

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

**SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD**

NRIS Reference Number: 97000461

Property Name: Sioux City Free Public Library

County: Woodbury State: Iowa

none  
Multiple Name

This property is determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

*Linda McCullough*                      June 2, 1997  
Signature of the Keeper                      Date of Action

=====  
Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 8: The Period of Significance is, hereby, amended to read "1912-13" to correspond to the period of construction in keeping with the property's significance in architecture.

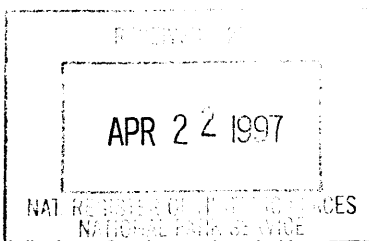
Beth Foster, National Register coordinator, Iowa State Historic Preservation Office was notified of this amendment on June 2, 1997.

**DISTRIBUTION:**  
National Register property file  
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

APR 3 1997

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form



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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 an 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 Sioux City Free Public Library

other names/site number Sioux City Public Library

2. Location

street & number 705 Sixth Street N/A  not for publication

city or town Sioux City N/A  vicinity

state Iowa code IA county Woodbury code 193 zip code 51101

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  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  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Patricia Ollertson  
Signature of certifying official/Title

4-14-97  
Date

State Historical Society of Iowa  
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 certifying official/Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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

Sandra McClelland

Date of Action

6/2/97

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

NA

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/Library

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/Not In Use

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH & 20TH CENTURY REVIVAL /  
Italian Renaissance

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick  
walls Brick  
roof Asphalt  
other

**Narrative Description**

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

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark an "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for national Register Listing)

- 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.
- 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.

**Criteria Considerations**

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

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or 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.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

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**Period of Significance**

1912-1947

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**Significant Dates**

N/A

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**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

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**Cultural Affiliation**

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**Architect/Builder**

Tilton, Edward L., Architect

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**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

**9. Major Bibliographic 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:**

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

Name of repository:

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**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property less than one

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 ZONE 15 713020 4708590  
                  Easting            Northing

3 \_\_\_\_\_

2 \_\_\_\_\_

4 \_\_\_\_\_

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 Gretchen E. Schalge/Planner

organization City of Sioux City, Iowa date 10/24/96

street & number 520 Pierce Street telephone 712/279-6159

city or town Sioux City state IA zip code 51102

**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 SHPO or FPO.)

name Carnegie Place, Limited Partnership

street & number 2700 Leech Ave. telephone 712/274-1610

city or town Sioux City state IA zip code 51106

**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 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 Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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**National Register of Historic Places**  
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Sioux City Free Public Library  
Woodbury, Iowa

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**Narrative Description**

Occupying a prominent quarter block location on a hill in downtown Sioux City, the Sioux City Free Public Library is a large, two-story red brick edifice set on a raised foundation and featuring a walk-out basement and a false hipped roof capped with a clay-tile parapet. Stylistically, this building exhibits the influence of the Italian Renaissance mode with its symmetrical facade; prominent arched entry featuring classical motifs; corner quoins; prominent belt courses; false hipped roof with a red tiled parapet to resemble a low-hipped roof; brick arch-work above first floor windows; and smaller, less elaborate upper story windows. Although there have been some exterior and interior changes to the building over the years, they have been relatively minor, and the building continues to possess a high degree of architectural and historical integrity.

**Exterior**

A rectangular building measuring 112' x 65', and constructed in the running bond brick pattern, the Free Public Library features a number of interesting details. The most prominent exterior feature is the two story high entrance located on the south facade. One's eye is drawn into the entrance from the sidewalk, moves upward along a gently curved concrete wall that flanks the stairs; upward to the coved concrete arch framing the double doorway through the detailed keystone and finally, rests on a large, rectangular concrete block inscribed with the words "Free Public Library".

The most interesting detailing in this entry lies within the arch. On either side of the double doors and transom is a band of formed concrete in a geometric pattern. The banding meets in a keystone which is centered above the transom. Inside the keystone is the sculpted Greek symbol caduceus, representing wisdom.<sup>1</sup> An entablature rests on the keystone and is flanked by two short dentiled pilasters. On the entablature sits a pair of torches flanking an open book with the stylized letters "S" and "C".

Although not as decorative as the entry, the windows on the first and second floors include interesting, if not refined, brick and concrete work. The first floor windows are large, four-over-two double hung windows, with a Roman arch brick surround. The brick is placed in a single course and outlined with a brick header course. The brick header course rises to the apex of the arch and meets a prominent concrete keystone. On the keystone rests the concrete sill of the smaller and less detailed three-over-three, double hung second floor windows. Centered within the arch over the first floor windows, and lying within a brick pattern that resembles woven fabric, is a single concrete block, set on-edge, in a diamond shape.

The smaller second floor windows feature a jack arch surround. Like the first floor windows, these second story windows are flanked by a single course of brick outlined with a brick header course. Above the jack arch, runs a double brick belt course. Above the belt course, centered over each window, and running nearly the perimeter of the building, is band of concrete blocks, set on-edge in a diamond pattern.

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<sup>1</sup> Helfman, Elizabeth S. *Signs and Symbols Around the World*. (New York: Lothrop, Lee and Shepard & Co., Inc., 1967), 99-100. Today, a widely used medical symbol, the caduceus is actually an ancient symbol meaning wisdom, health and long life.

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In addition to the keystones, and block diamonds, the building features two concrete belt courses. The first, and smaller belt course runs beneath the first floor windows and actually forms the window sill. Approximately three feet beneath this belt course is a larger, and more prominent concrete belt course. This belt course sits above the three-over-three basement windows. Typical of the Italian Renaissance style, the brick pattern at this level is much different from the upper floors. Here, the architect designed five courses of running bond, then recessed one brick course, and repeated this patterning three and one half times. This pattern achieves a rusticated look which is characteristic of the style.

The facades are capped with a simple three foot deep overhang and decorative red tiled parapet wall. As discussed earlier, the parapet was designed to resemble a low-hipped roof which is characteristic of the Italian Renaissance style. Originally, the overhang included decorative brackets (see discussion of Alterations).

**Interior**

On the interior, the building follows a floor plan that consists of a center atrium that is shaped like a rectangle with two of its corners cut-off. The atrium is flanked by rectangular side wings. To a large degree, a significant amount of the original plan, finishes, and materials remain including oak woodwork, bathrooms with marble sills and ceramic tile; a central two and one half story atrium, a pair of one and one half story tall oak Doric columns; book shelving; a steel stairway connecting all levels of book stacks from the subbasement to the second floor; and dumbwaiters for transporting books between the floors.

Access to the building is through two sets of double commercial style metal doors under the main arched entry which leads directly to the first floor, or through a side entry on the west facade which accesses the basement. From the main entry is a vestibule with a double set of stairs to the basement and six risers to a landing with a double set of stairs leading to the second floor. From the landing, an oak trimmed arched entry leads to the main central atrium. This irregularly shaped room features a two story tall coffered ceiling with prominent dentil moldings. The north wall of the atrium contains the open metal stacks and a metal stairway which leads up to the second floor stacks and down to the sub-basement stacks. Framing the stacks in the main room, are two, one and one-half story Doric columns. To maximize natural light reaching the aisles between the stacks, the architect designed a band of narrow windows along the north side of the building.

The reading rooms are located in the west and east side wings and are accessed through the atrium by large arched doorways framed with oak trim moldings. The west wing is divided into two reading rooms. The southwest room of the west wing is approximately 28 x 40 feet in dimension and features a fireplace. The northwest reading room is approximately 32 x 40 feet in dimension. The east wing, like the west wing is divided into two rooms. However, unlike the west wing, the southeast and northeast rooms are divided by a wall. The southeast room is approximately 28 x 40 feet in dimension and features a fireplace. The northeast wing is accessed through an arched entry with oak molding and glass inset panels surrounding a four foot wide, oak

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trimmed doorway. This wing includes a stairway extending from the basement to the second floor, and a 15 x 20 foot open area leading to a 10 x 12 foot office, 15 x 22 foot public meeting room, toilet room, and vault.

In the vestibule, two sets of wood stairs with oak banister extend up to the second floor. The two sets of sixteen risers ascend and meet at a mid-level landing. From the landing, a common nine riser set of wood stairs leads upward to a 8 x 15 foot upper foyer with diagonal six foot wide hallway that wraps around the atrium below. At one time, this was a balcony around the atrium with open windows to below (see Alterations). Over the years, a number of rooms have been constructed off this main hallway. Originally, the doorways into each of the rooms featured quarter sawn oak doors with transoms and door knobs with the inscription "SCPL" on the face of the knob. All of the doors have been removed, but the transoms remain (see Alterations).

## Alterations

There have been a few exterior and interior alterations to the building since it was constructed in 1912. The alterations have been minor and have minimal impact on the building's architectural and historical integrity. On the exterior, modillions under the overhang have been removed; a metal guard rail was added in the center of the main entrance stairway; all of the original exterior doors were removed and replaced with metal, standard commercial doors; the cornerstone was removed and contents of a time capsule recovered. The cornerstone is in storage and may be available for replacement.

Alterations to the interior include removal in 1989 of all of the quarter sawn oak doors and associated hardware; removal of much of the oak baseboards; and removal of fireplace mantles. All of the open windows in the second floor hallway overlooking the main room have been enclosed with plywood or enclosed with fire glass, the oak floors have been covered with linoleum and carpet. Historic photographs indicate that the oak floors were covered in the 1930's or 1940's, relatively early in the building's history.

The Sioux City Free Public Library has been vacant since 1989, when the library moved to a location two blocks to the west. In the years since 1989, the building has developed severe water damage in its northwest and northeast corners; a number of the original glazed windows have been broken due to vandalism; and a portion of the atrium's coffered ceiling has fallen. In order to preserve this landmark, the city of Sioux City sold the Free Public Library to a development group who will rehabilitate the building into apartments. Their adaptive reuse project calls for the restoration of the exterior and their interior rehabilitation will retain much of the original features including the original floor plan.

## Statement of Significance

The Sioux City Free Public Library possesses local significance under National Register Criterion C as a good example of Italian Renaissance influenced design, and as an example of the work of New York City architect Edward L. Tilton, a nationally recognized figure in the field of library design. Begun in 1912 and



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completed in 1913, the library is one of Sioux City's best examples of an Italian Renaissance influenced building and is the only major public building in the community executed in that mode. This building is the only known example of Edward L. Tilton's work in the state of Iowa.

## Andrew Carnegie and the Carnegie Libraries

After amassing his fortune from the manufacture and production of steel and oil, Andrew Carnegie spent approximately ninety percent of his fortune on various philanthropic endeavors for what he termed the "improvement of mankind". Evolving from his desire to furnish reading materials for all individuals regardless of their economic status, Mr. Carnegie began funding library construction on a grand scale by 1898, reaching a peak in 1903, and ending with his death in 1919.<sup>2</sup>

Although his library giving only amounted to a small portion (17 percent) of the total \$333 million of Carnegie benefactions, during his lifetime Mr. Carnegie contributed over \$56 million for the construction of 2,509 library buildings throughout the English speaking world. Of the 46 states receiving Carnegie funding, Iowa ranked sixth in the number of libraries built (101 buildings) and eighth in the amount of money received (\$1,495,706).<sup>3</sup>

## Sioux City's Carnegie Library

On April 8, 1911, the Carnegie Corporation granted \$75,000 to Sioux City for the construction of its main library. In 1916, the Carnegie Corporation granted Sioux City an additional \$10,000 for the construction of a branch library (not a part of this nomination) in the Leeds neighborhood northeast of downtown.<sup>4</sup> Records from the Carnegie Corporation reveal that Sioux City was one of thirty-four cities throughout the nation and the only city in Iowa to receive funding for both a main library and for one branch facility. In addition, the sum of money granted to Sioux City was the largest single amount granted to any city in the state of Iowa where most grants ranged from \$5,000 to \$12,000.<sup>5</sup>

Obtaining a library was sometimes a long and tedious process. Initially, Mr. Carnegie handled all inquiries personally and required very little of the cities requesting funding. However, as time went on, the application process became more formalized. Each community was required to complete a "Schedule of Questions" which included pertinent statistics of the city and information about the proposed library site. Dealing directly with the city rather than library boards, Mr. Carnegie insisted on the endorsement of the city and an annual maintenance pledge of ten percent of the total amount of the contribution. By 1908, cities were also

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<sup>2</sup> Bobinski, George S. *Carnegie Libraries, Their History and Impact on American Public Library Development*, (Chicago: American Library Association, 1969).

