

MP3095



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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the 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 Stanton Carnegie Library  
Other names/site number ST02-001  
Name of related multiple property listing Nebraska Carnegie Libraries, 1902-1922  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

## 2. Location

Street & Number 1009 Jackpine Street  
City or town Stanton State Nebraska County Stanton  
Not for publication  Vicinity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

[Signature] SHPO/Director 9/20/18 Date  
Signature of certifying official/Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
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): \_\_\_\_\_

[Signature] \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Keeper \_\_\_\_\_  
11-5-2018 \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

Stanton Carnegie Library  
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**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  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

EDUCATION/library  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

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

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND EARLY 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS/Prairie School  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

Principal exterior materials of the property: Concrete (foundation), Brick (façade), Asphalt Shingles (roof)

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## 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.)

The Stanton Carnegie Library is Prairie School style building with a single story over a raised basement. It consists of red brick, exposed rafter tails, with limestone windowsills, detailing, and belt course above the first floor windows. The building has wood replacement windows similar to the historic windows and are covered with aluminum exterior storms. The entrance is centered on the primary (north) façade and is flanked by three double-hung windows. The front entrance protrudes from the façade and the original door has been replaced with a glass and aluminum door, sidelights, and oversized transom. Above the entrance, 'Public Library' is etched into an arched limestone pediment, along with a 'C' that is centered in the pediment's peak. The east, west, and south facades remain unaltered, save the presence of aluminum storm windows and a secondary egress that was added in the southeast corner of the basement, opening into a small parking lot. The interior of the original library retains much of its historic integrity with an open concept main floor, original woodwork, plaster walls, and tile flooring in the entry. The interior is primarily open space for book shelving and computer stations.

The Stanton Carnegie Library retains a sufficient level of integrity for National Register eligibility. Both the exterior and interior look much as they did when it opened in 1915. The building remains in its historic location and no additions have been constructed. With the exception of the two-and-a-half story Stanton Middle School across the street to the north, the library's setting is otherwise unaltered.

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

### Site

The Stanton Carnegie Library is located in Stanton (2010 pop. 1577) in Stanton County, Nebraska. Stanton is located at the intersection of NE-24 and NE-57 in central Stanton County in northeast Nebraska. It is the county seat and sits 12 miles southeast of Norfolk and 80 miles north of Lincoln, the state capital. The library is on the northwest side of town, situated a block north of downtown. The surrounding neighborhood is a mix of residential, commercial, and the Stanton Middle School.

The library building has a small set back along its north (primary), west, and south sides creating a small yard buffering the library from Jackpine Street (north), 11<sup>th</sup> Street (west), and an alleyway (south). Behind the building, a small parking area is accessible off of the alley that allows for handicap access to the building. The parking area sits slightly below-grade and is surrounded by a low retaining wall build of gray landscaping blocks. Centered off of the south façade is a small fence that obscures the building's HVAC system from view. Sidewalks wrap the north and west side of the property spaced from the street by a grass strip. The library owns the lot east of the building, creating an outdoor area for programs and activities under the shape of multiple mature trees on the lot. Light landscaping adorns the primary façade and a flagpole sites north of the building's northwest corner.

### Exterior

The primary façade faces north and contains a one-story centered entrance that projects forward from the building below the eave. The top of the projecting entrance is ringed with limestone and a limestone pediment over the doorway. The pediment is inscribed with a 'C' – presumably for Carnegie – above the engraved 'Public Library.' Two concrete steps lead up to the main entrance and are flanked with brick walls capped with limestone caps. Originally there were six steps. However, the lawn around the building has been regraded to allow for water drainage away from the building, the walk approaching the steps was raised and the steps replaced; the step walls have remained unaltered. The original door and surrounding fixed windows have been replaced with modern aluminum frame and glass. The modern entrance has similar sidelights and transom layout as the original, but gone are the crosshatch details in the transoms and the brown aluminum is not as inviting to the patrons as the formerly painted white wood entrance. Each side of the entrance is adorned with bronze light fixtures which appear similar to those in photographs from the time of construction, but were switched out

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sometime during the building's history. Below the light on the east side of the front door is a plaque honoring Andrew Carnegie. Each side of the protruding entrance is identical containing a small original double-hung with wooden exterior storm over a limestone sill. Historic photographs show a flagpole mounted over the entrance (Figure 2); there is no date on its removal to the northwest yard.

The main façade on each side of the entrance is identical. Due to the regrading of the front lawn the concrete basement is no longer visible, save for at the raised-basement window wells. The basement level contains three identical short single-light double-hung windows separated by roughly two-and-a-half brick width.

On the main floor a limestone sill runs the length of the three windows on each side of the entrance. While the sill is continuous, the windows are spaced identical to those on the basement level. Separating the double-hung windows and their transoms is a limestone belt course that wraps the entire building, save the projecting entrance. Each of the rectangular transoms are subdivided into two squares that contain crosshatch muntins. All of the original windows remain their original openings with wood replacements taking the place of the originals. A floodlight has been added below the eave on the north façade west of the entrance that illuminates the flagpole. Outside of the windows on the east and west side of the entrance, all are covered by exterior aluminum storms. White downspouts run down each corner of the front façade and the roof is wrapped with white eaves troughs. The modern eaves troughs and downspouts replace the historic brown unit that appears in historic photographs of the library (Figure 2).



**Figure 1: Stanton Carnegie Library nearing completion, 1915 (courtesy of Stanton Carnegie Library).**

The east and west façades are identical with three one-over-one double-hung windows at the basement level and three identical windows at the main level. The limestone belt courses, the upper story continuous limestone sills, and the crosshatch transoms above the belt course are consistent with what appears on the front of the building. At meeting of the basement and main floor exterior electrical outlet has been added on both façades.

The south (rear) façade contains a large amount of windows and an entrance in the building's southwest corner. Similar to the front of the building, there are groups of three windows with transoms separated by the limestone belt course on the façade's east and west ends. However, the rear façade's double hung windows are slightly shorter than the front's. Two narrow double hung windows, their partnering crosshatch transoms, and a ground-to-ridge brick chimney are centrally located on the façade, nestled between the aforementioned window groupings. At the basement level, windows are primarily situated beneath the first floor windows. The western side contains only two windows as the historic boiler room

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was located on the interior of the position of the third. The east grouping of basement windows originally contained three windows, with the eastern one being converted into the secondary entrance. Straddling the chimney is an entrance to the boiler room and a narrow double hung window, identical to those above. The boiler room entrance and the narrow window on the opposite side of the chimney are obscured from view by a wooden fence that encloses the building's HVAC system. White downspouts run down each corner of the rear façade and the roof is wrapped with white eaves troughs.

The roof of the library retains its hipped-ridge form, originally clad in asphalt shingles. Although the shingles have been replaced multiple times throughout the years, the same material has been used, keeping a consistent appearance. The rafter tails and soffit are exposed around the entire building.



