

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

MAY 22 2015

Nat. Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. 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.

## 1. Name of Property

Historic name Finch Memorial Library

Other names/site number CU03-005

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

## 2. Location

Street & Number 205 North Walnut Street

City or town Arnold State Nebraska County Custer

Not for publication  Vicinity

## 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 at the following level(s) of significance:  national  statewide  local

Applicable National Register Criteria:  A  B  C  D

*Michael J. Smith*

SHPO/Director

05-18-2015

Signature of certifying official/Title:

Date

Nebraska State Historical Society

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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

Signature of Commenting Official

Date

Title

State of Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

## 4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

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

*James Walker*  
Signature of Keeper

7-1-2015  
Date of Action

Finch Memorial Library  
**Name of Property**

Custer County, Nebraska  
**County and State**

**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	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Buildings
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	Sites
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	Structures
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	Objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register** N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions** (Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION/library  
SOCIAL/meeting hall  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions** (Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION/library  
SOCIAL/meeting hall  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification** (Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY CLASSICAL REVIVALS/Classical Revival/Neo-Classical Revival  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Brick, Stone, Clay Tile

Finch Memorial Library

Custer County, Nebraska

**Name of Property****County and State****Description**

**Summary Paragraph** (Briefly describe the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Arnold, Nebraska is located in the west half of Custer County, which is located in the center of the state. The village is found in the dissected plains of Nebraska, characterized by hilly land with moderate to steep slopes, sharp ridge crests, and remnants of the old, nearly level plain. The town got its name from rancher George Arnold, who opened a post office at the Arnold and Ritchie Ranch in 1876.<sup>1</sup> The current population of Arnold is 597 people, according to the 2010 U.S. Census, however the population was a bit larger, 933 people, circa 1920, four years before the library entered service.<sup>2</sup> The library is located along North Walnut Street, Arnold's Main Street, and just north of the Central Business District. Its location made it accessible for all in Arnold, but also highlighted its civic underpinnings.

The Neoclassical Revival library is one story with a raised basement, has a hipped roof with a green clay tile, hipped roof, and an elaborate pedimented central entry. While the original wood door has been replaced with steel and glass, the opening remains, and is overshadowed by the detailed brickwork of the four pilasters, the dentiled molding of the pediment and under the eaves of the roofline. The building retains very good historic integrity, with a few changes over the last 98 years, including some bricked in windows to keep sun off the collection of books, an enclosed exterior stair for safer entrances in winter, and a drop ceiling. The windows on the front of the building are all original, although they are a bit hidden behind modern aluminum. The interior retains its high ceilings above the drop ceiling, as well as the beautiful, broad oak crown molding around the perimeter of the room upstairs, and the vestibule entrance. Many of the original oak furnishings are still present, including the librarian's desk, the tables and chairs. Overall, the library is an excellent example of an early 20<sup>th</sup> century public building, and is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under criterion A for its association with education and the boom in library construction in this time period, and criterion C for its architectural merit.

**Narrative Description** (Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable.)

This Neoclassical Revival style library is a rectangular shaped, one-story brick-veneer building with a green clay tile hipped roof and a raised basement. It has a brick foundation. All of the bricks are blond. The façade contains a central entrance in a slightly projecting vestibule entry under a pedimented gable with two large decorative brick pilasters either side of the door, evoking elements of the Classical Revival style. The dentiled pediment is embellished with decorative brick work, squares of three aligned bricks in alternating angles creating a grid. The door itself has been changed to aluminum and glass, but retains the arched window of the original door. Carved into the pediment and frieze of the entrance are the words "E.S. & S. A. FINCH MEMORIAL LIBRARY." A limestone cornerstone is found on the southwest corner of the building, and says "Laid by the Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M of Nebraska, August 20, 1924. A.L. 5924. Robert R. Dickson Grand Master" on the west and "John Finch, Ira P. Mills, Frank A. Burnham, Trustees" on the east. The roof has a moderate sized eave with dentiled brackets around the perimeter of the building, as well as a cornice of cast concrete.

The fenestration on the main façade of the library consists of tripartite windows with what appears to be painted plywood covering the original transoms. The windows are all original one-over-one, double-hung oak windows set on a sill of cast concrete with brackets. The view of these windows from the outside has been obscured by aluminum storm windows. The south elevations of the library retains a pair of six-over-one, double-hung oak windows cast concrete sills. One of the four sets was bricked in, as were both upper level sets of the windows on the north façade, and four of the five sets of windows on the rear (east) elevation. On the rear of the building, one larger double-hung window, twelve-over-one, provides light to the librarian's office. There is also an unadorned chimney on the rear elevation. Double-hung windows, approximately the size of the smaller of the windows on

<sup>1</sup> *Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey: Custer County*, 10.

<sup>2</sup> 1920 U.S. Census.

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**Name of Property**

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upper story of the rear elevation, provide light and ventilation to the basement meeting space, and appear to remain original.

On the south side of the building, a small blond brick addition that encloses what was originally an exterior stair to the basement, which would have been used to access the meeting space when the library was not open. One can imagine that the leaves and snow would gather in stairwell, creating a hazard. The vestibule entry has a non-historic door, and appears to have been built in approximately the 1960s.

Upon entering the building through its vestibule entry, a pair of oak paneled and glass doors with a twelve-lite transom provide entrance to the library itself. Another doorway leads to the stairs to the basement. The vestibule retains its high original ceiling, along with a broad oak cornice around the top of the room, and a period pendant light. The floor features hexagonal tile in a white and blue patterns. Inside the library, an oak librarian's desk sits just opposite the front door. Oak bookshelves have been set along all the outside walls, as well as some freestanding shelves in the middle of the room, to maximize space for books. The library appears to still utilize the original oak card catalog and tables and chairs that were provided to the library when it opened. The most striking feature of the library is a large, elaborate oak and bronze plaque that memorializes the Finches. It is most similar in shape to a fireplace mantle, with the bronze plaque at its focus. The plaque states "This building was bequeathed to the public by Sarah A. Finch as a memorial to herself and husband Ephraim S. Finch, early pioneers of Custer County." Above the words is a lovely landscape in bas relief, and includes hills and a river, a wagon train and riders on horseback.

The library has a drop ceiling. Looking above the tiles, one can see that the same broad oak crown molding is visible. The drop ceiling appears to have been installed to obscure ductwork. The floors are all tile or carpet. A restroom and storage room sits in the southeast corner of the building within the library. Next to it is an oak, paneled door that provides access to an interior stair to the basement, which meets the exterior stair of the vestibule addition, then turns a corner and proceeds to the basement.

The basement consists of a meeting room, a storeroom and a public bathroom with original sink. Most of the original paneled doors remain, and the doorways have broad oak trim. The floors are tile. Paired oak paneled and glass doors provide entrance to the meeting room, which is now used for student ministries. Four of the original library tables and several oak chairs are located in the meeting room, and there is a raised oak dais that is located on one end of the room. It is approximately five feet deep, and twenty to twenty five feet wide.

The historic integrity of the Finch Memorial Library is very good, with a number of changes that are fairly common in historic buildings. The front doors were replaced a with a modern aluminum and glass door. A drop ceiling was added, obscuring the original height of the ceiling and the oak cornice, in order to hide new ductwork. A vestibule was built on the south to make the exterior stair a safer walking experience, and many of the windows were bricked in, presumably to prevent fading to the books and provide expanded wall space to line with shelves.

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**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.)

- 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 a grave.
- D** A cemetery.  
A reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- E** A commemorative property.
- F** Less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION

ARCHITECTURE

**Period of Significance**

1924-1965

**Significant Dates**

1924

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above.)

**Cultural Affiliation**

**Architect/Builder**

Contractor Cal Empfield

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Finch Memorial Library is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C. It is significant under Criterion A for its significance in education, as well as under Criterion C for its architectural significance. Its period of significance is from 1924, the year the building's construction was complete, to 1965, fifty years from the writing of this nomination. The library as an organization has been in continuous service since 1914, with the building itself in service continually since 1924, representing 91 years of educational and recreational offerings.

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**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

**Ephriam "Swain" and Sarah Finch**

Ephriam "Swain" and Sarah Finch were among the first permanent settlers in the vicinity of Arnold. They established a ranch nine miles southeast of what would become Arnold in 1875. The town itself was named for George Arnold, a rancher and contemporary of the Finches, with the town itself being platted in 1883. Early on, the Finches lost their only child, a foster daughter of thirteen. Swain Finch's brother, Thomas Finch, along with two sons and a daughter, died of typhoid fever the same year, leaving fifteen year old John Finch orphaned but healthy. He moved to the ranch of Aunt Sarah and Uncle Swain to live in 1875 or 1876. The family made their home on their Custer County ranch until Swain's death in 1905, when Sarah moved to a house on Main Street in Arnold, living there until her death in 1920.<sup>3</sup>

Upon the occasion of the cornerstone laying ceremony, the *Gothenburg Independent* (quoted in the *Arnold Sentinel*) eulogized Sarah Finch. Dr. Charles M. Shepard, Grand Chaplain of Nebraska, delivered the main address, praising Sarah "in gratitude for the life and service of this truly great woman."

Not a boy that rode the range through a period of 37 years...did not know Aunt Sarah's human touch, and many the aged man, far away today from the scenes of Nebraska destiny, in his heart will cherish forever the memories of those bleak prairie wastes, because of the cheerful home fire and the home table of Aunt Sarah and Uncle Swain.<sup>4</sup>

Swain and Sarah Finch had been good friends with Solomon Butcher, a well-known pioneer photographer who photographed the homesteads of settlers in many counties in Nebraska, was particularly prolific in Custer County. He compiled his photographs and the information he gathered into a "Pioneer History of Custer County," and Swain Finch helped him raise the money required to publish the book in 1901.<sup>5</sup>

**Education and Libraries**

In 1914, the Arnold Woman's Improvement Club (AWIC) established Arnold's first library. At the time of its establishment, the library was just for members of the club, and each woman in the AWIC donated a book. Within three years, the library had a semi-permanent home in the west room of the Farmers State Bank and was open Saturday afternoons. When that Farmers State Bank became the Arnold State Bank in 1918, the small library was moved to the "Ladies Lounge." After noting that the room was too small, Fred Brittan offered to share his office with the library, and it moved to the back room of the new Security State Bank. In 1919, the AWIC offered the 513 books in the collection to the Arnold Township with the request that they make a tax levy for its support.

The Arnold Woman's Improvement Club, does hereby: agree to give to Arnold Township the library known as the A.W.I.C. Library, consisting of about 500 books, providing said township levies each year, certain tax or taxes for the maintenance of said library. Furthermore that there shall always be at least two members of said club appointed members of the township library board.

Signed: Executive Committee of A.W.I.C. Essie Haskell, Martha A. Morrow, Lillian Anson, Pearl Cleveland, Jessie Brittan.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>3</sup> Norene Hall Mills, ed. *One Hundred Years on the South Loup: the History of the Arnold Community, 1883-1983* (Callaway, NE: Loup Valley Queen, 1983), 7.

<sup>4</sup> *Arnold Sentinel*, August 27, 1924.

<sup>5</sup> Norene Hall Mills, ed. *One Hundred Years on the South Loup: the History of the Arnold Community, 1883-1983* (Callaway, NE: Loup Valley Queen, 1983), 7.

<sup>6</sup> Norene Hall Mills, ed. *One Hundred Years on the South Loup: the History of the Arnold Community, 1883-1983* (Callaway, NE: Loup Valley Queen, 1983), 266.

Finch Memorial LibraryCuster County, Nebraska**Name of Property****County and State**

The books and conditions were accepted, a Library Board was established, and Laura Peterson was appointed the first librarian. Within the next few years, the small library moved an additional three times. It became clear that the library needed its own building and some consistency.

In 1920, Mrs. Sarah Finch died, and willed \$17,000.00 to the village for the construction of a library, to be built in memory of her husband and herself. Her nephew, John Finch, was put in charge of executing the estate and building the library, along with two other trustees, Ira P. Mills and Dr. Frank Burnham. At the time of Mrs. Finch's death, the money for this bequest was tied up in land mortgages, which required a wait of two or three years before the building could be built.<sup>7</sup> Once the project was able to move forward, the construction process proceeded quickly. Contractor Empfield broke ground and dug the basement for the new building in June 1924.<sup>8</sup> Within three weeks of work onsite, the basement walls had been laid and masons were busy building the first story walls. The cornerstone laying ceremony was planned for August 20<sup>th</sup>.<sup>9</sup>

The *Arnold Sentinel* recorded the details of the cornerstone laying ceremony, which was accompanied by a parade led by fifteen flower girls, vocal and instrumental music, speeches by officials and masons, and finally the laying of the casket of cards and souvenirs from Arnold businesses and individuals within the stone. The paper also described the building in great detail:

First floor plan: Size 57 x 30 feet. Vestibule at front entrance, delivery room in front; all light switches right of entrance; newspaper rack to left of entrance; children's reading room to the right, with tables and chairs; adults' reading room on left side; reference room back left hand corner; librarian's office and lavatory in back right hand corner, also the stairway leading to basement.

Basement Plan: Entrance on south side; hall through to the assembly room, size 30 x 31 feet with platform; closet under vestibule; opening from hall to left of entrance are restrooms and storage; opening from rest room, accommodation room; to right of hall, furnace and fuel rooms also accommodation room. Lights in all departments.<sup>10</sup>

By the end of October, the library was almost completely enclosed. The stone and brick work were finished, plumbing materials were on the site, awaiting installation, and carpenters were finishing the woodwork for the roof. Additionally, the sidewalks, approaches and steps were being built.<sup>11</sup> After the new year, the work of moving the collection of books to the new building commenced; the work took the effort of an afternoon. The newspaper noted that while Arnold was now blessed with one of "the finest library buildings in the state", it would take several years to increase the stock of books to catch up with older libraries.<sup>12</sup> Hours for the library were anticipated to include being open four days per week, including two evenings during the week, and Sunday afternoons for reading only. At the time the new building opened, the library owned a collection of 1450 books.<sup>13</sup>

On Monday, January 19, 1925, a joint meeting of the town board and the trustees of the E.S. & S. A. Finch Memorial Library fund was held in the new library building, with the building officially turned over to the city by the board of trustees of the fund set aside from the estate of Sarah Finch.

### Architecture

Although the Finch Memorial Library is not a Carnegie Library, constructed with monies donated by entrepreneur and philanthropist Andrew Carnegie, it was built during the era in which Carnegie's gifts were being most prodigiously constructed and no doubt was constructed with these almost ubiquitous buildings in mind. According to the Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF) for Carnegie Libraries in Nebraska, written in 1990.

<sup>7</sup> *Arnold Sentinel*, May 7, 1924.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*, June 16, 1924.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*, July 6, 1924.

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*, August 27, 1924.

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.*, October 22, 1924.

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid.*, January 14, 1924.

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid.*, January 21, 1924.



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Custer County, Nebraska

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Carnegie's offer of grants for public libraries was "a catalyst for a boom in library construction in Nebraska."<sup>14</sup> The first award in Nebraska was to Lincoln in 1899, and an additional sixty-seven grants would follow, through the year 1917. Had Arnold applied for a Carnegie library grant, they would not have been awarded a grant for two reasons: Carnegie did not select cities that had a population less than one thousand, and he ceased giving awards around the time of the First World War.

Even so, the design ethic of the Carnegie libraries, established by Carnegie and his personal secretary James Bertram, had come to represent what a community library should look like. Carnegie libraries, and through no coincidence the Finch Memorial Library as well, were always one story with a full basement, reached by both an internal and external stair so they could be accessed regardless of whether the library itself was open or not in order to accommodate evening meetings. The main library room was reached by ascending a flight of stairs, as one might "rise" to enlightenment through education. They were substantially built of brick or stone masonry to give structure to their importance and permanence, and their designs hearkened to classical forms of architecture to evoke a sense of the value of education for education's sake. The Finch Memorial Library adheres to all of these architectural patterns, which is not surprising given that the building committee had visited the recently built libraries of neighboring communities to see what sorts of design elements were regarded as important.

**Progressivism**

Even though it was not a Carnegie Library, the Finch Memorial Library was built for the same reasons. The desire on the part of communities to have their own public libraries was influenced by many factors, including the philosophy of progressivism, the spread of free public education, and the growth of democracy, industrialization, urbanization, and rising prosperity. The importance of the new library was emphasized in the *Arnold Sentinel* article describing the laying of the cornerstone.

