

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

256

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: Lincoln Branch Peoria Public Library
Other names/site number: N/A
Name of related multiple property listing: Illinois Carnegie Libraries

2. Location

Street & number: 1312 W. Lincoln Ave.
City or town: Peoria State: IL County: Peoria
Not For Publication: Vicinity: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 X local
Applicable National Register Criteria:

 X A B C D

<u><i>Paul</i></u> DSHPO	<u>03/20/2014</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
<u>Illinois Historic Preservation Agency</u>	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property <u> </u> meets <u> </u> does not meet the National Register criteria.	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

Lincoln Branch Peoria Public Library
Name of Property

Peoria, IL
County and State

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:)

By Barbara Wyatt
Signature of the Keeper

5-28-14
Date of Action

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

Lincoln Branch Peoria Public Library
Name of Property

Peoria, IL
County and State

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>1</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

Lincoln Branch Peoria Public Library
Name of Property

Peoria, IL
County and State

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Classical Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: concrete, brick, limestone, glass, wood

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes 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.)

Summary Paragraph

The Lincoln Branch Peoria Public Library is located at 1312 W. Lincoln Avenue in the historic South Side of Peoria, Illinois. It was constructed with Carnegie grant monies in 1910 and is a compact 61' x 50' Classical Revival building made of Bedford limestone and Roman pressed brick. Its neoclassical architectural features include a highly symmetrical design and detailing, Ionic columns, a full-height entry porch with triangular front façade pediment, a gabled roof with a roof-line balustrade, garland-carved stone over-window adornments, and corner quoins reflecting decorative rusticated masonry design. Its prominent volume and central location in Lincoln Park, a large city park encompassing an entire city block, are all reminiscent of the finely-detailed pavilion designs of the European Renaissance (see Figure 1). A contemporary state-of-the-art 12,000 square foot addition, incorporating architectural themes from the original building, connects to the south façade of the Carnegie library via a transparent glass link. The addition does not detract from the architectural integrity of the historic building.

Lincoln Branch Peoria Public Library
Name of Property

Peoria, IL
County and State

The Lincoln Branch Peoria Public Library is Classical Revival style, designed by the architectural firm Hotchkiss & Harris and built by John J. McDonald of McDonald & Brady Contracting Co. It is constructed of Bedford limestone and pale Roman pressed brick, with highly symmetrical façades and decorative corner quoin masonry detailing. A full-height front entry porch with a classical pediment is flanked by Ionic columns, with signature Carnegie steps leading upwards to symbolize the library patron's elevation attained through learning. So, too, the placement of entrance lampposts to represent enlightenment achieved through reading. The hallmark of a Carnegie library—open space—with the entire library visible from the circulation desk, was adhered to inside the Lincoln Branch, as seen in the original blueprint (see Figure 5).

The library has been altered relatively little inside over the years, conversion of an office into additional shelving and reading room space in 1927, followed by the more recent transformation of public restrooms on the main floor into a small meeting area. Post-2010 construction, the historic space of Lincoln Branch is still accentuated by its original elements, such as beautiful woodwork, columns, book built-ins, high ceilings, and a fireplace; its function has now translated into a generous-feeling reading room and a small meeting space, with the circulation desk giving way to a row of cases which display archival materials on the library's past. On the exterior, a Peoria Star article on February 10, 1929, documented "alteration of the pair of large windows on the north side of the building which were lengthened to the floor." These windows had initially been high and uniform in size to those on the east and west sides of the building (see Figure 6).

A state-of-the-art addition has been constructed at the south end of the historic Lincoln Branch Peoria Public Library with referendum-approved tax dollars to carry Mr. Carnegie's legacy into the 21st century. Concurrent with the building of the new addition has been a comprehensive restoration of the original Carnegie library in Lincoln Park so that it, too, will shine in the decades to come. As this remarkable library has served the South Side neighborhood's patrons in the past, it will continue to do so in the future and thus "demonstrate fully the ongoing impact of Andrew Carnegie's remarkable insight that he could most usefully transform and uplift American culture by seeding the nation with places for books," (from the closing paragraph of the National Register of Historic Places nomination form for Ayer Public Library in Delavan, Illinois, another striking Illinois Carnegie library).

Site

The site for the original historic Carnegie library is one full city block, which serves as a public-use South Side community park. Only the footprint of the library building and its modest parking lot is owned by the Peoria Public Library; the remainder of the property is owned and maintained by the City of Peoria. The modest parking lot includes only ten (10) spaces, two of which are handicap-accessible. These spaces are arranged in a radial layout that coordinates with a radial sidewalk that encircles the northern, eastern, and western façades of the existing Carnegie library. This sidewalk and the well-groomed grassy areas between it and the original

Lincoln Branch Peoria Public Library

Peoria, IL

Name of Property

County and State

building form a strong, symmetrical ground plinth from which the historic architecture of the original building can be fully observed and experienced by passersby.

The entire remainder of the site is a well-groomed grassy park with numerous mature trees and shrubs located throughout (in a random pattern). The entire perimeter edge of this full city block includes sidewalk, grassy right-of-way, and additional parallel-style vehicular parking; all in strict accordance with the Classical American urban grid-style paradigm.

Site lighting is provided in three (3) different ways:

- Existing pole-mounted lights that are randomly dispersed through the existing park
- Existing pole-mounted lights that are installed in a radial pattern at the parking lot
- Existing ground-mounted lights that wash the exterior walls of the historic Carnegie library

Existing North Front Entry Façade

The north front entry façade strongly establishes the neoclassical, symmetrical architecture and detailing that is consistently carried throughout the entire original Carnegie-funded Lincoln Branch Peoria Public Library building. The entryway is defined and highlighted by a shallow porch supported on either side by twin Ionic smooth-faced limestone columns. Behind each of these four columns is a square-edged limestone pilaster attached directly to the building exterior wall. These columns and pilasters sit on a raised entry platform, three steps above grade level. They support an all-limestone pedimented roof structure that includes a decorative insignia inside its gable end (the latter incorporating an open book flanked by cornucopia-style baskets overflowing with alimentation, in a classic homage to the importance, richness, and value of learning and education). Below this insignia, carved into the stone entablature can be found the words, "LINCOLN BRANCH PEORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY." Continuous limestone dentils can be found at the top of this entablature, as well as in either sloped section of the pediment.

Inside this entry porch ensemble are the solid, heavy wood entry doors to the library, with a large glass window above that provides natural light into the mostly travertine marble vestibule. This

window includes a classic limestone keystone motif at its lintel (a detail repeated at all but the rear façade windows), while the entry doorway includes a "porch-within-a-porch" that is trimmed with further limestone embellishments and details. The quoin motif (incorporating both limestone and Roman pressed brick) is found to either side of this entry doorway and window above. Forward of each of the pairs of Ionic columns is located a globe light set on a fluted cast-iron column, all set on substantial limestone bases that frame the entry steps.

To either side of the entry porch ensemble can be found identical façades composed primarily of limestone and Roman pressed brick. Each of these side elements represents slightly less than one-third of the entire northern building façade (in surface area), with the center porch section

Lincoln Branch Peoria Public Library
Name of Property

Peoria, IL
County and State

taking slightly more than one-third of the total (all in keeping with a strict, neoclassical and well-ordered architectural vocabulary).

Each side façade includes a singular large window assembly that brings generous amounts of natural light into the main reading and stack room of the library behind. That singular window assembly includes operable double-hung sections below, as well as two horizontal layers of fixed glass above. All are divided horizontally into three sections, in the style of the “Chicago window” made popular by the early Modernist architects of that city at the time the Lincoln Branch Peoria Public Library was built. These Chicago windows include a large unobstructed center section flanked by two smaller side sections. The latter are separated from the center section by simple, wood Doric pilaster columns. This large window assembly also includes a limestone keystone in its lintel construction, together with limestone rope detailing, and quoin-style limestone at its jambs.

Below this singular main-floor window assembly can be found a small simple window providing limited natural light into the crawl space or basement below. These small windows are set deep inside the heavy limestone base that is found at all four façades (and includes horizontal banding throughout), creating a heavy shadow line.

These two symmetrical side façades are completed by square-edged limestone building corners (with quoin trims), limestone entablatures with dentils, and a solid limestone and Roman pressed brick roof parapet wall that is punctured symmetrically by a single opening in-filled with decorative stone spindles.

Finally, the lower west corner of the north façade includes a limestone cornerstone. Carved into this stone are the names of the library building committee, with wording as follows, “DONATED By Andrew Carnegie Building Committee Henry M. Pindell, John E. Keene, A. G. Tyng 1910.”

Existing West Side Façade

The west side façade continues the use of all the elements of the architectural vocabulary found at the north front entry façade, minus the entry porch. Three large window ensembles can be found at this façade, identical to those at the north façade, with one significant exception: the windows are placed “high” in their openings, with only two sections vertically rather than three. The bottom portion of each of the three openings is in-filled with limestone panels with only a modest amount of relief. In fact, this arrangement, including the in-fill, is original to the building and was also included in the two window openings on the north façade as well. It allowed for much greater functionality at the building’s interior, with built-in bookcases at the entire perimeter of the library.

