

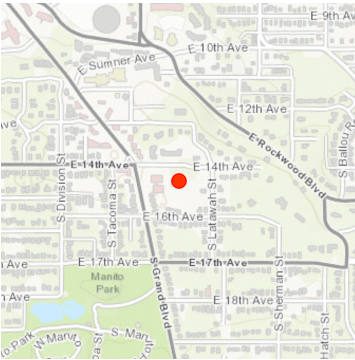


Historic Property Report

Historic Name: First Church of Christ Scientist

Property ID: 14524

Location



Address: 310 E 14th Ave, Spokane, WA

GeographicAreas: Spokane County, SPOKANE NW Quadrangle, T25R43E29

Information

Construction Dates:

Construction Type	Year	Circa
Built Date	1967	<input type="checkbox"/>

Number of stories: N/A

Historic Use:

Category	Subcategory
Religion	Religion - Religious Facility

Historic Context: Religion, Architecture



Historic Property Report

Architect/Engineer:

Category	Name or Company
Architect	Brooks, Kenneth

Project History

Project Number, Organization, Project Name	Resource Inventory	SHPO Determination	SHPO Determined By, Determined Date
2011-03-00043, , Nifty From the Last 50	7/17/2003	Not Determined	
2016-12-08751, , Spokane Mid-20th Century Modern Survey 2016			

Photos



sw corner



se corner



North facade, looking southwest



View of garden



Cornerstone of original church in west bay



Southwest corner, looking northeast



Funeral processional, looking south



Southeast corner, looking northwest

Historic Property Report



Interior of sanctuary, looking west



View of garden from sanctuary



North facade, looking northwest



North facade, looking west



Northeast corner, looking west



Historic photo (n.d.)



Historic Property Report

Inventory Details - 12/6/2016

Common name: First Church of Christ Scientist
Date recorded: 12/6/2016
Field Recorder: Diana Painter
Field Site number:
SHPO Determination

Detail Information

Characteristics:

Category	Item
Foundation	Concrete - Poured
Roof Material	Asphalt/Composition - Built Up
Roof Type	Flat with Eaves
Form Type	Church
Cladding	Brick
Structural System	Masonry - Brick
Plan	Rectangle

Surveyor Opinion

Property appears to meet criteria for the National Register of Historic Places: Yes

Property is located in a potential historic district (National and/or local): No

Property potentially contributes to a historic district (National and/or local): No

Significance narrative: History. The first First Church of Christ, Scientist was designed by Spokane architect Kirtland Cutter in the Mission Revival style and constructed in 1904. As described by historian Richard Scheck, "Cutter drafted magnificent plans, a modification of Spanish Mission Revival architecture. A simple exterior with a large façade and few doors and windows concealed a luxurious interior with detailed rafters and chandeliers." This church was demolished for the construction of I-90 through Spokane. The church subsequently selected Kenneth Brooks as their design architect and a new church was built on 14th Avenue at the present location. Church members saved the original organ and pipes, as well as the pews, from the original building and re-used them in the new structure. The church also salvaged the cornerstone, now mounted in the west courtyard, and the large stained glass window, which they restored in the winter of 2016, and will soon have on display (Scheck, "First Church of Christ, Scientist").

Historic Property Report

Architectural Context. Spokane's 1967 First Church of Christ, Scientist congregation followed a long tradition of engaging prominent architects and building churches that are unconventional and progressive in their architectural design. Christian Science was a new denomination founded by Mary Baker Eddy (1821-1910) that placed an emphasis on healing through positive thinking. Mrs. Eddy's first group of followers was organized in 1875 and she founded the Christian Science Church in 1879. The extensive building program undertaken by the Christian Science churches at this time was to spark a debate on church architecture that occupied the country from the 1890s to the 1930s (Painter, 2003:41). The flagship church in Boston, dedicated in 1895, was in the Romanesque Revival style, in contrast to the more popular Gothic Revival style. Between 1893 and 1910, following the 1893 Columbian Exposition and in keeping with the City Beautiful Movement, eight new Christian Science churches were built in Chicago in the Classical Revival style (Painter, 2003:41). While Mrs. Eddy did not espouse any particular architectural style, the Christian Scientists continued to explore contemporary architectural expressions in the design of their churches. Historian Paul Ivey has suggested that they also wanted "...to separate themselves from the traditional Protestant denominations and at the same time create an association with institutions that conveyed 'public authority, respectability, and permanence.'" Cutter's Mission Revival church in Spokane represented another departure from convention for the church. Kenneth Brooks' 1967 church was unconventional even by Modern architectural terms. Through the construction of this edifice, the First Church of Christ, Scientist once again created a lasting monument to its progressive architectural ideals.

