

United States Department of Interior
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

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 Cumberland Public Library

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 1305 Second Avenue N/A not for publication

city or town Cumberland N/A vicinity

state Wisconsin code WI county Barron code 005 zip code 54829

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title
State Historic Preservation Officer-WI

5/6/92
Date

State or 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 of Federal agency and bureau

Cumberland Public Library
Name of Property

Barron County, Wisconsin
County and State

entered in the
National Register

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.
 See continuation sheet.
 removed from the National
 Register.
 other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Belva Byers

Date of Action

6/25/92

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (check as many boxes as apply)

- private
 public-local
 public-state
 public-federal
- building(s)
 district
 site
 structure
 object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include listed resources within the count)

Contributing		Noncontributing	
1			
1		0	
			Total

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

Public Library Development in WI

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/Library

EDUCATION/Library

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)
Classical Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

Classical Revival

foundation concrete
walls brick
sandstone
roof slate
other wood
granite

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Cumberland Public Library
Cumberland, Barron County
Wisconsin

Section 7 Page 1

The Cumberland Public Library sits on a grassy lot in the heart of the downtown Cumberland commercial district. The Classical Revival library, built in 1905-1906, is one of 64 Carnegie Libraries constructed in the State of Wisconsin. The one story, rectangular building stands on a concrete foundation and has a raised basement story of rough-faced, coursed Apostle Islands brownstone. The basement story is capped with a course of smooth-faced brownstone. The upper story is of orange brick.

The library is 3 bays wide, having a central entrance bay which is flanked by tripartite groupings of windows. The center bay consists of a classically designed portico surmounted by a denticulated, triangular pediment. The raised floor of the portico is reached by ascending a centered flight of brownstone steps, boarded by massive brownstone balustrades. The portico roof is upheld by four granite orders with brownstone ionic capitals. Each column is doubled by a pilaster affixed to the main building. The entrance door has a classical surround and is also surmounted by a triangular pediment, which in turn is surmounted by a four light stained glass transom. The entry is flanked by narrow, 1/1 fixed frame windows.

The side bays each consist of three windows: a center 1-over-1 double hung sash, flanked by narrower 1-over-1 double hung sash windows. Each has a stained glass transom window above. The windows sit on a continuous brownstone sill, and are also capped by a continuous course of brownstone.

The roof is hipped and covered with the original slate shingles.

The side elevations (north and south) of the library are each four bays wide, having 1 over 1, double hung sash windows with a transom above. The continuous sill and lintel course from the main elevation continue on these elevations. There is a protruding chimney centrally located on each side wall which breaks the eave and rises several feet above the roofline. Each chimney has decorative, stepped recessed panels.

The rear (west) elevation is the least decorative. There are 6 windows, asymmetrically placed along the facade and located higher up on the wall than windows on the other facades. These are 4-light fixed frame windows and are smaller than the windows on the other three facades. These windows have individual brownstone sills and lintels. The continuous sill from the front and side elevations does continue on the rear of the building, however on this elevation it is simply a decorative brick course rather than a brownstone sill. There is a door at the south end of the facade. It is capped with a transom window, with a brownstone lintel. Next to the door, between it and the southwest corner of the building is another 1 over 1 fixed frame window with a stone lintel.

There have been very few changes or alterations to the Cumberland Public Library. The most significant was the removal of the large, double wooden doors from the front entrance and their replacement with a single modern aluminum storm door flanked by shutters. Additionally, storm windows have been added to the exterior windows.

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Cumberland Public Library
Cumberland, Barron County
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Section 7 Page 2

The interior of the library also has seen little change. The upper level consists essentially of one large room: the Adult Reading Room. The single front door opens into an enclosed foyer with four steps that lead to a set of double doors that enter directly into the reading room. There is a public staircase to the lower level just left of the entrance foyer. A massive, wooden, octagonal circulation desk is located in front of and just to the left of the main entry, and there are two wooden ionic columns symmetrically located in the room. In addition there is a green tile fireplace centrally placed on the north wall of the room. It is flanked by two small, wooden, ionic orders which support a serpentine mantle. All of these interior features are original to the library. In the southwest corner is a small office, next to which is a rear stairwell leading to the lower level. On the lower level is located the Childrens' Reading Room, a furnace room, a storage area, and restrooms. The reading room takes up the north, two-thirds of the room, with the other facilities located to the left of the public staircase. The lower level was converted to the Childrens' Reading Room in 1975, but no major structural changes were made to do so. Carpeting was added, a fireproof wall was built around the furnace, and an exit door was changed so that it would open out, rather than in.

