

Historic Property Report

Resource Name: Garden Crypt Mausoleum

Property ID: 28326

Location



Address: 5200 W Wellesley Ave, Spokane, Washington, USA
Location Comments: Located north of Fairmont Sunset Chapel and Mausoleum
Geographic Areas: Spokane County, T26R42E34

Information

Number of stories: N/A

Construction Dates:

Construction Type	Year	Circa
Built Date	1957	<input type="checkbox"/>

Historic Use:

Category	Subcategory
Funerary	Funerary - Cemetery

Historic Context:

Category
Architecture

Architect/Engineer:

Category	Name or Company
Architect	Vantyne, Carl

Thematics:

Local Registers and Districts

Name	Date Listed	Notes
------	-------------	-------

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	4/18/2017		

Photos



East front facade



Main building opening, framed view



Door opening and view of niches, typical



Door opening and view of niches, typical



Door opening and utility door, typical



Temple Court Crypts



Temple Court Crypts, detail



South end of mausoleum



Terraced walkway, east side of mausoleum



View of octagonal plaza

Historic Property Report

Resource Name: Garden Crypt Mausoleum

Property ID: 28326



Walkway south of mausoleum



Hillcrest Gardens



View of niche, typical



Historic Property Report

Resource Name: Garden Crypt Mausoleum

Property ID: 28326

Inventory Details - 4/18/2017

Common name: Garden Crypt Mausoleum
Date recorded: 4/18/2017
Field Recorder: Diana Painter
Field Site number:
SHPO Determination

Detail Information

Characteristics:

Category	Item
Foundation	Concrete - Poured
Form Type	Commercial
Roof Type	Flat with Eaves
Roof Material	Asphalt/Composition - Built Up
Cladding	Stone - Ashlar/Cut
Structural System	Masonry - Poured Concrete
Plan	Octagonal

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 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 1957 Garden Crypt Mausoleum and 1965 Temple Court Crypts; and the 1965 Fairmount 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 characteristics of the Garden Crypt Mausoleum that align it with Modernism are the use of the building form as its primary expression; the use of contrasting materials, in this case the rustic sandstone in contrast with the polished granite, to serve in lieu of architectural detailing; and few traditional decorative features. The flat roof of the mausoleum is also a modern characteristic. The previous surveyor of the building defined the building’s style as Googie/Populuxe. The canted walls are a characteristic of the Googie style, but the building otherwise lacks some of the primary characteristics of this style, including an eccentric roof form, a prominent sign, and the use of humor or visual gags. The building is more closely related to the Populuxe style, which is typically affiliated with residential properties. Characteristics of this style which are seen in this building include the use of quality materials, a combination of materials, and modulated form.

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



Historic Property Report

Resource Name: Garden Crypt Mausoleum

Property ID: 28326

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 undertook 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 Fairmount 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 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.

The Garden Crypt Mausoleum is the most northerly building/complex in Fairmont Memorial Park. All are aligned along the bluff overlooking the Spokane River. At the south edge of the park is Fairmount Sunset Mausoleum and Chapel. Farther north is a maintenance shop and another mausoleum. Just north of the shop is the Garden Crypt Mausoleum, which is about halfway between the northern and southern boundaries of the park. To the west of the mausoleum is an undeveloped area with unimproved landscaping. To the east, across the drive that serves Fairmount Memorial Park, is the main portion of the cemetery, which features naturalistic landscaping and the graves and grave markers themselves.

Materials. The Garden Crypt Mausoleum is concrete construction. The structures are clad in multi-colored sandstone of overall blond tones with elongated individual stones in an uncoursed pattern, the same cladding as seen on the Fairmount Sunset Mausoleum. The faces of the mausoleum are finished in granite and limestone. The roof terminates in a narrow metal coping, and the foundation is concrete. The plaza west of the mausoleum and the walkway along the top of the bluff, both of which have low walls, are concrete.

Massing and design. The Garden Crypt Mausoleum is a one-story structure made up of six separate components that are nonetheless joined by wing walls and, in the case of the main entrance, by a superstructure that unites the two wings in this location. The building's footprint is composed of half an octagon, with the newer Temple Court Crypts at the south end forming a long north-south wing. The building is sited at grade on the east side, is encircled by concrete walkways, and has a flat roof. To the east of the mausoleum is the drive that serves Fairmount Memorial Park. To the west is a walkway along the west side of the building, which is close to the bluff. A central, formal walkway

extends from the drive, through the westernmost portion of the building, to an octagonal plaza on the west side of the building, overlooking the Spokane River. On the north side of the central walkway are flat grave markers. The south side is planted in lawn, with no gravestones. An angled walkway with a low wall containing more niches extends south from the building. Below this walkway, on the west side, is a garden that cascades down the hill in an informal manner. This is called Hillcrest Garden, and is also a scatter garden.

The building is complex. At the north end is a square mausoleum building with notched corners. The four mausoleum buildings to the south, which make up the main portion of the complex, are largely rectangular in plan and similarly sized. To the south is the long, rectangular wing that is called the Temple Court Crypts. The main portion of the building was constructed in 1957, according to an earlier survey. The longer wing may be the expansion that architect Carl Vantyne was hired to design in 1964. The stone-clad walls frame the central portion of each wing, which is made up of five rows of niches. A distinguishing feature of the mausoleum is the fact that many of the walls are angled, with the upper portion projecting over the lower portion. Some of the niches are additionally framed in canted fin walls. These walls support a roof overhang that shelters the niches. Doorway openings also display eccentric angled openings. There is one entry to a basement level on the south side of the building; this is accessed via 14 concrete steps with a simple metal rail. Flush metal doors throughout give access to the interior of the mausoleums, and may also lead to storage areas.

The site slopes down to the west on the west side of the building. The walkways on this side of the building are terraced, with the walkway immediately adjacent to the westerly niches raised and separated from the lower level walkways by a concrete and stone-clad wall that contains more niches on the west side. The octagonal plaza that extends to the west is enclosed by a lower concrete wall that also contains niches. An octagonal garden with naturalistic plantings is located in the center here. The wall that extends to the south offers another opportunity for niches. Again, the walkways here are terraced, separated by a wall that is low on the west side and high on the east side. At the lower level, the wall curves away to the south. The higher east wall here provides another opportunity for niches, in this case three rows high, in contrast to the one row on the upper level. The superstructure that projects above the buildings at the main central walkway is wood. It is quite simple in design. At the level of the building, the wood frames the angled walls. The tall, trellis-like structure frames the view to the west.

Changes over time. The older portion of the mausoleum was constructed in 1957, according to an earlier survey for the property. The newer portion, which appears to be the most southerly and northerly buildings of the Garden Crypt Mausoleum, was constructed ca 1965.



Historic Property Report

Resource Name: Garden Crypt Mausoleum

Property ID: 28326

Bibliography:

American Institute of Architects, Spokane Chapter, *A Selection of Contemporary Architecture in Spokane*, Washington (brochure), 1967.

Carl Vantyne (obit.), *Spokesman-Review*, December 17, 2003.

Fairmount Memorial Association, <http://fairmountmemorial.com/services/traditional-services/sunset-chapel-mausoleum>, accessed February 2017.

"Finally, Curly Jim will get his due," *The Spokesman Review*, September 13, 2006.

Garrett, Patsy M. and Elisabeth Walton Potter, "Riverside Avenue Historic District National Register of Historic Places Inventory – Nomination Form," January 1976.

Mann, Joe, "Libby Junior High/Middle School," <http://www.historicspokane.org/libby>, accessed February 2017

Painter, Diana, "Thoroughly Modern Spokane," (brochure), National Trust Conference Field Session, November 2, 2012.

Prudon, Theodore H. M., *Preservation of Modern Architecture*. New York: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2008.

Russell, Julie Y., "The History of Fairmount Cemetery," *Spokanehistorical*, <http://spokanehistorical.org/>, accessed June 2017.

"Sears, Roebuck Department Store (Comstock Library), HABS No. WA-194, Historic American Buildings Survey,

Spokane City/County Historic Preservation Office, "Sears, Roebuck Department Store National Register of Historic Places Registration Form," February 1991.

Washington State Commercial Architecture, *Commercial Architecture Context Statement (1940-1975)*. Prepared for Department of Archaeology + Historic Preservation, Olympia, Washington. Prepared by Artifacts Historic Preservation, Tacoma, Washington. March 2016.

Youngs, J. William T., *The Fair and the Falls, Spokane's Expos '74*. Cheney, WA: Eastern Washington University Press, 1996.



Historic Property Report

Resource Name: Garden Crypt Mausoleum

Property ID: 28326

Inventory Details - 3/9/2004

Common name:

Date recorded: 3/9/2004

Field Recorder: M. Houser

Field Site number:

SHPO Determination

Detail Information

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