

230

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

RECEIVED

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

FEB 15 1994

NATIONAL
REGISTER

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 Colfax Carnegie Library

other names/site number Colfax Public Library

2. Location

street & number 207 South Clark Street not for publication

city or town Colfax vicinity

state Indiana code IN county Clinton code 023 zip code 46035

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 nationally statewide locally. See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Patrick R. Keble 2-2-94
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Indiana Department of Natural Resources
State of 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:)

Signature of the Keeper *Edson H. Beall* Date of Action 3/17/94

Entered in the National Register

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	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	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)

Neo-Classical Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: limestone

walls BRICK

STONE: limestone

roof TERRA COTTA

other WOOD

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 Bibliographical 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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

EDUCATION

Period of Significance

1917-1943

Significant Dates

1917

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Gill and Gill

Graham, Donald and Hill, Norman

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

National Register file

Colfax Carnegie Library
Name of Property

Clinton County, IN
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre.

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

1	6
---	---

5	2	8	4	1	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	4	4	9	0	6	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Zone Easting Northing

3

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

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 Phyllis Myers, Director

organization Colfax Public Library date 9-10-93

street & number 51 Old Clark Street telephone 317-324-2915

city or town Colfax state IN zip code 46035

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 Town of Colfax and Perry Township, Clinton Co., IN

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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

RECEIVED

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

FEB 15 1994

NATIONAL
REGISTER

Section number 7 Page 1

The Colfax Carnegie Library was completed in 1917. It is a one story brick building which rests on a raised basement and is capped by a red terra-cotta tile hip roof. The site is level, and the building is well set back from the street. The yard has a variety of mature shade trees. Due to the skewed plat of Colfax, which is oriented to the former "Big Four" Railroad line, the main facade of the library faces southwest.

The foundation is marked by a raised limestone band which wraps around the building. Above this is a brick band, capped by a header course of brick, then a plain limestone water table, which is in turn capped by a soldier course of brick. All exterior brick, except for belt courses, is laid in Flemish bond.

The main elevation has three bays: the central entry flanked by windows. At the basement level, there are paired six light windows flanking either side of the stairs to the main entry. Stone piers flank the stone stairs which rise about four feet to the main level of the building. The focus of the main elevation is the main entry. The doorway has an architrave surround and is recessed within a limestone surround consisting of flanking fluted Roman Doric columns *in antis*, which support a full entablature. The architrave is molded, and the frieze is enriched with a band of small roundels which flank a paneled area bearing the inscription "PVBLC LIBRARY" in a Roman typeface. Above this is an egg-and-dart molding, then a full cornice. The steel and glass door and sidelight themselves are 1970 replacements of the wood and glass originals. Flanking the entry composition are paired eight-over-eight double hung wood windows with limestone sills. These windows have recent storm windows as do most of the library's windows. A soldier course runs at window lintel level across all elevations of the library.

A frieze of decorative brickwork and limestone squares completes the masonry walls. The frieze alternates between squares formed of six header bricks and the limestone squares which serve as metopes. This treatment is repeated on the side elevations. The deep eaves of the building have wood soffits with simplified modillions. Gutters are fascia mounted rather than boxed. The hip roof has a long ridge paralleling the main elevation.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 2

**Colfax Carnegie Library
Clinton County, IN**

The northwest elevation (photo 3) houses a projecting basement level side entry bay. Stairs lead down to the double wood doors which are set within a round arch of projecting soldier course brick with stone keystone. The tympanum is blind and has a stone roundel. The stone square and six header brick frieze of the main block is repeated on the parapet of this entry bay, the roof of which terminates several feet above main floor level. There is a single pane window in the southwest face of the entry projection, and in the main block, a single six light window positioned behind the entry projection. Centered above the entry are symmetrically placed six light window pairs. These windows, being near square, are half the height of the front windows but are placed so that the lintel level matches those of the front.

The other side elevation (southeast, photo 2) has two basement windows and paired windows above which align with those of the northwest elevation.

