

Clark County, Washington
Historic Preservation Commission



Clark County Heritage Register Nomination Form

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) <http://www.nps.gov/history/nr/publications/bulletins/nrb16a/>. Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. **This form is similar but not exact to the National Register of Historic Places nomination form. Some sections of the National Register form were not applicable to the local register therefore were not included. When using the National Register Bulletin 16A to fill out the form, look for the section names for information on completing the specific section.** 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. Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

Historic name Fort Vancouver Regional Library
Other names/site number Vancouver Community Library

2. Location

street & number 1007 E Mill Plain Blvd not for publication
city or Vancouver vicinity
town _____
State Washington code WA county Clark code 11 zip code 98663

3. 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	0	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	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 Clark County Heritage Register

n/a

4. Owner Consent for Nomination, Designation and Listing

I (we) consent do not consent to the nomination, and designation of the above property on the Clark County Heritage Register. I (we) also certify that I am/we are the legal owner(s) of the above property.

Owner signature

Date

Owner signature

Date

5. Functions or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/library

EDUCATION/education-related

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/education-related

EDUCATION/library

6. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Modern/International Movement - New Formalism

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete - Poured

walls Masonry - Poured Concrete - Aluminum
-Glass - Porcelain - Steel

roof Asphalt/Composition - Built Up

other

Narrative Description

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

Property Summary and Description

The 1963 Fort Vancouver Regional Library (FVRL) building is located at 1007 East Mill Plain Boulevard (tax lot 38279910) in the center of a 2.49-acre trapezoidal parcel bounded by Fort Vancouver Way to the west, East Mill Plain Boulevard to the north, Memory/Mill Plain Park to the east, and an asphalt parking lot to the south that abuts to the north end of Officers Row and Vancouver National Historic Reserve. The current library structure is a one-story, irregular-shaped Modern/International-style building displaying New Formalism trends with a flat roof and includes a significant daylight basement. The site was originally associated with the activities of the Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) Trading Post at Fort Vancouver and eventually part of the United States Military Reservation and Vancouver Barracks. Today the property is owned by the City of Vancouver.

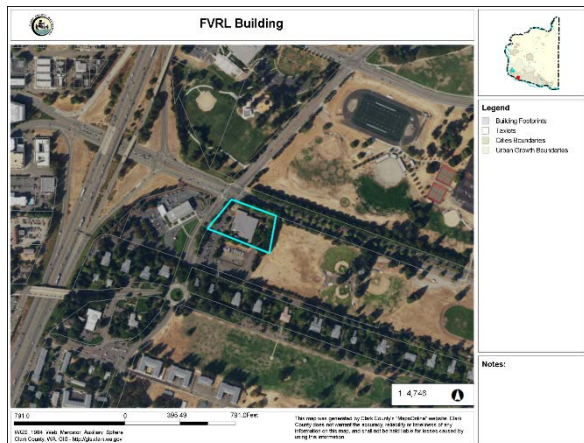


Image from Grlie assessment

Property History

Hudson's Bay Fort Vancouver

The London-based Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) dedicated the first Fort Vancouver in 1825. The original fort was situated on a bluff to the northeast of the current reconstruction of the fort. The purpose of this outpost was to serve as the headquarters for their interior fur trade. In 1829, the company relocated the fort to the lower plain, closer to the Columbia but beyond the reach of an annual freshet, in a location marked today by the National Park Service's reconstructed Fort Vancouver. From this base the HBC was able to control the fur trade from Russian Alaska to Mexican California, and from the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific Ocean. Additionally, the rich bottomland and meadows surrounding the fort provided the necessary resources for the company to initiate the area's first large scale farming, which included such crops as apples and wheat. The fort's workforce lived in an adjacent village and numbered over 600 residents during the height of the fort's production. The workforce came from diverse backgrounds. English, French Canadian, Metis, Scottish, Irish, Hawaiian, Iroquois, Cree, and people from over 30 regional Native Nations served as working-class employees at Fort Vancouver. Languages such as English, French, Gaelic, Hawaiian, and a number of Native American tongues could be heard in the village. The fort was a site of great production and growth. The cultivated acreage increased from 120 acres in 1829 to 1420 acres in 1846. It is believed the parcel containing the 1963 FVRL Library building was potentially an early site of minimal timber extraction by the HBC. However, the area remained significantly forested for decades.

With the Oregon Treaty of 1846, the site of Fort Vancouver fell within the boundary of the United States, and in 1849, the US Army moved in. The HBC continued only a small presence there, leasing buildings and land to the US Army until a dispute with Gen. William S. Harney led the company to turn over the keys to the post and depart in 1860. The fort itself was claimed by fire in 1866. In 1869, a settlement was reached and payment was made to HBC for lands and property south of the 49th parallel. This officially ended the HBC's relationship with this parcel of land.

Vancouver Barracks and the US Military Reservation

The boundaries of the US Military Reservation were established in the 1850s by Lt. Col. B.L.E. Bonneville. He was charged with including any HBC buildings and protecting the improvements produced by the company within the reservation so that these assets could be transferred to the US Army at a later date. He was required to limit the total acreage of this reservation to 640 acres. Bonneville was unable to satisfy all of the requirements with boundaries that followed north, east, south, or west lines but was able to find an approximate rectangle that worked although it deviated from what would later develop into the City of Vancouver's street grid. This boundary designation included the 1963 FVRL Library property.

The US Army had a significant presence at the barracks through World War II. Originally, there was little improvement of the land that would become the 1963 FVRL building. An army map dated 1874 includes an inscription across the area north of Officers Row that reads, "The reserve north of the post is covered with pine timber and thick undergrowth." By 1891, a few buildings and a firing range appear to the north of Officers Row on a City of Vancouver map.

World War I brought the Spruce Production Division and cut-up mill to the barracks. The surge in personnel necessitated building an encampment just north of the main post. The housing consisted of temporary wood buildings and tents. Many boots covered the ground that would eventually surround the 1963 library.

In 1926, a group of Portland businessmen financed the building of an outdoor swimming pool just southeast of the future library. It was called Cabell Memorial Pool and was intended to be used by army personnel. The pool fell into disrepair during WW-II and was later transferred with other properties to the Vancouver School District which, along with the City of Vancouver and volunteers, constructed a building around it and renamed it Memory Pool. The pool was used for swim meets, lessons, and public use until 1988, when it was closed because of maintenance issues.

World War II brought construction of temporary buildings that were close to and may have partially overlapped the future library site. These were a theater and, ironically, a library. Nearby were many wood-framed barracks and administrative buildings which can be seen on maps of the era.

Vancouver School District and City of Vancouver

Post WW-II, the War Assets Administration (WAA) declared much of its property surplus, including a substantial portion of the Vancouver Barracks. In August 1947, 143 acres, known as the Camp Hathaway Sector, and 62 buildings were given to the Vancouver School District. The district announced that it had long-range plans for the land and planned to remodel some of the buildings for vocational education. The property transferred can be roughly described as the area bounded by the north property line of Officer's Row on the south, East Reserve Street on the east, the north property line of the Clark College campus on the north, and Fort Vancouver Way on the west.

Also in the late 1940s, the library acquired a site from the WAA for a future building, but in the early 1950s, had to relinquish it because of the construction of I-5 Interstate Freeway. The city promised the library to find an alternate site when the need arose, and the site at East Mill Plain and Fort Vancouver Way was acquired from the Vancouver School District in 1961. The property has been owned by the City of Vancouver since then.

Building Description

The Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation has assessed the property on the number of occasions and has provided a description of the building via their WISAARD database. The description on the WISAARD site was produced by Brandon Grilc. Grilc was contracted by Archaeological Services in Vancouver, Washington to assess and describe the building. He provides a quality description of the architectural elements of the building and recommends its eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C. Grilc's report states:

The FVRL building (approximately [48,042] sq. ft.) was built in 1963 by Elmer E. Settegran and designed by Cassady & Associates (Houser 2004). [The landscape design was subcontracted by Cassady to Huntington and Roth, landscape architects, in Portland.] The library is built atop a poured-in-place concrete foundation with two subterranean vehicle bays (loading area) near the southeast

corner of the southwest elevation. The library is faced with recessed aluminum window walls, brick veneer in a stretcher bond, and vertical smooth-form concrete panels. The window walls consist of fixed aluminum ribbon windows between blue aluminum channel stiffener face panels and aluminum battens. The walls are framed with a protruding concrete water table and eaves. The roof displays a shallow-eave overhang with metal coping.



Image from Grlic assessment

The primary façade (approximately 168'-0" in length) faces northeast toward E Mill Plain Blvd and is comprised of a window wall consisting of narrow vertical lights to the northwest, the main entrance, and a window wall to the southeast. The main entrance consists of a double-door opening with full-light aluminum doors framed by a fixed multi-light aluminum window wall under a flat-roof concrete canopy supported by five square-shaped concrete columns (approximately 69' 3" x9' 6"). The canopy roof is finished with built-up roofing and metal coping. Original metal light fixtures are attached to the columns near the canopy roofline. A secondary entrance consisting of a double-door opening with full-light aluminum doors is located above the main entrance within the window wall to the northwest. The secondary entrance is accessed by a concrete ramp with a brick ramp wall. The ramp wall is capped with concrete coping and aluminum rails. Metal pipe handrails are located along the ramp wall leading to the secondary entrance. The window wall southeast of the main entrance consists of narrow vertical lights between two square-shaped lights atop a fixed aluminum ribbon window base with a matching glazing pattern. The window wall is framed by a brick wall with signage that reads "Operations Center for the FVRL District" above a brick base at the northeast corner of the façade.



Image from Grlic assessment

The southeast elevation (approximately 126' -0" in length) includes a center window wall with narrow vertical lights above a fixed aluminum ribbon window base with a matching glazing pattern. The window wall is flanked by vertical concrete panels above a matching base to the southwest and a brick base at the northeast corner of the elevation. The elevation is extended by a wall (approximately 39' -0" in length) of four vertical concrete panels above the loading area to the southwest. A subterranean pedestrian door consisting of a single-door opening with a flush-panel metal door is located between the window and brick base to the northeast. The entrance is accessed by a set of concrete steps with metal pipe handrails. A wood shed-roof lean-to is attached to the elevation southwest of the window wall. The lean-to is bounded by a metal chain-link fence with white fence slats. The southwest elevation (approximately 168' -0" in length) is comprised of the projecting loading area (approximately 69' -1" x30' 0" and abutting fan/utilities room (approximately 30' -8"x30' -0") to the southeast, and the principle elevation (approximately 68' -3" in length) to the northwest. The loading area includes a window wall with narrow vertical lights flanked by vertical concrete panels at the ground floor and a pair of vehicle bays with metal roll-up doors below grade. The bays are divided by a concrete column with a metal exhaust vent. A pedestrian door consisting of a single-door opening with a single-light flush-panel metal door under a projecting canopy supported by two tension rods is located to the northwest of the vehicle bays. The pedestrian door is accessed by an elevated concrete loading dock with a ramp and metal pipe handrails. The fan/utilities room is clad in vertical concrete panels with metal air-intake louvers near the roofline and northwest of the pedestrian door. A one-story, square-shaped addition with a flat roof is attached to the northwest-facing wall (approximately 30' -0" in length) of the fan/utilities room. The addition is faced with stucco and includes a double door opening with flush-panel metal doors on its northwest elevation. The flat roof is covered with thermoplastic polyolefin (TPO) roofing and is finished with metal coping. A protruding metal exhaust vent is located at the center of the roof. The recessed principle wall of the southwest elevation consists of a center double-door opening with single-light flush-panel metal doors under a projecting concrete canopy. A fixed recessed vertical three-light aluminum window capped with blue aluminum channel stiffener face panels and aluminum battens is located above the entrance. The entrance is flanked by window walls with narrow vertical lights above a fixed aluminum ribbon window base. A one-story vertical smooth-concrete panel ends the principle wall to the northwest. A one-story metal shed roof

covered patio with a corrugated fiberglass roof and vinyl gutter is attached to the elevation northwest of the entrance. A projecting curved brick screen wall is attached to the southwest elevation near the northwest corner.



3

Image from Grlic assessment

The northwest elevation (approximately 126' 0" in length) consists of a center window wall with narrow vertical lights flanked by vertical concrete panels. The window wall is located above a fixed aluminum ribbon window base with a matching glazing pattern framed by brick bases the north northeast and southwest. A set of concrete steps leading to the secondary entrance on the northeast façade and a brick wall about the elevation near the northeast corner. A metal handrail is attached to the elevation above the steps. Two attached signs reading "FVRLibraries (Fort Vancouver Regional Libraries) Operations Center" and "Fort Vancouver Regional Library Foundation" are located above metal handrail. An enclosed metal chain-link fence with green fence slats is attached to the elevation under the window wall near the brick base to the southwest.



Image from Grlic assessment

The flat roof of the library is covered with built up roofing with a short parapet capped with metal coping and attached square-shaped flood lights. One HVAC unit is located on the roof above the fan/utilities room near the southwest elevation. The interior of the loading area includes finished concrete floors, concrete masonry unit (CMU) walls, and a concrete waffle slab ceiling with linear fluorescent light fixtures. The remainder of the library interior was not accessed on the date of survey. After analyzing historic and existing aerial photos, historic photos, as well as the resource during a field investigation on January 23, 2019, it is apparent that minimal alterations have been made to the library since the date of its construction in 1963 (Houser 2004). Changes that have been made to the library include a new roof circa 1994 (Clark County 2019), a canopy over the pedestrian door on the southwest elevation circa 1998 (Clark County 2019), the one-story addition to the fan/utilities room circa 2000 (Google Earth 2019), the addition of pipe handrails near the main entrance circa 2004 (Houser 2004), the covered patio circa 2009 (Clark County 2019), and the installation of the HVAC system in 2012 (Google Earth 2019). The signage and the enclosed chain-link fence were

added to the northwest elevation circa 2014 (Google Earth 2019). Other alterations made to the library include the addition of lights to the roof, and the lean-to and chain-link fence on the southeast elevation (dates unknown).



Loading Dock



Example of waffle slab from meeting area. This is similar to the waffle slab referred to in the loading area.

The library retains all aspects of historic integrity (location, setting, design, materials, craftsmanship, feeling, and location) based on its retention of its original location, building materials, design, minimal alterations to its immediate surroundings, and its continued ability to evoke a historic sense of a past period of time, and function.

Because a reconnaissance level survey results in the recordation of only observable information, little to no historic background information or contextual histories were discovered during the survey. Therefore, the resource is recommended as unevaluated under NRHP Criterion A, B, and D. The library is recommended as eligible under NRHP Criterion C as an exemplary example of a New Formalism-style building due to its retention of its original form, character defining features, such as its colonnade at the main entrance, aluminum ribbon window walls with aluminum panels, use of brick, and smooth form concrete, and its original building finishes. The alterations that have been made to the library have little impact on the overall design, material, or workmanship associated with its original construction style.

Architectural Significance

Architectural Style Significance and Influence Summary

Since its construction in 1963, the exterior of the FVRL building has remained significantly intact and provides a good example of mid-century Modern/International style architecture. Additionally, it represents architectural design elements that align with the New Formalism architectural trend within the broader Modern/International architecture style. This architectural trend gained prominence in the 1960s and “emerged as a rejection to the rigid form of Modernism.” Its period of significance stretched into the mid-1970s. Architect Donald Cassady’s design for the 1963 FVRL building represents an early and muted version of this emerging architectural trend. As Cassady’s career progressed, he designed buildings with more pronounced elements of New Formalism, evident in his 1973 design for the Pacific Northwest Bell Office building and the 1975 Medco Medical Clinic building which still stands at 3305 Main Street, Vancouver, 98663. The podium/base, colonnades, and use of the plastic-like qualities of concrete to create new forms such as waffle slab structures are all present in the design of the 1963 FVRL building and demonstrate early acquaintance with New Formalism by Cassady, who went on to produce designs for important public and private institutions across Southwest Washington from the 1960s into the 1980s.

Use of a Podium or Base

The building is set upon a modest podium. The intent was to allow the building to float above the ground, giving the impression of separating the body of the structure from the landscape or nature below. Cassady’s use of brick, glass, and aluminum for most of this lower portion of the building helps enhance this separation. Additionally, the separation emphasizes the mass of the building, cantilevered as it is ever so slightly above the podium.

Use of Colonnades

Above the main entrance sits a flat-roof, concrete canopy supported by five square, concrete columns. This aligns with the use of colonnades in New Formalism in an effort to soften the starker elements prevalent in mid-century modern architecture and creates a single colonnade in this front entrance area. Excellent examples of similar use of this element in buildings representing New Formalism are the 1954 US Embassy in New Delhi and the 1965 Federal Building in Wenatchee, Washington.

Use of Concrete in New Ways

Buildings that align with New Formalism, as noted by the Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, “used the newly discovered plastic-like qualities of concrete to create new forms such as umbrella shells, waffle slabs and folded plates.” Through many portions of the interior of the 1963 FVRL building, waffle slab construction is used to form the ceilings. These excellent local examples of this construction method remain exposed and available for examination. Cassady placed the lighting fixtures within the recessed portions of the waffle slab construction as a measure of the economical use of space offered by the elements of the method’s design. The FVRL building remains a fine local example of this method.

7. Statement of Significance

Applicable Clark County Heritage Register Criteria

- 1** It is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of national, state, or local history.
- 2** It embodies the distinctive architectural characteristics of a type, period, style, or method of design or construction, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.
- 3** It is an outstanding work of a designer, builder, or Architect who has made a substantial contribution to their field.
- 4** It exemplifies or reflects special elements of the county's history.
- 5** It is associated with the lives of persons significant in national, state, or local history
- 6** It has yielded or may be likely to yield important Archaeological information related to history or prehistory.
- 7** It is an historic building or cultural resource removed from its original location but which is significant for architectural value, or association with an historic person or event, or prehistory.
- 8** It is a birthplace or grave of a prehistoric or historical Figure of outstanding importance and is the only surviving structure or site associated with that person.
- 9** It is a cemetery or burial site which derives its primary significance from age, from distinctive design features, or from association with historic events, or cultural patterns.
- 10** It is a reconstructed building that has been executed in a historically accurate manner on the original site.
- 11** It is a creative and unique example of folk architecture and design created by persons not formally trained in the architectural or design professions, and which does not fit into formal architectural or historical categories.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

EDUCATION

Period of Significance

1963 - 2011

Significant Dates

1963, 2011

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion 5 is marked above)

Donald Cassady, Eva Santee

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Cassady & Associates

Elmer E. Settegran

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property.)

Statement of Significance

The 1963 FVRL building represents three important Clark County stories. The building connects deeply to the long history of the Vancouver Public Library and the proliferation of the FVRL District from 1963 to 2011. It represents the fruition of the storied career of Eva Santee, who was a prominent Clark County librarian, the driving force behind the creation of the FVRL District and the primary instigator concerning the construction of the 1963 FVRL building. Also, it's the touchstone for the career of Donald Cassady. As the first significant commission for Cassady, a homegrown architect, the building launched a career that spanned several decades and saw him design numerous buildings for important public and private institutions. Thus this building is significant for both the FVRL District and the careers of two significant historical actors in Clark County.

Early Library in Vancouver

Vancouver lays claim to the first circulating library in the Pacific Northwest. As early as 1833, the Hudson's Bay Company had a library for the officers of the company, sending magazines, newspapers, and books throughout the territory. When the library was dissolved in 1843, the books were divided among those who wished to have them.

In 1865, twenty years after the HBC library disbanded, the Vancouver Catholic Library Association (VCLA) was founded. In 1870, the National Library Association in Washington, D.C. listed the VCLA as one of two libraries in Washington Territory having more than three hundred books. By 1880, it had grown to over 1000 volumes.

The library was in use from about 1870 to 1886. The volumes contained current literature as well as religious and historical materials. Most of the books were dispersed in 1886, but about 350 books are believed to be preserved at the St. James Parish in Vancouver.

Other libraries sprang up at this time. A church library was formed in Union Ridge, later known as Ridgefield, in 1868. Vancouver's first school, opened in 1875, included a small library, mainly for use by teachers.

Vancouver residents began to feel the need for a community library and formed the Vancouver Library Association, a private corporation, in January 1877 with \$5,000 in capital to buy books. Membership was listed in three categories: "shareholders," who voted on policy-making decisions, "donors," who could join by contributing a small amount of aid to the association, and "subscribers," who were charged a fee of \$0.25 a month, or \$3 a year, the same as the cost of a weekly newspaper.

The Women's Christian Temperance Union, maintaining the library by 1891, was unable to meet expenses and petitioned the Vancouver City Council for a tax-supported library, offering to supply the room and the librarian if the city would supply books and shelving. The request was granted April 4, 1894; C.W. Shane was the first librarian.

Vancouver Public Library

In 1907 Edgar Swan, a local lawyer, applied to the Carnegie Foundation for funds to build a public library in the city. On January 30, 1908, Swan found his effort was a success. Carnegie granted \$10,000 for the construction of a public library in Vancouver. However, there were stipulations. To be eligible for the grant, the community needed to have land ready for building. Lowell M. Hidden, a local brick manufacturer, donated the plot on which the library stands. In addition, the grant was for the building only, and not to be used towards furnishings, staffing, or books. The citizens of Vancouver pulled together and raised almost \$1300 for books while city council appropriated \$1500 for salaries and maintenance. The Vancouver Public Library opened on New Year's Eve 1909. Designed by architects Dennis Nichols and William Kauffman, and constructed by builder Ole Larson, the building opened to grand fanfare. Over the next several decades the library's resources slowly grew. However, the library saw its greatest growth under librarian Eva Santee. Santee was the driving force behind the creation and growth of the Fort Vancouver Regional Library System.

Eva Santee and the FVRL District

In 1940, Eva Santee was appointed librarian. For two years she built up the collection, extended service, and laid a firm basis for public relations, setting the stage for expansion of service to the rural areas beyond the City of Vancouver. In 1941, bookmobiles were added to the library's services.

Vancouver tripled its pre-war population by the end of 1942. Clark County citizens petitioned for the formation of a county library. The measure passed, creating Washington's first rural district. At this time, the Vancouver Housing Authority opened libraries in each housing project around Vancouver for which bookmobiles provided service.

In 1943, three library systems operated in Clark County. The city library and the Housing Authority cooperated to provide services to these libraries. Vancouver City Library provided headquarters, cataloging, and materials, and it supervised the distribution of materials. The Housing Authority provided the bookmobile, books for Housing Authority branches, and clerical workers. Agreements with Camas, Yacolt, and La Center extended service throughout the county.

In 1944, the Housing Authority libraries came under county supervision. They were located in McLoughlin Heights, Bagley Downs, Harney Hill, Fruit Valley, Burton, and Ogden Meadows. Battle Ground opened as a county branch library in the Odd Fellows Hall on April 1, 1944. Also in 1944, Vancouver Public Library joined the Pacific Northwest Bibliographic Center so patrons could use facilities in other Northwest libraries. In February 1944, Washougal library, which had opened in 1924, merged with the county system.

Work continued toward a central library system. An agreement finally approved on April 26, 1950 took effect on July 1. The chosen name was Fort Vancouver Regional Library.

Unincorporated areas of Skamania County joined the library system in 1952. Incorporated towns were not included under the inter-county rural library system but could join under separate contracts. During that year, incorporated cities were included for one year due to a state grant that aided the extension of services. The hope was that providing an indispensable service would encourage each city to contract for the service the following year. In 1953, Stevenson contracted for services.

Meanwhile, the main library in Vancouver had become overcrowded. Three library bond issues failed, two in 1956 and another in 1958. The fourth ballot was overwhelmingly approved. A \$600,000 bond was issued to finance the construction of a new library. In 1958, the City of Vancouver acquired the land from the Vancouver School District for the future library.

The late 1950s and early 1960s saw tremendous growth for the FVRL District's infrastructure. The Battle Ground Library moved to its new building in 1959 on land transferred from the Battle Ground School District. Ridgefield joined the system in 1960.

The new Vancouver library on Mill Plain opened March 31, 1963. About 450 persons attended the dedication services. Throughout the day and evening, more than 2,000 persons toured the new building.

In 1969, changes began based on the idea that libraries should be lively, people-oriented community centers, not simply collections of books. Services expanded. Library cards and fines for overdue materials phased out. Libraries added puppet shows, arts and craft exhibits, and a piano for patrons. Businesses could check out art works by local artists to exhibit in their offices.

In 1972, Klickitat County joined the library district. Goldendale and White Salmon contracted with the library district beginning in 1973.

Through the mid-1980s, many improvements were accomplished: Circulation of library materials doubled. The book collection nearly doubled. All facilities were renovated and modernized. Four new branches opened, including the "Library at Vancouver Mall," which opened in November 1983. Automation and new technologies improved service delivery and quality.

In 1987, a downfall in the economy forced many cuts in the library system, but a 1990 levy passed to pay for an automated computer system for all branches as well as funding for more books. The system began operating in 1992.

Voters approved a levy lid lift in 1993 that allowed for the purchase of subscription databases (Periodical Articles onLine, or PAL), and a new library branch in Vancouver later opened in Cascade Park.

Two district-wide bond measures in 1996 (in September and November), tried to address facility needs, but both were unsuccessful in obtaining the required 60% supermajority support. However, this didn't stop facility's plans from moving forward in FVRL's communities. The Vancouver Mall and White Salmon libraries both moved to larger spaces in 2000, made possible through a combination of district support and community fundraising. Changes in legislation allowed for communities to form Library Capital Facility Areas (LCFA). In November 1998, voters in Fire District 6 approved library capital funding using this legislation, which resulted in the opening of the Three Creeks Community Library in January 2002.

In 2006, a \$38 million bond for a new Vancouver Community Library was approved to be located downtown at Evergreen and C streets. It would take five years to complete.

A new library opened in Battle Ground in May 2009, made possible by a combination of district funding and private fundraising by the district and Friends of the Library. At the same time, the expansion of the district's programming included events and services targeting teens, tweens, English as a Second Language patrons, and--of particular emphasis--early learners.

In July 2011, the FVRL was moved to downtown. The old building is now being used for housing district staff and as a book processing facility. The City of Vancouver owns the building and approved a one-dollar-a-year lease agreement. The library will remain in the building for at least 10 years, with the option for the library board to remain another 10 years. The new lease releases the city and the library district from a 99-year lease signed in 1963.

All of this growth and expansion of the FVRL District took place while the central library and administrative offices were located in the 1963 FVRL building. As a result, the building was host to a significant time period in the FVRL District's development and represents important physical space in county history. If the FVRL District were to be placed into chapters of a book, the 1909 Vancouver Public Library would serve as the initial piece of the story and the 1963 FVRL building would be a significant and lofty second chapter.

Fort Vancouver Regional Library Building

By the early 1950s, the Vancouver Public Library building at 16th and Main Street was running out of space; plans for constructing a larger facility began. In 1955, the City of Vancouver established a six-year plan that included a new city hall and separate library branch building on eleven acres of city-owned land in the barracks. Architect Day Hilborn drew preliminary plans for the buildings, which were expected to cost about \$700,000. A \$120,000 line item for the library building was added to the city's \$1.7 million bond proposal for March 1956. Additional funding would have come from other sources. The March bond failed and another proposal of \$250,000 for a stand-alone library was added to Vancouver's September 1956 ballot. Clark and Skamania county voters saw similar proposals on their ballots. The 1956 attempt also failed, and a \$600,000 bond was added to the November 1960 general election. The third try was successful. The Vancouver City Council proceeded to obtain the land from the school district and approved the library board's proposal to hire architect Donald Cassady to draw plans for the facility.

In late November 1961, a contract for construction of the new building was awarded to contractor E. E. Settergren of Portland. At the time, completion was expected within 270 days. Actual construction time was about six months longer than originally estimated; library staff began the move to the new quarters in the first part of March 1963. At that time, the old Carnegie building was expected to remain open as a downtown reading room. On Sunday, March 31, 1963, a grand opening ceremony and tours of the new facility took place. Ownership of the building remained with the City of Vancouver with a 99-year lease to the FVRL District.

The 48,000 square foot building served as the Vancouver library as well as the hub of the FVRL District. There was ample parking for the bookmobile fleet, space for material storage, a community meeting room, administrative offices, and plenty of space for the library's collection to grow. There was also room for an art gallery, which opened with the building and featured travelling exhibits which were regularly noted by *The Oregonian* until the mid-1970s. The meeting room was a center of community activity and was used by the city council, DAR, garden club, the AAUW, and other community organizations.

Forty years after the 1963 building was opened, FVRL officials found it necessary to double the size of the facility. The population served by the library and district had quadrupled, while items never conceived of in 1963, such as tapes, CDs, computers, and engaging children's areas, had found their way into libraries. The building at 1007 East Mill Plain had lasted as long as it did because the space was reconfigured several times as the library's needs changed.

In 2006, after two unsuccessful attempts, a Library Capital Funding Area bond measure passed in the City of Vancouver and surrounding county area, paying for the construction of a replacement Vancouver library, which opened at 901 C Street in 2011. After the new building opened, the library district and the city replaced their 99-year lease agreement for 1007 East Mill Plain with a 10-year lease and an option for 10 additional years. FVRL remodeled the interior of the building and consolidated its administrative offices and book processing at the single location, resulting in considerable annual savings.

Key Figures Associated with the 1963 Fort Vancouver Regional Library Building

Eva Santee

Eva Santee was "a beloved and quietly formidable force for public libraries who in 1950 established the first inter-county rural library district in the state here in Southwest Washington."

Santee was born in Kansas, the fifth of six children of farmer James Santee and his wife, Ella. The family moved to Clark County prior to 1906, when Santee's younger sister was born. Eva Santee was trained as a teacher at Bellingham Normal School (later Western Washington University) and at the University of Washington. She taught school in Ridgefield, Vancouver, and Berkeley, California. She can be found in the Vancouver High School Alki of 1924, '25, and '26. As to her abilities as a teacher, C.W. Shumway (Superintendent of Vancouver Schools from 1895 to 1930) had this to say:

She never sent a case to the office during her stay in Vancouver High School. She never corrected nor criticized in class. Her grip on the group was such that every student was alert and interested. She assumed that [a problem student] knew his lesson, talked to him pleasantly, and soon had him replying correctly.

Santee received a master's in librarianship from the University of California, worked at a library in Portland, then moved to the Camas library in 1932, where she worked through the design and construction of a new library building. She left Camas for the Vancouver library in 1940, where she became the fourth librarian since the facility's opening in 1909.

Santee's motto was "Library service for all." A partnership with several school districts was established and the Vancouver library processed and transported school-owned books for children and later adults. Santee secured a WPA grant for the purchase of 2500 books and a bookmobile which could deliver books to the outer reaches of a voter-approved county library district; she worked with the Vancouver Housing Authority to serve branch libraries in three of its community centers. The war-time population explosion and partnership with the county library system that Santee championed led to a space problem at the Vancouver library; an addition financed in 1942 was completed in 1944. Also during the war, Santee headed a group of citizens concerned about a lack of community mental health services. They arranged a contract with an itinerant psychiatrist, a secretary, and a social worker to staff the county's first counseling center.

By 1945, Santee was leading discussions about forming a larger library district by merging Vancouver Public Library and Clark County libraries. It took five more years, but Santee stuck with it, and on July 1, 1950, the FVRL District was born, with Eva Santee as the director. Meanwhile, in 1948, another addition to the Vancouver library was completed.

The district boundaries and libraries continued to grow in the 1950s, and the Carnegie building in Vancouver was being out-grown again. Eva Santee, the library board, and the City of Vancouver worked to secure funding for a new building. Bond Issues were defeated by voters in 1956 and 1957 but finally, in November 1960, a \$600,000 bond issue was passed and design of the new Fort Vancouver Library District building began. Santee worked closely with architect Donald Cassady on the design of the building and, as a result, had a large influence on its final design. The library held an open house on March 31, 1963, opening for regular business on April 1.

Santee continued to lead the district from its new headquarters until her retirement on October 1, 1967 after 27 years as head of the library. Under her tutelage the organization had evolved from a small town library to a regional library district covering two counties, consisting of a large new main library, seven branch libraries, and two bookmobiles. She had received awards from national and state library associations, and had been chosen Vancouver's Citizen of the Year twice. The Columbian praised her at the time:

She had a shining goal, enormously difficult when she came here in 1940. She stated it simply then: "A good book for everyone." She gives squanderingly (sic) of her energy and her time to the welfare of the people, from the littlest to the most influential citizen.

The 1963 FVRL Library can be seen as the capstone to Eva Santee's long and tireless career with the Vancouver Public Library and the FVRL District. After retirement, she moved to Colfax, California to be near her sister and brother-in-law, Florence and Ed Whalin. There, she volunteered at the local library and wrote book reviews. Her efforts resulted in the Colfax library naming its meeting room after her. Disabled by arthritis, she moved to a nursing home near Colfax where she died at the age of 83 on June 3, 1979.

Donald Cassady

Early Life and Beginning Of Career

William Donald Cassady was born on August 20, 1927 in Portland, Oregon at Albertina Kerr Nursery and was adopted as an infant by William and Nellie Cassady. He went to work at the age of 15 at the Vancouver Shipyards. He sat at the desk of Kaiser engineers to learn the principals of drafting. At age 16, he was a bike messenger at the shipyards.

Cassady graduated from Washington State College, receiving his BA in 1951. He earned a bachelor's in architectural engineering in 1952. After graduation, he was a draftsman at Annand, Boone & Lei in Portland, Oregon for four years, during which time Cassady learned about architectural business and design. He opened his own architect office in Vancouver in 1959. Cassady's motto, which he learned from a group of nuns, is "To do a common task uncommonly will bring success."

Fort Vancouver Regional Library Building

The FVRL building was his first major work. While preparing to bid on the design of the FVRL building in 1962, Cassady toured many libraries throughout Washington and met with various architects. He also met with Marianne Reynolds, the state head librarian. This contributed to the selection of Cassady for the design of the new library. He worked closely with the library board and Eva Santee to understand the needs of the new building.

Cassady liked using concrete in his building designs. He used a waffle slab design in the library in the ceiling and floors. In his opinion, this construction method allowed for maximum flexibility and eliminated the need for beams. It also allowed, per the building code standards of that time, the potential of an additional floor to be added in the future. Additionally, he designed the structure so the window walls could be removed and reintegrated into the structure for any additions to the building.

Cassady also had to lobby the city to move an 18-inch water main that ran through the property from east to west. He persuaded the city to relocate the water main to the south of the building. The \$8,000 project allowed the building to be set back from Mill Plain for the aesthetics of the front elevation and noise control.

The Vancouver City Council and Eva Santee also insisted the building be accessible for disabled individuals. While accessible designs were certainly present beforehand, this was on the heels of "the first nationally recognized accessible design standard [of] the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) A117.1 Accessible and Usable Buildings and Facilities," which was released in 1961. As a result, Cassady integrated the front entry ramp, providing access for individuals with disabilities. It is believed to be one of the earliest examples of this consideration integrated into a public building in the City of Vancouver. Cassady noted that he used brick in the design to soften the overall look of the ramp area and capitalized on the materials flexibility to create curves in the entry ramp and planters. He also used this space for a fountain, which used to sit within the east planter bed in the entry area. It was removed after the fountain was vandalized on a number of occasions.

On Sunday, March 31, 1963, Donald Cassady, Eva Santee, Mayor Rude Luepke, and many others attended the dedication and grand opening of the new, modern FVRL building. This building remained the home of the Vancouver library and the FVRL District until 2011.

