

Staff Report and Findings of Fact Nomination to the Spokane Register of Historic Places Lewis and Clark High School – 521 W 4th 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 1912 with significant additions, demolitions and remodels in both 2001 and 2020, Lewis and Clark High School 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**, Lewis and Clark High School is historically significant under Category A for its direct contribution to the broad pattern of educational development in Spokane.
 - Three schools have existed on the site of Lewis and Clark High School. The wood-framed Central School that housed all grades was erected in 1883. This structure was moved to another site and Spokane High School was completed in 1891. At the completion of North Central High School in 1908, the building was renamed "South Central High School." After a fire in 1910 that destroyed the school, architect L.L. Rand designed the Collegiate Gothic Lewis and Clark High School which was completed in 1912.
 - Changes to Lewis and Clark occurred rather recently – the first major renovation/remodel of the school took place in 2001. That project removed the 1964 E.L. "Squinty" Hunter Field House as well as the 1908 Administration (aka Annex) Building which was located to the east of the historic school building. A new gym was constructed across Stevens Street, connected to a new addition to the historic building by skywalk. In 2020, a new Commons and classroom building was constructed where the previous gym had been. While controversial when first proposed, the 1912, Lewis and Clark High School still remains as the primary focus of modernization and expansion dictated by a growing population of students in Spokane.
 - **Under Category C** as a resource that embodies the distinguishing characteristics of its type and period of construction as well as its association with a master architect.
 - Loren L. Rand was one of Spokane's master architects. Even though most of his schools have been demolished, Rand was the premier architect of Spokane's early elementary schools and also designed Lewis and Clark High School.
 - Rand originally planned to use parts of the burned South Central High School in the design of the new school building, but ultimately provided an up-to-date, completely new Collegiate Gothic style design for the building. Inspired by the great universities in England in the Collegiate Gothic style, as adapted for high schools, the building is an important example of Rand's work. Although Lewis and Clark has been altered over the years, with a major renovation and additions in 2001 and an addition in 2019-2020, the original classroom building retains integrity of location, design, materials, setting, and workmanship.
 - The school is an outstanding example of early public school architecture in Spokane and is one of only two standing historic high school structures from Spokane's earliest days of educating youth.
- 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).

- Lewis and Clark High School retains good integrity in terms of its location, setting, design, workmanship, materials, feeling and association.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Lewis and Clark High School qualifies for the Spokane Register of Historic Places under Categories A and C.

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

Report: 7/14/21
Site Visit: 7/8/21
Hearing: 7/21/21