

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received MAY 23 1988
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Carnegie Public Library Building

and/or common City of Colton Public Library

2. Location

street & number 380 North La Cadena Drive N/A not for publication

city, town Colton N/A vicinity of

state California code 06 county San Bernardino code 071

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" 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 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 type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name City of Colton

street & number 650 North La Cadena Drive

city, town Colton N/A vicinity of state California 92324

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. San Bernardino County Assessor

street & number 172 West 3rd Street

city, town San Bernardino state California 92324

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Point of Historical Interest #SBR-091 has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date February 5, 1982 federal state county local

depository for survey records State Historical Resources Commission, P.O. Box 2390

city, town Sacramento state California 95811

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Colton Carnegie Library is situated on the southeast corner of 8th and G Streets with ample ground to give it an individual setting. It is a large rectangular building of Neo-Classical Revival design and it retains the same physical appearance as when it was constructed in 1907-1908. There are no outbuildings on the property, although there is a drinking fountain which is new (1988). The landscaping consists of lawn, several carob trees alongside the street, one pepper tree adjacent to the northside alley, and low shrubs surrounding the building itself. The site is located in a commercial area of downtown Colton and is within walking distance of the city hall buildings.

The building is one-story, and built on a rectangular plan over an elevated basement. The walls are load-bearing, constructed of brick which has been faced with plaster and painted white. The roof is flat and surrounded by a plain solid parapet. The windows on the facade are arranged symmetrically and consist of a single rectangular light surmounted by a transom light in which there are patterns of intersecting muntins. Entrance is made through a portico situated in the center of the facade. This portico is supported by two ionic columns and stands atop a monumental stairway flanked by two cast iron lamps. These stand on bases at grade level. A horizontal frieze above the ionic columns displays the raised letters "Public Library". The pediment contains detailed plaster ornaments and indented lettering containing the original construction date of 1907.

Other elevations are fairly plain, with undecorated window openings with sills, and squared, classical pilasters at the corners of the building.

The library interior contains three floors. On the main floor the rooms are arranged in a radial pattern around a central rotunda. All interior walls have hardwood wainscoting which has been painted white. Otherwise, Oregon pine is used throughout. Inside the main doors there is a vaulted vestibule which contains a skylight. However, this has been covered for quite some time. It may, however, be restorable. The building contains two working fireplaces with chimneys. Later built Carnegie libraries were discouraged from building elaborate decorative features because Carnegie staff felt that a fireplace installed for appearance took up important wall space which could shelve additional books.

Resource Count: 1 contributing building

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 type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" 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 1908–1938 **Builder/Architect** Kaiser & Loomis/F. P. Burnham

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Colton Carnegie is significant for its history and its architecture. From 1908 until 1982, the building served as Colton's public library and a major focal point of cultural activity in the community. The building is a very nice example of Neo-Classical Revival styling, the only one of its kind in Colton. It was the work of regionally prominent architect Franklin P. Burnham, and it has been recognized for its architectural quality in David Gebhard's and Robert Winter's Guide to Architecture in Los Angeles and Southern California.

The building had its beginning in a gift of \$10,000 to the City from Andrew Carnegie for the establishment of a free public library. The City was required to provide a site and agreed by resolution to support the public library annually at a cost of no less than 10% of Carnegie's contribution.

At the end of the 19th century, California joined the movement to establish separate library buildings to house community book collections. By then, libraries had come to be viewed as a panacea for such social problems as drunkenness and prostitution. Women's clubs and groups such as the YMCA were instrumental in promoting library buildings for the benefit of the community. After the turn of the century, Andrew Carnegie emerged as the major benefactor of public libraries in America and abroad.

Carnegie had been born in Scotland in 1835 and had risen "from rags to riches" in America through shrewd investments in railroads, oil, and steel. Retiring at age 66, Carnegie devoted the latter years of his life to philanthropy--library grants being one of his most important activities. His first library donation was made to Dunfermline, Scotland, his home town. His first United States grant came in 1886 to Alleghany City, Pennsylvania. At the turn of the century, the Carnegie Library donation program expanded greatly, providing funds for buildings but relying on the communities to raise endowments for maintenance.

As a state, California was fortunate to receive the second largest number of libraries in the United States under the Carnegie program. San Diego was the first California city to receive a grant, in 1899, followed by Oakland and Alameda in the same year. In 1905 California received 12 awards, the most for any year under the program. In all, 122 California communities received Carnegie grants from 1899 until the end of the program in 1917. These grants resulted in the construction of 142 library buildings in the state. In 1967, more than one third of these had been demolished, and it is likely many more have gone in the twenty-odd years since then.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property .3446

Quadrangle name Colton

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	1	4	7	0	2	2	0	3	7	6	9	6	4	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification San Bernardino County Assessors Parcel No. 162-102-01. The nominated property occupies the southeast corner of Block 95, City of Colton, and is 150 X 100 in size. Recorded in Book 162, Page 200, San Bernardino County Records, Colton. Boundaries encompass the building and its historic lot.