Donald Cassady's Career

Throughout his career, Donald Cassady won national and regional awards for his designs. His award-winning designs included Martin Luther King Elementary, Washington Elementary, the Pacific Northwest Bell Office building, and the Clark Public Utilities Operation Center buildings.

Published in 2016, Cassady's book *The Finnish Connection: My Odyssey Continues* offers details of his long life and its intriguing surprises. It also offers insight into the development of his architectural genius. He chronicles, for instance, his fascination with the works of the great Finnish architect, Alvar Aalto, whose works Cassady was able to experience first-hand during visits to Finland. Like all great artists, Cassady used what he learned and observed to help mold his own unique style and artistic creations.

Cassady's architectural works in Clark County and Southwest Washington include, but are not limited to, the following projects:

- Dr. Bedrossian Ophthalmology Eye Clinic, 3200 Main Street (1961)



- Dr. Osborn Orthopedic Clinic, 3212 Main Street (1962)



- Fort Vancouver Regional Library, 1007 NE Mill Plain (1963)



- Fort Vancouver Regional Library, Stevenson Branch (1964)



- Skamania Court House Annex (1966)



- Washington Elementary School (school replaced) (1968)



- Martin Luther King Elementary School, 4801 Idaho Street (1970)



- Vancouver School District Warehouse, Fourth Plain Boulevard (1971)



- Emil Fries Piano Hospital, 2510 E. Evergreen Boulevard (1971)



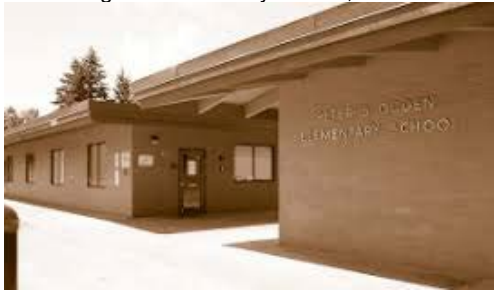
- Vancouver School Employees Credit Union, 2811 East Evergreen Boulevard (1971)



- Pacific Northwest Bell Office Building, 610 Esther Street (1973)



- Peter S. Ogden Elementary School, 3200 NE 86th Avenue (1974)



- Clark County Juvenile Justice major addition & remodel, 500 W. 11th (1974)



- Medco Medical Clinic for 22 physicians, 3305 Main Street (1975)



- Sacajawea Elementary School, 700 NE 12th Street (1976)



- Clark County, Elehan, Mental Health & Detox, 1950 Fort Vancouver Way (1979)



- Columbia House Elderly High Rise, Vancouver Housing Authority, 130 W. 24th (1980)



- Felida Elementary School, 2700 NE 119th Street (1976)
- Clark County PUD Operations Center, 8600 NE 117th Street (1978)
- US Army Reserve Building Complex, Fifth Street (1982)
- Clark College Library addition (1982)
- Salvation Army Headquarters, 1500 NE 112th Street
- Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, 805 SE Ellsworth Avenue



Today, Donald Cassady has retired from his work as an architect. He spent time at his property on the coast before eventually moving back to Vancouver in recent years. Well into his 90s, Donald Cassady remains active and is always interested in discussing his work as an architect in Clark County and Southwest Washington.

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

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Previous documentation on file (CCHR):

Primary location of additional data:

- Preliminary determination of individual listing has been requested
- Previously listed in the Clark County Heritage Register
- Previously determined eligible by the Clark County Heritage Register
- Recorded by Clark County Cultural Resources Inventory Survey # _____

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

Name of repository:

9. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 2.49 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM References on a continuation sheet.)

1

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 3

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Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The 1963 Fort Vancouver Regional Library (FVRL) building is located at 1007 East Mill Mill Plain Boulevard (tax lot 38279910) in the center of a 2.49-acre trapezoidal parcel bounded by Fort Vancouver Way to the west, East Mill Plain Boulevard to the north, Memory/Mill Plain Park to the east, and an asphalt parking lot to the south that abuts to the north end of Officers Row and Vancouver National Historic Reserve.

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary was selected due to the original designation made during the period and planning and construction for the 1963 Fort Vancouver Regional Library.

10. Form Prepared By

name/title Bradley Richardson, Jack Wager, Konnie Wager, and Janet Anderson
organization Clark County Historical Museum date 08/23/2019
street & number 1511 Main Street telephone (360) 993-5679
city or town Vancouver state WA zip code 98660

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 photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the CCHPC Staff)

Property Owner

name City of Vancouver, Washington
street & number 415 W. Sixth Street telephone (360) 487-8311
city or town Vancouver state WA zip code 98660

4b. **CLARK COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

In my opinion, the property meets / does not meet the Clark County Heritage Register criteria. (See continuation sheet.)

Signature of commenting staff

Date

4c. **CLARK COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION / DECISION**

IN THE OPINION OF THE CLARK COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION, THE PROPERTY MEETS / DOES NOT MEET THE CLARK COUNTY HERITAGE REGISTER CRITERIA. (See continuation sheet.)

CHAIRPERSON,
Clark County Historic Preservation Commission

Date