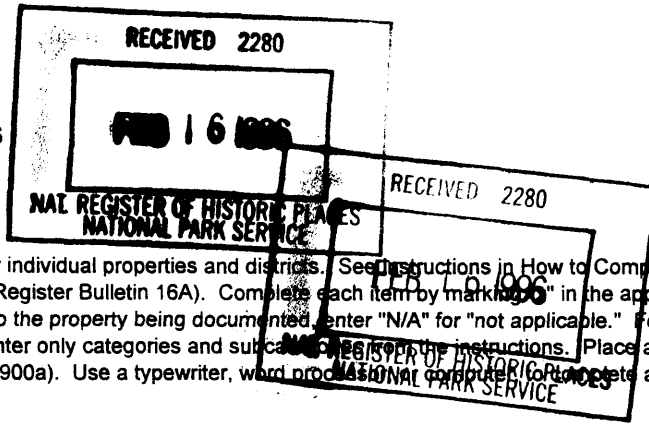


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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See Instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If 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 North Manchester Public Library  
other names/site number 169-470-02072

2. Location

street & number 204 West Main Street N/A  not for publication  
city or town North Manchester N/A  vicinity  
state Indiana code IN county Wabash code 169 zip code 46962

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 36CFR 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.)

*Paul R. Rupp*

1-30-96

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

Indiana Department of Natural Resources

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:)

*Edson R. Beall*  
Signature of the Keeper  
Edson R. Beall  
Entered in the  
National Register

Date of Action

3/14/99

Name of Property

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, district, site, structure, object

Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Table with columns: Contributing, Noncontributing, buildings, sites, structures, objects, Total

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

N/A

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)

EDUCATION: Library

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th & Early 20th c. Bungalow/Craftsman Amer. Movements:

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: Limestone

walls BRICK

roof TERRA COTTA

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 "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.

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 # HABS-IN-152
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE
EDUCATION
SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1912-1945

Significant Dates

1912

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Miller, Grant C.

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

North Manchester Public Library

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** Less than one acre.

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	16	603260	4539200
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
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 Nancy L. Hanson, Program Assistant

organization Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana date 11-7-95

street & number 520 East Colfax Avenue telephone 219/232-4534

city or town South Bend state IN zip code 46617

**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 North Manchester Public Library

street & number 204 West Main Street telephone 219/982-4773

city or town North Manchester state IN zip code 46962

**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.

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

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

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**North Manchester Public Library**  
**Wabash County, Indiana**

**Narrative Description**

The North Manchester Public Library is a two-story Arts and Crafts style building with a basement. Built of dark red brick, it is rectangular in shape and has a low-pitched, side gabled roof of red Spanish tile. Limestone trim tops the parapet roof line at the ends of the building. Unenclosed, projecting eaves create a wide overhang, and along the horizontal edges are exposed roof rafters. Massive piers with sloping sides embellish the corners of the building.

The library stands on a small, level lot on the north side of the main street through North Manchester. Originally built in a residential neighborhood one block west of the main business district, it is at this time a mixed residential/commercial area. The lot is an open space except for a few trees along the street.

The building rests on a limestone foundation. A limestone string course embellishes the front facade and side elevations of the building, serving as the sill for the lower windows on the front. Ornamental rows of brick form three rowlock string courses at the top of the second story on the front facade and side elevations of the building.

The front facade is asymmetrical and features a two-story projecting front entry with a front facing parapet gable roof line. Four bays of windows are located to the right of the entry. The first floor windows are uneven sash windows with a shallow, slightly pointed lintel arch at the top; the second floor windows are one-over-one sash windows. Decorative brick outlines the shallow arch at the top of the doorway and the first-floor windows, and also serves as the sill for the second-floor windows. Additional brick detailing is found under the limestone trim at the roof line. The wood and glass front door is framed by multi-pane sidelight windows; above the door is a clear glass transom which also features the shallow arch at the top.

Three stair-stepped fixed sash windows along the west elevation delineate the interior stairway. Four fixed sash windows are grouped together in the center of the second floor, each is topped with a double transom. Above the upper transom windows is the shallow, slightly pointed arch found in other accents on the building.

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**North Manchester Public Library**  
**Wabash County, Indiana**

The north (rear) elevation is very plain. An exterior chimney is located on the northwest corner of the building. In the same corner are the bulkhead doors which lead to the storm cellar. A two-story fire escape, added just east of the chimney, leads to a second floor exit. Four bays of windows are located to the east of the fire escape. The first floor windows are uneven sash windows with shallow, slightly pointed lintel arches at the top; the second floor windows are one-over-one sash windows.

The east elevation features the grouping of four fixed sash windows topped with double transoms that are found on the second floor of the west elevation. Placed in the center of the second floor, these two sets of windows on the west and east elevations are the only symmetrical features on the building. The two middle windows on the first floor are shorter windows, indicating that extra room was left on the inside to accommodate taller bookshelves beneath the windows.

The interior of the library is classic Arts and Crafts, strongly reflected in the beautiful oak woodwork. A stairwell to the left of the entryway leads down to the basement, and also upstairs to the Children's Reading Room. Doors and windows are framed with heavy wood trim; square balusters form a spindle grill balustrade, and the square newel post is trimmed with projecting tenons. The floor in the foyer is covered with an aggregate tile; dark green linoleum covers the floor in the rest of the building. Walls are painted plaster.