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>4</sup> *Sioux City Journal*, 25 July 1954.

<sup>5</sup> Bobinski.

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required to submit building plans; this, in response to the misuse of his money for the construction of what Carnegie termed "Greek temples". By 1911, Mr. Carnegie formed the Carnegie Corporation to efficiently and expeditiously manage and distribute benefactions, as well as handle the ever increasing number of funding inquiries. Mr. Carnegie's personal secretary, James Bertram formalized an application procedure and meticulously handled all correspondence between applicants and the newly formed Carnegie Corporation.<sup>6</sup>

Between 1892 and 1913, the Library occupied a small portion of the Municipal Building (razed) located at the northwest corner of 6th and Douglas Streets<sup>7</sup>. Having quickly outgrown that space, according to the Minutes of the Library Board, in January, 1910 the Library Trustees began correspondence with Mr. Carnegie. In late September, 1910 the Library Board appointed Ms. Jeannette Drake as head librarian. Ms. Drake was the city's first formally trained and educated librarian, graduating with a library science degree from the University of Illinois in 1903. It is unclear what influence Ms. Drake had in encouraging the city to continue its correspondence with Mr. Carnegie but, in October, one month following Ms. Drake's employment, the Library Board met and authorized its chairman to formally request funding from Mr. Carnegie for a new library building. The following month, the chairman reported as having received a letter from Mr. Bertram requesting plans and photographs of the present library quarters.<sup>8</sup>

In a letter dated January 28, 1911 and recorded in the Minutes, the Library Board received Mr. Bertram's reply:

Dear Sir,

Yours of December 2d received, but pressure of other matters which had to be attended to prevented your case being taken up until now.

Inasmuch as you have superficial area of about 75 x 85 feet, which is a fairly large library, you are hardly within Mr. Carnegie's scope as needing a Library Building. It looks as if you mite [sic] hav [sic] much greater facilities by rearranging your accommodation and having pillars instead of those massiv [sic] partition walls. Your delivery room 20 x 40 feet is itself a large library room. To get to the book counter a long distance has to be traverst [sic] from both entrances, making such space useless for any but a thorofare [sic].<sup>9</sup>

Undaunted, the Library Board, at that same meeting asked local architect William Steele to provide Mr. Bertram comments as to why the current library space was inadequate. In their Minutes of February 6, 1911, the Library Board noted that they had met with City Council and decided that the only way to receive funding

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<sup>6</sup>Bobinski.

<sup>7</sup> *Sioux City Journal*, 25 July 1954.

<sup>8</sup> Sioux City Public Library. Board of Trustees, Minutes 1910-1913. (Sioux City Public Library).

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*, 31 January 1911.

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from the Carnegie Corporation was through New York architect Edward Tilton.<sup>10</sup> Apparently, in one of their correspondences, Mr. Bertram sent a leaflet entitled "Notes on Library Buildings". As standard procedure beginning in 1911, all cities requesting and obtaining funding received a leaflet containing information on minimum architectural standards. Insisting upon economy of space and simple yet dignified building design, Mr. Bertram also provided the names of architects qualified in the design of libraries, one of whom was Edward Tilton.<sup>11</sup>

Not receiving any further assistance from Mr. Bertram, the Library Board decided to bypass Bertram and work directly with Edward Tilton. Shortly, a controversy arose when the Board chair suggested that there was an existing understanding that William Steele was to be the Library architect. When contacted regarding Tilton's possible involvement in the building plans, Mr. Steele stated that if Tilton were hired such that he would have some part in the building plans, he [Steele] would withdraw, "not caring to deal with Mr. Tilton in any respect".<sup>12</sup>

By April, 1911 however, Mr. Steele accepted the position of local supervising architect, and the Library Board voted to appoint Mr. Tilton as architect. Tilton began preparing sketch plans and agreed to submit the plans to Bertram before coming to Sioux City for a site visit. Meanwhile, the Board set about finding a suitable location for the new library. The Board looked at a number of sites but preferred a flat, 100 x 150 foot site at the corner of 7th & Pierce Streets. Instead, in their May meeting, the Board reported that they accepted a gift by local resident George Murphy for a site located at 6th & Jackson Streets. The 100 x 150 foot site sat on the side of a hill east of downtown and posed numerous grading problems for the architect. In fact, shortly after the library opened in 1913, adjacent dirt banks caved-in causing damage to a door and forcing dirt inside the building. Tilton admitted later that, "The overhanging cliffs leave little room for the library, besides being unsightly and a menace to the building."<sup>13</sup>

Nonetheless, Tilton provided Sioux City with a building design that followed the Carnegie theme of economy of space and dignified design. Carnegie recommended very little space be reserved for cloakrooms, toilets, and stairs and this theme was carried through in the design of the Sioux City library. Although Carnegie discouraged the construction of fireplaces in library buildings, Sioux City did manage to include two in its design.<sup>14</sup>

Although it is not clear how much influence librarian Jeannette Drake had on the interior design and floor layout of the library, she was interviewed in the April 14, 1911 *Sioux City Daily Tribune* as saying that she was a firm

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<sup>10</sup> Sioux City Public Library. Board of Trustees Minutes 6 February 1911.

<sup>11</sup> Bobinski, 58.

<sup>12</sup> Sioux City Public Library. Board of Trustees Minutes 6 February 1911.

<sup>13</sup> *Sioux City Journal*, 30 March 1913.

<sup>14</sup> Bobinski, 63.

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believer in the value of the library as an educator of young people and since she had controlling influence in the floor plans, the children's needs would be one of her first considerations. The *Tribune* went on to report Ms. Drake's concern that the building could not be designed to accommodate all of her needs. "Whether it will be possible to find room for the children's department on the first floor is a question that is bothering Miss Drake. Other rooms which must be on the main floor are the reading room, reference room, stack room for books, librarian's room as well as the loan desk and the corridors. It will take a large floor space to accommodate this number of rooms."<sup>15</sup>

Most likely, Tilton's design did not disappoint Ms. Drake. He skillfully maximized the use of available floor space. Tilton not only planned the children's reading room on the first level, but he planned window arrangements to utilize available natural lighting, he provided sufficient book storage areas to accommodate future growth, and he concentrated his room arrangements on the need for staff administration and control.

