

**OREGON INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
SECTION 106 DOCUMENTATION FORM
Individual Properties**

Property Name: Astoria Public Library	Street Address: 450 10th Street	City, County: Astoria, Clatsop
Project Name: Astoria Public Library Renovation		Agency project #:
Agency: National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)		SHPO Case#:
Location Coordinates (to sixth decimal place): Latitude: 46.188152 Longitude: -123.832447		Is the property listed in the National Register of Historic Places? <input type="checkbox"/> YES – Individually <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> YES – In a district



The Astoria Public Library

Surveyor: Allison Geary, MS, and Carin Carlson, AIA		Date Recorded: 3/13/2024
National Register Findings: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eligible: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Individually <input type="checkbox"/> As part of District NR Criteria: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> Not Eligible: <input type="checkbox"/> Irretrievable integrity loss <input type="checkbox"/> Not 50 Years <input type="checkbox"/> Fails to meet NR Criteria		Finding of Effect: <input type="checkbox"/> No Effect <input type="checkbox"/> No Adverse Effect <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adverse Effect
State Historic Preservation Office Comments – Official Use Only: Eligibility: <input type="checkbox"/> Concur <input type="checkbox"/> Do Not Concur: Effect: <input type="checkbox"/> Concur <input type="checkbox"/> Do Not Concur:		
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin: 10px auto; width: 80%;"> <p style="font-size: 2em; opacity: 0.5;">RECEIVED STAMP</p> </div>		
Signed _____		Date _____
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin: 10px auto; width: 80%;"> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; opacity: 0.5;">CONTACT INFORMATION STAMP</p> </div>		
Comments: 		