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

state N/A code county N/A code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Brian Oulman, Planning Technician

organization City of Colton date August 13, 1986

street & number 650 North La Cadena Drive telephone (714) 370-5071

city or town Colton state California 92324

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 Kathryn Mathew

title _____ date 5/12/88

For NPS use only

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

date 6-23-88

for Allouez Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 1

In Colton, a site for the library was donated by a Mr. Hodge, and funds from public subscription and the city were used to purchase books and insure an endowment. Architect Franklin P. Burnham prepared plans, and builders Kaiser and Loomis completed the structure. The library was ready for occupation on November 11, 1908, with a collection of 1,171 books.

The building served the community in many ways until World War II when the growth of the library made necessary the full occupation for library resources. Previously, the Women's Club met there from 1908 to 1913. The Methodist Church, Presbyterian Church, Boy Scouts, American Legion and the Red Cross have each in their turn made use of the basement "club rooms". There are residents of Colton who were married in the library during its use as a church. The building continued to serve as a library until 1982 when a new library was constructed. The building's period of significance coincides with this use. However, for purposes of the National Register, the period of significance has arbitrarily been ended at 1938 since exceptional significance has not been established.

Architecturally, the building is a good example of Neo-Classical Revival styling, exhibiting monumental proportions and classical details in a simple and dignified structure. It is the only one of its kind in Colton.

The architect, Franklin P. Burnham, was born in Rockford, Illinois in 1853 and first established himself as an architect in Chicago, where he worked with W. J. Edbrooke in the firm Edbrooke and Burnham. One notable product of their partnership was the State Capitol at Atlanta, Georgia. By 1897 Burnham had relocated to Los Angeles, where he established his own firm. Notable among his works in California are the First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Pasadena (1909), the Carnegie Library building at Pomona College (1908), and the elaborately decorated Riverside County Courthouse (1909). All of these buildings are noted in Gebhard and Winter's Guide to Architecture in Los Angeles and Southern California. Burnham died in 1909, at the peak of his career.

The Colton Library remains faithful to its original appearance, having undergone only routine maintenance over the years. It is one of the community's architectural treasures, now serving as a local museum.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9 Page 1

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Bobinski, George S., Carnegie Libraries: Their History and Impact On American Public Library Development, Chicago, 1969.
2. Gebhard, David and Robert Winter, A Guide to Architecture in Los Angeles and Southern California, Santa Barbara, 1977.
3. Hamlin, Talbot, Architecture Through The Ages, New York: G. P. Putnam & Sons, 1940.
4. Held, Ray E., The Rise of the Public Library in California, Chicago, 1973.
5. Pothorn, Herbert, Architectural Styles, New York: New York, 1982.
6. Withey, Henry F. and Elsie R. Withey, Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased), Los Angeles, 1970.

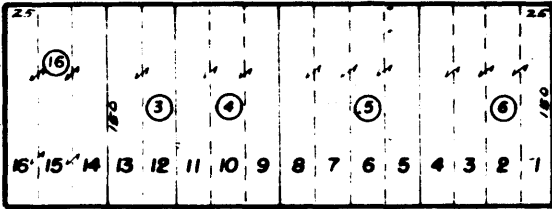
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 380 N. La Cadena Drive
 Colton, California - 92324
 San Bernardino Co.

For Town of Colton
 MB 9/37 05

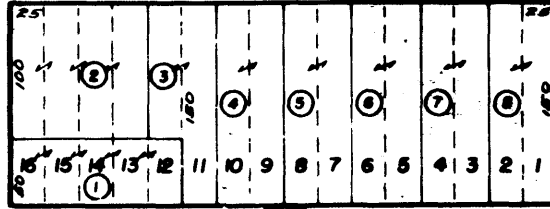
Colton City
 Tax Code Area
 2000

162-10

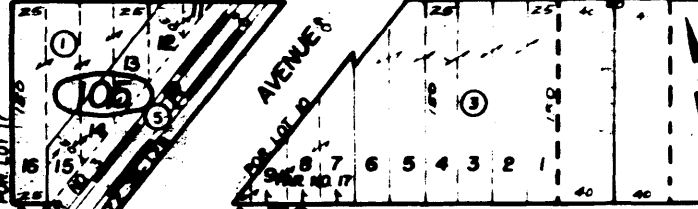
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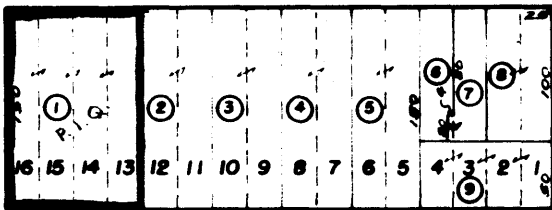
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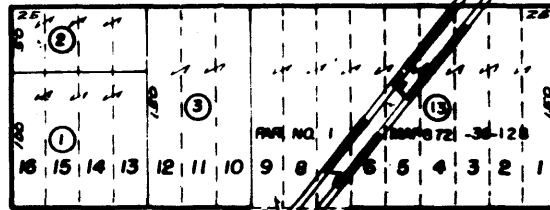
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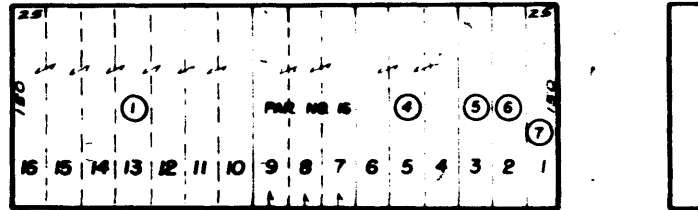
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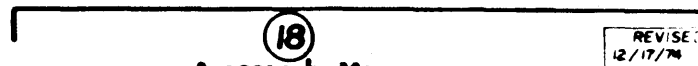
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8-10th



8-H



STREET 8

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16

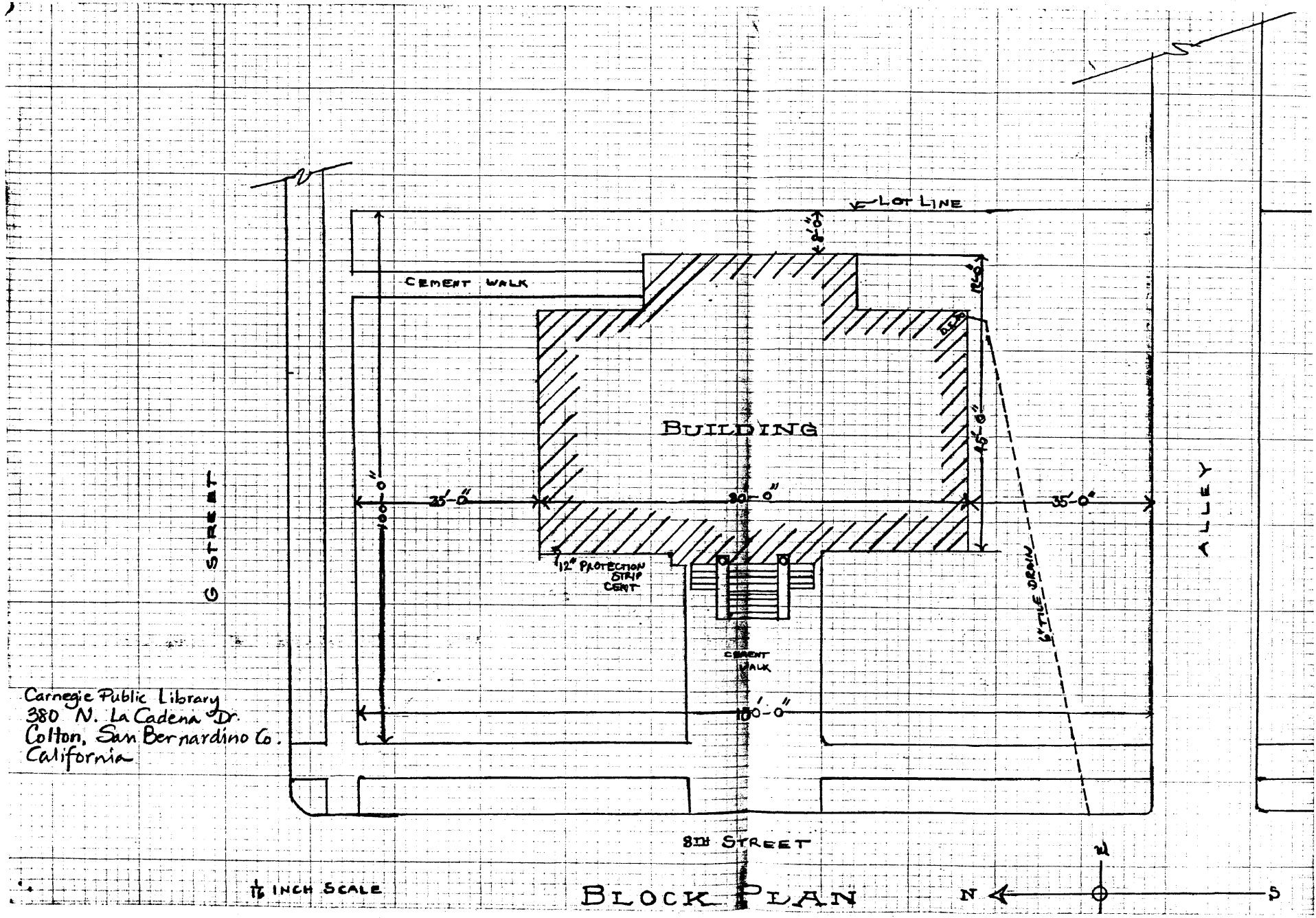
17

18

Note - Assessor's Blk. & Lot

Assessor's Map
 Book 162 Page 10

REVISE:
 12/17/74
 10/26/76
 11/5/77
 12/15/77



Carnegie Public Library
 380 N. La Cadena Dr.
 Colton, San Bernardino Co.
 California

1/8 INCH SCALE

BLOCK PLAN

