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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED AUG 19 1976
DATE ENTERED NOV 21 1976

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

~~Stewart Library or Stewart Public Library~~

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

926 Broad Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Grinnell

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Iowa

VICINITY OF
CODE

COUNTY
Poweshiek

CODE
157

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER library

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

City of Grinnell

STREET & NUMBER

819 Broad Street

CITY, TOWN

Grinnell

VICINITY OF

STATE

Iowa

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Poweshiek County Courthouse

(Legal description: Lot 4, Block 14,
Original plat of Grinnell, NW-NW, Sec.
16, Twp. 80, Range 16, West of the
5th P.M.)

STREET & NUMBER

302 East Main

CITY, TOWN

Montezuma

STATE

Iowa

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

History of Poweshiek County, Iowa

DATE

1911

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Copies of the survey are available at the Stewart Library

CITY, TOWN

Grinnell

STATE

Iowa

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Stewart Library is a three story building with a basement, which has housed the public library since 1902. Its dimensions are 65' x 37' with a wing in the center back 23' x 30'. The height of the building in the tallest spot is 29', the majority being 21'. The interior of the building for library use which includes all floor space except for a few work room areas and restrooms covers 5,458.8 square feet. The exterior displays buff brick masonry with sandstone lintels and sills used in many window openings, some arched in Romanesque appearance, others in plain openings to hold wood jambs for double hung windows. The entry to the structure is up a rather massive, two flight stonework stairway. There is also an entry to an octagonal tower housing a solid oak spiral stairway to the attic room. Window treatment of the entrance pavilion resembles the "widow's-watch" era of a hundred years ago or more. A steep pitch hip roof design is used to top off the structure.

The first floor of the library has a balcony which is counted as the second floor. There is also an attic (3rd floor) which at one time was a meeting room, but presently is in need of complete restoration and has been closed. The areas, then, in use today are the basement, first and second floors.

The interior main floor is an interesting variety of architectural themes. The stack area is Victorian in its iron stairs and railings. The balcony flooring consists of thick frosted glass set into steel joists. This feature, with the stacks themselves, are integral structural aspects of the building. Rather large diameter columns displaying Ionic classicism set off the circulation area from the reading and reference sections of the main floor. Plain brick front, arched opening fireplaces face each other across the main floor.

The front entranceway was altered five years ago with the addition of aluminum and glass doors to replace the deteriorating wooden entrance. No other changes have been made in the exterior.

The original tile floor on the first level was covered with indoor-outdoor carpeting in 1970. In one area of stacks, however, the original tile can be seen. The addition of carpeting was a matter of practicality, because the floor was very noisy and drafty in the winter. The balcony glass floor has had two pieces of glass replaced by wood, but the majority of the glass is in excellent condition.

The basement is used as the children's room. No major changes have been made in this room.

The library is located downtown, close to the main shopping district. It is stationed between the Post Office and the United Church of Christ, Congregational.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

1901-02, dedicated on May 9, 1902

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Stewart Public Library is an interesting local adaptation of the Romanesque Revival style. Its Romanesque character is typified by the window shapes, arched entry, and massive form. Decorative brickwork and the unusual tower highlight the design.

All through his varied career as farmer, banker, and state legislator, Joel Stewart (1833-1918) found time for philanthropic activities, chief among them the organization and building of a library for the town of Grinnell. He "made the contract for the building, superintended the work of construction, and turned it over to the city a completed structure, free from all encumbrances."¹ Dedicated in 1902, the library bearing his name is an enduring tribute to this energetic and well-remembered man.

(The architect for the Stewart Library is unknown. Research by the library staff has produced no information. It is known, however, that Stewart himself was deeply involved in the planning and execution of the structure. He made several trips around Iowa, looking at other libraries; perhaps he brought the ideas thus derived to an architect, who then drew the plans.)

¹ Prof. L. F. Parker, History of Poweshiek County Iowa; a record of settlement, organization, progress and achievement, Vol. I, (Chicago: S. J. Clarke, 1911), p. 370.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"All Grinnell Mourns Death of Joel Stewart," The Grinnell Herald, April 30, 1918.
 Parker, Prof. L. F. History of Poweshiek County Iowa; a Record of Settlement, Organization, Progress and Achievement, Vol. I. Chicago: S. J. Clarke, 1911.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1/2 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	15	520300	4620130	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE
 Virginia S. Cameron, Librarian

ORGANIZATION
 Stewart Public Library

STREET & NUMBER
 926 Broad Street

CITY OR TOWN
 Grinnell

DATE
 TELEPHONE
 STATE
 Iowa

515-236-5717

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE
 TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE August 10, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

ADDITIONAL OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
 ATTEST: *Charles [Signature]* DATE 11/21/96

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER DATE 11.15.76