Apart from this difference in window design, all major elements of the north front entry façade can be found at this west side façade, including the double-hung “Chicago windows” with wood Doric pilaster separations, the limestone keystones and limestone rope trim at each of the three window lintels, the limestone quoin trim at all window opening jambs, the square-edged

Lincoln Branch Peoria Public Library
Name of Property

Peoria, IL
County and State

limestone building corners (with quoin trims), the limestone entablature with dentils, and the solid limestone and Roman pressed brick roof parapet wall that is symmetrically punctuated by three openings, each in-filled with decorative limestone spindles.

Likewise, below each of the three main-floor window assemblies can be found small simple windows providing limited natural light into the basement below. At the center section, there is a pair of basement windows. At either side section there are only single windows. These small openings are set deep inside the heavy limestone base that is found at all four façades (and includes horizontal banding throughout), creating a heavy shadow line.

Existing East Side Façade

In keeping with the powerful symmetry that is a prime hallmark of neoclassical architecture (especially with a finely-detailed European Renaissance pavilion as is recalled by the Lincoln Branch design), the east side façade is an identical mirror-image of the west side façade. All materials and elements are the same, including the extensive limestone work, the Roman pressed brick, and the wood window ensembles.

Existing South Façade

The south façade of the existing Lincoln Branch Peoria Public Library strays a very small amount from the strong, consistent geometry and architectural features of the other three façades. Additionally, as the rear (and least prominent) face of the building, it does convey a slightly more utilitarian or frugal image than the other three more public faces. It does, however, maintain the powerful symmetry established elsewhere, and it also replicates the “perimeter” or “edge” features found in those other three façades.

Like the north façade, the south elevation was originally divided into three relatively equal bays, but without the relief and definition of those bays provided by the entry porch of the north façade. The middle bay included three symmetrically-placed window assemblies serving the main floor level, with the center assembly being slightly wider than the two equal side assemblies. Each assembly had a large double-hung window below and two much smaller fixed windows above. In contrast to the more ornate window openings on the other three façades, these double-hung and fixed window units were separated by simple limestone lintel/sills, devoid of any decorative relief or carvings. This triple-window symmetry was repeated at the basement level below, with three single, fixed units, each aligning with those above. This entire middle section of the south façade was removed to accommodate the stone and glass link to the new addition.

To either side of this central portion of the south façade (now the link) can be found a large double-hung window unit (outward bound relative to the building elevation), as well as a half-size double-hung window (inward bound relative to the building elevation). In another contrast to the other three façades, these double-hung windows only have single fixed “transom” windows above, rather than the double fixed units found consistently at all other façade locations (one of these fixed units was replaced with a mechanical louver as part of a 1993 renovation

Lincoln Branch Peoria Public Library
Name of Property

Peoria, IL
County and State

project). Below each of the larger double-hung windows, at basement level, can be found single fixed window units.

At the “perimeter edges” of this south or rear façade, all of the architectural elements of the other three façades have been repeated, including the square-edged limestone building corners (with quoin trims), the limestone entablature with dentils, the solid limestone and Roman pressed brick roof parapet wall that is symmetrically punctuated by three openings, each in-filled with decorative limestone spindles, and the heavy limestone base that includes substantial horizontal banding, creating a heavy shadow line.

The only other feature of note on this south façade was the exterior grade-level entry door, added as part of the 1993 renovation project (to provide accessibility for the differently-abled). It included a fixed window unit immediately above, as well as limestone lintel/sills, both as historical nods to the strong architrave style of design found in this south façade. This existing doorway has been eliminated as part of the 2010 building expansion.

Interior

The interior of the Lincoln Carnegie Library encompasses one significant spatial element and two secondary spatial elements. The significant element is the main floor library space that was designed and detailed as a single and dramatic public venue, and which has not changed substantively in either its overall architectural character or architectural detailing since it was first completed over 100 years ago. The secondary elements are (1) the “Mansard style” concealed attic space that was designed to be largely unoccupied, but which was at one point in its history converted to a storage area (that was later abandoned); and (2) a partial basement and partial crawl space that have always served a utility and mechanical/electrical function since first constructed. The main floor library space includes the following:

- A large and singular reading room that represents approximately 80% of the footprint of the building. This reading room includes the original wood Doric columns each paired with back-up square wood columns or pilasters, which architecturally coordinate with the exterior limestone Ionic columns with square limestone back-up pilasters. This room also includes the original extensive wood trims and embellishments at the windows, doors, floors, and ceilings. When the windows themselves were replaced as part of the recently-completed library expansion, much of the original interior wood window trims were reutilized.
- A small meeting and collaboration room in the southwest corner of the main library space, which fully coordinates with the historical detailing of the main library space. Because the footprint of this room corresponds to that of the original toilet room area, the north wall of this room is able to fully accommodate the library’s original fireplace installation (with its historic wood, stone, and ceramic embellishments).
- The original entry vestibule that includes both marble flooring and steps, and marble wainscoting all around. The original public entry doors for this vestibule were solid and

Lincoln Branch Peoria Public Library
Name of Property

Peoria, IL
County and State

opaque wood. These were replaced at several points in the library's history with various metal-styled glass doors, but ultimately solid and opaque wood doors were reinstalled to the design and detailing of the original doors.

Integrity Statement

The integrity of the Lincoln Carnegie Library has been maintained throughout its 103-year history in the South Side of Peoria, Illinois. All of the limestone and brick masonry work and related classical detailing have remained as-is. The main front entry doorway has experienced several iterations, from original solid wood with raised reliefs to steel-and-glass, then aluminum-and-glass, and now restored to its original solid wood design and detailing (all within the same original limestone-framed opening). The north façade windows were lowered close to the main floor level in 1928, while maintaining all of the classical symmetry and detailing of the original design. Later, aluminum storm windows and insect screens were added to all of the building windows. And, finally, as part of the 2010 renovation and expansion of the library, all of these windows were replaced with new wood windows, matching the original units in every aspect of architectural detailing and design. At the rear (south face) of the Carnegie pavilion, a handicap accessible single doorway was added in 1992. As part of the 2010 renovation and expansion of the library, this doorway was returned to its original limestone and brick masonry, and a slender mostly glass linkage to the new addition was symmetrically located in the center of that same rear (south) façade.

2010 Library Building Addition

The Peoria Public Library undertook renovation/expansion efforts starting in July 2010 that included restoration of the exterior of Lincoln Branch. A modest portion of the rear (south) façade of the Carnegie-funded library (at the existing center bay) was disturbed to create a delicate, narrow, pedestrian glass and limestone link between the original structure and the new addition. All stone and brick removed to accommodate this link was either reused in the project or carefully preserved and stored for archival purposes (in accordance with Section 16-62, Item 9a of the City of Peoria Historic Preservation Ordinance).

The addition's north façade is covered with a single type of non-flowering perennial plant material to create a clear, distinct, and highly visible separation between the old and the new. This textured green backdrop allows it to serve as a "frame" for the Carnegie library, enhancing the visual experience of the original building for all who approach it from its "historic front door" on Lincoln Avenue. Overall design, as encouraged in Section 16-64, Item 9 of the City of Peoria Historic Preservation Ordinance for improvements to locally landmarked structures, is light, airy, and contemporary rather than a deliberate attempt to "mimic" the original. Interpretation has focused on sympathetic incorporation of significant themes from the Carnegie, such as the horizontal limestone banding, as well as the use of compatible materials, to suggest a unique marriage of modern and historic and yet not detract from the integrity of the 1910 library.

Lincoln Branch Peoria Public Library
Name of Property

Peoria, IL
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 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.)

- 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Lincoln Branch Peoria Public Library
Name of Property

Peoria, IL
County and State

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Education

Period of Significance

1910-1963

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Hotchkiss & Harris

Lincoln Branch Peoria Public Library
Name of Property

Peoria, IL
County and State

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.)

The Lincoln Branch Peoria Public Library is being nominated under Criterion A for its local significance in the area of education. It meets the eligibility requirements of the 1993 Multiple Property Documentation Form, *Illinois Carnegie Libraries* with the Associated Historic Context “Carnegie Libraries in Illinois 1900–1918” (see Section E, Statement of Historic Context, and Section F, Associated Property Types). Its period of significance is from 1910, its date of construction, until 1963, the current fifty-year cutoff for National Register significance. During this span of time the Lincoln Branch Peoria Public Library functioned without interruption as a public library. It was built in 1910 with grant monies received from renowned industrialist and philanthropist Andrew Carnegie as part of his public library building program, which existed from 1886 to 1918. Historians have long noted the contributions of Mr. Carnegie to the American library movement and, by implication, to education. His generosity produced similar noteworthy buildings throughout Illinois, and throughout the United States.

