

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED **DEC 11 1979**
DATE ENTERED **JAN 24**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Spirit Lake Public Library

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

1801 Hill Avenue

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Spirit Lake

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

Iowa

CODE

COUNTY

Dickinson County

CODE

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

City of Spirit Lake

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Spirit Lake

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

Iowa 51360

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Dickinson County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Spirit Lake

STATE

Iowa

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Survey of Public Library Buildings in Iowa

DATE

in process

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

SHPO, Iowa City, Iowa

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Spirit Lake Public Library was built in 1912 with funds provided through the Carnegie Foundation.

The building is small (approximately 55' x 40') with the stack area at the rear being of slightly narrower width than the circulation/reading room areas. The building has an iron-frame structural system. Exterior walls are veneered with a hard brick from C. Neil and Sons of Sioux City, with stone trim. Like most small libraries of the period, this building has a main floor above a raised basement. The roof is a shallow hip, with shingles replacing an original tile covering.

The principal facade is a tripartite composition, with very slightly projecting center frontispiece. Windows (on all elevations) are tall and rectilinear, topped with transom panels, and in most instances are grouped in threes beneath narrow drip moldings. The main entrance (reached by a flight of brick steps) features a large, Tudor-arched transom panel above a 6-panelled door framed by sidelights, and is set within a rectilinear frame of stone. Above the entrance is a stone panel, molded at top and bottom and extending the full width of the frontispiece, in which are incised the words "Carnegie library". The upper edges of the frontispiece feature engaged stone "pillars" topped with ball finials, and the whole is topped with a stone coping on the parapet.

The basement is effectively screened by bushes that hide small windows.

The interior of the main floor is quite open, with the various functional areas demarked simply by square, fluted posts with caps, that support exposed beams, all of varnished oak. In the original arrangement, the circulation desk was directly opposite the main entrance and vestibule, with a reading room to either side. In the present arrangement, the U-shaped delivery desk is in the original south reading room, oriented perpendicularly to the main axis of the building. The stack area (originally and now) extends across the rear of the building. Original wooden bookstacks have been augmented with modern metal fixtures.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1912

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Spirit Lake Public Library is a representative example of a small town library affecting a late-medieval or Tudor style. The design is simple and uncluttered, with detail well-integrated and restrained. The building displays nice proportions, and sufficient vertical emphasis (through the center frontispiece and the tall windows) to offset the basically low, horizontal scale of the overall form. The interior is fairly well preserved, although there has been some rearrangement of functions (moving the delivery desk from its central location has caused alteration of traditional traffic patterns). On the whole, this building is a good representative of Iowa's small town libraries, as identified through the Division's architectural and historical survey of this building type.

The history of the Spirit Lake Public Library is very typical. In 1901, the local Civic Improvement Association (made up of women from the community) established a "Rest Room" and library in a rented commercial block, with early collections supplied through the state Traveling Library system. A referendum in 1904 provided public support for a community library, and also made the town eligible for a Carnegie grant, which was made the following year. Lack of a suitable lot delayed construction until 1911. The building was dedicated 24 September 1912.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Iowa State Library Commission, Biennial Report, 1906, pp.53-53.
Program for Library Dedication, 24 September 1912.
Records and Drawings, Barber and Glenn, Architects, Denison, Iowa.

UTM NOT VERIFIED

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1

QUADRANGLE NAME Spirit Lake, Iowa

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 15 32,9 89,0 4,8 09 16,20

B

C

D

E

F

G

H

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 8,9,10 out the North 3 feet of Lot 11, except the E and S to 45 feet of said lot in Block 38, Crandall's addition to Spirit Lake.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

M. H. Bowers, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Division of Historic Preservation

DATE

September 1979

STREET & NUMBER

26 East Market Street

TELEPHONE

319-353-6949

CITY OR TOWN

Iowa City

STATE

Iowa 52240

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

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

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Adrian A. Anderson

TITLE

Director, Division of Historic Preservation

DATE

December 3, 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Carol D. Shull

DATE

1-24-80

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: *William H. Robinson*

DATE

1-23-80

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION