

Historic Name: Shadle Park Reservoir

Property ID: 708465

Location



Address: 4302 N Belt St, Spokane, Washington, USA

Location Comments: Wellesley Ave & N Belt St

GeographicAreas: Spokane,T25R42E01,SPOKANE NW Quadrangle,Spokane County

Information

Construction Dates:

Construction Type	Year	Circa
Built Date	1965	
Built Date	1959	

Number of stories: N/A

Historic Use:

Category	Subcategory
Government	Government - Public Works

Historic Context: Community Planning and Development



Architect/Engineer:

Category	Name or Company
Engineer	Oslund, George R.
Architect	Spokane Utilities Engineering Staff
Architect	Muller-Munk, Peter

Project History

Project Number, Organization, Project Name	Resource Inventory	SHPO Determination	SHPO Determined By, Determined Date
2011-03-00043, , Nifty From the Last 50	4/8/2008	Not Determined	
2016-12-08751, , Spokane Mid- 20th Century Modern Survey 2016	12/18/2016		



Photos





Reservoir, looking north



ShadleParkWaterTower_Spokane.jpg





9th & Pine Street Reservoir, looking south



Night time view of reservoir





Sign on reservoir



View of top of flange and lighting



View of flange from side



Door to reservoir, north side



View of hatch at base of reservoir



View of base of flange



Shadle Park, looking east



Inventory Details - 12/18/2016

Common name:

Date recorded: 12/18/2016

Field Recorder: Diana Painter

Field Site number:
SHPO Determination

Detail Information

Characteristics:

Category	Item
Foundation	Concrete - Poured
Form Type	
Roof Type	Flat with Eaves
Roof Material	Metal
Cladding	Metal
Structural System	Metal - Steel
Plan	Round

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 Shadle Park Reservoir was constructed in 1965 under the direction of George R. Oslund, the city's Utilities Engineer. It was designed by the utilities engineering staff. From the beginning it was envisioned to be dramatic when lit at night, evidenced by the City of Spokane's photograph from the time. A brochure on Spokane's water system, published in 1969, stated that, "Progressive thinking by Utilities personnel has kept pace with this steady growth through construction; for example, of the new Shadle Park Reservoir [sic]. This facility features subdued columnar night lighting, and has received national publicity for aesthetic beauty, as well as for its functional qualities" ("Spokane Water, the Best in the West").

Enclosed reservoirs replaced Spokane's open reservoirs beginning in the mid-twentieth century. Many open reservoirs were documented at that time by photographer Charles Libby. For example, the Ninth and Pine Street reservoir, a radial folded plate structure with an innovative gutter system, has replaced the open reservoir that can be seen in Libby's photographs of Sacred Heart Hospital and St. John the Evangelist Church. Photos also show the former open reservoir in the Lincoln Heights neighborhood by Rockwood Manor, which was replaced with two concrete tanks. The mid-century water tanks join the Spokane Water Department's long history of architectural innovation, evidenced by the 1931 Art Deco City Water Tank and the 1939 South Ray Street and Hoffman Pumping Plants (Charles Libby Collection, Northwest Museum of Arts & Culture).

The water reservoir is a landmark in the Shadle Park neighborhood and is painted green and yellow, the team colors of nearby Shadle Park High School.



Physical description:

Location and setting. The Shadle Park Reservoir is located in the northwest corner of Shadle Park, in Spokane's Northwest neighborhood. Shadle Park itself bounded by Wellesley Avenue on the north; Shadle Park High School and N Ash Street on the east; W Longfellow Avenue on the south; and N Belt Street on the west. Shadle Park High School is to the east of Shadle Park. In the northwest corner, north of the reservoir, is the Shadle Park branch of the Spokane Public Library. To the direct east is a playground. Other sports fields associated with the high school are also located on the block. The immediate setting of the reservoir is planted in lawn with scattered trees. The blocks to the north, east and south of the subject block are occupied for the most part by midtwentieth century residences. To the west is Shadle Center (conceived by McClure & Adkison), a shopping center with a Walmart and Safeway, among other businesses.

Materials. The Shadle Park Reservoir is constructed of steel, with a concrete foundation; roof materials are unknown.

Massing and design. The 1965 Shadle Park Reservoir has a cylindrical, drum-like form and a flat roof. It is 107 feet in diameter and holds 4.8 million gallons of water. It is one of six reservoirs in the City of Spokane with this storage capacity, and one of 30 tank reservoirs in the city as a whole. The ribs or flanges that encircle the tank are tapered, with the smaller end occurring at the ground and the larger end terminating at the curved soffit at the top of the water tank. They form a half circle in plan. Uplights located about a third of the way up the reservoir and downlights at the top provide the dramatic night lighting that the tank enjoys. Other features on the tank include a metal tube with a man-sized door at the base within one of the flanges that extends from the ground through to the roof, and two large round hatch doors at the base, on opposite sides.

Landscape and site design. The Shadle Park Reservoir sits within Shadle Park, a largely rectangular park that contains the modern Shadle Park branch of the Spokane Public Library and parking area; two children's playgrounds; a small outdoor theater; a shelter and gazebo; a track; baseball diamonds; a basketball court; and tennis courts. The water reservoir is located within a naturalistically planted area that includes the playgrounds, shelter and gazebo, and theater. The vegetation consists of lawn with informally placed trees of various species.

Bibliography:

City of Spokane Water Department, City of Spokane, Water System Plan, May 2014, Revised September 2015.

Charles Libby Collection, Eastern Washington State Historical Society, Northwest Museum of Arts & Culture, https://www.northwestmuseum.org/learn/research.cfm, accessed December 2016.

"Spokane Water, the Best in the West" (brochure). Spokane, WA: City of Spokane Department of Public Utilities, Water Division, 1969.



Inventory Details - 4/8/2008

Common name:

Date recorded: 4/8/2008
Field Recorder: M. Houser

Field Site number:

SHPO Determination Not Determined

Detail Information

Characteristics:

Category	Item
Cladding	Metal
Plan	Round
Structural System	Metal - Steel

Surveyor Opinion

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

Significance narrative: \$.8 Million Gallon Water Tank by American Iron & Steel Institute

Part of a National Award from the NW Section of the American waterworks Assoc. to the

city of Spokane their Shadle Park, 9th & Pine and Highland Park water tanks.

Bibliography: Architecture West - Dec 27, 1960

Pacific Architect & Builder - Feb 1966

"2 Spokane Reservoirs Publicized Nationally" - Spokane Daily Chronicle - Aug 24, 1967

"Award Earned For Reservoirs" - Spokane Daily Chronicle - May 17, 1966

American Iron & Steel Institute Bulletin - 1967