Developmental History

The story of the Carnegie library in Peoria, Illinois, is, at its most fundamental, an iconic early American story—one of growth, change, and vision: growth of a city, change in a library system as it evolved to meet the community’s expansion, and the vision of a true philanthropist, Andrew Carnegie, and his belief in the value of education and access to learning for all.

From its beginnings as a mere French/Indian settlement in the late 1600s to its incorporation as a city in 1845, growth in Peoria was slow despite its advantageous position on the Illinois River. When incorporated, its population numbered less than 2,000. Two significant catalysts in a span of less than a decade were to alter that permanently, however, and pave the way for an explosion of energy and opportunity for the city.

In 1847, a canal from Lake Michigan to the headwaters of the Illinois River was constructed, creating more convenient access to markets, opening up considerable trade with Chicago, and contributing to a rapid increase in river business in general. By 1850, there were no less than sixty steamboats engaged in Peoria, and communication and trade by all means were possible with all points on the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers and their tributaries.

1854 saw the arrival of rail communication when a line was constructed to connect Peoria with the Chicago and Rock Island railroad. The implications of this phenomenon cannot be underestimated, for the city became well connected with the whole railroad system in Illinois. The impact this was to have on Peoria’s wealth and population was considerable. It was to set the stage of the wildly prosperous era of the Whiskey Trust and all that came with it.

Statistics from the Thirteenth Census of the United States 1910, Population, Volume 1, substantiate this colorful and poetic historic prose with real numbers. They indicate that Peoria

Lincoln Branch Peoria Public Library
Name of Property

Peoria, IL
County and State

in 1850 had 5,095 residents. By 1860, post-canal and post-railroad, those numbers had increased to 14,045. Figures for 1880 showed another phenomenal leap to 29,259, and by 1900, Peoria had a population of 56,100. The increase between 1890 and 1900 alone represented a 36.7% jump, with another of 19.3% from 1900 to 1910.

Expansion had to go somewhere, and it logically spread south and southwest from the Central Business District, Peoria's downtown business and retail district, along the natural topographical boundary of the Illinois River into the fan-shaped valley of the South Side. It was here that early distilleries, breweries, and cattle pens spread, along with grain elevators, mills, and warehouses finally independent from flood-prone waterfront locations. What is now the Burlington Northern Railroad wound in from the west over new steel bridges across Kickapoo Creek to establish the southern and western borders of the South Side, which first actually appeared as a legitimate entry in the 1890 Compendium of the Eleventh Census, Part I Population. Table 3, page 124, lists Aggregate Population by Minor Civil Divisions, and under Peoria city with a population of 41,024, was South Peoria village, noted as having 1,638 residents (see Figure 2).

By the end of the nineteenth century, the South Side had become a distinct entity, a city within a city, complete with an accompanying religious, educational, and public works infrastructure. It was a strong, stable, hard-working, prosperous, and diverse region made up of significant numbers of immigrants (Irish and German) with schools (Garfield and Harrison Grade Schools, Roosevelt Junior High School, and Manual Training High School, the first high school in Peoria built outside the downtown area) and churches (St. Patrick's, St. Joseph's, St. Boniface, and St. John's, four of Peoria's strongest Catholic parishes). It supported its own bank and was well represented commercially. It boasted architecturally robust, artistic, and established residential neighborhoods. The impact of this area on the political, cultural, and economic life of Peoria was being felt, and it was substantial.

Little wonder, then, that the first public display of interest in the founding of a South Side branch library is recorded in newspapers as early as March 1890 (Peoriana, Peoria Public Library). One Alderman Finley offered a resolution to the City Council requesting "the Public Library Association (pre-Peoria Public Library) report to the City Council whether there was any feasible plan whereby a branch could be established on the south side of the city." The resolution was adopted, yet it was not until March 1903 that a branch library was established in rooms on Washington Street, underwritten by Aaron Samuel Oakford, in a building commonly known then as Neighborhood House. These quarters housed 500 books.

By summer of 1909, almost twenty years later, clearly this was no longer even close to adequate to meet the needs of the ever-growing South Side. An article in the Peoria Journal, July 15, 1909, reflects that "a petition with 1,250 names attached was presented to the Board of Directors of Peoria Public Library yesterday at their annual meeting; praying that a branch library be established in the new Manual Training High School on Lincoln Avenue. There are many reasons in favor of this: it is a long distance to travel to the general library for residents in the south part of the city and thousands who do not enjoy the benefits in consequence would be enrolled in the vast and steadily augmenting army of patrons."

Lincoln Branch Peoria Public Library
Name of Property

Peoria, IL
County and State

August 11, 1909 Peoria Public Library minutes prove that the citizens' petition resonated with the Library Board: "The Book Committee, accompanied by Mr. Willcox, the Librarian, have visited the building in question and given careful attention to every feature bearing upon the interests of the Library, as to the room proposed in which it is to be located, the surroundings as to patronage, convenience, usefulness and are of the opinion that we ought to heed the request of the many petitioners from that locality in the establishment of a branch library there."

"The School Board will furnish the light, fuel, and janitor services, without charge, on condition that the Library Board establish and maintain a suitable branch library in the room in question, furnish the books, fixtures, tables, chairs, and necessary equipment, including the library attendant or attendants, for such hours of service as the Library Board may decide upon."

"Wherein to establish a branch library in conformity with a petition signed by a large number of the citizens of the lower end of the city. The Book Committee, therefore, recommends that the Library Board accept the proposition on the part of the School Board and that immediate steps be taken to bring about the establishment of a branch library at the place named, and to that end further recommend that the whole matter of establishing and equipping said branch library be referred to the Executive Committee and Book Committee of the Board and the Librarian, E.S. Willcox, with power to act."

And act the Library Board did, with no waste of time, for by October 9, 1909 the branch was open to the public, one room in the northeast corner on the first floor, starting with 2,500 volumes, 26 popular periodicals, books of reference, and daily papers of the city, gifts from their publishers. In less than eight months, 24,960 volumes were in circulation (or "home issue" as it was referred to at that time).

However, at the same Board meeting when it was decided to open the Manual Training High School branch room (August 11, 1909), John E. Keene of the Book Committee moved that "it is the consensus of opinion of this Board that Mr. Pindell (H. M.) go ahead in carrying out his plan of obtaining a Carnegie library in the lower part of the city, which was adopted."

By year's end, an article appeared in the Peoria Journal (December 19, 1909) indicating the "Library Board sees the need to expand services as the city is growing; the need of a branch library in the South Side has been a 'crying one' for years; it is the most populous section of the city, with 20,000 people embraced within its territory and it is rapidly increasing; its distance from the main library downtown makes it quite necessary that people have books at a closer proximity; the recent opening of a branch in the new high school helps but the need for a separate building is real; the Library Board, and Mr. Carnegie, are very desirous of placing books in the hands of the people, and making their access as easy as possible."

Mr. Pindell was quoted in the same article, saying that negotiations with Mr. Carnegie were instigated in order to "secure a gift for a branch library building in the South Side, which is one of the most populous and one of the best sections of Peoria." He further stated that the library building "will be a credit, not only to the South Side, but to the entire city, and will meet the

Lincoln Branch Peoria Public Library
Name of Property

Peoria, IL
County and State

needs of that locality for many years,” and that “nothing will build up the standard of the community more.”

Peoria’s hoped-for Carnegie library fell into the “wholesale” phase of Mr. Carnegie’s library philanthropy (1898–1918), during which the issuance of funding for such building construction was tied to a requirement that the town or city receiving the grant levy a tax to support the library post-construction on a scale commensurate with the needs of the public. This recommendation was made to Peoria’s City Council in December, 1909, in the amount of an annual appropriation of \$2,000 (10% of the building costs) for staff, upkeep, utilities, and books for a period of ten years. A grant from Mr. Carnegie was also conditioned upon Peoria furnishing a site. Peoria Mayor Woodruff was kept apprised of Henry Pindell’s efforts throughout the summer and fall of 1909 to secure such a gift from Mr. Carnegie, and per Mr. Pindell, “he considers it one of the best things for Peoria” (Peoria Star, December 19, 1909).

The actual determination was made known through the medium of a letter addressed to Mr. H. M. Pindell of the Peoria Journal, as follows:

New York, Dec. 13, 1909—H. M. Pindell, Esq. Representing Library Board, Peoria, Ill.—Dear Sir—Responding to your communications on behalf of Peoria, if the city agrees, by resolution of council, to maintain a free public library in the building, at a cost of not less than \$2,000 a year, and provides a suitable site for the building, Mr. Carnegie will be glad to give \$20,000 to erect a branch library building for Peoria. Respectfully yours, James Bertram, secretary (Unfortunately, per Donald Langstraat, Lincoln Branch Head Librarian in 1984 and author of the paper “Peoria’s Carnegie Library,” neither Bertram’s letter confirming the Carnegie grant, nor any correspondence between Mr. Carnegie and Mr. Pindell, nor any notes of the negotiations for the branch and its location have ever come to light.)