**OREGON INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
SECTION 106 DOCUMENTATION FORM
Individual Properties**

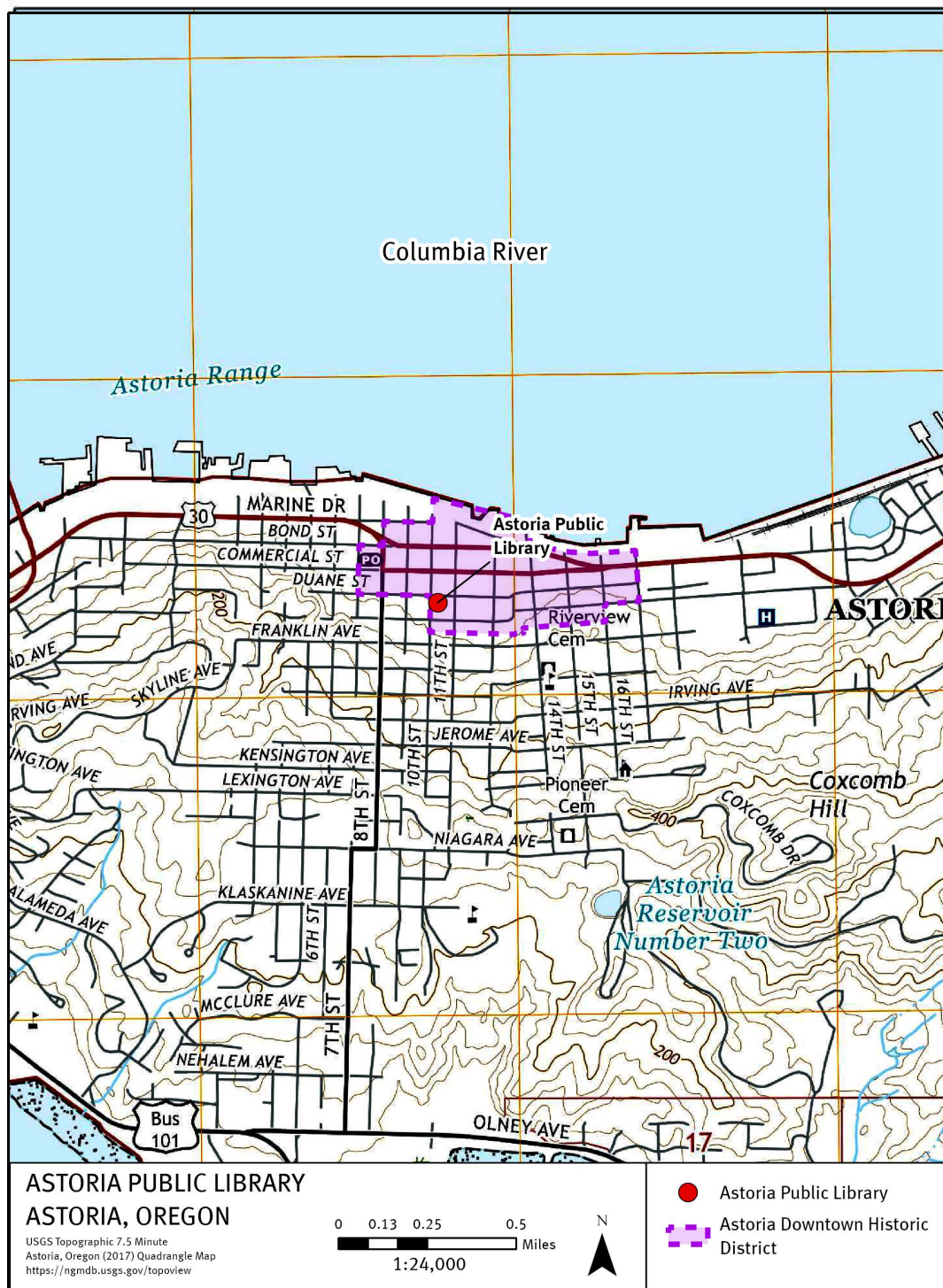
Property Name: Astoria Public Library	Street Address: 450 10th Street	City, County: Astoria, Clatsop
Original Use: Library		Number of Associated Resources: N/A
Architectural Classification / Resource Type: Brutalism Building		Owner: <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local Government <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Federal
Window type and Materials: Fixed aluminum windows	Exterior Surface Materials: Primary: Concrete Panels Secondary: Cast Stone Decorative: -select materials-	
Roof Type and Materials: Flat roof with parapet		
Integrity: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Poor	Construction Date: 1967 (<input type="checkbox"/> Circa)	
	Architect/Builder (if known): Earnest E. and Ebba W. Brown Architects	
<p>Description of Property (including previous alterations & approximate dates):</p> <p>The 1967 Astoria Public Library exterior is designed in a restrained and simple Brutalist architectural style with rectangular massing. The library is one-story with a full basement. Its rectangular footprint sits on a combination piling, footing, and stem wall foundation. The three street- facing exterior walls are clad in non-structural precast concrete panels with large, exposed quartz aggregate finish, and limited glazing. Panels have a thin smooth finish border around an offset relief with radiused corners. The east party wall joined to the adjacent Merwyn Building is constructed of 8" concrete masonry units (CMU). Distictive cast stone canopies are located above all windows and entrances. The building has a flat roof with parapet covered with asphalt built-up roofing. Wall heights vary, with lower heights at building entrances and in the center portion of the building, and taller heights along the entire north elevation, the southwest corner, and most of the south elevation. These three tall sections express and emphasize the three primary interior spaces. Most, if not all, of the original exterior fabric, including exterior building materials, lighting, and landscape planters, is intact.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Continued on page 11)</p>		
<p>Determination of Eligibility, Justification, and Sources (Use continuation sheets if necessary):</p> <p>The Astoria Public Library (originally the Astor Library and Veteran's Memorial building) was constructed in 1967. The refined Brutalist building was designed by Earnest E. and Ebba W. Brown Architects, of Astoria, Oregon. Ebba Brown, daughter of prominent Astoria architect John Wicks, was an acclaimed architect and the first woman to become a licensed architect in the state of Oregon by examination. The building was the first building purposefully built as a library in the city of Astoria. Bruce Berney was the Astoria Public Library's first Director. Berney served as director for 30 years, and during his tenure, transformed the library into a professional center for historic research before retiring in 1996 (Moore 2017). The Brutalist building stands as a contrast to Downtown Astoria's built fabric. While located within the boundaries of the designated Astoria Downtown Historic District, it falls outside its period of significance (1883-1947) and does not contribute to it. Based on preliminary research, the Astoria Public Library is potentially individually eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NHRP) under Criteria A and C.</p> <p>Under Criterion A, the civic building is representative of community, state and federal efforts and funding to erect Astoria's first dedicated building to house the Astoria library collection and serve as a memorial for Clatsop County veterans and has significance in areas of education, social history, and community planning and development. Under Criterion C, the Astoria Public Library is an excellent local example of Brutalist architecture and retains character-defining features that evoke its time, design, and method of construction; this includes exterior pre-cast concrete wall panels, heavy massing, and minimal adornment. Further, the building is associated with Ebba W. Brown, the first woman to become licensed though examination in Oregon and a prominent Astoria designer. The Astoria Public Library is considered one of the most distinguished buildings completed by her firm (Jensen 2022).</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Continued on page 12)</p>		

OREGON INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
SECTION 106 DOCUMENTATION FORM
Individual Properties

Property Name: Astoria Public Library	Street Address: 450 10th Street	City, County: Astoria, Clatsop
<p>Description of project scope, and nature and extent of impacts:</p> <p>The proposed Astoria Public Library rehabilitation project is intended to modernize the building to meet 21st Century library requirements, patron expectations, and community needs, while retaining the building's modern-era character. Chiefly, the project aims to: expand usable square footage within the existing building footprint by better utilizing the existing unfinished basement; reorganize interior spaces to accommodate modern library functions and concerns; and introduce much needed natural light into the building's interior to create a healthier environment, connect to the surrounding urban context, and improve energy performance. Funding for the Astoria Public Library rehabilitation includes municipal, state, and federal funds. Partially funded by a local bond measure, which received over 60% support in its passage, the design process has included a high level of community engagement and support for the proposed design. Federal grant funds, provided by the National Endowment for the Humanities, are being allocated for expansion of services, both community spaces and archival storage, into the basement level.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Continued page 13)</p>		
<p>Finding of Effect and justification:</p> <p>The Astoria Public Library is likely eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criteria A and C at a local level. The proposed project does not change the building's use as a public library and veterans memorial; the project will not affect the building's ability to meet Criteria A in association with education, social history, and community planning and development. The proposed rehabilitation will alter the physical characteristics of the building, which contribute to the building's significance under Criterion C. Modifications include the strategic removal of select sections of the building's exterior envelope and replacement of opaque materials with transparent materials in order to reasonably increase the amount of natural daylight entering the building. Additionally, multiple secondary and tertiary spaces will be reconfigured and a section of floor between the first floor and basement will be removed to increase useable space for new library functions such as study spaces, a media room, the Astoriana Collection, the relocated and enlarged Flag Room, and an exhibition/gallery space - all within the existing footprint.</p> <p>The project's Area of Potential Effect (APE) is limited to the building's footprint and attached concrete planters. While the proposed project includes preservation of a majority of the building exterior envelope and character defining features, as well as preservation of interior historic fabric such as ceilings, lighting, and wall finishes within the three primary spaces, the proposed alterations will, to some degree, adversely effect the historic resource. Through the proposed strategic and sensitive design solutions and retention of original materials throughout, the building will still retain substantial integrity of design, materials, and workmanship, in combination with integrity of location, setting, feeling, and association, and continue to communicate its significance under Criteria A and C. As a result, the proposed project will not have cumulative effects on the resource. The building as a library will continue to serve and be celebrated as a critical public resource by the Astoria community.</p> <p>The library neighbors historic buildings that contribute to the Astoria Downtown Historic District or that may be individually eligible for listing in the NRHP. A Visual APE has been included to account for potential effects on nearby historic resources. Proposed alterations to the library do not expand the library's footprint or add additional levels. Most concrete panels and the building's modular rhythm are maintained in proposed alterations. The introduction of glazing is limited to the north and west elevations. Sensitive modifications do not impact integrity or significance of nearby eligible buildings or contributing buildings and their ability to contribute to the historic district.</p> <p>The public library is within the designated Astoria Downtown Historic District, but falls outside the period of significance and does not contribute to it. The building was determined "non-compatible" and was never included in the district. Thus, proposed alterations do not affect the historic district.</p>		

**OREGON INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
SECTION 106 DOCUMENTATION FORM
Individual Properties**

Property Name: Astoria Public Library	Street Address: 450 10th Street	City, County: Astoria, Clatsop
--	------------------------------------	-----------------------------------



The Astoria Public Library is located in Astoria, Oregon. The library falls within the Astoria Downtown Historic District, but does not contribute to it; it is non-compatible and built after the district's period of significance (1883-1947).

**OREGON INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
SECTION 106 DOCUMENTATION FORM
Individual Properties
Supplemental Maps**

Property Name: Astoria Public Library	Street Address: 450 10th Street	City, County: Astoria, Clatsop
--	------------------------------------	-----------------------------------

ASTORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY
ASTORIA, OREGON

0 30 60 120 Feet

1:1,400

N

- ★ Eligible/Significant
- Historic Boundary
- Area of Potential Effect
- Visual Area of Potential Effect
- Astoria Downtown Historic District
- Taxlots

The 1967 Astoria Public Library is recommended to be eligible for listing in the NRHP. The historic boundary is the property's taxlot, expanded to include square concrete planters.

**OREGON INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
SECTION 106 DOCUMENTATION FORM
Individual Properties**

Property Name: Astoria Public Library	Street Address: 450 10th Street	City, County: Astoria, Clatsop
--	------------------------------------	-----------------------------------



View: The north and west elevations of the Astoria Public Library, facing southeast.



View: The west and south elevations of the library building, facing northeast.

OREGON INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
SECTION 106 DOCUMENTATION FORM
Individual Properties
Supplemental Photos

Property Name: Astoria Public Library	Street Address: 450 10th Street	City, County: Astoria, Clatsop
--	------------------------------------	-----------------------------------



View: The primary entrance is located on the west elevation. The view is towards the east.



View: The secondary entrance is located on the south elevation. The view is towards the northwest.