**Figure 2: Stanton Carnegie Library, c.1920 (courtesy of Stanton Carnegie Library).**

**Interior**

The interior of the Stanton Carnegie Library is a combination of historic and contemporary features with a few alterations to the historic layout of the building. Upon entering one encounters the historic split-level stair case with fine hardwood banisters leading up to the original hardwood and class door and surrounding fixed windows. Above is a drop ceiling throughout the first floor, added in 1981 (Figure 3). The drop ceiling follows the height of the limestone belt course on the building's exterior, making the crosshatch transoms hidden from the interior. The interior is illuminated by in-ceiling florescent lighting. The stairs and both the main and basement floors are carpeted.

Directly opposite the entry to the main floor is an office with open ceiling extending into the room from the back wall and fronted by the circulation desk. With this exception, the main floor otherwise retains its historic open layout. The space is wrapped with wooden built-in bookcases. Many of which are original to the building and others that have been added with care to match the originals. East of the circulation desks amongst the book stacks is a table and chair set that is original to



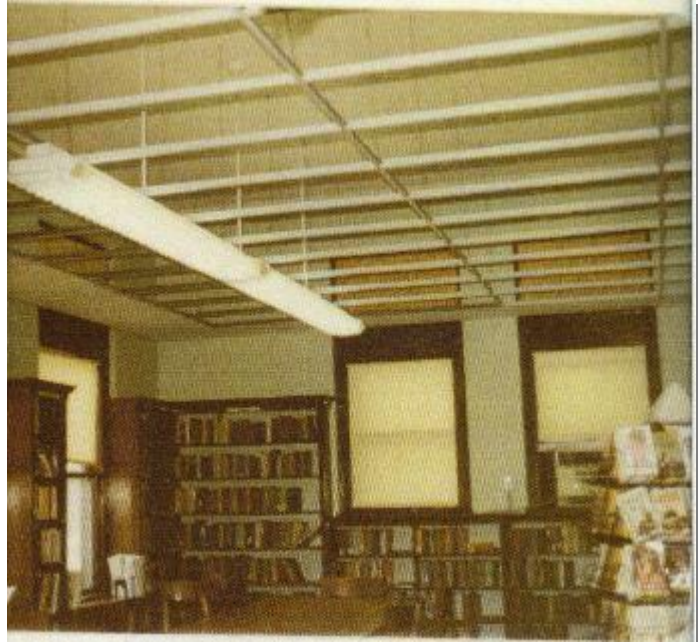
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the library, along with contemporary reading chairs and side tables. West of the circulation desk is the library's computer use area, along with contemporary book stacks. The windows are covered with contemporary mini-blinds.



**Figure 3: Installation of drop ceiling, August 1981 (courtesy of Stanton Carnegie Library).**

The layout of the basement was altered during a 1998 renovation that included the addition of the rear entrance, creation of a second circulation desk and office area in the basement, an ADA-accessible restroom, and a breakroom kitchenette. The original hardwood doors with overhead window vents remain in place and new spaces have contemporary doors and trim. In the northwest corner is a small closet that is used for storage. Similarly to the main floor, drop ceilings are present throughout the basement as well.

The east half of the basement houses the children's reading collection and a second set of public use computers along the south wall. Contemporary book shelves ring the north and east walls. In the northwest corner is a small closet that is used for storage while the basement circulation desk is located in the room's southwest corner, with staff offices behind in the area once occupied by the boiler room.

To the right of the stairs is the ADA-compliant restroom with a hallway to the south that leads to the smaller staff room on the western end of the building that contains a kitchenette. Both the north and south ends of the room contain cabinetry that has been added since the end of the period of significance.

Despite the many interior alterations, the Stanton Carnegie Library retains sufficient integrity to be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places for its association with Carnegie Libraries in Nebraska. The library retains a high level of integrity as it applies to design, location, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The alterations preclude the library from being eligible under Criterion C: Architecture, however, they are not so drastic to render the building no longer eligible under Criterion A for its role in the educational development of the residents of the city of Stanton and of Stanton County.

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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.
- G** Less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION

SOCIAL HISTORY

**Period of Significance**

1915-1968

**Significant Dates**

N/A

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

James C. Stitt (Architect)

Joe Rogers (Builder)

**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.)

In accordance with the registration requirements of the *Nebraska's Carnegie Libraries, 1902-1922* multiple-property document, the Stanton Carnegie Library is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A. Locally significant, the Stanton Carnegie Library was originally constructed to meet the educational demands of the residents of the Stanton area. Over the past century it has served as a supplemental resource for education as well as a meeting place for various local social groups and organizations. The period of significance runs from 1915 to 1968; the date of the library opening to fifty years prior to nomination.

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

**Early Libraries in Stanton**

“A public library is indispensable in a progressive city. It would cost us some money, but the great good it would do would more than compensate us for the outlay. No father in Stanton can do more for the good of his children than to assist in the procuring a public library.”<sup>1</sup>

Stanton’s first library came in to existence in 1886 with John Borland’s donation of his 300-volume personal collection for public use. Housed in a small frame building, the membership to the library was secured with a five dollar membership fee and an annual subscription of one-dollar per year. By 1888 the library had failed and Stanton was left without a literary center to its credit for decade-and-a-half.<sup>2</sup>

As a new century dawned the residents of Stanton again saw the need and the benefit of a public library in their community. The town’s newspaper, the *Stanton Register*, solicited articles from “some spirited man” to write an article advocating for a creation of a local library. However, the efforts to secure a library for Stanton began a few years earlier in December 1896, with the creation of the Woman’s Literary Club. The group was organized to purchase new magazines, books, and represent Stanton at state-wide meetings. In January 1901, the club helped circulate a petition for state legislation to pass a bill that would establish a circulating library throughout Nebraska. A year later the Woman’s Literacy Club and two other women’s groups hoped to build momentum for the placement of a public library by hosting Belle Stoutenborough of the Nebraska Federation of Women’s Clubs who gave a free lecture on “The Value of a Public Library” in April 1902.<sup>3</sup>

Apparently inspired by Stoutenborough, Mrs. Charles McLeod began to work with W.H. Hyland, Superintendent of Stanton County Schools, to secure a library for the county seat. Together McLeod and Hyland revived the dormant library and notified the Nebraska Library Commission in July that a city library had been organized. The arrival of 300 new volumes that October pushed the fledgling library’s inventory to over 700 books and by the grand reopening of the library in November, over 800 books were available for members to choose from. This count is well below the 1,412 books that were in the 1880s wood frame library, many of which ‘disappeared’ into private libraries across town as now the citizens of Stanton were friendly reminded to return those volumes if found on their home shelves. Subscription rates were identical to those in the late 1880s – five dollar membership fee with an annual subscription of one dollar – and it was believed that such “liberal rates” would encourage all to join.<sup>4</sup>

However, some who were happy to have the library revived took exception to the rather limited hours it was available to the public – Wednesday and Saturday afternoon from 2:00pm until 5:00pm, and Saturday evenings from 7:00pm until 8:00pm.<sup>5</sup> An anonymous writer to the *Stanton Register*, likely the editor himself, questioned why such a benefit to the community would not be available more often, especially in the face of other temptations to the citizens of Stanton:

“Isn’t it queer that the gamblers are abroad every night tempting the young men of the city while our public library is only open one night in a week? And the library is an educational institution of great value.”<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> “Dewdrops,” *Stanton Register*, March 16, 1900.

<sup>2</sup> Meroe J. Outhouse, “A History of Stanton County, Nebraska” (master’s thesis, Colorado State Teacher’s College, Greeley, 1944), 46. Oliver B. Pollack, *A State of Readers: Nebraska’s Carnegie Libraries* (Lincoln, NE: J&L Lee, 2005), 146.

<sup>3</sup> *Stanton Register*, June 22, 1900. “The Woman’s Literary Club,” *Stanton Register*, June 28, 1901. “Lecture,” *Stanton Weekly Register*, April 11, 1902. *Stanton Weekly Register*, April 18, 1902.

<sup>4</sup> Pollack, 147. “Local News,” *Stanton Weekly Register*, October 17, 1902. “Opening of Stanton Library,” *Stanton Weekly Register*, November 7, 1902.

<sup>5</sup> “Library Notes,” *Stanton Register*, June 5, 1903.

<sup>6</sup> *Stanton Weekly Register*, November 21, 1902.



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In February membership was reported as between sixty and seventy and that the new building had received a fresh coat of white paint – surprising given typical Februarys in Nebraska. The same article gave the results of the Ideal Entertainers' January 30<sup>th</sup> show at the Gratten Opera House that was put on by the Stanton Library Association, a practice that would become common throughout the Stanton library's early history. Tickets were available for fifteen, twenty-five, and thirty-five cents apiece and the event brought the Association \$7.40, after expenses.<sup>7</sup> At the end of March the community turned out in even larger numbers to support the library. The Gratten Opera House could not hold all who wished to attend the performance of the "Blackville Minstrels" by the ironically named Stanton Fortnightly Culture Club who "put on the 'black' and did credit to themselves." The Jolly Joe orchestra furnished music." Along with a cake walk, the event secured \$110 for the Library Association to help them "make the library an even great success than it is at present." In June the Culture Club donated ninety volumes to the library, likely from the proceeds from their March event, which pushed the total number of titles in the Stanton library to over 1,000. While well patronized, it was believed that there was still many in the community who could benefit from the library, especially the children who now had ample reading time as summer had arrived.<sup>8</sup>



Figure 4: Frame library building next to Baptist Church, c.1905 (courtesy of Stanton Carnegie Library).

The library association continued to look for new ways to generate revenue to add volumes to and to care for their library. In January 1904 they partnered with Frank A. Raabe's store in a program that would provide Raabe's customers a four percent discount on any purchases over a dollar, with Raabe donating that four percent to the Library's Benefit. In the drive's first week receipts accumulated to \$106.95. By the end of February Raabe's efforts were being praised by the *Stanton Register* as an example for community members to follow to help the library as the Library Benefit topped \$250. Raabe's Store Library Benefit sale would be continued again in 1905 and 1906. A 'Box Social' was held where, along with listening to a speaker, men from the community bid on box lunches based on their exteriors only prepared by the ladies of Stanton; the event brought in \$24.05 in support of the library. Raabe's was not the only local store that would be involved

<sup>7</sup> "Library Corner," *Stanton Weekly Register*, February 6, 1903. *Stanton Weekly Register*, January 16, 1903.

<sup>8</sup> "Social Events of the Past Week," *Stanton Register*, April 3, 1903. "Library Notes," *Stanton Register*, June 5, 1903.

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in hosting library benefits. Years later, in 1911, Frost Furniture Store held a 'Cooking Exchange' with all donations being passed along to the Stanton Public Library.<sup>9</sup>

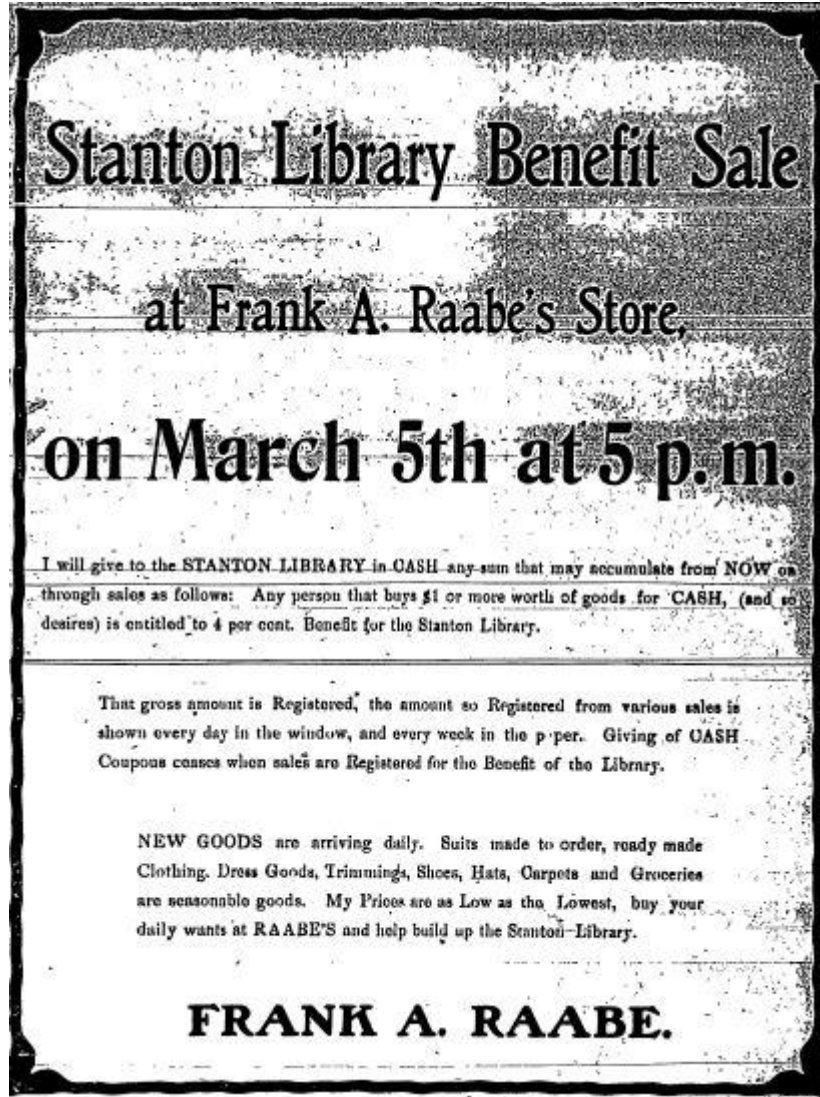


Figure 5: Newspaper advertisement for library benefit sale at Raabe's Store (*Stanton Register*, February 5, 1904).