Anticipation and celebration of such a gift were not without a ripple, however, as evidenced by newspaper articles that were to appear by Christmas and New Year’s of that year. A December 24, 1909 column by ALPA (American Labor Press Association) declared, “The movement to establish a Carnegie library in Peoria meets with opposition from every lover of freedom who remembers the horrors of Homestead. We would suggest as a frontispiece a Pinkerton thug with his knee on the breast of labor and his dirty fingers around the throat of a starving child. This would be in keeping with the source of the “gift.” We respect the motives of our fellow citizens—but the \$20,000 of the people’s money is needed in other channels—not to mention the deplorable condition of the city finances.”

Further, a December 28, 1909 Peoria Herald article defined the specific (and viewed as somewhat radical) resolutions adopted by the Trades Assembly in Peoria for presentation to the City Council as follows:

“Whereas, The proposition now before the city council to accept a gift of \$20,000 from Mr. Andrew Carnegie, for the erection of a south branch public library building, provided that the city council provides a site for said building and tax the citizens of Peoria \$2,000 per year for the period of 10 years, and

Lincoln Branch Peoria Public Library
Name of Property

Peoria, IL
County and State

“Whereas, we believe that the people of Peoria have sufficient civic pride to build their own public buildings without accepting the ill-gotten gains of the beneficiaries of special privileges. And while we recognize the public spirited effort of some of our citizens to promote the educational facilities for our citizens, and

“Whereas, The Carnegie millions were gathered together by trust methods and by his failure to give the laboring man a (sic) cational facilities for our citizens, and

“Whereas, The laboring people of Peoria still have fresh in their memories the slaughter of their brothers at Homestead, Pa., therefore, be It Resolved That the organized laboring people of Peoria do protest against the acceptance of the money from Mr. Carnegie and the spending of our people’s money for the erection of this monument to said Mr. Carnegie.”

That the Lincoln Branch was built is proof enough that this voice did not prevail.

January 12, 1910 Peoria Public Library Board minutes reveal that a Special Committee, comprised of Mr. Pindell, Mr. Casey, and Mr. Keene, with Mr. Pindell as Chair, was created to take charge of the Carnegie library. Mr. Pindell indicated at the February 9 meeting that “in short matters are progressing nicely” and made a motion to accept the city ordinance locating said library building in Lincoln Park.

April 18, 1910 minutes reflect that plans submitted by the architectural firm Reeves & Baillie were beyond Peoria Public Library means and thus eliminated from competition and, further, that the plans of Hotchkiss & Harris were unanimously felt to be better suited to Library needs than those of Hewitt & Emerson. Because the submission of library designs prior to approval of a Carnegie donation became a requirement after 1908, both sets of plans were sent to Mr. Carnegie for examination, with the statement that the Peoria Public Library Board decidedly preferred those of Hotchkiss & Harris and hoped for his approval of the same.

May 11, 1910 minutes contain a report from Mr. Pindell that he personally had called at Mr. Carnegie’s office in New York, that the plans drawn up by Hotchkiss & Harris and recommended by the Board, were with one or two slight suggestions, fully approved by Mr. Carnegie’s (new) secretary, Mr. Lambert. The money from Mr. Carnegie would be paid in sums of \$5,000 each as the work progressed, when statements were signed by the President/Treasurer of the Board and presented. Mr. Pindell’s extra expenses in reaching Mr. Carnegie were ordered repaid to him in the sum of \$3.65!

The public notice to contractors appeared in the Peoria Journal on July 23, 1910. Library Board minutes of August 6, 1910 record that McDonald & Brady Contracting Co. was the lowest bidder at \$15,290. Cody & Shea got the lowest bid for plumbing and heating at \$1,264. By the February 8, 1911 minutes, Mr. Pindell was noting that the new Lincoln Branch Library would be finished within the next three months.

The formal opening of the new Lincoln Branch Peoria Public Library was scheduled for 8:00 p.m., Friday, June 16, 1911. Librarian Willcox was requested to leave library shelving intact at

Lincoln Branch Peoria Public Library
Name of Property

Peoria, IL
County and State

the branch at Manual Training High School, as it was not needed in the new building. He was also instructed (per June 14, 1911 minutes) to notify the School Board that “we had removed our belongings from the pleasant quarters they had let us have since October 9, 1909, in the Manual Training High School and thank them heartily for the favor they have shown us.” It was recommended that wooden strips and hooks for clothing be installed in the closets of the Carnegie building, as well as a drinking fountain in the main room where convenient. It was proposed that a tablet of bronze be put in the vestibule of the new library and that the architect make a sketch of this tablet, headed “The Gift of Andrew Carnegie.” No record exists of this having ever been created, though.

Board President Tyng was requested to notify members of the City Council and the School Board of the formal opening of the new library and invite their attendance at the same. The Librarian reported that the books and furniture in the Manual Training High School, some 5,000 volumes, were all removed to the new Lincoln Branch in Lincoln Park on Monday, June 12th, before noon, and put in their regular order on the shelves, the pictures hung and busts placed, all ready for the issue of books at the usual hour on the day in question (Board of Directors minutes, June 14, 1911).

The Peoria Journal, June 17, 1911, quotes publisher Henry Pindell, at the opening ceremonies, saying “the need of larger library facilities in Peoria was apparent, but there were no funds.” He then told of the decision to “visit the East, turning to one of the world’s greatest characters,” thus securing the funds. In the same article, Mayor Woodruff commented, “In a few years, the people of the South Side will look back and wonder how they were ever able to get along without it.” Lincoln Branch opened with 6,000 volumes and had a capacity of 11,000.

On June 30, 1911, the Library Board, through President Tyng, expressed gratitude in writing to the mayor and city officials for their role in the entire endeavor (see Figure 3).

One month after opening, the July 12, 1911 Library Board minutes reflected that Mr. Pindell “thought that the building would be completed inside the original estimate of \$20,000 and there would be something like \$140 left over.” It was eventually revealed to be \$185.36 (see Figure 4).

September 13, 1911 minutes included these words to be taken down and forwarded to Mr. Carnegie: “The Lincoln Branch of the Peoria Public Library having been completed at a cost of \$20,000, not including the site, which was donated by the city, and this building being not only an ornament to the locality in which it is placed, but which gives promise of great benefit to the people of that community in the circulation of good books and good literature, and this building having been made possible by the personal efforts of Mr. H. M. Pindell, a member of this Board, in securing the gift from the Honorable Andrew Carnegie, therefore,

Lincoln Branch Peoria Public Library

Peoria, IL

Name of Property

County and State

Resolved that, Official Representatives of the City of Peoria in Library matters, we, the Directors of the Peoria Public Library, hereby express our grateful appreciation and hearty thanks to Mr. Pindell for his earnest and successful efforts in securing the donation, and for his faithful services as Chairman of the Building Committee.”

The Lincoln Branch Peoria Public Library was erected on the site of the old Peoria City Cemetery or “Old Public Graveyard,” which functioned at Lincoln Park from 1842–1886. The site had previously been the location of the Abner Eads farm, one of the earliest farms in this area. Rebecca Eads, the first American woman in Peoria, lived on this farm and is commemorated with a boulder still present in Lincoln Park today. Records simply show this land as Lincoln Park Place with the notation, “Donated to Library System in 1894 by City of Peoria.”

This Carnegie library is identified locally with Henry Means Pindell, founder and owner of the Peoria Journal-Register and the Library Board member instrumental in convincing Mr. Carnegie to fund the original building. He was also grandfather to Henry Slane, who, as Chairman of the Peoria Journal Star in 1992, donated \$500,000 to upgrade the Lincoln Branch Peoria Public Library to more contemporary standards without negatively impacting any of its historic features. Both men contributed significantly to the development of the City of Peoria through their newspapers. The Lincoln Branch is also identified locally with Alexander G. Tyng, a distinguished Peoria citizen and President of the Library Board when the branch was formally dedicated and opened to the public on June 16, 1911. Mr. Tyng’s association with Peoria’s founding library institutions was of remarkable duration. A March 2, 1853 newspaper article in the Peoria Democratic Press indicated that he made significant contributions to the organization of those early entities commensurate with the demands of a growing city. Comments at his memorial service by both Reverend J. H. Morron and William Fairley, D.D. attested to his great curiosity, his love of books, “his public spirit, and his interest in all municipal progress.” Mr. Pindell and Mr. Tyng are noted on the dedication cornerstone at the building’s lower right front corner.

Erastus S. Willcox, a name already familiar in this narrative, had become the Librarian of the Peoria Public Library in 1891 and was to continue in this capacity until being struck and killed by a streetcar on March 30, 1915. He was considered a prominent early Peorian who aided in the city’s intellectual and cultural development. He is owed a great debt of gratitude for his vigilance in helping establish early branch libraries “housed” throughout sections of Peoria, including the South Side, and for his role in supporting the creation of the Lincoln Branch, the first Peoria branch library specifically built for that purpose. However, that the city of Peoria had a public library system at all and was in a position to consider building a branch is tied directly to his deep devotion to education and literacy and his belief in the intrinsic value of its access for all in a community through the medium of the printed word.

