

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only  
received JAN 20 1983  
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Goshen Carnegie Public Library  
and/or common Goshen Public Library

2. Location

street & number 202 North 5th Street N/A not for publication  
city, town Goshen N/A vicinity of  
state Indiana code 018 county Elkhart code 039

3. Classification

| Category  | Ownership                                   | Status  | Present Use                                    |
|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> district               | <input type="checkbox"/> public             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied        | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture           |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied                 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure              | <input type="checkbox"/> both               | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress           | <input type="checkbox"/> educational           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site                   | <b>Public Acquisition</b>                   | <b>Accessible</b>                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object                 | <input type="checkbox"/> in process         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> government            |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered   | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted          | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial            |
|   | N/A   | <input type="checkbox"/> no                         | <input type="checkbox"/> military              |
|   |   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> museum                |
|   |   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> park                  |
|   |   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> private residence     |
|   |   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> religious             |
|   |   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific            |
|   |   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation        |
|   |   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> other:                |

4. Owner of Property

name Phyllis J. Troyer  
street & number 415 Lincolnway East  
city, town Mishawaka N/A vicinity of state Indiana 46544

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Elkhart County Courthouse  
street & number Corner of Main and Lincoln Streets  
city, town Goshen state Indiana

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Elkhart County Historic Sites  
title and Structures Inventory has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no  
date 1978  federal  state  county  local  
depository for survey records Department of Natural Resources, Div. of Historic Preservation  
and Archaeology  
city, town Indianapolis state Indiana

## 7: Description

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

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The exterior of the Goshen Public Library at the time of its opening was nearly identical to its present day appearance. The building is one and a half stories from grade to the eave of the red tile roof, and is clad with Bedford limestone, detailed in the tradition of the Ecole des Beaux Arts. Two broad courses of stone with a belt course at first floor level form the pedestal. Twelve narrower courses topped with an unenriched entablature support the cornice molding and dentil course at the eave.

The layout of the front (west) facade is symmetrical and features a projected entrance pavilion. The front double door is framed by two large columns of the Tuscan Order, and has an arched, stained glass transom above. These doors were originally wood and had a small, square awning above them. The pavilion is capped with a parapet inscribed, "Goshen Public Library A.D. 1901". A stone sphere rests atop each end of the parapet.

The entrance is flanked by four large, arched windows, two on either side. These windows were originally fitted with domed canvas awnings. The north side of the building has three of these windows, while the south side has only one. Two recessed stone panels in the south wall mimic the shape of the other windows but have stained glass lights in the arched portion. The rear of the building has seven windows and is faced with Roman brick.

The front doors open to a marble vestibule containing a bronze plaque with the names of the original Library Board and Andrew Carnegie inscribed on it. A set of stairs to the right leads to the basement and directly ahead are doors to the rotunda or charging room. This room is the most extensively decorated room in the building. It has terrazzo floors, marble baseboards, and mahogany cabinets with marble counters. The original curved librarian's desk is also of marble and mahogany and now serves as the reception desk. Overhead is a dome painted with floral designs and the names of authors of the classics. The bottom of the dome originally had 44 decorative light bulbs at the perimeter. At the center of the dome is an oval, stained glass skylight, approximately 9' long. Ornate, Corinthian columns and pilasters surround the rotunda and were originally painted to look like onyx. The capitals and bases of these columns and some of the moldings were gilded. The gilding and color scheme of greens and yellows have been restored to the building.

To the left of the rotunda was the adult reading room, to the right the children's reading room. These rooms each have a gas-fired fireplace with large, ornate mantels, one of which has the original bronze andirons in it.

Behind the rotunda was the stack room. This room is lit by five arched windows and a rectangular stained glass skylight approximately 10' wide by 30' long. These three rooms are now open office spaces. The reference library was in a room at the northeast corner of the building and at the southeast corner was an office for the School Board's use. These are now the conference room and a private office.

