

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

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**National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Longmont Carnegie Library

other names/site number City Hall Annex 5BL 536.7

2. Location

street & number 457 Fourth Avenue N/A not for publication

city or town Longmont N/A vicinity

state Colorado code CO county Boulder code 013 zip code 80501

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] September 17, 1992
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State Historic Preservation Officer
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Beth Boland 11/8/92

Longmont Carnegie Library
Name of Property

Boulder, Colorado
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Education/Library

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Government/Government Offices

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Renaissance Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Sandstone
walls Brick
roof Asphalt
other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 2

Longmont Carnegie Library

The Longmont Carnegie Library is located in the downtown area of Longmont's civic center, a grouping of city office buildings, and now serves as City Hall Annex housing several city departments. The corner site is informally landscaped with grass, mature foundation plantings and one large maple tree in front of the building planted in the parking strip between the sidewalk and the curb.

The building is a single detached structure of one story with full basement. It is a simplified Renaissance Revival type of design that is constructed with a foundation of sandstone and a light colored, high temperature fired brick of common bond with 8th course Flemish headers. The plan is rectangular with a long symmetrical facade and a central portico that features a grooved quoining effect on portico piers. This central bay entrance on the north elevation is twin leaf with a wooden pediment that is supported by twin wood columns. On each side of the portico are groupings of three, flat-transomed 1 over 1 windows. Directly below each, are single-pane windows at the basement level. The exterior window bay detailing features molded surrounds.

The west elevation has a central twin leaf entrance that opens to a small balcony that covers an exterior bay and stairway to the basement. On each side of the main floor central bay in the west elevation, are bays that contain large windows with side lights. The east side elevation is similar and has an exterior side-left chimney with symmetrical bays of large windows with sidelights and basement windows below. The back of the building, or south elevation, is a flat brick wall with seven window bays of somewhat irregular spacing that contain 1 over 1 windows. Window bays have radiating voussoir headers in the brick work and sandstone sills. The back wall of the building also features several 1 over 1 windows at the basement level, an exterior basement stairway in the center and a small chimney toward the west end.

The structure has a strong horizontal character created by a grooved effect in the brickwork near the foundation which wraps around the east, north and west elevations of the building and is duplicated on portico piers. This is complimented by a decorative brick frieze with molded fascia under the metal clad roof overhang and by a decorated parapet capped with rock faced sandstone that surrounds the roof area and wraps around three sides of the structure. The grooved quoining effect, horizontal grooves, corbeled cornice and molded surrounds are reminiscent of other structures built in Colorado of the Renaissance Revival architectural style during the same time period.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture _____

Social _____

Period of Significance

1913 _____

1913 - 1942 _____

Significant Dates

1913 _____

1913 _____

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A _____

Cultural Affiliation

N/A _____

Architect/Builder

Viney, Benjamin C., Architect _____

Wiggins & Sprague, Builders _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Longmont Planning Office, Landmark Office

Longmont Carnegie Library
Name of Property

Boulder, Colorado
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 3	4 9 1 4 7 0	4 4 4 5 9 4 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4			

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Lots One through Three inclusive in Block Sixty-Five; Original Town; City of Longmont, Colorado.

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

The boundary includes the property historically associated with the Carnegie Library.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Glenn V. Sherwood, Registered Agent

organization CORPS Inc. date May 7, 1992

(303) 497-3939 day

street & number 731 Collyer Street telephone (303) 772-7523

city or town Longmont state Colorado zip code 80501

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name City of Longmont

street & number 350 Kimbark Street telephone (303) 776-6050

city or town Longmont state Colorado zip code 80501

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 2

Longmont Carnegie Library

The Longmont Carnegie Library meets criterion A for its social significance in association with Andrew Carnegie's nationwide public library movement beginning in 1886. The building also meets criterion C for its architectural significance in its high quality materials and construction and for its Renaissance Revival design by English born Longmont architect Benjamin C. Viney, an associate of the prominent Scottish architect Thomas McLaren of Colorado Springs.