Mr. Willcox’s identification with libraries in Peoria dates as early as 1864, when he became a member of the Peoria Mercantile Library Association. Like other early libraries in the city, such as the Peoria Library Association and the German Library Association, it was a subscription library. Members paid a small fee (for instance, \$2.00) for the privilege of the library’s use and

Lincoln Branch Peoria Public Library
Name of Property

Peoria, IL
County and State

its maintenance throughout the year. Mr. Willcox began to realize that such fees would eventually be woefully inadequate to finance the higher standard and size of library for which he hoped in Peoria in order to provide for the general literacy needs of the populace, especially those who could not afford the dues.

To that end, he conceived the idea of public libraries, like public schools, supported by taxation. He framed the "Free Library Bill." It was introduced in Springfield by Mr. Samuel Caldwell on March 23, 1871, as House bill No. 563 and finally received the Governor's signature and became law on March 7, 1872. It was the first free and comprehensive public library law of general scope in the whole United States. It went into effect in Illinois in 1880, providing for public libraries in all cities throughout the state. Peoria Mayor John Warner promptly appointed the first Board of Directors, and the Peoria Public Library as we know it today was born. Mr. Willcox's remarkable piece of legislation went on to serve as the foundation and model for similar laws throughout forty-seven of the nation's other states. His obituary in the Peoria Transcript, March 31, 1915, credited him "with being responsible for the state law which permitted municipalities to raise tax money for library support" and further added, "his influence upon library development was felt throughout the whole country."

At the time of his death, Erastus Willcox had been affiliated with almost every single one of Peoria's libraries, as a Director of the Board or Librarian, for half a century. He lived to see the Lincoln Branch Carnegie library built and dedicated.

Later History

When libraries first began to take their place in community life as civic institutions, they were confined within the four walls of only one building—in Peoria's case, the central downtown library. Lincoln Branch, serving the South Side and providing facilities not only for adults but for hundreds of students at Manual Training High School and later at Roosevelt Junior High School, plus seven (and eventually more) separate grade/parochial schools, helped prove the value of extension efforts.

During its first years, Lincoln Branch was open only part of the day. Peoria Public Library's Annual Report to the Board for the year ending December 31, 1913, reported the branch as having issued 37,289 volumes for home use. It was further described as "a reading room with daily papers and popular periodicals, well patronized by grown people." Interestingly, no mention was made of children. In November 1921, Lincoln Branch set a record in the Peoria Public Library for the largest number of books being drawn out in a single day—351. By 1923, records indicate it was providing service from 9:00 a.m. until 8:30 p.m., with a jump in circulation to 70,000 books. This number grew to 88,267 by the end of that decade.

In the spring of 1928, Peoria Public Library collaborated with the Itoo Reform Society to acquire 36 Syrian books which were placed in Lincoln Branch. These became so sought after by South Side residents (whose origins were in what is present day Lebanon) that there were 229 issues

Lincoln Branch Peoria Public Library
Name of Property

Peoria, IL
County and State

recorded in an eight-month period, with regular Lebanese patrons asking for more. Each book had been checked out over six times in that span!

Lincoln Branch also met the needs of another ethnic group in its neighborhood, those who read German. During the same eight months, 95 German books were loaned. The library kept material in this language to meet the needs of those residing in the South Side for whom it was their mother tongue, and the stock was changed regularly so patrons had fresh books from which to choose. A newspaper article in South Side News on October 21, 1927, shared the library policy that “any book not on the shelves when called for may be reserved upon the payment of two cents for postal.” If this procedure was still in force the following year, the popularity of foreign books must have kept staff’s bookkeeping skills in top-notch order.

A children’s Story Telling Hour held twice a week at Lincoln Branch had been implemented by the early 1920s, and it was so popular that the August 21, 1923 Annual Report documents that a greater number of children attended it than at Main Library. Newspaper clippings from the Peoria Public Library scrapbook, 1920–1929, now crumbling and discolored with age, reveal that “from 100–150 little folks and big brothers and sisters arrive promptly at 4:00 o’clock,” and “these kiddies, listening with wide open eyes and mouths, gather in throngs on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons for storytelling.” By 1940, a new department, the Young People’s Room, had been created in order to give better service to those in junior and senior high school, with 3,000 books set aside for that purpose.

Circulation figures bear out the fact that, from its opening in early 1911 up to 1928, the new Lincoln Branch placed great emphasis on work with children and less effort catering to adult patrons. Reading especially suited to older grade school students, high school pupils, and young adults was a priority. Visits by library staff to the schools in the district were routine. This unevenness of service was corrected by the early 1930s, and the 1933 Annual Report to the Board published statistics substantiating the shift. Adult fiction circulation jumped from 30,753 in 1928 to 67,704 in 1933, an increase of 120%, while adult non-fiction rose from 5,081 to 12,895 in the same period, an increase of 154%. During that same period, children’s circulation showed only a 28% increase.

A strategy by Felicia Ryan, Chief of Lincoln Branch Library at the end of the 1930s and into the early 40s, gave publicity to books as a practical aid to everyday life. She saw to it that patrons had published lists and were shown collections of books on jobs, health, self-improvement, hobbies, gardening, Lenten reading, house repairs and refurnishing, vocations, homemaking, travel, and consumer economics. Reference librarians fielded questions on electricity, machine shop practice, and shop work.

However, the special focus on the important role Lincoln Branch could and did play in the development of young people continued strong, as evidenced in this excerpt from the Annual Report of June 21, 1939. Mr. Earl Browning, Public Librarian, explained that “books not only follow children through school, supplying much of the supplemental reading increasingly required by the latest methods in education and which cannot be supplied by school funds, but

Lincoln Branch Peoria Public Library
Name of Property

Peoria, IL
County and State

offer a much larger range of reading to the students of our local college than is possible for the college library to offer.”

Total circulation at Lincoln Branch by the end of the 1930s was 115,886. Clearly the library had become a well-used, well-established anchor.

The 1940s heralded in the Young People’s Shelf at Lincoln Branch, a special shelf (perhaps incorporated into the Young People’s Room) of recreational reading specifically for young people in the 16 to 20 age group so they could continue their adult education even if school study became impossible. It was also hoped that by taking advantage of this program they would realize that the variety of uses of the library in later life was broader than they had thought in high school. The Shelf was comprised of approximately 50 books, changed regularly, with titles chosen mainly from the Brooklyn Public Library’s BOOKS FOR YOUTH and MORE BOOKS FOR YOUTH, as well as the New York Public Library Branch Library News which had an annual revised list for young people. In its first year, it was noted by the branch librarians that great interest was shown in books on manners and self-improvement.

Around this same time, the Annual Report of the Peoria Public Library reveals that story hours were being held weekly on Saturday at 9:30 a.m., with Miss Vivian Harms from nearby Neighborhood House assisting in telling the stories. Guest storytellers from the Storytellers League also visited and participated, with Lincoln Park providing an agreeable outdoor venue during summer.

As a reflection of the times, with social awareness and conscience becoming more pronounced, Lincoln Branch added defense industry and timely topic books to its summer reading program in 1942. “Around the World with the Allied Forces” was its main feature that season.

The 1948 Annual Service Report to the Taxpayers published the following statistics for Lincoln Branch: Classes Visited by Librarian = 32 (4 schools); Class Visits to Lincoln Branch = 10 (300 children); and Children’s Story Hours = 51 (1,300 attendance).

In March 1951, family night movies on Tuesdays began, a tradition which was still being enjoyed as late as 1984.

Documentation shows that starting in the 50s and continuing into the 1960s, Lincoln Branch began to fall behind insofar as book circulation and patron usage compared to other Peoria Public Library branches. The highly successful East Bluff McClure Branch had opened in 1937 and the West Bluff Branch in 1950. Migration in Peoria from the older, less economically robust neighborhoods had started, and Lincoln Branch in the South Side was feeling the impact of this typical demographic phenomenon.

Despite waning use compared to newer facilities, Lincoln Branch worked to maintain the programs and services that had been implemented so successfully at its inception. “Petunia” and “Silent Princess” were on the marquee for the Saturday morning Story Hour, reported the February 1, 1952 Star, with the Laplanders film, “The Wind From the West,” to follow.

Lincoln Branch Peoria Public Library
Name of Property

Peoria, IL
County and State

The Journal Star newspaper article published in April 5, 1953, entitled “Lincoln Branch Library Plans Film Series,” was encouraging, with details of the Audio-Visual Department showing a series of films four Thursday nights in a row. It would include “Nanook of the North” and “Developing Your Character.” Travel, nature study, and current problems such as “television, tolerance, and character development” had been determined to be of primary interest to the public. In conjunction with the planned film series, Lincoln Branch issued a special invitation to the people in the area the branch served so they could become acquainted with the types of films they could borrow, free of charge, on their library cards.

In conclusion, the Lincoln Branch Peoria Public Library is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its local contribution to education in Peoria.

