

# Staff Report and Findings of Fact Nomination to the Spokane Register of Historic Places Franklin Elementary, 2627 E. 17th Avenue

## FINDINGS OF FACT

1. **SMC 17D.100.090:** "Generally a building, structure, object, site, or district which is more than fifty years old may be designated an historic landmark or historic district if it has significant character, interest, or value as part of the development, heritage, or cultural characteristics of the city, county, state, or nation."
  - Completed in 1909 with a wing addition in 1953 (demolished) and a new addition to the north and west of the original building, Franklin Elementary meets the 50-year age criteria established for listing in the Spokane Register of Historic Places.
  
2. **SMC 17D.100.090: The property must qualify under one or more categories for the Spokane Register (A, B, C, D, E).**
  - **Under Category A**, Franklin Elementary School is historically significant under Category A for its direct contribution to the broad pattern of educational development in Spokane. The nominated building represents a second phase of school construction in the city and was one of the structures built as part of a quarter-million dollar effort to modernize the school system just after the turn of the 20th century.
  - A later addition in the early 1950s shows how the district adapted to the post-WWII baby boom and the changing needs of its students, teachers and administrators (wing demolished in 2018 and a new addition constructed).
  - **Under Category C** as a resource that embodies the distinguishing characteristics of its type and period of construction. Stylistically the school represented a shift from the grand Romanesque Revival structures with bell towers of the 1880s, to the more restrained classical traditions of broken cornices, flat roofs and symmetry of the turn-of-the-century.
  - The school is an outstanding example of early public school architecture in Spokane and is one of a few standing elementary school structures from a second wave of school construction in the city.
  - The school also represents the work of noted Spokane architect, Loren L. Rand whose career spanned more than 30 years.
  
3. The property must also possess integrity of location, design, materials, setting, workmanship, feeling and association (36 CFR 60). *Integrity is the ability of a property to convey its significance...it is not necessary for a property to retain all its historic physical features...the property must retain, however, the essential physical features that enable it to convey its historic identity* (National Register Bulletin 15).
  - Franklin Elementary retains good integrity in terms of its location, setting, design, workmanship, materials, feeling and association.

## STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Franklin Elementary qualifies for eligibility under Spokane Register Categories A and C.

Preservation Officer Review: Megan Duvall  
Nominations Committee: Shockley, Rast  
Landmarks Commission Review: Pending

Report: 5/9/19  
Site Visit: 5/8/19  
Hearing: 5/15/19