The basement had a sloped floor and opera chairs for 275 persons. It was altered in the 1940's to expand the children's library. In addition, there is a vault, store room and mechanical room in the basement.

Much care has been taken to respect the original grandeur of the first-floor interior. The large, open spaces have been easily adapted to open offices and promise to provide an elegant atmosphere and a highly functional work place. These qualities, as well as its historic and aesthetic values to the community assure this building a bright future to match its illustrious past.

## 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 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** 1901

**Builder/Architect** Patton, Fisher & Miller, Chicago.

### Statement of Significance (~~Paragraph~~)

The Goshen Carnegie Public Library was the first such facility in Indiana to be funded and built by the millionaire philanthropist, Andrew Carnegie. This building was the cultural hub of Goshen for many years and remains a well-known landmark in downtown Goshen. It is an outstanding example of Beaux Arts Classicism and public architecture of the turn of the century. The structure is in an excellent state of preservation and contains several unique examples of early 20th century art glass.

In January of 1901, Messrs. E. E. Mummert and I. O. Wood, two leading citizens of Goshen, Indiana, and members of the Library Association, announced that \$15,000 had been pledged by Andrew Carnegie to build a library in Goshen. His only stipulations were that a site be provided and a tax levied to support the operation of the library. This tax was to be no less than 10% of the cost of construction per year.

After much consideration, a site at the corner of Washington and Fifth Streets was chosen and selection of an architect began. At least five firms interviewed for the job of designing the building, the contract finally being awarded to Patton, Miller and Fisher, of Chicago. This firm designed several libraries (some sponsored by Carnegie) throughout the Midwest. The Building Committee expressed interest in a structure built of "Bedford stone with a gymnasium in the basement", and selected a design of "the French Style... prevalent in the East".

The Goshen Public Library opened with great fanfare on the evening of January 15, 1903. The final cost was \$25,000, as Mr. Carnegie was persuaded to increase his original grant by \$10,000.

The building now houses the offices of LeRoy Troyer and Associates, Architects, and other firms, and its restoration is being done on an ongoing basis.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Goshen Daily News Times, various issues, 1901 through 1903  
Carnegie Libraries, George S. Bobinski, ALA, 1969  
Microfilm of correspondence obtained from Carnegie Foundation, New York, N.Y.  
Interviews with Stella Binkele, former librarian, and others.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Goshen

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UTM References

A 

|      |   |   |         |   |   |   |   |          |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|------|---|---|---------|---|---|---|---|----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1    | 6 | 5 | 9       | 7 | 2 | 9 | 5 | 4        | 6 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 4 | 0 |
| Zone |   |   | Easting |   |   |   |   | Northing |   |   |   |   |   |   |

B 

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C 

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| Zone |  |  | Easting |  |  |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |  |  |

D 

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E 

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F 

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| Zone |  |  | Easting |  |  |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |  |  |

G 

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| Zone |  |  | Easting |  |  |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |  |  |

H 

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| Zone |  |  | Easting |  |  |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |  |  |

### Verbal boundary description and justification

A lot, 80'-0" x 55'-8" fronting on 5th Street bounded on the north by Washington Street. Additionally, 4'-4" x 80' strip along the eastern boundary. Total dimensions 60' x 80'.

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

state N/A code county code

state code county code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Terry Herschberger, Project coordinator

organization LeRoy Troyer and Associates

date 1-6-82

street & number 202 North 5th Street

telephone 219/259-9976

city or town Goshen

state Indiana 46526

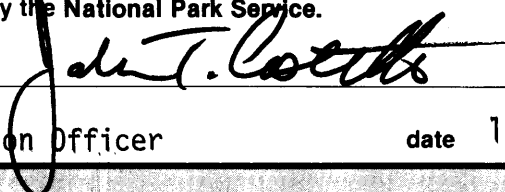
## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

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 Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer

date 1-14-83

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the  
National Register

date

2/17/83

  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration