

# Iowa Site Inventory

Division of Historic Preservation  
Iowa State Historical Department  
26 E. Market St., Iowa City, Iowa 52240

Site Number 42-016-005  
District Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Map Reference # \_\_\_\_\_

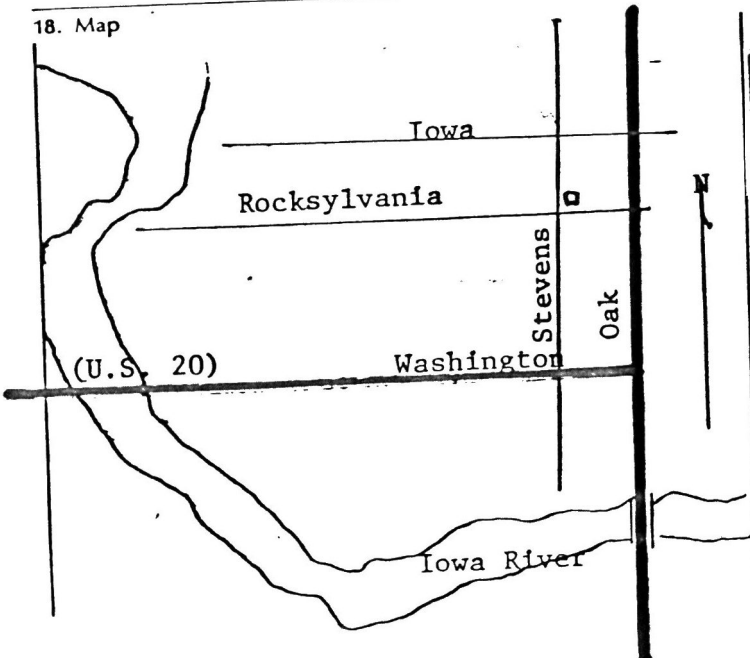
## Identification

1. Site Name Carnegie-Ellsworth Public Library County Hardin  
2. Village/Town/City Iowa Falls Township \_\_\_\_\_  
3. Street Address 520 Rocksylvania Avenue  
4. Legal Location \_\_\_\_\_  
Urban: \_\_\_\_\_ subdivision \_\_\_\_\_ block 12 parcel 5,6 subparcel \_\_\_\_\_  
Rural: \_\_\_\_\_ township \_\_\_\_\_ range \_\_\_\_\_ section \_\_\_\_\_ % section of 1/4 section \_\_\_\_\_  
5. UTM Location: zone 15 easting 474100 northing 4703800; Acreage 2.1  
6. Owner(s) Name City of Iowa Falls  
7. Owner(s) Address \_\_\_\_\_ (Street address) \_\_\_\_\_ (City) Iowa Falls, Iowa (State) 50126 (Zip)  
8. Use: Present library Original library