OREGON INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
SECTION 106 DOCUMENTATION FORM
Individual Properties
Supplemental Photos

Property Name: Astoria Public Library	Street Address: 450 10th Street	City, County: Astoria, Clatsop
--	------------------------------------	-----------------------------------



View: Detail of exposed quartz aggregate present in precast-concrete exterior wall panels.



View: The library is located in Downtown Astoria. The view is towards the southeast.

**OREGON INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
SECTION 106 DOCUMENTATION FORM
Individual Properties
Supplemental Photos**

Property Name: Astoria Public Library	Street Address: 450 10th Street	City, County: Astoria, Clatsop
--	------------------------------------	-----------------------------------



View: The Boylston Street Building of the Boston Public Library prior to 2016 renovation. Image: Boston Public Library



View: The Boylston Street Building after renovation. Image: Bruce T. Martin Photography

OREGON INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
SECTION 106 DOCUMENTATION FORM
Individual Properties
Supplemental Photos

Property Name:	Street Address:	City, County:
----------------	-----------------	---------------



View: The University of Chicago Regenstein Library basement intervention. Image: Dezeen



View: Salem Public Library. Source: Salem Breakfast on Bikes.

OREGON INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
SECTION 106 DOCUMENTATION FORM
Individual Properties
Continuation Sheet

Property Name: Astoria Public Library	Street Address: 450 10th Street	City, County: Astoria, Clatsop
--	------------------------------------	-----------------------------------

(Cont.) **Physical Description**

Entrances on the west and south elevations are recessed and demarcated by a lower building height and a cast stone canopy. The main public entrance on the west elevation is elevated and accessed by concrete steps with aluminum handrails. The secondary public entrance on the south elevation is at grade and adjacent to the parking area. A small, recessed service entrance is located at the east-end of the south elevation.

Public entrances have full-lite bronze-finished aluminum storefront assemblies with interior vestibules. Each entrance assembly includes a set of double doors, sidelights, and transoms with clear, single pane glazing. Hardware includes exterior pulls, interior panic bars, and pin hinges. The service entrance has a painted hollow metal door.

Full-height narrow and recessed windows are located between pairs (there are single windows at east end of north and south elevations) of pre-cast concrete panels on the north, west, and south elevations. These narrow windows are paired with a cast stone column cover between them and a cast stone projecting eyebrow, or eyelash, hood above, including seven corner eyebrows. This window arrangement creates an abstracted column-with-capital effect. Cast stone features are composed of refined aggregate, in contrast to precast concrete panels with large aggregate.

Most exterior windows are the original tall, narrow, three-part, fixed units. Window frames are aluminum with a bronze finish. There are a total of 24 window openings. The original upper sections of two windows on the north elevation have been retrofitted with operable casements at the mezzanine level. Window openings do not have surrounds or exterior casing other than concrete sills. Glazing is clear, single pane.

Exterior lighting includes pole mounted lights, entrance lights, and non-original landscaping lights. Main entrances utilize overhead recessed cans in square housing. The primary/west entrance at 10th Street is flanked by "lollipop" streetlamps with frosted globes. Non-original in-ground fixtures in the planter beds uplight the exterior walls.

Landscaping includes building perimeter plantings, four freestanding, sidewalk planter boxes, and shrubs screening the parking area from the adjacent sidewalk. The building planter bed is at grade along the south elevation and rises above the sloping grade along the west elevation to a height of approximately 4' above the sidewalk at the north elevation.

The building interior is characterized by three tall public spaces separated by the two entrances, lobby, and back-of-house spaces. Taller spaces include the primary reading room, the southwest corner of the children's area, and the Flag Room meeting space. The ceiling height is lowered at entrance vestibules, the circulation desk, part of the children's area, and support spaces. The Armstrong suspended ceiling systems and integrated lighting is a defining feature of the interior. Reading rooms feature radiused corner light diffusers laid out in a linear pattern, alternating with bands of acoustic tile. Module-lux light diffusers, at the entry and lobby, are composed of small acrylic modules having rounded corners.

The Flag Room features a deeply coffered suspended ceiling with integral lighting. Other original interior finishes include plaster walls, tongue-and-groove cedar walls in the Flag Room, 12x12 resilient tile flooring, and cast-in-place concrete and concrete masonry units in mechanical and basement areas (Earnest E. Brown and Ebba W. Brown Architects 1966).

Alterations to the original building include a mezzanine, added to the Reading Room.

