

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUN 17 1975

DATE ENTERED AUG 1 1975

**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 **CARNEGIE-STOUT PUBLIC LIBRARY**

AND/OR COMMON **CARNEGIE-STOUT FREE LIBRARY**

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
**Eleventh and Bluff Streets**

\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN **Dubuque** VICINITY OF CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
**Second**

STATE **Iowa** CODE **14** COUNTY **Dubuque** CODE **061**

**CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME  
**City of Dubuque**  
STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN **Dubuque** VICINITY OF STATE **Iowa**

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. **Dubuque County Courthouse**

STREET & NUMBER  
**720 Central Avenue**

CITY, TOWN **Dubuque** STATE **Iowa**

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_ STATE \_\_ COUNTY \_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN STATE

## 7 DESCRIPTION

### CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

### CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

### CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Carnegie-Stout Public Library is a two-story rectangular structure, measuring approximately 143 feet by 76 feet, with an exposed basement story. Constructed in 1901, its style is fully that of the Classical Beaux Arts. The exterior walls on the north and west which front Eleventh and Bluff Streets, respectively, are built of buff Limestone from Bedford, Indiana. The south and east walls of the library are of white brick. The north wall, which fronts Eleventh Street, is the primary facade and entrance to the building. It is composed of seven bays of which the center five receive a hexastyle, Roman Corinthian portico modelled after that found on the Pantheon in Rome. The fluted columns are matched with pilasters behind on the wall. The entablature above the columns carries the inscription, "Carnegie-Stout Free Library." In the center of the pediment above the entablature is a wreath encircling the year, 1901. Atop the pediment is a prominent stone anthemion. Veiling the slightly sloping hip roof of the library is a classical stone balustrade which intersects the pediment of the entrance portico as a pair of flanking stone panels. Beneath the balustrade is a richly articulated, modillioned cornice which also is used in the pediment. The entablature of the portico continues around the building below the cornice. Rising from sidewalk level to the portico is a three bay wide set of monumental steps. Flanking rectangular masses of stone on either side of the steps carry ornate Classical Beaux Arts lamp posts. The center three bays of the facade at first floor level contain tall entrance doors with Roman styled windows above. On either side of the front steps were entry ways leading into the basement entrance, which is no longer used. The single end bays of the facade which are not covered by the portico are treated in the same manner as the flanking bays of the west facade. The west facade is composed of a central three-bay tetra-style portico in antis and recessed from the facade, flanked by five bays on either side. At the basement level are basically square windows, the heights of which vary with the slope of the sidewalk. These windows are set in a horizontally rusticated stone wall, which continues unbroken to a belt course just below the sills of the second floor windows. The first floor windows employ double-hung one-over-one sash with voussoirs similarly rusticated to match that of the wall surface. The second floor windows are double-hung and square, with panes set in a Roman styled configuration, as are the upper sash of the first floor windows. The second floor window stone window frames in analogous to the Palazzi Massimi in Rome. An entablature, cornice, and balustrade identical to those on the north are carried above the windows. The central portico on the west front is a copy of that on the north, but without a pediment and monumental steps. A single door at street level is found in the central bay. The east and south sides reflect the north and west side in fenestration, but are much more simplified in detail, being constructed of white brick. The interior remains little altered with elaborate classical plasterwork, ornate copper railings and light fixtures, marble flooring, varnished white oak woodwork. The plan remains essentially the same, despite some functional changes in various rooms. An elaborate central rotunda serves to unite the circulation of the building. Also of note is the double tiered bookstack area with a thick, translucent glass floor separating the two tiers.

