

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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

## 1. Name

historic Medford Carnegie Library

and/or common Jackson County Public Library

## 2. Location

street & number 413 West Main Street        not for publication

city, town Medford        vicinity of        congressional district 4th

state Oregon code 41 county Jackson code 029

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<u>      </u> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<u>      </u> agriculture <u>      </u> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>      </u> private	<u>      </u> unoccupied	<u>      </u> commercial <u>      </u> park
<u>      </u> structure	<u>      </u> both	<u>      </u> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational <u>      </u> private residence
<u>      </u> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<u>      </u> entertainment <u>      </u> religious
<u>      </u> object	<u>      </u> in process	<u>      </u> yes: restricted	<u>      </u> government <u>      </u> scientific
	<u>      </u> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<u>      </u> industrial <u>      </u> transportation
		<u>      </u> no	<u>      </u> military <u>      </u> other:

## 4. Owner of Property

name Jackson County Board of Commissioners, Hon. Don Schofield, Chairman

street & number Jackson County Courthouse

city, town Medford        vicinity of        state Oregon 97501

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Jackson County Courthouse

street & number 108 South Oakdale Avenue

city, town Medford        vicinity of        state Oregon 97501

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Statewide Inventory of Historic Places has this property been determined eligible?        yes  no

date 1980        federal  state        county        local

depository for survey records State Historic Preservation Office

city, town Salem        vicinity of        state Oregon 97310

## 7. Description

### Condition

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

### Check one

unaltered  
 altered

### Check one

original site  
 moved date \_\_\_\_\_

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Medford Carnegie Library, opened for use in 1912, is a noteworthy example of the modest-scale civic buildings of the first decade of the 20th century which emulated the high style work of architects trained in the tradition of the Ecole des Beaux Arts -- those who helped create the phenomenon of the "American Renaissance." The Library was commenced in the same year the Carnegie Corporation issued its general guidelines, or "Notes on the Erection of Library Building/sic/," and it conformed to the rectangular, single-story plan atop high basement which was to become the Carnegie Library standard across the country. The architect was J. A. McIntosh.

The smooth-finished buff brick of the exterior walls of the 43 x 75-foot main volume are laid in common bond and rest upon a poured, reinforced concrete basement finished with rough-textured plaster. Fenestration is regular, and large double-hung windows light the basement story.

The main facade, facing north onto West Main Street, is dominated by a Classical prostyle in antis portico employing columns of the Ionic order. The pediment of the portico contains the words "Public Library" and the date 1911. A broad flight of concrete stairs leads to the central entrance. An unenriched wood entablature encircles the main volume. The low gable roof is hidden behind the parapet balustrade with its geometric pattern, and a curvilinear parapet behind the portico pediment.

The entrance is a double-leaf glass and panel door, atop which is a transom light containing leaded glass in a simple geometric pattern. A cornice tops the transom and is supported by consoles enriched with acanthus leaves. There are two high side lights, one on each side of the main door. Large globe lamps light either side of the entry stairs. The standards for the later are cast iron columns with fluted shafts.

Fenestration of the main story consists of large plate, double-hung, wood frame windows grouped and accented by a belt course of granite that forms a continuous sill. The granite was quarried in the nearby Applegate River drainage.

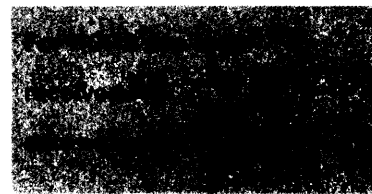
The site for the library building was Block 77 purchased from C. C. and Julia Beekman for \$275.00 by the Town of Medford. It formerly held the tower for the Town of Medford water supply. The Medford water supply tower was not used after 1908.

A two-story annex which respects the height of the original volume was added to the rear elevation, slightly offset at the southwest corner, in 1951. Designed somewhat in the Functionalist tradition by local architect Herbert Mackie, the 51 x 81-foot annex is flat-roofed and finished in rough-textured stucco. Fenestration continues the precedent set by openings in the side elevations of the original volume by being set high in the walls. The annex windows are divided into tripartite sections and have metal frames and sash.

The library is generously set back from West Main Street, and the grounds are planted in lawn and shaded by mature deciduous and evergreen trees. Beds planted with roses are the legacy of the Greater Medford Club which promoted Library Park in the early years of the century. Medford Carnegie Library and the adjoining tree-shaded square to the east are, in a planning sense, the hub around which other civic buildings and public spaces radiate. The Medford Hotel (1911) is opposite Library Park on the north side of West Main Street; the Jackson County Courthouse (1931) faces the property on the west; and the new City Hall and Federal Building face the park blocks on the south.

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The interior of the original volume is finished with plaster walls and window casements and sills of light oak. The side windows are high in the wall so the bookcases will not obscure the natural light. The present electrical lighting is fluorescent tube. The main floor ceilings are about 12 feet high and are coved to the side walls. The ceilings are presently covered with acoustical tile. The fireplace is on the easterly wall on the main floor. The main and lower floors are covered with composition tiles. The new 1951 addition interior is trimmed to match the original, except for window sills and casements of metal.

The bid of Stanley G. Parrish for the library addition was accepted in July 1950 by the City of Medford, in the amount of \$51,985, and the addition was completed in 1951. The total cost for construction and all allied work was \$100,678.72. Herb Mackie was the architect for the addition.

## 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) library
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

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**Specific dates** Built 1911-12      **Builder/Architect** Alfred Ivey, Builder; J. A. McIntosh, Architect

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Public Library built with assistance from the Carnegie Corporation in Medford 1911-1912 is significant as the hub of the city's civic center and as a well-preserved example of Classical architecture generated by the "American Renaissance." Notwithstanding the addition of an annex to the rear elevation 1950-1951, the building embodies the distinctive characteristics of its style and possesses integrity of design, materials, workmanship, and association with civic betterment efforts of the Greater Medford Club dating from 1907.

Of the thirty or so libraries erected in Oregon communities with gifts provided by the Carnegie Corporation of New York between 1906 and 1920, Medford's library was among the earlier projects. According to the Biennial Report of the Oregon State Library issued to the 29th Legislative Assembly in 1917, only five projects preceded Medford's, and the Medford project was completed in the same year (1912) as five others, viz. the Ashland, Newberg, Salem, Union, and Pacific University Libraries. Medford's Carnegie Library typifies the projects made possible by the largesse of Andrew Carnegie during the steel magnate's "wholesale period" of library philanthropy, 1898-1919. Gifts to Oregon communities in this period ranged in magnitude from \$5,000 to \$105,000, although the more typical gifts ranged from \$7,500 to \$20,000. Medford's award, made in 1911 and requiring the donation of public land for a building site and the city's pledge of a continuing source of maintenance and operation funds, was \$20,000 and, therefore, was at the upper end of the middle range of the scale.

The Library has remained in continuous use for its original purpose to the present day. It is the oldest publicly-owned building in downtown Medford and the city's first permanent Library building. The persistent work of the Medford citizens was responsible for its construction. The Greater Medford Club was the prime moving force in assuring that Medford had a Public Library. The Club was organized by women in 1903 with the aim of beautifying City Park by putting in the fountain and benches and engaging a gardener to care for the grounds. The present Library Park rose garden is the legacy of these women, who encouraged Medford homeowners to beautify their homes by planting roses.

In August, 1907, Mrs. Kidder, a representative of the Oregon State Library, came to Medford to promote the idea of a public library before the Commercial Club. In October, 1907, she returned to Medford to present the idea to the Greater Medford Club. Through the encouragement of the Greater Medford Club, in December, 1907, the Medford City Council offered its council room for use as a public library. Prior to that time, a small rental library was operated in Haskins Drug Store.

In March, 1908, Mayor W. H. Cannon appointed the first Library Board, and members were: Mesdames J. F. Reddy, W. I. Ed Andrews, M. Paul Theiss, F. E. Merrick, H. C. Stoddard and F. W. Hollis. In October, 1908, the Library Board voted to give a series of six dancing parties, and the Greater Medford Club was asked to assist. They netted \$215.00. Other fund raising methods used by the Greater Medford Club were: four musical entertainments,

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Bobinski, George S., Carnegie Libraries: Their History and Impact on American Public Library Development (American Library Association, 1969).  
 Jackson County Archives --  
 Newspaper Clippings, some undated.  
 First Librarian in Carnegie Library -- Miss Elizabeth Robinson; Letter dated Dec. 1912

# 10. Geographical Data **ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED** (continued)

Acreage of nominated property 1.52 acres  
 Quadrangle name Medford, Oregon **UTM NOT VERIFIED** Quadrangle scale 1:62500

### UMT References

A	1,0	5,1,0,2,5,0	4,6,8,5,5,0,0	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The property nominated is a rectangular City Block 220' x 300', being Block 77, Original Town, now City, of Medford, Jackson County, Oregon. Streets: South Ivy on East; West 8th on South; South Oakdale on West; West Main on North.

