

NPS Form 10-900 (Rev. 10-90)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historical Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Arcadia Free Public Library other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 406 East Main Street not for publication N/A city or town Arcadia vicinity N/A state Wisconsin code WI county Trempealeau code 121 zip code 54612

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official Jeffrey M. Dean Date 15 March 1994 State Historic Preservation Office-WI State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register See continuation sheet. determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet. determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National Register other (explain):

Signature of the Keeper Edson H. Beall Date of Action 4/29/94 Entered in the National Register

5. Classification

| Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply) | Category of Property (Check only one box) | Number of Resources within Property | | |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|-----------------|------------|
| | | Contributing | Noncontributing | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> private | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | 1 | | buildings |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local | <input type="checkbox"/> district | | | sites |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-State | <input type="checkbox"/> site | | | structures |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal | <input type="checkbox"/> structure | | | objects |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> object | 1 | 0 | Total |

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)
Public Library Facilities of Wisconsin

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

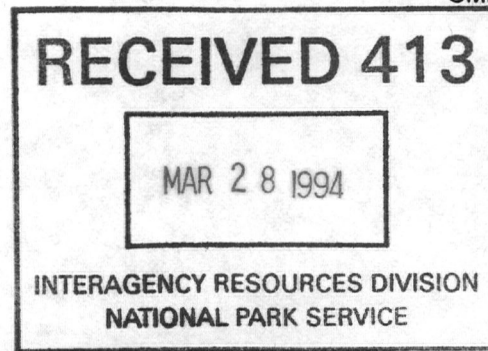
| Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions) | Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions) |
|--|---|
| <u>Education/Library</u> | <u>Education/Library</u> |
| | |
| | |
| | |

7. Description

| Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions) | Materials (Enter categories from instructions) |
|--|---|
| <u>Classical Revival</u> | foundation <u>Stone</u> |
| | roof <u>Asphalt</u> |
| | walls <u>Brick</u> |
| | <u>Stone</u> |
| | other <u>Wood</u> |

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEETSection number 7 Page 1 Arcadia Free Public Library, Arcadia, Trempealeau County, WisconsinDescribe present and historic physical appearance

The Arcadia Free Public Library, located in Arcadia, Wisconsin, is a highly intact representative example of Neo-Classical Revival architecture, a style that was derived from both the Greek and Roman architectural orders and used extensively in the design of public buildings from 1900 to 1920.¹ The library, located on a 60' x 120' corner lot, was constructed in 1906. D. A. Omeyer, an architect from St. Paul, Minnesota designed the plans.²

The one-story rectilinear plan, free standing brick building stands on the northeast corner of Main and St. Joseph streets and is flanked by residential dwellings to the north and east. The Arcadia Public Grade School sits across St. Joseph Street to the west. Two large bushes frame the front south-facing facade, small bushes line north, and west elevations, and the east side, located approximately ten feet from a neighboring residence, exhibits no foliage. A large circular concrete walkway allows access to the front door from both Main and St. Joseph streets.

Exterior

The building rests on a raised rock-faced stone foundation. A smooth stone belt course runs continuously along the top of the stone foundation. Black Neacok #100 pressed light brown brick covers each facade, whereas, each corner of the building is ornamented with Black Neacok #400 dark brown pressed brick rusticated quoins. The same brick used on the quoins also ornaments the first floor windows. A plain cornice and frieze surrounds the entire structure below the asphalt-shingled hipped roof. Slightly overhanging eaves display block modillions. Two finials were erected on the tops of the east and west hips of the roof.³

¹ John Blumenson, Identifying American Architecture: A Pictorial Guide to Styles and Terms, 1600-1945, Nashville: American Association for State and Local History, 1981, p. 69.

² "Specification of the Material and Labor Required in the Erection of Free Public Carnegie library," 28 September 1905, Arcadia Free Public Library Files.

³ "Specification of the Material and Labor Required in the Erection of Free Public Carnegie library," 28 September 1905, Arcadia Free Public Library Files.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 2 Arcadia Free Public Library, Arcadia, Trempealeau County, Wisconsin

The front facade, which faces south, displays a symmetrical design. It is divided into three bays by two large rusticated brick pilasters that flank the centered entrance. Letters forming the words "Carnegie Library" are affixed to the plain frieze above the main entry and the date "1906" is attached to the capitals of the adjacent pilasters. The center bay is crowned by a parapet-like projection that suggests a section of a classical balustrade. This projection is positioned on the slope of the roof and features two-brick pedestals that flank a solid wood balustrade. This projection is positioned on the slope of the roof and features two-brick pedestals that flank a solid wood balustrade which is decorated with a lozenge fret pattern upon which a grid is superimposed.

A centered entrance containing a pair of single panel doors, each having a large elongated beveled glass light is positioned between the two pilasters and is surmounted by a fanlight filled with fishscale-shaped panes. A round brick arch, containing a white keystone, encircles the fanlight. A limestone stairway, exhibiting eight steps and an iron railing, is flanked by bush-hammered Bedford stone block wing walls.⁴ It allows the only access into the library. Two tall arched window openings, also crowned by round brick arches and footed by smooth stone lug sills, flank the centered doors. The one-over-one sash windows are each surmounted by a single light stilted arch transom. The dimension of the tall windows contribute to the illusion of a tall building. Two smaller flat-arched one-over-one sash windows are located directly below the arched first-floor windows, positioned in the raised basement story.

