacked brick-header and brick-stretcher courses support the terra cotta skewbacks. The entry door assembly (original) is composed of double wood doors with lower recessed flat panel and upper six-light window. Sidelights with lower recessed wood panel and upper three-light glass panel corresponding to the door configuration and a three-section segmental arch transom window fill the opening. The transom is configured with a twelve-light middle section above the doors and flanking two-light sections over the sidelights. The entry at the end of a 32-foot concrete sidewalk is at grade with seven steps inside the entry vestibule to first floor level.

The window sash have been altered: the original sash is multi-light steel divided by two horizontal mullions into three sections each with four columns and two rows, for a total of 32 lights. In the five-sash set arrangement, the middle three sash have operable four-light middle sections, while the bottom halves of the paired sash pivot to open bottom out. In the late 1980s, the upper half was covered with insulated metal panels (and sheetrocked on the interior face). Additionally, the existing original bottom sections are gradually being replaced with aluminum storefront windows with internal grids while leaving the upper window covers in place. The new sash is divided vertically in accordance with the original sash pattern; but the new lower half contains a four-column, three-row configuration. Additionally, alternating sash sections have a middle four-light section that is operable.

East Façade – 1928 Classroom Wing, 1961 Addition, 1928 Shop Wing

The east façade consists of the north, two-story 1928 classroom wing, the 1961 Cafeteria/kitchen addition, and the south one-story 1928 shop and plant wing and the visible segments of the recessed central corridor, with only the southern segment fully visible.

The east façade of the two-story original 1928 classroom wing is detailed the same as the afore-described front façade. The centered entry is at grade with stairs to the first floor within the entry vestibule. The entry bay penetrates and divides into two equally-sized and detailed sections, flat, blank brick walls each with a rectangular brick pattern composed of brick headers.



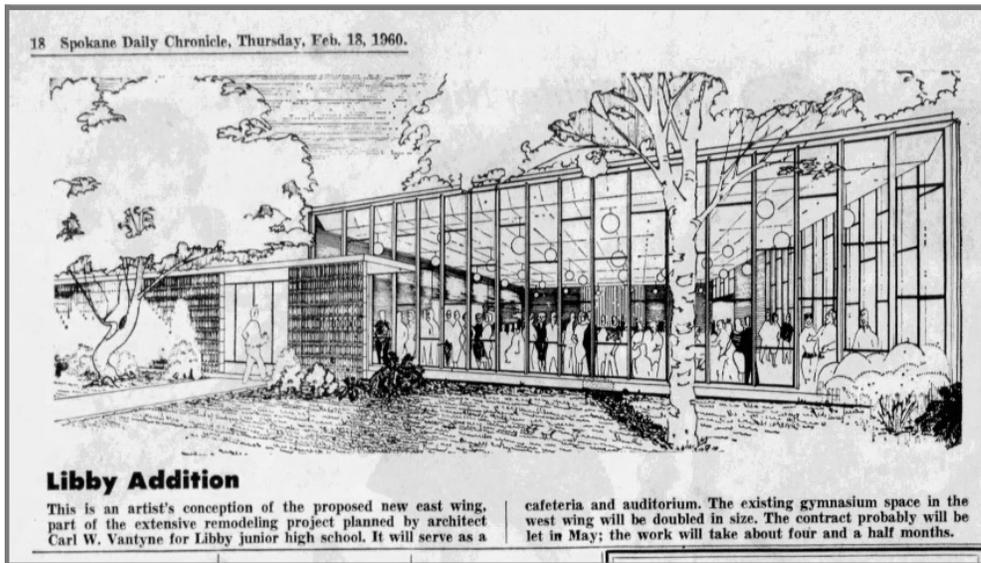
3. East Façade - 1928 Classroom Wing

The molded belt course which terminates the entry bay, cornice, parapet wall and coping are the same as described for the front. The entry is configured almost identically to that of the front with Doric pilasters, entablature, balustrade, and large steel sash window above. The width of the door assembly is slightly smaller with the omission of the sidelights. Above the window opening (upper section of steel sash covered with metal panel), is the belt course, a continuous wall section, the cornice, and within the two-step flat pediment, the bas relief book and torch shield. The parapet wall and coping step up slightly at the corners.

Addition - 1961 East Wing

East Facade

Attached to the east side of the central north-south corridor connecting the main classroom building on the north and the shop classrooms on the south, the concrete block and glass-panel addition is divided into two sections: the cafetorium on the north and the kitchen on the south. In the area between the cafeteria-kitchen and the central corridor on the west are the band room with office and practice rooms and a choir room with platform, janitor's room and office.



5. 1960 newspaper rendering of new east wing

Fronting the kitchen (faculty dining room) and a portion of the cafeteria is a concrete block wall in a Layrite "Starlite" pattern which allows light passage. Set 6'-4" in front of the kitchen wall, it is the same height as the kitchen wall and covered by the roof extended from the kitchen. A sidewalk from the street enters the "Starlite" wall and passes to a door in the cafeteria wall at the

juncture of the cafeteria and kitchen. The door opening contains double flat-slab steel doors with a single-light transom above. The glass-wall cafeteria is framed by a low concrete foundation wall, concrete posts at the northeast and the southeast corners and a 12-inch cornice fascia fronting the deck of the flat built-up roof. The sheet metal fascia is ribbed to correspond to the mullions



of the glass panel façade wall. The wall is composed of sixteen columns of glass panels divided by steel mullions spaced at 2'-9" on center. Narrower horizontal muntins divide the vertical panels into variable widths from 4 feet to 5 feet. The muntins are staggered and alternate every other vertical division as do the bottom glass panels which are operable. During an energy retrofit in 1986, insulated aluminum panels replaced the upper 10'-6" of the glass panel wall,

with the lower 6 feet remaining open. The panels are bronze in color and ribbed to correspond to the mullions and the ribbed fascia above.

1928 Building – East Façade Central Corridor and Shop/Boiler Room

The 1928 one-story wing at the end of a north-south enclosed corridor is approximately 183 feet long (east-west), 45 feet wide with a height of approximately 20 feet depending on grade. The building originally housed the wood shop at the west side, and metal shop and drafting room on the east side, with storage rooms, and in the basement below the east wing, a boiler room. The



6. Southeast corner showing original shop wing, 1961 addition and original classroom building at the rear.

plans for the 1995 remodel labeled the metal shop and the drafting room as storage rooms. The wood shop remained as originally built with the addition of girls and boys toilet rooms and a janitor's room between the shop and central hallway.

A short 20-foot segment of the central corridor between the 1961 addition and the 1928 wing is visible and carries the same pattern as the two-story classroom wing which carries to the one-story shop at its south end. As with the main classroom building, the end wall of the shop wing has a parapet wall that steps up to a flat pediment that incorporates the bas relief terra cotta book and torch shield. Two window openings are equally-spaced within the east wall and two louvered vents are between the

bays at the top of the foundation wall. As previously described the windows are framed with stacked brick header jambs, vertical brick header window heads that abut the belt course, and vertical brick header sills. The sash is double steel with 24-lights, to top half covered with insulated metal panels.

1928 Shop Building – South Façade

The one-story brick façade is asymmetrical, and because of grade slope, the floor level is about five feet above grade as demonstrated by the foundation wall. A loading dock and stepped landings to the entry doors illustrate the height. Above the concrete foundation wall, the brick wall is detailed the same as previously described: brick field,



7. 1928 Shop wing, south facade

pressed tin window head belt course, projecting molded cornice, parapet wall and pressed tin coping. The front entry to the central corridor is offset to the east of center by almost 30 feet. The entry bay is accentuated by projecting approximately 3 feet, stepping up the flat pediment four brick courses and centering the bas relief book and torch of learning shield within the parapet wall. The entry surround is semi-circular composed of three-courses of vertical headers with a pronounced terra cotta keystone that extends upward to abut the pressed tin belt course molding. Square terra cotta springers support the ends of the arch courses. A single column of stacked brick headers forms the jambs and runs between the springer and the top of the concrete foundation wall. A double multi-light transom tops the double entry doors. The top section is a fan window with fourteen lights separated by a molded mullion from the fourteen light (2 rows, seven columns) section below. The doors are metal with recessed panels in the bottom half and glass panels in the upper. The entry landing is at grade with a ramp to the first floor within the entry vestibule.