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

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title John D. Benson

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date April 1980

street & number 4343 Brownsboro Highway telephone 503/826-3228

city or town Eagle Point state Oregon 97524

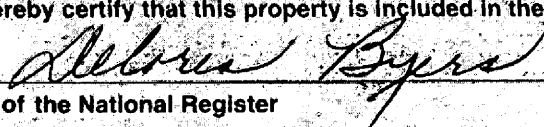
# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

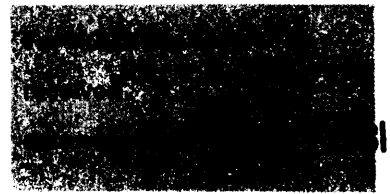
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature  \_\_\_\_\_  
 title Deputy SHPO date June 19, 1981

**For HCRS use only**  
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register  
  
 Keeper of the National Register Entered in the National Register date 7-30-81  
 Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Chief of Registration

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a lecture, a block day, a book club, monthly programs, and publication of one issue of the Mail Tribune, which netted \$1200.00. The Greater Medford Club at one time had collected \$2769.72, which was spent for books and library expenses. Mrs. Porter J. Neff, wife of one of Medford's first attorneys, and a later member of the Library Board, wrote news-worthy articles regarding these projects for the Mail Tribune.

On August 2, 1910, the people (men only) of Medford voted the first tax of one-fifth mil for support and maintenance of a proposed Carnegie Library. The application for the Carnegie Library appropriation was forwarded to James Bertram, Secretary to Andrew Carnegie, on December 21, 1910. The \$20,000.00 requested was based on Mr. Carnegie's practice of granting \$2.00 per person, and the 1910 census showed approximately 10,000 population for Medford. The appropriation was authorized in January, 1911, subject to approval of the design by Mr. Carnegie, verification of the support and maintenance funds, and donation of property for the site for the library. February 7, 1911, the Medford Council approved the levy and notified Andrew Carnegie that they had secured the required funds to support the library and would donate Block 77 of the Original Town for the site of the Carnegie Library. Block 77 was the west Park Block on which the Medford Water Tower formerly stood, and the library would front on West Main Street.

The Library Board at the time the building was begun, consisted of W.L. Vawter, W. H. Cannon, W. I. Ed Andrews, P. J. O'Gara, J. E. Watt, Mrs. B.P. Theiss and Mrs. F. W. Hollis.

Mr. J.A. McIntosh, a local architect, drew the plans that were submitted for the proposed Carnegie Library, and Mr. Alfred Ivey, who had just built the Queen Anne Addition (Roosevelt) and Jackson Boulevard (Jackson) Schools, was awarded the contract on August 24, 1911, in the amount of \$19,360.00, to build the Library. Mr. Ivey started construction promptly and the building was dedicated on February 8, 1912 at an open house and reception from 8 to 10 P.M., with the Medford High School Band playing under the direction of Professor Collins. W. L. Vawter gave the main address. Mayor W. H. Cannon accepted the building for Medford, and Medford remained the record owner until 1979, when the property was deeded to Jackson County.

Miss Elizabeth Robinson was named first librarian in the Carnegie Public Library.

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Letter to James Bertram, N. Y., regarding Carnegie Library, dated 12-21-10, from Medford Library Board.

Contract for Library Building construction.

Newspaper clippings -- "The Library" by Isabel M. Neff, Mail Tribune 6-1-1911; "The Greater Medford Club and Its Work" by Hattie W. Gore, Mail Tribune 6-1-1911; "Building to be Delayed" - Mail Tribune 6-5-1911; "Ivey to Build New Library -- Mail Tribune, no date (after 7-10-11); "Start Work at Once on Library, Mail Tribune, no date (after August 24, 1911); "New Carnegie Library to be Opened Tonight," Mail Tribune, February 8, 1912.

Copy of Library's Original Blueprints -- J. A. McIntosh of Medford, Oregon, Architect, and Alfred Ivey, Builder.

Copy of Library Addition Plans -- Herb Mackie, Architect, and Stanley G. Parrish, Builder. Southern Oregon Historical Society Jackson County Museum Library.

Early Photo (Photographer Unknown) prior to opening (ca. 1911).

