

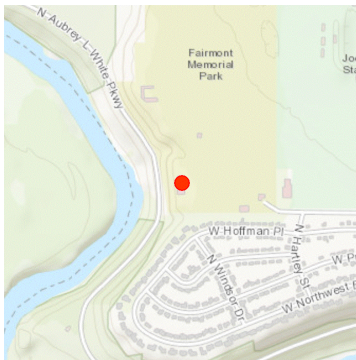


Historic Property Report

Historic Name: Fairmount Sunset Mausoleum

Property ID: 28327

Location



Address: 5200 W Wellesley Ave, Spokane, WA

Location Comments: Located at Fairmount Memorial Park

GeographicAreas: Spokane County,T26R42E34

Information

Construction Dates:

Construction Type	Year	Circa
Built Date	1965	<input type="checkbox"/>

Number of stories: N/A

Historic Use:

Category	Subcategory
Funerary	Funerary - Cemetery

Historic Context: Architecture



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Architect/Engineer:

Category	Name or Company
Builder	Warner & Brown
Architect	Vantyne, Carl

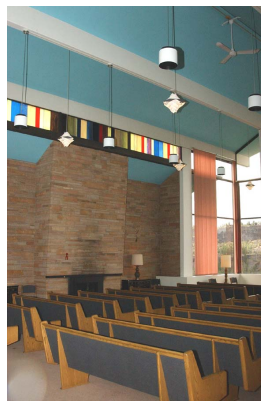
Project History

Project Number, Organization, Project Name	Resource Inventory	SHPO Determination	SHPO Determined By, Determined Date
2011-03-00043, , Nifty From the Last 50	3/9/2004	Not Determined	
2016-12-08751, , Spokane Mid-20th Century Modern Survey 2016	2/18/2017		

Photos



Chapel interior, looking west



Clerestory window above fireplace



Main entry



South facade

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Front (east) facade



Site plan



South and east facades



Entry, east facade



North and east facades



North facade

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North and west facades



West facade, north end



Sunset Niches, looking west



Sunset Niches, looking north



Sunset Niches, looking south



Spokane River, looking south from Sunset Niches

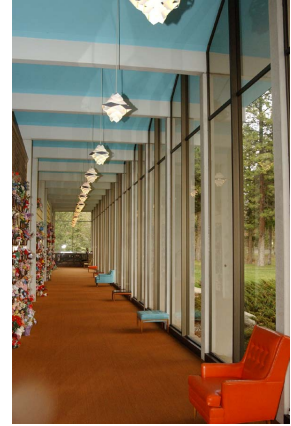
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South facade



Obelisk



Mausoleum interior hall



Roofline, typical



Foundation treatment, east side



Sign



West facade



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Inventory Details - 2/18/2017

Common name: Sunset Chapel/Mausoleum
Date recorded: 2/18/2017
Field Recorder: Diana Painter
Field Site number:
SHPO Determination

Detail Information

Characteristics:

Category	Item
Structural System	Masonry - Poured Concrete
Foundation	Concrete - Poured
Form Type	
Roof Type	Sawtooth/Folded Plate
Cladding	Stone
Plan	T-Shape
Roof Material	Asphalt/Composition - Built Up

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): Yes

Property potentially contributes to a historic district (National and/or local): Yes

Significance narrative: History. Fairmount Memorial Park was originally established as Fairmount Cemetery on May 29, 1888 by Spokane pioneer E. J. Webster. One of Spokane's oldest and largest cemeteries when founded, it served as Spokane's "Official City and County Burial Ground." It comprises 160 acres, with just over 80 developed. Greenwood Memorial Terrace was established within a week of Fairmount. Today the Fairmount Memorial Association also owns Riverside Memorial Park, Spokane-Cheney Memorial Gardens, Woodlawn Cemetery, Pines Cemetery and South Pines Cemetery in the Spokane Valley (Fairmount Memorial Association, 2017).

