

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

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received **JAN 28 1986**
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Coos Bay Carnegie Library Number of contributing features: 1
and/or common Coos Art Museum (Old) Number of non-contributing features: 0

2. Location

street & number 515 Market Street N/A not for publication
city, town Coos Bay N/A vicinity of Fourth Congressional District
state Oregon code 41 county Coos code 011

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>N/A</u> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<u>N/A</u> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: None

4. Owner of Property

name Ralph Hultgren
street & number PO Box 1144
city, town Coos Bay N/A vicinity of state Oregon 97420

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Coos County Courthouse
street & number 99 E. Second Street
city, town Coquille state Oregon 97423

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Statewide Inventory of
title Historic Properties has this property been determined eligible? yes no
date 1974 federal state county local
depository for survey records State Historic Preservation Office, 525 Trade Street SE
city, town Salem state Oregon 97310

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u>N/A</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Carnegie Library, situated above the marsh area in the city of Coos Bay (previously Marshfield), Oregon was the first building specifically designed for public library purposes in Coos County. The building was constructed of concrete and wood in the Classical vein in the tradition of the American Renaissance. Erected in 1914, it was officially opened for use on March 13, 1915. The architect for the project was W. S. Turpen, a cousin of Agnes R. Sengstacken, the acknowledged spearhead of the library project. The building is unoccupied at present but is in reasonably sound condition. Repairs necessary to reverse the effects of deferred maintenance include re-roofing and new flashing, repair of the sheet metal cornice, repair of the wood windows and door assemblies, and replacement of mechanical and electrical systems.

The building's ground plan measures approximately 36 X 64 feet. Its site is a sloping parcel 100 feet square at the southwest corner of the intersection of Fifth and Market Streets. The building's principal facade and major frontage is presented to the north, along Market Street. Opposite the east end, across Fifth Street, is a Masonic building. On adjacent property to the west is a single family residence of a slightly later period. Directly across Market Street are older residences which have been converted to professional offices. The building is situated some 50 or 60 feet above the average level of the downtown and therefore commands a view of Coos Bay in the Coos River to the east.

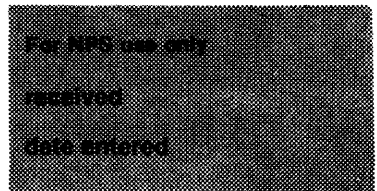
The building is rectangular in plan with a projecting central pedimented portico and Classical entablature of the Doric Order. It is one story in height atop a basement partially above grade. In the basement are the children's reading room, toilets and mechanical room. The upper floor consists of a general reading room and stack area divided by a central librarian's station.

The building is constructed of concrete basement and exterior walls. The basement walls, to the height of the water table, are finished with rough textured stucco. The basement is lighted on the east end by banks of flat-arched windows having tripartite top lights. The upper story exterior stucco is smoother in texture and continuous to a string course and sheet metal cornice. The cornice, including a dentil course, is fabricated entirely of galvanized sheet metal. The low hipped roof is wood framed with spaced sheathing and a wood shingle cover. A layer of asphalt shingles has been placed over the original wood shingles. The shingle area is circumscribed by a flat portion of roof at the perimeter that acts as a gutter and distributes water to the non-original downspouts.

But for its prominent Classical portico, the Coos Bay Carnegie Library could be considered a modest attempt to emulate the quintessential library of the American Renaissance, the Boston Public Library (1887-1898) by McKim, Mead & White, foremost proponents of the freely-adapted Renaissance style. A diminutive building by comparison, the Coos Bay Library is nonetheless characterized by the same bilateral symmetry, differentiated treatment of ground story, arcaded fenestration, and Classical entablature which epitomize the grander archetypes. Main story fenestration in the Coos Bay Library consists of paired and tripartite

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet Carnegie Library Item number 7 Page 2

wood window frames with round-arched heads inserted into generous rectangular openings. The result was an abundance of natural light on the interior. By far, the most imposing feature of the building is the pedimented portico with its fully detailed raking cornice, rough-stuccoed tympanum and spandrels, and colossal round-arched portal. The portal, slightly recessed behind the main wall plane of the portico, has a subsidiary temple-fronted frame for the double-leaf door in which geometric top light grilles are the familiar hallmark of the Beaux Arts tradition. The portico is skillfully scaled to create a stately, if not monumental entrance.

