

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

NATIONAL
REGISTER

1. Name of Property

historic name: Sacramento City Library

other name/site number: Central Library

2. Location

street & number: 828 I Street

not for publication: NA

city/town: Sacramento vicinity:

state: CA county: Sacramento code: 067 zip code: 95814

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: public/local

Category of Property: building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u> 1 </u>	<u> </u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u> 1 </u>	<u> 0 </u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: NA

Name of related multiple property listing: California Carnegie Libraries

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property x meets _____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. See continuation sheet.

Stade R. Cray
Signature of certifying official

June 22, 1992
Date

California Office of Historic Preservation

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
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): _____

Arthur J. [Signature]

7/30/92

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic: Education _____

Sub: Library _____

Current : Education _____

Sub: Library _____

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Italian Renaissance_

Other Description: _____

Materials: foundation: concrete roof: not visible
walls: brick _____ other _____
terra cotta__

Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheet.

8. Statement of Significance

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

Applicable National Register Criteria: A, C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : NA

Areas of Significance: Social History _____
Architecture _____

Period(s) of Significance: 1918-1942

Significant Dates : _____

Significant Person(s): _____

Cultural Affiliation: _____

Architect/Builder: Rixford, Loring, architect _____

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above. X See continuation sheet.

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9. Major Bibliographical References
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X See continuation sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- _ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) 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:

- x State historic preservation office
_ Other state agency
_ Federal agency
_ Local government
_ University
x Other -- Specify Repository: Sacramento Public Library _____

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10. Geographical Data
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Acreage of Property: Less than one acre

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

Table with 4 columns: A, 10, 631200, 4671220, B, C, D. Includes blank lines for data entry.

___ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: Please see enclosed scale map.

Boundary Justification: The boundaries are drawn to include the historic resource while excluding contiguous new construction.

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11. Form Prepared By
=====

Name/Title: Janet Larson _____

Organization: Sacramento Public Library _____ Date: February 13, 1992 _____

Street & Number: 828 I Street _____ Telephone: (916) 440-5926

City or Town: Sacramento _____ State: CA ZIP: 95814 _____

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The Central Library of the Sacramento Public Library is representative of the Italian Renaissance style. It sits on a corner lot in downtown Sacramento, an area that includes the federal building, City Plaza Park, and City Hall. It is rectangular in form, with the long side on I Street and the narrow side on 9th Street. There is one central entrance on I Street. The building is three stories, with the second floor of double height. The brick facade, in shades of rosy buff, is divided horizontally by strong decorative courselines. Ornamental terra cotta manufactured by Gladding McBean of Lincoln, California, is used throughout the facade.

The first floor of the building has recessed square windows separated by panels decorated with lion heads. The second, main floor, is emphasized by a row of tall, arched windows. The upper floor windows are again square, immediately below the frieze and cornice. Composite columns support a broken pediment above the entrance, centered on the long face of the building, just a few steps above grade level, very slightly projecting and rising just into the band of windows of the second level. In front, handicapped access has been added with a long, very slightly inclined ramp parallel to the building from the west corner to the entrance. The original lamps stand to either side of the door.

Very little original fabric remains on the interior of the building as a result of the current project to modernize the library and enlarge the facilities. The enlargement has been done as a separate building, leaving the old library basically intact. The new library building has been carefully designed to not detract from or overpower the original Carnegie building. The only other alteration to the exterior was the removal of the rear stack wing. This alteration, though, has not seriously affected the appearance of the building and it retains a fairly high degree of integrity.

The Carnegie building is the only original structure remaining on the block bounded by I, J, 8th and 9th Streets. The library addition is to the south and west of the Carnegie library. South of the library project is a new office tower and parking garage. The library expansion directly to the south of the Carnegie building is a glass galleria that uses the back wall of the old building as its north wall. To the west, a glass roofed foyer, the same height as the Carnegie building, uses the brick facade of the west wall of the Carnegie building as its east wall. The exterior of the Carnegie library is visible on all four sides.

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The Sacramento City Library meets the requirements for National Register listing as set forth in the Multiple Property nomination entitled "California Carnegie Libraries."

Sacramento's first library dates from the year of the city's incorporation, 1850, but was destroyed by fire in 1852. It was modelled on the Mercantile Library of San Francisco. In 1857 a group of prominent men, including Leland Stanford and Charles Crocker, incorporated the Sacramento Library Association. In 1872 this group built a library building on I Street between 7th and 8th. However, like many subscription libraries, the group eventually failed to meet expenses. The passage of the Rogers Act in 1878 encouraged transfer of private libraries to municipalities, and in 1879 the library became a free public library.

