

Iowa Site Inventory

Division of Historic Preservation
Iowa State Historical Department
26 E. Market St., Iowa City, Iowa 52240

Site Number 51-012-005

District Name _____

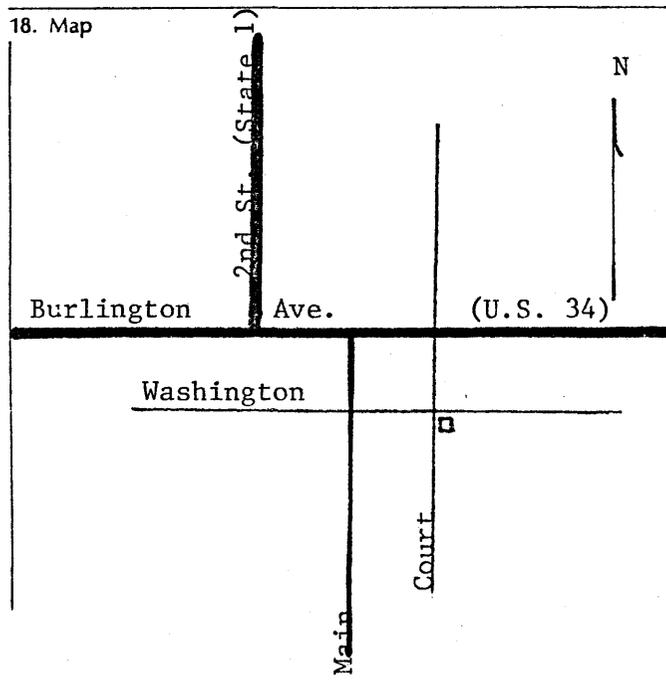
Map Reference # _____

Identification

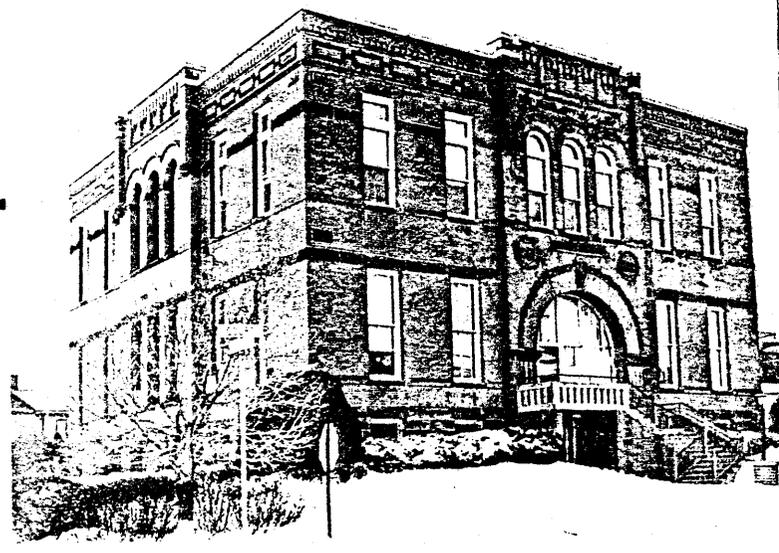
1. Site Name Fairfield Public Library
2. Village/Town/City Fairfield Township _____ County Jefferson
3. Street Address Court and Washington
4. Legal Location 012 Old Plat 18 Lots 7 & 8
Urban: Rural: subdivision township block range parcel section subparcel % section of % section
5. UTM Location: zone 15 easting 591500 northing 4540000; Acreage </
6. Owner(s) Name City of Fairfield
7. Owner(s) Address _____
(Street address) (City) (State) (Zip) Fairfield, Iowa 52556
8. Use: Present library & museum Original library & museum

Description

9. Date of Construction 1892-93 ~~XXXXXX~~ Builder C. Stafford, Kansas City, Mo. contract _____
10. Building Type:
 single-family dwelling industrial other institutional religious
 multiple-family dwelling educational public agricultural
 commercial
11. Exterior Walls: clapboard stone brick board and batten shingles stucco
 other with trim in stone and terracotta
12. Structural System: wood frame with interlocking joints wood frame with light members (balloon frame)
 masonry load-bearing walls iron frame steel frame with curtain walls reinforced concrete
 other _____
13. Condition: excellent good fair deteriorated
14. Integrity: original site moved—if so, when? _____
 Notes on alterations, additions (with dates and architect, if known) and any other notable features of building and site: Roof lower pavilion gables removed, second floor ceilings dropped (1930's); entrance-way drastically remodeled (c.1965); first floor ceilings dropped.
15. Related Outbuildings and Property: barn other farm structures carriage house garage privy
 other _____
16. Is the building endangered? no yes—if so, why? _____
17. Surroundings of the building: open land woodland scattered outbuildings densely built-up commercial
 industrial residential other _____



19. Photo Roll 167 Frame 17A View Looking NW



Significance

(Indicate sources of information for all statements)

19. Architectural significance

- a. Key structure/individually may qualify for the National Register
- b. Contributing structure
- c. Not eligible/intrusion

The Fairfield Public Library is a good example of a public building in a planar Richardsonian Romanesque style. The architectural integrity of the building has been impaired by modifications to the roof and entranceway.

20. Historical Significance

Theme(s) Social/Humanitarian

- a. Key structure/individually may qualify for the National Register

- b. Contributing structure

- c. Not eligible/intrusion

The public library at Fairfield, built in 1892, was the first of a total of 101 Carnegie libraries built in Iowa. In the national context, it was the first Carnegie west of Pennsylvania, the fourth of over 1600 libraries endowed by Carnegie between 1889 and 1919, and one of only a few funded without attendant stipulations concerning use, public support, or design. Fairfield's library history begins in 1853, when a group of local men organized a library association. Housed in an assortment of buildings over 40 years, the library was funded by dues from members, and later from the using public at large. U.S. Senator James Wilson, of Fairfield, is credited locally with obtaining a library grant from Andrew Carnegie who in 1892 had only begun his building program (3 years before). Once housed in its new building, the Fairfield library remained under association control for 7 years. Community support through taxation was voted in 1899.

21. Sources (for primary and secondary sources, give complete facts of publication: author, title, place of publication, date, etc.):

- Welty, Susan F. A Fair Field. Detroit: Harlo Press, 1975. pp.75-102.
- DHPFIR, S. Klingensmith, 1979.
- DHPLSQ-1, James Rubis, Director.

Prepared by S. Klingensmith

Date August, 1980

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Organization _____

For Division of Historic Preservation Use Only

1. Office Information Sources on this Property

- County Resource File
- Windshield Survey
- National Register
- Grants-In-Aid: _____
- Determination of Eligibility

Review and Compliance Project:

- Other _____
- Other _____
- Other _____

2. Subject Traces

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____
- e. _____

3. Photo Images 167/17A-24A

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____