Interior spatial organization, typical of Carnegie libraries of similar class, remains intact. The building had only one tenant after its use as a library ended in the late 1960s. Following completion of the new Coos Bay Library, the building was used as the headquarters of the Coos Art Museum. In 1984, the Art Museum moved to new quarters in the old U.S. Post Office building on Anderson Street in downtown Coos Bay. In 1985, the city sold the old Carnegie Library to a local businessman whose intent is to rehabilitate it for adaptive use. The main floor plan has changed little except in the central librarian's station, directly opposite the entry area. The basement area remains intact with the exception of the portion of the basement that was converted to the Agnes R. Sengstacken Children's Reading Room in January 1941. Book shelving and children's coat hooks remain from that era. Original lath and plaster wall and ceiling finishes, although not noteworthy, remain throughout the building with the exception of a small area above the fireplace, in the west reading room on the main floor. The fireplace surround of brick with flat arched fire box opening is intact. The chimney appears to have been re-built in recent years.

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1914 **Builder/Architect** W. S. Turpen, Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Coos Bay Carnegie Library, erected in 1914 and used for public library purposes in the Coos County seat for over fifty years, is a small but stately building of concrete construction in the Classical style. Located at 515 Market Street in Coos Bay, Coos County, Oregon, it is typical of the many civic buildings and libraries across the country which emulated grand, Classically-inspired buildings designed by American architects schooled in the tradition of the Ecole des Beaux Arts. What has come to be thought of as the American Renaissance in art and architecture precisely corresponded with what George Bobinski has termed the "wholesale period" of Andrew Carnegie's library philanthropy, 1898-1919. Gifts to Oregon communities made possible by the steel magnate's largesse during this period ranged in magnitude from \$5,000 to \$105,000, although the preponderance ranged between \$7,500 and \$20,000. Coos Bay's award of \$12,500 was made in 1913 and characteristically required the donation of public land for a building site and the city's pledge to provide for maintenance and operation on a continuing basis. In Oregon, thirty-two public library projects were carried out with Carnegie grants, the earliest having been awarded in 1906. The Coos Bay Library project was realized in the heaviest period of Carnegie grant activity in the state, 1911-1914, and within the single most active year. Though specific design criteria were not stipulated by the Carnegie Foundation, general architectural standards and recommendations for efficient interior layout were promulgated by this time. Carnegie libraries were invariably Classically-inspired, whether in the Georgian, Classical or Renaissance vein, and only occasionally did they show regional variation in the selection of construction materials. The Carnegie Library in Baker, on the far eastern border of the state, was built of tuff, a local volcanic stone, in the same year as Coos Bay's on the Oregon coast. While the latter was more economically carried out in stuccoed concrete, the two buildings are recognizably similar in form and style.

The Carnegie Library in Coos Bay meets National Register criterion "a" as a well-preserved manifestation in Oregon of the Carnegie Foundation's far-reaching library philanthropy and as the oldest permanent library building in the county. Secondly, it meets criterion "c" as a distinctive example in Coos Bay of American Renaissance architecture interpreted by local architect W. S. Turpen. It is also one of the community's early buildings of reinforced concrete. Locally, it is significant for its association with Agnes R. Sengstacken, the prime mover behind the city's public library.

One of the important associations of the library building is its "founder", Agnes R. Sengstacken. Agnes was born to Freeman G. and Esther M. Lockart, who were residents of Tompkins County, New York. The Lockarts came to Oregon in 1851 and came to Coos County on October 18, 1853. F. G. Lockart was a member of the Coos Bay Commercial Company which formed the first permanent settlement in Coos County in Empire in 1853.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Attached Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Coos Bay, Oregon

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	0	4	0	1	4	8	0	4	8	0	2	3	4	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B

Zone				Easting				Northing						

C

Zone				Easting				Northing						

D

Zone				Easting				Northing						

E

Zone				Easting				Northing						

F

Zone				Easting				Northing						

G

Zone				Easting				Northing						

H

Zone				Easting				Northing						

Verbal boundary description and justification The Coos Bay Carnegie Library is located in SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 26, Township 25S., Range 13W., Willamette Meridian, in Coos Bay, Coos County, Oregon. It occupies Lots 1 and 4 of Block 24 of E. B. Dean & Company's Addition to the Town of Marshfield and is otherwise described as Tax Lot 1900 at that location. The parcel is 100 feet square.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code
N/A			

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Steve Clay, AIA

organization Samuels & Clay, Architects & Planners date August, 1985

street & number 170 South Second Street, Suite 202 telephone (503) 269-5555

city or town Coos Bay state Oregon 97420

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 

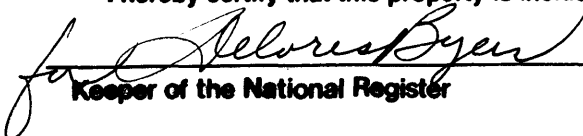
title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer date January 16, 1986

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the National Register

date 2/27/86


Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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Continuation sheet Carnegie Library Item number 8 Page 2

According to Peterson and Powers, in A Century of Coos and Curry, the Lockarts were the first teachers of a Coos County School. In 1854, Mrs. Lockart taught school and Mr. Lockart became the county school superintendent, in Empire, until 1857. It should be fairly clear how one of Mrs. Lockart's six children, Agnes R. Stengstacken, became an author of Destination West, and the founder and backer of the Marshfield Public Library. With her parents' involvement and interest in education in Coos County, Agnes developed her own literary interest, and with the Progress Club of Coos Bay, created the interest among residents of Marshfield in having their own public library. The process by which this occurred was described in the 1928 Golden Jubilee issue of the Coos Bay Times.