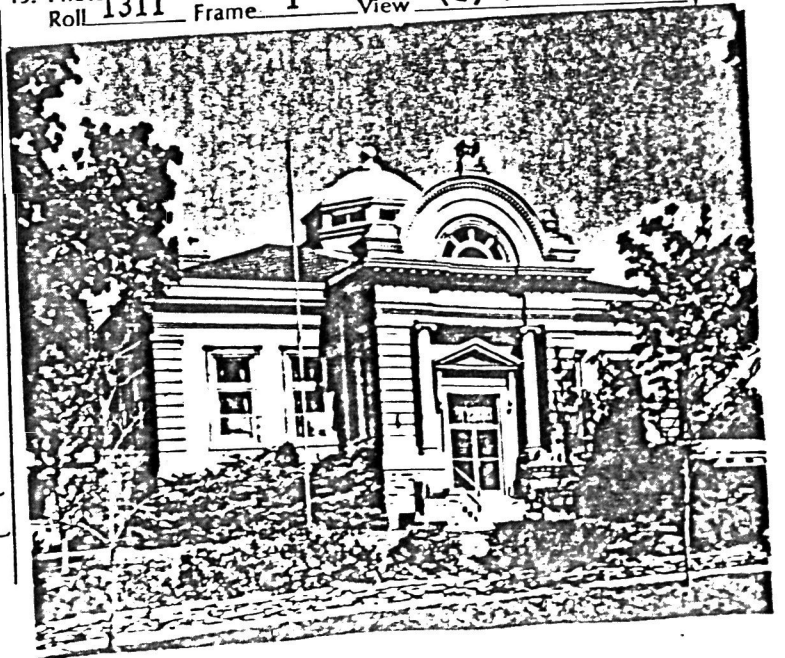
## Description

9. Date of Construction 1904-5 Architect/Builder not known  
10. Building Type:  
 single-family dwelling  industrial  other institutional  religious  
 multiple-family dwelling  educational  public  agricultural  
 commercial  
11. Exterior Walls:  clapboard  stone  brick  board and batten  shingles  stucco  
 other with stone trim  
12. Structural System:  wood frame with interlocking joints  wood frame with light members (balloon frame)  
 masonry load-bearing walls  iron frame  steel frame with curtain walls  reinforced concrete  
 other \_\_\_\_\_  
13. Condition:  excellent  good  fair  deteriorated  
14. Integrity:  original site  moved—if so, when? \_\_\_\_\_  
Notes on alterations, additions (with dates and architect, if known) and any other notable features of building and site:  
Front door replaced with aluminum frame (recently).  
15. Related Outbuildings and Property:  barn  other farm structures  carriage house  garage  privy  
 other \_\_\_\_\_  
16. Is the building endangered?  no  yes—if so, why? \_\_\_\_\_  
17. Surroundings of the building:  open land  woodland  scattered outbuildings  densely built-up  commercial  
 industrial  residential  other \_\_\_\_\_

## 18. Map



## 19. Photo Roll 1311 Frame 1 View (S) Front Elev.



# Significance

(Indicate sources of information for all statements)

## 19. Architectural significance

- a. Key structure/individually may qualify for the National Register
- b. Contributing structure
- c. Not eligible/intrusion

The Carnegie-Ellsworth Public Library is one of the more elaborate libra buildings of its size and type. The front is dominated by a large and la entrance pavilion featuring a distyle Ionic portico set in-antis between rusticated corner piers and a semi-circular thermal window above the cornice. The effect of richness is enhanced by the variety of materials, textures and colors. The interior, a variant of Plan Type III, features an octagonal rotunda with a double-curved delivery desk and a stained-gl dome. A second level was added recently to the bookstack at center rear

## 20. Historical Significance

Theme(s) Social/humanitarian

- a. Key structure/individually may qualify for the National Register
- b. Contributing structure
- c. Not eligible/intrusion

This is one of 22 public libraries in Iowa constructed with Carnegie grants made in 1903, the year which marks the highest point in Carnegie giving, both nationally and in the state. Andrew Carnegie's library program, which funded over 1600 buildings, 101 in Iowa, between 1889 and 1919, has been accorded recognition by historians of the Progressive Era, and of the public library movement. The 22 libraries in Iowa funded in 1903 (21 of which are still extant) make up nearly one fourth of Iowa's Carnegie libraries, and serve as effective illustrations of the widespread popularity and impact of the Carnegie program in Iowa's public library development.

## 21. Sources (for primary and secondary sources, give complete facts of publication: author, title, place of publication, date, etc.):

- Moir, William J., ed. Past and Present of Hardin County, Iowa. Indianapolis: B.F. Brown and Co., 1911. pp.263-264.
- Nichols, I.A. Pioneer Days and History of Iowa Falls. Fort Dodge: Messenger Printing Co., n.d. pp.194-195
- DHPFIR, S. Dennett, P. Eckhardt, 1979.
- DHPLSQ-1, Lucille Miller, Librarian.

