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Jenny Sullivan  
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Deborah Cade, North Slope Ex-Officio  
Gia Mugford, Wedge Ex-Officio



# Written Comment

## Landmarks Preservation Commission Planning and Development Services Department

**Date:** October 9, 2024  
**Time:** 5:30 p.m.  
**Location:** Hybrid (see below)

**Staff**

Reuben McKnight, Historic Preservation Officer  
Susan Johnson, Historic Preservation Coordinator  
Tina Nailor, Historic Preservation Intern  
Mary Crabtree, Administrative Assistant

**SUBMITTAL:**

Written comments received by 12:00 p.m. on the meeting day.

**SUBJECTS:**

Comments are addressing the following agenda item(s):

**PUBLIC HEARING – NOMINATION TO THE TACOMA REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

- A. McCormick Building/Wheelock Branch Library (3722 N. 26th St.)
- B. Mottet Branch Library (3523 E. G St.)

**NUMBER OF COMMENTS:**

Thirteen (plus several comments submitted to the Tacoma Public Library Board of Trustees)



The City of Tacoma does not discriminate on the basis of handicap in any of its programs or services. To request this information in an alternative format or to request a reasonable accommodation, please contact the Historic Preservation Office at (253) 591-5220 (voice) or (800) 833-6388 (TTY).

¿Necesitas información en español? 한국어로 정보가 필요하십니까? Cần thông tin bằng tiếng Việt? Нужна информация на русском?

ត្រូវការព័ត៌មានជាភាសាខ្មែរ? 📞 Contact **TacomaFIRST 311** at **(253) 591-5000**



**From:** [jillian@nventure.com](mailto:jillian@nventure.com)  
**To:** [Landmarks](#)  
**Subject:** Support for adding library buildings to Tacoma Register of Historic Places  
**Date:** Friday, October 4, 2024 8:42:44 AM

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Hello –

I am writing because I support the listing of the McCormick and Mottet library buildings on Tacoma's Register of Historic Places.

Thank you,  
Jillian Bates  
819 North J Street  
Tacoma

**From:** [Kathleen Brooker](#)  
**To:** [Landmarks](#)  
**Subject:** McCormick Building and Mottet Branch Building comments: LPC PH 10/09/24  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 9, 2024 11:13:09 AM

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To: Tacoma Landmarks Preservation Commission

I am writing today to urge your support of historic designation for two important buildings in the library system, the McCormick Building at Wheelock Library and the Mottet Building. Both are examples of well designed, sympathetically restored, and well maintained buildings which serve a growing number of patrons. People are drawn to libraries that are welcoming and speak to their neighborhood history. The continuity and care shown in their design and continuous use have generated respect and appreciation by the public. Landmark designation is a way to acknowledge their importance to our community. It will draw attention to the role these places have played in our history and help to secure their future.

We are proud to have these excellent public libraries in Tacoma and appreciate your efforts to sustain them. I hope you will give designation your full support.

Sincerely,  
Kathleen Brooker  
Library Patron  
Board member Historic Tacoma  
Resident North Slope Historic District

417 N. M Street  
Tacoma 98403

**From:** [John Butler](#)  
**To:** [Landmarks](#)  
**Subject:** Libraries on city history register.  
**Date:** Friday, September 27, 2024 11:24:35 AM

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I support the nomination of Mottet and McCormick library buildings to the City 's Historic Register.

Thank you,  
John Butler  
707 North K St.  
Tacoma, WA 98403

**From:** [Jodi Cook](#)  
**To:** [Landmarks](#)  
**Subject:** Nominations for McCormick Building/Wheelock Branch Library 13 3722 N. 26th St. B. Mottet Branch Library  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 9, 2024 1:43:21 PM

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Good day, Landmarks Commissioners

Please approve the nomination for both of these beautiful libraries which have serviced young and old alike seeking the knowledge gained through reading.

Both of these buildings architecture invite readers to step inside and experience the wonderment of learning. They remind me of many of the buildings featured inside classic children's books, their scale and appearance feels like walking into a warm home, where magic awaits for the reader's imagination to be ignited.

Appreciate the work by Historic Tacoma's Marshall McClintock to nominate these unique Tacoma buildings. And the Landmarks Commissions dedication to keep our cherished historic buildings for future generations to experience.

Sincerely,  
Jodi Cook

**From:** [J Corso](#)  
**To:** [Landmarks](#)  
**Subject:** McCormick/Mottet Library Nomination: Support  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 1, 2024 8:33:15 AM

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Dear Tacoma LPC and HP Staff,

I support the nomination of the McCormick Library building of the Wheelock Branch Library of TPL and the Mottet Branch Library of TPL to the Tacoma Register of Historic Places. Both buildings are significant artifacts in Tacoma history, necessary touchstones for communicating the history of Tacoma to each new generation.

Please vote in favor of this nomination.

Sincerely,  
Geoff  
John Geoffrey Corso  
701 N J St  
Tacoma

**From:** [Esther Day](#)  
**To:** [Landmarks](#)  
**Subject:** McCormick and Mottet Library NOMINATION AND PRESERVATION on TACOMA'S REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES.  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 1, 2024 9:21:33 PM

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Dear Tacoma Landmarks Preservation Commission,

I support the Nomination and Listing of the McCormick and Mottet library buildings on Tacoma's Register of Historic Places.

Both buildings are important structures in the history of Tacoma, and the history of Tacoma is much easier to convey when we have artifacts - like buildings - to ground and illustrate the narrative.

I suspect libraries will remain popular spaces, especially on hot days when they're used as cooling centers and community meeting places.

We cannot afford to lose these precious Libraries. We need to protect them.

Sincerely,

Esther Day



**From:** [Esther Day](#)  
**To:** [Landmarks](#)  
**Subject:** RE: McCormick and Mottet Library NOMINATION AND PRESERVATION on TACOMA'S REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES.  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 2, 2024 1:15:32 PM

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Thank you please do. It is important for me to tell you that I saw the destruction and sale of school lands and libraries in Houston during the Oil boom in Houston in the 70's. Sadly, later, school districts realized that their precious land for schools were then developed and the children of those families had to be bused to schools miles from their homes.

Let us not make that mistake. The library is a safe haven for many homeless folks and folks who cannot afford a computer with internet to look for jobs and communicate with their loved ones. It also gives them an opportunity to be indoors and out of the weather doing much needed research. I saw this in action at my small library on S. 56 and Pacific.

It provides a great meeting room facility for our business district meetings.

## PROTECT OUR LIBRARIES.

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**From:** Landmarks <[landmarks@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:landmarks@cityoftacoma.org)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 2, 2024 12:00 PM  
**To:** Esther Day <[Dayesther214@outlook.com](mailto:Dayesther214@outlook.com)>; Landmarks <[landmarks@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:landmarks@cityoftacoma.org)>  
**Subject:** RE: McCormick and Mottet Library NOMINATION AND PRESERVATION on TACOMA'S REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES.

Thank you for your email. I will add your comment to the record for the public hearing on October 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Susan Johnson**  
(she/her/hers)  
Historic Preservation Coordinator  
City of Tacoma Planning and Development Services Department  
747 Market Street Room 345  
Tacoma, WA 98402  
Mobile: 253.281.7445  
[www.cityoftacoma.org/historicpreservation](http://www.cityoftacoma.org/historicpreservation)

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**From:** Esther Day <[Dayesther214@outlook.com](mailto:Dayesther214@outlook.com)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 1, 2024 9:21 PM

**To:** Landmarks <[landmarks@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:landmarks@cityoftacoma.org)>

**Subject:** McCormick and Mottet Library NOMINATION AND PRESERVATION on TACOMA'S REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES.

Dear Tacoma Landmarks Preservation Commission,

I support the Nomination and Listing of the McCormick and Mottet library buildings on Tacoma's Register of Historic Places.

Both buildings are important structures in the history of Tacoma, and the history of Tacoma is much easier to convey when we have artifacts - like buildings - to ground and illustrate the narrative.

I suspect libraries will remain popular spaces, especially on hot days when they're used as cooling centers and community meeting places.

We cannot afford to lose these precious Libraries. We need to protect them.

Sincerely,

Esther Day

**From:** [Marilyn Denney](#)  
**To:** [Landmarks](#)  
**Subject:** McCormick and Mottet library buildings  
**Date:** Friday, September 27, 2024 2:01:58 PM

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I support the listing of the McCormick and Mottet library buildings on Tacoma's Register of Historic Places.