...opens a new epoch in the life of library work for Arnold and vicinity; one that is hard to realize the great good that will be obtained in the present as well as in the future. Arnold can feel justly proud of her new public building and it will not only be a source of enjoyment to the people but a great help to the school children.<sup>15</sup>

Progressivism was not an organized movement; it was a general spirit of reform embraced by Americans with diverse goals and backgrounds during the first decades of the early twentieth century. Progressives sought the advancement of humanity through the liberation of human energies and potential from both the restraints of the past and the new restraints imposed by modern life.<sup>16</sup> With every citizen deserving of a free public education, a free lending library would extend the possibilities of education to all classes and all ages of citizens. Libraries were free to all, regardless of status, and illustrated the best of what a democracy could provide. The population of the United States burgeoned during this period, and as cities and towns grew, their desire to have vibrant, lively communities with the best of all that urban areas had to offer both fostered pride in community on the part of residents, and encouraged people to move to communities with ample amenities, such as libraries.

In addition to providing a supply of books for local readers, libraries also provided a meeting place to foster discussion and dialog. Libraries of this era were designed to provide facilities for other educational activities such as lectures, meetings, and other cultural and educational activities.<sup>17</sup> The Finch Memorial Library was no different from any other library of this era, having a sizeable meeting space available on the lower level of the library for all kinds of meetings. These spaces were particularly important in smaller communities where these kinds of activities might not have been offered otherwise for lack of a meeting space.

The Finch Memorial Library continues to be the core of Arnold. The building houses the library, with preschool story hours and mom & tots reading clubs, as well as the local food pantry, the youth fellowship (Ground Zero), and the Youth Reading Advisory Board. The library serves the township of Arnold, but also the surrounding farms,

<sup>14</sup> MPDF Carnegie Libraries in Nebraska, Section E, Page 3.

<sup>15</sup> *Arnold Sentinel*, August 27, 1924.

<sup>16</sup> <http://spider.georgetowncollege.edu/htallant/courses/his225/progmovt.htm>. Viewed March 21, 2007.

<sup>17</sup> *Carnegie Libraries in Nebraska, 1899 to 1922*, Multiple Property Documentation Form dated 17 May 1991.



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including patrons from 520 square miles around Arnold. It serves a population that is not served through the school library.<sup>18</sup>

The Finch Memorial Library in Arnold, Nebraska is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C. It is eligible under Criterion A for its association with the promotion of education in Arnold and the surrounding area. It was built during the Progressive Era, a time of reform when citizens were learning to expect the best from its government, whether that is an invigorating democracy with an excess of citizen participation, or the amenities of a modern city in small towns, such as public libraries. The library is also eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion C for its architectural significance. It was built in the Neo-Classical style to demonstrate its importance and permanence, and, perhaps, to inspire.

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**9. Major Bibliographic References**

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**Bibliography** (Insert bibliography here – cite the books, articles and other sources used in preparing this form.)

*Arnold Sentinel*. Newspaper articles dating from 1922 to 1925.

Fimple, Dr. Kathleen. *Carnegie Libraries in Nebraska, 1899 to 1922*. National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form. June 15, 1990.

Gaston, W. L. and A. R. Humphrey. *History of Custer County, Nebraska*. Lincoln, Nebraska: Western Publishing and Engraving Company, 1919.

Mead and Hunt, Inc. *Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey: Custer County*. Produced for the Nebraska State Historical Society. July 2006.

Mills, Norene Hall, ed. *One Hundred Years on the South Loup: the History of Arnold Community from 1883-1983*. Callaway, Nebraska: Loup Valley Queen, 1983.

**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 #
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey #

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other (Name of repository)  
Custer County Historical Society/Museum

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): CU03-005

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<sup>18</sup> Finch Memorial Library website.

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**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property Less than one USGS Quadrangle Arnold

(Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates. Delete the other.)

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

- |    |          |                  |           |                    |
|----|----------|------------------|-----------|--------------------|
| 1. | Latitude | <u>41.424251</u> | Longitude | <u>-100.193326</u> |
| 2. | Latitude | _____            | Longitude | _____              |
| 3. | Latitude | _____            | Longitude | _____              |
| 4. | Latitude | _____            | Longitude | _____              |

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

R E ALLEN'S ADD LOTS 7-12 BLOCK 9 LIBRARY ARNOLD VILLAGE

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

These are the lots historically associated with the library.