The west elevation also displays a symmetrical design. The first story exhibits three tall arched windows that are identical to those described above on the front facade of the building. Four one-over-one sash windows are located below in the basement story. The two outer windows, which are located below the two outer first story windows, are twice the

⁴ "Specification of the Material and Labor Required in the Erection of Free Public Carnegie library," 28 September 1905, Arcadia Free Public Library Files.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 3 Arcadia Free Public Library, Arcadia, Trempealeau County, Wisconsin

width of the offset inner windows. All lower level windows are footed by rock-faced stone sills. Approximately ten stone blocks, located in the center of the basement story, were replaced following a car collision.⁵

The east elevation of the building is identical to the west elevation, with the exception of the number of lower level windows. Three flat-arched one-over-one sash windows, located directly below each tall arched window, reside in the stone foundation on the east side of the building. Again, the lower level windows abut the belt course and display rusticated stone sills.

The rear, north-facing elevation features four small one-over-one flat-arched windows with stone lug sills and brick lintels, set directly beneath the plain cornice. A panelled brick chimney, which has a corbeled cap, extends from the roof of the building in the rear. Four flat-arched window openings, all now blocked in by wood, are located in the basement story.

Interior

From the front doorway, library patrons enter a small foyer. Two semi-circular windows, covered with grills formed by wood muntins, fill the upper portions of the east and west walls in the foyer. These echo the shape of the fanlight above the outside doors and admit natural sunlight into the foyer. An original light fixture provides additional illumination.

Upon passing through a second set of doors, which are identical to the exterior doors and crowned by a rectilinear one-light transom, the interior displays a U-shaped floor plan. An interior south wall flanks either side of the second set of doors. A paneled door, which leads to the unfinished basement, is located to the west of the foyer on the south interior wall. To balance the symmetry of the floor plan, a 5' x 10' closet, recently converted to a restroom, is located to the east of the foyer.⁶ Access to the room is provided by a door located on the

⁵ Oral Interview of Marie Stopla, Librarian, Conducted by U.S. West Research, Inc., 12 February 1993 and 9 March 1993.

⁶ Ibid,

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 4 Arcadia Free Public Library, Arcadia, Trempealeau County, Wisconsin

south interior wall. An office is located in the southwest corner of the building. Two sets of panel sliding doors, located to the east and north, provide access into the office. Two tall arched windows are located on the south and west walls of the office.

The reading room occupies the back two-thirds of the building. The library provides approximately 1620 square feet of public space.⁷ A beam, which extends from east to west across the center of the ceiling, serves as the visual divider for the reading room. Two square columns, topped by scrolled brackets on their east and west sides, support this beam. The west, north, and east walls are lined with secured bookshelves. Mobile bookshelves, tables, chairs, and a circulation desk fill the center of the room. The bookshelves, arranged to follow the flow of the U-shaped floor plan, frame a brick chimney piece located on the north wall. A picture of Andrew Carnegie hangs from the chimney. Both the east and the west walls each contain three tall arched windows. The north wall contains four small one-over-one flat-arched windows, set seven feet six inches off the floor. Even though the extensive use of windows in the building provide a substantial amount of natural light, florescent lights were installed in 1941 and 1956.⁸

An alcove, currently used as a childrens section, is located in the southeast corner of the building. The alcove, which contains a small table and chair set and low level bookshelves, counterbalances the space used as an office. The south wall contains two, evenly-spaced tall arched windows. One is located in the alcove, whereas the other is in the office.

The unfinished basement story displays concrete floors. Due to water problems, the majority of the basement has never been utilized. However, a room located in the northeast corner of the building, containing a raised concrete floor, is used for archival storage. The basement also houses a furnace which was installed in 1951.⁹ One-over-one sash windows, located on the south, west, and east walls of the basement, provide natural light.

7 James White, "Building Program for Arcadia Free Public Library," March 1984.

8 "History of Arcadia Free Public Library, #1," Arcadia Free Public Library Files.

9 Ibid.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 5 Arcadia Free Public Library, Arcadia, Trempealeau County, Wisconsin

Integrity

The Arcadia Library has remained in continual use as an educational center since its construction in 1906. The major physical characteristic, which include spacial proportions, physical setting, window fenestration, orientation and integrity of major facades, formal entry sequence and materials, are unaltered. The building stands as an excellent example of a Free-standing Public Library Facility property type in Wisconsin.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- X A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
X C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Education

Architecture

Period of Significance

1906-1943

Significant Dates

1906

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
B removed from its original location.
C a birthplace or a grave.
D a cemetery.
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
F a commemorative property.
G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Omever, Diedrik A.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
previously listed in the National Register
previously determined eligible by the National Register
designated a National Historic Landmark
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- X State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
Federal agency
Local government
University
X Other

Name of repository: Arcadia Free Public Library

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one (1) acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

| | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------|---------------|----------------|---|-------------|-------------------------|-------------|
| 1 | <u>15</u> | <u>620100</u> | <u>4900760</u> | 3 | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | <u> </u> |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing | | Zone | Easting | Northing |
| 2 | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | 4 | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | <u> </u> |
| | | | | | | See continuation sheet. | |

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Elizabeth A. Butterfield
organization U.S. West Research, Inc. date December 16, 1993
street & number 421 Main St., Suite 306 telephone (608) 782-3338
city or town La Crosse state WI zip code 54601

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name City of Arcadia
street & number 203 W. Main Street telephone (608) 323-3359
city or town Arcadia state WI zip code 54612

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 1 Arcadia Free Public Library, Arcadia, Trempealeau County, Wisconsin

Statement of Significance

The Arcadia Free Public Library in Arcadia, Trempealeau County, Wisconsin is locally significant in the context of the Public Library Facilities in Wisconsin Multiple Property Form as an example of the Free-standing Public Library Facility property type. The library meets the registration requirements for the property type under under Criterion A in the area of Education. The Arcadia Free Public Library has provided educational facilities through its library space both for the public at-large, as well as for the public schools in Arcadia. The period of significance ranges from its construction date of 1906 to 1943, fifty years ago. The building has continually served as a library since the date of construction through the present-day. The library is also significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture. The one-story brick building, located at 406 East Main Street, is a fine example of Classical Revival architecture. The building has not undergone any significant physical changes during its history.

Historical Background

Arcadia, located in Trempealeau County, lies in the southwest region of the state of Wisconsin. The city resides in the Trempealeau Valley and is bisected by the Trempealeau River. Fertile rolling bluffs, which surround Arcadia, facilitated settlement of the area.¹⁰

Early Euro-American explorers found the region inhabited by either Winnebago or Dakota Indians, depending on changing migratory patterns.¹¹ Father Louis Hennepin, while ascending the Mississippi River in 1680, was most likely the first non-Indian to traverse the

¹⁰ A majority of the information for the historical section was derived from vertical files housed at the Arcadia Free Public Library. Since three works contained in the files are entitled "History of the Arcadia Free Public Library", they have been numbered from one to three. Please note that the above-referenced works do not contain authors or bibliographies. Therefore, whenever possible, the information was confirmed by other scholarly sources.

¹¹ Both tribes are member of the Siouan family.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 2 Arcadia Free Public Library, Arcadia, Trempealeau County, Wisconsin

banks of present-day Trempealeau County. During the winter of 1685-1686, Nicholas Perrot set up camp several miles from the present site of Trempealeau. Sieur Linctot traveled through present-day Trempealeau County in 1731. By 1766, Jonathan Carver, a Connecticut native, explored and distributed a narration of the untamed Trempealeau region¹²

In the early 1800s, following two significant events, Wisconsin opened its boundaries to settlement. First, after the Blackhawk War of 1832, the United States government pushed the Winnebago onto reservations. American soldiers returned home from the war and encouraged emigration to Wisconsin. Second, in 1837 the Dakota entered into a treaty with the United States government. Based upon the terms of the treaty, the Dakota relinquished all their land east of the Mississippi River. Thereafter, the Dakota's dominance in Trempealeau County ended and the territory opened to non-Indian settlement.¹³

In 1845, records note that James Reed, an agent for the American Fur Company stationed at Trempealeau, passed through present-day Arcadia searching for furs and trading partners. Ten years later, in the fall of 1855, four men traveled up from southern Wisconsin to Arcadia with the intention of building a grist mill and starting a village. These men--Collins Bishop, George Dewey, George Shelley, and James Broughton--acquired land under the Pre-emption Act of 1841. The settlement was initially called "Bishop's Settlement".¹⁴

Nine years after Wisconsin received statehood, the state legislature passed an act on January 24, 1854, which created Trempealeau County. Then, in 1856, the founders of Bishop's Settlement petitioned the county board to form a new town. At such time, upon

¹² "A Retired Politician Recalls Early Days, 7 January 1954, The White Hall Times; Franklyn Curtiss-Wedge, History of Trempealeau County Wisconsin, Chicago: H. C. Cooper, Jr., & Co. 1917, p. xi.

¹³ Franklyn Curtiss-Wedge, History of Trempealeau County Wisconsin, Chicago: H. C. Cooper, Jr., & Co. 1917, p. xii; Robert Nesbit, Wisconsin: a History, Madison: The University of Wisconsin Press, 1973.

¹⁴ "A Retired Politician Recalls Early Days," 7 January 1954, The White Hall Times; "Statement Made by Noah D. Comstock, April 21, 1882," Arcadia Free Public Library Files; and Franklyn Curtiss-Wedge, History of Trempealeau County Wisconsin, Chicago: H. C. Cooper, Jr., & Co. 1917, p. 89-91.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 3 Arcadia Free Public Library, Arcadia, Trempealeau County, Wisconsin

acceptance as a town on November 20, 1856, the name Arcadia replaced Bishop's Settlement.¹⁵

Growth of the new village was slow at the beginning, however, by 1867 an influx of pioneers entered Arcadia at the end of the Civil War. In 1873, the Green Bay & Minnesota Railroad connected the agricultural industry of the Arcadia area with larger Midwestern markets. One year later, on January 27, 1874, Arcadia was platted. Then, on December 17, 1878, the village was incorporated. By 1900, its population reached a total of 1,212.¹⁶

Education

The Arcadia Free Public Library has served as an education facility for the community since 1906. Providing books and other services to local patrons make the building particularly important in the area of Education.

To accommodate the expanding community, Senator Levi Withee donated a traveling library to Arcadia early in 1899 and encouraged residents of the village to establish a permanent free library. As a result of this action, at the request of the Arcadia Businessmen's Association, the village board appointed a board of directors for a library.¹⁷ In March 1899, Arcadia's village board appropriated \$200 for the establishment of the Arcadia Free Public Library. The by-laws of the board of trustees of the new library were drafted on July 25, 1899.¹⁸ Thereafter, the doors for the new library, housed in a room on the second floor of

¹⁵ "A Retired Politician Recalls Early Days," 7 January 1954, The Whitehall Times; Franklyn Curtiss-Wedge, History of Trempealeau County Wisconsin, Chicago: H. C. Cooper, Jr., & Co. 1917, p. x. & 90.