Although Sioux City's library is an early example of Tilton's work in library planning and design, it contains all of the elements he, in later years, identified as necessary. In "Library Planning and Design" published in the *Architectural Forum*, June 1932, Tilton advises, "A library building should combine the aesthetic and the practical; the former to allure, the latter to satisfy."<sup>16</sup> With mathematical precision, Tilton instructs the reader as to the correct proportional layout of reading rooms, directs the number of tables, provides a square footage per reader, computes the number of books that can be shelved per room, sites the location of reading rooms in relation to librarians, and dictates the location of books in relation to natural and artificial light.<sup>17</sup> His influence on library design was substantial. In review of his journal articles and library designs, it appears that the Sioux City Free Public Library is an excellent early twentieth century example of the architectural development of library planning and design.

#### About the Architect

Architect Edward L. Tilton, (Oct. 19, 1861 - Jan. 5, 1933) was born in New York City. He studied architectural drawing with a private tutor from 1879-1880 and, after gaining practical experience from two architectural firms, Tilton entered the offices of renowned New York architects McKim, Mead, and White. On at the 1900 Paris Exposition. The partnership lasted until 1915 when Boring left to become director of the Columbia University School of Architecture.<sup>18</sup>

Tilton's major architectural contributions appear to be in library design. The public library in Mount Vernon, N.Y., built in 1910, was the first of a long series of buildings connected with Tilton's name. By the end of World War I, he was associated with the construction of over 60 libraries. The Sioux City Free Public

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<sup>15</sup> *Sioux City Daily Tribune*, 14 April 1911.

<sup>16</sup> Tilton, Edward L., "Library Planning and Design." *Architectural Forum* (June 1932): 567-572.

<sup>17</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>18</sup> Malone, Dumas (ed.), *Dictionary of American Biography* (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1936), 18:549-550.

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Library, completed in 1913, represents Tilton's early work. Other important libraries designed by Tilton include the Knight Memorial Library (Providence, RI), libraries at Emory University (Atlanta, GA) and Girard College (Philadelphia, PA), and the Enoch Pratt Free Library (Baltimore, MD). By 1909, Tilton's influence in American architecture prompted the *National Cyclopaedia of American Biography* to refer to him as "one of the most prominent younger members of the new school of American architects whose achievements are astonishing the world".<sup>19</sup>

#### The Library After Opening Day

On Thursday, March 6, 1913, the Library opened for an evening reception hosted by the Sioux City Woman's Club. The Club furnished wild cherry frappe and wafer refreshments, planned the music, provided flowers, and assisted in touring approximately 3,000 people through the new building.<sup>20</sup> Officially, the Library opened to the public Saturday, March 8 when nearly 400 children attended a reading of the story "Parsifal" which was illustrated with stereopticon slides and Victrola music. The building was an impressive sight. One small boy was so awe struck by the grand building that he immediately dropped down on the bench near the entrance, took off his overshoes, and for once in his life tiptoed through the library. One young patron even noted Tilton's special attention to window detail when he was heard to exclaim, "Gee! Ain't it swell to have them there windows at the end of the book shelves, 'cause when it burns down, youse can grab the books and pitch 'em out the windows."<sup>21</sup>

The Library saw a marked increase in patronage, so much that by 1938, the city held a bond election to consider increasing the size of the building. Local architect George B. Hilgers drew plans to remodel the interior, west and south entrances, and to construct a two story rear addition (See Additional Documentation, Page 14-15), thereby significantly increasing the size of the building.<sup>22</sup> The bond election failed and the Library continued to be cramped for space. In 1989, the Library purchased and moved into a bank building at the intersection of 6th and Pierce Streets, downtown, two blocks to the west of the Carnegie Library. In 1996, the city of Sioux City transferred ownership of the Carnegie building to a group of investors planning to convert the old library into apartments.

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<sup>19</sup> *National Cyclopaedia of American Biography* (James T. White & Co., 1909), 2: 329.

<sup>20</sup> Sioux City Public Library. Board of Trustees Minutes, 4 April 1913.

<sup>21</sup> Ibid.

<sup>22</sup> Sioux City Public Museum. Clipping File. "Modernization of Public Library Depends on Approval of Bond Issue by Voters".

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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Sioux City Free Public Library  
Woodbury, Iowa

Section number 9, 10 Page 9

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**GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

**Verbal Boundary Description**

Lots 6, 7, and 8, Block 1, and the south 1/2 of the east and west alley north of Lot 6, Sioux City East Addition.

**Boundary Justification**

This is the area historically associated with this resource.

