

SURVEY-INVENTORY FORM
COMMUNITY CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY

1. NAME

Historic

Clarkston Public Library

(Carnegie Library of Washington)

and/or Common

Asotin County Library

2. LOCATION

UTM References:

Zone 11 Easting 496600

Northing 5139460

Street & Number

6th and Chestnut

Clarkston

1:24 000

- not for publication

City, Town

Clarkston

- vicinity of

State

WA

County

Asotin

3. CLASSIFICATION

Ownership: public private both

Status: occupied unoccupied work in progress

Present Use: agriculture commercial educational entertainment government

industrial military museum park private residence

religious scientific transportation other: Library

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

Name

Asotin County Library

Street & Number

6th and Chestnut

City, Town

Clarkston

- vicinity of

State

WA

5. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

6. FORM PREPARED BY

Name/Title

James H. Vandermeer, Historian

Organization

Office of Archaeology & Historic Preservation

Date

July 1981

Street & Number

111 West 21st Avenue

Telephone

(206) 753-9685

City or Town

Olympia

State

WA 98504

7. DESCRIPTION

Condition: excellent good fair deteriorated ruins unexposed
Circle one: unaltered altered
Circle one: original site moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance
attach photo

Located on a corner across from a park, the Clarkston Carnegie Library is a square two-story structure of yellow-red brick. It has a moderately pitched hip roof with a large chimney on the south end. The main entry, located on the west facade, is recessed from the plane of the rest of the building. The doors are metal-framed glass of recent origin. A trio of double-hung windows is on each side of the entry. Above these are fixed windows of the same size. The level and size of these fixed windows are repeated in other windows on the sides and in back. There is a restrained, uncluttered look about the building. About the only ornamentation are simulated quoins and, at the entry, two ornamental brackets and recessed brick panels. Inside, the building retains its original spaces with its fir woodwork and bookshelves.

Verbal boundary description: Part of Government Lot #1,
Section 28, Township 11, Range 46, Unplotted part of
Clarkston.

Acreage: Less than one

8. SIGNIFICANCE

Specific dates	1913	Builder/Architect	Unknown
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a. History

The Clarkston Library Association was formed in 1902 when an Episcopal priest received a gift of several boxes of books. The library was housed in the church vestry at first. When the city requested a \$5,000 grant from Andrew Carnegie, he responded by suggesting that they take \$10,000 instead. This meant that the grant would be conditioned upon a promise to expend \$1,000 per year on maintenance, rather than the \$500 originally planned. This extra expense was thought to be an excessively heavy burden for the tax payers of such a small city to bear. It was suggested that the tax base be enlarged by considering that the taxing entity to receive the grant be the school district, rather than the city, and Carnegie agreed. This was quite unusual, since he almost always insisted that his grants be made only to city governments. The lots for the library were donated by the Lewiston-Clarkston Improvement Company, which was owned by Charles Francis Adams, a latter-day descendant of the famous Massachusetts family. The library, which was constructed in 1913, continues in its original function and now serves as a regional library for southeast Washington state.

b. Evaluation of Significance

This library has been an important cultural center for the southeast Washington area for many years and has thus played a significant role in its history. It is also a good example of a typical Carnegie Library, especially inside.