The wall east of the main entry contains a single steel sash in the first bay, a double-steel sash window bay, a pedestrian entry bay, and a second double-steel-sash window bay. The window surrounds, sash, and insulated metal covers are detailed as previously described for the rest of the 1928 building. The brick framed entry bay is divided into two sections: the west half is 8-inch-square concrete block and a solid-panel steel door is in the east half. A solid insulated metal panel covers the original transom window. This door is approached by a poured-in-place concrete landing with eight steps that open to the east. A wrought Iron railing edges the steps and landing. This wing of the building originally housed the metal shop and drafting room, but in the 1995 remodel the rooms were labeled as storage rooms.

The west side of the entry has a longer wall and includes, attached to the wall just west of the main entry, a 15-by-26-foot, 8-foot-high concrete block wall enclosing a chiller (no roof) and, adjacent to its west, a 10-by-35-foot poured-in-place concrete loading dock. A straight run of seven steps that opens to the south is between the chiller wall and dock platform. The dock slopes down from the entry door to the east to the loading platform. The door opening is framed with brick headers and consists of a centered flat steel-slab pedestrian door with sidelights and four section transom that are covered with insulated metal panels. Finally, a standard double-sash window bay is between the entry and the southwest corner of the building. At the corner, a 6-foot chain link fence projects south to the sidewalk, turns west and continues along the sidewalk to the west end of the school playground.

West Façade

On the west side of the central corridor, the west façade is composed of, from south to north, the end of the 1928 one-story brick shop building, the 1961 concrete block gymnasium addition/1928 brick gymnasium, and end of the 1928 two-story classroom building and 1971 concrete block addition. The west end of the shop building is essentially the same as the east, concrete foundation, brick wall with two equally-spaced double-steel sash window openings, molded pressed tin belt, cornice and coping. The parapet wall has a one-step pediment that surrounds the bas relief terra cotta book and torch shield. Attached to the northwest corner of the shop building is an open, chain link fence enclosing a utility area covered with a flat corrugated-metal shed roof. The façade detailing is similar to that previously described.

1971 Addition to West End - Plans by Sylvester Associates Architects – 9/14/1970

In 1971, a square concrete block one-story wing was added to the west façade of the 1928 classroom wing, 69'-4" long (east-west) by 65'-5" deep (north-south). Eight-inch square and conventional 8" x 16" concrete blocks stacked on a 32-inch concrete foundation wall comprise the façade wall that is 15'-6" in height. The concrete foundation wall continues at the same height as that of the 1928 building, projecting about four inches with a bevel to provide a drip course. The addition is relatively austere with detailing provided by using a combination of 8-inch-square and standard 8-by-16-inch blocks to provide texture and articulation. The field is generally 8-by-16-inch with articulation provided by slightly (4-inches) projecting the corners and the north and west entry bays and using stacked 8-inch blocks to provide further definition. Two horizontal bands, both formed by single rows of 8-inch blocks, wrap the west and south walls; one at the door heads and the other at the bottom of the parapet walls. The top of the parapet wall is clad with a sheet metal coping that provides a decorative element by narrowing the width of the fascia as it wraps corners and entries. The addition is topped by a flat built-up roof. The roof is layered with a 4-inch concrete slab clad, rigid foam insulation, and lightweight concrete. The parapet wall extends 24-inches above the roof top.

The north façade (front) is slightly inset from the corner and extends from the west wall of the 1928 classroom building. The wing's main entry is in the northeast corner and pushes back into the recessed entryway at the same height as the 4-foot-deep entry alcove. The recessed alcove contains a double-door entry with glass panel sidelights and transom that opens to a nine-foot-wide corridor. Two



8. 1928 building and 1971 addition juncture

horizontal three-light windows are in the façade, both set on a 4-inch-wide concrete block sill. The windows are three-light aluminum sash with a sliding center section fronted with a diamond pattern extruded metal security screen.

The symmetrical west façade is detailed similarly to the north elevation. The façade includes a slightly projecting entry bay, flanked by stacked 8-inch block surrounds, and slightly offset from the center. A square concrete post, set to the projecting entry-wall plane, divides the entry into two openings. Metal panel doors with sidelights and transoms are in each of the openings. Within each of the flanking walls are two windows that abut the projecting outside corner and the projecting entry bay surround. At the same sill height and opening height as the front, the windows are one-light metal sash and covered with a security screen.

The south façade includes a 20-foot by 58-foot patio that extends from the south wall, with an 8-foot-deep covered section between two wing walls. The outside wall is detailed the same as west and north. The wall section within the covered patio includes a window in the west corner, and a sliding door opening (now fixed) inset approximately 10-feet from the southeast corner. A second sliding door assembly in the middle of the wall was closed over in the 1995 remodel.

An “L”-shape corridor provides access to the four classrooms within the wing (per the original 1971 plans). With the front entry in the northeast corner, adjacent to the northwest corner of the 1928 classroom building, a corridor runs south to intersect with the central east-west corridor in the middle of the wing. This middle corridor provides access to the four classrooms, toilets and support rooms as well as the entry from the 1928 classroom building (original west entry) and exits through the west end. In the 1995 remodel, the rooms were reconfigured into two large classroom spaces, with portable dividers to split two rooms. New flooring, ceilings and lighting, walls, doors, and trim replaced the 1971 materials.

1995 Remodel plans – Interior of 1928 Classroom Building

First Floor – The front entry is centered in the building and through a stepped corridor provides access to the central east-west hallway of the first floor. The entry was modified by closing the landing and stair run to the second floor and adding doors to close off the central east-west hallway. Immediately west of the entry corridor on the north side of the hallway is the office area with books storage and records rooms. A men’s room is adjacent to the west, followed by a storage room and library in the west end and northwest corner. At the west end of the hall are stairs that ascend in a switchback to the second floor, and a doorway to the 1971 addition (original doorway and the same as on the east end). Across the hallway and stairs to the second floor along the south side is a classroom and girl’s toilet, showers and locker room. Opposite the main entry corridor is the major north-south corridor that connects with the gymnasium, cafeteria, kitchen, music rooms, and shop building at the south end. At the east end of the building, along both sides of the east-west hallway are six classrooms, counselor’s and nurses’ offices. A stairway to the second floor and exit doorway are at the east end. The main hallways are original terrazzo floors and base with sheetrock and plaster walls and ceilings. Carpeted and vinyl floors and dropped acoustical tile/fluorescent light fixture ceilings are typical in the classrooms. Trim is a combination of original wood and rubber base moldings, flat contemporary door trim and doors. Original wood trim and moldings adorn the west stair tower between the first and second floors.

Areas of Significance –**Category A - Broad Patterns of Spokane History, Education****Category C – Architecture****Significant Dates – 1928, 1961****Architect – 1928 building - Vantyne and Hughes (Roland M. Vantyne);****1961 Addition - Carl W. Vantyne****Builder: Spokane School District No. 81****Summary**

Libby Junior High School is significant under categories A, Broad Patterns of Spokane Educational History, and C, Architecture.

Built in 1928, Libby Junior High School and its companion on the northside, Havermale Junior High School (1928) were the first junior high schools to be built in the Spokane school district. With its venture into the new school concept, Spokane was advancing to a new era in American education. The typical school system at that time had consisted of elementary/grade schools and high schools. The junior high school --grades 7 through 9 – was an innovation and reorganization of the pattern of secondary education in the United States.

“The junior high school would become the transition between the elementary experience and high school. In the late 1800s when compulsory attendance laws were first enacted in the United States, most elementary schools served students in grades 1-8, while secondary schools were reserved for students in grades 9-12. The National Education Association's Committee of Ten on Secondary School Studies, led by Harvard University president, Charles Eliot, argued that seventh and eighth grade students needed to be introduced to more advanced coursework that would help prepare them for college and that advanced students should have access to the necessary coursework to be able to graduate early. After the committee proposed making elementary first through sixth grade and moving seventh and eighth grade to high school, junior high schools began to pop up in the early 1900s and were prevalent by the mid-1900s. One of the biggest contributions these schools made is the ability for students to try various exploratory courses that helped them discover their interests. Junior high schools were also the birthplace of homeroom classes, teacher advisory programs, extracurricular activities, and integrated instruction.” (Historic Development of the Middle School Movement)

Although the original 1928 Libby Junior High School has been altered over the years with a major addition in 1961, a second addition in 1971, energy upgrades that covered upper sections of windows in 1986, and major interior renovations in 1995, the original 1928 classroom building retains integrity of form, craftsmanship, material, and most importantly, design presence. Even though the windows have been significantly altered, the 1928 classroom building is recognizable as the building attended by thousands of students over its 93-year life. The building was designed by two generations of Vantynes, Roland for the original classically-inspired 1928 building, and Carl for the Mid-Century Modern 1961 addition. The 1961 kitchen-cafeteria addition by Carl Vantyne was significant in its original configuration of “floor to ceiling” glass, but the 1986 energy upgrades significantly reduced the expanse and character of the glass.

The 1928 classroom building and its partner Havermale Junior High School were the last of the junior high schools to follow the two story model that had traditionally been used by Spokane elementary or grade schools. Although at the time of the construction of Libby and Havermale, the 1920s Wilson, Hutton, and Finch elementary schools were precursors of the modern one-story elementary and junior high schools in Spokane. After Libby and Havermale, the next wave of junior high schools to meet the baby boomers were one-story buildings configured with multiple classroom wings extending from a central corridor. These schools were built in the late 1950s and include Glover, Shaw, Sacajawea, and Salk junior high schools. In that wave, Libby was expanded by extending the gymnasium, building a modern addition to include a kitchen, cafeteria, and music rooms, and conversion of the old kitchen/cafeteria into classrooms.

Libby Junior High School through its history has served one of Spokane's most demographically-diverse areas of the city spanning the East Central and the South Hill neighborhoods and prepared students for their high school experience at Lewis and Clark High School and later, Ferris High School.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The following narrative about the development of the Spokane school system is adapted primarily from these sources: Emerson (2008), HistoryLink.org Essay 8723, and National Historic Register Nomination for Lewis and Clark High School (2007); "Spokane: Early Education," Pratt (1943); Spokane Public Schools: A Brief History and the Annual Report for 1941-1942. Spokane School District No. 81;" and Spokane Public Schools School District No. 81 (1989), "First Class for 100 Years."

The first school in Spokane was opened by Spokane Garry, a Spokane Indian, in 1870, near the site of Drumheller Springs, north of the Spokane River. At that time, few people resided in Spokane Falls, a townsite settled by J.J. Downing and S.R. Scranton in 1871. It was not until the fall of 1874 that a school election was held in Spokane Falls in which Henry T. Cowley, Cyrus F. Yeaton, and L.S. Swift were elected directors. Reverend Cowley was elected as teacher. In January 1875, Cowley began the first public school in Spokane, housed in his home (at current site of Cowley Park on the lower South Hill). Soon thereafter, Mrs. L.S. Swift took over teaching the first students in her home. The first annual school report, prepared by C.F. Yeaton, in 1887 shows eleven children in the district between the ages of 4 and 21 and that there was an average daily attendance of four children. The first dedicated public school building in Spokane, a two-room wood frame structure, located on the former Northern Pacific right of way near Lincoln Street, was built in 1878.

The arrival of Henry T. Cowley in Spokane coincided with the organization of the first Spokane school district in what was then Stevens County. Designated as School District 8 and organized in 1872, its boundaries included: "Commencing at the mouth of Hangmans Creek, following up the Creek to the Idaho line, thence north along said line to Spokan River, thence down Spokan to place of beginning." (Pratt, 1946). The superintendent of Stevens County schools at the time was James Monaghan, who would later become a prominent Spokane businessman. The school founded by Cowley became a part of the new school district. When Spokane County was formed in 1879, J.J. Browne was appointed

superintendent of the newly designated Spokane School District No. 41. Maggie M. Halsell was elected in the first county election held in 1880, to succeed Browne. (Emerson, 2008)

In the year 1889, Spokane schools were reorganized as School District No. 81 and David Bemis was hired as superintendent. Bemis' task was to organize a massive building campaign. At this time six schools were in operation: Central school (high school and grade school), Lincoln school, Bancroft school, Bryant school, Irving school, and Logan school. In July 1890, \$250,000 in bonds were sold with which a new high school building, and four elementary school buildings were erected. The Central building was removed to a new location to provide a site for a new high school and new buildings were built for Bancroft, Irving, Bryant and Franklin schools. (Pratt, 1946)

Designed by architect Charles F. Helmle, the new Spokane High School was built in 1891 at a cost of \$110,000. The school grew slowly at first increasing from 7 graduates in its first year, to 39 students in 1901. But the growth of Spokane and increasing enrollment required the construction a new high school, one north of the Spokane River. The north side high school, North Central, was completed in 1908. The original high school then became South Central. School bond levies of 1907 and 1909, coinciding with the rapid growth of the city, were approved to continue the building of new schools in Spokane. In 1910 disaster struck and South Central high school was destroyed by fire, but rebuilt on the same site and reopened as Lewis and Clark High School in 1912.

As reported in "First Class for 100 Years," by 1890, Spokane had constructed six elementary schools (Central [within South Central High School], Bancroft, Lincoln, Irving, Bryant, Franklin [original Franklin was replaced in 1909]), and by 1900, Spokane had constructed eleven more (Whittier, Emerson, Logan, Longfellow, Edison, Washington, Garfield, Hawthorne, Grant, Lowell, and Holmes. Eighteen elementary schools were built between 1900 and 1910, the heyday of school building. The next ten years through 1920, saw the construction of Mann, Alcott, Yardley, Rockwood, and Cowley. (Spokane Public Schools 1889-1989, 11/1989). Rockwood's span though would be quite short, only four years, since it was replaced by Hutton School in 1921. Two existing schools that followed Hutton in the 1920s include Finch (1924) and Wilson (1927).

Until the construction of Libby Junior High School on the south side and Havermale on the north in 1928, elementary students (grades 1-8) graduated directly into high school. Libby was built to facilitate the passage of south side elementary students from grade school to Lewis and Clark High School and Havermale Junior High School on the north side to service North Central (and to some degree Hillyard High School).

Libby Junior High School – the first of Spokane's modern junior high schools

Opening its doors on September 6, 1928 to 360 students—but "without desks, lockers, and a place to lay a sheet of paper," Libby Junior High School was one of Spokane's first two modern junior high schools. Libby, south of the Spokane River, and Havermale Junior High School, north of the river, built in the same year, would support Lewis and Clark High School on the lower South Hill and North Central and Hillyard High on the near north side. Libby served south side students first as a junior high school, then as a middle school, between 1928 and 1994, when it was replaced by the new Chase Middle School in 1995. Since that time, the building has been remodeled and repurposed but continues to serve the education needs of Spokane and maintains its presence as a community asset in the diverse East Central

neighborhood. The Libby Junior High School was designed by Roland M. Vantyne with the firm of Vantyne and Riggs, a prominent architectural firm in Spokane, and architect F. Omar Hughes, in a dignified “colonial adaption” style as defined by the local press. A new cafeteria and kitchen were added in 1941, and in 1961, a major addition designed by Carl Vantyne son of Roland added a new cafeteria and kitchen, and expanded the gymnasium. A final addition, designed by Sylvester Associates Architects, was built on the west end of the original classroom building in 1971. At the completion of the new Chase middle school on the South Hill in 1994, Libby middle school was vacated. A major interior remodel was completed at the design of Tan Heyamoto Architects as the new Libby Center, a special purpose building designed for professional and gifted learning, and as a community center.

The 1928 building, in spite of the additions, retains the location, integrity of design, materials, and craftsmanship. The original forms of the one-story south shop wing and the north two-story classroom wing have been maintained in spite of additions, and the partial covering and, in several cases, the replacement of the original window. The 1961 addition is well-defined and a good example of mid-century modern design and use of glass panel, while the 1971 addition, although basic in form and material, retains its original character as a distinct addition to the west end of the 1927 classroom building. The building continues to convey the fundamentals of an educational building; one that holds an important place in its East Central Neighborhood and the educational history of Spokane.

Construction of Spokane’s First Modern Junior High Schools

On January 25, 1926, the *Spokane Daily Chronicle* (*Chronicle*) reported a plan by the city school board to readjust the school units in accordance with the proposed \$600,000 bond issue. A new Arlington building to serve the Hillyard area, an addition to Finch elementary, building a six-room Wilson school and constructing a “A junior high school building property located on the North and South Sides will relieve both of the high schools.” The article continues, “as a form of school organization, the junior high school has the unanimous support of the leading educators.”

An article in the February 20 issue of *The Spokesman-Review* told of the need of the “\$990,000 bond issue” (misprinted in tag line, should be \$690,000). Mrs. J. M. Simpson, president of the Spokane school board explained the need for the building improvement proposed in the bond vote scheduled for the March 9 election. The city’s three high schools designed for 3800 students were now filled with 4930 students. North Central, Lewis and Clark, and Hillyard high schools were overcrowded. The junior high schools were intended to provide needed classroom space. “Two junior high schools are also proposed, one for 850 students on the North Side and one for 600 on the South Side. Grounds are available for all buildings except the North Side junior high school.”

On February 26, 1926 the *Chronicle* editorial opined “**All Spokane Will Profit**” by passing the \$690,000 school bond. Again, a junior high school, accommodating 600 pupils would be erected south of the river.

On March 5, the “**Education Board Tells How Funds to be Spent**,” informed the *Chronicle* in advance of the March 9 bond. The south side junior high would accommodate 600 pupils and cost \$175,000. The five new schools would accommodate 2150 students and cost \$620,000. An additional \$70,000 was allocated to the north side junior high equipment and site purchase.

In a March 11 article in the *Chronicle*, Spokane Schools Superintendent Orville Pratt explained the advantages of the junior high school concept. “Pupils of the sixth grade in the grade schools and students who will attend the new junior high school will now have a better chance for developing leadership and initiative as they will be the oldest members of their respective schools. . . .” The junior high schools will care for students of the seventh, eighth and ninth grades only.” “Attention to the individual student can be paid much more easily than at present while the student will have the opportunity to give more care in planning his senior high school and college courses with the help of a special vocational director.”

In more discussion on junior high schools in Spokane, the School Board was working on plans for a comprehensive school system that would ultimately have six junior high schools. As reported by the *Chronicle* on March 13, 1926 with the passage of the \$690,000 bond issue, the board was looking to the future and planning beyond the two schools recently approved to the next group of junior high schools that would meet growing demand. The article revealed that there are “No Real Junior Highs Here,” and the proposed north side and south side schools would be the first and follow Tacoma’s model.

Nationally, the junior high school was a growing educational movement. Initiated in 1895 in Richmond, Indiana, the junior high movement did not gain acceptance until 1909-1912 when Columbus, Ohio and Berkeley, California organized junior high schools and the number of school districts adopting the concept multiplied. Educators saw this model as an excellent way to correct the numerous ills of the American school system during the early 1900s.

Various factors—social, economic and political--set the stage for the development and growth of the junior high school movement. Writings on adolescence by pioneering psychologist and educator G. Stanley Hall in the early 1905, school building shortage caused by WWI, studies on high school drop-out rates, recommendations for education reorganization by national committees, criticisms by educators on the existing system and others.

During the decade of the 1920s, the number of junior high schools grew precipitously from 100 separate junior high school in 1920 to 1,842 in 1930. Articles on this concept “flooded professional periodicals.” By 1930 more than twenty-five books on the junior high school had appeared. Although the onrush of junior high concept slowed down during the 1930s and 1940s, the number continued to increase somewhat. In spite of that, the outlook was good and the concept would adapt to growing needs. (Lounsbury, 1956).

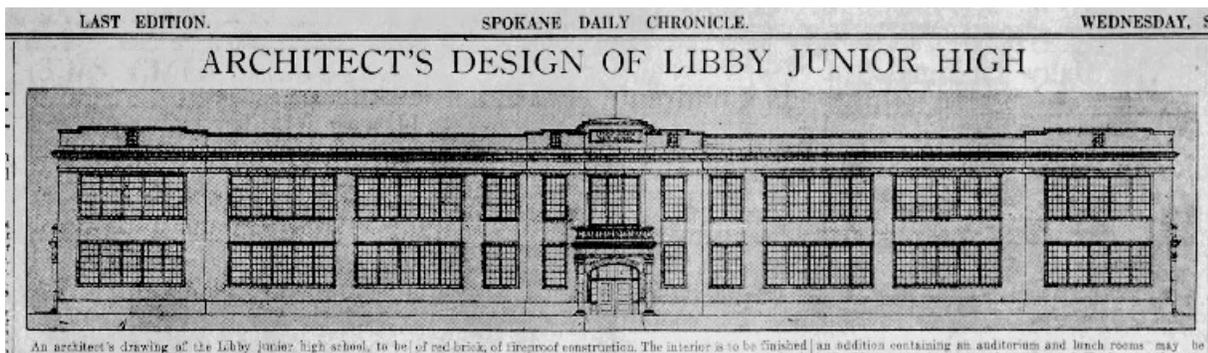
On April 9, 1927 *The Spokesman-Review* reported that the School Board had given official approval to the south side junior high site at Pacific and Haven. Superintendent Pratt presented figures showing the grade schools within a mile radius would supply 500 eighth and ninth grade pupils in the next year; the school will be designed for 500 pupils. The site had been purchased for \$33,000 four years prior and contained seven houses which had been rented out. The houses would be vacated in May and sold by auction.

The next big step in the evolution of the south side junior high was reported by *The Spokesman-Review* on April 1: “**Name Architects to Build School.**” The team of R. M. Vantyne and F. O. Hughes were selected after “many executive sessions to thresh out the question of who to employ as architect for the new South Side junior high school.” The article noted that the two architects do not office together. Because of board member opposition to Archibald Rigg of Rigg and Vantyne on account of structural issues with Hutton school (big cracks in the walls that were attributed to Rigg’s design), the firm split in order to design the south side project.

In the next month, as reported by *The Spokesman-Review* on May 24, 1927, the south side school received its name: Libby, in memory of Professor and Mrs. I. C. Libby. “Mr. Libby for many years taught Latin at Lewis and Clark High School and was respected and loved by pupils and teachers.” The north side school was named after Mr. And Mrs. S. G. Havermale. Mr. Havermale had been the county’s first superintendent of schools. The article also indicated that Roland M. Vantyne, architect, had submitted and gotten approved the preliminary drawings for the Libby School. The 500-student school would cost around \$175,000 and would be planned for future expansion to house 400 more students when necessary. The architect’s final plan drawings were underway, and in July, the school board asked the architects “to hurry them along” in order that construction might be started while the weather was favorable.

On August 9, *The Spokesman-Review* reported that acceptance of the Libby plans had been deferred. Superintendent of Buildings, Frank Williams, would check over the drawings and would report to a special meeting of the school board. The *Review* reported on the 25th of August that a contractor had been selected for the Havermale Junior High, which had been designed by Louis Zittel. Additionally, the plans and specifications had been accepted by the school board and that bids were called, to be submitted by September 12, 1927. “**Bids on Libby School \$197,813,**” announced *The Spokesman-Review* in its September 13 edition. A. McLellan was low on the general contract at \$144,482. I. J. Blair was low bidder on plumbing and heating at \$9228; and for electrical wiring, the lowest bid was Inland Electric company at \$15,562. On the north side, work on Havermale had commenced with a steam shovel and six or seven trucks preparing the site.

The newspaper gave a peek at the future Libby Junior High followed on the next day, on September 14, with the *Chronicle* featuring a rendering of the “Architect’s Design” of the new school across the top of page 13. A brief description of the building was included in the photo



9. *Spokesman-Review* Architect Rendering

caption. "Plans call for a building with 235 feet of frontage, 238 feet deep, with 28,000 feet of floor space. It is to be of red brick, of fireproof construction. The interior is to be finished in fir, with terrazzo floors. The front wing is to be two stories high and the rest is one story. The front will include nine classrooms, and the rear, shops, gymnasium and dressing rooms. In the future, an addition containing an auditorium and lunchrooms may be built." Hughes and Vantyne designed the \$175,000 building. An October 9 report in *The Spokesman-Review* updated construction progress. "The Libby site had been excavated and the pouring of concrete was underway. At Havermale, the entire foundation had been poured. Frank Williamson said that good progress is being made on both jobs." On October 25, *The Review* reported that the Libby school brick contract had been let to American Fire Brick Company. The brick would be a rough brick of light color and called "Masonic Rug Tex."

November 16, 1928 was Libby's dedication: "**Two Programs at New School**," as reported by the *Chronicle*. A photograph of the "Fine New Libby Junior High" accompanied the article. The student body would attend the first ceremony held at 2 o'clock, and the second at 8:30 for the general public would be held in the gymnasium. The Libby orchestra would play for the student opening, and the Lewis and Clark High School orchestra for the evening program. Mrs. R. Rothrock, president of the Libby Parent-Teacher association, and Alex Turnbull, president of the board of education, would speak with H. C. Godfrey Fry, principal, presiding. Dr. G. Allen Coe, professor of education of Washington State College, as the main speaker, would discuss the "Place of the Junior High School in American Education." According to the photo caption, "Masonic rug" faced brick has been used in the exterior construction, and the architectural design is "Colonial Adaptation." The library, woodworking and metal shop rooms were touted as the outstanding features.

The *Spokane Daily Chronicle*, pondering the recent dedication of Libby Junior High School, proffered an editorial in recognizing "**Growing Spokane Will Need More New Schools**." In the November 26 edition, the fact that the opening of the new junior highs did not relieve materially congested conditions at the high school and that the relief has been almost negligible "is a fine indication of the growth of Spokane's school population." It was also noted that the new buildings "meet a real need in the Spokane school system, providing special training for the transition from the grades to the high school period. They serve particularly the eighth and ninth grades and give instruction that is beyond the regular grade course as a preparation for the later high school work."

As the year 1929 closed, the need for a \$1,000,000 bond issue for the board proposed "Big Building Program Beginning in 1930." The school population was continuing to grow. On the list of projects were again Libby and Havermale. "Complete buildings of the Havermale and Libby junior high schools now occupied for the second year." "And, in a few years, a junior high school for the South Side."

The *Spokane Chronicle* lauded Libby Junior High in a November 18, 1938 editorial "**Junior High Fills Big Place**."

Libby junior high school can bring a good report to patrons and other taxpayers on conclusion of its first 10 years of service in Spokane.

Alumni, students and school officials joined this week in exercises recognizing the part the school has played in the educational system. That part has been an important one.

One of the chief benefits has been the softening of the transition between the grade and high schools. It has encouraged many a student to continue his studies into the higher brackets and in so doing has difference between success and failure for an incalculable number of youngsters.

“Libby Junior High School Becomes Progressive Learning Center This Year.” The *Chronicle* edition of September 2, 1939 told the story of the schools proposed transformation into a “tryout, information exploratory” school in the true meaning of the word junior high school. Principal H. C. G. Fry made the announcement that Libby will be the center of progressive education under the new system. According to Fry:

Aptitude Experiment

“Chief feature of the plan is to experiment with the aptitudes of its pupils to determine for what subjects they have a natural inclination.”

“If the plan is 100 percent successful, every pupil who is graduated from Libby will have determined for what vocation he or she is best fitted. He or she can then follow this course in high school.”

“For those who do not wish to experiment to determine for what subjects they are best fitted, we will continue the present general education courses. All students will be required to take English, some form of mathematics and physical education.”

The next step in Libby’s development came in 1941 when a large cafeteria was constructed on the second floor of the school building. Construction began in February and was expected to be completed about May 15. Bids were called in January for the cafeteria with an expected cost of \$11,000. On February 14, 1941 it was reported in the *Chronicle*, that contracts had been let for a four-room addition to Wilson Elementary School, four new classrooms for Rogers High School, and work was scheduled to begin on the new cafeteria for Libby Junior High School. On March 18, *The Spokesman-Review* reported a building permit issued for a \$10,600 brick and concrete addition to Libby Junior High School. On June 24, a short article reported by *The Spokesman-Review*: **“School Edifices Being Improved,”** listed the cafeteria at Libby as having been completed. **“Libby Junior High Proud of Its New Cafeteria,”** proclaimed the photo caption in the August 31, 1941 edition of *The Spokesman-Review*. The new room had capacity for approximately half the student body, and students would be permitted to eat in it whether or not they purchase food.

The new cafeteria filled a 123-foot by 25-foot void on the rear of the second floor of the main classroom building between the east and west wings. Within this space was a kitchen at the east end with the bulk of the space devoted to dining. Multi-light wood sash windows opened to the south (rear) of the dining room and kitchen. Rigg and Vantyne were the architects for the project (plans – 1/2/1941). Note that the Vantyne was Carl, the son of Roland who had designed the original Libby buildings and passed away in 1938.

“**Architects Picked for New Schools**” announced *The Spokesman-Review* on May 23, 1959. The next round of improvements were scheduled for Libby Junior High School. Among the list of projects were the new south side senior high school, and the new northwest junior high school at Alberta and Francis. Three other new junior high schools were already under construction or nearing completion: Glover in the northwest quadrant, Shaw in Hillyard, and Sacajawea in the Manito area. [Sacajawea Junior High School, covering the upper South Hill neighborhoods would supplement Libby in preparing students for Lewis and Clark High School.] Carl W. Vantyne was named architect for remodeling and additions planned for Libby junior high school. Vantyne and Verne C. Chaney of the city school plant department met with the Libby staff on October 5, 1959 to discuss the modernization program. “**New Junior High Projects Advanced**” was the news reported by the *Chronicle* in its November 25 edition. The preliminary plans of architect Victor L. Wulff for the new “northwest” junior high school had received full state support, work was progressing nicely on the Sacajawea Junior High project, and according to Superintendent William C. Sorenson, “the state gave approval to preliminary plans prepared by Carl W. Vantyne and approved support in the amount of \$35,449 on the \$204,000 Libby project.”

On February 11, 1960, the *Chronicle* provided an update on the Libby project: “Plans for the \$270,000 remodeling and addition at Libby junior high school were presented before a delegation from the Libby district. Architect Carl W. Vantyne said it will take four and a half months to complete the project after the contract is let, probably sometime in May. *The Spokesman-Review* also covered the same projects but provided somewhat more detail about Libby.

“School Board Considers Junior High Problems.”

Rooters Applaud

A delegation including Libby Principal Carl E. Halvorson formed a “rooting section” at the meeting and applauded the decision of the board in approving a \$270,000 construction and remodeling program for the East Side school. Delegates wore emblems bearing the question, “Why the delay?”

The project includes doubling the size of the gymnasium as presented by Architect Carl W. Vantyne and construction of a cafetorium, band rooms, practice rooms, office facilities and other rooms on the east side of the school between the existing north and south wings.

Other proposed work includes fire safety projects and relighting the entire school.

Vantyne estimated it would take 4-1/2 months to complete if the contract could be awarded in early May.

The following week, on February 18, the *Chronicle* provided a look at what the new east wing would look like in the extensive remodeling planned for Libby. An artist’s conception of the new cafeteria and auditorium showed tall glass walls which opened the space to the outside. Additionally, the existing gymnasium space in the west wing would be doubled in size.

“**Libby Contracts Let**,” reported *The Spokesman-Review* on April 20, 1960.

Contracts were awarded Monday by the Spokane school board to three firms for construction of the new Libby junior high school addition at a total cost of \$285,099. The school board budgeted \$298,990 for the project and according to Superintendent William C. Sorenson, the work should begin soon, with only state approval being needed now on the basis of state aid.

Contracts were awarded, at a special meeting, to Gus J. Bouten Construction Co. for the general contract, \$161,602; D.G. Quinton, electrical, \$32,985, and Senna Service, mechanical, \$65,594.

The project includes a new wing between the metal shop and the main building, which will provide a new music and food service department and a new gymnasium, which will double the present gymnasium capacity of the school.”

The Chronicle reported the State’s O.K. to the \$36,546 in matching funds for the Libby project on May 3, 1960.

The Spokesman-Review reported the completion and dedication of the Libby addition. On February 11, 1961, “Dedications Scheduled for Schools” were announced. More than \$550,000 worth of Spokane public school construction will be dedicated the week of Washington’s birthday. These included the \$285,000 Libby Junior High School addition on February 23 and new Bancroft Elementary on the following night. The February 23 edition previewed the Libby Annex dedication that would take place at 8 p.m. Miss Spokane will extend greetings to those attending the Libby dedication and Architect Carl W. Vantyne will formally present the addition to the school district. The project included a new cafeteria-auditorium, an addition to the gymnasium as well as remodeled space for a new music department.

The year 1962 opened with reports of the school board’s next round of school improvements. On January 21, *The Spokesman-Review* reported the two revenue measures that would be submitted to the voters at the February 13 election. A \$4.5 million bond issue would be focused on classroom additions to existing schools, construction of two new schools, and land acquisition for future schools among others. The second vote was a special levy to yield \$2,150,000 for operating expenses. Additions were proposed for both Havermale and Libby junior high schools. A four-classroom addition to Libby Junior High at a total cost of \$74,750, of which \$14,500 would come from the state was needed to meet September 1963 enrollment projections.

The success of the bond vote was reported on February 14, 1962. There was, however, a challenge to the legality of the bond issues which threatened school and state building projects. But, the State Supreme Court, in a decision issued of August 7, 1963, upheld the legality of \$35.75 million in state bond issues. This decision directly impacted \$2 million of school construction in Spokane. Among the projects was the remodeling of Libby Junior High School.

