

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

FEB 3

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

Historic name Opportunity Township Hall

Other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 12114 East Sprague Avenue N/A not for publication

city or town Spokane Valley N/A vicinity

State Washington code WA county Spokane code 063 zip code 99026

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

2-2-05

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

WASHINGTON STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet

determined eligible for the
National Register.
 See continuation sheet

determined not eligible for the
National Register.

removed from the
National Register.

other (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

3/15/05

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not incl. previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Non-Contributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

None

6. Functions or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Government

Sub: City Hall

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Recreation and Culture

Sub: Museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th & 20th Century Revivals:

Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation cement

walls stucco

roof synthetic: rubber

other clay tile blocks

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property.)

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- X A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
X C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
B removed from its original location.
C a birthplace or grave.
D a cemetery.
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
F a commemorative property.
G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Politics/Government

Period of Significance

1912-1948

Significant Dates

1912

1948

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Smith, C. Harvey (Architect)

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property.) SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.) SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
previously listed in the National Register
previously determined eligible by the National Register
designated a National Historic Landmark
#
recorded by Historic American Engineering
Record#

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
Federal agency
Local government
University
Other

Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property Less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM References on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>11</u> Zone	<u>481</u> <u>91</u> <u>8</u> Easting	<u>527</u> <u>8</u> <u>003</u> Northing	3	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> Northing
2	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> Northing	4	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> Northing

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property.) See continuation sheet.

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected.) See continuation sheet.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Clark N. Bainbridge, Ph.D.

organization Spokane Valley Legacy Foundation date 27 August 2004

street & number P.O. Box 141341 telephone (509) 217-2737

city or town Spokane Valley state WA zip code 99214

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner (Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Spokane Valley Legacy Foundation

street & number P.O. Box 141341 telephone (509) 217-2737

city or town Spokane Valley state WA zip code 99214

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet –

OPPORTUNITY TOWNSHIP HALL
SPOKANE COUNTY, WASHINGTON

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Narrative Description:

Opportunity Township Hall, a rectangular one-story building, is located in the newly formed city of Spokane Valley. The Township Hall, erected in 1912 (with a rear 1948 addition), stands on the earliest commercial block in the former township of Opportunity. Spokane architect C. Harvey Smith, a resident of Opportunity Township, designed the building in a Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival Style.¹ The building sits between Robie Road and Pines Road on the south side of Sprague Avenue. Sprague Avenue runs in an east-west direction and contains a lengthy strip of businesses that extends from the city of Spokane (located west of Opportunity Township Hall) to the eastern outskirts of the city of Spokane Valley. Pines Road (Highway 27) runs in a north-south direction from near the Spokane River to the city of Pullman. Commercial buildings line Pines Road north of Sprague Avenue. A parking lot and narrow alleyway currently separate the Opportunity Township Hall from its nearest neighbors—a denture clinic to the west and a tavern to the east.

The first business on the block was a general store, Opportunity Store, built on the southwest corner of Sprague and Pines before 1906 (building no longer exists). In 1909, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF) began construction of a two-story brick building near Opportunity Store. The IOOF Hall was dedicated in 1911. Opportunity State Bank, a commercial brick building, opened next to the IOOF Hall in 1919. In addition, carpenter John W. Knight constructed wooden buildings before the 1920s that housed his son's business, A. E. Knight's Plumbing and Heating, and Groves Garage.

In 1921, a fire destroyed most of the wooden buildings on the block, including the Knight buildings, and gutted the IOOF Hall. Opportunity Township Hall, located west of the commercial brick buildings, escaped the fire of 1921. The IOOF Hall was repaired after the fire. The Knight buildings were rebuilt with brick.² Thus, in the 1920s the block held a continuous strip of adjacent commercial brick buildings consisting (from east to west) of Opportunity State Bank, the IOOF Hall, and the Knight buildings. Although the commercial brick buildings have undergone modifications and changes in ownership, the buildings have remained up to the present time.

EXTERIOR

The Opportunity Township Hall has a concrete foundation, and clay tile walls clad with brick then skim-coated with stucco. The building has a shallow pitched built-up roof, which is hidden by a short parapet wall. Three brick chimneys pierce the roof at various locations, none of which are visible from the main façade.

The primary architectural details are reserved for the main (north) facade of the building. Here you will find a formal, symmetrical layout. Lending details to the Mission Revival style are the shaped parapet walls on the main building and a covered entry vestibule. A wide, main entry door is highlighted by a set of engaged Tuscan columns holding an ornately scrolled

¹ For an architectural discussion of the Mission and Spanish Colonial Revival styles, see Marcus Whiffen, *American Architecture Since 1780: A Guide to the Styles*, rev. ed. (Cambridge: MIT Press, 1992), 213-216, 225-228; and Spokane City-County Historic Preservation Department at www.historicspokane.org/vtour_opportunityhall.htm.

² For historical information on the Knight Block, see *Spokane Valley Today*, February 1987, excerpt, "A Turn-of-the-Century Big Businessman," in Florence Boutwell, comp., *The Spokane Valley: A History of the Early Years*, vol. 1 (Spokane: Arthur H. Clark, 1994), 127; *Spokane Valley Today*, March 1988, excerpt, "Brickworks at Mica," in Boutwell, vol. 1, 130-131; *Spokane Valley Today*, February 1987, excerpt, "A Place Called Opportunity," in Boutwell, vol., 161-163; and Mary (Walker) Michaels, "Joseph John Walker, M.D.," in Florence Boutwell, comp., *The Spokane Valley: A History of the Growing Years, 1921-1945*, vol. 2 (Spokane: Arthur H. Clark, 1995), 171. Also see photographs in Boutwell, vol. 1, on pages 2 and 178; and in Boutwell, vol. 2, page 170.

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parapet. Above the door is a half round fanlight. Centered on the main façade above the entry vestibule is an ornate concrete cast sign in the shape of a scroll. The scroll reads: "ANNO OPPORTUNITY 1912." Below is a set of four square tiles, angled to form a diamond shape. A smaller set is found within the parapet wall of the entry vestibule.

Further architectural details on the main façade include four unique windows. On either side of the entry door is a set of four windows. The bottom windows are wood, double hung units with diamond pane upper sashes. These rest on a heavy sill plates which are highlighted by small corbels. Over the double-hung units are half-round fanlights. These units match the fanlight above the entry door. The window units on the far outside edges of the main façade are 1/3 the width of the other windows, but still have the diamond pane upper sashes and tall, narrow fanlights with round, segmental arches.

The west and east facing sides of Opportunity Township Hall contain evenly spaced rectangular windows set into unadorned stucco walls. The windows are four-over-four wood sash units topped with a simple four-pane rectangular transom. On the east side of the building the lower double hung units have been covered over in plywood. The windows were likely boarded because a narrow alleyway, less than fifty-three inches wide, separates Opportunity Township Hall from its east side neighbor.