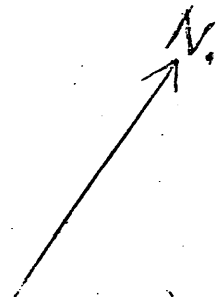
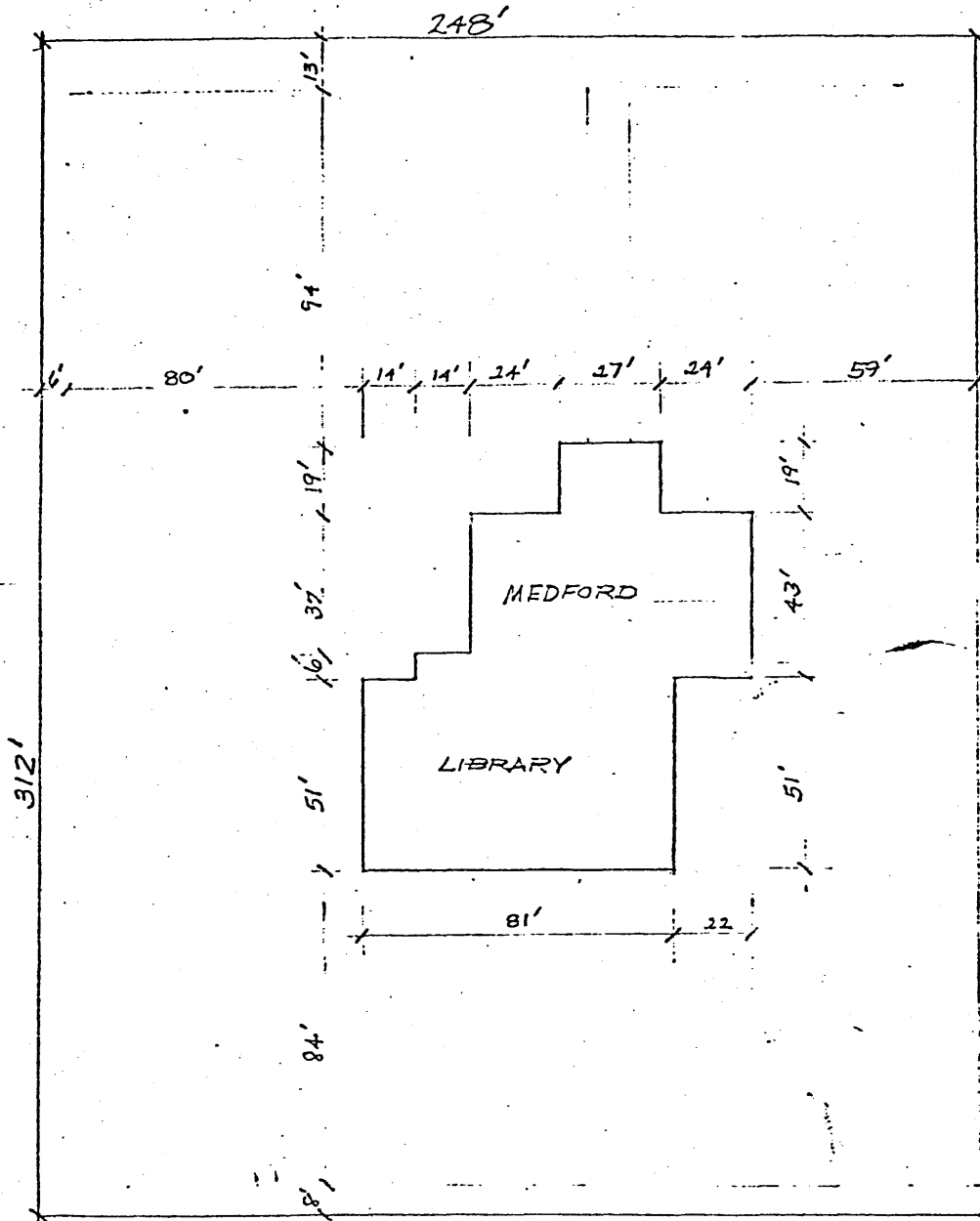
History of Medford -- Jane Snedcor.

Research paper on the Medford Public Library, 1961, Jackie Whitsett, pages 8, 9, & 25.

History of Library service in Medford and Jackson County, Kay Ledward, pages 3 and 16.

Scrapbook, Earl W. Huntley, clipping from Medford Mail Tribune dated January 18, 1911.

CENTRAL LIBRARY BUILDING  
 JACKSON COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM



SCALE 1" = 2'

F. SWAN

AUG. 27, 1979

DIMENSIONS ± 6"

NOTE:

Official Plat shows BLOCK 77 being 220' x 300'

JUL - 2 1981

JUL 30 1981