Libby would wait almost a decade before funding was actually in place to build the addition approved by voters in the 1962 bond vote. Finally, “**District 81 on Fund List for \$84,996,**” reported *The Spokesman-Review* on January 29, 1970. “The Director of Plant Facilities, Merle M. Hood said that the funds matched with location money derived from the 1962 bond issues would provide an addition to Libby Junior High School.” Spokane’s project was given priority

under the “improvement in racial balance,” category. The February 26 *Chronicle* reported that the Spokane School Board had adopted a resolution citing the Libby addition, originally prescribed in the \$4 million bond issue of 1962, as necessary if the district is to comply with state laws related to the maintenance of racial balance. Finally, the *Chronicle* reported the announcement of Louis Bruno, state superintendent of public instruction on April 30, 1970 that “An addition to Libby Junior High School, financed locally with \$97,750 from a 1962 bond issue, has been given preliminary approval for state aid.” The \$126,778 project to include two homemaking teaching stations, storage and toilet facilities has been approved for \$99,169 in state aid.

It was noted in the *Chronicle* article that the funds from the 1962 bond issue were insufficient to build the proposed addition and state assistance was needed but had not been granted. With the opening of Sacajawea Junior High School on South Hill, the student body of Libby which now was the in the center of the city’s and school district’s most socially and economically diverse neighborhood. The East Central Neighborhood had the highest concentration of black and other minorities in the city and it has also been bisected by the construction of Interstate 90 in the early 1960s. In 1969, the Washington State Legislature passed Engrossed Senate Bill No. 737 “Education—State Assistance to School Districts” which provided for state assistance to school districts for the construction and modernization of common school plant facilities. The state board of education would allocate the funds by formula. Section 4(e) provided that additional state assistance would be allowed it is found by the state board of education that the assistance is necessary in order to meet (e) a need for the construction of a school building to provide for improved school district organization of racial balance.

The November 24, 1970 edition of *The Spokesman-Review* portrayed the new Libby addition in an artist’s sketch and announced the award of the \$119,670 construction contract to S. G. Morin & Son Inc by the Spokane City School Board. The 4,792 square foot addition would provide a flexible classroom facility and have roof construction of sufficient strength to add a second story in the future. Designed by Spokane architectural firm Sylvester & Associates (E. Norman Sylvester) it was the last of the voter-approved 1962 bond issue. Attached to the west end of the original 1928 classroom building, the one-story structure was relatively plain and constructed of concrete block. The approval of the contracts for the \$132,868 Libby project was approved by the Washington State Board of Education in December 1970.

The new Libby addition was dedicated on Wednesday, November 17, 1971, as announced in a photo caption in the November 11 edition of the *Chronicle*. *The Spokesman-Review* in reporting the dedication the following day, included a photograph of the two future school board members, Mrs. Judith Alexander and Richard Oakley, who were viewing the dedicatory plaque. In the dedicatory address “Individual difference,” “the most dominant reality in American education today,” has always been a reality in education, said Dr. L. Ayars, the Spokane school superintendent. In describing the new addition, he stated, “The facilities dedicated include a food lab, a general purpose lab combining clothing and foods and a dining practice room all of which can be combined into one classroom for large group instruction. An observation-dressing room and outdoor child activity area are part of the new addition. Besides the \$133,102 construction cost, \$22,000 was made in equipment. “The Libby addition, though relatively small

and unpretentious, does constitute one step in ‘the mighty reach’ to serve the needs of each child regardless of race, creed, socio-economic background, interest, capacity and deficiencies in past achievement,” Dr. Ayars said. Dr. Ayars also said the dining practices room will provide “vocationally important experiences in housekeeping techniques and child care and development.” Home nursing routines, beauty shop training, hostessing and waitress training and household mechanics are some of the instruction experiences that can be provided in the addition, it was added.

In June 1994, with the completion of Chase Middle School on Spokane’s South Hill, Libby Middle School was closed. The school district had allocated \$700,000 from a 1992 bond issue to remodel the vacated building which included an area of 69,000 square feet. Spokane School district officials had been meeting with East Central Neighborhood leaders who were concerned that the closure of the school would contribute to the deterioration of the neighborhood. A planning committee comprised of Spokane Police, YMCA, Spokane Parks and Recreation, East Central Community Center and Martin Luther King Center were represented on the Libby Planning Committee. Input was solicited and a group also worked to plan a teen center as part of the building’s function.

In May 1995 the Spokane architectural firm Tan Heyamoto developed plans for the total remodel of the Libby Middle School building, now the Libby Center. Walls were reconfigured and repaired, restrooms were reconfigured, pipes were removed, electrical and lighting systems were updated, interior trim, countertops, tack and chalk boards were replaced, wood, vinyl and terrazzo floors were repaired and cleaned. Most of this work took place in the 1928 classroom wing (north building) and the 1971 addition.

Libby Center was transformed into a professional learning center for summer classes and school district teaching-faculty training. It also functioned as a teen center—a gathering point for sports, dances, counseling, vocation/college information, or just hanging out. *The Spokesman-Review* in a March 6, 1997 feature, told of the transformation: “Vintage school building has become Libby Center, an activity focal point for the East Central neighborhood.” “Libby Center is slowing perfecting its split personality.”

Retired in 1993, after 65 years of service as a junior high and middle school, the handsome, buff-colored brick building in the East Center neighborhood has since been refurbished and reborn. And in the 18 months since its post-retirement reopening, Libby Center has assumed several new roles.

Today, it is home to School District 81 programs for both gifted and developmentally impaired students, and to the school district’s Homework Support Center. In summer, it houses the East Central Community Center’s activity program for children. And Libby Center regularly hosts such community groups as the Men’s African American Academy.

Soon, it will embrace an ambitious new role. A long-awaited teen center is scheduled to open at Libby Center later this month.

Libby Center currently serves through Tessera and Odyssey, as the gifted education center for District 81; as the staff development center for SPS staff training; as well as the language immersion programs offered by the district.

Architects

Rigg and Vantyne Architects – Roland M. Vantyne and Carl W. Vantyne

Roland M. Vantyne was born in 1887 South Dakota and died on November 26, 1938 in Spokane. He attended the Buffalo Polytechnic Institute and was trained in business. He then worked for several architects in Buffalo and in Minnesota before moving to Spokane and becoming a draftsman for Albert Held and Julius Zittel. In 1919 he joined in partnership with Archibald Rigg to form Rigg and Vantyne Architects. The new partnership may have been formed to take on the work of designing over 50 buildings at Greene Park Amusement Park in Tacoma for the U.S. Army. For the Greene Park development, Rigg & Vantyne opened an office in Tacoma to coordinate the firm's designs with local contractors, Pratt & Watson. Their most notable design at the Park was the Red Shield Inn (1919); a Swiss Chalet inspired structure which now serves as a military museum for Joint Base Lewis-McChord.

Other projects back in the Spokane area included the Salvation Army Headquarters Building (1921); Hutton Elementary School (1921); the Masonic Temple and subsequent enlargements; the Idaho State Tuberculosis Sanitarium (1922) in Payette, ID; the Science Hall/Abelson Hall (1935) at WSU; KFPY Radio Station Building (1936); and Shriner's Hospital for Crippled Children (1938). As the sole architect, Vantyne also designed the Libby Junior High school, built in 1928. The school board requested that his partner, Archibald Rigg, be excluded over issues with Hutton Elementary School. [The Spokane Register Nomination for Hutton Elemental School provides a discussion of the Archibald Rigg issue with the Spokane School Board under the heading "Gable Roof Reveals Problems." After completion of the school structural defects in the gable roof began to appear (first such roof type used for a school in Spokane). In 1928 the board asked Rigg and contractor to resolve the deficiencies; a special meeting was held, and architects Wells and Whitehouse were engaged by the board to evaluate the defects in the roof structure. Although the problem was resolved, Rigg had lost favor with the Spokane School Board.]

When Roland Vantyne passed away suddenly in 1938, Rigg continued the firm. Projects during this phase of his career included the Engineering Laboratory Building (1942) at WSU Pullman; the Edgecliff Tuberculosis Sanatorium; the Riverside Mausoleum (1954); Cheney & Harriet Cowles Library at Whitworth College, additions to Emerson and Columbia Schools (1951); and City Light Building (1952) in Grand Coulee.

Eventually Roland Vantyne's son, Carl, was named partner in 1957 after previously serving as an associate (1950-1957). The name of the firm was then changed back to Rigg & Vantyne.

Carl William Vantyne was born in Spokane in 1918, graduated from Lewis and Clark High School, and was a World War II Army veteran. In spite of not having attended college he worked as an associate then as partner with Archibald Rigg, his father's former partner. In his work at the Fairmount Memorial Park in northwest Spokane, Carl Vantyne designed the Garden

Crypt Mausoleum in 1957 and 1970, Sunset Chapel and Mausoleum, and the Temple Court Crypts in 1965. In 1959, he opened his own practice and designed the 1961 addition to Libby Junior High School. Other works included the conversion of the downtown Spokane Sear's building to the Comstock Library (1962), Harriet Cheney Cowles Memorial Library at Whitworth University (1967), Sacred Heart Medical Center (1972), J.C. Penney building (1972), Shriner's Hospital Isolation ward (1977), and the first River Park Square shopping mall, skywalks, and parking garage (1974 and 1978). He was on the board of the Fairmount Memorial Association through 2001. He died in Spokane on November 28, 2003 at age 85.

E. (Ernest) Norman Sylvester, Architect - 1925-1986

Architect E. Norman Sylvester, designer of the 1971 addition, was born August 28, 1925 in Portland, Oregon and attended North Central High School in Spokane. Following service in the Army during World War II in Italy, England, Germany and France, he took architectural and engineering studies at Biarritz American University in France and graduated from Washington State University. Arriving in Spokane in 1946, Sylvester worked as a draftsman for Dean L. Donaldson and G. A. Pehrson and for Victor Louis Wulff from 1947 to about 1962. During that period, he became a registered architect in 1954, his work was published in *Architectural Forum* in 1955, and he won the 1956 Chapter Honor Award from the Spokane AIA chapter. In 1962 he formed a brief partnership with Laurel E. Carlsson, after which he formed his own firm. He designed Spokane Fire Station No. 18 in 1970, using concrete block as his finish material. In 1971 he collaborated on the design of the 14-story Washington Mutual Building in downtown. He designed several Spokane Bank branches, office buildings, school building remodels, single-family houses, and apartment buildings.

In 1959, he was awarded a patent for a "Solar Penetration Indicator," a device to measure solar penetration in a building using a scale model. In addition to his architectural practice, Sylvester and his wife Evelyn brought Boehm's Candy Kitchen to Spokane and were among the original founders of the 49 Degrees North Ski area, and he was active in Spokane civic affairs including the Inland Empire Industrial Exposition, and Spokane County Building Code Board. Sylvester was killed in 1986 when his private plane crashed near Republic, Washington on the way home from a job site.

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--. "Board Asks Speed on School Plans." 7/26/1927. p1:3.

- . "Havermale High Work to Start." 8/23/1927. p13:1
- . "Architect's Design of Libby Junior High." 9/14/1927. p13:2-7.
- . "Talk Day Labor on School Job." 11/5/1927. p20:5.
- . "State Gives School O.K." 5/3/1960. p5:2.
- . "School Group Tells Bond Money Plans." 1/21/1962. p1:7-8.
- . "1961 Law Wins Top Court O.K." 8/7/1963. p1:5-5.
- . "Junior High Work Ahead of Schedule." 2/26/1970. p3:1-2.
- . "Libby Addition" "State Aid Favored." 4/30/1970. p3:7-8.
- . "Schools Spruced Up for Opening." 8/25/1971. p23:1-6.
- . "Libby Addition Rite Scheduled." 11/11/1971. p18:1-4.
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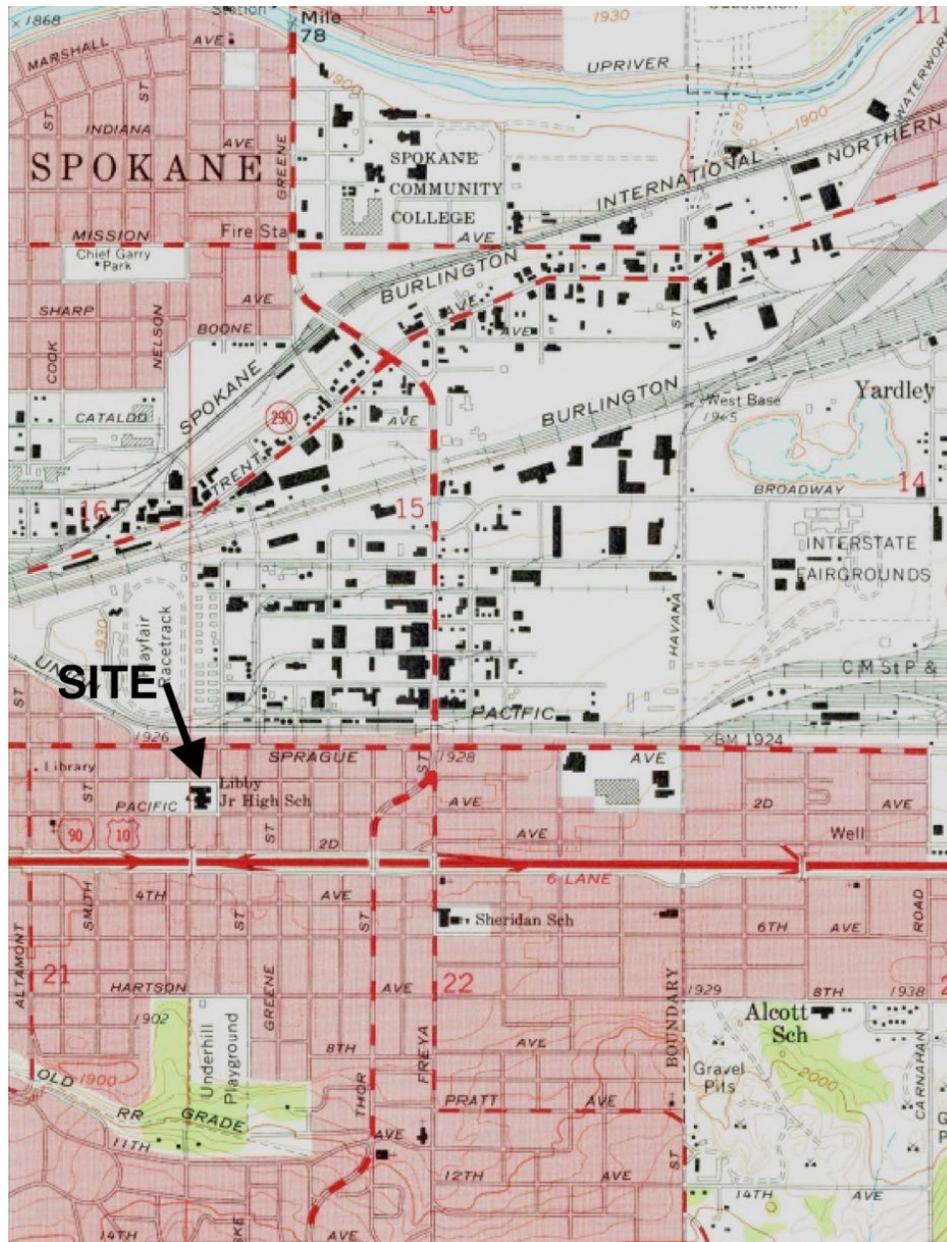
- . "Name Architects to Build School." 4/12/1927. p1:5.
- . "Pick Assistant to School Chief." 5/24/1927. p1:7.
- . "View Junior High Plans." 8/9/1927. p8:4.
- . "Gets School Job on \$169,300 Bid." 8/25/1927. p6:5.
- . "Bids on Libby School." \$197,813." 9/13/1927. p6:5.
- . "Rush Work on High Schools." 10/9/1927. p7:7.
- . "More on School Rolls Than in '26." 10/25/1927. p1:5.
- . "Roland Vantyne Passes Suddenly." 11/27/1938. P1:4.
- . "Libby Contracts Let," 4/20/1960. p10:6-7.
- . "Dedications Scheduled for Schools." 2/11/1961. p6:3.
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- . "Spokane Firm Receives \$119,600 School Contract." 11/24/1970. p7:5-7.
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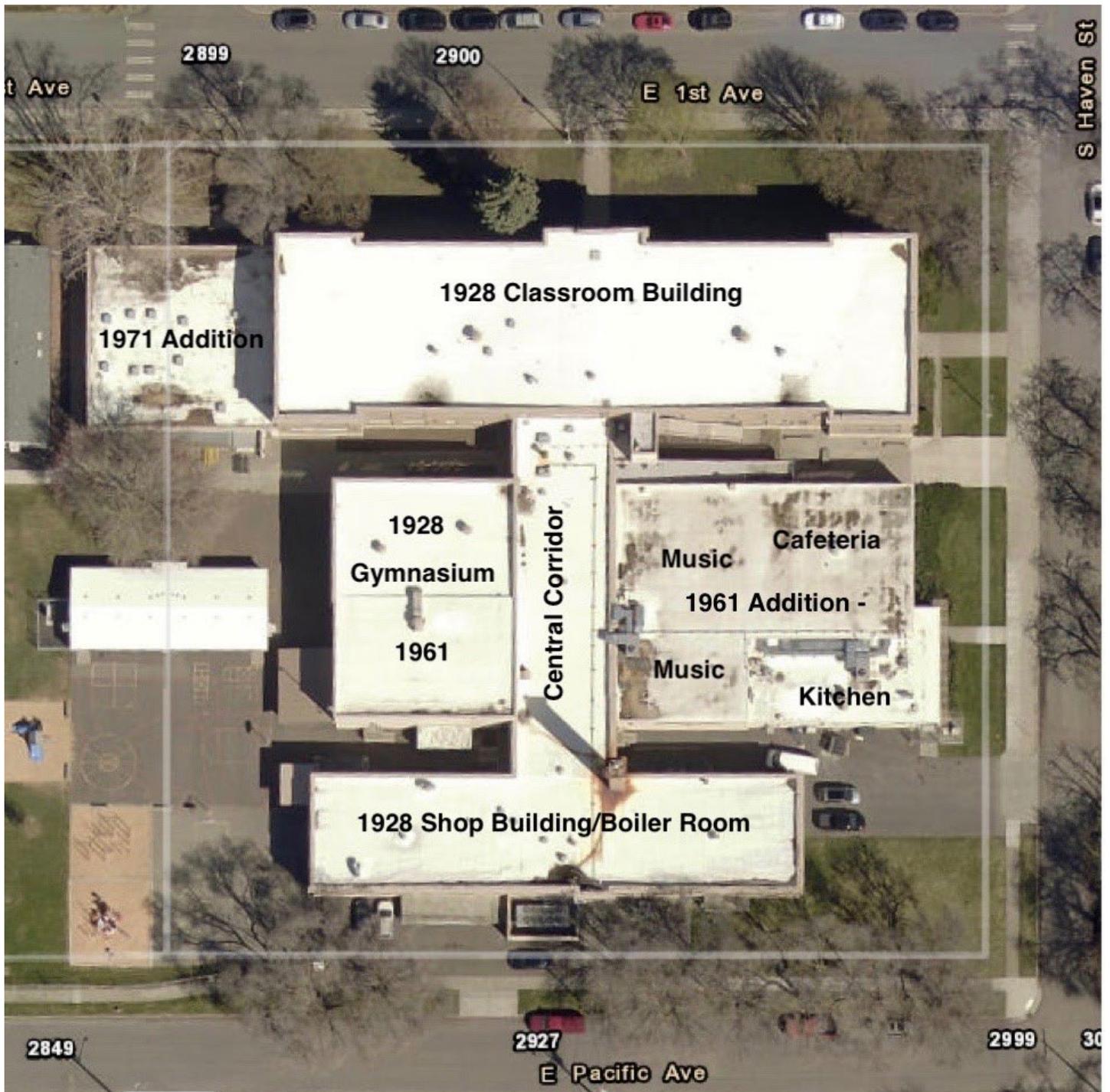
"Archibald G. Rigg." Reviewed: March 2021.