¹⁶ Franklyn Curtiss-Wedge, History of Trempealeau County Wisconsin, Chicago: H. C. Cooper, Jr., & Co. 1917, p. 88-92 & 224-225.

¹⁷ "Arcadia Free Public Library, Minutes of Proceedings, Board of Directors," Arcadia Free Public Library Files; "History of the Arcadia Free Public Library # 1," Arcadia Free Public Library Files.

¹⁸ "By-Laws of the Board of Trustees of the Free Library of Arcadia, Wisconsin, 25 July 1899," Arcadia Free Public Library Files; "Arcadia Public Library: Pertaining to the 50th Anniversary as Recorded in the Local

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 4 Arcadia Free Public Library, Arcadia, Trempealeau County, Wisconsin

the city hall, opened to the public. At the onset, the Arcadia Free Public Library contained 569 volumes. By January 1, 1904, the library had received five annual appropriations totalling \$1,405.96.¹⁹

In the early 1900s, the increasing demand on the makeshift library prompted Frank Richmond, the secretary for the library board and an attorney in Arcadia, to request an appropriation from Andrew Carnegie to construct a separate library building.²⁰ By February of 1905, Andrew Carnegie approved a donation of \$5,000 to construct a library facility in Arcadia. The donation was contingent on three factors. First, since Carnegie only provided funds for the construction of a facility, the community promised to provide a site for the library. Second, Arcadia's citizens guaranteed to pay 10% of the total received from Carnegie for maintenance.²¹ Third, residents of Arcadia were responsible to furnish the building with its collection of books.²²

The entire process of constructing a new library facility extended over a two year period. From May 9, 1905 to July 30, 1905, Carnegie made five \$1000 payment to Arcadia. Between that interval, on June 21, 1905, the Village of Arcadia purchased a piece of property for the library from Halvor K. Moen for \$400. Diedrik A. Omeyer, an architect and partner for the St. Paul, Minnesota firm of Omeyer and Thori, received the commission to design the new

Newspapers, 1899; and to the Establishment of the Carnegie Building," Arcadia Free Public Library Files.

¹⁹ "History of the Arcadia Free Public Library, #1" Arcadia Free Public Library Files; "William Koslo to Joseph McGarvey, et. al.," 13 August 1985, Arcadia Free Public Library Files; and "Arcadia Free Public Library, Minutes of Proceedings, Board of Directors," Arcadia Free Public Library Files.

²⁰ "J. D. Gaveney to Tillie and Prosper, " ud., Arcadia Free Public Library Files.

²¹ The City of Arcadia guaranteed to pay the sum of \$500 annually for the maintenance and upkeep of a public library and a site. The library operated on the \$500 annually for over 30 years. "History of the Arcadia Free Public Library, #2," Arcadia Free Public Library Files; "Village Ordinance #28," Arcadia Free Public Library Files.

²² "J. D. Gaveney to Tillie and Prosper, " ud., Arcadia Free Public Library Files; Barbara Wyatt, Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin: Vol. 3. Madison, Wisconsin: Historic Preservation Division State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986, "Education," 5-4.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 5 Arcadia Free Public Library, Arcadia, Trempealeau County, Wisconsin

library. Almost one year later, on April 2, 1906, Charles Sweet entered into an agreement with the Arcadia Free Public Library to construct the new facility. Sweet, the lowest bidder, provided Arcadia laborers with employment. Upon completion, construction costs of the library totalled \$4,679.²³

On November 1, 1906, the Arcadia Free Public Library opened its doors to Arcadia patrons. Since the interior of the library was not complete upon occupation, laborers continued to furnish it with shelves, tables, and chairs. By July 7, 1907, the building was dedicated during an open house. The bookshelves were filled with private collections. United States Senator Spooner donated eight large mail sacks filled with reference books. By 1934, an inventory revealed that the library housed 2,761 volumes. Nine years later, 4,287 books lined the library's shelves and circulation statistics reached 19,708 per year.²⁴ In 1992, the library circulated 39,575 sources to patron.²⁵

In 1914, the Arcadia High School was constructed across St. Joseph Street to the west of the library. Since the school did not have an adequate library, the students frequently used the Arcadia Free Public Library for study halls, research project, and free reading. This situation ended in 1985 when a new librarian was hired at the school to improve their collection. In 1963, the Arcadia Elementary School was constructed adjoining the high school. The elementary school did not house a library, therefore, the students used the Arcadia Free Public Library. In 1989, a library was added to the elementary school.²⁶ Based upon the

²³ "Arcadia Free Public Library, Minutes of Proceedings, Board of Directors," Arcadia Free Public Library Files; "William Koslo to Joseph McGarvey, et. al.," 13 August 1985, Arcadia Free Public Library Files; "Articles of Agreement, 2 April 1906," Arcadia Free Public Library Files; "Agreement between Halvor K. Moen and the Village of Arcadia," 21 June 1905, Arcadia Free Public Library Files; "Resolution, 20 June 1905," Arcadia Free Public Library Files; and "Arcadia Public Library: Pertaining to the 50th Anniversary as Recorded in the Local Newspapers, 1899; and to the Establishment of the Carnegie Building," Arcadia Free Public Library Files.

²⁴ "J. D. Gaveney to Tillie and Prosper," ud., Arcadia Free Public Library Files; "History of the Arcadia Free Public Library, #2 & 3," Arcadia Free Public Library Files.

²⁵ Oral Interview of Marie Stopla, Librarian, Conducted by U.S. West Research, Inc., 12 February 1993 and 9 March 1993.

²⁶ Oral Interview of Mary Jo Fetsch, Arcadia Public School Librarian, Conducted by U.S. West Research, Inc., 15 December 1993; Oral Interview of Jo Oelkers, Superintendents Office, Conducted by U.S. West Research, Inc., 15 December 1993.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 6 Arcadia Free Public Library, Arcadia, Trempealeau County, Wisconsin

situations at the public schools, students continually utilized the educational services offered by the Arcadia Free Public Library for 75 years.

The Arcadia Free Public Library is a fine example of the types of facilities donated by Andrew Carnegie in the early twentieth century. During approximately a fifteen year span, from 1901-1915, Carnegie donated funds for the construction of sixty-three free libraries in Wisconsin. These donations ranged from \$5,000 to \$75,000 per library. As of 1990, of the sixty-three Carnegie libraries constructed in Wisconsin, thirty-eight continued to provide patrons with library services. Twenty of the operating libraries, including Arcadia, have not been altered by additions.²⁷

The Arcadia Free Public Library has served as a vital contributor to the education of local citizens for 87 years. The library is significant for its association with the theme of Education. Circulation statistics throughout the library's history prove its wide use and substantiate its' importance in the area of Education. Furthermore, the library's use as the primary research and study facility for both grade school and high school student of Arcadia also confirm the buildings educational value.

Architecture

The Arcadia Free Public Library stands as a fine example of the Neo-Classical Revival style in Wisconsin. The fact that this building is representative of one of the most prolific styles used in the construction of libraries enforces its importance in the area of Architecture.

²⁷ "William Koslo to Joseph McGarvey, et. al., 13 August 1985, Arcadia Free Public Library Files; "Some Financial figures in Library History," Arcadia Free Public Library Files; and "Carnegie's Gifts to Wisconsin Keep on Giving," March/April 1990, Wisconsin West.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 7 Arcadia Free Public Library, Arcadia, Trempealeau County, Wisconsin

The one-story building, which displays a symmetrical design, brick quoins and pilasters, wood balustrade, and tall arch windows, was constructed in 1906. D.A. Omeyer, an architect from St. Paul, Minnesota designed the plans. From 1888 until the death of Martin P. Thori in 1907, the firm of Omeyer and Thori was best known for its design of Neo-Classical Revival public buildings, such as county courthouses, and Queen Anne style houses in the Midwest. Besides the Arcadia Free Public Library, the firm also designed the Steensland Library at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota in 1902. The Arcadia library was one of Omeyer's final projects. He died in 1905, the same year the specifications for the library were dated.²⁸

Neo-Classical Revival architecture was utilized in the the upper Midwest from 1895 to 1935. Its popularity emerged after the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893 in Chicago, which transformed the trend from Victorian to Classicism. Based upon the Public Library Facilities in Wisconsin Multiple Property Form, the principal styles and forms illustrated by the public buildings constructed early 20th century are predominantly Neo-Classical in origin. This style, which displays formal symmetry, rich use of expensive materials, and imposing scale, was particularly popular for public and institution buildings, as well as commercial buildings.

Fine small-scale representations of the Neo-Classical Revival style in the state of Wisconsin include libraries, commercial buildings, and Masonic Temples. Clearly, the most popular stylistic form encountered in Wisconsin public library facilities is the Neo-Classical. This style was widely accepted as a logical building type because it symbolized democracy, civic self-esteem, and maturity. The Public Library Facilities in Wisconsin Multiple Property Form notes that in small communities the Neo-Classical style made a dramatic architectural presence and set forth a romantic image of small-town compatibility and open access.²⁹

The Arcadia Free Public Library is an intact example of a Free-standing Public Library Facility constructed in the state of Wisconsin in the early 20th century. The design of the library is

²⁸ "Diedrik A. Omeyer File," Plans and Manuscripts at the Northwest Architectural Archives, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

²⁹ Barbara Wyatt, Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin: Vol. 2. Madison, Wisconsin: Historic Preservation Division State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986, "Architecture," 2-8.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 8 Arcadia Free Public Library, Arcadia, Trempealeau County, Wisconsin

representative of one of the most important architectural styles associated with similar public buildings constructed with in the same time period in other Wisconsin communities. The building also serves as a product of the donations given by Andrew Carnegie to provide communities with civic services. The Board of the Arcadia Free Public Library, established in 1899, continues its commitment to providing the community with educational services, as well as leaving the Carnegie building intact.

Registration Requirements

The Arcadia Free Public Library meets the registration requirements for a Free-standing Library Facility property type specified in the Multiple Property Form in three areas. First, under Criterion A, the Arcadia Free Public Library served a significant role in the local community as an educational facility. Second, under Criterion C, the library, designed by Minnesota architect Diedrik A. Omeyer, is a fine example of Neo-Classical Revival architecture. Third, in relation to its integrity, the library has remained in continual use since its construction in 1906, and its major physical characteristics are largely unchanged.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 9 Page 1 Arcadia Free Public Library, Arcadia, Trempealeau County, Wisconsin

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Curtiss-Wedge, Franklyn. History of Trempealeau County Wisconsin. Chicago: H. C. Cooper, Jr., & Company, 1917.

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The White Hall Times

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"A Retired Politician Recalls Early Days," 7 January.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 9 Page 2 Arcadia Free Public Library, Arcadia, Trempealeau County, Wisconsin

Wisconsin West

1990

"Carnegie's gifts to Wisconsin Keep on Giving," March/April 1990.