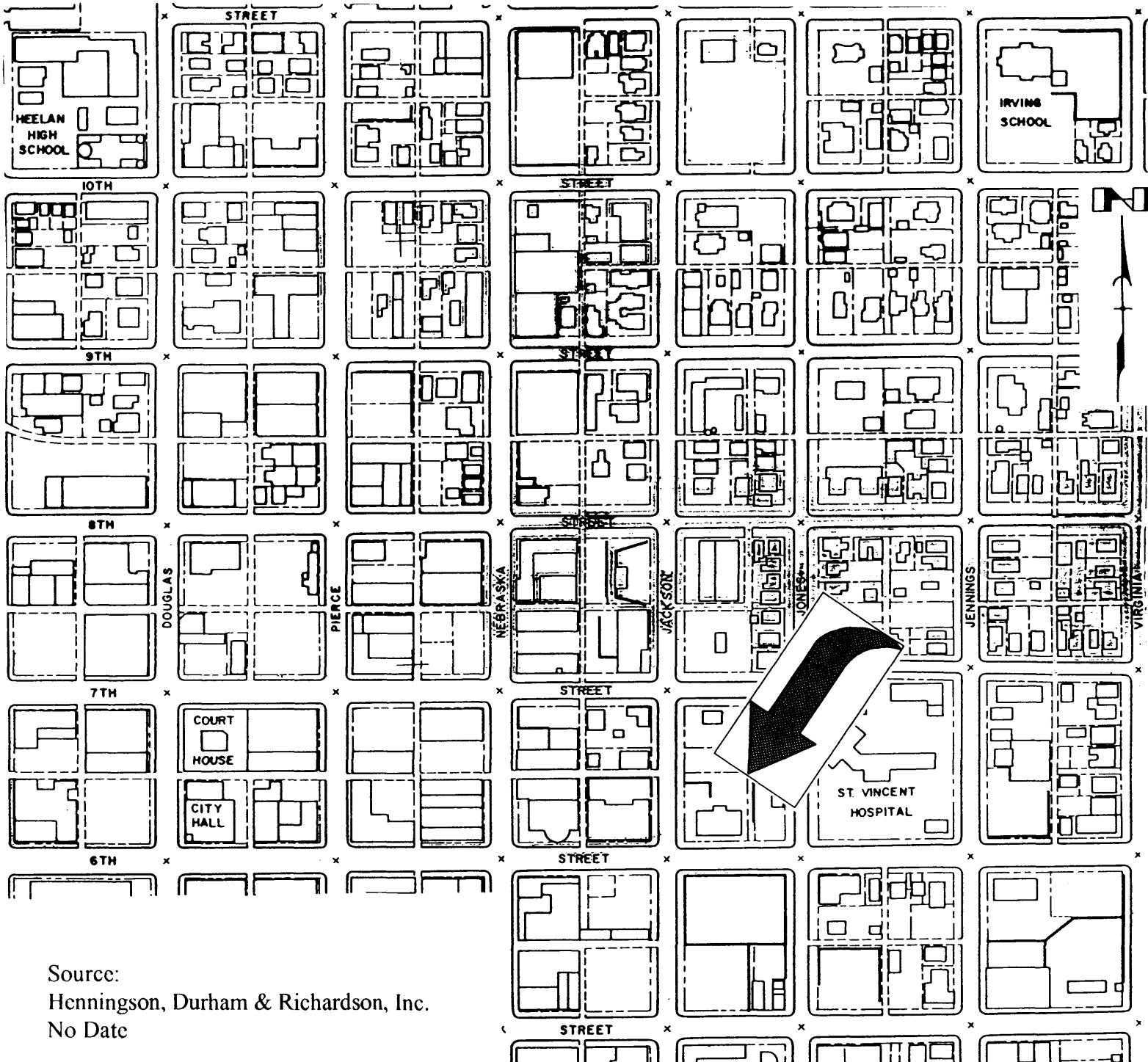
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National Park Service

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Sioux City Free Public Library  
Woodbury, Iowa

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## Site Plan



Source:  
Henningson, Durham & Richardson, Inc.  
No Date

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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Sioux City Free Public Library  
Woodbury, Iowa

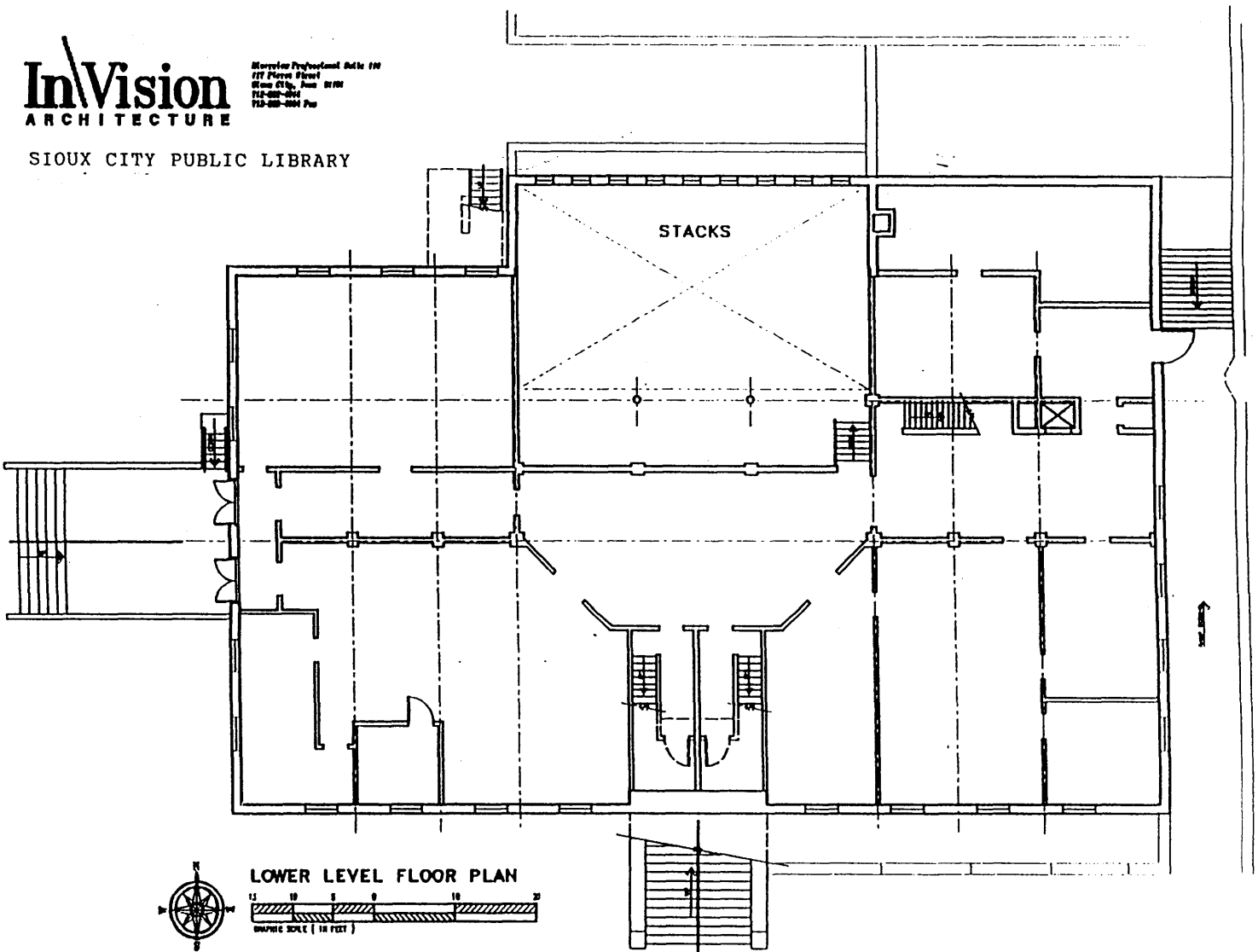
Additional Documentation 11  
Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

## Existing Floor Plan - Basement Level 1996

**In/Vision**  
ARCHITECTURE

Interior Professional Office 100  
107 Pierce Street  
Sioux City, Iowa 51101  
712-262-2014  
712-262-2004 Fax

SIoux CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY



LOWER LEVEL FLOOR PLAN  
GRAPHIC SCALE (1 IN = 10 FEET)

EXISTING



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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

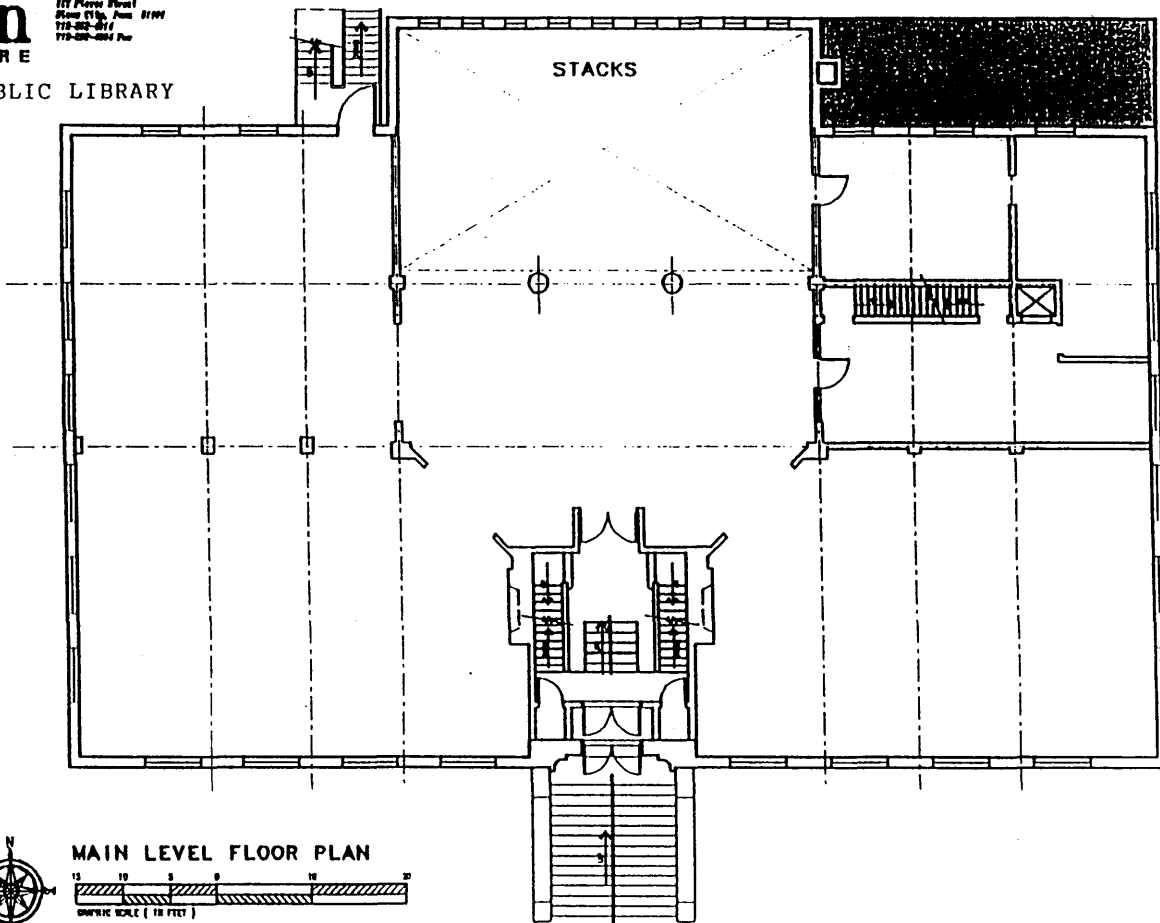
Sioux City Free Public Library  
Woodbury, Iowa

Additional Documentation 12  
Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

## Existing Floor Plan - Main Floor Level 1996

**InVision**  
ARCHITECTURE  
SIOUX CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Registered Professional Status 1/04  
117 Prairie Street  
Sioux City, Iowa 51101  
712-262-2611  
712-262-2600 Fax



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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