One of Finest Libraries of Any Town Its Size Is Maintained in Marshfield - Other Coos County Library Boards and Librarians Are Doing Splendid Work.

One of the largest contributing factors to the intellectual life of the people of the community is the Marshfield Public Library.

The library had its beginning in 1910, as a result of the awakening of the members of the Progress club to the possibilities of good afforded by a public collection of books. Four years earlier, feeling the need of books for club study, and knowing the dearth of good literature for their girls and boys who were growing up, these club workers decided that Marshfield needed and therefore should have a public library. Accordingly, a committee, consisting of Mrs. Henry Sengstacken and Mrs. W. C. Bradley was appointed by the club to ascertain what could be done toward establishing such an institution. This committee worked along quietly for several months, carrying on a campaign of education that was destined to bear much fruit early in 1907. A fresh and powerful impetus was given to the movement by the present of Mr. Andrew McClelland, president for life, of the Pueblo, Colorado, public library.

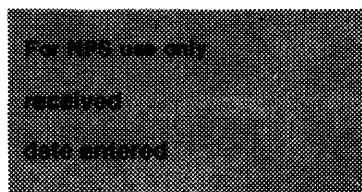
Under the stimulus of Mr. McClelland's enthusiasm the club actively engaged in the library agitation, and on the evening of February 26, 1907, a book social was held at the home of the president, Mrs. Henry Sengstacken, where each number was requested to donate at least one book to the library cause. The response was hearty, and thirty-six books were received. Those volumes formed the nucleus of the present public library of Marshfield. The following evening, under the auspices of the Progress club, Mr. McClelland, who had recently returned from a tour of the world, delivered a lecture on India at the Odd Fellows' hall, assisted by the Chaminade club.

From this entertainment the sum of fifty dollars was realized for the library fund. This was the first money earned, or received, toward the present public library.

By this time considerable public interest had been aroused on the subject, and at the instigation of the committee, a public meeting was called for the purpose of ascertaining the views of the people regarding a tax levy for the

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet Carnegie Library Item number 8 Page 3

establishment, equipment and maintenance of a public library. At this meeting the chairman, Mayor E. E. Straw, appointed a ways and means committee.

At a mass meeting called at the suggestion of this committee, it proved to be the opinion of those present that the city council should be asked to levy a one-mill tax for the establishment and maintenance of a public library, and that an appeal should be made to Andrew Carnegie for the sum of ten thousand dollars with which to erect a library building.

A new and permanent library committee was appointed. The new members were: Mrs. Henry Sengstacken, Mrs. W. C. Bradley, I. S. Smith, I. S. Kaufman and J. M. Blake. The committee began an aggressive campaign for the purpose of raising subscriptions for the book fund, and a visit was paid by the entire committee to the city council to request that a one-mill tax be levied by them for the maintenance of the library. After considerable discussion, a vote was taken by the council men present, and only one member voted for the measure. A few months later, when library matters were more developed, the committee again requested aid of the city council, and again it was refused. However, the committee was not discouraged, but went valiantly to work again to earn more money for their book fund. A public entertainment consisting of classical readings was given by Lawrence A. Liljeqvist, a fine Shakespearean scholar, assisted by local singers. Some time later the Progress club produced Handel's Oratorio, 'The Messiah,' under the direction of Professor Todd. Finding that there was not yet enough money in the fund, the Progress Club gave a benefit dance. In April, 1910, an organization of young girls in the town held a 'Tag Day' sale and gave the proceeds to the book committee. In May, 1910, the library committee again visited the city council. A change had occurred in the personnel of the council, and a majority of its members were in favor of establishing a public library. The council voted a liberal monthly sum for its maintenance. Mrs. Sengstacken was elected president of the library board and has continued to hold that position (ed. note: She held that position for 27 years). She gave unsparingly of her time and best efforts in selecting books, and her leadership soon proved itself indispensable. It was owing to the endeavors of the library board that in 1915, Marshfield was presented with a Carnegie library building.

According to a 1941 women's column in the Coos Bay Times, as a token of appreciation for Mrs. Sengstacken's devoted efforts, the children's reading room was named the "Agnes R. Sengstacken Childrens' Reading Room" when it was completed in January, 1941. In that room was a collection of many sea shells which Mrs. Sengstacken gave to the library in addition to other souvenirs she had collected through her travels to share with the children of Coos County.