Relationship to property type

A) Integrity: The Cumberland Public Library has been in continual use as a library since its construction in 1905-6, and it has remained largely unchanged. The exterior has seen no alterations to the original and the interior has had only minor changes. On the inside, carpeting was installed on both the first floor and in the basement in the 1960, and the basement was converted from a public meeting room to a childrens' reading room in 1975-6. The changes do not, however, detract from the Library's overall integrity.

B) Plan: The Library's plan is a simple rectangle, typical of public libraries in small towns. The building is entered through a vestibule that projects into the main reading room. This room is open, with a main desk near the door and a small enclosed office in one corner.

C) Massing and Elevation: The library has the typical rectangular, symmetrically-composed front facade, with the characteristic, centrally located, prominent entrance pavilion and large expanse of windows. Also typical is its strong classically inspired design.

D) Materials: Building materials are typical to the type: brick and stone.

E) Siting: Built in the first years of the 20th century, the Cumberland Public Library is located in the heart of the downtown commercial area, which was the typical location for most 19th century libraries.

F) Style: Exhibits the features of the Classical Revival Style.

Cumberland Public Library
Name of Property

Barron County, Wisconsin
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the
criteria qualifying the property for the
National Register listing.)

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from
instructions)

- Architecture
- Education
- Social History
- _____
- _____

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.

Period of Significance

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.

1905-1942

Significant Dates

D Property has yielded, or is likely to
yield, information important in
prehistory or history.

N/A

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is
marked above)

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

N/A

A owned by a religious institution or
used for religious purposes.

Cultural Affiliation

B removed from its original location.

N/A

C a birthplace or grave.

D a cemetery.

Architect/Builder

E a reconstructed building, object, or
structure.

Patsche, C.H.

F a commemorative property.

G less than 50 years of age 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 Bibliographic References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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Cumberland Public Library
Cumberland, Barron County
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Section 8 Page 1

Introduction:

The Cumberland Public Library is locally significant in the context of Public Library Development of Wisconsin under criteria A in the areas of Education and Social History. It is also significant under criteria C as an excellent example of a highly visible, public building in the Classical Revival Style. The library was designed by Minnesota architect C.H. Patsche, and has served the educational and social needs of the community for many decades. The period of significance (1905-1942) spans the time from the first construction on the site to fifty years prior to the current date.

Historical Background:

On February 10, 1898, the town board and common council of Cumberland met with F.A. Hutchins, the Secretary of the Wisconsin Library Commission, to learn how to establish and organize a community library. It was decided that the city council would appropriate a sum of money annually (around \$50-75 in the early years of the library), and in April of that year, the city council rooms were opened on Saturdays as a public library and reading room. A 'book social' was held where the fee for admission was either one book or twenty-five cents. The proceeds from this social, along with the original fifty dollars from the city council, provided the nucleus for the Cumberland Public Library.

Apparently the library was quite popular and it continued to grow, in collections and membership (in addition to the citizens of Cumberland, people from the township were also allowed to check books out from the library). By 1904, the library was moved to the local school (now the Masonic Lodge), but it was clear that even this move would not suffice for long. In late 1904, correspondence was begun with Andrew Carnegie to request funds for a new public library building. By January, 1905, a commitment of \$10,000.00 was received from the library benefactor, in return for a commitment from the City of Cumberland to provide a suitable site and appropriate at least \$1,000.00 annually.

By May of 1905, the architect had been chosen. C. H. Patsche, a Minnesota architect was chosen, and the design for the building was to be identical to the Carnegie library he had designed in Fairmont, Minnesota (no longer extant). The cornerstone was laid amid much fanfare in mid-September of that year, and finally, on March 17, 1906, the library was first opened to the public, "to remain open all day and every day thereafter--Sunday excepted."