Lincoln Branch Peoria Public Library
Name of Property

Peoria, IL
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

Annual Report of Peoria Public Library. Peoria: Peoria Public Library, 1913, 1923, 1928, 1933, 1938-1940, 1942, 1958-1960. Print.

Annual Service Report to the Taxpayers. Peoria. Peoria Public Library, 1948. Print.

Barry, Edward J. Jr. "Carnegie Legacy is Alive and Well in Peoria." *InterBusiness Issues* Jan. 2011: 78-79.

Bateman, Newton, Paul Selby, and David McCulloch Eds. *Historical Encyclopedia of Illinois and History of Peoria County.* Volume II. Chicago and Peoria: Munsell Publishing Company, 1902: 398-400.

Bial, Raymond, and Linda LaPuma Bial. *The Carnegie Library in Illinois.* Urbana, Illinois: University of Illinois Press, 1991.

"Carnegie's Gift for Branch Library in the South Side." *Peoria Journal.* December 19, 1909, Peoria Public Library Scrapbook, Vol. 2, 1900-1920: 66.

Carter's Monthly Club Life. Vol. XVIII, No. 1. Dowdall & Company Publishers, Chicago, Illinois. Jan. 1902.

"German and Syrian Books Well Read at South Side Library," *Peoria Star.* February 10, 1929 - Peoria Public Library Scrapbook, 1922-1929. Vol. 4.

In Memory of Alexander Griswold Tyng. Peoria, Illinois. 1897. Peoria Public Library. Peoria and Local History Collection.

"Jails to Lighting." *Peoriana.* Vol. 10: 1325-1326. Peoria Public Library. Peoria, Illinois. Peoria and Local History Collection. Vertical File: Carnegie Library - Lincoln Branch.

Langstraat, Donald H. *ALPA American Labor Press Association.* Peoria Public Library. Peoria, Illinois. Peoria and Local History Collection. Vertical File: Lincoln Branch - Peoria Weekly Gazette. December

Lincoln Branch Peoria Public Library

Peoria, IL
County and State

Name of Property

24, 1909.

----- Lincoln Branch. Peoria Public Library. Peoria, Illinois. Peoria and
Local History
Collection. Vertical File: Lincoln Branch - Peoria Journal. June 17, 1911.

----- Peoria's Carnegie Library: Lincoln Branch Library of the Peoria
Public Library
System. Peoria, Illinois. Peoria Public Library. Peoria and Local History Collection.

----- Open Branch of Library. Peoria Public Library. Peoria, Illinois.
Peoria and Local
History Collection. Vertical File: Lincoln Branch.

----- Trades Assembly Protests Against Carnegie Library. Peoria Public
Library. Peoria,
Illinois. Peoria and Local History Collection. Vertical File: Lincoln Branch - Peoria
Herald. December
28, 1909.

----- Peoria to Have Two Libraries. Peoria Public Library. Peoria, Illinois.
Peoria and
Local History Collection. Vertical File: Lincoln Branch - Peoria Star. December 19,
1909.

“Library Meeting.” Peoria Democratic Press. Peoria, Illinois. March 2, 1853: 1 c1.

Library Memo. Peoria Public Library. Peoria, Illinois. Peoria and Local History Collection.
Vertical File:
Directors of the Library Folder 1.

May, George W. Students' History of Peoria County, Illinois, Wagoner Printing Company,
Galesburg,
Illinois. 1968.

Menger, Thomas C. Peoria 4, South Side Pre-1940. Peoria, Illinois: Central Illinois Chapter
of the
American Institute of Architects, Peoria Section, Logan Printing Company. Peoria,
Illinois. 1981.

National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation for “Illinois Carnegie
Libraries” with
Associated Historic Context. Carnegie Libraries in Illinois 1900 – 1918. 1993.

Lincoln Branch Peoria Public Library
Name of Property

Peoria, IL
County and State

National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation for "Illinois Carnegie Libraries – Amendment" with Associated Historic Context. Illinois Carnegie Library Architecture. (2000).

Near South Side General Neighborhood Renewal Plan. Peoria, Illinois. Vilican-Leman & Associates, Inc.
Southfield, Michigan 1967.

Oakford, Aaron Wilson. Volume 6. The Peoria Story: A Picture Story From Mid-America About the Lives and Family Ties of Folks in Peoria, Illinois, Peoria Public Library Peoria and Local History Collection, 1957: 472-477.

Peoria Herald-Transcript. Nov. 12, 1913. Peoria Public Library. Peoria, Illinois. Peoria and Local History Collection. Vertical File: Peoria Public Library. Directors of the Library Folder 1.

Peoria Transcript. Mar. 31, 1915 obituary. Peoria Public Library. Peoria, Illinois. Peoria and Local History Collection. Vertical File: Peoria Public Library. Directors of the Library Folder 1.

Porter, Robert P. U.S. Census of Population, 1890: Part I, Compendium of the Eleventh Census
Washington: Government Printing Office. 1892: 124.

Record. Peoria Public Library. Peoria Public Library Peoria and Local History Collection. Vol. 2, Jan. 9, 1900 – June 30, 1922.

Smothers, Michael. Peoria... Impressions of 150 Years. Peoria Journal Star, Inc., Peoria, Illinois. 1995.

Stowers, Carlton. Americanway. "Thank You, Mr. Carnegie." Aug. 1, 2011: 86.

Thirtieth/Thirty-first Annual Report of the Directors of the Peoria Public Library. Duroc Press Printers.
Peoria, Illinois. May 31, 1910/1911.

U.S. Census of Population, 1910: Vol. I, General Report and Analysis. Washington: Government Printing Office. 1913: 84.

Lincoln Branch Peoria Public Library
Name of Property

Peoria, IL
County and State

Waring, George E. Jr. U.S. Census Report on the Social Statistics of Cities, 1880: Part I, The
New
England and the Middle States. Washington: Government Printing Office. 1880: 525-529.

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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property less than one acre

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 40.680583 Longitude: -89.614340

2. Latitude: Longitude:

Lincoln Branch Peoria Public Library
Name of Property

Peoria, IL
County and State

3. Latitude: Longitude:

4. Latitude: Longitude:

Verbal Boundary Description

A part of the Northwest Quarter of Section 17, Township 8 North, Range 8 East of the Fourth Principal Meridian, City of Peoria, Peoria County, Illinois. Being more particularly described as follows: Commencing at the Northeast Corner of Lot 22 in Mrs. E. Griswolds Sub of the South part of Block 18 in Curtenius and Griswolds Sub. of said Northwest Quarter as shown in Plat Book B on page 249 in the Peoria County Recorder's Office, Peoria County, Illinois; thence north 00°-18'-56" east 40.00 feet to the Point of Beginning also being the Northwest intersection of George Street and Helen Street. From said Point of Beginning, thence south 89°-44'-54" west 390.05 feet along the North Right-of-Way Line of George Street to the Northeast intersection of George Street and Louisa Street; thence north 00°-02'-10" east 424.17 feet along the East Right-of-Way Line of Louisa Street to the Southeast intersection of Louisa Street and Lincoln Avenue; thence north 89°-52'-23" east 392.11 feet along the South Right-of-Way Line of Lincoln Avenue to the Southwest intersection of Lincoln Street and Helen Street; thence south 00°-18'-56" west 423.33 feet along the West Right-of-Way Line of Helen Street to the Point of Beginning, containing 3.80 acres, more or less.

Boundary Justification

The lot historically associated with the building.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Margaret E. Cousin
organization: Peoria Public Library Board of Trustees
street & number: 1623 W. Moss Ave.
city or town: Peoria state: IL zip code: 61606
e-mail _____
telephone: 309-676-2460
date: _____

Lincoln Branch Peoria Public Library
Name of Property

Peoria, IL
County and State

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 this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

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: Lincoln Branch Peoria Public Library

City or Vicinity: Peoria

County: Peoria

State: IL

Photographer: Paul E. Cousin

Date Photographed: January 2012, August 2012

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

1 of 15

Photo # 1 (IL_Peoria County_ Lincoln Branch PPL_0001)
North façade (left) and west elevation (right), camera facing southeast

Lincoln Branch Peoria Public Library
Name of Property

Peoria, IL
County and State

Photo # 2 (IL_Peoria County_Lincoln Branch PPL_0002)
South façade (left) and east elevation (right), camera facing northwest

Photo # 3 (IL_Peoria County_Lincoln Branch PPL_0003)
South façade corner, camera facing northeast

Photo # 4 (IL_Peoria County_Lincoln Branch PPL_0004)
South façade corner, camera facing northwest

Photo # 5 (IL_Peoria County_Lincoln Branch PPL_0005)
North façade (left) and west elevation (right), camera facing southeast

Photo # 6 (IL_Peoria County_Lincoln Branch PPL_0006)
North façade western corner commemorative cornerstone, camera facing south

Photo # 7 (IL_Peoria County_Lincoln Branch PPL_0007)
North façade front door from interior, camera facing north

Photo # 8 (IL_Peoria County_Lincoln Branch PPL_0008)
Interior columns and inner vestibule door detail, camera facing northeast

Photo # 9 (IL_Peoria County_Lincoln Branch PPL_0009)
North façade entrance from interior, camera facing north

Photo # 10 (IL_Peoria County_Lincoln Branch PPL_0010)
Interior main floor fireplace, camera facing southwest

Photo # 11 (IL_Peoria County_Lincoln Branch PPL_0011)
Connector joining Carnegie to new addition, camera facing west

Photo # 12 (IL_Peoria County_Lincoln Branch PPL_0012)
East façade, camera facing west

Photo # 13 (IL_Peoria County_Lincoln Branch PPL_0013)
South façade (left) and east elevation (right), camera facing northwest

Photo # 14 (IL_Peoria County_Lincoln Branch PPL_0014)
South façade (right) and west elevation (left), camera facing northeast

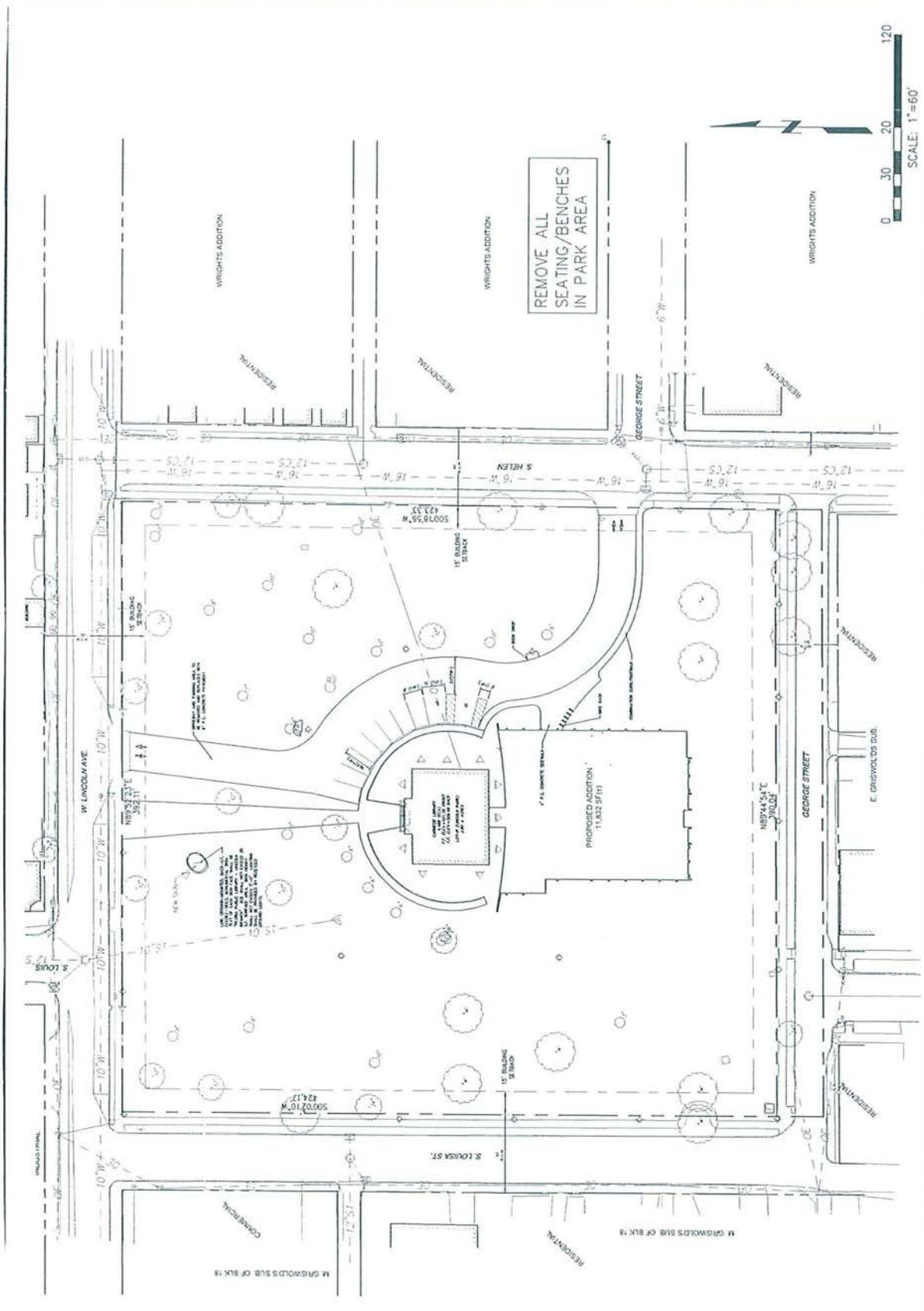
Photo # 15 (IL_Peoria County_Lincoln Branch PPL_0015)
West façade, camera facing east

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Lincoln Branch Peoria Public Library
Name of Property
Peoria, Illinois
County and State
Illinois Carnegie Libraries
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number _____ Page _____



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Lincoln Branch Peoria Public Library

Name of Property

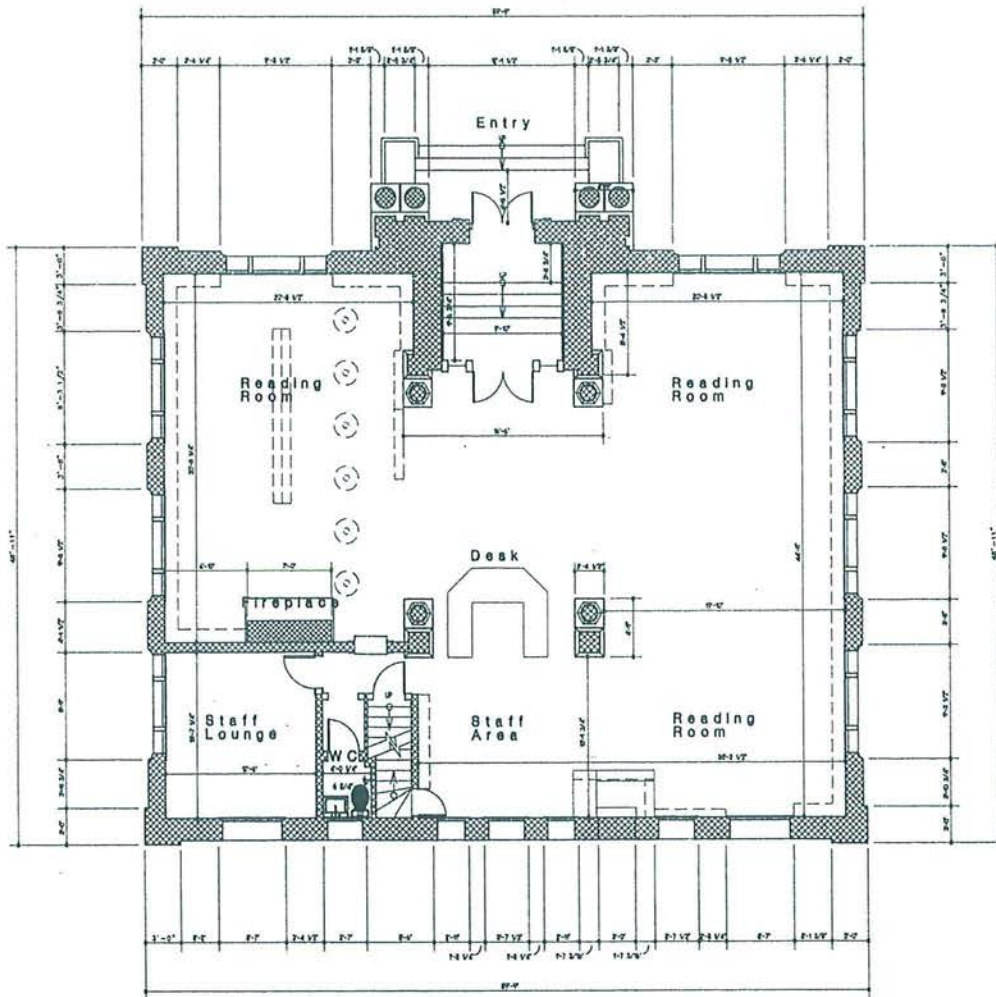
Peoria, Illinois

County and State

Illinois Carnegie Libraries

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number _____ Page _____



FIRST FLOOR PLAN

SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Lincoln Branch Peoria Public Library