Three rooms are found in the basement, a furnace and utility room/storm cellar, a large room which stores reference materials and periodicals, and a restroom. The basement floor is cement; a small area has been carpeted.

On the main floor are the Main Reading Room, the library office, and a restroom. The original circulation desk is just to the left of the inner door which leads to the reading room. Lining the outer walls are original bookshelves. Through the years, reading tables and chairs have been removed and additional bookshelves have been added in the center of the room.

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**North Manchester Public Library**  
**Wabash County, Indiana**

Located on the second floor is a small stage area at the west end, a storage room, and the Children's Reading Room. A dropped ceiling has been added to accommodate the fluorescent lighting.

Many of the Carnegie Libraries in Indiana have been demolished or significantly altered. Except for the aluminum storm windows on the second-floor windows, the addition of the fire escape on the north (rear) elevation, and the removal of the stained-glass transom over the front door, there are no visible alterations to the original exterior of the North Manchester Public Library. The second floor community meeting space was altered in 1929 to provide space for the Children's Reading Room, and fluorescent lighting has been added in both reading rooms. The exterior and the interior of the building are in excellent condition.

In order to better serve the community of North Manchester, the library is being moved to a new, much larger building. The original library building is for sale, but has been protected by an easement agreement between the North Manchester Public Library and Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana.

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**National Register of Historic Places**  
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**North Manchester Public Library**  
**Wabash County, Indiana**

**Narrative Significance**

The North Manchester Public Library is an excellent example of an early 20th Century small-town library and is eligible for the National Register under Criteria A and C. The library was the culmination of a movement to establish a free public library in North Manchester and has served as the only public library for the community since its construction in 1912. The building retains its original character, is a worthy representative of an Arts and Crafts building, and is unique in a community where most of the surrounding buildings are Italianate in style.

Between 1886 and 1919, Andrew Carnegie and the Carnegie Corporation provided donations to build 1,679 public library buildings in 1,412 communities in the United States. Carnegie's dedication to libraries and books was influenced by his father and by his business background. He felt giving a city funds for a library was a good investment because he required the city to pledge to furnish the site and to maintain the library; thus, the city's investment was greater than his.

The first public library in North Manchester was started by the North Manchester Woman's Club in 1908 and was located in the Town Hall. After a book shower was held for the library (one hundred books were donated), members of the Club took turns acting as librarian. The first library board was appointed in June of 1909. In March, 1910, Andrew Carnegie agreed to donate \$10,000 for a library, provided that the library board furnish the lot and pay \$1,000 each year toward the upkeep of the building. Private citizens raised \$1,500 to purchase the Harter lot on Main Street, and a building committee was appointed to work with the library board to select contractors and to oversee the building project. Designs for the building were accepted in January, 1911; construction began in April, and the North Manchester Public Library opened in April of 1912.

Architecturally, the North Manchester Public Library is not typical of others built in the Midwest. While most Carnegie Libraries are one and a half story, symmetrical, classical



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**North Manchester Public Library**  
**Wabash County, Indiana**

buildings with grand exterior staircases, the North Manchester Public Library is a two-story, asymmetrical, Arts and Crafts building with a ground-floor entrance. The most significant original feature of the building design was the second floor community meeting space. Other communities requested similar space in their libraries, but were denied this option. Of the 164 Carnegie Libraries built in Indiana, ten (including the North Manchester Public Library) were designed by Patton and Miller with four being attributed to Grant C. Miller.

Features that contribute to the Arts and Crafts style of the building exterior are: the simple horizontal lines, the durable materials, the image it presents as a massive, strong building, the functional layout, the low-pitched roof, and the recessed windows and door, upon which sunlight creates shadows and depth. It is the only Arts and Crafts building in the area; homes in the immediate area and buildings in the nearby business district are primarily Italianate in style. The library was rated "Outstanding" in the Wabash County Historic Sites and Structures Inventory published in 1982.

A 1990 survey of Carnegie Libraries in the United States revealed that many have been demolished or significantly altered. This makes the North Manchester Public Library especially important because it retains its original integrity architecturally and has served as the only public library in the North Manchester community for 83 years. It is notable in the community, state, and nation as a fine example of an Arts and Crafts building and is unique among Carnegie Libraries because of its two-story, asymmetrical design.

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National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
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**North Manchester Public Library**  
**Wabash County, Indiana**

**Bibliography**

Bobinski, George S. "Carnegies," American Libraries. April, 1990, pp. 296-301.

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

Hadley, Chalmers. Library Buildings. Chicago: American Library Association, 1924.

Koch, Theodore Wesley. A Portfolio of Carnegie Libraries. Ann Arbor, Michigan: George Wahs, Publisher, 1907.

The News-Journal. North Manchester, Indiana, June 18, 1931.

North Manchester Public Library Secretary's Notes and Photographs. Held at the North Manchester Public Library, North Manchester, Indiana.

Wells, John Roy. Architecture of the Carnegie Libraries in Indiana. Muncie, Indiana: Ball State University, 1981.

**Section 10 - Geographical Data-Verbal Boundary Description**

Lot Number 15 in the original plat of North Manchester, Wabash County, Indiana;  
78.373' by 157.75'

**Section 10 - Boundary Justification**

Certificate of Survey by Herbert A. Underwood, Registered Land Surveyor