

Iowa Site Inventory

Division of Historic Preservation
Iowa State Historical Department
26 E. Market St., Iowa City, Iowa 52240

Site Number 42-016-005

District Name _____

Map Reference # _____

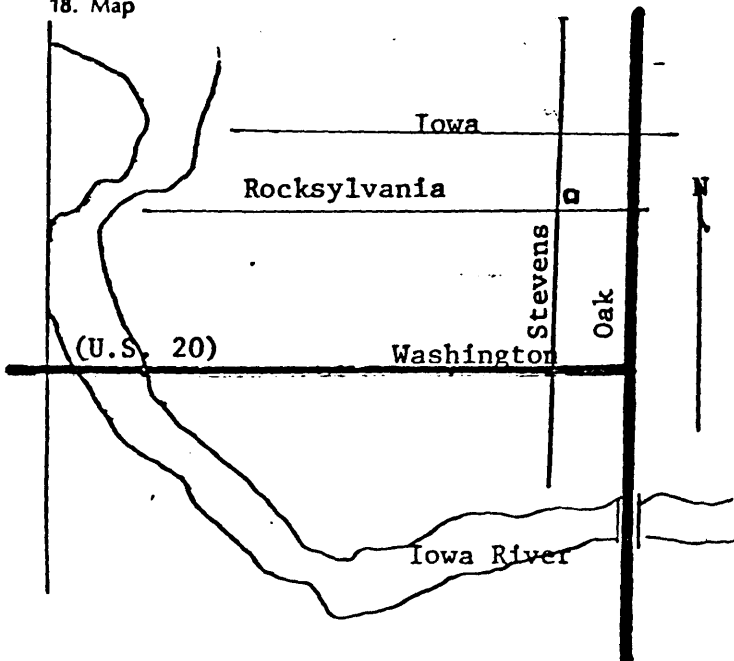
Identification

1. Site Name Carnegie-Ellsworth Public Library
2. Village/Town/City Iowa Falls Township _____ County Hardin
3. Street Address 520 Rocksylvania Avenue
4. Legal Location _____ OT _____ 12 _____ 5,6 _____
Urban: subdivision block parcel subparcel
Rural: township range section % section of 1/4 section
5. UTM Location: zone 15 easting 474100 northing 4703800; Acreage 2.7
6. Owner(s) Name City of Iowa Falls
7. Owner(s) Address _____ Iowa Falls, Iowa 50126 _____
(Street address) (City) (State) (Zip)
8. Use: Present library Original library

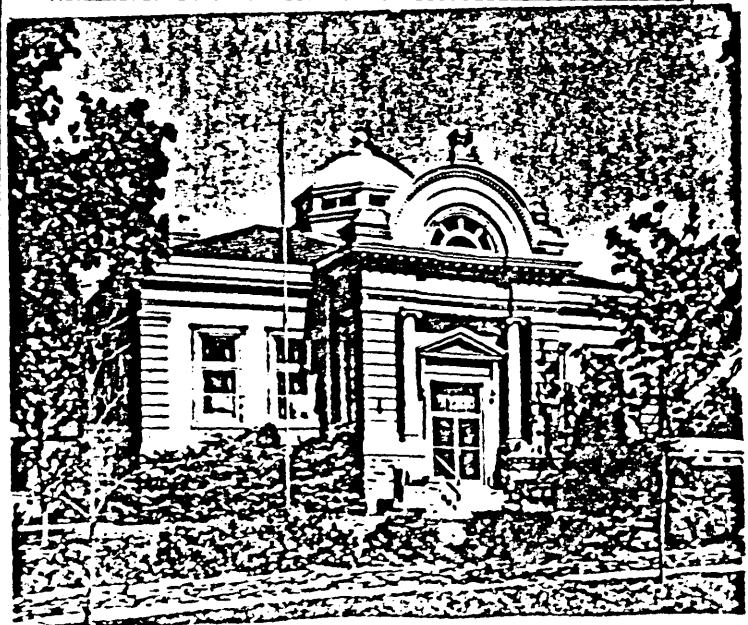
Description

9. Date of Construction 1904-5 Architect/Builder not known
10. Building Type:
 single-family dwelling industrial other institutional religious
 multiple-family dwelling educational public agricultural
 commercial
11. Exterior Walls: clapboard stone brick board and batten shingles stucco
 other with stone trim
12. Structural System: wood frame with interlocking joints wood frame with light members (balloon frame)
 masonry load-bearing walls iron frame steel frame with curtain walls reinforced concrete
 other _____
13. Condition: excellent good fair deteriorated
14. Integrity: original site moved—if so, when? _____
Notes on alterations, additions (with dates and architect, if known) and any other notable features of building and site:
Front door replaced with aluminum frame (recently).
15. Related Outbuildings and Property: barn other farm structures carriage house garage privy
 other _____
16. Is the building endangered? no yes—if so, why? _____
17. Surroundings of the building: open land woodland scattered outbuildings densely built-up commercial
 industrial residential other _____

18. Map



19. Photo Roll 1311 Frame 1 View (S) Front Elev.



Significance

(Indicate sources of information for all statements)

19. Architectural significance

- a. Key structure/individually may qualify for the National Register
- b. Contributing structure
- c. Not eligible/intrusion

The Carnegie-Ellsworth Public Library is one of the more elaborate library buildings of its size and type. The front is dominated by a large and lav entrance pavilion featuring a distyle Ionic portico set in-antis between rusticated corner piers and a semi-circular thermal window above the cornice. The effect of richness is enhanced by the variety of materials, textures and colors. The interior, a variant of Plan Type III, features an octagonal rotunda with a double-curved delivery desk and a stained-glass dome. A second level was added recently to the bookstack at center rear.

20. Historical Significance

Theme(s) Social/humanitarian

- a. Key structure/individually may qualify for the National Register
- b. Contributing structure
- c. Not eligible/intrusion

This is one of 22 public libraries in Iowa constructed with Carnegie grants made in 1903, the year which marks the highest point in Carnegie giving, both nationally and in the state. Andrew Carnegie's library program, which funded over 1600 buildings, 101 in Iowa, between 1889 and 1919, has been accorded recognition by historians of the Progressive Era, and of the public library movement. The 22 libraries in Iowa funded in 1903 (21 of which are still extant) make up nearly one fourth of Iowa's Carnegie libraries, and serve as effective illustrations of the widespread popularity and impact of the Carnegie program in Iowa's public library development.

21. Sources (for primary and secondary sources, give complete facts of publication: author, title, place of publication, date, etc.):

- Moir, William J., ed. Past and Present of Hardin County, Iowa. Indianapolis: B.F. Brown and Co., 1911. pp.263-264.
- Nichols, I.A. Pioneer Days and History of Iowa Falls. Fort Dodge: Messenger Printing Co., n.d. pp.194-195
- DHPFIR, S. Dennett, P. Eckhardt, 1979.
- DHPLSQ-1, Lucille Miller, Librarian.

Prepared by Samuel J. Klingensmith Date August, 1980
 Address 617 N. Cayuga, Ithaca, NY 14850 Telephone 607 273-5684
 Organization _____

For Division of Historic Preservation Use Only

1. Office Information Sources on this Property

- County Resource File
- Windshield Survey
- National Register
- Grants-In-Aid: _____
- Determination of Eligibility

Review and Compliance Project:

- Other _____
- Other _____
- Other _____

2. Subject Traces

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____
- e. _____

- 3. Photo Images 362/39-42 & 37-38;
573/4; 586/33A-44A & 1A-10A
1311/1