Name of Property

Peoria, Illinois

County and State

Illinois Carnegie Libraries

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

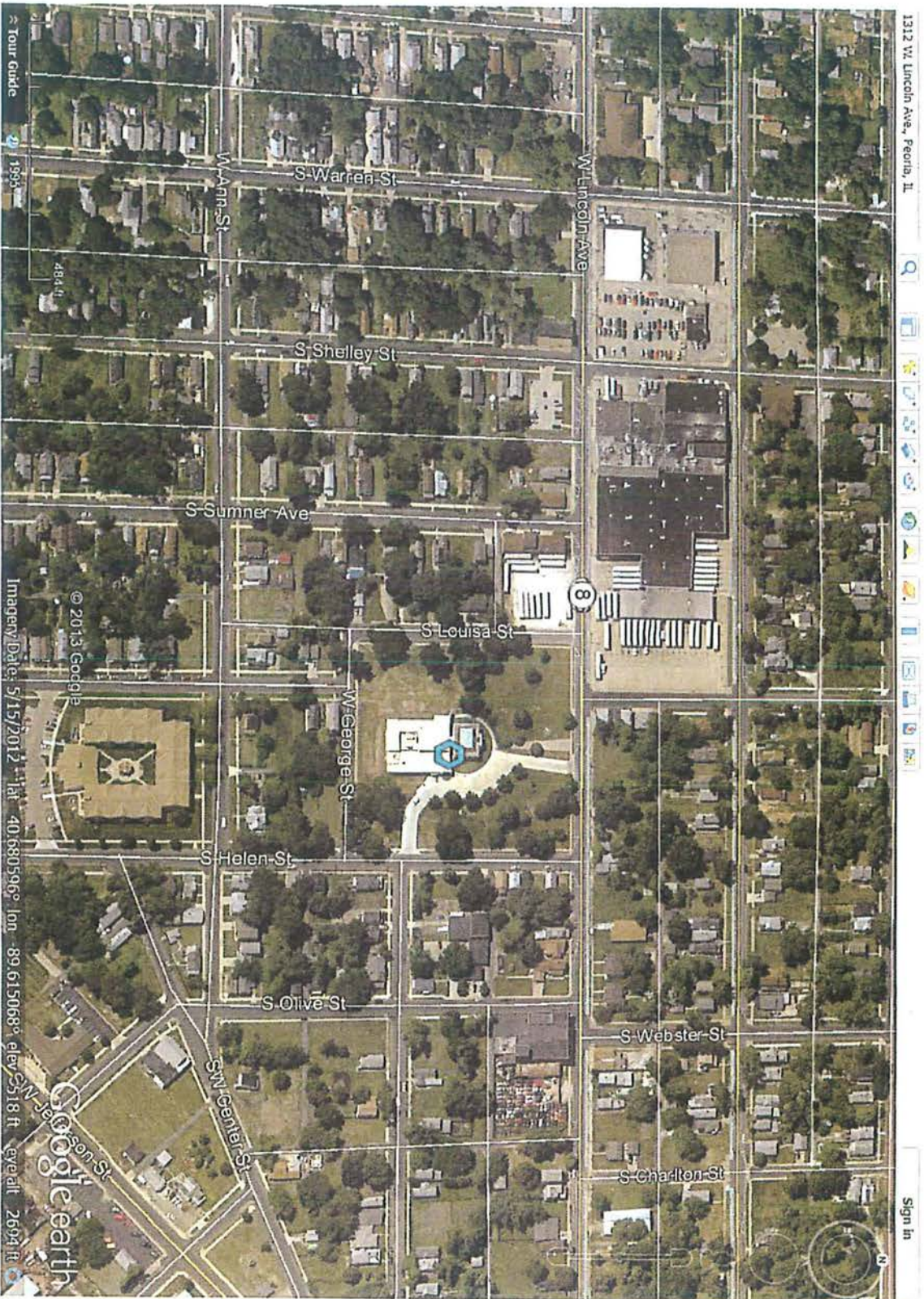
Section number _____ Page _____



HISTORIC PHOTO OF FRONT (NORTH) FACADE, CIRCA 1920

Lincoln Branch Peoria Public Library

Peoria, IL



LAT: 40.680583, LONG: -89.614340











DONATED
By
Andrew Carnegie
Pittsburg Committee
Henry M. Pindell
John F. Keene
A. G. King
1910



















UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Lincoln Branch Peoria Public Library

MULTIPLE NAME: Illinois Carnegie Libraries MPS

STATE & COUNTY: ILLINOIS, Peoria

DATE RECEIVED: 4/11/14 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 5/07/14
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 5/22/14 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 5/28/14
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 14000256

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 5-28-14 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

The Lincoln Branch of the Peoria Public Library is an excellent example of a Carnegie Library. Nominated under Criterion A, the library has remarkable integrity. Its elegant design may have qualified the library under Criterion C, although the nomination does not attempt to make this case. A very large addition on the back of the building is accessed by a corridor that links the two buildings. The low profile and unobtrusive design of the addition do not detract from the historic and architectural qualities of the original library.

RECOM./CRITERIA A

REVIEWER Barbara Wyatt DISCIPLINE Historian

TELEPHONE 202-354-2282 DATE 5-28-14

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



**Illinois Historic
Preservation Agency**

1 Old State Capitol Plaza • Springfield, Illinois 62701-1512 • www.illinois-history.gov

RECEIVED 2280

APR 11 2014

NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

April 2, 2014

Ms. Barbara Wyatt
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
1849 C Street NW Suite NC400
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Ms. Wyatt:

Enclosed for your review are the following National Register Nomination Forms that were recommended by the Illinois Historic Sites Advisory Council and signed by the Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer. They are being submitted in a digital format on the enclosed disks, and are the true and correct copies.

Chrysler Village Historic District, Chicago, Cook County
Union Trust Company Bank Building, E. St. Louis, St. Clair County
Lincoln Branch Peoria Public Library, Peoria, Peoria County

Please contact me at the address above, or by telephone at 217-785-4324. You can also email me at andrew.heckenkamp@illinois.gov if you need any additional information or clarification. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Andrew Heckenkamp
National Register Coordinator

Enclosures

AARON SCHOCK
18TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

DEPUTY REPUBLICAN WHIP

COMMITTEE ON
WAYS & MEANS

COMMITTEE ON
HOUSE ADMINISTRATION

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1602

May 2, 2014

Paul Loether, Program Manager
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
1849 C Street, NW (2280)
Washington, DC 20240



WWW.SCHOCK.HOUSE.GOV

- 328 CANNON HOB
WASHINGTON D.C. 20515
(202) 225-6201
- 100 N.E. MONROE, ROOM 100
PEORIA, IL 61602
(309) 671-7027
- 201 WEST MORGAN STREET
JACKSONVILLE, IL 62650
(217) 245-1431
- 235 SOUTH 6TH STREET
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62701
(217) 670-1653

Dear Mr. Loether:

Enclosed, please find correspondence that I received from the Peoria Public Library system, which is located in my district.

The Peoria Public Library is seeking inclusion of its Lincoln Branch Library on the National Register of Historic Places. As a Carnegie library, it has already been recognized by numerous authorities, including the Illinois Historic Sites Advisory Council, as a historic landmark. I am also proud to report that it has been operated as a public library continuously for over a century.

I hope that the library's application will receive every consideration, and will await the outcome with interest. If there is anything further that I can do to be of support to their application, I hope that you will not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Aaron Schock
Member of Congress

CC:
Margaret E. Cousin
President, Board of Trustees
Peoria Public Library
107 NE Monroe Street
Peoria, IL 61602

Rudolph, Bryan

From: MEC-PEC <mecpec@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, May 02, 2014 10:06 AM
To: Rudolph, Bryan
Subject: National Register designation for Peoria's Carnegie library

Importance: High

Dear Bryan,

Since autumn of 2010, we have been on a sometimes challenging but always rewarding journey to seek National Register of Historic Places (NR) designation for Lincoln Branch Peoria Public Library, Peoria's Carnegie library.

On February 28, 2014, the Illinois Historic Sites Advisory Council in Springfield approved our nomination. After similar approval from the IHPA's State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), the application was sent to the National Park Service in Washington, D.C. on April 2 for a final decision. The rule of thumb generally is that the Keeper of the National Register makes a decision within 6-8 weeks. Our hope was to be notified immediately when the paperwork was mailed so as to be timely with our request for support but, unfortunately, it didn't work out.

Even midway through our waiting period, we would be very grateful if Aaron could lend his voice to ours in this cause. Carnegie libraries all across America are disappearing through demolition or being converted to a different use. Those which continue as functioning, uninterrupted libraries are part of a rare and diminishing club. Peoria is extremely fortunate in this regard, and Peoria Public Library has been an outstanding steward of its Lincoln Branch since 1910. Not only is our lovely historic Classical Revival structure a marvel of architecture, it is a testament to the value we have placed on the role of public libraries within a community to further literacy, provide free and unencumbered access to books and information, and act as a vibrant center of learning and societal discourse.

Lincoln Branch is already a local historic landmark. We would like very much to obtain National Register designation as well. We are very proud of this tangible piece of our city's heritage and what it represents. We hope the National Park Service feels the same way once it reviews our nomination packet.

Thank you so much for helping with this, and please don't hesitate to contact me should there be questions.

Respectfully,

Margaret E. Cousin
President, Board of Trustees
Peoria Public Library