OREGON INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
SECTION 106 DOCUMENTATION FORM
Individual Properties
Continuation Sheet

Property Name: Astoria Public Library	Street Address: 450 10th Street	City, County: Astoria, Clatsop
--	------------------------------------	-----------------------------------

(Cont.) **Determination of Eligibility**

While the library was a community effort, it does not reach a level of significance to be eligible under Criterion A. The library is not associated with persons of historic significance and does not meet minimum qualifications to satisfy Criterion B. Under Criterion C, the Astoria Public Library is an excellent local example of Brutalist architecture and retains character-defining features that evoke its time, design, and method of construction; this includes exterior pre-cast concrete wall panels, heavy massing, and minimal adornment. Further, the building is associated with Ebba W. Brown, the first woman to become licensed through examination in Oregon and a prominent Astoria designer. The Astoria Public Library is considered one of the most distinguished buildings completed by her firm (Jensen 2022).

The building is not eligible under Criterion D; the building was constructed with typical construction practices of the twentieth century, and in and of itself is unlikely to be the principal source of new information about the past.

Due to the minimal changes that have occurred over time to the context, building materials, design, and use, Astoria Public Library retains all seven aspects of integrity (location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association).

The period of significance is recommended to be 1967, the year the building was constructed. The recommended historic boundary is the taxlot expanded to the west to include square concrete planters.

**OREGON INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
SECTION 106 DOCUMENTATION FORM
Individual Properties
Continuation Sheet**

Property Name: Astoria Public Library	Street Address: 450 10th Street	City, County: Astoria, Clatsop
--	------------------------------------	-----------------------------------

(Cont.)

Project Scope

Exterior:

Overall proposed preservation scope at the exterior includes cleaning the pre-cast concrete panels and cast stone features, new membrane roofing and flashings, and window maintenance. Cleaning will be executed using the gentlest means possible and based on approved mockups to avoid damage to aggregates and binders.

Proposed exterior alterations are intended to complement the existing design, utilizing the established proportions and rhythm of the pre-cast concrete panel system and narrow windows for proposed alterations. The primary west entrance's current single-bay of glazing will be expanded to full-height glazing across all four bays of the recessed portion of the wall. This change will maintain the entrance door location and configuration, while also providing an expanded and accessible entrance porch, improving visibility and security, and increasing natural light at the entrance lobby, circulation desk, and children's room. The wall height will increase by approximately 12" to accommodate roof deck upgrades and additional roof insulation. A flat canopy is proposed at the full expanse of the new entry porch to provide shelter for patrons. The storefront system will provide a hierarchy of division derived from the existing exterior composition, visually maintaining the historic panel widths with more substantial storefront framing, while glazing sizes are reduced by less substantial mullions. Glass will be clear bird safe or ceramic frit insulated glazing units below the canopy and spandrel above to conceal the roof structure and systems (Exhibit p. 11-12, 17-18).

At the north elevation, two pairs of pre-cast concrete panels and three pairs of windows will be replaced with glazing. This location strategically allows for the retention of the two cast stone eyebrow hoods above edge glazing and leaves this new bank of glazing flanked by a pair of pre-cast concrete panels on each side. This location also benefits the interior by providing extensive natural light to the tall reading room, teen room, circulation desk, and is centered over the proposed opening to the new basement community spaces allowing natural light to penetrate far into the basement. As with the west elevation, the storefront system will provide a hierarchy of division, visually maintaining the historic panel widths with more substantial storefront framing, while glazing sizes are reduced by less substantial mullions. A horizontal structural member will be introduced roughly in-line with the horizontal mullion of the upper window to provide structural support for the tall glass panels (Exhibit p. 11-12, 17-18). Window glazing will be clear bird safe or ceramic frit with insulated double panes. Opaque spandrel glass will obscure where the interior ceiling abuts the glazing and above. Interventions at the north and west elevations will be distinguishable from the historic design and materials and retain a secondary visual weight to the historic Brutalist envelope.

At the south elevation, abutting the existing parking lot, the existing south entrance will be converted to a book drop alcove. The existing storefront and entrance door will be removed and replaced with metal panels and glass, configured to match the original composition (Exhibit p. 11). All surrounding materials will be retained. No other alterations are proposed at the south elevation.

The landscaping and pre-cast concrete planters at the south portion of the west elevation will be modified to add level access from accessible parking to the building entrance. To accommodate this necessary ADA access improvement, the south portion of the planter will be removed and paved from the parking lot to the entrance porch. The existing entrance stair will be removed and relocated to the north edge of the entrance porch. New railings will be installed along the west edge of the entrance porch and at the new stair (Exhibit p. 11-12, 17-18).

(Continued on page 14)

OREGON INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
SECTION 106 DOCUMENTATION FORM
Individual Properties
Continuation Sheet

Property Name: Astoria Public Library	Street Address: 450 10th Street	City, County: Astoria, Clatsop
--	------------------------------------	-----------------------------------

(Cont.) Project Scope

The proposed alterations to the building exterior address the 21st century concerns of universal access, security, connecting to the urban context, transparency, and natural light with strategic and historically sensitive design solutions. Though alterations will directly affect the resource, the intensity of impact is mitigated through a sensitive design approach based on the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Rehabilitation. Substantial integrity of design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association are maintained. Character-defining features, including the buildings form and mass, pre-cast concrete panels, full-height narrow and recessed windows, and cast stone eyebrow hoods, will be retained and preserved.

Interior:

Overall proposed preservation scope at the interior includes retention of key historic spaces such as the reading room, children's room, and Flag Room (Veteran's Memorial room), removal of the non-historic mezzanine level that was inserted into the reading room volume, and rehabilitation of modern-era lighting (Exhibit p. 6-8). Efforts will be made to retain the original suspended acoustic ceilings present in the reading room, southwest children's area, and Flag Room. Acrylic light diffusers (with radiused corners) in the reading room have discolored over time and are no longer manufactured. Light diffusers throughout the building will be inventoried and those in good condition will be salvaged and concentrated in the main reading room.

Proposed interior alterations are intended to provide 21st century spaces for library users and staff, meet current requirements for universal access (restrooms, elevator), and preserve the overall modern-era character of the interiors. The rehabilitation will include: removal of interior partition walls, restrooms, stairs and other ancillary spaces; reorganization of spaces for improved function; removal of the non-historic mezzanine that subdivides the reading room; development of the basement as usable square footage; and creation of a new opening between the main level and basement for stairs, visual connection, and natural light (Exhibit p. 6-10. 13-16).

Reorganization of interior spaces is based on preserving the three primary spaces - Reading Room, Children's Area at SW corner, and the Flag Room. The Flag Room will serve as a staff work room and the original wood wall finishes, and unique ceiling and lighting design will be retained. The children's room will be expanded, and a teen room will be added. In the main reading room, removal of the mezzanine restores the original volume of the space and allows for a generous floor opening to provide access and light to new basement spaces. The floor opening design takes cues from the radiused relief of the exterior pre-cast concrete panels with its radiused corners and will align with new glazing on the north elevation. An open stair will connect the two levels and an open metal railing will line the perimeter and stair.

The unfinished basement, originally designed for storage, will be rehabilitated to include additional stacks and reading space, an exhibit gallery space, the Flag Room (community meeting room), study rooms, additional restrooms, archives and storage, and a dedicated room to store the Astoriana Collection (also known as the Bruce Berney Collection) (Exhibit p. 9-10). Support spaces such as mechanical and janitorial rooms will also be provided in the basement. An elevator, primary stair and a second egress stair from the basement will be added.

(Continued on page 15)

OREGON INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
SECTION 106 DOCUMENTATION FORM
Individual Properties
Continuation Sheet

Property Name: Astoria Public Library	Street Address: 450 10th Street	City, County: Astoria, Clatsop
--	------------------------------------	-----------------------------------

(Cont.) Project Scope

The proposed alterations to the building interior address the 21st century concerns of modern library function, universal access, security and visibility, natural light, and expanded collections and services. As with the exterior, these issues are addressed with strategic and historically sensitive design solutions that modernize while maintaining key features. Interior alterations will directly affect the resource, but the intensity of impact is minor. Through retention of significant spaces, materials, and features, substantial integrity of design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association are maintained. Character-defining features, including spatial volumes, entry sequence, and unique ceiling and lighting design, will be retained and preserved.

The proposed rehabilitation project meets the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. Specifically, Standards 1, 2, 5, and 9 address the removal of historic fabric, preservation of character-defining features, and exterior alterations. The rehabilitation project is intended to meet the needs of the community and, as important, introduce natural light into the building - the lack of which is a common deficiency of Brutalist architecture. Proposed alterations are strategic in location and limit the impact to historic fabric and character while substantially improving interior conditions. Alterations are easily differentiated, simple, and sensitive. The addition of much needed usable space is achieved entirely within the existing building footprint, avoiding the need for an addition.

These changes provide the community with a library that meets their long-term needs and allows the library to remain and thrive in this building because of the proposed rehabilitation.

Brutalist Rehabilitation Precedent:

The preservation and re-use of Brutalist buildings presents a specific architectural challenge. Primarily, Brutalist buildings' inward-facing and fortress-like designs often allow little light into the interior and are often uninviting spaces. Typical monolithic Brutalist buildings often have a poor interior experience and little relationship with the street. Especially for libraries, the lack of natural light and connection to the public arena are disadvantages. A common intervention, as opposed to demolishing a Brutalist building and building anew, is integrating additional openings for natural light.

