



## Historic Property Report

**Historic Name:** IBM Building

**Property ID:** 706415

### Location



**Address:** 799 S Stevens St, Spokane, Washington, USA

**GeographicAreas:** Spokane County, Spokane, Spokane County, T25R43E19, SPOKANE NW Quadrangle

### Information

#### Construction Dates:

Construction Type	Year	Circa
Built Date	1965	<input type="checkbox"/>
Built Date	1979	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Number of stories:** N/A

#### Historic Use:

Category	Subcategory
Commerce/Trade	Commerce/Trade - Professional
Commerce/Trade	Commerce/Trade - Professional

**Historic Context:** Architecture

#### Architect/Engineer:

Category	Name or Company
Builder	Purvis Construction Co.
Architect	Kirk, Wallace, McKinley & Associates
Engineer	Worthington, Skilling, Helle & Jackson

## Photos



east façade



SRS-32i.JPG



SRS-32h.JPG



SRS-32g.JPG



SRS-32f.JPG



SRS-32e.JPG



## Historic Property Report



SRS-32d.JPG



SRS-32c.JPG



SRS-32b.JPG



SRS-32a.JPG

### IBM OFFICE BUILDING

Spokane, Washington

A 3-story office structure, with 7,100 square feet per floor; tenant spaces vary from 30' to 35' in depth.

Situated on a steeply sloping wooded hillside site looking north over the city of Spokane. Orientation, and restrictions of site access and egress, dictated the plan form. Five office bays face south, with sun protection afforded by cantilevered concrete forms. Nine office bays face north for a view of the city.

Structure is reinforced concrete, with exposed concrete columns and window forms. Exterior and walls are surfaced with basaltic rock matching outcrops of rock on the site. A bridged entry permitted the retention of existing trees.

On-site parking space for 47 cars is divided for guests, staff and service.

Completed September, 1965.





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### Inventory Details - 10/1/2003

**Common name:**

**Date recorded:** 10/1/2003

**Field Recorder:** M. Houser

**Field Site number:**

**SHPO Determination**

### Detail Information

**Characteristics:**

Category	Item
Cladding	Stone
Plan	Irregular
Form Type	Commercial
Foundation	Concrete - Poured
Roof Type	Flat with Parapet
Structural System	Masonry - Poured Concrete
Roof Material	Asphalt/Composition - Built Up
Cladding	Concrete - Poured
Form Type	Articulated Frame - Concrete

### 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

**Significance narrative:** Chosen by Spokane Chapter of the AIA for outstanding architecture. Robert Chittock - Landscape Architect

**Bibliography:** Architecture West - May 1967



## Historic Property Report

### Inventory Details - 7/17/2016

**Common name:** IBM Building  
**Date recorded:** 7/17/2016  
**Field Recorder:** Stephen Emerson  
**Field Site number:** SRS-32  
**SHPO Determination**

### Detail Information

#### Characteristics:

Category	Item
Foundation	Concrete - Poured
Form Type	Commercial - Professional Building
Roof Type	Flat with Parapet
Roof Material	Asphalt/Composition - Built Up
Cladding	Stone - Rubble
Structural System	Metal - Steel
Plan	Irregular

### 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

## Historic Property Report

<b>Significance narrative:</b>	<p>The 799 S. Stevens Street half of this complex of two commercial buildings was constructed in 1965. The other half, at 801 S. Stevens Street, was built in 1979. The first occupant was the International Business Machine Corporation (IBM). That company was approaching the zenith of its success, before it was largely eclipsed in later decades by the success of personal computers developed by companies like Microsoft and Apple. IBM stayed until about 1985, sometimes sharing office space with other businesses, including the New England Mutual Life Insurance Company and the Oregon Automobile Insurance Company. Through much of the 1990s the building apparently was vacant, for unknown reasons. In 1998, Itronix Corporation took over. Itronix was another high tech company associated with computers. Since 2010, the primary tenant has been Inland Imaging, which has shared the space with other health care related businesses. The most recent company to share office space in the building is Keller Williams Realty. The architectural firm that designed the IMB Building was Kirk, Wallace, McKinley &amp; Associates. It was formed in 1960 by prominent Seattle architect Paul Hayden Kirk, with two of his partners, Donald S. Wallace and David A. McKinley. Kirk graduated from the University of Washington in 1937 and partnered with several other architects until 1950, when he opened his own sole proprietorship in Seattle. He became a protagonist of Mid-Century Modern styles, especially the International Style, with its flat roofs, bands of windows, and angular geometric shapes. He later distanced himself from the International Style, declaring it to be "an architecture which has been imposed on the land by man." He developed an "increasing tendency towards complex structural detailing". This approach is reflected in the design of the IMB Building, with its contrast of stark angular concrete and the fractal appearance of the basalt walls. During the 1950s he won several awards and many accolades. Kirk, Wallace, and McKinley also designed Streeter and Morrison halls at Eastern Washington University, as well as the Washington Mutual Savings Bank Building in Spokane. Mr. Kirk retired in 1979 and died in 1995.</p> <p>The IBM Building is one of the foremost examples of Mid-Century Modern Architecture in Spokane. It retains outstanding integrity of its historic appearance and original construction materials. Its use of the ancient building medium of stone in conjunction with modern architectural techniques executed in concrete, create an appearance that is at once stern and pleasing to the eye. In technical terms, the building can be described as an example of Brutalism, seen in the concrete grid work, and Neo-Expressionism, as reflected in the curvilinear rock walls. The IBM Building is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, under Criterion C, architecture.</p>
<b>Physical description:</b>	<p>These two mid-century modern buildings are joined together by a skywalk and share a number of design characteristics. Both buildings are 3-stories high and are constructed of steel and concrete. The building at 801 S. Stevens Street has a parking garage area on the bottom floor. Both have flat built-up roofs with eaves and parapets. Both buildings have small penthouses on the top of the roof. The exterior surfaces of both buildings are of two types. Some are divided into compartmentalized rectangles, defined by concrete walls, containing large steel sash windows. Others are 3-story sheer walls, curvilinear in cross-section, that are completely clad with randomly placed mortared basalt rubble.</p>
<b>Bibliography:</b>	<p>Emerson, Stephen. A Historic Property Inventory of Rock Structures in Spokane County, Washington. Archisto Enterprises, 2016.</p>