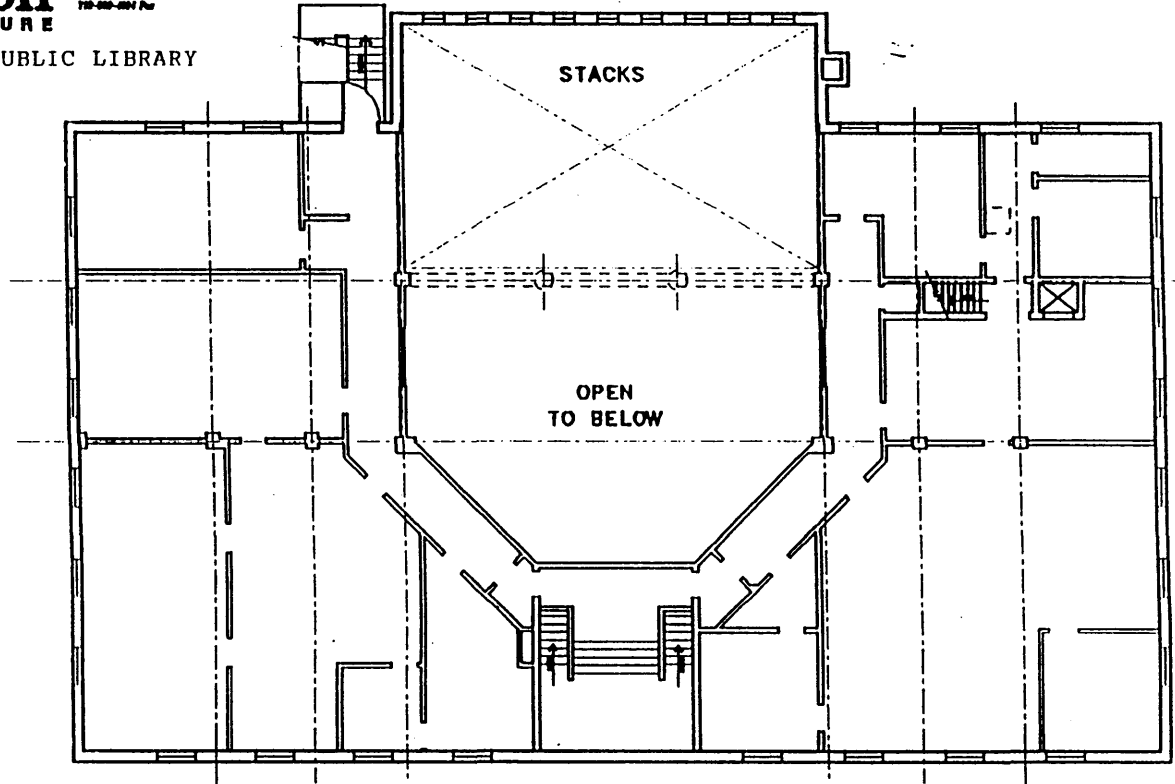
Sioux City Free Public Library  
Woodbury, Iowa

Additional Documentation 13  
Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

## Existing Floor Plan - Upper Level 1996

**InVision**  
ARCHITECTURE  
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Shawnee Professional Bldg 110  
117 Flavel Street  
Sioux City, Iowa 50598  
712-262-2621  
712-262-2622 Fax



UPPER LEVEL FLOOR PLAN  
GRAPHIC SCALE (1/4" = 1'-0")  
EXISTING

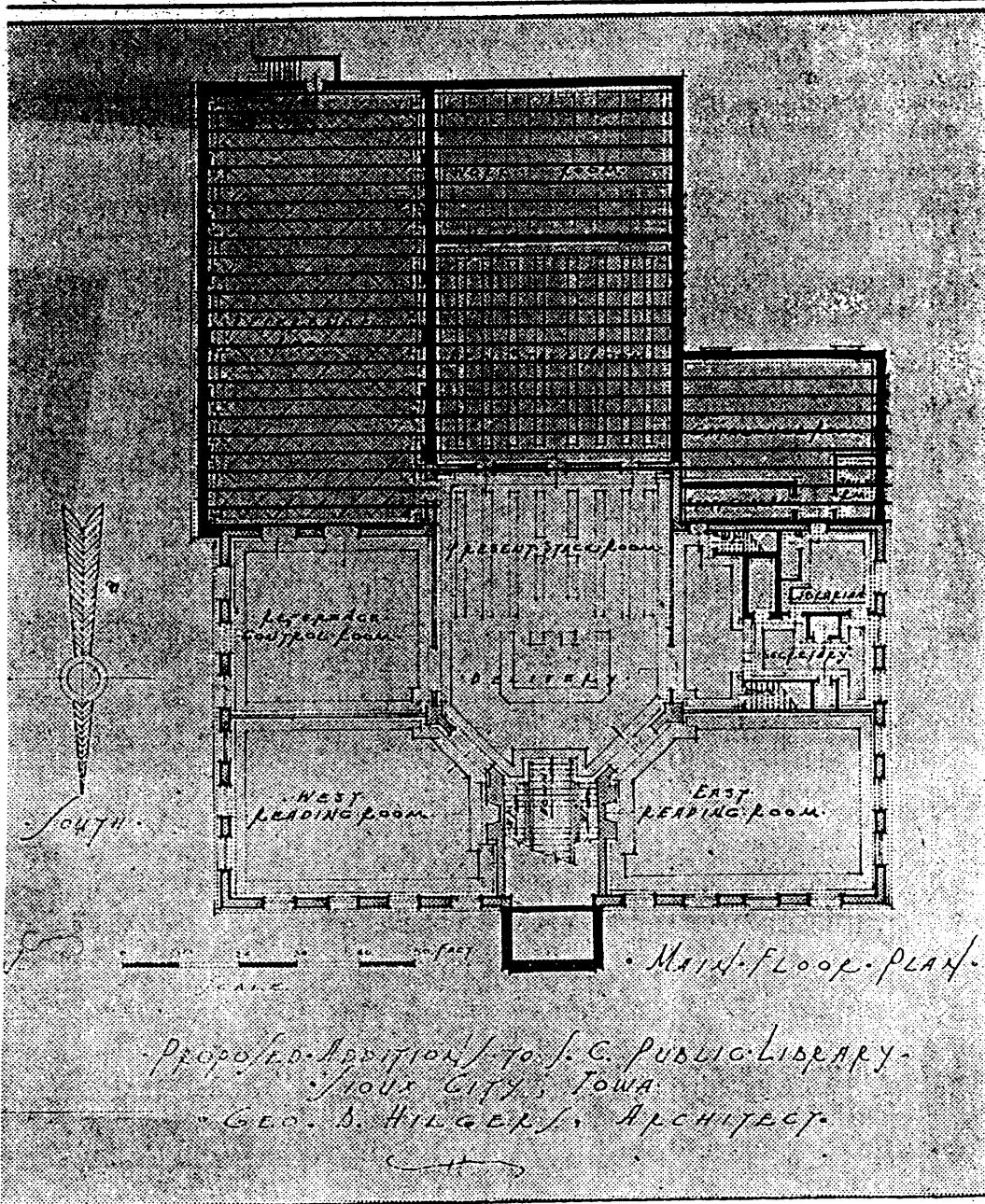
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National Park Service

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Sioux City Free Public Library  
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Additional Documentation 14  
Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

## 1938 Proposed Addition to the Sioux City Free Public Library



Main Floor Plan

≡ - New Addition

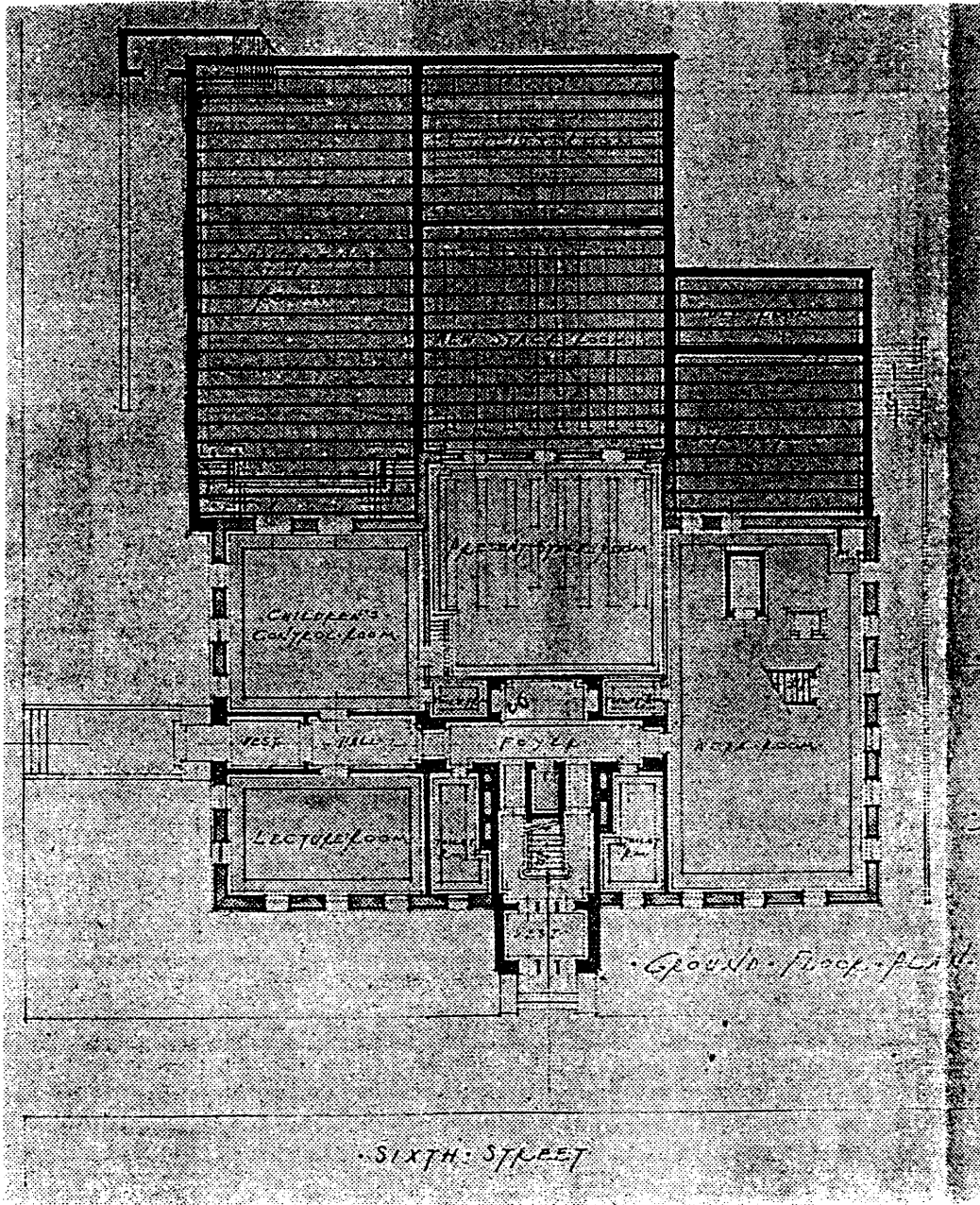
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National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Additional Documentation 15  
Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

## 1938 Proposed Addition to the Sioux City Free Public Library



Ground Floor Plan

≡ - New Addition

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**National Park Service**

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Sioux City Free Public Library  
Woodbury, Iowa

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**Photograph Index**

1. Photographer: Unknown  
Date: Circa 1912  
Location of Negative: Sioux City Public Museum  
View: Laying the Cornerstone.
2. Photographer: Unknown  
Date: Circa 1913  
Location of Negative: Sioux City Public Museum  
View: Showing west and south facades. Looking northeast.
3. Photographer: Unknown  
Date: Circa 1920  
Location of Negative: Sioux City Public Museum  
View: Interior View. Central Atrium. Looking west into reading rooms.
4. Photographer: Unknown  
Date: Circa 1920  
Location of Negative: Sioux City Public Museum  
View: Interior View. Central Atrium looking northwest into reading rooms and book stacks.
5. Photographer: Unknown  
Date: Circa 1920  
Location of Negative: Sioux City Public Museum  
View: Central Atrium looking north into the bookstacks.
6. Photographer: G. Schalge  
Date: October, 1996  
Location of Negative: City Hall, Sioux City, Iowa  
View: Showing west and south facades. Looking northeast.
7. Photographer: G. Schalge  
Date: October, 1996  
Location of Negative: City Hall, Sioux City, Iowa  
View: Showing south and east facades. Looking northwest.
8. Photographer: G. Schalge  
Date: October, 1996  
Location of Negative: City Hall, Sioux City, Iowa  
View: Showing north facade and a portion of the west facade. Looking southeast.
9. Photographer: G. Schalge  
Date: October, 1996  
Location of Negative: City Hall, Sioux City, Iowa  
View: Showing north facade. Looking south.

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National Park Service**

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Woodbury, Iowa

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10. Photographer: G. Schalge  
Date: October, 1996  
Location of Negative: City Hall, Sioux City, Iowa  
View: Detail: showing front entry. Looking northeast.
11. Photographer: G. Schalge  
Date: October, 1996  
Location of Negative: City Hall, Sioux City, Iowa  
View: Detail: showing entablature. Front entry.
12. Photographer: G. Schalge  
Date: October, 1996  
Location of Negative: City Hall, Sioux City, Iowa  
View: Detail: showing typical decorative brick work, keystone and window sill.
13. Photographer: G. Schalge  
Date: October, 1996  
Location of Negative: City Hall, Sioux City, Iowa  
View: Detail: showing name block, decorative brick work and tiled parapet wall. South facade.