The south facing or back of the building was extended in 1948.³ Clad in stucco, the addition has a lower roof extending approximately two feet below the main structure. Two metal frame, six-pane, fixed light windows add light to this space. A single, flush panel door with security screen is found on the rear façade. A small concrete stoop leads to the rear door.

The building's exterior has suffered from weather damage. Deterioration of the stucco has left brick exposed in some locations. Also, the ornate scroll-shaped sign has pulled away from its original position against the building.

INTERIOR

The 2,452sq. ft. building is comprised of a large hall space and several small supporting spaces at the four corners of the building. The main entry is flanked by an office space to the east and a cloak room/bathrooms to the west. Here original five panel wood doors, with simple wood trim divide the rooms. The bathrooms also retain there original sinks and faucets. All of the rooms currently have dropped suspended ceilings.

An open entryway leads to the hall, the main part of the interior, which consists of approximately 1400 square feet of floor space.⁴ The hall is devoid of architectural detail and interior trim. The walls and ceiling are plaster, and the floor is covered in 12" x 12" VCT tile. A track on the south wall, at the ceiling level, holds large floor-to-ceiling curtains and is believe to have held a projection screen. This is evidenced by a small projection room above the entry which has a small square opening overlooking the hall for the projection of movies. The space is currently accessed by a modern pull-down attic door.

Modification of the building in 1948 added approximately 628 square feet. Today, the added space includes a kitchen, a storage room, and an entryway to the basement. The kitchen is accessed via a single entry door and two sliding, roll-up windows above a counter area. Inside are period kitchen cabinets and a modern sink, countertop and appliances.

³ Date of the modification of Opportunity Township Hall from "Spokane County Planning Commission Structure Permit, Number: A 1666," signed 17 November 1948. The permit was stored at the Auditor's Office, Spokane County Courthouse, Spokane, WA. It is currently held at the Spokane Valley Heritage Museum Archives.

⁴ "Revised Floor Plan of Town-Hall at Opportunity," by Architect C. Harvey Smith. The floor plan is stored at the Washington State Archives, Eastern Region, Eastern Washington University, Cheney, WA. A copy of the floor plan is held at the Spokane Valley Heritage Museum Archives, Spokane Valley, WA.

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SPOKANE COUNTY, WASHINGTON

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Narrative Statement of Significance:

Opportunity Township Hall, located on Sprague Avenue between Robie Road and Pines Road in the city of Spokane Valley, Washington meets local significance eligibility requirements for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C. Politics and government are areas of significance under Criteria A. The hall served as a public building for the enactment and administration of laws, rules, and regulations. The hall also served as a community center. Architecture is significant under Criteria C. The hall's design and structure represents an early example of the Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival Style, a rare though not unknown architectural style in the Inland Northwest. The period of significance begins in 1912, the year the hall was constructed and ends in 1948 when the rear addition was constructed.

Historical Development:

The history of Washington state townships begins with the adoption of the state constitution in 1889. Washington's constitution granted the state legislature authority to provide for the organization of townships within counties.¹ Six years later, the state lawmakers responded.

In 1895, the state legislature established provisions for township organization. The provisions of the law enabled electors of each county to petition their county commissioners to put township organization up for a vote in general elections. If the issue passed, the commissioners were required by law "to divide all the surveyed portion of the county, outside of incorporated cities, towns and villages, into organized townships."²

Once organized, the electors of a township voted for a board of supervisors, clerk, treasurer, justice of the peace, constable, poundmaster, assessor, and road overseer. Township officials enforced laws and regulations, controlled domestic animals, and administered improvements, such as the building and maintenance of streetlights, sidewalks, roads, and bridges. Townships derived their main source of revenue from property taxes.³

Only two counties in Washington state, Spokane and Whatcom, adopted township organization.⁴ Spokane County citizens first voted on township organization in the general election of November 1906. A majority of electors who voted on the issue favored organization, but only 39 percent of those who voted cast their votes on the issue. Since the state constitution required a favorable vote from the majority of total electors, Spokane County failed to adopt the organization of townships in 1906.⁵ In the November 1908 general election, a majority of Spokane County electors voted to adopt township organization. After the

¹ *Constitution of Washington*, Art. 11, § 4.

² "Providing for Township Organization," *Session Laws of the State of Washington*, Laws 1895, ch. 175, pp. 472-508 (quotation from p. 473, § 4). The law was codified in the *Revised Code of Washington* (RCW) as title 45.

³ RCW 45.12.010, et seq.; "An Act Relating to Townships," Senate Bill Report SB 5287, 1-2; "An Act Relating to Townships," House Bill Report SB 5287, 1-2; "Legal Guide to Township Officials," n.p., n.d., located at Spokane Valley Heritage Museum Archives, Spokane Valley, WA; and "Township Organization Plea," *The Spokesman-Review*, Tuesday Morning (3 November 1908): 7.

⁴ "An Act Relating to Townships," Senate Bill Report SB 5287, 2; and "An Act Relating to Townships," House Bill Report, SB 5287, 2.

⁵ *Wm. T. Milliken et al v. Board of Commissioners of Spokane County*, in *Washington Reports*, vol.49 (March 17, 1908 -- June 29, 1908): 70-75. In the general election of 1906, 3,585 votes were cast in favor of township organization and 820 against, but the total number of voters were 11,373. Hence, the issue failed in 1906 because a majority of Spokane County voters did not vote in favor of township organization.

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election, the Spokane County Commissioners divided the county into forty-six townships, including Opportunity Township No. 34. Spokane County townships began to organize on March 2, 1909.⁶

Opportunity Township:

Spokane County was not entirely rural in 1909 nor did it lack influence in the region. The city of Spokane had swelled from a population of 20,000 at the time of Washington statehood to over 104,000 by 1910. City boosters of the time believed in an unlimited future for Spokane as the hub of an inland empire that stretched from the Rockies to the Cascades and from the Blue Mountains to well within the Canadian province of British Columbia.⁷

Rural sections of the county, however, remained sparsely populated. Spokane Valley, east of the city of Spokane, had a population in 1910 of only 3,503.⁸ Opportunity Township, part of the valley, had few amenities. Sprague and Pines, which would become two of the major thoroughfares of Spokane Valley, were unpaved. A few wooden buildings lined dirt roads. Most of the settled landscape consisted of vegetable, cattle, and dairy farms.⁹

Nevertheless, Opportunity was on the verge of its first major economic stimulus. In 1900, a deep well dug for the purpose of irrigation tapped into the aquifer beneath the valley floor. Six years later, eighteen year-old Laura Kelsey won a \$10 cash prize for naming Opportunity (at the time an irrigation district). By 1909, Spokane land speculators had incorporated the businesses of Vera Electric Water Company, Modern Irrigation & Land Company, and Modern Electric Water Company. The companies dug wells, installed centrifugal gas-powered pumps, and bought several thousand acres in and near Opportunity in the hope of selling irrigated land to prospective settlers.¹⁰

Irrigation, not only from the aquifer but also from the Spokane River and several lakes, enabled the growth of prized Hearts of Gold cantaloupe, strawberries, raspberries, tomatoes, sweet corn, cabbage, celery, cucumbers, squash, beans, peas, and other produce as well as apple orchards, the first major industry of Opportunity and of Spokane Valley as a whole. By 1922, the valley had over a million and a half apple trees covering 12,000 acres. Spokane Valley apple packing plants shipped the product throughout the United States and other parts of the world. Though the apple industry remained in the valley until the late 1960s, the peak years of the industry occurred in the 1920s.¹¹

⁶ "Township Hold First Elections," *The Spokesman-Review*, Monday Morning (1 March 1909): 7.