The rear of the building has three bays. To the left and center are paired six light basement windows. Centered over these openings are paired three-over-three (vertical pane) double hung windows. The far right bay has a single basement window, and similar paired window above. A basement level brick platform-like area extends from the rear at the far right. This was the coal room. It is capped by a concrete pad, and a square exterior chimney rises from it, through the eaves, and extends several feet above the roof. On the rear elevation, the frieze lacks the stone square tabs of the other elevations, and has instead the six header panels alternating with five stretcher bricks.

The interior of the library has a simple "one room" plan on the main level and several multi-purpose rooms in the basement. The main floor has three areas (even though no walls divide them); a central lobby/circulation area with two collection areas with stacks on either side. Visually, these areas are divided by a change in ceiling height, with the central area being slightly lower. Each area has a separate wood cornice. Walls are plaster, and wood opening surrounds are simply profiled. The floor has been

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 3

**Colfax Carnegie Library
Clinton County, IN**

carpeted. A semi-octagonal oak circulation desk is centered against the rear wall. Original oak bookcases and furnishings contribute to the integrity of the interior. Centered in the wall to the left of the circulation desk (as one faces the desk), a staircase enclosed by a wood balustrade descends to the basement level.

The stairs meet a landing at the previously described side entry. One turns ninety degrees and descends a short flight to the basement. At the landing level, a small bathroom is housed within the projecting side entry bay, through a door to the right (facing downstairs), while a door to the left leads to the furnace room. The basement level has a coal room, a small room housing items of historical interest, and a large children's room. Openings have simple cased boards, and a plain chair rail is found in most rooms. A small, low stage, in plan shaped as a segment of a circle, occupies the far wall of the children's room.

The Colfax Carnegie Library has good integrity on both the exterior and interior. The only visible alteration has been the replacement of the original front doors in 1970.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 4

**Colfax Carnegie Library
Clinton County, IN**

Colfax Carnegie Library is a fine example of an early 1900s small town facility which still serves the public. Colfax Library meets Criteria A and C. Under Criterion A, the building represents the culmination of movement to create a free public library in Colfax. It has served as the only free public library for the community since construction was completed in 1917. Architecturally, the Colfax Carnegie Library is a good example of 1900s Neo-Classicism, the only such example in the community. The building is a good example of the work of Indianapolis architects Graham and Hill as well.

Entrepreneur and philanthropist Andrew Carnegie was born in Dunfermling, Scotland in 1835. Having earned \$333 million dollars in the steel industry, Carnegie was determined to benefit others with his wealth. He established a program to fund the construction of libraries throughout the English-speaking nations in 1886. Carnegie believed his libraries should be free, public institutions for communities which expressed an interest by offering a building site and public funds to maintain the property. Indiana received more Carnegie libraries than any other state with a total of 164. Many are still in use as libraries, while others have been adaptively reused. Except for buildings already promised but not completed due to the cost of building materials during World War I, no libraries were funded after 1917.

Earlier buildings donated by Carnegie tended to imposing monuments, however, by 1908, he recognized this problem and requested that plans of proposed libraries be submitted for approval. This process was formalized in 1911 when James Bertram, Carnegie's personal assistant, issued "Notes on Library Buildings" (sic). Carnegie believed libraries should be plain and dignified, and this is reflected in Bertram's leaflet. "Notes" outlined basic requirements and included some suggested floor plans.

The Colfax Carnegie Library conforms closely with plans suggested in "Notes". The simple rectangular massing and Neo-Classical Revival detailing also clearly reflect Carnegie's wish that grant recipients not build "Greek temples" as libraries, rather, simple

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 5

**Colfax Carnegie Library
Clinton County, IN**

yet dignified structures were appropriate.

As an example of Neo-Classical Revival design, the Library is unique in Colfax. Colfax was founded in 1849 in conjunction with the laying of the "Big Four" railroad through this part of Indiana. The Vandalia Railroad arrived in 1870-1871. This small community thrived for a time as rail shipping point and has a small historic commercial area. Although no published survey report exists for this Clinton County community, a windshield survey, done by the Indiana Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology has located no other examples of early 20th century classical architecture. A brief literature search determined that the former Colfax high school was a brick Neo-Classical Revival building. Built in 1908, it was demolished in 1967.

Little is known of Gill and Gill, contractors for the project. Architects for the library were Graham and Hill of Indianapolis. Donald Graham and Norman Hill were both trained at the University of Illinois. Graham, born in Noblesville, graduated in 1907. Hill graduated in 1909. By 1914, Graham is listed in city directories as a practicing architect in Indianapolis; in 1916, the both Hill and Graham are listed as partners in Graham and Hill. By 1925, the firm had apparently dissolved, and both are listed as practicing separately in Indianapolis. Graham is credited with designing "scores" of Midwest theatres, including the Rivoli and Granada in Indianapolis, the Tivoli in Richmond, Indiana, and several theatres for the Balaban and Katz chain from Chicago. Graham also designed the Millersville Masonic Lodge and later, the Prentice Presbyterian Church on East 38th Street (both in Indianapolis). During World War II, Graham served as architect for the Marine Design Branch of the U.S. Army Transportation Corps' Engineering Division. In this capacity, he designed the Crane Naval Ammunition Depot in southern Indiana. Hill worked for the Federal government in Washington, D.C. during both World Wars. He planned several contemporary buildings in central Indiana, including Decatur Central High School, Sunny Heights School, School 12 in Warren Twp., Marion County, and the Bartholomew County Hospital.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 6Colfax Carnegie Library
Clinton County, IN

The Colfax Library is a good example of the early work of these architects. Certainly, a commission for a Carnegie library would have been a prestigious addition to a young designer's portfolio. In style and overall plan, the Colfax Library is most comparable to the Millersville Masonic Lodge (c. 1920), which features a brick rectangular mass with limestone Greek Doric colonnade *in antis*. Graham later used a streamlined classicism for the buildings at Crane, showing a debt to his earlier work.

Historically, the Colfax Library was culmination of the free library drive started by citizens of Colfax and Perry Township. Mr. Leslie Busenberg, superintendent of the Colfax Public School, provided leadership to the drive which began in 1913. Ira Conners succeeded Busenberg as superintendent and as the leader of the free library movement. In the spring of 1915, Mrs. G.H. Laughrey, president of the P.T.O., appointed a committee to organize a public petition and bring the issue before the town board. The town board agreed, passing an ordinance for tax support of the future library and requesting a donation from the Carnegie Foundation on April 15, 1915. The town board also donated the site of a former school, which had been demolished, to serve as the location of the new library. Carnegie's contribution of \$9,000 toward the construction costs of \$9,742 was promised September 29, 1915. The building was dedicated on April 20, 1917. Miss Maude Rosenberger was the first librarian; she served as such until January, 1955.

Although Bobinski's Carnegie Libraries indicates that Colfax had some form of public library prior to the Carnegie grant, it is unclear where this facility was or how many volumes it had. Most likely, the Colfax School had a library which the public was allowed to use. The Colfax Carnegie Library, however, remains the only public library building in the town. It is still very much a part of the community today.

Section 9-Bibliography

Bobinski, George S. Carnegie Libraries. Chicago: American Library

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9 & 10 Page 7

**Colfax Carnegie Library
Clinton County, IN**

Association, 1969.

"Building File," notes and documents on the Colfax Library, on file at the Colfax Library.

"Donald Graham Dies, Prominent Architect," Indianapolis Star, December 22, 1951, p. 17.

"Norman Hill Dies, Was Retired Architect," Indianapolis Star, July 29, 1974, p. 26.

Rosenberger, Maude. "The Colfax Library," unpublished manuscript, on file at Colfax Library.

Wells, Jack. "Architecture of Carnegie Libraries in Indiana," Muncie, IN: Ball State University, 1981.

Section 10-Geographic Data

Verbal Boundary Description

Lot #126, J.M. Clark's 3rd Addition to the town of Colfax, Perry Township, Clinton County, Indiana.

Boundary Justification

This is the historic property boundary.