Marilyn Denney  
253.431.6879

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Felicity Devlin](#)  
**To:** [Landmarks](#)  
**Subject:** Support for nomination of the McCormick and Mottet library buildings to the Historic Register  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 2, 2024 8:42:23 AM

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Dear Commissioners,

I'm writing in support of the nomination of the McCormick and Mottet buildings to the Tacoma Register of Historic Places.

The McCormick and Mottet Libraries have served as focal points for the Proctor and McKinley communities respectively and are essential elements of those communities' histories. Furthermore, these two buildings are the earliest remaining branch library buildings in Tacoma (second and third) and thus both are central to the story of the City's library system.

I hope these two valuable buildings will be added to our Historic Register.

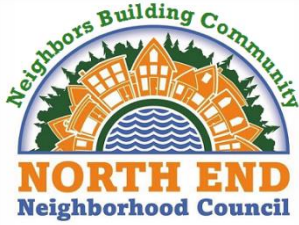
Sincerely,

Felicity Devlin

**From:** [Marilyn Henderson](#)  
**To:** [Landmarks](#)  
**Subject:** libraries  
**Date:** Thursday, October 3, 2024 3:31:17 PM

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Dear Sirs: I support the Nomination and Listing of the McCormick and Mottet library buildings on Tacoma's Register of Historic Places. Thank you, Marilyn Henderson, longtime resident of Tacoma



North End Neighborhood Council

2522 N Proctor St, Box 418  
Tacoma, WA 98406-5338

[www.NENC.org](http://www.NENC.org)

[www.facebook.com/NENCTacoma](https://www.facebook.com/NENCTacoma)

[www.twitter.com/NENCTacoma](https://www.twitter.com/NENCTacoma)

[info@nenc.org](mailto:info@nenc.org)

October 8, 2024

Landmarks Preservation Commission

[747 Market Street](#), Room 345

Tacoma, WA 98402

RE: McCormick and Mottet Branch Library Buildings

Dear Commissioners:

The North End Neighborhood Council wishes to register our strong support for the listing to the city's Register of Historic Places of the Anna E. McCormick Building of the Virginia L. Wheelock Branch Library ([3722 North 26th St.](#)) and the Charlotte White Mottet Branch Library ([3523 East G St](#))

These two buildings are the oldest intact branch library buildings in Tacoma and are of historic importance to the development Tacoma's library system as well as serving as significant landmarks in the Proctor and McKinley Hill neighborhoods. It is in the public interest that Tacoma's Landmarks Preservation Commission list these building.

Sincerely

*Peter D. Bennett*

Peter Bennett

NENC Board Chair

CC: NENC Board

# **tacoma** public library

June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Historic Preservation Office  
747 Market St Ste 1036  
Tacoma, WA 98402

Dear Landmarks Preservation Commission,

As the governing body of the Tacoma Public Library, the Library Board of Trustees would like to submit this statement as our official letter of support for the historic designation of the McCormick and Mottet buildings.

The Charlotte White Mottet Branch Library has been an established and much-loved visual feature of the McKinley Hill Business District and neighborhood since its construction in 1931. Tacoma architect, Silas Nelson, designed the building with aspects of the French Eclectic building style, giving it a unique and timeless character. Additions have been added to the branch over the years, and the building has grown with the neighborhood as it has developed and transformed.

The Anna E. McCormick building at the Virginia L. Wheelock Branch is a Tudor Revival style building with an elaborate entry porch, bay windows, and glazed terracotta paneling. This building was the second branch added to the Tacoma Public Library system. Silas Nelson also designed this building and chose a style that would be harmonious with the surrounding buildings, including nearby Washington Elementary School. It quickly grew to be a neighborhood icon and one of the busiest branches in the city.

These buildings are a testament to our past and contribute to the unique character of our city. By designating them historic landmarks, we ensure that their legacies endure and that these buildings remain integral parts of our community.

Thank you for your dedication to historic preservation and we look forward to hearing the Commission's decision.