Education

The community of Cumberland has actively encouraged the education influence of a library since 1898, when it founded its first library board and established a free, circulating library for the citizens of the town and surrounding area. These educational aspirations were culminated in 1906 with the construction and dedication of a new library building.

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Cumberland, Barron County
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Section 8 Page 2

The library has been instrumental in providing facilities for the education and acculturation of all citizens. Together with the public schools, it was a primary educational facility in the city of Cumberland. During the period of significance (1905-1942), the library was host to many educational programs, meetings and lectures, which utilized the basement meeting room, including: The 20th Century Study Club; Free Agricultural Short Courses; Farmers Two-day School, taught by faculty from the UW; Sewing demonstrations for women, given by representatives of the UW Extension; Workers' Education Classes. The library has continued to be an educational center for 86 years, expanding both its adult and childrens' collections.

The Cumberland Public Library is of educational significance to the community of Cumberland because it provides an educational focal point. According to the Multiple Property Form "Public Library Facilities of Wisconsin," the town library provides an important civic service to the community, in part through its availability as a tool for education. The Cumberland Public Library serves as this educational tool, being the only public library in Cumberland, and serving the surrounding rural area. Since the library was constructed, it has been an educational, social and architectural centerpiece of the village.

Social History

The Library, since its opening in 1906, has also served as the social center of Cumberland. Through the years, almost every social and political group or association in the town has used the public library as a meeting place. Many of these groups have helped shape the history and culture of Cumberland. Among the many that used the library are the following: Woman Suffrage Groups; League of Women Voters; the Library Board; High School Alumni groups; Let'er Gos Club (a civic club); Old Timers Group of early settlers; Civic Improvement Society; Cumberland Associated Charities and Committee on the Poor; the local Red Cross; Barron County Businessmen's Association; Boy Scouts; YMCA War Funds Group; and many more. The Multiple Property Form "Public Library Facilities in Wisconsin" points out that libraries can become a tool for cultural development, serving the broadest cross-section of constituents. By playing host to these many different organizations, the Cumberland Public Library did serve as the cultural center and social focal point of Cumberland.

Architecture

The Cumberland Public Library is architecturally significant as fine example of the Classical Revival Style. According to the Multiple Property form "Public Library Facilities in Wisconsin," during the boom era (1895-1920) of public library construction, almost all were designed to be showcases. The Chicago Columbian Exposition of 1893 popularized the Classical styles as the 'correct' style for civic buildings. These were felt to symbolize democracy, civic self-esteem, and community stability.

The Cumberland Public Library was constructed as a highly visible example of

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conscious, civic activity. With its recessed entry pavilion, ionic orders and pediment, the library is a fine example of the Classical Revival Style that stands out as a prominent building in Cumberland. The library meets the registration requirements of the multiple property form "Public Library Development in Wisconsin".

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Major Bibliographic References

The Cumberland Advocate. 1908-1942.

Gordon, Newton, S., ed. History of Barron County, Wisconsin Minneapolis: H.C. Cooper, Jr. & Co., 1922.

Robinson, Katherine. "The Cumberland Library." Cumberland Centennial Book 1974: 58-62.

Webster, Gladys. "Cumberland's Carnegie Library." Megaphone (newsletter) Nov., 1989.

Cumberland Public Library
Name of Property

Barron County, Wisconsin
County and State

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:
 State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State Agency
 Federal Agency
 Local government
 University
 Other
Name of repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Less than 1

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>1/5</u>	<u>5/7/6/3/9/0</u>	<u>5/0/4/2/5/3/0</u>	3	<u>/</u>	<u>/ / / / /</u>	<u>/ / / / /</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>/</u>	<u>/ / / / /</u>	<u>/ / / / /</u>	4	<u>/</u>	<u>/ / / / /</u>	<u>/ / / / /</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		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 Tricia Canaday
organization State Historical Society-Wisconsin date 2-18-92
street & number 816 State Street telephone (608) 264-6500
city or town Madison state WI zip code 53706

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)

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Verbal Boundary Description:

Original Plat, Lot 10, Block F, and Lot A and B (corner)

Boundary Justification:

The boundaries include all the property historically associated with the Cumberland Public Library.

Cumberland Public Library
Name of Property

Barron County, Wisconsin
County and State

Property Owner

Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name _____
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.