

NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Per J.
10/7/84



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

NATIONAL
REGISTER

1. Name of Property

historic name: Hollister Carnegie Library

other name/site number: Hollister City Hall

2. Location

street & number: 375 Fifth Street

not for publication:

city/town: Hollister

vicinity:

state: CA county: San Benito

code: 069

zip code: 95023

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Public-local

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u> 1</u>	<u> </u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> 1</u>	objects
<u> 1</u>	<u> 1</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing:

CALIFORNIA CARNEGIE LIBRARIES

4. 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. See continuation sheet.

Stacy R. Craig
Signature of certifying official

February 18, 1992
Date

California Office of Historic Preservation
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

~~Entered in the~~
National Register

- 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): _____

Albion Byer 3/26/92

Signature of Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic: Education

Sub: Library

Current: Government

Sub: City Hall

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Century Revivals: Classical Revival

Other Description: _____

Materials: foundation concrete roof asphalt
walls concrete other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheet.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: locally.

Applicable National Register Criteria: A, C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : _____

Areas of Significance: Social History
Architecture

Period(s) of Significance: 1912-1942 _____

Significant Dates : 1912 _____

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Binder, William (architect)
Sparling, E. J. (builder)

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above. X See continuation sheet.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

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 -- Specify Repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: less than one acre

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>10</u>	<u>642450</u>	<u>4079350</u>	B	_____	_____	_____
C	_____	_____	_____	D	_____	_____	_____

_____ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: _____ See continuation sheet.
 Assessor's Parcel Number 054-080-003

Boundary Justification: _____ See continuation sheet.
 This is the lot that is historically associated with the property.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Donald S. Napoli

Organization: _____ Date: September 30, 1991

Street & Number: 1614 26th Street Telephone: (916) 455-4541

City or Town: Sacramento State: CA ZIP: 95816

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

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Hollister Carnegie Library Page #1

The Hollister Carnegie Library is an example of the Classical Revival in which the center of three bays is projected toward the street. It has one story over a slightly raised basement, which gives the effect of a podium, and is constructed of reinforced concrete scored to resemble granite blocks. The building has a flat roof that is masked by a parapet. The projecting cornice has several bands, including a dentil course, while the frieze is plain. The main entrance is recessed within the center bay, surrounded by molded panels, and flanked by a fluted Ionic column on each side. In the unrecessed wall on each side of the entryway is a narrow slit window. The pedestal of each column projects forward to encase the stairway. In each of the flanking bays is one large casement window, divided vertically and horizontally into six sections and containing many panes. The windows are slightly recessed within a wide frame and rest upon bracketed sills. Small basement windows pierce the foundation below first floor windows. There are no windows in the side walls.

The building's setting contributes to its dignified appearance. Unlike adjacent structures, the library is set back from the sidewalk and is on a slightly raised site. A low retaining wall defines a lawn and garden area through which a walkway leads to the stairs. The east part of the lawn contains a flagpole that is approached by a narrow brick path. The only weakness of the setting is a sense of enclosure created by the adjacent structures, both of which are built to the parcel lines. The building is located on the fringe of Hollister's downtown commercial district.

Although some changes have occurred to the building, the overall integrity remains high. The major alteration is an extension added to the rear in 1986 to house city council chambers. The addition is constructed of plain concrete block. Because it is a little shorter and narrower than the original building, it is scarcely visible from the street. Other changes include a new anodized aluminum door, side wheelchair ramp, side access to the basement financial department offices, and simple hand rails down the center and sides of the stairs. In addition, the original pedestalled entrance lamps have been removed. The interior has been modernized to facilitate its current use as the city hall, but wood trim and boxed columns have been retained and one of the three original skylights is still in use.

Note: The flagpole is not original to the building and was a later addition. It is being considered non-contributing.

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Hollister Carnegie Library Page #1

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The Hollister Carnegie Library meets the requirements for National Register nomination as set forth in the Multiple Property nomination.

The history of library development in Hollister is much like that in other California communities. It began in 1874 with the founding of the Hollister Library Association, which may have been a kind of reading club, and in 1875 with an effort by a former member of San Francisco's Odd Fellow's Library Association to establish a Mechanics Library Association in Hollister. That library, reorganized as the reading room of the Women's Christian Temperance Association, moved into a small house on Fifth Street sometime near the turn of the century. This facility, although expanded in the next decade, proved increasingly inadequate as the city's population soared 75 percent in the same period.

In 1910 the City received a \$10,000 Carnegie grant for a new library. The site of the reading room, expanded to include the adjacent parcel on the west, was chosen for the location. The old building, with its collection, was moved next to the Catholic Church and kept open. The City chose William Binder of San Jose as the architect and E. J. Sparling of Hollister as contractor. They formed an experienced team: Binder had designed the Carnegie Library in San Jose, and Sparling had constructed Hollister's town hall. Work got underway in 1911.

In the following year the Hollister library opened its doors and joined the dozens of other Carnegie libraries throughout the state. It was similar to its fellows in most respects. Its clientele was unusually broad, however. Early in 1912 the San Benito County government, which managed no libraries of its own, received a request to provide some of the library's annual operating funds. The Board of Supervisors responded with a requirement that all county residents be permitted to use the facility. Thus the city library had a county-wide patronage from the moment it opened. The structure itself was especially adapted to its environment in two respects. The first was its construction material, which was reinforced concrete, a sensible choice for a town on the state's most important earthquake fault. The second was its design, an unusually inhibited form of classicism, which met the constraints of the unpretentious mid-block site. The facility filled an important need and was a welcome addition to the community. When Hollister's Evening Free Lance judged the new structure "one of the most modern and up-to-date library buildings to be found anywhere," it echoed the enthusiasm of thousands of other Californians who saw Carnegie libraries built in their towns during the first two decades of this century.

The period of significance has been ended at 1942 because of the absence of exceptional significance.

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Major Bibliographical References

Hollister, California. Fire Insurance Map. New York: Sanborn Map and Publishing Co., 1886, 1902, 1910, 1926.

Hollister Evening Free Lance, 13 May 1911, 24 May 1911, 11 January 1912.

Kortum, Lucy. "Carnegie Library Development in California and the Architecture It Produced." Multiple Property Nomination, State Office of Historic Preservation, Sacramento, California, 1990.

Hollister Carnegie Library Site Plan