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Jill E. Dolberg  
organization Nebraska State Historical Society date February 23, 2015  
street & number 1500 R Street/Box 82554 telephone (402) 471-4773  
city or town Lincoln state NE zip code 68501-2554  
email [Jill.dolberg@nebraska.gov](mailto:Jill.dolberg@nebraska.gov)

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO for any additional items.)

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**Photographs**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

**Photo Log**

Name of Property Finch Memorial Library

City or Vicinity Arnold County Custer State Nebraska

Photographer Patrick Haynes Date Photographed September 11, 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera.

1. Main façade of library. Detail view. View East.
2. Main façade of library. Entire façade, but obscured by pine trees. View East.
3. Detail view of cornerstone. View NE.
4. SW Corner of Library. View NE.
5. SE Corner of Library, View NW.
6. NW Corner of Library. View SE.
7. Interior view of woodwork of vestibule entry.
8. Interior view of library's memorial plaque. View SE.
9. Interior view of doors to basement meeting space. View south.
10. Interior view of meeting room with raised dais. View north.

**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.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

**Finch Memorial Library**

**205 North Walnut Street  
Arnold, Custer Co.,  
Nebraska**

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates:

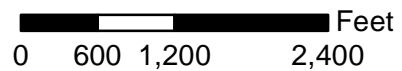
41.424009, -100.194424

Datum: WGS84

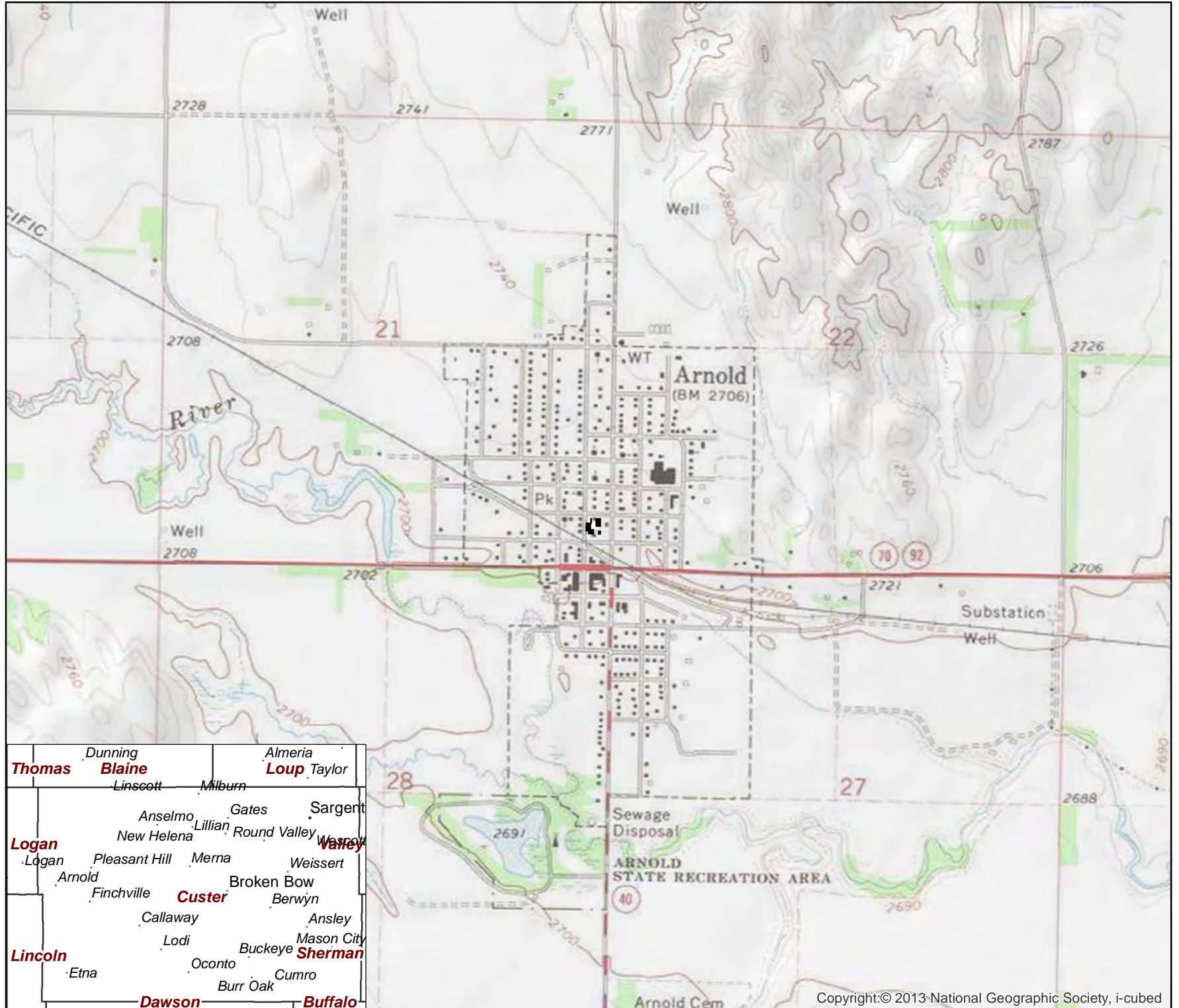
**Legend**

 Property Boundary



 Feet

1:18,000





**Finch Memorial Library**

**205 North Walnut Street  
Arnold, Custer Co.,  
Nebraska**

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates:

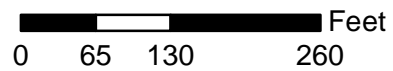
41.424009, -100.194424

Datum: WGS84

**Legend**

 Property Boundary



 Feet

1:2,000



Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, TomTom, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), swisstopo, MapmyIndia, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community, Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, i-cubed, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community, Esri, HERE, DeLorme, MapmyIndia, © OpenStreetMap contributors





E.S. & S.A. FINCH MEMORIAL LIBRARY





FINCH  
MEMORIAL  
LIBRARY  
MON-FRI 100-5:00  
SAT 1:30-5:00





LAI D BY THE  
GRAND LODGE  
A.:F.: & A.:M.:  
OF

NEBRASKA

AUGUST 20, 1924. A.:L.: 5924

ROBERT R. DICKSON  
