

Iowa Site Inventory

Division of Historic Preservation
Iowa State Historical Department
26 E. Market St., Iowa City, Iowa 52240

Site Number 95-004-004

District Name _____

Map Reference # _____

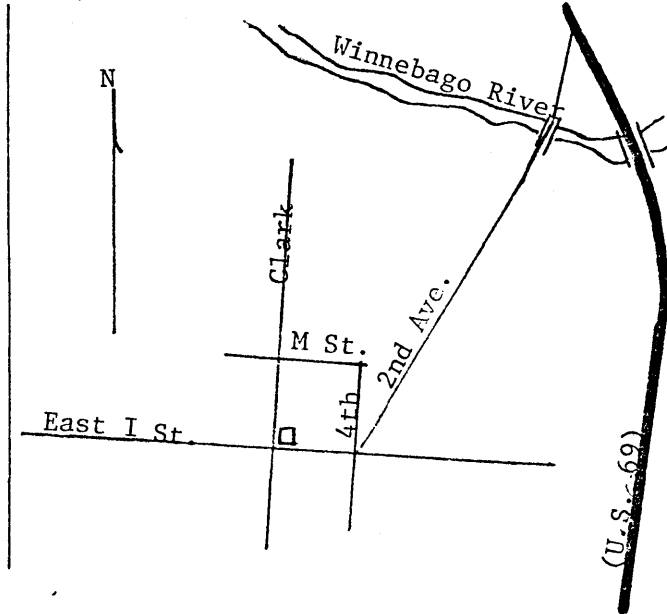
Identification

1. Site Name (first) Forest City Public Library
2. Village/Town/City Forest City Township _____ County Winnebago
3. Street Address 136 Clark Street W. 35' of N. 1' Lot 7
4. Legal Location Orig. Town 49 W. 60' of S. 25' Lot 6
- Urban: _____ subdivision _____ block _____ parcel _____ subparcel _____
Rural: _____ township _____ range _____ section _____ 1/4 section of 1/4 section _____
5. UTM Location: zone 15 easting 448260 northing 4790290; Acreage _____
6. Owner(s) Name _____
7. Owner(s) Address _____
(Street address) (City) (State) (Zip)
8. Use: Present insurance company office Original library

Description

9. Date of Construction 1899 ~~XXXXX~~ Architect/Builder C.H. Lackore, Contractor
10. Building Type:
 single-family dwelling industrial other institutional religious
 multiple-family dwelling educational public agricultural
 commercial
11. Exterior Walls: clapboard stone brick board and batten shingles stucco
 other with stone trim
12. Structural System: wood frame with interlocking joints wood frame with light members (balloon frame)
 masonry load-bearing walls iron frame steel frame with curtain walls reinforced concrete
 other _____
13. Condition: excellent good fair deteriorated
14. Integrity: original site moved—if so, when? _____
Notes on alterations, additions, (with dates and architect, if known) and any other notable features of building and site: Parapet over center bay lowered; inscription panel removed; center window on ground floor partially bricked in.
15. Related Outbuildings and Property: barn other farm structures carriage house garage privy
 other _____
16. Is the building endangered? no yes—if so, why? _____
17. Surroundings of the building: open land woodland scattered outbuildings densely built-up commercial
 industrial residential other _____

18. Map



19. Photo

Roll 557 Frame 9A View Front Facade



Handwritten signature/initials

Significance

(Indicate sources of information for all statements)

19. Architectural significance

- a. Key structure/individually may qualify for the National Register
- b. Contributing structure
- c. Not eligible/intrusion

The first Forest City Public Library is one of the few remaining pre-Carnegie buildings in Iowa. A street front building in the Richardsonian commercial style, characteristic of the 1890's, its facade is an interesting exercise in layered transparency, overlapping bays and triangular configurations of round-arch and square-headed openings.

20. Historical Significance

Theme(s) Social/Humanitarian

- a. Key structure/individually may qualify for the National Register
- b. Contributing structure
- c. Not eligible/intrusion

The first public library at Forest City is one of two known instances (that are extant) in Iowa of the erection of a library building funded exclusively with public money during the formative period of Iowa library development. The other, at Des Moines, was built from tax levies. The Forest City library, however, was financed almost entirely with donations from townspeople, with the remainder coming from city funds, thus illustrating a high level of community support and self-reliance that required no assistance from a single wealthy benefactor. The building, opened in September 1899, served as a library until a new and larger one was erected in 1927.

21. Sources (for primary and secondary sources, give complete facts of publication: author, title, place of publication, date, etc.):

--DHPFIR, G. Mansheim, June 1979.

--DHPLSQ-1, Mrs. Raymond Schmidt, Librarian.

Prepared by S. Klingensmith

Date August, 1980

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Organization _____

For Division of Historic Preservation Use Only

1. Office Information Sources on this Property

- County Resource File
- Windshield Survey
- National Register
- Grants-In-Aid: _____
- Determination of Eligibility

Review and Compliance Project:

- Other _____
- Other _____
- Other _____

2. Subject Traces

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____
- e. _____

3. Photo Images 557/8A-12A.

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____