By 1913 that first library building was outgrown, and Carnegie funding was sought. In a January 1914 letter, Carnegie Secretary Bertram stressed the Carnegie emphasis on providing branch buildings rather than "expensive and monumental" central libraries. Local library commissioners pointed out that they maintained libraries in all of the public schools and in several fire stations, but that all books circulated through the "inadequate present building." Apparently convinced, the Carnegie foundation granted \$100,000, a very large sum compared to that given other communities, for a central library facility. Architect Loring Rixford of San Francisco designed a building that emphasized "economy and efficiency" of work areas and a "dignified though plain treatment of the exterior." The new library opened April 23, 1918, and was dedicated on October 16th of that year. It has been used continuously as the main public resource center in interior California until closed during the recent construction work. It now houses the special library materials collections of social and historical significance to Sacramento and the surrounding region. It continues to contribute to the vitality of all aspects of life in the area through its information services. The library also serves as a magnet for redevelopment of the downtown area, and is a cornerstone of the downtown cultural district.

The period of significance has been ended at 1942, fifty years ago, because exceptional significance has not been established.

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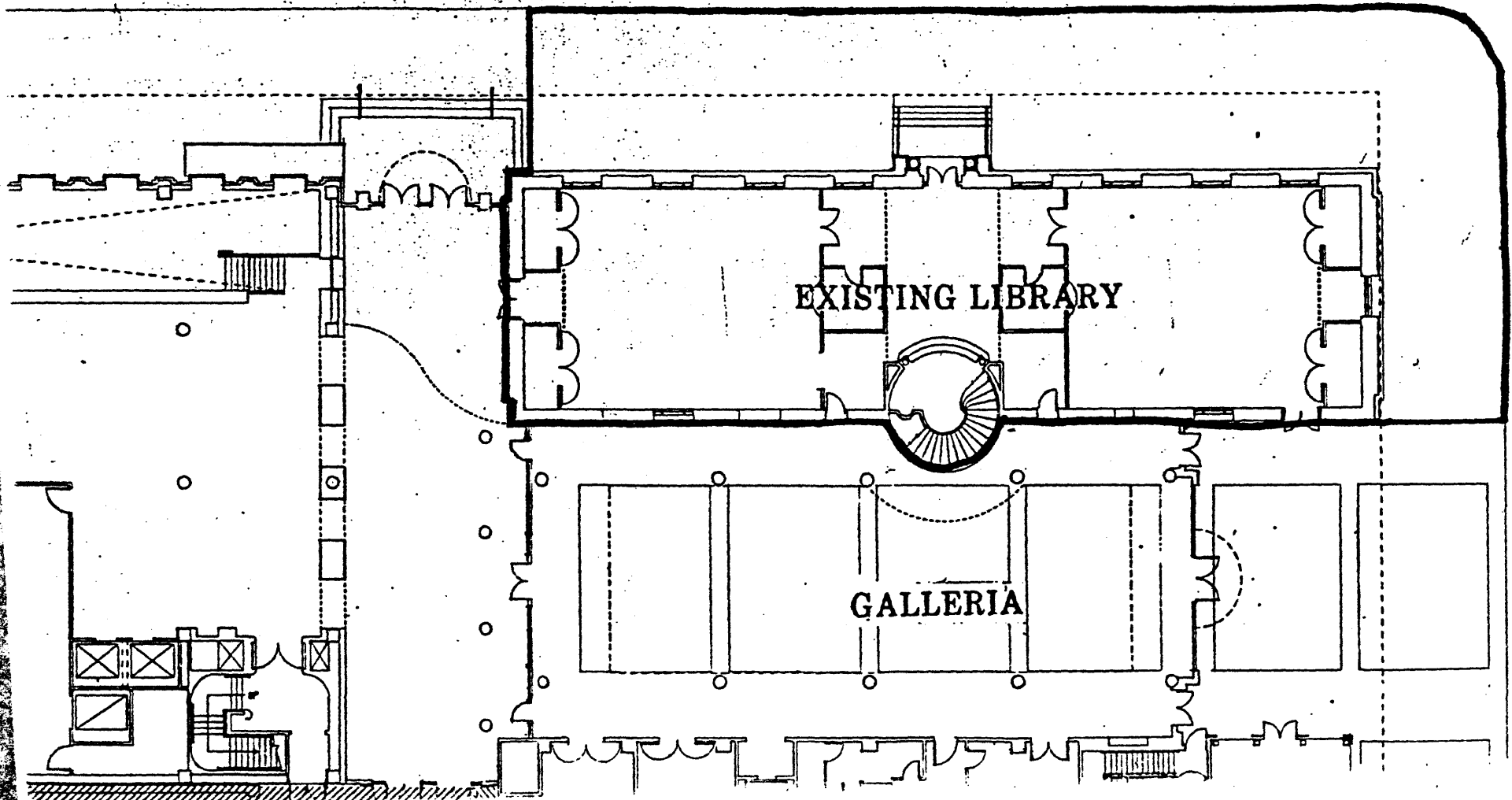
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Bobinski, George S., Carnegie Libraries: Their History and Impact on American Public Library Development, (Chicago, 1969).
"California Carnegie Libraries," Multiple Property National Register nomination, 1990.

I Street



9th Street

Sacramento City Library
Sacramento, CA

1" = 24'