Maps

Sanborn Fire Insurance Map Company. Insurance Maps of Arcadia, Wisconsin. 1914, 1934, and 1943.

Primary Material

Arcadia Free Public Library Files. Arcadia, Wisconsin.

"Diedrik A. Omeyer File." Plans and Manuscripts at the Northwest Architectural Archives, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Oral Interviews

Oral Interview of Mary Jo Fetsch, Arcadia Public School Librarian, Conducted by U.S. West Research, Inc., 15 December 1993.

Oral Interview of Jo Oelkers, Librarian, Conducted by U.S. West Research, Inc., 15 December 1993.

Oral Interview of Marie Stopla, Librarian, Conducted by U.S. West Research, Inc., 12 February 1993 and 9 March 1993.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 10 Page 1 Arcadia Free Public Library, Arcadia, Trempealeau County, Wisconsin

Verbal Boundary Description

County of Trempealeau, and State of Wisconsin in lot twenty-two (22) of block twenty-one (21) of the Revised and Consolidated Map of the village of Arcadia, Wisconsin, said lot being sixty (60) feet by one hundred twenty (120) feet dimensions.

Boundary Justification

Entire parcel of land historically associated with property.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number Photos Page 1 Arcadia Free Public Library, Trempealeau County, Wisconsin

Arcadia Carnegie Library
Arcadia, Trempealeau County, Wisconsin
Photographs by Barbara Kooiman, U.S. West Research, Inc.
February 1993
Negatives at the State Historical Society

The above information applies to all the following photographs:

Photo #1 of 10

Exterior - south facade
View facing north

Photo #2 of 10

Exterior - southwest corner
View facing northeast

Photo #3 of 10

Exterior - west elevation
View facing east

Photo #4 of 10

Exterior - west and north elevations
View facing southeast

Photo #5 of 10

Exterior - east elevations
View facing northwest

Photo #6 of 10

Interior - vestibule window
View facing west

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number Photos Page 2 Arcadia Free Public Library, Trempealeau County, Wisconsin

Photo # 7 of 10

Interior - vestibule doors - interior set open
View facing south

Photo #8 of 10

Interior - vestibule doors - interior set closed
View facing south

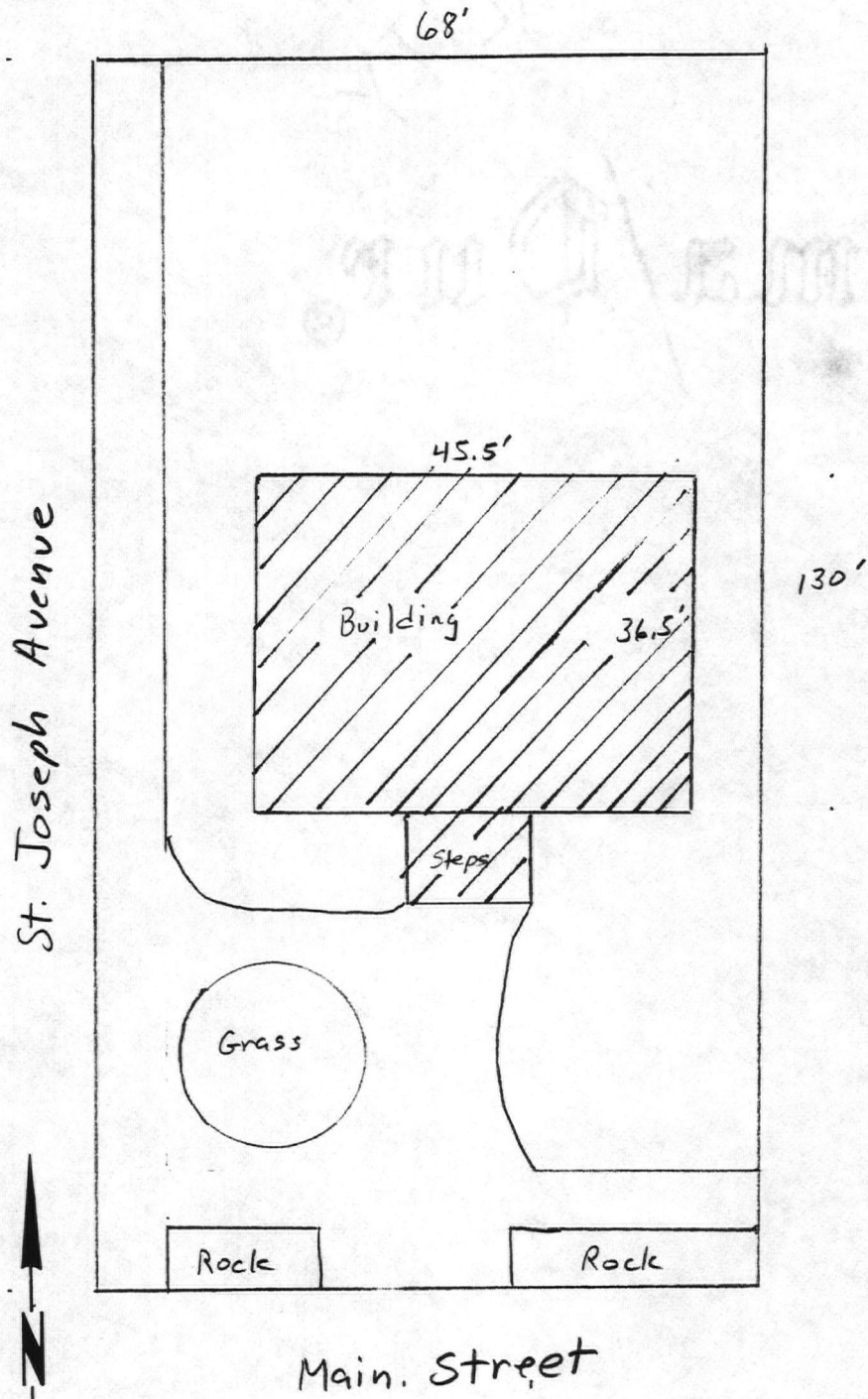
Photo #9 of 10

Interior - wall sconce light fixture
View facing southwest


Photo #10 of 10

Interior - window, south facade, east window
View facing south

ARCADIA FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY
ARCADIA, TREMPLEALEAU COUNTY, WISCONSIN



Not to scale

 Contributing

1" = 20'

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Arcadia Free Public Library

MULTIPLE NAME: *Public Library Facilities of Wisconsin mps*

STATE & COUNTY: WISCONSIN, Trempealeau

DATE RECEIVED: 3/28/94 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 4/12/94
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 4/28/94 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 5/12/94
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 94000388

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 4/29/94 DATE

Entered in the
National Register

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA _____
REVIEWER _____
DISCIPLINE _____
DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

CLASSIFICATION

count resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

historic current

DESCRIPTION

architectural classification
 materials
 descriptive text

SIGNIFICANCE

Period Areas 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

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

acreage verbal boundary description
 UTMs boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

sketch maps USGS maps photographs presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

_____ Phone _____

Signed _____ Date _____



19

CARNEGIE LIBRARY.

46

Arcadia Free Public Library
Arcadia, Trempealeau County, WI

Photo # 1 of 10



19 CARNEGIE LIBRARY 96



NO U
TURN

ONE WAY
DO NOT
ENTER

DO NOT
ENTER



Arcadia Free Public Library
Arcadia, Trempealeau County, WI

photo # 2 of 10





Arcadia Free Public Library
Arcadia, Trempealeau County, WI

Photo # 3 of 10



Arcadia Free Public Library
Arcadia, Trempealeau County, WI

Photo # 4 of 10



Arcadia Free Public Library
Arcadia, Trempealeau County, WI

Photo # 5 of 10



Arcadia Free Public Library
Arcadia, Trempealeau County, WI

Photo # 6 of 10

How To Locate A Book

We are assigned to the shelves in numerical order according to the Dewey Decimal System. The numbers are printed on the spine of the book. The first number is the class number, the second is the division number, and the third is the section number. The fourth number is the author's number. The fifth number is the title number. The sixth number is the volume number. The seventh number is the copy number. The eighth number is the date of purchase. The ninth number is the date of accession. The tenth number is the date of withdrawal. The eleventh number is the date of replacement. The twelfth number is the date of repair. The thirteenth number is the date of binding. The fourteenth number is the date of re-binding. The fifteenth number is the date of re-binding. The sixteenth number is the date of re-binding. The seventeenth number is the date of re-binding. The eighteenth number is the date of re-binding. The nineteenth number is the date of re-binding. The twentieth number is the date of re-binding.

If you have difficulty in finding a book, we are glad to help you.

Windsor Rivers Library System



Arcadia Free Public Library
Arcadia, Trempealeau County, WI

Photo # 7 of 10

Arcadia Free Public Library
Arcadia, Trempealeau County, WI

Photo # 8 of 10



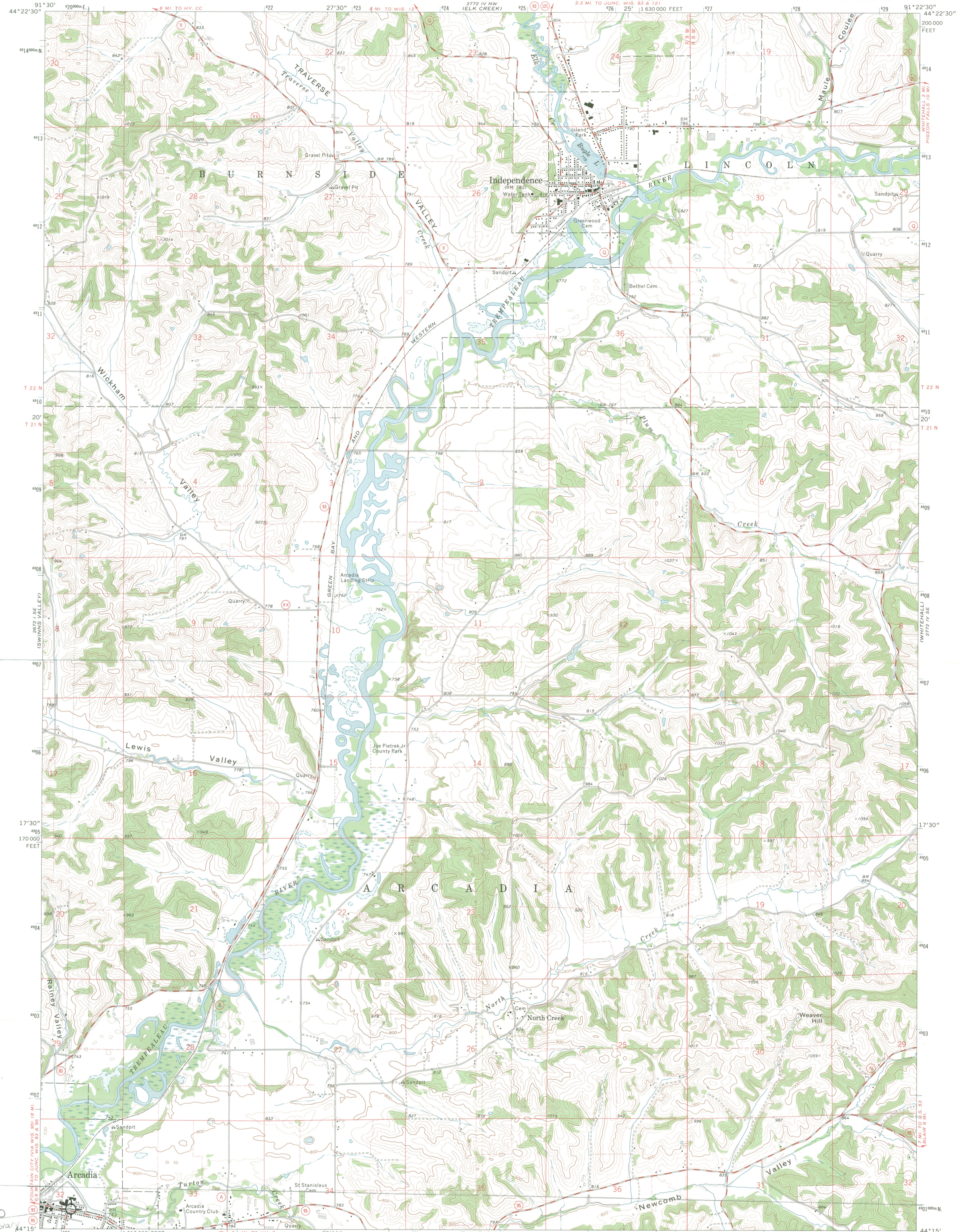
Arcadia Free Public Library
Arcadia, Trempealeau County, WI

Photo # 9 of 10



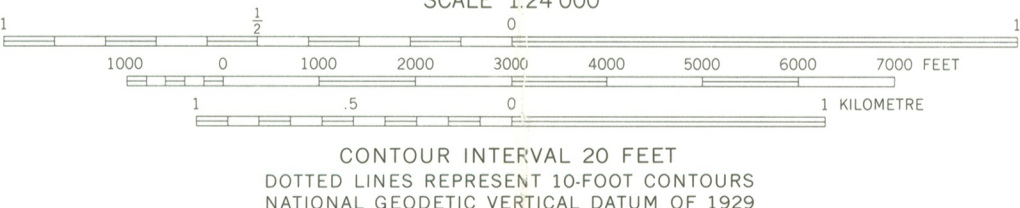
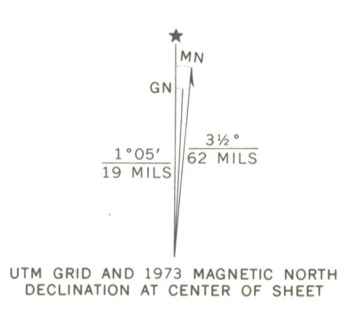
Arcadia Free Public Library
Arcadia, Trempealeau County, WI

Photo # 10 of 10



15-620100-4900760
Arcadia Free Public Library
Arcadia, Trempealeau Co., WI

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey in cooperation with the Wisconsin Division of Highways and Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1973. Field checked 1973
Hydrography compiled from information furnished by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Projection and 10,000-foot grid ticks: Wisconsin coordinate system, central zone (Lambert conformal conic) 1000-metre Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 15, shown in blue. 1927 North American datum
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Primary highway, hard surface | Light-duty road, hard or improved surface |
| Secondary highway, hard surface | Unimproved road |

○ Interstate Route □ U. S. Route ○ State Route

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092 AND BY THE WISCONSIN GEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY, MADISON, WISCONSIN 53706 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

INDEPENDENCE, WIS.
SW 1/4 WHITEHALL 15' QUADRANGLE
N4415-W9122.5/7.5
1973
AMS 2772 IV SW-SERIES V861



State Historical Society of Wisconsin

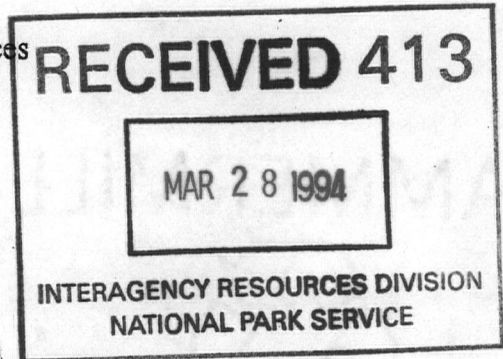
Division of Historic Preservation

816 State Street • Madison, Wisconsin 53706-1488
☎ (608) 264-6500 • FAX (608) 264-6404

TO: Carol Shull, Keeper
National Register of Historic Places

FROM: X Jim Draeger
 Diane Holliday

SUBJECT: National Register Nominations



The following materials are submitted on this 23 day of March , 19 94 ,
for the nomination of the Arcadia Free Public Library
to the National Register of Historic Places:

- 1 original National Register of Historic Places nomination form
- Multiple Property Nomination form
- 10 Photographs
- 1 original USGS map
- 1 sketch map(s)/figure(s)
- pieces of correspondence
- other: _____

Comments

- Please insure that this nomination is reviewed
- This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67
- The enclosed owner objections do do not constitute a majority of property owners.