Sincerely,

*Andrea Cobb*

Andrea Cobb, President  
Tacoma Public Library, Board of Trustees

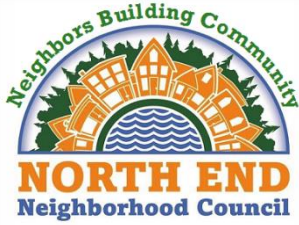
**From:** [Julie and Jay TURNER . . . .](#)  
**To:** [Landmarks](#)  
**Subject:** Libraries  
**Date:** Sunday, September 29, 2024 6:40:07 PM

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I support the listing of the McCormick and Mottet library buildings on Tacoma's Register of Historic Places. Both buildings are classic examples of library architecture at that time.

Julie S. Turner  
817 North J St  
Tacoma, WA 98403  
253-383-2329





North End Neighborhood Council

2522 N Proctor St, Box 418

Tacoma, WA 98406-5338

[www.NENC.org](http://www.NENC.org)

[www.facebook.com/NENCTacoma](https://www.facebook.com/NENCTacoma)

[www.twitter.com/NENCTacoma](https://www.twitter.com/NENCTacoma)

[info@nenc.org](mailto:info@nenc.org)

June 12, 2024

Board of Trustees  
Tacoma Public Library  
1102 Tacoma Ave. South  
Tacoma, WA 98402

Subject: RESOLUTION 24045: Request that the Board approve the letter of support for the Historic Designation for "McCormick" and Mottet Buildings

Dear Board Members,

The North End Neighborhood Council (NENC) is aware that you will be discussing the issue of the Historic Designation for "McCormick" and Mottet Buildings at your June meeting.

One of these sites (McCormick) is located at the Wheelock Branch Library that is part of our District and also part of the Proctor Business District. In reviewing the information contained in the two nomination forms we were impressed with the history of these buildings and feel that all efforts to ensure that these buildings are preserved for future generations is necessary.

Tacoma Library's use and preservation of historic buildings is admirable and greatly appreciated by our organization. To formalize the protection of historic buildings with an official designation is applauded so our organization respectfully requests that you support Resolution 24045.

Sincerely

*Peter D. Bennett*

Peter Bennett  
NENC Board Chair

CC: NENC Board Members  
Deputy Mayor John Hines

To: Tacoma Library Board  
From: Jodi Cook  
Date: June 12, 2024

Esteem Board Members,

Since our libraries are filled with “history”, as a nearby resident to Wheelock and the original McCormick building library, I hope you will unanimously approve the application to support ultimately adding it on Tacoma Historic Places. And of course supporting the Mottet building as well.

Sincerely,  
Jodi Cook  
3608 N 25<sup>th</sup> St

**From:** [Kathleen Brooker](#)  
**To:** [Trustees](#)  
**Subject:** Support for historic designation  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 12, 2024 2:41:58 PM

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Greetings Trustees of the Tacoma Public Library.

Thank you for serving as volunteers to support our public libraries in Tacoma. We are proud to have excellent libraries in Tacoma and appreciate your efforts to sustain them.

I am writing today to urge your support of historic designation for two important buildings in the library system, the McCormick Building at Wheelock Library and the Mottet Building. Both are examples of well designed, sympathetically restored, and well maintained buildings which serve a growing number of patrons. People are drawn to libraries that are welcoming and speak to their neighborhood history. The continuity and care shown in their design and continuous use have generated respect and appreciation by the public. Landmark designation is a way to acknowledge their importance to our community. It will draw attention to the role these places have played in our history and help to secure their future.

I hope you will give designation your full support.

Sincerely,  
Kathleen Brooker, Library Patron  
417 N. M Street  
Tacoma 98403

**From:** [Georgette Reuter](#)  
**To:** [Trustees](#)  
**Subject:** In Support of McCormick and Mottet Libraries Nomination to the Historic Registry  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 12, 2024 1:34:08 PM

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To the Tacoma Public Library Board of Trustees,

I am writing this letter in support of the nomination of the Anna E. McCormick Branch Library (1927) and the Charlotte White Mottet Branch Library ( 1930) to Tacoma's Historic Registry. As you know, these are two of our City's most historically significant branch libraries and therefore are undoubtedly deserving to be on the registry. Each building was designed by the noted architect Silas E. Nelson in the unique Tudor Revival style.

The McCormick Library is a very special place to me and my family. Four generations of us have enjoyed wandering through its aisles of books finding a multitude of interesting reading materials to be checked out. My father, born in 1918, was likely a part of the Washington Elementary School group that helped to raise money to build the library in 1927. Then, as a young girl in the 1960's, I'd walk from our home on 26th Street up the 3 blocks to the library in hopes of finding yet another Nancy Drew mystery to check out.

Many years later, as a young mother living on North Union Avenue, we'd walk with our two little daughters up to the library in search of wonderful picture books to read. Then, throughout their school years, both of our daughters continued to frequently visit the library. One of my daughter's memories: "I remember McCormick Library being a welcoming place where everyone was really nice. This was before the internet, so it was truly the place where all the information was kept and could be accessed."

In 1987, our family was excited to watch as an addition to the McCormick Library was constructed and later named the Anna Lemon Wheelock Branch Library. As a Tacoma Public school teacher, I would weekly check out a supply of their children's books for my classroom.

Our fourth generation of family members who enjoy visiting the library are our two grand-daughters, now 17 and 4 years old. A walk to the library has always been one of their favorite things to do whenever they come over to visit us. Yet, it's always been a challenge for us to carry the big, heavy stack of their library books back home!

Today, I not only love taking our 4 year old grand-daughter to the children's section of the library, but I also attend many meetings and events in the meeting room of the former McCormick Library. And from that meeting room, it's always wonderful to be able to gaze out the windows at the beautiful Pin Oak tree, which has enhanced the library's grounds for many decades.

Like my own family, there are many generations of Tacoma's residents who have greatly benefited from these two wonderful neighborhood libraries for close to 100 years. Therefore, I believe that both the McCormick Branch Library and the Mottet Branch Library should be honored and preserved for our future generations.

Thank you for all that you do on behalf of Tacoma's Public Libraries.  
Sincerely,

Georgette and Jim Reuter  
Longtime Tacoma Residents

**From:** [Benjamin R](#)  
**To:** [Trustees](#)  
**Subject:** Library preservation  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 11, 2024 1:47:09 PM

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Trustees,

Quick note of support for adding both libraries to the historic register.

From a homeowner in Tacoma,

Thanks

**From:** [Felicity Devlin](#)  
**To:** [Trustees](#)  
**Subject:** Nomination of McCormick and Mottet Buildings to the Historic Register  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 11, 2024 6:39:46 AM

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Dear Board of Trustees,

I'm writing in support of the nomination of the McCormick and Mottet Buildings to the Tacoma Register of Historic Places.

The McCormick and Mottet Libraries have served as focal points for the Proctor and McKinley communities respectively and are essential components of those communities' histories. Furthermore, these two buildings are the earliest remaining branch library buildings in Tacoma (second and third) and thus both are central to the story of the City's library system.

I hope these two valuable buildings will be added to our Historic Register.

Sincerely,

Felicity Devlin

**From:** [Kelleher, Lyndea](#)  
**To:** [Kelleher, Lyndea](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Support nomination of the McCormick and Mottet Library Buildings to the Tacoma Register of Historic Places  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 12, 2024 2:31:05 PM

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**From:** J Corso <[jcorso695@gmail.com](mailto:jcorso695@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 12, 2024 1:18 PM  
**To:** Tacoma Public Library <[info@tacomalibrary.org](mailto:info@tacomalibrary.org)>  
**Subject:** Support nomination of the McCormick and Mottet Library Buildings to the Tacoma Register of Historic Places

Dear Tacoma Public Library Board of Directors,

Please vote to nominate the McCormick and Mottet branch library buildings to the Tacoma Register of Historic Places.

Both buildings are important touchstones that help us tell the story of who we are as a community. They represent the resolve, activism, hard work, and generosity of Tacomans of all parts of the community working together to improve their lives and the lives of generations to come.

In addition, after the city council votes to add these buildings to the Register, these buildings will qualify for grants to help fund their maintenance.

As we demolish other older Tacoma buildings, future generations will appreciate your vote today in support of the nomination because Tacoma's first generation of architecture will grow more rare and dear to us.

Sincerely,

John Geoffrey Corso  
701 N J St  
Tacoma, WA 98403