Andrew Carnegie and his library philanthropy flourished during the period between 1886 and 1916. This movement provided the major catalyst for the development of publicly funded free libraries in the United States and in other countries of the English speaking world. In all, Carnegie donated over 60 million dollars to build 2,509 libraries throughout the world including 1,412 in communities across America. The public library concept in America did not develop until after 1850 and realized the most significant growth during the period of the Carnegie movement. This movement had a tremendous impact on society and encouraged public funding and support of community libraries. Many of the libraries funded by Carnegie do not bear his name and many are now being demolished or used for different functions. Several studies have been made of Carnegie Libraries such as George Bobinski's 1967 survey which listed 35 Carnegie libraries in Colorado of which 26 were still in use as libraries. The study indicated that 4 of those had been expanded by additions, 6 had been demolished and 3 had different uses. In 1976, a study listed 23 Carnegie libraries in Colorado of which only 10 were still operating and 13 had been demolished for new library buildings. Nationwide 23 Carnegie libraries were demolished between 1910 and 1949. From 1950 to 1967 at least 120 libraries were demolished making the Carnegie library a fast vanishing cultural resource.

The Longmont Library was funded by a \$12,500 Carnegie grant on December, 13, 1907, but did not open until January of 1913. The grant mainly covered the cost of the building, but the city had to provide the site and an annual maintenance fund of \$1,250. Longmont's library opened in January of 1913. The construction was delayed by the controversy over the funding for the building site. The library tax proposition was put to a vote of the people in 1908 and lost, thus creating the delay. Sometime later the city began allocating \$1,500 a year toward a fund to purchase the land at the corner of 4th and Kimbark. The site was acquired by the city in July, 1912.

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Longmont Carnegie Library

The design of the Longmont Carnegie Library was probably influenced by the guidelines and minimum standards for library construction issued by the Carnegie Foundation in 1911 because some communities had erected buildings of poor quality or inefficient design. The layout of the Longmont library is of a utilitarian design with a rectangular plan, a long facade and a central bay front entrance closely resembling plans which provided minimum standards for Carnegie buildings (see attachment A).

It is likely that the construction of Longmont's library came as a result of the friendly rivalry which historically existed between the two towns of Boulder and Longmont. In 1904, Boulder received a Carnegie grant of \$15,000 for the construction of a library which opened in 1906 with 3,000 books (listed in the National Register in 1979). In 1907, Longmont applied for their own Carnegie grant.

There are some notable similarities and differences between the Boulder and Longmont libraries. Both buildings are of a light-colored brick. Thomas McLaren designed the Boulder Library patterned after a small Greek temple. Longmont architect, Benjamin C. Viney was the supervising architect on the Boulder project and later designed the Longmont library. The Boulder library plan, designed prior to the 1911 guidelines, is rectangular with a short facade and the main entrance on the left side instead of in the center. The plan of the Longmont library is similar to buildings in Seattle, Washington; Green River, Wyoming; and the Colorado towns of Florence, Idaho Springs, Lamar, Salida and Trinidad. The exterior appearance of all of these buildings varies. Carnegie Library designs were often one of a kind designed to accommodate local taste and functional needs.

The Longmont Carnegie Library has architectural significance because of its unaltered Renaissance Revival design by noted local architect, Benjamin C. Viney and the fine craftsmanship visible in the decorative brickwork. Viney was instrumental in the completion of numerous important buildings in the Rocky Mountain region, Texas and California. He designed a new addition to Longmont's Kuner-Empson Cannery and collaborated on the design of the 1908 Longmont Firehouse, both listed in the National Register of Historic Places. He was also the supervising architect on the Colorado Springs City Hall and on a Carnegie Library designed by McLaren in Roswell, New Mexico. Viney designed several industrial buildings for the canning tycoon J. H. Empson in Longmont and in Helena, Montana. Viney also designed the

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Longmont Carnegie Library

Odd Fellows Hall in Longmont, the Boulder Post Office and many notable homes, schools, industrial and civic buildings in the area between 1898 until 1923. A number of Viney's buildings such as the Boulder Post Office and Odd Fellows Hall, are designed in a Renaissance Revival style similar to the Longmont Carnegie Library.

The building served as a library until 1975 and then the interior was remodeled for use as the City Hall Annex, housing several city departments. Although the building operated as a library until 1975, the period of significance ends in 1942 to comply with the National Register 50 year rule.

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Section number 9 Page 2

Longmont Carnegie Library

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----- "Carnegies." American Libraries 21 (April 1990): 296-301.

Cherry, Susan. "Carnegies Live." American Libraries 12 (April 1981):
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Golden, Milton. "The Gospel of Andrew Carnegie." History Today 38 (June 1988):
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Koch, Theodore Wesley. A Book of Carnegie Libraries. New York: H. W. Wilson
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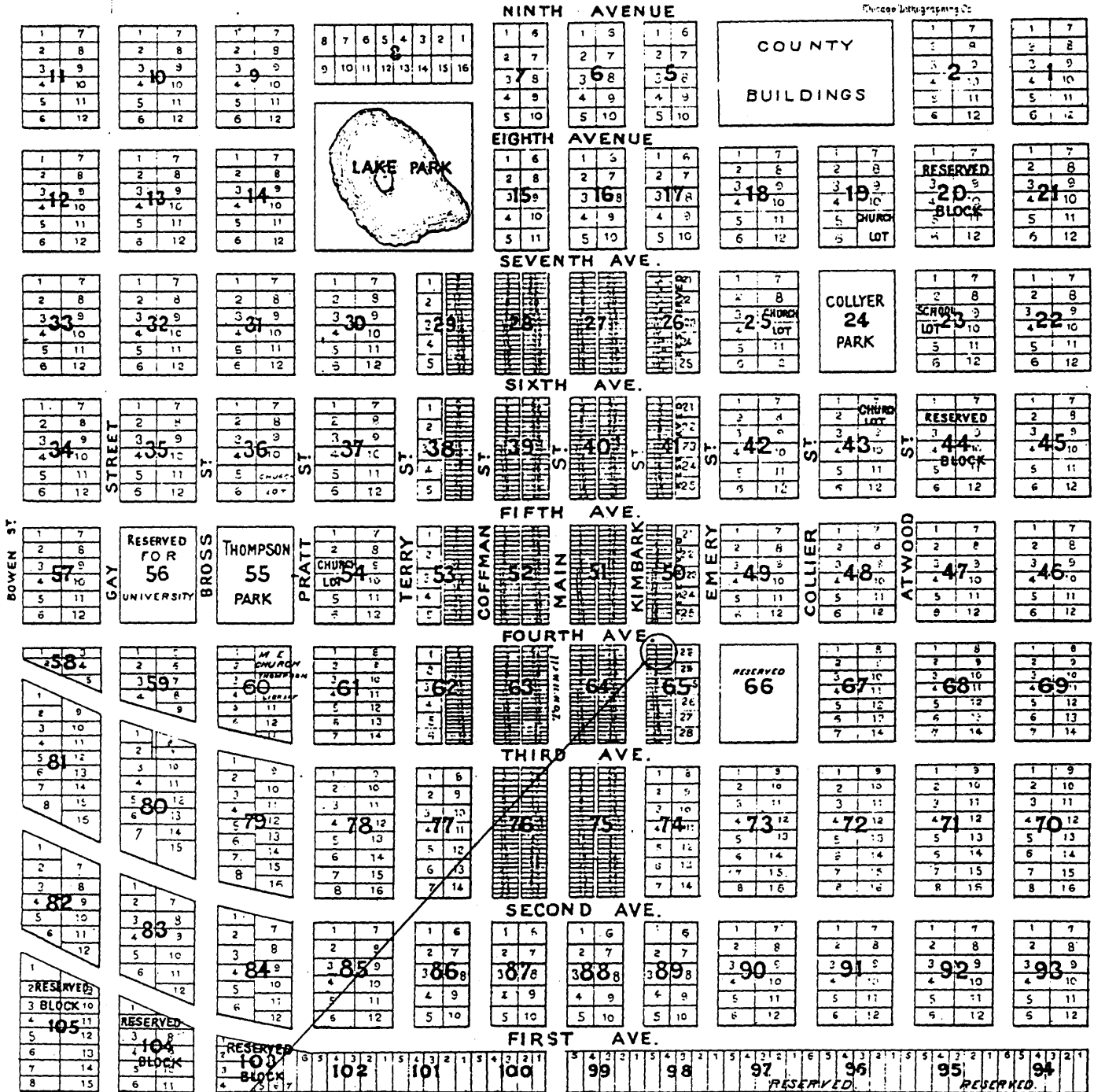
Rub, Timothy. "The Day of Big Operations": Andrew Carnegie and His Libraries.
Architectural Record 173 (July 1985): 81-85.

Wall, Joseph Frazier. "The Rich Man's Burden, and How Andrew Carnegie Unloaded it."
American Heritage 21 (October 1970): 58-67.



CHICAGO COLORADO COLONY PLAN OF TOWN SITE.