Benefit concerts, however, were not discontinued as a means to support the library as in 1904 a performance of the Canadian Colored Concert Company garnered \$9.25 for the Stanton Public Library in April and over \$40 was collected at a benefit in October. An undisclosed amount was collected from a performance by the Hearons Sisters in March of the following year, and benefit plays were performed throughout the following years – documented in May 1906, December 1907, and October 1912 – for both the community's enjoyment and the library's benefit.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>9</sup> "New Books at the Library," *Stanton Register*, January 29, 1904. "Local News," *Stanton Register*, February 5, 1904. "Local News," *Stanton Register*, February 26, 1904. Advertisement, "Raabe's Store," *Stanton Register*, February 26, 1904. *Stanton Register*, May 19, 1905. Advertisement, "Raabe's Store," *Stanton Register*, January 5, 1906. "Advertisement," *Stanton Register*, October 20, 1911.

<sup>10</sup> "Local News," *Stanton Register*, April 1, 1904. "Library Benefit," *Stanton Register*, October 28, 1904. *Stanton Register*, March 10, 1905. *Stanton Register*, May 25, 1906. *Stanton Register*, December 13, 1907. "Local and Personal," *Stanton Register*, October 18, 1912.

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Talk of a new building to house the public library arrived in early 1908 in the form of a Y.M.C.A. that would house not also a library, but also public restrooms, gymnasium, and meeting rooms to accommodate various groups. While the *Stanton Register* carried a follow-up article to promote the idea, nothing came of it and the library – having grown to over 1,400 volumes by the end of 1909 – remained in its small building at the southeast corner of 11<sup>th</sup> and Jackpine Streets.<sup>11</sup>

**The Carnegie Library**

Secretary Hyland would first reach out to Andrew Carnegie regarding a library building for Stanton in 1903. However, it would not be until 1913 until the first steps were taken in what would eventually result in the Stanton Carnegie Library under the leadership of library board president Charles H. Chace and secretary Ray K. Person. The Stanton Library Association invited all who wished to attend to a mid-April meeting at the Stanton County Courthouse to discuss the possible construction of a new public library. Public attendance was strong, a committee was formed to investigate how to secure a library as well as selected a site, and a follow-up meeting was scheduled for later in the month.<sup>12</sup> Correspondence between the Stanton Library Association and the Carnegie Corporation are scarce, but by the following April, Carnegie agreed to provide \$8,000 for a new library so long as the City of Stanton pledged to maintain a free public library at a cost of no less than \$840 a year and secure a suitable site for the building.<sup>13</sup>

The Stanton City County unanimously approved the receipt of Carnegie’s gift, passed the appropriate tax support, and bidding was opened on purchasing and removing the Baptist Church that had long shared the northwest corner of Block 7 with the small frame library. The winning bid of \$300 was submitted by Joe Rogers, who would also secure the contract to building the new home for Stanton’s literary pursuits that September at \$7,903.80.<sup>14</sup> Rogers would follow the architectural plans of James C. Stitt, “Norfolk’s most prominent and prolific architect,” who had previously designed Norfolk’s Carnegie Library (NR listed: 98001567) in 1907 and would designed Plainview’s Carnegie Library in 1915-6 (NR listed: #93000056).<sup>15</sup> Rogers would make solid progress on erecting the bones of the building and in April 1915 the Library Association put together committees to “select and purchase hardware and electric light fixtures, to contact persons in regard to painting and woodwork finish” as Rogers work was completed by May 1, 1915.<sup>16</sup>

The finishing touches were put on the building throughout the early summer months and an informal opening was held on Saturday, August 7<sup>th</sup>. Great effort was made in print to stress that although the library was built by the City of Stanton, it was for the benefit of all Stanton County citizens, city folk and farmers alike. All who came to tour the new building were asked to participate in a ‘book shower’ as the library was to be short on books at its outset, which was remedied by the opening’s guests’ generosity. The new library impressed its visitors with its beautiful furniture and finishes and surprised many that Stanton would be home to such an up-to-date structure. The *Sargent Leader*, 110-miles distant as the crow flies, proclaimed that “Stanton boasts of having one of the best public libraries in the state of Nebraska.”<sup>17</sup>

**Role in Community**

The Stanton Carnegie Library has been a key aspect of the Stanton community since its earliest days. Before the doors were opened to the public it was understood that the library’s influence would go beyond the sharing of literary works with the residents of Stanton County. The basements meeting rooms were opened early and often for various groups and

<sup>11</sup> *Stanton Register*, January 24, 1908. *Stanton Register*, November 26, 1909.

<sup>12</sup> Pollack, 148. “Library Notes,” *Stanton Register*, October 28, 1968. “Local Advertising,” *Stanton Register*, April 11, 1913. “Local and Personal,” *Stanton Register*, April 18, 1913.

<sup>13</sup> Outhouse, 46.

<sup>14</sup> “Remodeling project inspires a look into library’s history,” *Stanton Register*, April 1, 1998.

<sup>15</sup> D. Murphy and L. Robert Puschendorf, “James C. Stitt (1866-1949), Architect,” in David Murphy, Edward F. Zimmer, and Lynn Meyer, comps. *Place Makers of Nebraska: The Architects*. Lincoln: Nebraska State Historical Society, March 19, 2015. [http://www.e-nebraskahistory.org/index.php?title=Place\\_Makers\\_of\\_Nebraska:\\_The\\_Architects](http://www.e-nebraskahistory.org/index.php?title=Place_Makers_of_Nebraska:_The_Architects) Accessed, July 14, 2018.

<sup>16</sup> “Remodeling project inspires a look into library’s history,” *Stanton Register*, April 1, 1998.

<sup>17</sup> “New Library to Be Dedicated Next Week,” *Stanton Register*, July 30, 1915. “Additional Locals,” *Stanton Register*, August 13, 1915. “All Over Nebraska,” *Sargent Leader*, December 23, 1915.

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organizations in the community to hold their meetings and the City Council chambers were to be located in one of the large basement rooms.<sup>18</sup>

To no one's surprise the Woman's Literary Club took immediate use of the new library, but were quickly followed up by an interdenominational Bible study, the Housekeepers Union, and the Red Cross with events during the first fall and winter of the library's existence. The annual Farmers' Institute was held in February 1916 at the County Court House with a separate women's program held at the library and the Wednesday Club, Christian Science services, and the Community Chorus joined the rotation of groups utilizing in the library's meeting spaces in 1916. When a motion picture crew from Nebraska Feature Company came to Stanton that summer, they made sure the new Carnegie library was highlighted as one of the key features of the northeast Nebraska town.<sup>19</sup>

A decade after its construction the Stanton Carnegie Library continued to be a source of education and community involvement for the area. The "Library Notes" column in the *Stanton Register* provided updates for new books, magazine subscriptions, a count of children attending the Friday afternoon reading program, and the events of Library Week during November.<sup>20</sup> The library took notice of its success after attending the Nebraska Library Association district meeting in Wayne during 1925: "The financial side of the library was discussed and we were glad Stanton was operating under "The Budget System" thus avoiding the difficulties of some of the other libraries."<sup>21</sup> What exactly the "Budget System" was in unclear, but public reports of the library show that, while not rich, the library was operating well in the black and that September \$2,500 was appropriated for "labor repairs, improvements, and maintenance" and the 1 mill levy was continued to support the library.<sup>22</sup>

The Great Depression had an impact on every aspect of American life, but during these difficult times the library continued to be a source of education, relaxation, and community for Stanton. Funds in 1935 for maintenance, repairs, and operations were down to \$1,500, but new books continued to arrive, albeit at a slow rate than before, and various groups continued to meet in the basement. In November the library partnered with five rural schools to host a Rural School Program during Library Week which included the celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Andrew Carnegie's birth. Funds were available to send librarian Mrs. J.D. Elmore to the Nebraska Library Association meeting in Lincoln that fall.<sup>23</sup>

With many of Stanton's citizens involved in World War II abroad, the Stanton Carnegie Library did what it could to contribute on the home front. The Red Cross held meetings in the basement, the library added new books that promoted the understanding of both Stanton's history and the history of the United States' European allies, and shortly after the war's successful conclusion, the theme for Book (Library) Week was "United for Peace." Funding for the library in 1945 was up from the Depression-era levels, but at \$2,000 still lagged behind the amount funded twenty years earlier.<sup>24</sup> The summer

<sup>18</sup> "Library to be Dedicated Saturday Afternoon," *Stanton Register*, August 6, 1915.

<sup>19</sup> "Library Locals," *Stanton Register*, October 22, 1915. "Organize Bible Class," *Stanton Register*, November 19, 1915.

"Additional Locals," *Stanton Register*, November 19, 1915. "Red Cross Seals for Sale," *Stanton Register*, December 17, 1915. Advertisement, "The Seventh Annual Farmers' Institute," *Stanton Register*, February 11, 1916. *Stanton Register*, July 14, 1916. "Motion Pictures of Stanton," *Stanton Register*, July 21, 1916. "Additional Locals," *Stanton Register*, November 10, 1916.

<sup>20</sup> "Library Notes," *Stanton Register*, February 26, 1925. "Many New Books at the City Library," *Stanton Register*, July 30, 1925. "Many New Books at the City Library," *Stanton Register*, September 3, 1925. "Library Week to be Observed in Stanton," *Stanton Register*, September 3, 1925.

<sup>21</sup> "Library Meeting Held at Wayne," *Stanton Register*, May 7, 1925.

<sup>22</sup> "City Council Proceedings," *Stanton Register*, May 28, 1925. "Proceedings of the Stanton City Council," *Stanton Register*, September 10, 1925.

<sup>23</sup> "Proceedings of our City Council," *Stanton Register*, May 30, 1935. "Library Notes," *Stanton Register*, March 14, 1935.

"Library Notes," *Stanton Register*, October 10, 1935. "S.C. Project Club," *Stanton Register*, December 19, 1935.

"Library Notes," *Stanton Register*, November 7, 1935. "Rural Schools Present Program," *Stanton Register*, November 28, 1935. "Library Meeting at Lincoln Oct 16-18," *Stanton Register*, October 24, 1935.

<sup>24</sup> "Annual Meeting Red Cross February 15," *Stanton Register*, February 1, 1945. "Attention, County Red Cross Knitters" *Stanton Register*, April 12, 1945. "History of Stanton Co. at the Library," *Stanton Register*, March 8, 1945. "Library

Stanton Carnegie Library

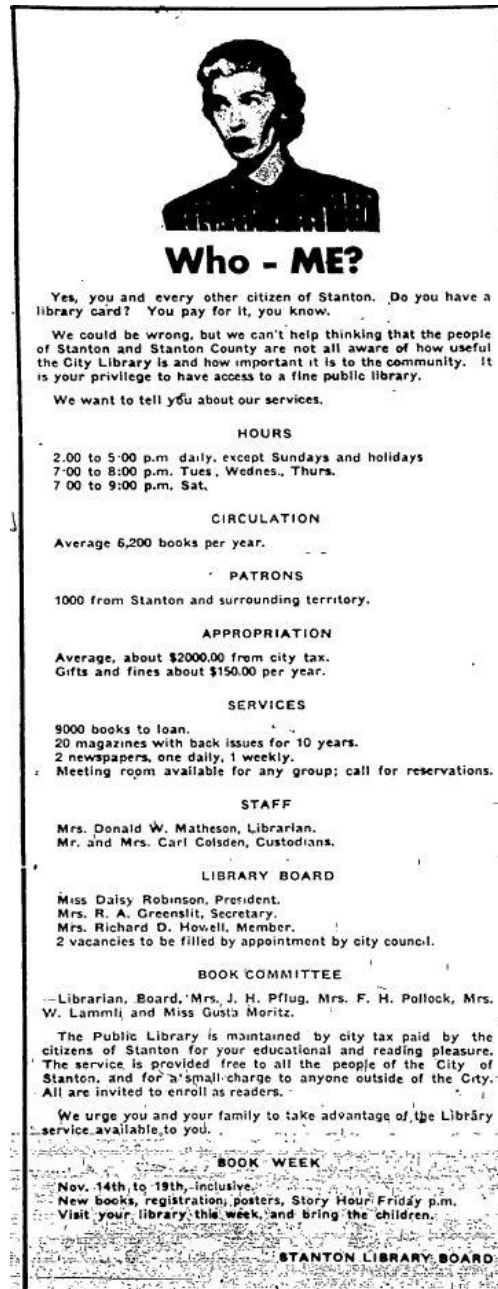
Stanton County, Nebraska

**Name of Property**

**County and State**

of 1945 saw a new librarian at the helm as Mrs. Jean Hollstein retired after serving seven years as librarian. Any question of the library's role in the community is erased with the words of a farewell address Hollstein:

"Books have been carried to 'Shut-Ins' by girls who gave their time to this work through her guidance. The 'Story Hour' for the children has brought happiness and keen interest to the little folk. Summer reading projects for the children, book parades and Book Week observance have all helped to increase the interest in what the library has to offer. The inspiration and helpful guidance that Mrs. Hollstein has given to the readers at the Stanton Public library will be a lasting influence in this community."<sup>25</sup>



**Who - ME?**

Yes, you and every other citizen of Stanton. Do you have a library card? You pay for it, you know.

We could be wrong, but we can't help thinking that the people of Stanton and Stanton County are not all aware of how useful the City Library is and how important it is to the community. It is your privilege to have access to a fine public library.

We want to tell you about our services.

**HOURS**

2.00 to 5.00 p.m. daily, except Sundays and holidays  
7.00 to 8.00 p.m. Tues., Wednes., Thurs.  
7.00 to 9.00 p.m. Sat.

**CIRCULATION**

Average 6,200 books per year.

**PATRONS**

1000 from Stanton and surrounding territory.

**APPROPRIATION**

Average, about \$2000.00 from city tax.  
Gifts and fines about \$150.00 per year.

