

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUL 16 1976

DATE ENTERED

NOV 7 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

Carnegie Public Library

AND/OR COMMON

Johnson County Library

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

90 North Main

__ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Buffalo

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Wyoming

__ VICINITY OF

CODE

56

COUNTY

Johnson

CODE

019

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input 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 checked="" 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	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Johnson County

STREET & NUMBER

76 North Main

CITY, TOWN

Buffalo

__ VICINITY OF

Wyoming

STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Johnson County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

76 North Main

CITY, TOWN

Buffalo

Wyoming

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Wyoming Recreation Comm. Survey of Historic Sites, Markers & Monuments

DATE

1967 (1973 revised)

__ FEDERAL STATE __ COUNTY __ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Wyoming Recreation Commission

CITY, TOWN

Cheyenne

STATE

WY 82002

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

CHECK ONE

CHECK ONE

EXCELLENT

DETERIORATED

UNALTERED

ORIGINAL SITE

GOOD

RUINS

ALTERED

MOVED DATE _____

FAIR

UNEXPOSED

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Johnson County Library Building is situated on the northwest corner of the County Courthouse grounds. It was built in 1909 of native stone, with mortar made by mixing lime and sand. There have been no significant alterations. In 1973 an exit from the basement was authorized to be built at the back of the building in compliance with fire regulations, and otherwise the structure is as it was at the time it was built.

This building is typical of early 20th century architecture. It has a main floor and a large finished basement. The main entry is so arranged that a few steps up leads into the main floor area, and less than a full flight of steps leads to a very usable basement.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1909 BUILDER/ARCHITECT W. H. Butler

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Johnson County Library Building is a fine example of the Neoclassical style of architecture. Among the structural details which should be noted are the quoins of contrasting color and the cut-stone lintels. Another interesting feature is the stucco in the gable on the east facade.

On January 28, 1909, the local newspaper of Buffalo reported that Judge Parmalee had returned from visiting libraries in Cheyenne and Laramie, Wyoming. He said that Andrew Carnegie had agreed to provide \$12,500 for erection of a library building in Buffalo, if the County would furnish the site and \$1,250 a year for maintenance. Citizens of Johnson County agreed, and a portion of the Courthouse grounds was donated by the County Commissioners upon which to build the library.

The cornerstone at the northeast corner of the building was laid in 1909, and the building has been in continuous use as a county library since that year. This was 13 years after the first county library law in the United States was enacted by the Wyoming Territorial Legislature, and only 9 years after Wyoming was admitted into the Union as the 44th state.

At the turn of the century there was no cement in Johnson County and no economical way to freight it in to Buffalo. A few miles south at the foot of the Big Horn range was a good supply of limestone which could be fired in large kilns and refined into lime, a process taking about 72 hours. This was hauled to Buffalo and used in mortar and for making whitewash, and was essential for construction of many public buildings and homes in the area. Architecture in a remote settlement such as Buffalo had to make use of native materials, and from it there is much to be learned about history, the style of an age, economic health of a community, and the interests of the people who were responsible for the public buildings in a time of development. In this particular building we see how important to the early culture was the establishment of a library--probably even more important to the citizens of the new western state than to more heavily populated areas.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

The Buffalo Bulletin, Buffalo, Wyoming, January 28, 1909

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1/4

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 3	3 6,4 5,4,5	4,9 1,1 7,2,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C			

B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

James F. Dillinger, President

ORGANIZATION

Johnson County Historical Society

DATE

June 15, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

385 South Main

TELEPHONE

(307) 684-7309

CITY OR TOWN

Buffalo

STATE

Wyoming

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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

Rue H. Sherrett

TITLE

Wyoming State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

June 1, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Acting

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

11/9/76

ATTEST

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

11/1/76