Architect Kenneth W. Brooks. The First Church of Christ, Scientist was designed by Spokane's award-winning architect Kenneth Brooks (1917-1996). Brooks was born in Kansas in 1917. He earned a bachelor's degree in architectural engineering from the University of Illinois in 1940, where he was awarded a six-month traveling fellowship in Europe, eventually studying city planning in Stockholm. After graduation he worked for the Seattle firm of Naramore & Brady Architects (later the international firm NBBJ). After serving in World War II as an engineer and later as a Construction Officer, he worked for the New York office of Skidmore Owings & Merrill. While at this firm he worked under architect Gordon Bunshaft, best known for his design of the Lever House in New York City. Brooks settled in Spokane in the late 1940s, but soon returned to Illinois to complete his Master of Architecture degree at the University of Illinois, awarded in 1949.

Brooks returned to Spokane and established his own firm in 1951, working on a wide variety of project types. In addition to his diverse architectural practice, he became active in civic affairs, particularly in urban design, regularly delivering papers to a wide range of audiences on such topics as urban design, city planning, transportation, and modern architecture. He served on numerous committees and architectural juries. Brooks designed several structures for the Spokane Expo '74 and was one of the primary planners for the event. In the 1970s he joined with Joseph Hensley and Fred Creager to form Brooks-Hensley-Creager. The firm received numerous architectural awards over their 30 years in partnership. Brooks' two most distinguished projects are the 1959 Washington Water Power Company headquarters in Spokane, and his 1978 Art-Drama-Music Complex at Columbia Basin Community College in Pasco, both of which received National American Institute of Architects Honor Awards. His Intermountain Gas Company Headquarters in Boise, Idaho garnered a National Award of Merit from the AIA in 1966. Brooks retired in 1991 and died in 1996 (Houser, 2003). The First Church of Christ, Scientist was the recipient of an AIA award for "outstanding contemporary architecture."

Historic Property Report

Physical description:

Location and setting. The First Church of Christ, Scientist, is located on Spokane's South Hill, within a neighborhood of residential, commercial, and institutional properties, including schools and churches. It is located close to the intersection of E 14th Street and S Grand Avenue, a busy arterial that extends from Spokane's medical services area south of I-90 to the south end of the residential district at E High Street/E 43rd Avenue. The church overlooks E 14th Street. It is set back from the street, behind a formally landscaped garden. An asphalt-finished parking area is located east of the church, between the church and Latawah Street. A secondary asphalt driveway is located to the rear (south side) of the building, providing stacking space for funeral processions and a service entry.

Materials. The building is brick masonry, with full-height glazing along the north entry façade. Narrow vertical metal elements accent the fascia and form a balustrade at the second level on the east end of the north facade. Windows and doors are framed in dark, anodized aluminum that contrasts with the soft-white painted brick. The soffits under the eaves on both the first and second levels are finished in wood, lending warmth to the building. Glazed brick on the floor of the entry, which is in alignment with the eave overhang, leads the eye directly to the interior office, whose floor is also finished in glazed brick. The interior of the sanctuary displays the same painted brick masonry as the exterior, with light bronze-colored fixtures and natural stained wood. These colors dominate the sanctuary, with the exception of the equally neutrally colored carpet. Pews are painted wood, designed in the Mission style, which is consistent with the fact that they were taken from the original First Church of Christ, Scientist, the 1904 Mission Revival church designed by Spokane architect Kirtland Cutter. Colors are subdued, with the texture of the materials providing visual richness to the sanctuary.

Massing and design. The massing of the church is very simple. It displays a rectilinear form, with a rectangular footprint and flat roof. Relief is provided by the recesses under the narrow balconies, the deep eaves, entries, and the north courtyard.

Front (north) façade. The building's front façade is the only façade with any transparency. It consists of three major bays, with a smaller bay on the far west side. The first, east side bay is actually a drive-through space to stage funeral processions. It is completely open, enclosed only by the roof and brick walls to the east and west. An opening with no door is located between this first and the second bay, rising the full height of the first floor here.

The central bay is two stories in height, serving as a foyer, offices and support spaces. North walls here are completely glazed, set back from the front edge of the building's rectilinear form by about six feet. Between the first and second floors is a narrow ("Juliet") balcony, which runs the entire width of this bay. The eight windows are full height, separated by narrow mullions of dark anodized aluminum. Two broad entry doors of full-height glass, which set in slightly from the windows wall, open onto the foyer. They are located toward the east end of this bay.

The third bay fronts the sanctuary. Five fixed windows, rising the full height of this bay (two stories), are separated by narrow mullions. Visible within this bay is a wide hallway that runs parallel to the windows and accesses the front of the sanctuary from the central bay and foyer. At the end of this bay, on the west side and at the end of this interior hall, is an door opening onto the small, westerly bay. It is the width of the door

Historic Property Report

located here and surmounted by a fixed window that rises to the ceiling. Within this bay is a small court finished in glazed brick. Permanently located in the center of the court is the cornerstone of the original First Church of Christ, mounted on a curved pedestal, finished in glazed brick. The cornerstone is engraved with the words, "Feed my Sheep" on the side facing the door; "God is Love" facing the garden; and "First Church of Christ Scientist 1904" facing the west end wall of the church; and "We Sent His Word and Healed Them" facing the interior. The back (south side) of the small court is fully glazed, rising the full height of the neighboring sanctuary, with four fixed windows above and a sliding glass door flanked by fixed windows at the ground level. This opens onto a secondary foyer. On the west, end wall in this location is a full-height opening that is in alignment with the door on the opposite wall. Downlights illuminate this space.

West façade. The west façade of the building displays a solid brick wall, the only opening the previously mentioned full-height opening to the small courtyard.

South rear façade. The south, rear façade of the building contains two service entries with metal doors, two metal panels that appear to enclose mechanical spaces, and the rear exit to the funeral procession bay.

East façade. The east side façade of the building is solid brick masonry but for two tall, narrow openings placed symmetrically at either end that open onto the funeral procession bay. The northerly opening is in alignment with other openings paralleling the north façade of the building.

Interior. The sanctuary is the primary interior space for the building. It is located on the north end, and rises the full two stories of the building. The floor is raked, with the simple Mission style pews rising to the north. The pulpit is wood, with a curved, natural wood backdrop that makes this space more intimate in the larger volume of the sanctuary. Modern pendent lights made up of a round globe between cylindrical brass fixtures light the space, along with natural light from the window wall. Skylights bring light into the rear of the sanctuary and emphasize the textured rear wall. In addition to the soft white and brass coloring of the interior, the brick and wood textures soften and humanize the space. On the wall to the right of the pulpit, the words, "Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free," and "Divine love always has met and always will meet every human need" are spelled out in raised letters.

Changes over time. The church appears to have excellent integrity. No known changes have taken place over time. It also appears to be in very good condition.

Landscape and site design. The church displays a formal, designed landscape between the front façade of the church and the street, providing restful views for both the church attendees and office workers. The garden was created at the same time that the church was constructed. It consists of mature trees, shrubbery, low brick masonry walls, and lawn area. Today it is in slightly deteriorated condition, the brick walls and planting beds having aged. This does not detract, however, from the character of the landscaping as complimentary to the building.



Historic Property Report

Bibliography:

American Institute of Architects, Spokane Chapter, "A Selection of Contemporary Architecture in Spokane, Washington," 1967.

Houser, Michael, "Brooks, Kenneth W. (1917-1996)" docomomo wewa, http://www.docomomo-wewa.org/architects_detail.php?id=59, accessed December 2016.

Ivey, Paul, "American Christian Science Architecture and its Influence," The Mary Baker Eddy Library, [http://www.maybakereddylibrary.org/research/American-christian-science=architecture-and-its\[influence/](http://www.maybakereddylibrary.org/research/American-christian-science=architecture-and-its[influence/) accessed December 2016.

National Register of Historic Places, Brooks, Kenneth & Edna, House, Spokane, Spokane County, Washington, National Register # 04001006.

Painter, Diana, Historic and Architectural Resource Assessment of The First United Methodist Church & Rainier Club. Prepared for the First United Methodist Church and the City of Seattle. Prepared by Painter Preservation & Planning. July 2003.

Scheck, Ronald, "First Church of Christ, Scientist," Spokane Historical, https://www.google.com/?gws_rd=ssl#q=First+church+of+christ+scientist+spokane, accessed November 2016.



Historic Property Report

Inventory Details - 7/17/2003

Common name:
Date recorded: 7/17/2003
Field Recorder: M. Houser
Field Site number:
SHPO Determination Not Determined

Detail Information

Characteristics:

Category	Item
Foundation	Concrete - Poured
Plan	Rectangle
Roof Type	Flat with Eaves
Cladding	Brick
Roof Material	Asphalt/Composition - Built Up

Surveyor Opinion

Property appears to meet criteria for the National Register of Historic Places: No

Property is located in a potential historic district (National and/or local): No

Significance narrative: Chosen by Spokane Chapter of the AIA for outstanding architecture.

Bibliography: A Selection of Contemporary Architecture in Spokane, Washington - AIA Spokane Chapter, 1967.