

NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 8/86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

Wisconsin Word Processor Format (1331D)
(Approved 3/87)

DEC 01 1988
DEC 01 1988

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL
REGISTER**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries. Use letter quality printer in 12 pitch, using an 85 space line and a 10 space left margin. Use only archival paper (20 pound, acid free paper with a 2% alkaline reserve).

1. Name of Property

historic name Carnegie Free Library

other names/site number Carnegie Public Library; Sturgeon Bay "Old Library"

2. Location

street & number 354 Michigan Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Sturgeon Bay

N/A vicinity

state Wisconsin

code WI

county Door

code 029

zip code 54235

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

Category of Property

No. of Resources within Property

private

building(s)

contributing

noncontributing

public-local

district

1

buildings

public-State

site

sites

public-Federal

structure

structures

object

objects

1

0 Total


Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

No. of contributing resources
previously listed in the
National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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 35 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria. ___ See continuation sheet.

X  _____ 11/21/88
Signature of certifying official Date
State Historic Preservation Officer-WI
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria. ___ See continuation sheet.

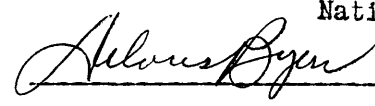
Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

Entered in the
National Register

X entered in the National Register.  _____ 12/29/88
___ See continuation sheet
___ determined eligible for the National Register. ___ See continuation sheet
___ determined not eligible for the National Register.
___ removed from the National Register.
___ other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper Date

6. Functions or Use

Historic Functions
(enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(enter categories from instructions)

Education/Library

Commerce/Professional Office

| 7. Description | |
|--|---|
| Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions) | Materials (enter categories from instructions) |
| Classical Revival | foundation Limestone |
| | walls Limestone |
| | roof Asphalt |
| | other Wood |

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Carnegie Free Library is located on a corner lot adjacent to the Third Avenue/Downtown Historic District in Sturgeon Bay. The area surrounding the library is the traditional downtown commercial district and is characterized by a variety of late Italianate, late Queen Anne, and Classical Revival commercial buildings. Most buildings are faced with cream or vermillion colored brick or a light grey local limestone. Landscaping is mainly recent with the exception of a cluster of mature pine trees just north of the building and a mature oak to the south.

The Carnegie Free Library is located on a 150' x 150' lot on the corner of Michigan and 4th streets. The 1912 Classical Revival library is constructed of local grey limestone on a solid bedrock foundation. The building is one story with a raised basement 4'2" below grade. The 30" thick coursed ashlar limestone walls have a rockface finish. A lighter colored carved Bedford stone is used for the water table, beltcourse, cornice, pilasters and parapet coping. A smooth faced stone watertable separates the basement and first stories. The first floor is further defined by a continuous sill and a beltcourse located slightly above the lintel level. The building corners project slightly forming corner piers which are further articulated by pairs of squat partial height corner pilasters which support a modillioned cornice, implied entablature, and a shaped roof parapet.

The main (southeast) facade is symmetrically composed with a projecting entrance pavilion in the center of the facade flanked by tripartite window groupings. The entrance pavillion features an arched entrance with original double entrance doors and a large transom. Small double hung windows on the sides of the pavilion light the vestibule. The tripartite window grouping are composed of one-over-one double-hung sash windows which are topped on the first floor windows by transoms with a cross-hatched muntin pattern.

The southeast portions of the northeast and southwest facades project slightly and exhibit a formal, but more functional fenestration consisting of bands of small one-over-one double-hung windows which are located above the level of the former interior book stacks. Windows on the rear of these side facades are more typical paired one-over-one double hung sash. The rear facade is highly utilitarian and mostly unarticulated with fenestration consisting of small one-over-one double-hung sash. The circa 1940 climbing ivy which covered most of the building has been cut back, removed and re-established.

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The double door entrance leads into the vestibule which has a tile mosaic floor with a Greek key pattern and the word "Library" laid in the center. A broad oak staircase with fluted newel posts and spindled railings leads to the main floor of the library. Narrower stairs lead to the lower level. The main floor has an open floor plan with a 10' x 14' librarian's room located in the northwest corner. The room dividers are oak framing topped by bevelled plate glass windows. An oak fireplace with mission style influences and a tile hearth is located on the west wall. Two centrally located fluted oak posts support the flat roof. Trim detail is all executed in red oak and has been refinished. The current floor plan with six offices is similar to the original layout which defined the same areas. The office partitions are demountable and were installed after the ceilings and floor covering were in place. The main features have not been changed and consideration was given to easily returning the interior to an open floor plan. A bathroom was added in the place of a former cloak room.