**SERVICES**

9000 books to loan.  
20 magazines with back issues for 10 years.  
2 newspapers, one daily, 1 weekly.  
Meeting room available for any group; call for reservations.

**STAFF**

Mrs. Donald W. Matheson, Librarian.  
Mr. and Mrs. Carl Colsden, Custodians.

**LIBRARY BOARD**

Miss Daisy Robinson, President.  
Mrs. R. A. Greenslit, Secretary.  
Mrs. Richard D. Howell, Member.  
2 vacancies to be filled by appointment by city council.

**BOOK COMMITTEE**

—Librarian, Board, Mrs. J. H. Pflug, Mrs. F. H. Pollock, Mrs. W. Lammi and Miss Gusta Moritz.

The Public Library is maintained by city tax paid by the citizens of Stanton for your educational and reading pleasure. The service is provided free to all the people of the City of Stanton, and for a small charge to anyone outside of the City. All are invited to enroll as readers.

We urge you and your family to take advantage of the Library service available to you.

**BOOK WEEK**

Nov. 14th to 19th, inclusive.  
New books, registration, posters, Story Hour, Friday p.m.  
Visit your library this week, and bring the children.

**STANTON LIBRARY BOARD**

Figure 6: Advertisement promoting library cards (*Stanton Register*, November 10, 1955).

Notes," *Stanton Register*, July 5, 1945. "Library Notes," *Stanton Register*, November 8, 1945. "Legals," *Stanton Register*, June 7, 1945.

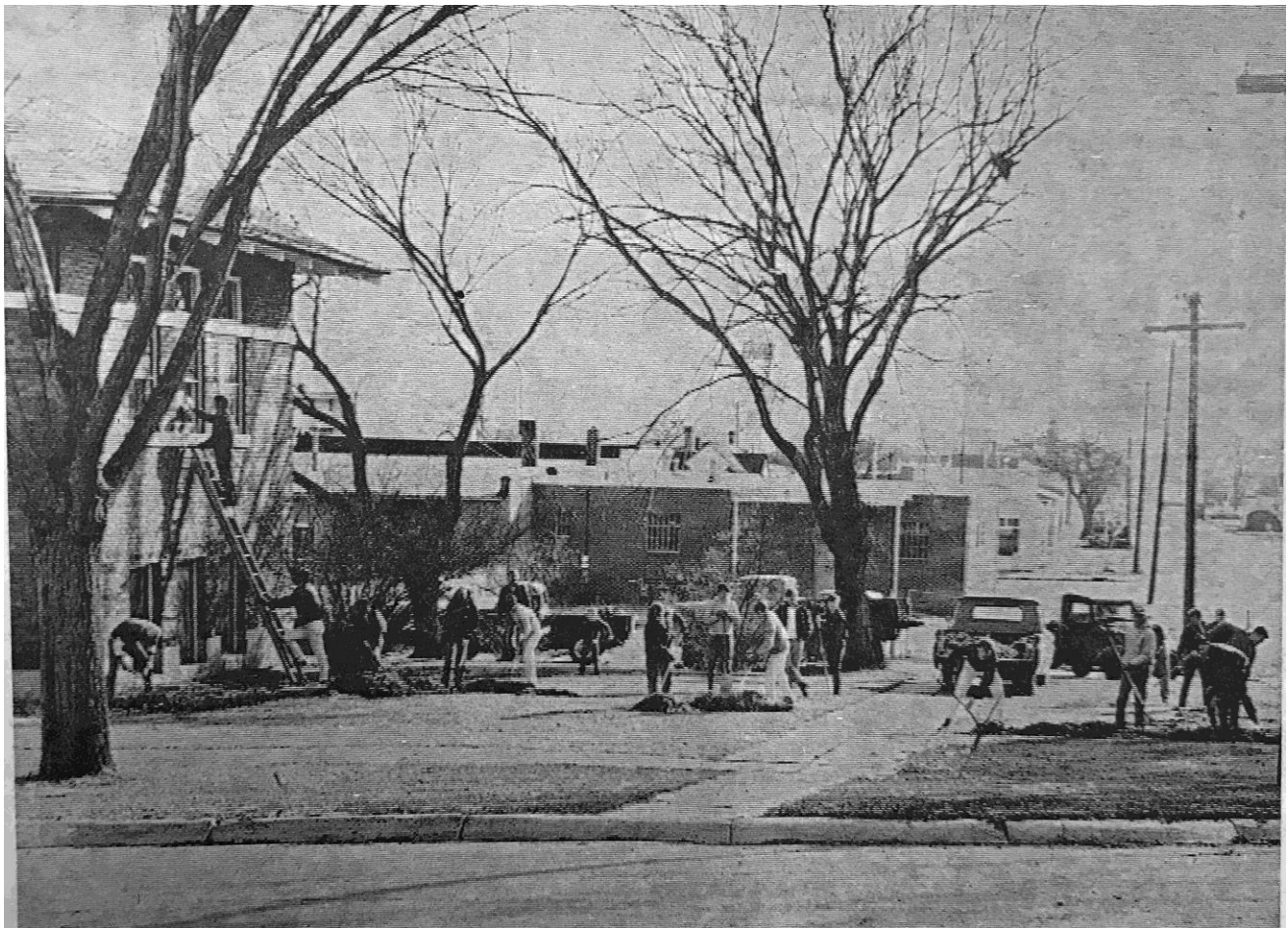
<sup>25</sup> "A Tribute to Mrs. Jean Hollstein," *Stanton Register*, May 24, 1945.



Stanton Carnegie Library  
**Name of Property**

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The library continued to be a center of events, group meetings, and continuing education throughout the 1950s and into the 1960s.<sup>26</sup> The routine of delivery service, Children’s Story Hour, and Book Week saw increased participation in 1965, perhaps as a result of the library’s promotional efforts for the building’s 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary that year. Monthly counts on the usage of books and magazines as well as weekly head-counts for story time were common in the “Library Notes” column of the *Stanton Register* along with teasing reviews of the newly arrived book titles. The library even offered delivery services. Efforts to plan for the anniversary were first hinted at as early as March as readers were told to be on the lookout for updates for the festivities. A retelling of Stanton’s history of libraries was retold in October as a primer for Book Week that would include an open house to celebrate a half-century in the Carnegie building. Tuesday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, saw the library hold its standard story hours for the pre-k, kindergarten, First, and Second grade classes, plus a special story time for the Third and Fourth graders. That evening punch and cookies were served to over 125 guests. The Sunday before the event a local boys club, The Majestics, raked the library lawn, performed other landscaping tasks, cleaned the library’s windows, and installed the storm windows for the winter to give back to the building that had given so much to the Stanton community.<sup>27</sup>



**Figure 7: The Majestics preparing library for 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration (*Stanton Register*, November 18, 1965).**

<sup>26</sup> “Library Notes,” *Stanton Register*, November 18, 1965. “National Book Week Program Told for Stanton Public Library,” *Stanton Register*, November 10, 1955. “Women’s Club,” *Stanton Register*, March 17, 1955. “American Legion Auxiliary,” *Stanton Register*, March 17, 1955. “Stanton City Library to Hold Open House Saturday from 2-4,” *Stanton Register*, September 22, 1955. “New Books in the Library,” *Stanton Register*, May 19, 1955. “Library Names New Books Available for Adults and Teenagers,” *Stanton Register*, September 22, 1955.

