

SURVEY-INVENTORY FORM  
COMMUNITY CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY

1. NAME

Historic Port Townsend Carnegie Library *Carnegie Library of Washington*  
and/or Common Port Townsend Public Library

2. LOCATION

UTM References:  
Zone 10 Easting 517700  
Northing 5329090  
- not for publication

Street & Number Port Townsend South  
1220 Lawrence 1:24,000

City, Town - vicinity of  
Port Townsend

State Washington County Jefferson

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 City of Port Townsend  
Street & Number 540 Water Street  
City, Town Port Townsend - vicinity of State Washington 98368

5. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

6. FORM PREPARED BY

Name/Title J.H. Vandermeer, Historian  
Organization Office of Archaeology & Historic Preservation Date September 1981  
Street & Number 111 West 21st Avenue Telephone (206) 753-9685  
City or Town Olympia State Washington 98504

## 7. DESCRIPTION

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

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

The Port Townsend Carnegie Library is a rectangular stucco structure located above the street on a hilly lot. It is reached from the street by three long flights of concrete stairs. The first two flights reach the level of the building, and the third goes from there to the main public area, which is above a daylight basement. Access may also be made on a ramp in the rear. The building has a hip roof with chimneys at both ends. The principal facade, which faces south, is the longer side of the rectangle and is broken by the main entry in the middle and by trios of windows on either side. The building is largely obscured by deciduous vines, and architectural details cannot be discerned. Historic photos, however, show considerable detail, mostly geometric patterns, cast in the stucco of the building proper and the chimneys. These would presumably be visible once again if the vines were pulled off.

Verbal boundary description: Tax 15 and 103 of  
Sec. 2, Twn 30, Range 1W.

Acreage: Less than one

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## 8. SIGNIFICANCE

Specific dates    1912-13

Builder/Architect    Harold H. Ginnold

### a. History

The history of the Port Townsend library began in 1889 with the formation of the Young Ladies' Reading Club. The site for a permanent home of the library was donated by Francis Wilcox James, the operator of a local trading company. A grant from Andrew Carnegie was promised in 1912, but additional funds were needed to build the stairs from the street to the level of the building. These were obtained by the fund-raising efforts of local women. The building has served the city ever since it opened in October 1913.

### b. Evaluation of Significance

This building has been an important center for community affairs for most of the 20th Century. The architect designed other Carnegie libraries at Port Angeles, Renton, and possibly Pasco. The Port Townsend library is listed as a structure of secondary importance within the city's historic district.