Historic markers installed within Fairmount Memorial Park include a commemoration of Sheriff Floyd Brower (adjacent to the Sunset Chapel and Mausoleum), who was the Spokane County sheriff during Prohibition; and Levi and May Hutton, best known for using their mining fortune to establish the Hutton Settlement in 1919, which continues

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to shelter and educate impoverished children to this day. Other Spokane pioneers and luminaries who are buried in the Park include John J. Browne, Patsy Clark, D. C. Corbin, and noted builder Frank Johnson, who got his start as foreman of general construction for the Northern Pacific Railroad Company in 1880 and for Fort Spokane from 1882 to 1884. James "Curly Jim" Silkoewoyeh also has a monument in the cemetery, although it was not placed until 2006, 89 years after his death in 1917. Curly Jim, a Spokane Indian, was a rare surviving Indian living in Spokane, where he was known for his perch at the Traders National Bank (no longer extant) and lived at his death in a small Indian village on a knoll overlooking Indian Canyon. He was considered a prominent figure; it was announced at his death that a monument would be placed on his grave, commemorating his life ("Curly Jim to Have Monument," in Young, *The Fair and the Falls*, 1996). Joel Ferris, president of the Eastern Washington State Historical Society, noted in a 1958 article for *The Spokesman-Review* that he was one of three Indians honored in a mural in the now demolished Spokane and Eastern Building. Chief Joseph and Spokane Garry were the other two. When Curly Jim's memorial was finally placed, the 4' high marker proclaimed him an "ambassador of goodwill." It was sponsored by the Spokane Police Department History Book Committee, the Spokane Law Enforcement Museum, and Fairmount Memorial Association.

The oldest building within Fairmount Memorial Park is Kirtland Cutter's 1890 stone chapel. Additional buildings in the cemetery include the modern office at the entry; a Neo-classical building at the entry; the shop and storage area; the 1953 Garden Crypt Mausoleum (also seen as Glennwood Court Niches and Temple Court Crypts); and the 1965 Sunset Chapel and Mausoleum. There are also numerous walks, gardens, and terraces in the park. Fairmount reorganized in 1946 and began its modern building program. Architect Carl W. Vantyne was hired in 1964 to expand the Garden Crypt Mausoleum and design the new Fairmount Sunset Mausoleum.

Architectural Context. The design of the Fairmount Sunset Chapel and Mausoleum is characterized by its construction method and materials. The building's roof is a thin shell concrete structure of folded plate construction. Thin shell concrete is seen in curved or folded plates and refers to the thickness of the slab or plate, which is small compared to ordinary concrete construction. The folded plate refers to a class of shell structures formed by joining flat, thin slabs along their edges to create a three-dimensional spatial structure (ACI 318.1-14 - Thin Shells). The value of this type of construction is that it is able to economically span large spaces without intermediate supports. Folded plate construction can be linear, forming a rectilinear roof as seen here, or radial, covering a round or faceted space. The folds are generally pre-cast in "V" or "W" shapes. As a result of their shapes, the forms are stiffer and lighter than conventional construction (Painter, 2012, 3). Thin-shell concrete construction is also capable of creating curved and complex geometrical shapes but without the problems caused by the weight of traditional masonry. According to architectural historian Theodore Prudon, the Lambert Airport in St. Louis, designed by Seattle architect Minoru Yamasaki, and the TWA Terminal in New York, designed by Eero Saarinen with engineering by Ammann & Whitney, are excellent examples of the use of thin shell construction "... to create unique and spectacular spaces celebrating the modernity of the function" (Prudon, 2008, 95). John Christianson, a Seattle engineer best known for construction of the Kingdome, was a foremost designer of thin shell structures. The Fairmount Sunset Chapel and Mausoleum is likely the best example of folded plate construction in Spokane.

Architect Carl Vantyne. Carl William Vantyne was born in Spokane in 1918. A graduate of

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Lewis and Clark High School, Vantyne served in the Army during World War II, where he was assigned to the 122nd Signal Radio Intelligence Company and served in the African landings, the North Apennines, and the Tunisian and Italian campaigns. He never attended college. From 1950 to 1957, Vantyne was an associate at Rigg & Vantyne, the Spokane architecture firm founded by his father, Roland (who died in 1938), and Archibald Rigg; he was named a partner in 1957. One of the most prominent commissions undertaken by Rigg and the elder Vantyne was the Masonic Temple at W. 1108 Riverside Avenue., in collaboration with Spokane's venerable G. A. Pehrson.

