MID-CENTURY MODERN ARCHITECTURE
IN WASHINGTON STATE

MICHAEL HOUSER
State Architectural Historian
DAHP - Olympia, WA

June 2014
CURTAIN WALL
1950-1980

- Repetitive grid of vertical extruded aluminum mullions and horizontal rails
- Flat roof with parapet to hide mechanical equipment
- Rectangular blocky form due to use of pre-engineered exterior sheathing system
- Panels of a wide variety of materials and colors including opaque glass, masonite, asbestos, plywood, tile and/or marblecrete

Blue Cross Building  Seattle, 1959
CURTAIN WALL

History

Boley Building  Kansas City, 1909

Equitable Building  Portland, 1948
CURTAIN WALL
Small Scale Examples

Sunset Life Insurance Co.  Bellevue, 1959

Bardahl Office Building  Seattle, 1957

Federal Offices  Olympia, 1957

IBM Building  Tacoma, 1963
CURTAIN WALL
Small Scale Examples

Building Seattle, c1965

Building Seattle, c1967

City Hall Richland, 1959

Union Pacific Insurance Co. Tacoma, 1963
CURTAIN WALL
Large Scale Examples

Washington Water Power Co.
Spokane, 1959

Logan Building
Seattle, 1959

Norton Building
Seattle, 1959

Capitol Center Building
Olympia, 1965