SCALE 800 FEET
TO THE INCH

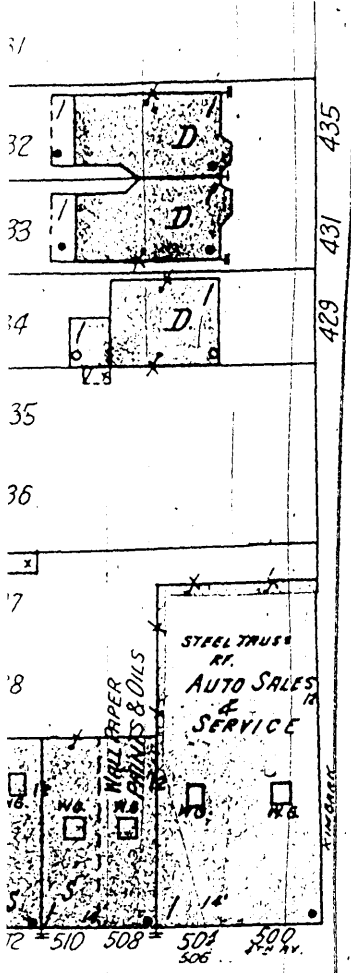


LONGMONT, COLORADO.

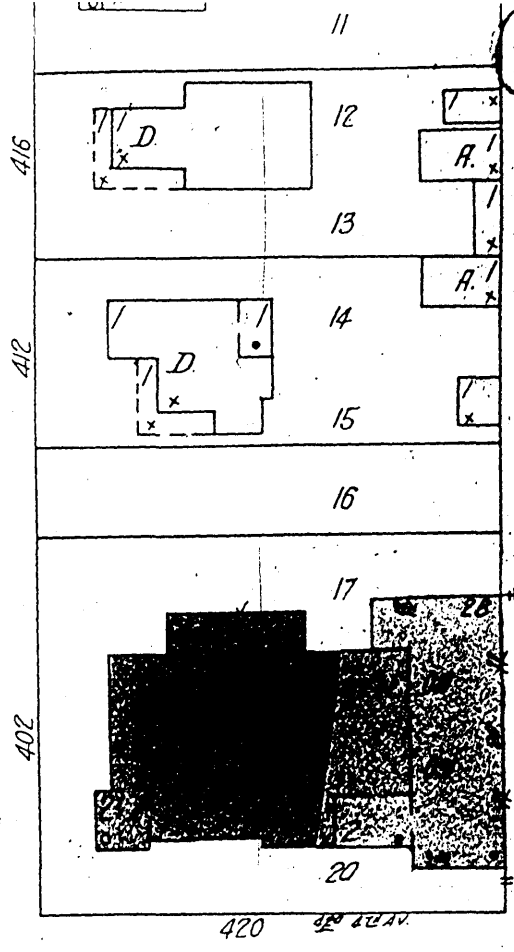
(The probable date of this map is 1871)

Carnegie Library location: Lots One through Three in Block 65.

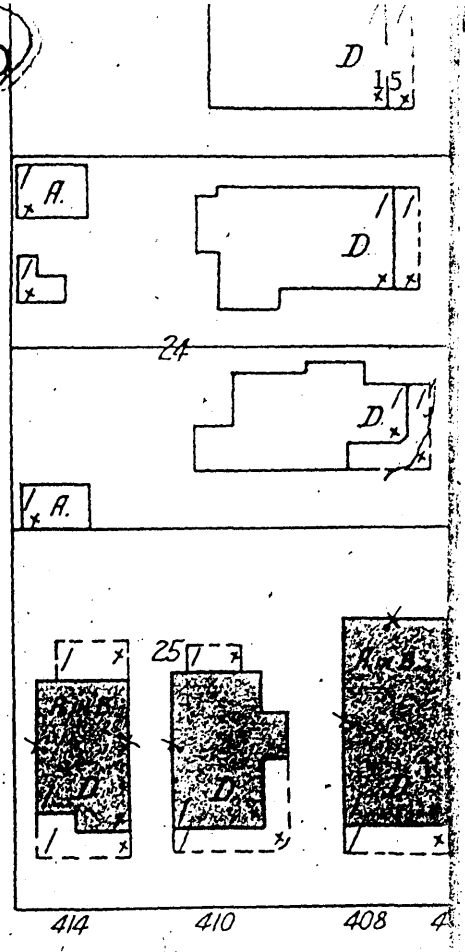
Map 2 of 4



100 ft. wide



50

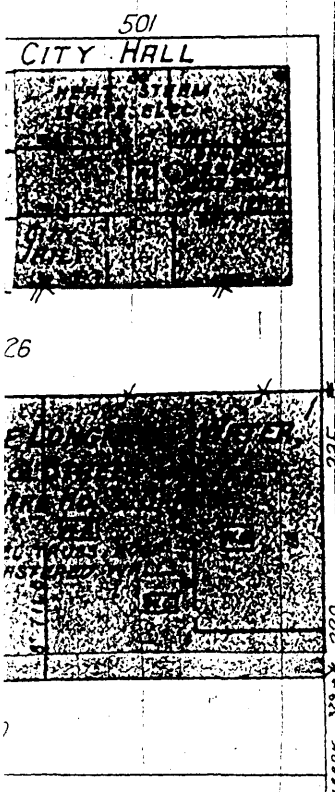


Samborn Insurance Map 1930

4TH AVE -

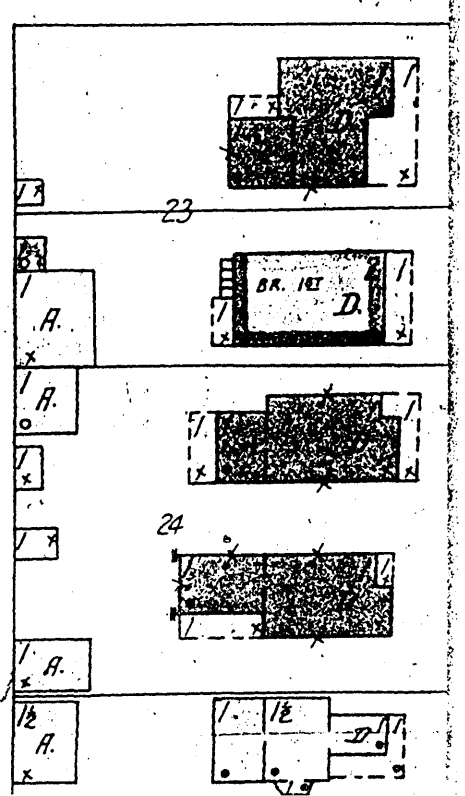
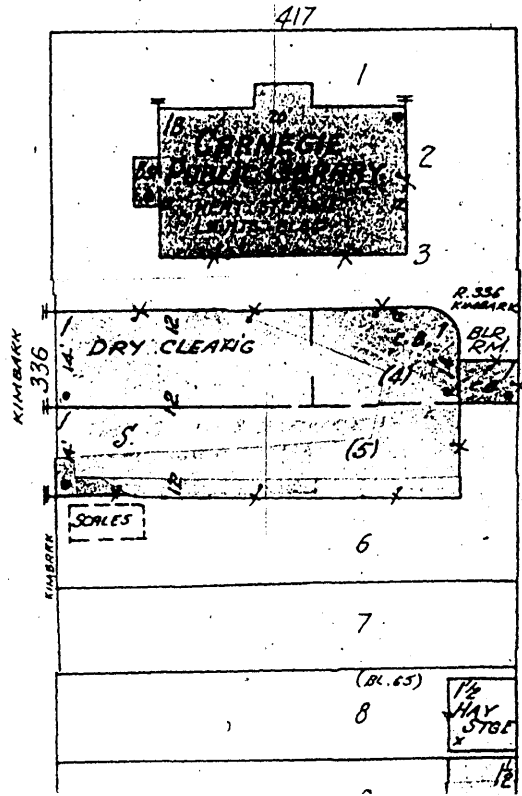
- 4TH AVE -

Longmont, Colorado Carnegie Library Map 3 of 4




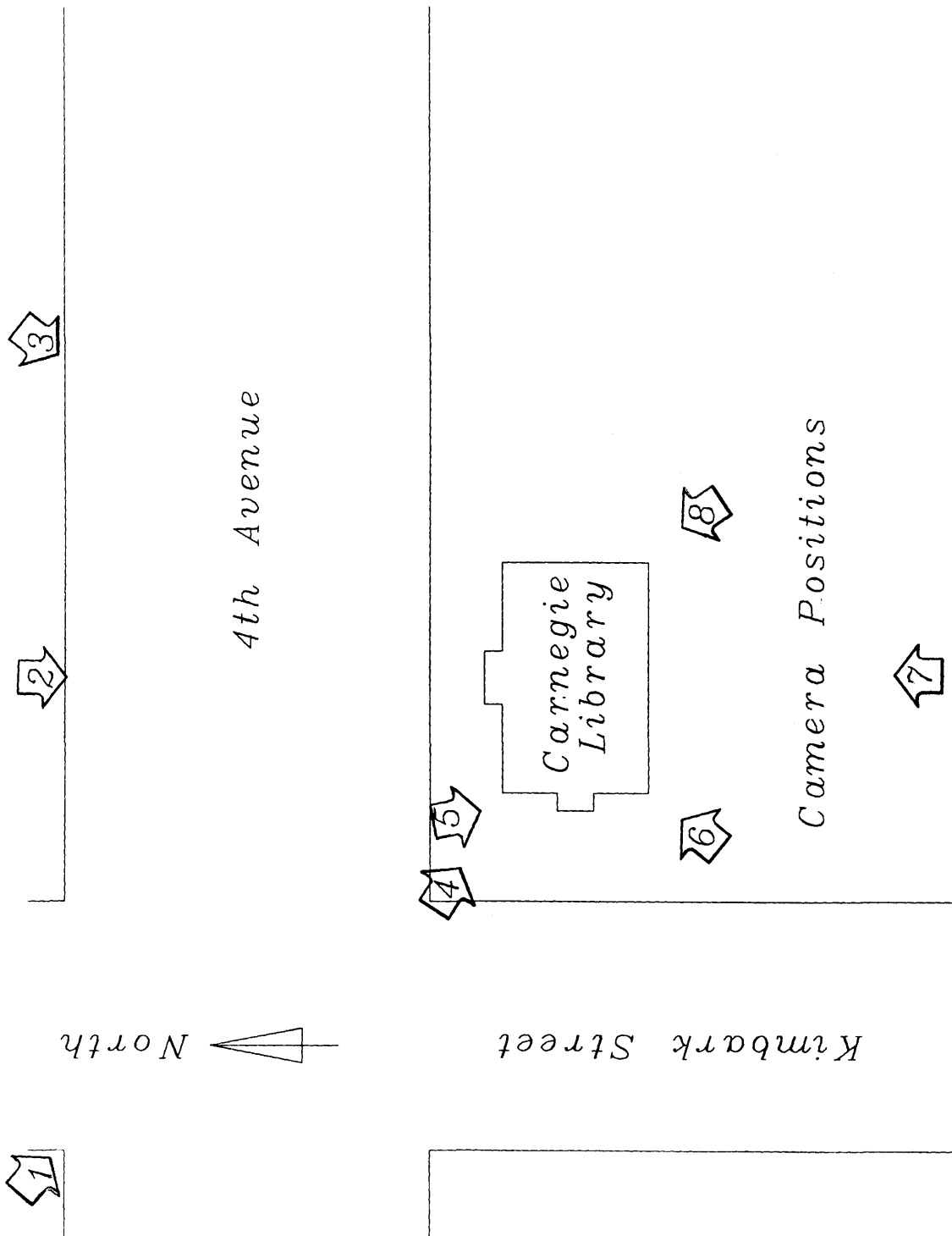
D.H.

KIMBARK



CARNEGIE LIBRARY
LONGMONT, COLORADO

 = photograph



constructed before 1898. As a result there were no architects experienced in building libraries, particularly those for small or medium-sized towns. All too many buildings were planned with expensive exteriors and inefficient, uneconomical interiors. When well-known librarians began to urge architectural supervision, Bertram decided to prevent building blunders instead of attempting to correct them.

Conferences with leading authorities from the library and architectural professions brought about agreement on certain standards in library architecture. The result was a leaflet entitled "Notes on Library Buildings" which was sent from 1911 on as a guide to each community along with the promise of funds. These "Notes" and "judicious pressure on architects and communities" usually resulted in a desirable building.²

Many communities themselves had constantly requested assistance in their architectural planning from the earliest days of Carnegie library gifts. Unfortunately, library architectural control began rather late. By the end of 1907, 762 out of 412 communities had already been promised Carnegie library buildings. When the "Notes" came out in 1911, 916 communities had been promised funds for libraries.

The six editions of the "Notes on Library Buildings" varied only slightly in presentation and information. They provided certain minimum standards for the main requirements of accommodations in the libraries built with Carnegie funds. Each community was to obtain the greatest amount of usable space consistent with good taste in building. The best results for a small library could be obtained in a rectangular-shaped building with a basement and one floor (other-shaped buildings would require extra attention and planning to avoid waste of space). The main floor, 12 to 15 feet high, would accommodate the bookstacks, the circulation desk area, and suitable space for reading by adults and children. Rear and side windows were to be about 6 to 7 feet from the floor, thus permitting shelving all around. The floor could be subdivided as desired by means of bookstacks. Glass partitions built in above these stacks would provide quiet if, for instance, a