<sup>27</sup> “Library Notes,” *Stanton Register*, March 4, 1965. “Library Notes,” *Stanton Register*, October 10, 1965. “Library Notes,” *Stanton Register*, October 28, 1965.

Stanton Carnegie Library

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Ironically, the focus on the building's history – the story of how it came to be was reproduced in the newspaper multiple times – was partnered with alterations to the historic interior. The original plaster ceiling received a "new tile look" in March and new lighting upstairs was to follow that fall. The basement also received new lighting along with new curtains and fresh coat of paint. Further renovations were undertaken in 1981 with the purchase of a new furnace, access door to the boiler room, and the addition of the drop tile ceiling. The project, totaling nearly \$6,000, was undertaken in an attempt to save on heating costs. Nearly two decades later memorials and donations equaling \$96,000 allowed for further interior work in 1998. It was at this time that the basement received its overhaul with the creation of a handicap-accessible entry and restroom, basement offices and circulation desk, as well as the parking area in the rear of the building. New carpet and windows were added; the utility systems were improved with a new heating and air conditioning unit, and hot water heater. The campaign was not directed solely at the building's physical characteristics as it also provided new computers, a microfilm archive, and a copier/fax machine for the public's use.<sup>28</sup>

Section F, page 3 of the National Register Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF) "Nebraska Carnegie Libraries, 1902-1922" states:

To be eligible under Criterion A, a Carnegie library building must have been constructed between the period of 1902 and 1922, demonstrate significance to its community in the areas of education or social history. The building should also maintain its integrity in the areas of architecture, location and setting. Libraries nominated under Criterion A are eligible for local, state or national significance.

Since its opening, the Stanton Carnegie Library has been a key resource for the community, serving as both an educational center and social meeting place. The willingness of the public in a community of Stanton's size to produce \$96,000 for a renovation project is a clear indication of the importance the people of the city and county place on the 103 year old building.

The Stanton Carnegie Library retains sufficient levels of as outlined in the associated MPDF and has been a center of continued educational development and social interaction for the people of Stanton since its opening in 1915.

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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.)

Murphy, David and L. Robert Puschendorf, "James C. Stitt (1866-1949), Architect," in David Murphy, Edward F. Zimmer, and Lynn Meyer, comps. *Place Makers of Nebraska: The Architects*. Lincoln: Nebraska State Historical Society, March 19, 2015. [http://www.e-nebraskahistory.org/index.php?title=Place Makers of Nebraska: The Architects](http://www.e-nebraskahistory.org/index.php?title=Place_Makers_of_Nebraska:_The_Architects), Accessed, July 14, 2018.

Outhouse, Meroe J., "A History of Stanton County, Nebraska," Master's Thesis, Colorado State Teacher's College, Greeley, 1944.

Pollack, Oliver B., *A State of Readers: Nebraska's Carnegie Libraries* Lincoln, NE: J&L Lee, 2005.

*Sargent Leader*, Sargent, Nebraska, 1915.

*Stanton Register*, Stanton, Nebraska, 1900-1999.

*Stanton Weekly Register*, Stanton, Nebraska, 1902-1903.

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<sup>28</sup> "Local Library Observes Nat'l 'Week' With Open House, And 'Story Hours'" Notes," *Stanton Register*, November 4, 1965. "Stanton City Council Proceedings," *Stanton Register*, July 22, 1981. "Stanton Public Library is featured on Tour of Homes," *Stanton Register*, November 17, 1999.

Stanton Carnegie Library

Stanton County, Nebraska

**Name of Property**

**County and State**

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

**Primary location of additional data:**

- 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 #

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other (Name of repository)

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): ST02-001

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property Less than 1 USGS Quadrangle Stanton, NE

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

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

- |    |          |                  |           |                   |
|----|----------|------------------|-----------|-------------------|
| 1. | Latitude | <u>41.951128</u> | Longitude | <u>-97.224753</u> |
| 2. | Latitude | _____            | Longitude | _____             |
| 3. | Latitude | _____            | Longitude | _____             |
| 4. | Latitude | _____            | Longitude | _____             |

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

The Stanton Carnegie Library sites on a double lot at the southeast corner of the intersection of Jackpine and North 11th Streets. The parcel's south boundary is delineated by an alley that runs east to west. The east boundary is adjacent to a private residence. The legal description is 'Lots 3 & 4 of Block 7, Holman & Graves Addition.'

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

The boundary includes all the property historically associated with the Stanton Carnegie Library.

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title David L. Calease / National Register Coordinator  
organization Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office date July 27, 2019  
street & number 1500 R Street telephone 402.471.4775  
city or town Lincoln state NE zip code 68508  
email David.Calease@nebraska.gov