Precedent for increasing daylight into Brutalist buildings has occurred both nationally and regionally. In 2016, the Boylston Street Building, a Philip Johnson designed Brutalist addition to the Boston Public Library, was rehabilitated (Boston Public Library 2023). Exterior stone panels which blocked window openings and created a fortress-like feeling, were removed and new glazing was installed in openings to increase daylight into the space and establish its connection with the street (Boston Preservation Alliance 2023; Boston Public Library 2023). In Chicago, the Skidmore Owings and Merrill Regenstein Library at the University of Chicago transformed unused basement space into a study area, punching new openings into the envelope to fill the new defined space with natural light (McKnight 2017) Regionally, a similar intervention occurred at Salem Public Library in Oregon. Concrete panels were replaced with glazing to increase natural light to the interior (Welton 2022). In all cases, thoughtful modernization played secondary to existing design, and key character-defining features were retained.

OREGON INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
SECTION 106 DOCUMENTATION FORM
Individual Properties
Continuation Sheet

Property Name: Astoria Public Library	Street Address: 450 10th Street	City, County: Astoria, Clatsop
---	---	--

(Cont.)

Historic Context

Developmental History:

The Astor Library & Veterans Memorial, currently known as the Astoria Public Library, is a Brutalist building located in Downtown Astoria, Oregon. Astoria is a maritime port town at the mouth of the Columbia River named after John Jacob Astor, a New York Financier who established the Fort Astoria trading post in 1811 (City of Astoria 2023). The Astoria Public Library was established in 1892 and its collection housed in various locations over time. The library became a department of the City of Astoria in 1914, using property tax as its primary funding source (Oregon Coast Council for the Arts 2023). Since 1914, the library has operated as an independent city library with over 49,000 materials in its collection (Oregon Coast Council for the Arts 2023).

It was not until 1964, that the community of Astoria voted to construct a dedicated building to house its collection and provide space for patrons (Moore 2017). It was the first building in Astoria purposely built as a library (Goodenberger 1998: section 7 page 270). Funding was sourced from the Astor Family, the Veterans Memorial Library Fund, as well as state and federal resources (Moore 2017). The final cost of construction amounted to \$378,000, with \$100,000 provided by the Astor Family (Holm 1967). The building was designed by local notable architects Earnest E. and Ebba W. Brown, a husband and wife team. Albert J. Mittet was the general contractor, and the building was erected between 1966 and 1967. The building was officially dedicated October 8, 1967 (Moore 2017). Astor descendent, Gavin Astor, participated in the library's dedication (Holm 1967). Gavin Astor reported that Astoria had always been a special interest to the Astor Family as it was John Jacob Astor's "crowning achievement," providing a key link for global commercial enterprise (Holm 1967).

It was a multi-faceted effort to complete the library in 1967. In addition to aforementioned funding avenues, in 1966 the Oregon State Library allocated approximately \$23,000 to furnish the building (The Oregonian 1966). Additional funds were raised from the public to finance the purchasing of furniture (The Oregonian 1967). At the time of its opening, the library quickly became a community hub, improved public access to referential materials, and renewed an interest in reading within the community (Moore 2017). In addition, the building served as a proper memorial to Clatsop County veterans (Moore 2017). Over the years, the library has amassed a diverse collection, including the Bruce Berney Archives, or Astoriana Collection, which includes materials dedicated to Astoria history (Moore 2017). Bruce Berney was a long serving librarian and steward. With his retirement in 1996, excitement around the community hub began to wane and the community complained about its dim interior (Moore 2017). In 2017, the City Council of Astoria voted to renovate the library, the same year it reached 50 years of age and became eligible for inclusion in the NRHP (Moore 2017).

Earnest E. and Ebba W. Brown Architects:

Earnest E. and Ebba W. Brown Architects were a husband and wife team based in Astoria, Oregon. Ebba W. Brown was the daughter of Astoria architect John Wick, who she apprenticed and later partnered with before his death in 1963. Ebba is credited with being the first woman in Oregon to receive an architectural license through examination. She received her Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Architecture degrees from the University of Oregon and became licensed at 28. She later received a Master of Architecture and urban planning in 1946 from Cranbrook Arts Academy (Jensen 2022). In 1960, she became the first woman to sit on the Architect Examiners Board (McIntyre 1960).

(Continued on page 17)

OREGON INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
SECTION 106 DOCUMENTATION FORM
Individual Properties
Continuation Sheet

Property Name: Astoria Public Library	Street Address: 450 10th Street	City, County: Astoria, Clatsop
--	------------------------------------	-----------------------------------

(Cont.) Historic Context

Ebba is noted for her contribution to the Astoria built environment, where she introduced modern designs that departed from traditional Victorian and Craftsman architectural styles (Jensen 2022). Ebba once told in an interview, that she did not specialize in one type of design, for architects who did are closed minded (Mcintyre 1960). While partnered with her father, the team designed buildings in the International style, with stripped-down ornamentation and rectilinear forms (Jensen 2022). While partnered with her husband and others, her firm continued to explore modern architectural styles. The Astoria Public Library, designed in a refinement of the Brutalist style, is considered one of the firm's most distinctive designs (Jensen 2022).

Brutalism:

Brutalism was first a design philosophy and later an architectural style popularized in the mid-to-late part of the twentieth century (1950s-1970s) (Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation [DAHP] 2023). The philosophy focused on the use of exposed concrete and building components such as structure, materials, and mechanical systems (DAHP 2023). Over time the term came to identify buildings with blocky and geometric heavy massing and stripped-down adornment. Brutalism was popular among reconstruction projects in the post-war era, visually communicated permanence and stability, and became synonymous with governmental and institutional buildings. Typical finishes of Brutalist architecture include concrete but also brick or stucco (DAHP 2023). The Astoria Public Library is a refined example of Brutalist architecture used for a municipal building. Character, materiality, and building form are expressed through monumental pre-cast concrete panels. Full-height narrow and recessed windows evoke a fortress like resemblance; and adornment is reduced to cast stone eyebrow hoods above windows and column covers to create an abstract column and capital effect. In the true spirit of mid-century architecture, the building integrates structured landscaping at its exterior. However, the design does not include perhaps the most defining Brutalist design element of exposed structural concrete walls, columns, or floors, on the exterior or interior. As such, it is a modified Brutalist design concept applied only to the exterior cladding.

OREGON INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
SECTION 106 DOCUMENTATION FORM
Individual Properties
Continuation Sheet

Property Name: Astoria Public Library	Street Address: 450 10th Street	City, County: Astoria, Clatsop
--	------------------------------------	-----------------------------------

(Cont.) Sources

Boston Preservation Alliance. "Boston Public Library Johnson Building." 2023. Available, <https://www.bostonpreservation.org/advocacy-project/boston-public-library-johnson-building>, accessed December 1, 2023.

Boston Public Library. "Boylston Street Building Points of Interest." 2023. Available, <https://www.bpl.org/boylston-street-building-points-of-interest/>, accessed December 1, 2023.
Brown and Brown Architects. "Astoria Public Library Building." 1966. On file, Astoria Public Library, Astoria, Oregon.

City of Astoria. "History." 2023. Available, <https://www.astoria.or.us/History>, accessed December 1, 2023.

Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation. "Brutalism." 2023. Available, <https://dahp.wa.gov/historic-preservation/historic-buildings/architectural-style-guide/brutalism>, accessed December 1, 2023.

Goodenberger, John E. "National Register of Historic Places Registration Form for the Astoria Downtown Historic District." 1998. Available, <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/77848934>, accessed November 27, 2023.

Holm, Don. "Astor Scion Participates In Astor Library Dedication." The Oregonian. October 9, 1967, p.20.

Jensen, Rachel. "Ebba Wicks Brown (1914-2006)." Oregon Encyclopedia, December 29, 2022. Available, <https://www.oregonencyclopedia.org/articles/brown-ebba-wicks/>, accessed November 29, 2023.

McIntyre, Jean. "Architect Examiners Board Gains First Woman Member." The Oregonian. August 22, 1960, p. 30.

McKnight, Jenna. "Brutalist library in Chicago get interior update by Woodhouse Tinucci." Dezeen. July 11, 2017. Available, <https://www.dezeen.com/2017/07/11/brutalist-joseph-regenstein-library-chicago-som-skidmore-owings-merrill-interior-design-update-renovation-woodhouse-tinucci/>, accessed December 1, 2023.

Moore, Shalan. "Astor Library & Veterans Memorial: 50 Years in the Making." Clatsop News, October 3, 2017. Available, <https://clatsopnews.com/2017/10/03/astoria-public-library-history/>, accessed November 27, 2023.

Oregon Coast Council for the Arts. "Astoria Public Library." 2023. Available, <https://coastarts.org/venues/astoria-public-library/>.

(Continued on page 19)

**OREGON INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
SECTION 106 DOCUMENTATION FORM
Individual Properties
Continuation Sheet**

Property Name: Astoria Public Library	Street Address: 450 10th Street	City, County: Astoria, Clatsop
--	------------------------------------	-----------------------------------

(Cont.) Sources

The Oregonian (Portland, Oregon). "State Library Helps Astoria." December 10, 1966, p. 14.

The Oregonian (Portland, Oregon). "Cash Sought for Library." March 14, 1967, p. 17

Welton, J. Michael. "Hacker Architects Brings a Brutalist Public Library into the 21st Century. Metropolis (metropolismag.com). September 22, 2022. Available, <https://metropolismag.com/projects/hacker-architects-salem-public-library/>, accessed December 3, 2023.