⁷ D. W. Meinig, *The Great Columbia Plain: A Historical Geography, 1805-1910* (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1995), 459-465.

⁸ Tom M. Smith, "Synopsis of Early Spokane Valley History," in Florence Boutwell, comp., *The Spokane Valley: A History of the Early Years*, vol. 1 (Spokane: Arthur H. Clark, 1994), 18.

⁹ *Spokane Valley Today*, February 1987, excerpt, "A Place Called Opportunity," in Boutwell, vol. 1, 161; and photographs, in Boutwell, vol. 1, 2 and 160.

¹⁰ John Vlahovich, "Modern Electric Water Company," in Boutwell, vol. 1, 141-142; Paul Rhodes, "Vera Water and Power," in Boutwell, vol. 1, 143-145; *Spokane Valley Today* excerpt, "A Place Called Opportunity," in Boutwell, vol. 1, 161; and "Mrs. Laura Berry Named Opportunity," *Spokane Valley Herald*, Thursday (31 March 1960): 2.

¹¹ *Spokane Valley Today* excerpt, "Apples," in Boutwell, vol. 1, 112-114; Robert Sandberg excerpt, "Truck Farming," in Florence Boutwell, comp., *A History of the Growing Years, 1921-1945*, vol. 2 (Spokane: Arthur H. Clark, 1995), 70-72; and Syverson-Kelly Advertising Agency, "Spokane Valley" (Inland-Northwest Printing Company, n.d.), 19, Spokane Valley Heritage Museum Archives.

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Opportunity Township Hall came into existence as irrigated apple orchards began to appear in Spokane Valley. On July 6, 1910, Modern Irrigation & Land Company transferred ownership of a lot to Opportunity Township at a cost of \$1.00.¹² Two years later, the Township Hall was constructed on the lot from the designs of Spokane architect and Opportunity resident C. (Charles) Harvey Smith.¹³

Architecture

C. Harvey Smith was born in Ottawa, Kansas on May 7, 1868 and raised in Bethany, Illinois. After graduating from high school, he worked briefly for his father, Hugh A. Smith, a building contractor. C. Harvey Smith moved to Spokane at the age of twenty and took up the study of architecture two years later (likely a self-study program).

In 1893, Smith opened a business in Spokane as an independent contractor and architect. By 1912, he had designed between 500 and 600 residences as well as schoolhouses, businesses, and government buildings in Spokane and in other parts of the Inland Northwest. His architectural career, which spanned over four decades, ended two years before his death at the age of seventy-four on May 13, 1942. Among his accomplishments are two documented Colonial Revival homes in the city of Spokane and two buildings currently listed on the National Register of Historic Places: a Colonial Revival home called the C. Harvey Smith House in Twin Falls, Idaho and the Twin Falls Bank and Trust Company.¹⁴ Smith designed Opportunity Township Hall, listed in 1996 on the Spokane County Register of Historic Places, in a Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival Style.¹⁵

Spanish style architecture was never dominant in the Spokane area, but architects did use the genre. For example, Kirkland Cutter's design of the W. J. C. Wakefield House in Spokane's Browne's Addition was likely the first use of the Mission Revival Style in the area.¹⁶ Advertisements for Mission style homes appeared in Spokane's major newspaper, *The Spokesman-Review*, as early as 1908.¹⁷ In 1912, the town of Fairfield (about 20 miles south of Opportunity) erected a Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival bank and post office designed by the firm of Cutter & Malmgren (at this date, the building remains standing on the town's Main Street).¹⁸

¹² *Deeds Book 255*, p. 581, Auditor's Office, Spokane County Courthouse, Spokane, WA. A copy of the deed is held at the Spokane Valley Heritage Museum Archives.

¹³ "Revised Floor Plan of Town-Hall at Opportunity," by Architect C. Harvey Smith. The floor plan is stored at the Washington State Archives, Eastern Region, Eastern Washington University, Cheney, WA. A copy of the floor plan is held at the Spokane Valley Heritage Museum Archives. Also see Spokane City-County Historic Preservation Department website www.historicspokane.org/vtour_opportunityhall.htm. Smith's residence in Opportunity Township lasted from 1912 to 1920 [Spokane City Directories from 1912 to 1920, Northwest Room, Spokane Public Library, Spokane, WA].

¹⁴ For information on Smith, see N. W. Durham, *Spokane and the Inland Empire*, vol. 3, *History of the City of Spokane and Spokane Country, Washington: From Earliest Settlement to the Present Time* (Spokane: Clarke Publishing, 1912), 103-104; and Bonnie Dau (C. Harvey Smith's great-granddaughter) interview with author, 2 July 2004 (transcripts of the interview located at the Spokane Valley Heritage Museum Archives). The last listing of C. Harvey Smith as an architect was in 1940 [see Spokane City Directories for 1940, 1941, and 1942]. The date of Smith's death is recorded in the Record Book, Greenwood Vault, Vol. 4060-4971, Record No. 4708, Greenwood Memorial Terrace, Spokane, WA. For information on Smith's buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places, see the register's website www.nationalregisterofhistoricplaces.com/ID/Twin+Falls/state.html.

¹⁵ Dan Hansen, "Township building will be preserved as historic landmark," in *The Spokesman-Review*, Thursday (7 November 1996): 6; and website www.historicspokane.org/vtour_opportunityhall.htm.

¹⁶ Henry C. Matthews, *Kirkland Cutter: Architect in the Land of Promise* (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1998), 122-123.

¹⁷ See "A Charming Spanish Mission Cottage," in *The Spokesman-Review*, Sunday Morning, Part Three (8 November 1908): 2.

¹⁸ "New Block Erected Soon," in *Fairfield Standard*, Friday, 16 August 1912.

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In the same year the town of Fairfield constructed the Cutter & Malmgren building, the township of Opportunity built C. Harvey Smith's Township Hall. Though the two buildings contain certain similar features, such as scroll-shaped signs and diamond-shaped ornamentation, no clear evidence was found to suggest the architects cooperated with one another on their separate projects. In short, Cutter & Malmgren and Smith used the same architectural style, but the buildings were not copies of one another.

The Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival Style remained rare in the Inland Northwest, thus Opportunity Township Hall appeared in an unusual geographical area. As a point of interest, however, the Township Hall (as well as the Cutter & Malmgren building in Fairfield) came into existence three years before the style picked up momentum as an architectural movement in 1915, especially in California.¹⁹

Aftermath:

Opportunity Township Hall served many functions, not only as the seat of Opportunity's township government but also as a rental hall for community activities that included, among other things, library services, church services, weddings, civic organization meetings, rummage sales, bingo games, and movies.²⁰ As Spokane Valley continued to grow after its apple-producing heyday, the Township Hall continued to function as the seat of township government in Opportunity and as a local community center. Difficulties in maintaining township government, however, began May 22, 1969, when Washington state legislators revoked the township privilege of levying taxes on property.²¹

Spokane County townships hoped to stay in existence despite the loss of their main source of revenue. Three months after state legislators revoked township property taxes, supervisors of the townships of Opportunity, Foothills, and East Spokane planned to meet at Opportunity Township Hall to "formulate ways and means to save our townships and keep taxes down."²²

Lack of revenue, however, rapidly drained the funds of townships. Opportunity Township revenue dropped from \$30,361.61 in 1968 to \$17,838.91 in 1970. As the chief examiner of the state auditor's office stated, "Without tax revenue, dog licenses constitute the largest single source of revenue."²³ In 1971, a special township committee explored what needed to be done with Opportunity Township property if the township ceased to exist.²⁴

¹⁹ Marcus Whiffen, *American Architecture Since 1780: A Guide to the Styles*, rev. ed. (Cambridge: MIT Press, 1992), 213-216, 225-228.

²⁰ Linda Yeomans, "Opportunity Township Hall," in Florence Boutwell, comp., *The Spokane Valley: Out of the Gravel*, vol. 3 (Spokane: Arthur H. Clark, 1996), 56.

²¹ Letter from Vernon W. Ohland, Spokane County Auditor to Chairman, Board of Township Supervisors, 23 July 1969, and attached House Bill No. 661, Spokane Valley Heritage Museum Archives. Also, see RCW 45.82.010.

²² Notification of September 8, 1969 meeting from Iola S. Rosenau, Clerk, East Spokane Township to supervisors of Opportunity, Foothills, and East Spokane Townships, 28 August 1969, Spokane Valley Heritage Museum Archives.

²³ Letter from Adrian Webster, Chief Examiner, Office of State Auditor to George W. Osborne, Chairman Opportunity Township No. 34, 23 April 1971, "Remarks," p. 2, Spokane Valley Heritage Museum Archives.

²⁴ Ken Hutcheson, Secretary, Township Committee Meeting Minutes, 28 May 1971, Spokane Valley Heritage Museum Archives; Ken Hutcheson, Secretary, Township Committee Meeting Minutes, 16 June 1971, Spokane Valley Heritage Museum Archives; and Ken Hutcheson, Secretary, Township Committee Meeting Minutes, 7 July 1971, Spokane Valley Heritage Museum Archives.

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By 1971, the end of Opportunity Township was a foregone conclusion, but it continued to function for another three years. In the general election of November 1974, Spokane County electors voted for township disorganization.²⁵ On December 31, 1974—the effective date for disorganization—all that remained of Opportunity Township's treasury was \$55.35.²⁶

When Opportunity Township ended, responsibility for the Township Hall went to a superior court appointed county commissioner chair. The chair acted as a receiver for all remaining township property. As the receiver, the chair had the authority to auction off remaining township property, but the Township Hall was an exception. State law provided that township halls could not be sold for five years after disorganization. Instead, they had to be operated for community and public use.²⁷

Spokane County officially took over the title of Opportunity Township Hall on November 13, 1990.²⁸ Six years later, the county commissioners turned control of the building over to the county Parks and Recreation Department. The building remained vacant for several years afterward as the county commissioners considered several proposals for leasing the building and entertained the thought of selling it. The county finally found a tenant in 2000 who briefly leased the Township Hall as a framing shop and art gallery.²⁹

On September 2, 2003, Spokane County transferred ownership of Opportunity Township Hall to the newly formed city of Spokane Valley.³⁰ A year later, on March 10, 2004, the city of Spokane Valley turned over the property's deed to the Spokane Valley Legacy Foundation, a nonprofit organization, for the purpose of using the building as a heritage museum.³¹ The Township Hall is currently undergoing repairs on the outside and renovations on the inside to open the building as a museum.

Conclusion

Today a museum is a befitting the use of Opportunity Township Hall. It will serve as a center for the community and as a structure to house the history of Opportunity and the Spokane Valley. The building also serves as a landmark to a form of government that no longer exists in the state of Washington. On April 16, 1997 the governor signed a bill that repealed all laws

²⁵ "Incumbents Returned; Kopet Is Exception," *Spokane Valley Herald*, Wednesday (6 November 1974): 1-2; "Disorganization Beginning Soon," *Spokane Valley Herald*, Wednesday (13 November 1974): 1.

²⁶ Jean Landa, Treasurer, "Opportunity Township Statement of Financial Condition as of December 31, 1974," 7 January 1975, Spokane Valley Heritage Museum Archives.

²⁷ "Incumbents Returned; Kopet Is Exception," 1-2.

²⁸ Transnation Title Insurance Company "Order No.: ME-259385, Customer Ref: PO #3075 OPPTY. TOWNSHIP HALL," Transnation Title Insurance Company, Spokane, WA.

²⁹ Dan Hansen, "Township building will be preserved as historic landmark," in *The Spokesman-Review*, Thursday (7 November 1996): 6; Angie Gaddy, "Valley hall may be leased," in *The Spokesman-Review*, Saturday (20 February 1999): 12; Angie Gaddy, "Union backs off leasing Opportunity Township Hall," in *The Spokesman-Review*, Thursday (29 July 1999): 8; Kevin Blocker, "County Parks wants to sell Opportunity Township Hall," in *The Spokesman-Review*, Thursday (16 September 1999): 8; Dan Hansen, "County commissioners keep looking for Opportunity Town Hall lessee," in *The Spokesman-Review*, Saturday (11 December 1999): 4; Lorie Hutson, "Opportunity Hall finally may get tenant," in *The Spokesman-Review*, Thursday (30 March 2000): 6; and Lorie Hutson, "Opportunity hall finally gets a tenant," in *The Spokesman-Review*, Thursday (20 April 2000): 13.

³⁰ "Interlocal Agreement Between Spokane County and the City of Spokane Valley Relating to the Ownership, Funding, Operation and Maintenance of Parks, Open Space, Recreation Facilities and Programs," City Clerk's Office, Spokane Valley, WA..

³¹ Quit Claim Deed, 10 March 2004, Spokane Valley Heritage Museum Archives.

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SPOKANE COUNTY, WASHINGTON

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pertaining to townships and thereby ended their legal history in the state. By then, decades had passed since the existence of townships in the counties of Spokane and Whatcom.³²

The Opportunity Township Hall is historically significant as a structure, which represents governmental land divisions in Washington State. Additionally the Hall is significant as a structure that represents an early example of the Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival Style in the Inland Northwest.

³² "Townships--Repealed," *Session Laws of the State of Washington*, Laws 1997, ch. 36, pp. 122-125. Also see "An Act Relating to Townships," Senate Bill Report SB 5287, 1-2; and "An Act Relating to Townships," House Bill Report, SB 5287, 1-2.

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Opportunity Township Hall
Spokane County, Washington

Verbal Boundary Description:

The Spokane Valley Legacy Foundation currently owns Opportunity Township Hall and adjacent parking lots to the east and the south of the building. The property is listed in the Spokane County Assessor's Office as property number 45211.0110. It is located on Block 165, Lots 10 and 11 in the city of Spokane Valley in Spokane County, Washington. The property is situated east of Robie Road, west of Pines Road, north of 1st Street, and south of Sprague Avenue. Its UTM coordinates are 481918 Easting and 5278003 Northing.

The portion of Opportunity Township Hall built in 1912 is recommended for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. The building is located on Block 165, Lot 10. Its current address is 12114 East Sprague Avenue. The location of the property is marked on the attached maps.

Boundary Justification:

The nominated property encompasses the entire the entire urban tax lot (#45211.0110) that is occupied by the Opportunity Township Hall.

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Opportunity Township Hall
Spokane County, Washington

Black & White Photographs:

Photographer: Marc Kroetch

Date of Photographs: August 19, 2004

Location of Negatives: Spokane Valley Heritage Museum Archives, Spokane Valley, WA

Photo 1. Photo taken in the southeast direction toward the corner of Sprague and Pines. From right to left, the photo shows Opportunity Township Hall, Ichabod's Tavern, the Knight buildings (currently Peter's Hardware, Rhapsody Salon, and Dave's Bar & Grill), and the former IOOF Hall (currently Schwinn Cycling and Fitness, Youth Center, and Body Grafix).

Photo 2. Photo taken in the southwest direction away from the corner of Sprague and Pines. From left to right, the photo shows part of the former IOOF Hall, the Knight buildings, Ichabod's Tavern, and Opportunity Township Hall.

Photo 3. Façade (north face) of Opportunity Township Hall.

Photo 4. Northwest corner of Opportunity Township Hall showing the north face and west face of the building. The lowered portion of the building on the far right of the photo shows the extension of Opportunity Township Hall which began in 1948.

Photo 5. West face of Opportunity Township Hall and parking lot. The 1948 extension is the lowered portion of the building on the far right portion of the photo.

Photo 6. Southwest corner of Opportunity Township Hall showing the west face and south face (rear) of the building and parking lot.

Photo 7. Southeast corner of Opportunity Township Hall showing the east face of the building and the narrow alleyway (less than 53 inches) separating the Township Hall from Ichabod's Tavern.

Photo 8. Northeast corner of Opportunity Township Hall showing the east face of the building and the alleyway separating the Township Hall from Ichabod's Tavern.

Photo 9. The interior of Opportunity Township Hall looking northeast. The photo shows the front entryway and a portion of the hall and northeast wall.

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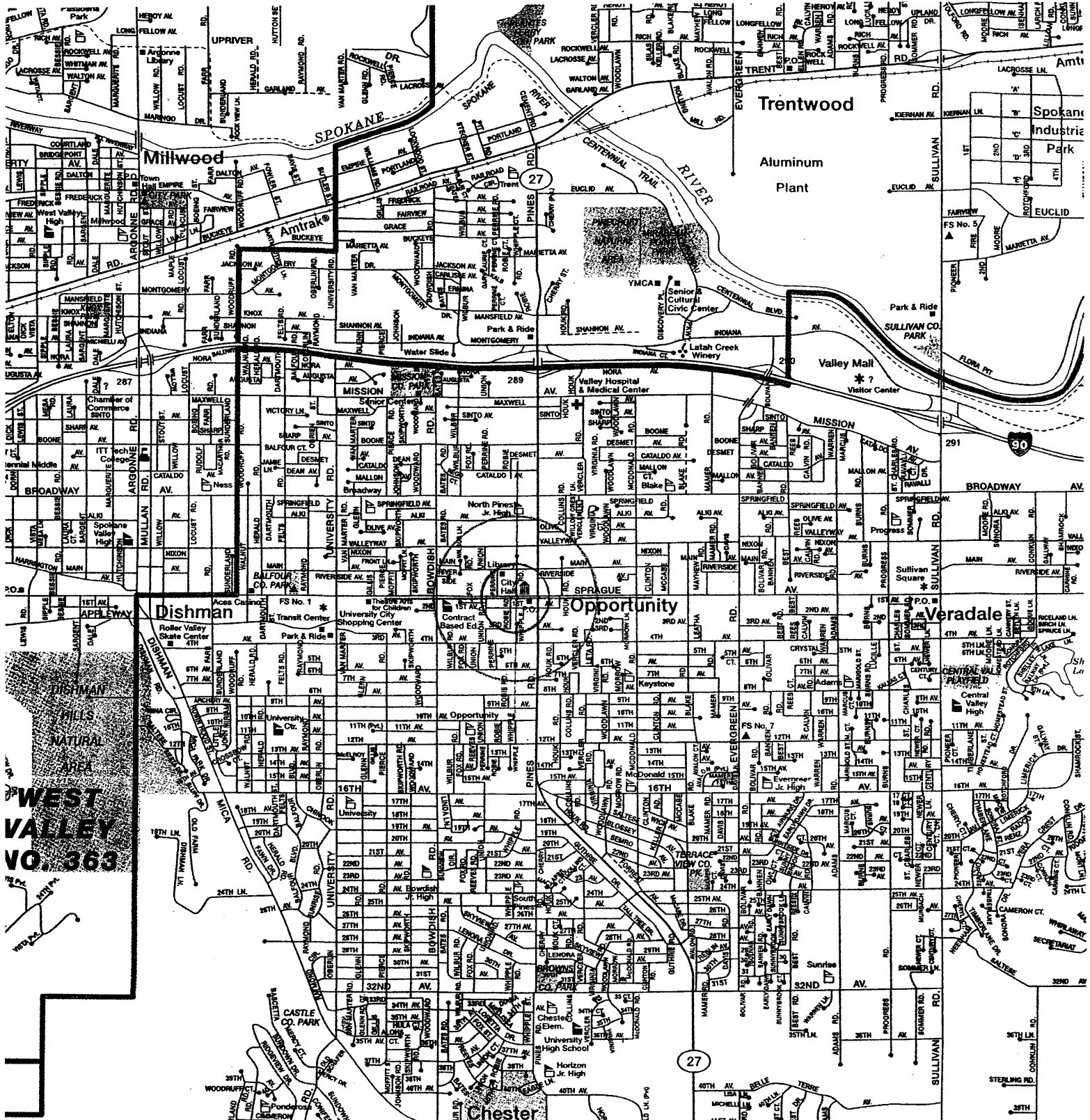
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Opportunity Township Hall
Spokane County, Washington

Photo 10. The interior of Opportunity Township Hall looking to the southwest. The photo shows a portion of the hall and the extension of the building which began in 1948.

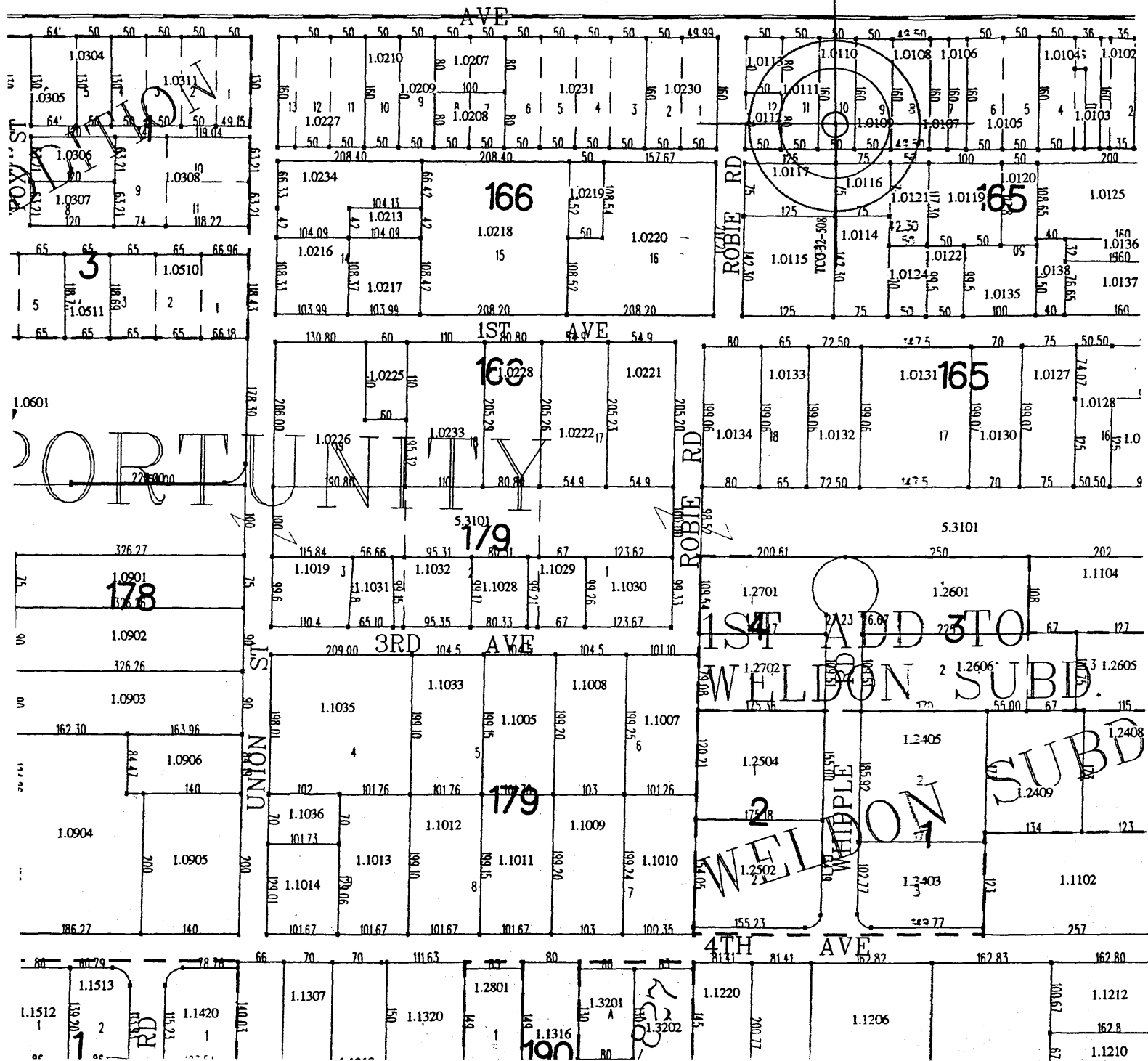
Photo 11. The interior of Opportunity Township Hall looking to the northwest. The photo shows a portion of the hall and the northeast wall along with the doorway to a former cloakroom that now leads into a bathroom.



Source: Spokane Valley Chamber of Commerce, 2002



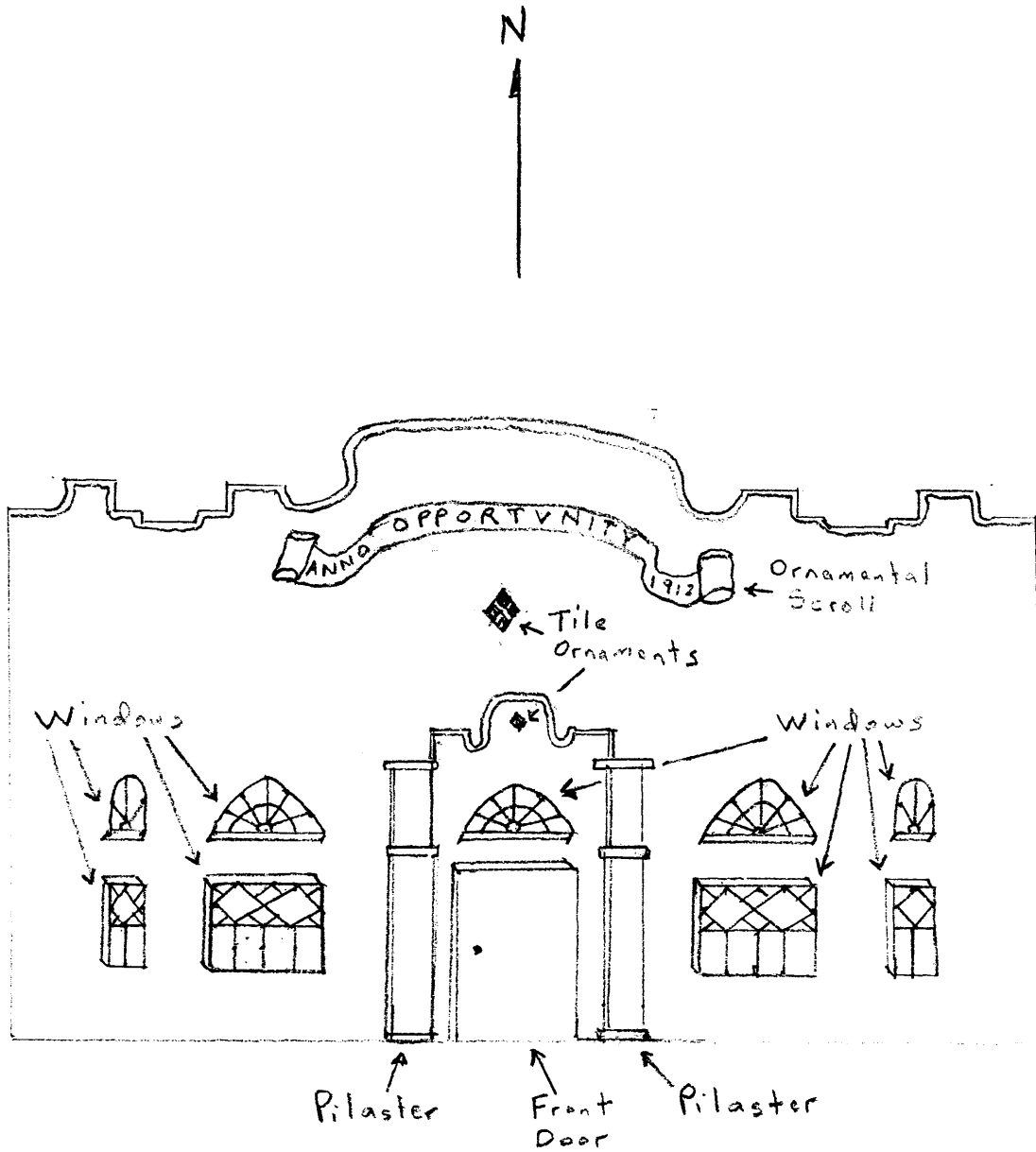
Community Map Opportunity Township Hall



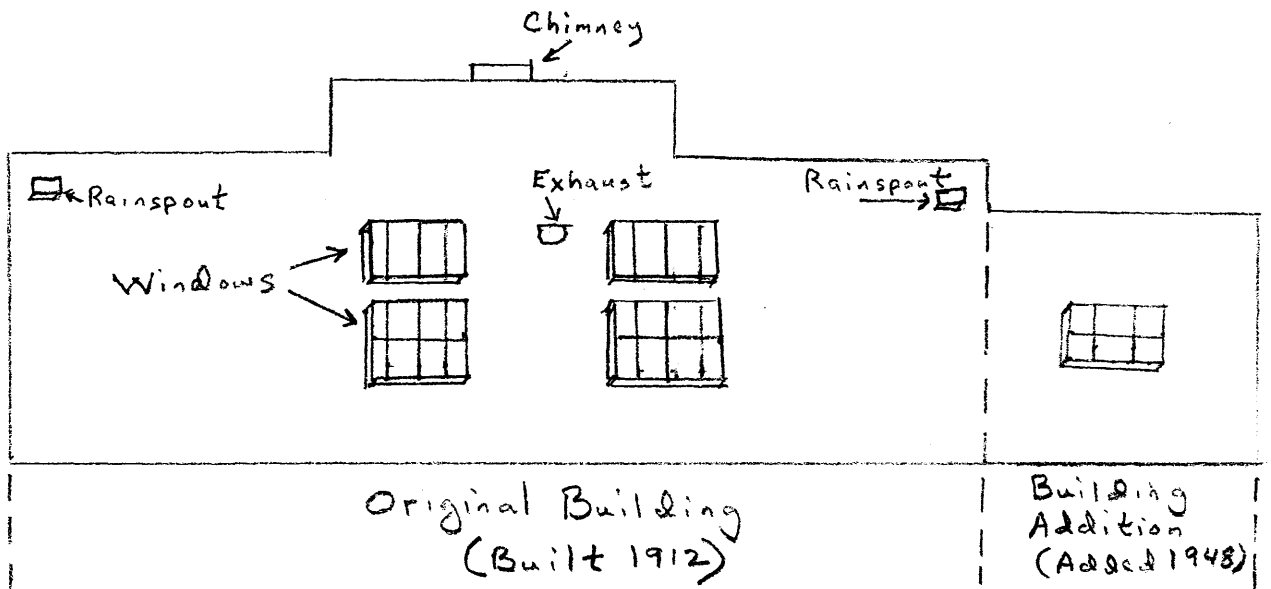
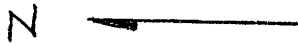
Source: Spokane County Assessor's Office

Plat Map
Opportunity Township Hall

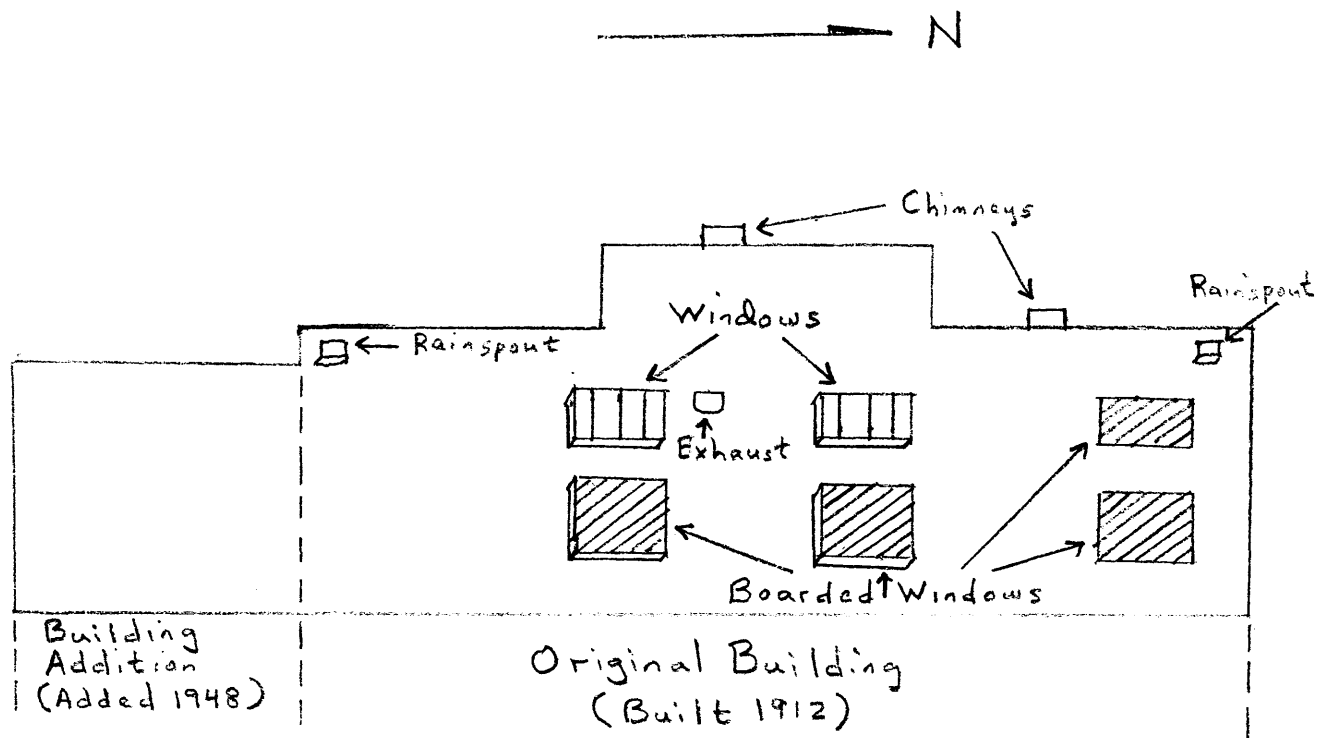




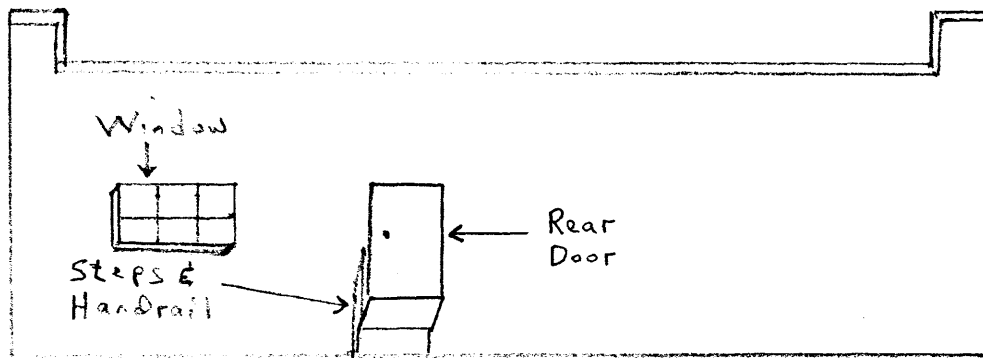
Rough Sketch of the North Face of Opportunity Township Hall (Front of Building)



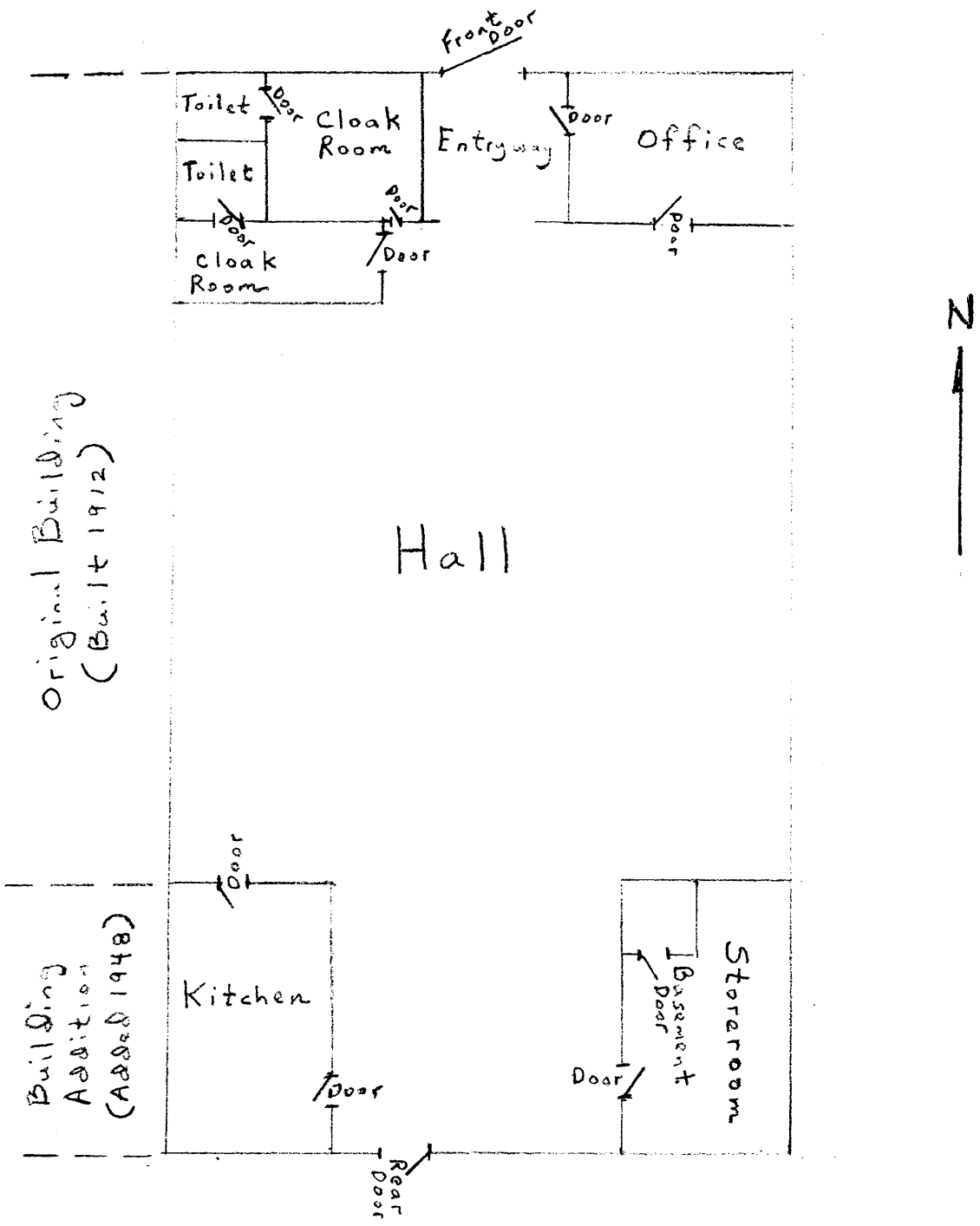
Rough Sketch of the West Face of Opportunity Township Hall (Side of Building)



Rough Sketch of the East Face of Opportunity Township Hall (Side of Building)



Rough Sketch of the South Face of Opportunity Township Hall (Rear of Building)



Rough Sketch of the Interior of Opportunity Township Hall