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

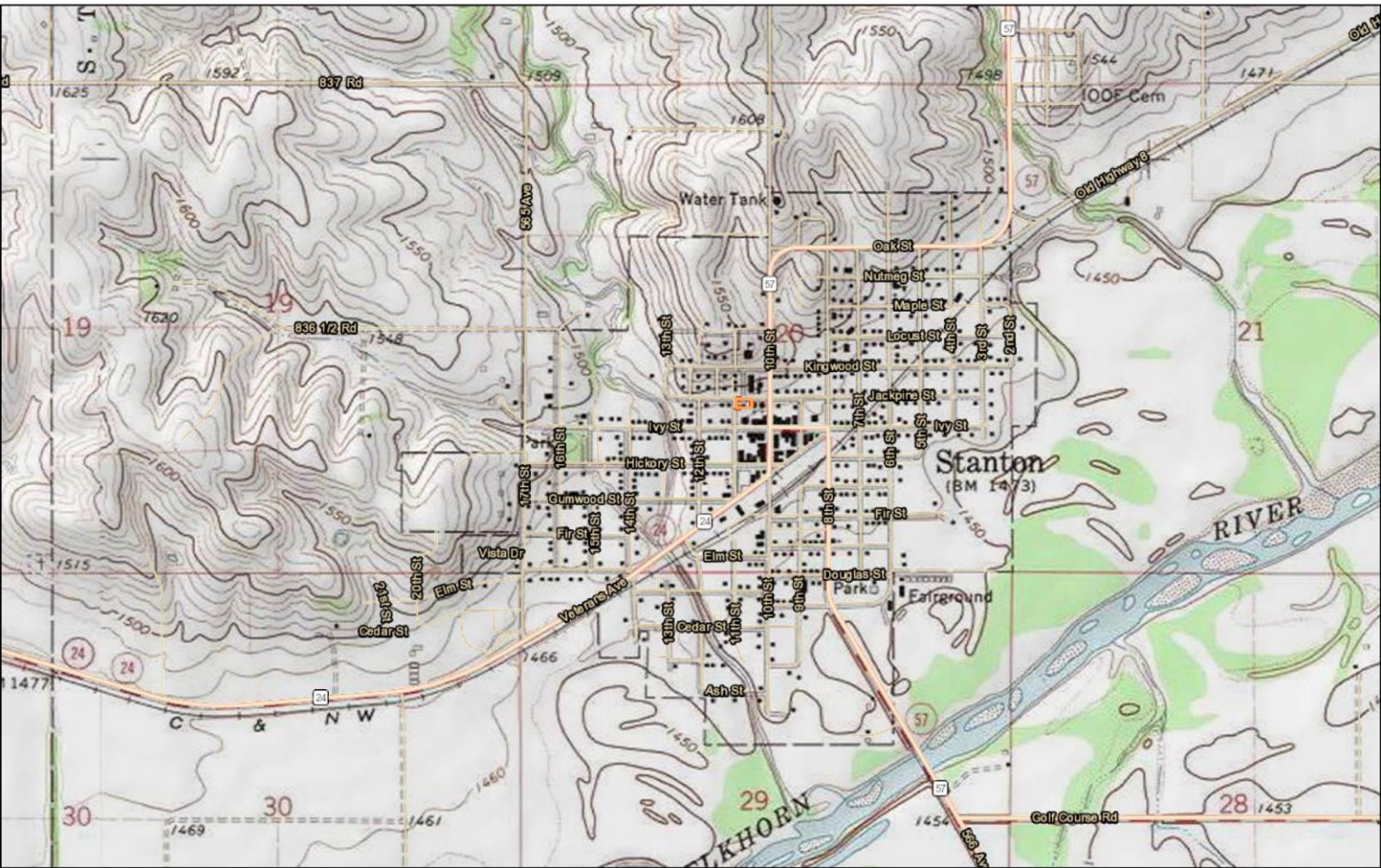
- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO for any additional items.)



Stanton Carnegie Library

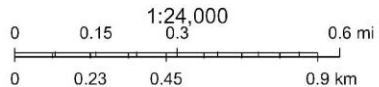
Stanton County, Nebraska

### Stanton Carnegie Library, 1009 Jackpine Street, Stanton, Stanton Co., Nebraska



8/2/2018, 3:48:08 PM

 Proposed NRHP Boundary



Esri, HERE, Garmin, © OpenStreetMap contributors, Copyright© 2013  
National Geographic Society, i-cubed

North ↑  
Datum: WGS84



Stanton Carnegie Library  
Name of Property

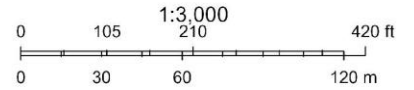
Stanton County, Nebraska  
County and State

### Stanton Carnegie Library, 1009 Jackpine Street, Stanton, Stanton Co., Nebraska



8/2/2018, 3:46:54 PM

 Proposed NRHP Boundary



Esri, HERE, Garmin, © OpenStreetMap contributors, Esri, HERE, Garmin, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS user community, Source: Esri, North ↑ Datum: WGS84



Stanton Carnegie Library  
**Name of Property**

Stanton County, Nebraska  
**County and State**

### 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 Stanton Carnegie Library  
City or Vicinity Stanton County Stanton State Nebraska  
Photographer David L. Calease / NeSHPO Date Photographed January 17, 2018

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

- Photo 1. 1915 Carnegie Library, north facade; view facing south.**
- Photo 2. 1915 Carnegie library, north & west facades; view facing southeast.**
- Photo 3. 1915 Carnegie library, south façade; view facing north.**
- Photo 4. 1915 Carnegie library, east façade; view facing west.**
- Photo 5. 1915 Carnegie library interior, main entrance; view facing south.**
- Photo 6. 1915 Carnegie library interior, main floor; view facing east.**
- Photo 7. 1915 Carnegie library interior, main floor office and circulation desk; view facing west.**
- Photo 8. 1915 Carnegie library interior, basement original door and transom; view facing southeast.**
- Photo 9. 1915 Carnegie library interior, basement reading room and entrance; view facing southeast.**
- Photo 10. 1915 Carnegie library interior, basement office and circulation desk; view facing southwest.**
- Photo 11. 1915 Carnegie library interior, basement breakroom; view facing north.**
- Photo 12. 1915 Carnegie library interior, 1998 replacement window, extant throughout building.**

**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.





PUBLIC LIBRARY

STANTON  
PUBLIC LIBRARY









Utility box with a circular meter and a lock.

PRIME  
232-9193

Handicapped parking sign

























Let's Read!  
Long Week of  
Picture Books  
for  
Summer Reading

The Library

CHECK OUT  
THE NEW  
MONIES

EXIT

AWESOME  
AWESOME

AWESOME

MUSIC

How to  
Read  
the  
Book





Picture for Summer Reading

WE WILL MUSIC TAKE YOU



Summer Reading Program

Staff Only

HE

SHE

NANCY









CATHERINE COULTER  
Blind Eye

CATHERINE COULTER  
The

CATHERINE COULTER  
TALES

MICHAEL CRICHTON  
ALICE

JANE & JIMMY HOE  
JANE & JIMMY HOE

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JANE & JIMMY HOE



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 9/25/2018      Date of Pending List: 10/17/2018      Date of 16th Day: 11/1/2018      Date of 45th Day: 11/9/2018      Date of Weekly List:

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

Accept       Return       Reject      11/5/2018 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments:

Recommendation/ Criteria:

Reviewer Jim Gabbert      Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2275      Date \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION:    see attached comments : No    see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.

September 21, 2018

Jim Gabbert  
NPS-National Register of Historic Places  
1849 C Street, NW  
Mail Stop 7228  
Washington, DC 20240



Re: Stanton Carnegie Library, Stanton, Stanton County, NE

Dear Mr. Gabbert,

Enclosed is the complete nomination packet for the Stanton Carnegie Library, in Stanton, Stanton County, Nebraska. The enclosed contents are as follows:

- The signed first page of the Stanton Carnegie Library nomination;
- One (1) archival disc with the true and correct copy of the nomination for the Stanton Carnegie Library to the National Register of Historic Places in PDF format; and
- One (1) archival disc with the photographs for the Stanton Carnegie Library nomination.

If you have any questions regarding the submitted materials, feel free to contact me at the phone number or email address below.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'David L. Calease'.

David L. Calease  
National Register Coordinator  
Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office

Phone: 402-471-4775  
Fax: 402-471-3100  
[david.calease@nebraska.gov](mailto:david.calease@nebraska.gov)

Enclosures (3): Signed National Register nomination cover sheet  
1 disc with Nomination  
1 disc with National Register Photographs

1500 R Street  
Lincoln, NE 68508-1651  
P: 402.471.3270  
P: 800.833.6747  
F: 402.471.3100  
[history.nebraska.gov](http://history.nebraska.gov)