GRAND MASTER

JOHN FINCH  
IRA P. MILLS  
FRANK A. BURNHAM  
TRUSTEES



















THIS BUILDING WAS BEQUEATHED  
TO THE PUBLIC BY  
SARAH A. FINCH  
AS A MEMORIAL TO HERSELF  
AND HUSBAND  
EPHRAIM S. FINCH,  
EARLY PIONEERS OF CUSTER COUNTY.

ARNOLD TO STAPLETON  
ELEVATION 2701 FEET  
19 1/10 M.

In Honor of Mary and Jim McFarland  
and their children  
Fred, Gail, Neva, and Darrell.  
By Jack and Mary (Norsworthy) Ostergard











Matthew 6:9-13  
Prayer  
Repentance  
Fasting  
Giving  
Love  
Mercy  
Peace  
Patience  
Kindness  
Goodness  
Faithfulness  
Gentleness  
Self-control



Don't let anyone  
in speed



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Finch Memorial Library

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEBRASKA, Custer

DATE RECEIVED: 5/22/15 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 6/12/15  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 9/27/15 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 7/07/15  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 15000392

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 7-1-2015 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Reminiscent of typical Carnegie design, but not associated with that program. Excellent use of NeoClassical in a small town, public, free library. Reflects Progressive era's emphasis on civic & cultural improvement

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept A+C

REVIEWER J. Hubbert DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



RECEIVED 2280

MAY 22 2015

Nat. Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service

May 19, 2015

J. Paul Loether  
National Register–National Historic Landmarks Programs  
National Park Service  
1201 "I" Street NW, 8th Floor  
Washington, DC 20005

RE: Finch Memorial Library  
205 N Walnut, Arnold, Custer County, Nebraska

Dear Mr. Loether:

The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for the above referenced property to the National Register of Historic Places. This form has met all notification and other requirements as established in 36 CFR 60.

If you have any questions concerning this nomination, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ruben A. Acosta". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Ruben A. Acosta  
National Register and CLG Coordinator  
Nebraska State Historical Society

Enclosure

1500 R Street  
PO Box 82554  
Lincoln, NE 68501-2554  
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(402) 471-3270  
f: (402) 471-3100  
[www.nebraskahistory.org](http://www.nebraskahistory.org)