MAPS, PHOTOS, DRAWINGS



USGS 7.5 Minute Quadrangle. Spokane NE, Wash. 1974. Photorevised 1986

LIBBY JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL SITE LOCATION

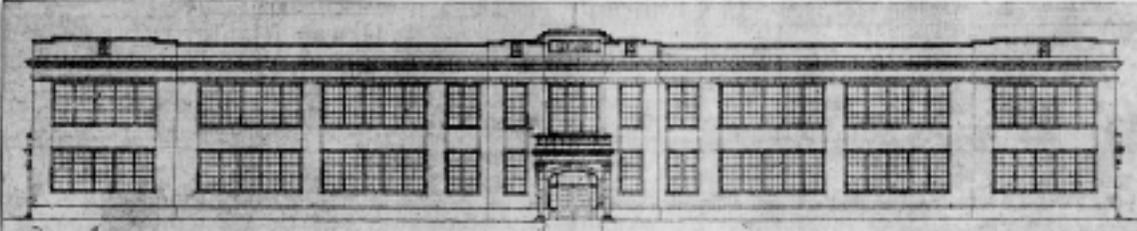


Spokane city map – 2021

LIBBY CENTER – 2900-2912 EAST FIRST AVENUE

LAST EDITION. SPOKANE DAILY CHRONICLE. WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1927.

ARCHITECT'S DESIGN OF LIBBY JUNIOR HIGH

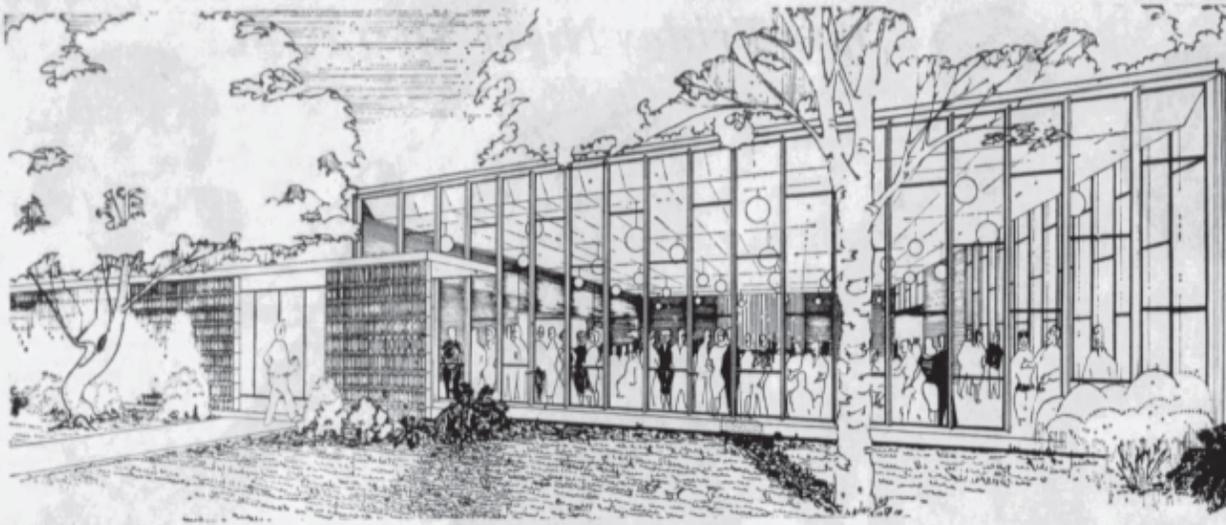


An architect's drawing of the Libby junior high school, to be built at First and Haven this fall and winter at a cost of approximately \$175,000, is shown. Plans call for a building with 234 feet frontage, 238 feet deep, with 25,300 feet of floor space. It is to be of red brick, of stripped construction. The interior is to be finished in fir, with terrazzo floors. The front wing is to be two stories high and the rest is one story. The front will contain nine classrooms and the rest, shops, gymnasium and dressing rooms. In the future, an addition containing an auditorium and lunch room may be built. The contract has not yet been awarded. Hughes and Vantyne are the architects.

COLUMBUS DAY TO BE OBSERVED
 Catholic Lodgesmen Plan Special Program for October 12 Here.

Wednesday, Sept. 13, will be observed in Spokane by the Knights of Columbus. The day is the anniversary of the discovery of America and the day of the discovery of the continent of North America. The day is the anniversary of the discovery of the continent of North America. The day is the anniversary of the discovery of the continent of North America.

18 Spokane Daily Chronicle, Thursday, Feb. 18, 1960.



Libby Addition

This is an artist's conception of the proposed new east wing, part of the extensive remodeling project planned by architect Carl W. Vantyne for Libby junior high school. It will serve as a cafeteria and auditorium. The existing gymnasium space in the west wing will be doubled in size. The contract probably will be let in May; the work will take about four and a half months.



1928 Classroom building front (north) facade - main entry, looking south



1928 Classroom building--northeast corner of 1928 building, looking southwest



1928 classroom wing - east facade, looking west



1928 classroom wing - southeast corner, looking northwest



1928 shop wing - south facade main entry, looking north



1928 Classroom building - south wing, looking northwest



1961 Addition - east wing kitchen and cafeteria, looking west



Southwest corner - 1928 shop wing, 1961 gym addition, 1928 gymnasium



1928 building and 1971 addition - juncture, looking southeast



1971 addition - southwest corner, looking northeast



West side-looking northwest across playfield at portable classrooms, 1928 and 1961 facades