

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received **DEC 20 1982**

date entered

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

1. Name

historic Ashland Public (Carnegie) Library (SD01-53)

and/or common NA

2. Location

street & number 207 North 15th St. NA not for publication

city, town Ashland NA vicinity of

state Nebraska code 031 county Saunders code 155

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name City of Ashland

street & number 1748 Silver Street

city, town Ashland NA vicinity of state Nebraska

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Saunders County Courthouse

street & number NA

city, town Wahoo state Nebraska

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date On-going federal state county local

depository for survey records Nebraska State Historical Society

city, town Lincoln state Nebraska

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Ashland Public (Carnegie) Library is located in Ashland, Nebraska (1981 population: 2276), approximately 23 miles southeast of Wahoo, the county seat of Saunders County. The one-story-over-raised-basement, rectangularly shaped brick structure has a gabled clay tile roof and a prominent entrance pavilion. The building represents the Jacobethan Revival style of architecture. Structural and historical integrity have been preserved except for alterations made to the windows and doors, where modern replacements have occurred.

The Ashland Public (Carnegie) Library is a one story brick Jacobethan Revival building. The structure, which measures 44'6" x 28'6", is rectangularly shaped in plan and has a raised basement and gable roof covered with clay tile. The west (front) facade features a gabled entry pavilion with elbow parapet walls. The raised entry is accented with a stone architrave consisting of pilasters supporting a classical entablature with triglyphs, dentilled cornice, and a segmental pediment resting on the cornice. The frieze is inscribed with "Carnegie Library." A key hole window opening is situated in the gable peak. Half-timbering, reminiscent of the English Tudor style of architecture, is found in the pedimented gable ends on the north and south facades, with bracketed wall cornices. Modillioned cornices are found on the east and west facades. All other trimwork, including the belt course, lugsills, etc. is in stone. Brick segmentally arched window openings are found in the lower level. The original windows, (no longer extant) consisted of double hung sash with four-over-one pane arrangement. Fenestration in the main level was enclosed in a three sash arrangement with mullions. The windows were replaced in 1975, and a new door installed in 1977.

The interior has remained intact and features an entry through the staired vestibule with beveled and stained glass. The floor plan includes a lobby, librarian's area, children's room, reading and reference room, and full basement.

The Ashland Public (Carnegie) Library was built in 1911 with a grant from Andrew Carnegie. The library was designed by the architectural firm of Fisher and Lawrie of Omaha, Nebraska with W. R. Shankland of Lincoln, Nebraska serving as contractor.

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 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 type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1911 **Builder/Architect** W. R. Shankland/Fisher & Lawrie

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Architecturally significant, the Ashland Public (Carnegie) Library represents a fine example of the Jacobethan Revival style, being designed by the prominent Nebraska architectural firm of Fisher and Lawrie of Omaha, Nebraska. The Jacobethan Revival was popular in Nebraska after the turn of the century. Significance also lies in the library's associations with Andrew Carnegie, often called the "Patron Saint" of libraries, who was responsible for funding the construction of libraries throughout the United States. The Woman's Club of Ashland played a significant role in the town's history, serving as the "Founding Fathers" in establishing the library which became an important part of Ashland's educational growth.

The Ashland Public (Carnegie) Library exemplifies the Jacobethan Revival style of architecture, which was popular in the United States during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. "Although most Jacobethan designs may have been for houses, it was on educational architecture that the style had its greatest impact proportionally."¹ The term "Jacobethan" is derived from Jacobean and Elizabethan, and is characterized by the use of brick and stone in construction, rectangular windows, gables rising above the roof line shaped in a steep-sided triangular form, and doorways enclosed within tabernacle frames. (Whiffen, Marcus American Architecture Since 1780). Jacobean architecture was popular in England in the early 17th century being both an architectural and decorative style. It was named after James I. (1603-1625). The Elizabethan style of architecture served as a transition between the Gothic and Renaissance periods in England, and was named after Elizabeth I (1558-1603). (Harris, Cyril M. Historic Architecture Sourcebook).

The library was designed by architects Fisher and Lawrie of Omaha, Nebraska. Harry Lawrie, a native of Scotland, studied architecture in Glasgow and came to the United States in the 1880's. George Lee Fisher was born in Michigan in the year 1856, and received a degree of Civil Engineering from the University of Michigan in 1880. Messrs. Fisher and Lawrie established a partnership in the early 1900's, known as Fisher and Lawrie. Their firm became one of the most prominent architectural practices in the state of Nebraska, designing many buildings in the city of Omaha and in other towns and cities throughout the middle west. Examples of their work include the Gottlieb Storz House in Omaha (see NRHP August 7, 1974), the Conservative Building in Omaha, the Guy C. Barton Residence in Omaha (see NRHP August 14, 1973, no longer extant) and the Calvin Chapman house in Nebraska City (see Nebraska City Historic District, NRHP October 29, 1976).