After Rigg's death in 1959, Vantyne opened his own practice of Carl W. Vantyne. In addition to Sunset Chapel and Mausoleum, principal works include the Harriet Cheney Cowles Memorial Library at Whitworth University, Sacred Heart Medical Center, the original River Park Square development and parking garage, and various downtown Spokane skywalks. Vantyne's 1959 Greenwood Garden Crypts Mausoleum won a Spokane AIA award in 1960. Another notable project was his 1960 addition to Libby Junior High School, which was first designed by his father's firm – Vantyne & Hughes – and built in 1928. Vantyne was hired to renovate the 1929 Art Deco Sears, Roebuck Department Store in 1962. The building was purchased by the Comstock Foundation in 1961, with the stipulation that it be converted for use as a public library. Vantyne was hired to undertake this conversion and the building was presented to the city in September 1961 (the present downtown library is on this same site; HABS No. WA-194). In 1964, Vantyne was hired to expand the Garden Crypt Mausoleum and design the Fairmount Sunset Chapel/Mausoleum. In 1971 he was hired to undertake minor renovations to the Rigg & Vantyne Masonic Temple. Vantyne died on November 28, 2003, at the age of 85.

Physical description:

Location and Setting. The Fairmount Memorial Park is home to the Sunset Chapel and Mausoleum, the Garden Crypt Mausoleum and Fairmount Cemetery. It is located at the far west end of W Wellesley Avenue, a major east-west arterial in Spokane. Fairmount Memorial Park is located above the Spokane River on a bluff; N Aubrey White Parkway parallels the river on the east side below it. Across the river is Riverside State Park. As a result, spectacular views toward the west, the river, and the wooded hillsides of Riverside State Park are enjoyed from the chapel/mausoleum – which is sited on the edge of the bluff – as well as the entire west edge of the Park. Fairmount Memorial Park is part of a complex of government, medical, and recreational uses that is located in the northwest quadrant of the intersection of W Northwest Boulevard where it crosses W Wellesley Boulevard and continues north as N Assembly Street. Within this area are Joe Albi Stadium, Spokane VA Medical Center, Dwight Merkel Sports Complex, and other recreational uses. This area is otherwise made up of primarily residential neighborhoods. North and west of the park, on the east side of the Spokane River, is open space. Directly north of the open space is another residential subdivision and the Spokane Rifle Club. South of the Park, just south of a mid-20th century residential neighborhood, is the Riverside State Park Bowl and Pitcher Area. At the entrance to the Park is the Ball & Dodd Funeral Home.

Materials. The Fairmount Sunset Chapel and Mausoleum has a concrete frame and light-weight, folded plate, thin-shell concrete roof with a concrete foundation and what appears to be a membrane roof with a narrow metal coping. Cladding is multi-colored sandstone of overall blond tones with elongated individual stones in an uncoursed pattern, and tan painted concrete. Window frames and doors are anodized aluminum. Window sills are rough-cut stone and solid panels below the windows of a synthetic

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composite. The niches on the terrace below the chapel and mausoleum have a marble face. Landscape materials consist of concrete and round stones, in addition to the plant materials.