A contemporary account describes the interior arrangement of rooms: The main entrance through "a large column portico leading through a vestibule with three pairs of doors into the main corridor and rotunda. The vestibule and corridor are 43 x 22.6 and are flanked on the west side by the general reading room. Each of these rooms is 46 x 24.6 and is lighted by seven large windows. The corridor is separated from these rooms by walls on either side with pilasters and five arches on imposts, and a screen wall five

# 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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 1901

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Architect--W. G. Williamson & John Spencer

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The primary area of significance lies in the outstanding architectural merit of this building. One of the most elegant buildings constructed in Iowa in the Classical tradition of the Beaux Arts, it is perhaps the finest extant example of that style in the state. A truly exceptional feature of the building is the extremely well-preserved interior, which faces a very uncertain future. Current plans call for an addition to be built on a lot neighboring the library with the current library to be gutted and refitted for warehousing, stack areas, and bookmobile garage space. It should be emphasized that these are the plans of the library administration. The local populace is generally ignorant of these plans and favors the preservation of this building. At present the state of preservation of the library is excellent.

Aside from the architectural value of the building, there are several other prominent areas of significance. The library has been gifted over the years with various works of art, most which date from the period of the erection of the building. Two are especially noteworthy. They are "Victorian Survival" and "The Barter," both painted by Grant Wood. Hung on the wall of the second floor rotunda, "Victorian Survival" shares an ambience with the rich interior which, like the painting, represents one of the final gasps of Victorian culture.

The library also houses the private collection of Senator William B. Allison, a prominent Congressman of the late nineteenth century. This library contains a number of rare and invaluable books and is kept in a specially designed fireproof room. Coupled with the collection of 20,000 books formerly owned by the Young Men's Literary Association (the predecessor of the present Library), an invaluable collection of books is formed. Altogether, this is an example of the Carnegie Library par excellence. Its history reflects the tremendous popularity of the library building program of Carnegie. The initial gift of \$60,000.00 by Mr. Carnegie met an enthusiastic local response which manifested itself in the gift of a lot for the library worth \$20,000.00 by Mr. Stout and a gift of \$25,000.00 by the Young Men's Literary Club. Following a period of massive urban renewal in the 1960's, feeling again is running high for the preservation of local buildings of architectural merit. Given the proper impetus, a repetition of the early enthusiasm for the Library may again occur. The architects for the library were the firm of W. G. Williamson and John Spencer of Chicago.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Carnegie-Stout Free Public Library Annual Reports -- 1907-1924

The Sunday Herald - September 15, 1901

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A 15 69,145.0 4,707,990  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

UTM OK  
HL

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

David Arbogast

ORGANIZATION

Columbia University School of Architecture

DATE

May 13, 1974

STREET & NUMBER

185 South Grandview Avenue

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Dubuque

STATE

Iowa

## 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 D. Anderson

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 6/6/75

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

[Signature]

DATE 8-1-75

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

[Signature]

DATE 8-1-75

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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CONTINUATION SHEET	ITEM NUMBER	PAGE
Carnegie-Stout Public Library	Seven	Two

feet high placed between the pilasters. These pilasters are to be in the corinthian order with the decoration of the same order carried out in the cornices and ceiling. The screen wall will have Italian marble base, and oak panelled wainscoting above the base. The vestibule walls will be wainscoted with Italian marble to a height of five feet, and both vestibule and corridor will have marble floors.

At the south end of the main corridor and placed at the right angle to it is the rotunda, measuring 38 x 22 feet. In the ceiling of this rotunda there is a light well 13 feet in diameter, through which light is admitted from a dome in the roof over the upper story. At the east side of the rotunda is the main staircase leading to the basement and upper story. On the west side is placed the librarian's room, and a staircase communicating with a side entrance on Bluff Street and with the basement. At the southwest corner of the rotunda is the entrance to the cataloguer's room. The delivery desk is placed in a continuation of the rotunda on the south side of it. This desk is octagon in shape with a diameter of fifteen feet...  
...At the southeast corner of the rotunda is a reference room 23 x 14 feet with a students; room attached. These two rooms are only entered from the stack room.

Immediately behind the delivery desk is the large stack room 45 x 72 feet and 27 feet high, from floor to the underside of the trusses. This room is lighted by large windows on three sides and by a skylight 44 x 18 feet...The rotunda is ornamented by eight circular corinthian columns, with frieze and cornice above giving a similar but richer affect to that produced in the main corridor; the floor of the rotunda will be marble." ---

From a description by the architect.  
Dubuque Sunday Herald, September 15, 1901