The basement level originally consisted of a narrow hall leading to the bathroom and a lecture room. The partition wall forming the hallway has been removed and the former lecture room is now divided into five offices using the same demountable system found on the first floor. The yellow pine trim has been refinished and reapplied.

The building was used as a library until 1974, when the building became the Community Child Care Center. From 1981 to 1987 the building was vacant and had fallen into a state of disrepair with most damage coming from a leaking roof. The building was then rehabilitated to accommodate its current use as a professional office building.

The Carnegie Free Library retains a high degree of historic integrity. Exterior changes consist of a chimney added to accommodate a oil-fired boiler which dates from circa 1940 and two steel exit doors on the rear of the building which were added in 1974. Interior plan and decorative details were preserved in the adaptive reuse of this building as office space.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: nationally statewide X locally

Applicable National Register Criteria X A B X C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance

(enter categories from instructions)

 Education
 Architecture

Period of Significance

 1913-1938
 1913

Significant Dates

 1913 ¹

Cultural Affiliation

 N/A

Significant Person

 None

Architect/Builder

 Crandall, Fred D. ²

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Carnegie Free Library is being nominated under criterion C for its local significance as a vernacular interpretation of the Classical Revival style executed in locally quarried limestone. It is also being nominated under criterion A for its local significance in the area of Education for its role in the educational and cultural development of Sturgeon Bay.

Historical Background

The settlement of the Sturgeon Bay area began with a fur trade post established in 1835 by Increase Claffin. Between 1835 and 1850 the population grew as fisherman and other fur traders drifted into Door County. By the 1850s a permanent community began to develop in the location of the present city of Sturgeon Bay.³

The development of a sawmill industry in the 1850s spurred substantial growth and the lumber industry became the main industry of the city until the 1890s. Stone quarrying began in the Sturgeon Bay area as early as 1832 and became a modest but important industry, producing a "hard compact limestone" which is found in a number of local buildings including the Carnegie Free Library.⁴

With the arrival of stable economic growth, community attention turned to the development of social and cultural institutions. The Sturgeon Bay Library Association was formed in 1865 by a group of local citizens.⁵ In the manner typical of these early library associations, they began meeting weekly in the homes

 X See continuation sheet

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of organization members, sharing books and engaging in debates, essays and other self-improvement exercises. Like the majority of such local associations, the Sturgeon Bay Library Association was short-lived. The spirit that inspired these original members faltered and the weekly meetings gradually declined to once a year in 1872.⁶ With over 300 volumes in the library, efforts were made to revive the organization in 1879, but the interest again languished.⁷ The mere love of books and yearning for acculturation was insufficient to maintain the organization without the substantial support of a private endowment or public funding. Although there are no records of a board or association from 1881 to 1901, the library collections remained in existence.

Women's associations played an important role in establishing libraries and reading rooms in many Wisconsin communities. In 1901 a local Women's association was formed which kept the library collection together and laid the ground work for securing a grant from the Carnegie Foundation.⁸ The association's book collection, like the collections of other library associations in Wisconsin, was turned over to the public library after its founding and formed the nucleus of the Carnegie Free Library's holdings.

The Carnegie Foundation was a philanthropic project of the steel magnate Andrew Carnegie, whose donations resulted in the construction of 64 public libraries in Wisconsin and over 1,679 throughout the United States at a total cost of over \$40,000,000.⁹ The foundation was a major factor in the rapid increase in the number of free libraries in the state which jumped from 28 in 1896 to 211 by 1922. The foundation essentially galvanized local support through the gift of the library structure making it easier for the educated and well-bred cultural "missionaries" of the library movement to garner the necessary tax support to maintain a permanent local library.

The Carnegie Foundation originally attached only two stipulations to their library grants: the community was responsible for providing an adequate site, and had to agree to support the completed library through an annual maintenance appropriation equal to 10 percent of the total grant. However, by the time the Carnegie Free Library was established in Sturgeon Bay, the foundation also reviewed building plans.

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In the summer of 1906 the women's association turned over the fledgling library to the city and the library board was appointed to meet the requirements and conditions of the Carnegie Foundation.¹⁰ The city re-applied and received a grant of \$14,500. The plans submitted by the local architect Fred D. Crandall were accepted and construction started in July of 1912.¹¹ With over 3000 volumes the "Free Library" formally opened on May 1, 1913 and served the community in that capacity until 1975 when the present library was built.¹²

Only two architects had practices in Sturgeon Bay during its early years. Little is known of either architect. Charles Reynold specialized in institutional buildings and worked for the Catholic Diocese of St. Louis. No buildings in the city can be positively attributed to him. Fred D. Crandall was born in 1859 and died in 1936. His known commissions include the Carnegie Free Library and the Bank of Sturgeon Bay (NRHP Third Avenue/Downtown Historic District).¹³

Education

Like other Wisconsin communities, Sturgeon Bay demonstrated an enthusiastic interest in the social and cultural advancement of its community. Nowhere is this commitment more evident than in the movement to establish a local library in the community. Like many other communities, Sturgeon Bay's first efforts were informal and privately sponsored and were mainly aimed at self-improvement through a variety of events such as reading circles, debates and essay writing. As the free library movement spread through Wisconsin, Sturgeon Bay like many communities opted for publically-sponsored structuring of their library system. The fact that the community accepted Carnegie-mandated conditions of taxpayer-support for the institution is evidence of the public commitment to a public library and the importance of this library to the overall educational and cultural development of Sturgeon Bay.

By its very nature, the Carnegie Free Library is significant for its contribution to the broad patterns of local educational history. For the large numbers of community residents whose were beyond public school age, the library was the city's most significant educational institution. Its role in the acculturation and further education of local citizenry is evident in its function as educational center, cultural center, and as a repository for special collections. The Carnegie Free Library is a symbol of civic involvement in community-wide social and cultural

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development. The library played a significant role in local efforts to promote cultural and education welfare in the local community, serving a broader cross-section of constituents than any other local educational institution.

Architecture

Public libraries were nearly always designed to be showpieces of the affluence and culture of their communities, and therefore visual aesthetics were an important feature of their design. Libraries were generally sited, as the Carnegie Free Library is, on the periphery of the commercial district, due to the lower property costs and were usually sited in the center of a large well-landscaped lot in a manner suggestive of the influence of the City Beautiful movement.

The most popular stylistic form for Wisconsin public libraries was the Classical Revival. Popularized by the "White City" of the 1893 Chicago Exposition, the Classical Revival became the preferred style for public building for the next few decades and was widely used for civic buildings such as libraries, courthouses, city halls and schools. The style was felt to symbolize democracy, civic self-esteem and a community stability. Many communities unable to support the construction of monumental neoclassical piles often chose to simplify the style, utilizing stylistic details only at the main public entrance or the windows. This simplification is evident in the Carnegie Free Library where details are concentrated in the corner pilasters, entablature and entrance.

The Classical Revival style was quite popular in Sturgeon Bay just after the turn of the century. Many vernacular interpretations of the Classical Revival style were executed in the local Sturgeon Bay limestone as was the Carnegie Free Library. This distinctive assemblage of grey limestone buildings gives the city a unique character. Because this stone was considered to be too hard for carving, it was not widely used as the sole building material anywhere except in the local area. The community contains a number of examples including four commercial buildings, three churches, two residences, and two civic buildings. The largest concentration of these stone buildings is in the Third Avenue/Downtown Historic District which contains four Sturgeon Bay limestone buildings.¹⁴

Because of the nature of this material, it was generally laid as rockfaced ashlar. The trim and ornamentation was generally executed in various sized stone pieces rather than carving or sawing stone blocks, creating simple designs with generally

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vague Classical stylistic references. The Carnegie Free Library and the St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church are the only two building which utilize a softer carved and sawn stone for ornamental trim such as modillions, arches and pilasters. Due to the durable nature of the materials, most of these buildings retain a high degree of integrity and most examples could be considered potentially eligible. However, viewed in the local context, the Carnegie Free Library is an outstanding example of the stylistic use of this material in terms of size, scale, ornamentation and architectural design. Few limestone buildings in Sturgeon Bay can match the detailing in trim and ornamentation which is exemplified in this building through the use of carved Bedford Stone.

The Carnegie Free Library represents the significant local community efforts in the education and acculturation of its citizens. It is a significant local example of the Classical Revival style as executed in the indigenous limestone and retains a high degree of integrity.

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FOOTNOTES

- ¹ Door County Democrat, 2 May 1913, p. 1.
- ² Original Specifications and Drawings for the Sturgeon Bay Carnegie Free Library. On file at the Sturgeon Bay Library.
- ³ Bruce M. Kriviskey and Richard H. Zeitlin, Intensive Architectural/Historical Survey and Recommendations for Downtown Revitalization and Historic Preservation for Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin, Milwaukee: Pfaller Herbst Associates, Inc., 1983, p. 7.
- ⁴ Ibid, pp. 7-10.
- ⁵ Charles I. Martin, History of Door County, Sturgeon Bay, WI.: Expositor Job Print, 1881, p. 112.
- ⁶ Ibid.
- ⁷ Ibid, p. 113.
- ⁸ Door County Democrat, 2 May 1913.
- ⁹ G.S. Bobinski, Carnegie Libraries, Chicago: American Library Association, 1969.
- ¹⁰ Door County Democrat, 2 May 1913.
- ¹¹ Ibid.
- ¹² Ibid.
- ¹³ Survey for Sturgeon Bay, p. 24.
- ¹⁴ Ibid, p. 53.

9. Major Bibliographical References

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

Previous documentation on file (NPS): See continuation sheet
 preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 57) 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
Specify repository:
 Sturgeon Bay Public Library

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Less than one acre

UTM References

| | | | | | | | |
|---|------------|--------------------|----------------------|---|----------|------------------|--------------------|
| A | <u>1/6</u> | <u>4/7/0/3/2/0</u> | <u>4/9/6/4/4/6/0</u> | B | <u>/</u> | <u>/ / / / /</u> | <u>/ / / / / /</u> |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing | | Zone | Easting | Northing |
| C | <u>/</u> | <u>/ / / / /</u> | <u>/ / / / / /</u> | D | <u>/</u> | <u>/ / / / /</u> | <u>/ / / / / /</u> |

 See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Lots 5 and 6 in Block 14 of the assessor's map of the city of Sturgeon Bay.

 See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The nominated property consists of the entire lot that has been historically associated with the property.

 See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jeffrey Stangel/Owner
organization date May 25, 1988
street & number 3525 N. Duluth Avenue telephone (414) 743-608
city or town Sturgeon Bay state Wisconsin zip code 54235

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BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

Bobinski, G.S. Carnegie Libraries. Chicago: American Library Association, 1969.

Door County Democrat, 2 May 1913.

Krviskey, Bruce M. and Zietlin Richard H. Intensive Architectural/Historical Survey and Recommendations for Downtown Revitalization and Historic Preservation for Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin. Milwaukee: Pfaller Herbst Associates, Inc., 1983.

Martin, Charles I. History of Door County. Sturgeon Bay, WI.: Expositor Job Print, 1881.

Original Specifications and Drawings for the Sturgeon Bay Carnegie Free Library.

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CARNEGIE FREE LIBRARY

Jeffrey and Vicki Stangel
3525 N. Duluth Avenue
Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin 54235

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CARNEGIE FREE LIBRARY
STURGEON BAY, DOOR COUNTY, WISCONSIN
Photographer: Jeff Stangel
Date of Photographs: April 1988
Location of negatives: State Historical Society of Wisconsin

1. View, front facade facing north.
2. View, west facade facing northeast.
3. View, east facade facing northwest.
4. View, east facade facing northwest.
5. View, front entry wing facing north.
6. View, rear and west facade facing southeast.
7. View, front entry wing facing east.
8. View, Tiled floor of vestibule.
9. Interior View, Basement level from entry wing.
10. Interior View, entry wing staircase.
11. Interior View, fireplace.
12. Interior View, Reception area.
13. Interior View, Librarian's office.
14. Interior View, Upper level partitions facing south.
15. Interior View, Lower level partitions facing east.

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