

University of Puget Sound

Tacoma, Washington

In the late 1970s, Merritt worked closely with the University of Puget Sound on a number of projects on the UPS campus in Tacoma, Washington. These projects varied based on the required needs of the University.

Master Plan:

Merritt was involved in the master planning of the campus when the campus was looking to expand off of its traditional boundaries, growing into the adjacent residential areas. This phase of the master plan defined zones for each type of use anticipated in the campus growth. Street closures, parking impacts, and space relationships were carefully studied for this plan.

Main Library Addition and Renovation:

Merritt was the project architect for the 80,000 square foot expansion to the library and the renovation of the historic library. The integrity of the detailing for the expansion had to fit into the collegiate gothic/tudor language of the campus. New technology and incorporating precast masonry panels were also part of the challenge.

Memorial Fieldhouse:

The University was looking for ways to improve their recreation and athletic facilities, but faced the onerous tasks of fund raising for a new facility to complement the Fieldhouse. Merritt, while participating in the design of the proposed new facilities which included a full range of recreation/athletic activity spaces, recognized the funding limitations. With the support of his colleagues, Merritt looked at the opportunities within the existing underutilized Fieldhouse. After studying the facility, a model and drawings were developed to present the renovation opportunities within the Fieldhouse. This plan was welcomed by the University as the way to provide the additional space and program needs, upgrade the Fieldhouse, and eliminate the struggle for an unrealistic fund-raising mission.

Various Additions, Remodels, and New Facilities:

Merritt was involved in the design and detailing of several other facilities on the campus. These include the new South Dormitory for approximately 200 students, the Student Center cafeteria remodel, the administration building remodel (Jones Hall), the president's office remodel, and Howarth Hall remodel.