Prepared by Samuel J. Klingensmith Date August, 1980  
Address 617 N. Cayuga, Ithaca, NY 14850 Telephone 607 273-5684  
Organization \_\_\_\_\_

## For Division of Historic Preservation Use Only

### 1. Office Information Sources on this Property

- County Resource File
- Windshield Survey
- National Register
- Grants-In-Aid: \_\_\_\_\_
- Determination of Eligibility

Review and Compliance Project:

- Other \_\_\_\_\_
- Other \_\_\_\_\_
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Subject Traces

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_
- d. \_\_\_\_\_
- e. \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. Photo Images: 362/39-42 & 37-38;

573/4; 586/33A-44A & 1A-10A

1311/1

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service .

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only  
received  
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 1 of 10

Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Public Library Buildings in Iowa Thematic Resources  
State Iowa

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

1. Algona Public Library

~~Substantive Review~~ Keeper

Ret S

Attest

2. Anamosa Public Library

~~Substantive Review~~ Keeper

Linda McClelland 5/23/83

Attest

3. Bedford Public Library

~~Substantive Review~~ Keeper

Linda McClelland 5/23/83

Attest

4. Bloomfield Public Library

~~Substantive Review~~ Keeper

Ret

Attest

5. Buena Vista County Historical  
Museum

~~Substantive Review~~ Keeper

Linda McClelland 5/23/83

Attest

6. Carnegie-Ellsworth Public  
Library

~~Substantive Review~~ Keeper

Linda McClelland 5/23/83

Attest

7. Cattermole Memorial Library

~~Substantive Review~~ Keeper

Beth Grosvenor 4/5/84

Attest

8. Chariton Free Public Library

~~Substantive Review~~ Keeper

Ret

Attest

9. Cherokee Public Library

~~Substantive Review~~ Keeper

Beth Grosvenor 4/9/85

Attest

10. Clinton Public Library

~~Substantive Review~~ Keeper

Linda McClelland 5/23/83

Attest

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

*Substantive Review*

Carnegie-Ellsworth Public Library (Public  
Library Buildings in Iowa TR)  
Hardin County  
IOWA

Working No. 4/8/83  
Fed. Reg. Date: 2-7-84  
Date Due: 3/5/83 - 5/23/83  
Action:  ACCEPT 5/23/83  
 RETURN  
 REJECT  
Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review:  sample  request  appeal  NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

*One of architecturally distinctive and unique  
buildings in statewide context.  
High statement is no general to  
justify hist significance.*

*no acreage A, C  
C 1*

Recom./Criteria Accept  
Reviewer h McCalland  
Discipline A. Hist.  
Date 5/23/83  
 see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for:  technical corrections cited below  
 substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

## 8. Significance

Period \_\_\_\_\_ Area of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates \_\_\_\_\_ Builder/Architect \_\_\_\_\_

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

- \_\_\_\_\_ summary paragraph
- \_\_\_\_\_ completeness
- \_\_\_\_\_ clarity
- \_\_\_\_\_ applicable criteria
- \_\_\_\_\_ justification of areas checked
- \_\_\_\_\_ relating significance to the resource
- \_\_\_\_\_ context
- \_\_\_\_\_ relationship of integrity to significance
- \_\_\_\_\_ justification of exception
- \_\_\_\_\_ other

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

## 10. Geographical Data

*Please provide address*

Address of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

USIT Reference \_\_\_\_\_

Verbal boundary description and justification

## 11. Form Prepared By

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

\_\_\_\_\_ national \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

## 13. Other

- \_\_\_\_\_ Maps
- \_\_\_\_\_ Photographs
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: 202 272-3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



SITE NAME: Carnegie-Ellsworth Pub.  
ADDRESS: 520 Rocksylvania Ave. Lib.  
TOWN: Iowa Falls, Iowa 50126

PHOTO CREDIT: Bob Ryan  
NEGATIVE LOCATED AT: Iowa SHPO  
DATE: 1979

VIEW: S Front Elevation

Please refer to the map in the  
Multiple Property Cover Sheet  
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000157