

Historic Property Report

Resource Name: John F. Kennedy Pavillion

Property ID: 25882

Location



Address: Spokane, WA

Location Comments: On the Gonzaga University Campus; general address, 502 E Boone Avenue

Geographic Areas: Spokane County, T25R43E17

Information

Number of stories: N/A

Construction Dates:

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

Historic Use:

Category	Subcategory
Recreation and Culture	Recreation and Culture - Sports Facility

Historic Context:

Category
Entertainment/Recreation

Architect/Engineer:

Category	Name or Company
Architect	McClure & Adkison

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Thematics:

Local Registers and Districts

Name	Date Listed	Notes
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Project History

Project Number, Organization, Project Name	Resource Inventory	SHPO Determination	SHPO Determined By, Determined Date
2011-03-00043, , Nifty From the Last 50	1/9/2004	Not Determined	
2016-12-08751, , Spokane Mid-20th Century Modern Survey 2016	6/5/2017		

Photos



North, front facade



North facade, east bay



East facade, northeast corner



East facade, view of hyphen

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Main entry, upper level



Sign at main entry



Building eave detail, west facade



Stairs between N Astor St and lower level



Middle bay, north facade



Middle bay, north facade

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West facade, north end



West facade, south end



South facade, looking north



View of new construction



Alley between building and N Astor St



North facade, west end

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View of new construction, east end



View of Atrium



Bust of John F Kennedy in Atrium



Inventory Details - 6/5/2017

Common name: The Charlotte Y Martin Centre
Date recorded: 6/5/2017
Field Recorder: Diana Painter
Field Site number:
SHPO Determination

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Detail Information

Characteristics:

Category	Item
Foundation	Concrete - Poured
Form Type	Articulated Frame - Concrete
Roof Type	Barrel
Roof Material	Asphalt/Composition - Built Up
Cladding	Concrete - Precast
Structural System	Masonry - Poured Concrete
Plan	L-Shape

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 John F. Kennedy Pavilion, as well as much of Gonzaga University, was developed on the grounds of the former McGoldrick Lumber Company, which can be seen in two 1929 aerial photos of the lumber yard and northwest Spokane in general (<https://ferrisarchives.northwestmuseum.org/Item/Index/8384>). Jim McGoldrick was president of Spokane's Chamber of Commerce in the 1960s, when early planning for Expo '74 was taking place, and when the Kennedy Pavilion was constructed. He also had his own plane, which might account for the early aerial photos taken of the family business (Youngs, 1996:139). Jim was the son of James P McGoldrick, who owned the McGoldrick Lumber Company and mill (US Census, 1910).

Kennedy Pavilion was constructed when the original Administration Building no longer adequately served student athletics at Gonzaga. Its genesis has been described as follows: "The basketball team had not played on campus since the Spokane Coliseum opened in 1955. The John F. Kennedy Pavilion . . . was completed in 1965. Built at a cost of \$1.1 million dollars including pledges from the student body, the building boasted two gymnasiums, a standard size Olympic pool, and multiple exercise rooms. The new basketball court could hold 3,800 basketball fans" ("GU History: 1961-1979," <http://researchguides.gonzaga.edu/c.php?g=67718&p=1599272>).

The John F. Kennedy Pavilion was named after John Kennedy after his assassination in 1963 and in honor of the country's first Catholic president. The now deceased Senator Edward ("Ted") Kennedy attended the dedication ceremony at Gonzaga in 1965 in the place of his deceased brother. At the time, Ted Kennedy was only 33 years old, but had already served three years in the Senate (Marsh, "A look back . . .," 2009). Reportedly, the Gonzaga University Campus was star-struck.

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In addition to a basketball venue and gymnasium, the original Kennedy Pavilion was also used for a concert venue in the 1960s. According to author Alyssa Hicker, writing in *The Gonzaga Bulletin* in 2010, “Probably the most famous of these events was the Vanilla Fudge concert in 1968, because Led Zeppelin . . . was the opening act.” Others who performed at the Kennedy Pavilion include Kenny Rogers and the First Addition, Iron Butterfly, Harpers Bizarre, Quicksilver Messenger Service, Cold Blood, Chicago, the Doobie Brothers, Paul Revere and the Raiders, and the Beach Boys (“Kennedy Pavilion: more than athletics”). In these years there could be two- to- three concerts a week. The popularity of the Kennedy Pavilion as a concert venue continued into the 1970s.

The name of the Kennedy Pavilion was changed to the Charlotte Y. Martin Centre when it was remodeled in 1986, to honor a major donor to the project.

Architectural Context. Neo-Expressionism is generally the “reinvention” of pre-World War II Expressionism in the mid-twentieth century or post-World War II era. Of the pre-World War II examples of Expression, probably architect Erich Mendelsohn’s 1920 sketch of the Einstein Tower at Potsdam (never realized) is the most iconic image (Pehnt, 1964:97).

Neo-Expressionist architecture is intended to evoke an emotional, rather than an intellectual response. It is typically sculptural and theatrical in appearance, often exploiting the best qualities of concrete. Neo-Expressionism is most commonly seen in religious and public buildings from the period (“Neo-Expressionism,” dnr.alaska.gov/parks/oha/styleguide/neoexpressionism.htm).

Iconic buildings and their architects from the post-war years include the Finnish architect Eero Saarinen’s buildings from 1956 and 1961, which, according to architectural historian Marcus Whiffen, “ . . . revived the assertive forms of German Expressionism of the early 1920s, particularly those of Mendelsohn.” Examples of Saarinen’s Neo-Expressionistic work from this period include the 1955 Kresge Auditorium at MIT, the 1956 Ingalls Hockey Rink at Yale University, the 1958-1962 Dulles International Airport, and perhaps best known, the 1962 Trans World Airline (TWA) Terminal at Kennedy Airport (Whiffen and Koeper, 1981:38). A dramatic visual statement and soaring forms are key characteristics of all these buildings. Italian engineer Pier Luigi Nervi was also considered a master of the style, with St. Mary’s Cathedral of San Francisco, designed with Portland architect Pietro Belluschi, being an excellent example. Another well-known Neo-Expressionist structure is the 1956-1962 United States Air Force Academy by Skidmore, Owings & Merrill.

Characteristics of the Neo-Expressionist style seen in the Kennedy Pavilion include its sculptural form, non-traditional structure, “distortion of form to evoke emotion,” organic design, use of unconventional building materials, and striking roof form (“Neo-Expressionism,” dnr.alaska.gov/parks/oha/styleguide/neoexpressionism.htm). Although the Kennedy Pavilion’s integrity has suffered over time, it is still a very striking example of the style. Another example of the style in Spokane, although without the use of the more typical concrete, is the Sacred Heart Catholic Church on Rockwood Blvd.

Architects McClure & Adkison. Royal A. McClure (1917-2006) and Thomas R. Adkison (1917-1986) established their Spokane firm in 1947. Both graduated from the University of Washington in 1941 with bachelor’s degrees and went on to work for Seattle architect J. Lister Holmes, who was perhaps best known in the early 1940s as the chief architect for Seattle’s 878-unit Yesler Terrace Defense Housing project (Ochsner, 2014:252).

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The work of McClure & Adkison was widely published in many prestigious architectural publications of the day, including *Architectural Forum*, *Arts + Architecture*, and *Progressive Architecture*. From 1947 to 1966 they practiced throughout the state, with many university commissions. They also designed schools, hospitals, clinics and churches, particularly in the Spokane area and eastern Washington. One of their most highly visible commissions was the design of Spokane's U.S. Court House and Federal Building, for which they teamed up with Culler, Gale, Martell, Norrie & Davis, and Walker & McGough.

Both McClure and Adkison were active in the AIA served on many local and regional committees and boards, including as charter members of the Planning Association of Washington. Adkison was elected to the AIA College of Fellows in 1978.

McClure, a Seattle native, received a Masters in Architecture from Harvard in 1946 and was later the recipient of the prestigious Arthur Wheelright Fellowship for travel in Europe, awarded in 1954-55 by Harvard for professional achievement. In addition to his design work, McClure was acting head of the University of Idaho's Department of Architecture in 1947-48 (Ochsner, 2014:459). After 1966, McClure practiced on his own, and then as McClure/Nixon, beginning in 1970.

Tom Adkison, an Idaho native, went on to practice as Thomas R. Adkison after 1966. He was in charge of the Expo '74 World's Fair site plan and proposed a plan for a Spokane Metro Center on the north bank of the river (Spokane Skyline, 1992). His good humor and ability to work with people is credited, to a large degree, for the successful master planning of the Expo (Youngs, 1996). According to *Spokesman Review* journalist Dorothy Powers, writing in 1973, "Thomas R. Adkison tramps his 100 acre land-and-water site these days like a field general who knows he's winning" (Youngs, 1996:308).

Physical description:

The three-story John F. Kennedy Memorial Pavilion, constructed in 1965, was re-named the Charlotte Y. Martin Centre (Martin Centre) in 1987, after a 1986 renovation. It is part of a complex that includes the McCarthy Athletic Center to the east, which houses the basketball court used by the university teams today. The Kennedy Pavilion is connected to the McCarthy Athletic Center by a hyphen that is a loading facility at the ground level on the south side. An addition that houses a fitness center is located in the northwest corner of the original building. A new central entry has been constructed on the north side of the building, which accesses the second and third levels. Today a large addition (the Center for Academic Achievement) is being added at the southeast corner of the Pavilion. All changes to the building have been done with sensitivity, keeping the most important character-defining features of the original building.

Location and setting. The Kennedy Pavilion is located on the Gonzaga University campus, which is north of the Spokane River, north and east of downtown, and north of the new Washington State University/Eastern Washington University campus on the south side of the river. It is located in the southeast quadrant of the campus, south of Mulligan Field and Foley Center Library, and east of Luger Field. To the south of Kennedy Pavilion is the Gonzaga Law Center, which is on the Spokane River. The complex is south of N Astor Street, which switches to Upper Kennedy Drive by the library. This street parallels the

complex on the upper level. The entry to the McCarthy Athletic Center is at grade here, while the Kennedy Pavilion is one level lower. The campus as a whole is in a very urban setting, east of N Division Street and south of E Mission Avenue, but is also located within a bend of the Spokane River, which provides relief from the urban location.

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Materials. The Kennedy Pavilion has a concrete frame, concrete foundation, and aggregate infill panels. Roofing materials are unknown, but may be a built-up asphalt roof or a membrane roof.

Massing and design. The Kennedy Pavilion is made up of four early bays, a large bay on the east end, followed by two intermediate bays, and another large bay. A small bay on the west end, in the northwest corner, is the physical fitness infill addition. There is also a small addition on the southwest corner. A small “hyphen” addition on the east end connects the original building to the new McCarthy Athletic Center on the far east end of the entire complex. Each of the original bays is made up of barrel vaults framed and buttressed by concrete piers. Infill panels between each pier are made up of aggregate panels separated by narrow aluminum strips. The footprint of the original building was U-shaped (see below); the existing footprint is largely L-shaped, but will be irregular in plan as the new addition reaches completion. The following records the core of the original building, with its westerly addition.

North façade. The concrete buttresses flare out at the top of the building in an exuberant shape that functions as a eave or cornice and visual connection to the next bay. The underside of these flared eaves are infilled with a semi-translucent material or metal panels. The lower level of the building is about one floor below the grade of the rest of the campus; an asphalt service road runs parallel to this facade. This area is retained by concrete blocks and a natural earthen slope from N Astor Street and Upper Kennedy Drive above. The area is filled with utilities. Numerous flush metal service doors are located along the base of the building. The far western bay exhibits two long, straight, concrete stairs to the second level of the building in this location, beginning near the center of the bay and ending at each side. Between the third and fourth bay is a newer (ca 1987) entry to the building. Here stairs and ramps lead from the sidewalk level of N Astor Street and Upper Kennedy Drive to the second and third levels of this bay. Above the centered entry at the upper level is a gabled skylight that runs the full depth of the building. Two sets of double doors here are wood, flanked by sidelights and topped by a transom. These doors lead to an entry vestibule with an elevator at the end. The skylights create an atrium-like space at the lower levels. The bust of Kennedy, by sculptor Larry J Calnan, is now in the atrium. Flanking the concrete ramp to the third level are concrete stairs to each side, leading to the second level entry. A monument sign is located in front of the main ramp, which is perpendicular to the entry. It comprises an aggregate infill panel in a concrete frame, echoing the design of the building itself. Spelled out in free-standing letters is, “The Charlotte Y. Marin Centre.”

West façade. The west end bay is new. It is about the same height as the adjacent bay, but has a flat roof. The addition is composed of aggregate panels with a three-story window wall with elaborate canopies facing Luger Field. Fronting this facade is an asphalt drive. About halfway down the asphalt drive is a metal banner over the drive that displays an illustration of a bulldog, with “Luger Field” spelled out below. This infill bay adjoins a barrel-vaulted bay at the southwest corner of the building that may also be new.

South façade. The south façade of the building on the west end is made up of the south end of the barrel-vaulted westerly bay. Displayed on the east edge of this bay is a sign spelling out “Charlotte Y. Martin Center” in freestanding letters. To the east of the bay the new Academic Achievement Center is being constructed. It is pulled away from the easterly buttresses of the west bay. At the same time, the west buttresses of the former third bay in this location are being preserved, to preserve the sense of the former walkway here.

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East façade. The south end of the east façade will be the east façade of the new addition, when completed. Perpendicular to the east façade is the hyphen that connects the Kennedy Pavilion to the 1987 McCarthey Athletic Center. The south façade of this hyphen is made up of two loading docks with roll-up doors. On the north side of the east façade is the east end wall of the original building. This area is full of utilities at the ground level. There are no other openings here.

Changes over time. Changes to the Kennedy Pavilion are noted above. The building is now connected to the McCarthey Athletic Center to the east. A new addition is located on the west end, made up of two bays connected north to south. A new second and third-level entry is located between the third and fourth bays, marked by a glazed gable roof above a double entry doors. Finally, a new addition is being constructed in the southeast corner of the original building. Today the building houses the Athletic Department offices, a Fitness Center, and Physical Education facilities. As described by campus architect Mac McCandless, "The Martin Centre began as two buildings with an open courtyard separating the pool building and the pavilion. The stairs descended into an open corridor. 'In 1984 when they built the field house they enclosed it with the atrium. They put the atrium in and then put the other steps up above so you can get up and down.'"

Changes have occurred to the building, but care has been taken to make these changes compatible, and to preserve key character-defining features of the 1965 building. It is very unusual for a university to preserve a mid-20th century building in the midst of a growing, thriving campus, and Gonzaga University has done a good job of retaining this iconic mid-1960s building. It is in very good condition. It is the opinion of this author that the building is not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C, for its design, due to lack of integrity. It may, however, be eligible under Criterion A, for its association with patterns of events at the local level, for its association with Entertainment/Recreation in the 1960s.

The following is a description of the new addition to the Kennedy Pavilion, whose construction is now underway: "The 51,240 square foot Volkar Center for Athletic Achievement will help student-athletes succeed in competition, in the classroom and in the community. With an estimated cost of \$24 million, the building will house student-athlete support services, a weight room, nutrition center, basketball practice court, Gonzaga Athletics Hall of Fame, and multiple meeting areas. Combined with spaces in the Martin Centre and McCarthey Athletic Center, the building will provide Gonzaga student-athletes with among the finest facilities and support services in the nation." (<http://www.alscarchitects.com/portfolio/in-progress/gonzaga-university-center-for-athletic-achievement/>)

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Inventory Details - 1/9/2004

Common name: Martin Centre - Gonzaga University

Date recorded: 1/9/2004

Field Recorder: M. Houser

Field Site number:

SHPO Determination



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Detail Information

Characteristics:

Category	Item
Structural System	Masonry - Poured Concrete
Cladding	Concrete - Poured
Plan	Rectangle
Foundation	Concrete - Poured
Roof Type	Barrel
Roof Material	Asphalt/Composition - Built Up
Form Type	Commercial
Form Type	Articulated Frame - Concrete

Surveyor Opinion

Bibliography: Building designer Tom Adkison was an AIA fellow and Spokane Chapter president in 1953. He also served on the City of Spokane's Park Board. AIA 150 Celebrates Tom Adkison, FAIA. Ellen Robey, Terri McRae & David Huotari of ALSC Architects, Spokane AIA Newsletter, Spokane, WA, December 2007.