

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0694061

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JAN 3 1979

DATE ENTERED
FEB 16 1979

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Carnegie Library
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

1125 Pine Street

__ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Boulder

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

Colorado

CODE

08

COUNTY

Boulder

CODE

013

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

City of Boulder

STREET & NUMBER

1777 Broadway

CITY, TOWN

Boulder

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

Colorado

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Boulder County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

14th and Pearl Streets

CITY, TOWN

Boulder

STATE

Colorado

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Colorado Inventory of Historic Sites (#07/04/0087)

DATE

Ongoing

__ FEDERAL STATE __ COUNTY __ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Colorado Historical Society; 1300 Broadway

CITY, TOWN

Denver

STATE

Colorado 80203

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located at 1125 Pine Street in Boulder, the Carnegie Library is a single detached structure in the Neo-Classical Revival Style. The building is rectangular in plan and one story in height. The primary construction material was a sand-colored brick matched very closely by the Almont sandstone used for the front columns, cornices, and other decorative work. The main or south facade has five bays, the east facade fifteen bays, the west facade eleven bays, and the north facade two bays. The roof is flat.

The most striking characteristic of the building is the symmetrical main facade. At the center is a pair of fluted columns with Ionic capitals flanked by two openings framed with flat columns and pedimented lintels. The west opening is the main entrance; the east opening is a window now obscured by a tree and bushes. The entablature is unadorned, consisting of an architrave, frieze, and cornice--done in sandstone--with a horizontal brick wall rising above the cornice. The entire facade is set on a stepped, brick stylobate broken only by the steps leading to the west entrance.

Some but not all of this decorative work is reflected on the other facades. The entablature and stylobate are continued from the front along both sides, but only two-thirds of the way back. There the classical design gives way to the standard brick construction of the day; this echoes the use of that section for offices and storage. The six windows on the west facade include two leaded units segmented in a fishscale pattern. Finally, most windows in the building are two-sashed and double hung.

The exterior has remained almost unchanged since the time of construction. The brick walls that once flanked the steps have been replaced with iron hand rails. The wall lights beside the door entrance were added some time after construction. The overall landscaping conforms to the original plans, but the trees and bushes have grown to such an extent that they now obscure much of the classical design.

The interior still reflects the building's original purposes. The front two-thirds form a large, impressive space which once contained the reading room, children's room, and reference room, all divided by partitions containing books. The hardwood floor is intact although now covered by linoleum. The original ceiling of pressed tin has been covered with plasterboard. The original marble fireplace and radiators are intact. New fluorescent lights have replaced the original ceiling lights. The wainscoting remains unchanged in the large room, but has been painted in the rear of the building. A kitchen has been installed in the rear section, and enclosed offices have been created where once there was a balcony.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> _PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> _ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> _COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> _LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> _RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> _1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> _ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> _CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> _LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> _SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> _1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> _AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> _ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> _LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> _SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> _1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> _MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> _SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> _1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> _ART	<input type="checkbox"/> _ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> _MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> _THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> _1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> _COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> _EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> _PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> _TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> _COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> _INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> _OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> _INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1906-present

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Thomas McLaren

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Carnegie Library is significant because of its association with Andrew Carnegie and the national library movement that he supported, and for its association with Thomas McLaren, a noted architect who added significantly to the built environment in Colorado. The structure itself has good architectural features, and its singular physical characteristics represent a familiar visual mark in the urban landscape of Boulder. Like most libraries this one has done much to foster learning in the community at large.

Boulder owed its origins to the ferment created by the Pike's Peak Gold Rush of 1859, but another decade passed before the town had its first reading room. It was alternately sponsored by local newspapers, the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA), and the Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU). These efforts later culminated in the formation of the Boulder Library Association in 1886. The library movement in town received even greater impetus in 1895 when a group from the WCTU established a new reading room, hired a librarian, and began a campaign to convert their reading room into a library. City funding for a reading room first came the next year, and soon after that began the movement to secure funds from Andrew Carnegie, the great iron and steel magnate. Finally, in 1903, land was purchased for the new library, the city council voted an annual maintenance fund of \$1500, and Carnegie pledged \$15,000. Thomas McLaren designed the building, construction followed, and the new library opened in 1907. A local newspaper hailed the propitious event as the confirmation of Boulder's status as the "Athens of the West." Within a year the library had 3,000 volumes. The number grew until the building reached its official capacity of 20,000 in the 1920s. Yet growth continued, eventually reaching 50,000 volumes, which prompted the city to open a new facility in 1961. Since then the parks and recreation department has used the Carnegie Library for offices, storage space, and summer recreation programs, but there are new plans to turn the building into a local history and genealogical research center.

Besides his noted role in the metals industry, Andrew Carnegie became known in his later years as the "patron saint of libraries." He donated more than \$56,000,000 for the construction of 2,509 buildings in the English-speaking world. More than \$40,000,000 of this amount went for the construction of 1679 buildings in 1412 communities in the United States. The Carnegie Library in Boulder reflects the continuing influence of his philanthropy.

Thomas McLaren, the architect who designed the building, was born in Middleton, Thornhill, Perthshire, Scotland. He received his education at the Royal Academy of London and the South Kensington School of Art at Edinburgh. From there he went on to a career that made him well-known throughout the United States and Britain as a leader in his profession. He designed many public buildings and private residences, particularly in Colorado Springs, the site of the Trianon, which is now listed in the National Register.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

George S. Bobinski, Carnegie Libraries: Their History and Impact on American Public Library Development (American Library Association, 1969).

City of Boulder Planning Department, Memorandum to Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board, re: Carnegie Library, 1976.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 0.16

QUADRANGLE NAME Boulder

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 13 47160210 44297910
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See Continuation Sheet

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mike Parnell and Rachel Homer / history researchers

ORGANIZATION

Boulder Public Library

DATE

September 8, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

1000 Canyon Blvd.

TELEPHONE

(303) 441-3100

CITY OR TOWN

Boulder

STATE

Colorado 80306

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Arthur C. Janssen

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

December 18, 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE *2-16-79*

ATTEST: *William H. Brauman*
 CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

2-15-79

DATE

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CONTINUATION SHEET Carnegie Library ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

Beginning at a point on the south line of block one hundred and fifty (150), in the City of Boulder, one hundred and fifty feet westerly from the southeast corner of said block; thence westerly along the south line of said block forty-four feet; thence northerly and on a line parallel with the east line of said block one hundred and forty feet to the south line of the alley in said block; thence easterly and along the south line of said alley forty-four feet; thence southerly and on a line parallel with the east line of said block one hundred and forty feet to the south line of said block, to the beginning.