Massing and design. The Fairmount Sunset Chapel and Mausoleum is located in the southwest corner of Fairmount Memorial Park and is perched on the edge of a bluff overlooking the Spokane River. It consists of the chapel, at the south end of the building, and the mausoleum, which is located on the north side. Both have a rectangular footprint and folded plate roof oriented east-west. The chapel is taller than the mausoleum, which allows for colored glass clearstory windows on the south façade, divided by the fireplace wall. The chapel is entered directly, with no foyer, from the entry doors on the east façade. The mausoleum is made up of 14 bays, with a long access hall that parallels the east entry façade. The window wall here is continuous, but is matched by four windows on the west façade that allow for views through the building to Riverside State Park on the opposite, west side of the Spokane River. A full-height wall of windows also characterizes the north façade. The south façade is the only enclosed façade on the building. An obelisk is located at the southeast corner of the building, within an angular water feature. The chapel is entered from a walkway and bridge across this water feature from a semi-circular parking area, which is located on the west side of the extension of Wellesley Avenue, which turns and continues northwest at this point, paralleling the river and allowing for access to the Fairmount Cemetery shop and Garden Crypt mausoleum further north. Landscaping for the chapel and mausoleum is formal and is an integral part of the facility. The Sunset Vista niches are located along a zig-zag-shaped terrace that is located below the chapel and mausoleum and parallel to the river below, allowing for spectacular views of the river and river gorge. The folded plate building was constructed in 1965.

Front (east) façade. The entry façade to the chapel is made up of three, double-height bays, each culminating in a peaked gable of the folded plate of the roof. Each bay is fully glazed, with a double door of full-height glass in a bronze metal frame at the ground level, topped by four lights; two tall, narrow lights in the center of the bay and two under the roofline. The windows and doors are framed by columns of the same sandstone cladding found throughout the building and narrow concrete 'ribs' or painted pilasters that extends to the roofline. The folded plate of the roof extends over the face of the chapel, forming deep eaves that accentuate the bays of the chapel with down lights. Visible to the left is a shallow projection that houses the fireplace that is a feature of the chapel. To the right are the 14 bays of the mausoleum, each topped with a peaked gable of the folded plate roof.

The bays of the mausoleum are made up of two-over-two-light windows, the main windows rising nearly the full height of the bay, and the upper windows extending to the underside of the folded plate of the roof. The peaks of the roof create a deep overhang that extends beyond the building face in a prow-like shape. The underside of the peaks is supported by concrete beams that rest on the concrete pilasters that support each bay. Under the windows are a short bulkhead and a deep, rough-cut stone sill. Near the center of this façade is a secondary entry with a single door with full-height glass in a bronze, anodized aluminum frame flanked by two wide sidelights. The bay to each side of this entry has a solid panel at the base, in contrast to the nearly full-height glass of the remaining bays.

North façade. The north façade forms the end wall of the mausoleum. It is made up of

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two bays, a narrow bay toward the east and a long window wall toward the west. The narrow bay, flanked by two concrete columns, coincides with the interior hallway that extends along the front of the mausoleum. On the exterior it is composed of a two-over-two-light window that rises nearly the full height of this façade. A short bulkhead clad in sandstone with a rough-cut stone sill of the same design as seen on the east façade characterizes this façade as well. The westerly bay is composed of eight, one-over-one-light windows that rise from the sill to the underside of the concrete beam that supports the underside of the last “V” of the folded plate roof.

West façade. The west façade of the Fairmount Sunset Chapel and Mausoleum matches the east façade, in the sense that the bays continue, organized by the roofline, but this façade reveals basement level under the chapel, as the ground drops away on this side of the building. The west side of the building is accessed via a set of four concrete steps with a stone-clad cheek wall and metal railing that leads to an aggregate concrete walkway. Another short flight of five concrete steps leads to the walkway that parallels the base of the building on the west side. The bays here that do not display windows are clad in the same sandstone as seen on the rest of the building. Concrete beams extend to the bottom of the “V” of the folded plate roof. The prow-like peaks project beyond the base of the “V”, as they do on the front façade. However, the concrete pilasters extend only to the top of the foundation wall; in other words, they do not support the beams, but rather are decorative in function, serving to divide the bays and add texture and pattern to the building façade.

The portion of the building that forms the west façade of the chapel projects beyond the face of the mausoleum and is cantilevered beyond a basement level at this location. A total of four, five-step stairs access this lower plaza area. The cantilevered portion is supported by four tall concrete beams that extend to the west face of the projection. The windows are composed of two-over-two lights on the north and south sides, with a short solid panel below. The west face is made up of two and three-light windows on six window bays. A solid panel makes up the base of the windows. At the basement level is a door of full-height glass with an anodized metal frame on the north side and three fixed, horizontally oriented windows with metal frames in three bays on the south side. Concrete pilasters here extend to the concrete terrace, dividing the bays and supporting the deep beams above. The face of this lower level is concrete.