The library's architect, William S. Turpen, Jr. was the son of William and Alice Turpen, who moved from Missouri to Coos County in 1861. Bud Turpen's father was a logger who purchased an interest in a logging camp which he kept until his retirement. Bud's father was also the Justice of the Peace and City Recorder in

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only
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Continuation sheet Carnegie Library

Item number 8

Page 4

Empire. Because of relatives living in Forest Grove, Mr. Turpen traveled to the Willamette Valley to live with them and attend Pacific University to study architecture. Subsequent to his training there, Mr. Turpen returned to Coos Bay where he practiced. Mr. Turpen's major work was the Coos Bay Library. In addition he also designed some elegant homes in the area. One of which is at 1920 North 19th and is currently occupied by Horace and Margaret Byler who were interviewed to provide information for this nomination. Other residences include a house on Sherman Street, North Bend, Oregon. It appears from statements made by Mrs. Sengstacken in a Coos Bay Times article, that Turpen's involvement in the library project was a product of his being a cousin to Mrs. Sengstacken, and because of his love of the library and education in general. Mr. Byler reports that Bud Turpen was not only a quality architect but was well known in the community for his craftsmanship in machine work and carpentry.

According to Peterson and Powers, the Coos Bay Library was the earliest permanent library building in Coos County. The library was first opened in the Sengstacken building in approximately 1910.

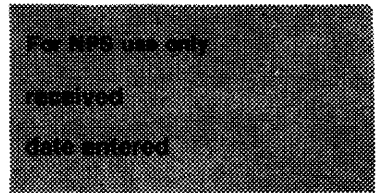
On April 28, 1913, the Carnegie Foundation and Andrew Carnegie granted the entity then known as the City of Marshfield, \$12,500 for the construction of a library. Until approximately 1908, once the site was provided and the annual maintenance pledge was signed, a community could build a Carnegie Library as it saw fit. However, because there were relatively few libraries that had been constructed before 1898, there were few architects experienced in building libraries, particularly those for small or medium size towns. Too often, buildings were planned with expensive exterior and inefficient interior layouts. In approximately 1911, James Bertram, the Secretary of the Carnegie Foundation, decided to try to eliminate these blunders. Mr. Bertram conferred with leading authorities on libraries and the architectural profession, and produced a leaflet entitled "Notes on library Buildings" which in 1911 was sent to each community as a guide as they designed their structures. Mr. Bertram claimed that these notes and "judicious pressure on architects in communities" usually resulted in a desirable building.

It may be assumed that architect Turpen had the benefit of Mr. Bertram's "Notes" and other instruction as he did his work on the Marshfield City Library.

Carnegie Public Library philanthropy began in the United States in 1886. Andrew Carnegie gave money for public libraries throughout the English speaking world. He also contributed funds for the erection of some 108 academic library buildings, and made many miscellaneous library gifts to non-public libraries. Until the time Andrew Carnegie terminated his library financing, he had supplied 1,412 communities in the United States with one or more public library buildings. Twenty-seven communities in Oregon received Carnegie grants with Portland being the only city that received grants for branch libraries.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet Carnegie Library

Item number

8

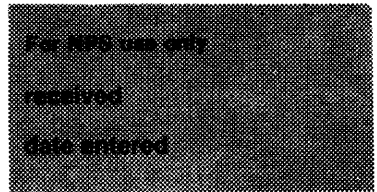
Page

5

The private owner, Mr. Ralph Hultgren, is pursuing a course of action to restore the building to its original exterior appearance and rehabilitate the interior for adaptive use. Since the late 1960s, when it was superseded, the building was used by the Coos Art Museum and, which vacated the premises in 1984. It is widely felt by the members of the community and the downtown that the building's registration and rehabilitation will be another catalyst in the revitalization of Coos Bay's downtown core.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet Carnegie Library Item number 9 Page 1

Bobinski, George S., Carnegie Libraries: Their History and Impact on American Public Library Development, American Library Association, Chicago, Illinois, 1969.

Coos Bay Times, 1907-1908; 1910 and 1913.

Dodge, Orvil, Pioneer History of Coos and Curry Counties, Oregon, Western World Publishers-Printers, Bandon, Oregon, 1969. Originally published in Salem by the Capital Printing Company, 1898.

"Marshfield Library," Coos Bay Times - Golden Jubilee Annual, 1928.

Peterson, Emil R., and Powers, Alfred, A Century of Coos and Curry, Binfords and Mort Publishers, Portland, Oregon, 1952. pp. 213; 298-300; 551 and 577.

Interview with Horace and Margaret Byler, August, 1985, at their home at 1920 North 14th, Coos Bay, Oregon, regarding W. S. "Bud" Turpen, architect.

SW1/4 SW1/4 SEC.26 T.25S. R.13W. W.M.

COOS COUNTY

1" = 100'

SEE MAP 25 13 26CB