1. (Whiffen, Marcus, American Architecture Since 1780, p. 181).

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Ashland East, Nebr.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	4	7	2	1	1	6	1	0	4	1	5	4	1	5
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

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D

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Verbal boundary description and justification

The property is located on lots 4-6, Block 17, Flora City Addition, Ashland, Saunders County, Nebraska, including all historically related real estate.

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

state	NA	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Joni Gilkerson, Preservation Associate

organization Nebraska State Historical Society date September, 1982

street & number 1500 R Street telephone (402) 471-3850

city or town Lincoln state Nebraska

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 Marian D. Knott 12/9/82

title Director, Nebraska State Historical Society date

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper of the National Register

date 1/27/83

Attest:

Chief of Registration

date

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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In 1895 the Woman's Club of Ashland was organized for the express purpose of founding a library. It wasn't until several years later, in 1904, that a group of club women organized plans for the library project. The women solicited donations from the town residents, and several benefits were given. The first library was located above Fowler's Barber Shop on Silver Street, and opened April 9, 1904. Prior to the library's opening, the town council agreed, at the request of the woman's club, to levy a tax to aid in the support of the library. The club members, acting as librarians, worked in shifts to insure the library remained open for the public use. The State Library Commission was instrumental in providing instructional courses and other assistance to the citizens regarding the governing of a public library. In 1905, the library was moved into a small building just west of the present 16th street, where it remained for six years. In 1908, it became known as the Ashland Public Library. Mr. and Mrs. Wiggenhorn, Jr., donated the land where the present library was erected, in 1911, with H. A. Wiggenhorn donating the clay tile roof. The total cost of the building was \$7,000 with \$5500 of it coming from Andrew Carnegie. Ground was broken for the library building in October, 1911, with opening dedications taking place in March, 1912. Jessie Scott served as the acting librarian. W. R. Shankland, of Lincoln, Nebraska was given the contract for erection of the library building. In the History of Saunders County, volume 1, 1915 it states: "the City of Ashland is fortunate in having a public library. The modern city is coming to recognize the necessity of a library, where the public, particularly the people who have never had the advantage of a library, may have the privilege of keeping themselves informed."

Andrew Carnegie, a great philanthropist, offered his famous grants for the construction of library buildings. These grants (1898-1921) played a significant role in library history, providing communities with the opportunity to establish their own public libraries. Mr. Carnegie funded the construction of 1679 libraries in the United States, their value totaling over 40 million dollars. (Chatfield, Penelope, "North Bend Carnegie Library," National Register nomination form). Carnegie's assistance to cities for library buildings included stipulations stating that the community must authorize continuing tax funds for library operation, the community be required to own the site and approve an annual tax levy equal to a certain percent of the Carnegie gift for library support. These requirements helped to insure that the city would continue the library's support. After 1908, library design plans were required to be submitted to Carnegie for approval. This was to prevent non-professional plans, and encourage simplicity with decorative elements being kept to a minimum. The Carnegie Corporation, in 1911, published a leaflet defining the approved design ideas of the library profession to aid communities and architects in library projects. (Chatfield, Penelope, "North Bend Carnegie Library," National Register nomination form). The Ashland Public Library follows the recommendations put forth by the corporation in library design, that is, a one-story with raised

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basement, brick, rectangular structure. Although similar in plan with many other Carnegie libraries, the Ashland Public Library may prove to be somewhat unique to libraries in Nebraska due to its Jacobethan detailing incorporated into the building design by architects Fisher and Lawrie.

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"Ashland City Library History," Ashland Public Library, Ashland, Nebraska, 1957.

Chatfield, Penelope. National Register of Historic Places Inventory -- Nomination Form. North Bend Carnegie Library, Dodge County, Nebraska. Lincoln: Nebraska State Historical Society. February, 1981.

"Fisher & Lawrie Buildings", The News Annual, 1896, Nebraska City, Nebraska. The News County Printers.

"Fisher & Lawrie, Omaha Architects", Omaha Daily Bee, January 1, 1906, p. 7.

Harris, Cyril M. Historic Architecture Sourcebook, McGraw-Hill Book Company, USA. copyright 1977.

Hite, Lila, "History of Ashland Library", Ashland Public Library, Ashland, Nebraska, 1979.

"Public Library is Soon to Open", Ashland Gazette, April 1, 1904, p. 5, c. 5.

Whiffen, Marcus. American Architecture Since 1780 A Guide to the Styles, The M.I.T. Press, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Mass., 1969.