South façade. The south façade of the chapel houses the fireplace on the interior. This portion of the building projects beyond the main body of the building on this façade. This portion of the building is divided into two bays by concrete columns that are flush with the exterior, which is clad in the same sandstone as the rest of the building. There are no openings in this projection. To the left or west of this projecting bay is the cantilevered portion of the building previously described. Above the projection is the end bay of the main portion of the chapel. Visible here is the last bay of the folded plate roof on the main portion of the building, as well as three series of clerestory windows of colored glass. Dividing the clerestories are three sandstone-clad chimneys that project through the roof. On the right or east is visible the side of the main entry bay, which is supported by a concrete column that is flush with the wall. The wall is otherwise clad in sandstone with no openings.

Changes over time. There are no known changes to the Fairmount Sunset Chapel and Mausoleum. It retains excellent integrity.

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Obelisk. The obelisk at Fairmount Sunset Chapel and Mausoleum is an approximately seven story structure that rises from an angular concrete pool and fountain. It has a star-like footprint made up of three angled plates and tapers slightly as it ascends. It is topped by what appears to be a lightening rod.

Landscape and site design. The landscape and site design of the Fairmount Sunset Chapel and Mausoleum is integral to the design of the building and takes advantage of the building's spectacular siting on the edge of the bluff overlooking the Spokane River and toward Riverside State Park in the distance. The grounds are entered via a parking lot on the west side of the extension of W Wellesley Avenue. A curved, symmetrically designed concrete sidewalk leads to the sidewalk from the parking area, which is a wide concrete walkway that leads straight to the central main entrance to the chapel. In accessing the chapel, it crosses the pond and fountain that is in front of the building, with a concrete bridge topped by a metal rail. The pond and fountain are angular in form, with the larger portion south of the bridge and a long narrow pool leading from the north side of the bridge to about the mid-point of the mausoleum on the east face, where the main mausoleum entrance is located. The pool itself is relatively shallow and constructed of concrete. A metal rail also separates the fountain from the main cemetery grounds.

The foundation planting around the building is relatively simple. Plant materials consist primarily of junipers and the mature evergreen trees on the site. At the base of the building on the east and south sides are beds of small, round stones, within which are set larger rocks and the memorial to Sheriff Floyd Brower. A walkway extends along the west side of the north end of the pool to the east side of the mausoleum, where it continues north. Walkways extend from this main walkway to access the Sunset Niches at about mid-point (north of the Mausoleum) access the Sunset Niches and via a ramp at the far north end. Also at the far north end, the walkway curves and descends to another walkway to access other portions of the cemetery.

The Sunset Niches are set within a low wall faced with marble that makes up the 'zig-zag' terraces that overlook the Spokane River. At the far south end, under the chapel, is a larger terrace, accessed by five sets of stairs from the upper level. To the left or west are square beds of rounded stones set within a grass-covered berm that rises to the base of the west face of the building. These basins catch the rain water from the extended gables of the folded plate roof. The terraces are made up of the sandstone seen elsewhere on the building, concrete aggregate walkways, concrete stairs and ramps, metal railings, and dark red marble on the face of the niches. The south side of the chapel is the only side without a walkway. Here the vegetation consists of lawn, junipers, and a small pine tree.



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Historic Property Report

Inventory Details - 3/9/2004

Common name:

Date recorded: 3/9/2004

Field Recorder: M. Houser

Field Site number:

SHPO Determination Not Determined

Detail Information

Characteristics:

Category	Item
Form Type	Commercial
Cladding	Brick
Structural System	Wood - Balloon Frame
Roof Type	Sawtooth/Folded Plate
Plan	Rectangle
Roof Material	Asphalt/Composition - Built Up
Foundation	Concrete - Poured

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): Yes