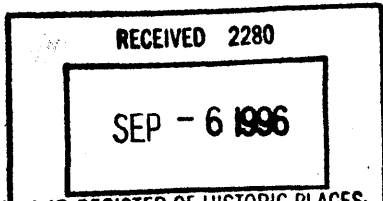


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determination of eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places 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" on the appropriate line 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 PERRY CARNEGIE LIBRARY BUILDING

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 1123 Willis Avenue N/A not for publication

city or town Perry N/A vicinity

state Iowa code IA county Dallas code 049 zip code 50220

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]
Signature of certifying official/Title

9.3.96
Date

State or 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]
Signature of Keeper
Edson H. Beall

Date of Action

10.3.96

Entered in the
National Register

Perry Carnegie Library Building
Name of Property

Dallas County, Iowa
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many lines as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one line)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

Public Library Buildings in Iowa TR

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/library

VACANT/NOT IN USE
WORK IN PROGRESS

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS
Classical Revival

foundation Concrete
walls Brick

roof Asbestos
other Stone

Narrative Description

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

Perry Carnegie Library Building
Name of Property

Dallas County, Iowa
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" on one or more lines 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" on all the lines 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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1904-1946

Significant Dates

1904

1908

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Liebe, Nourse, and Rasmussen, architects

Courtney and Bolt, builders

Narrative Statement of Significance - (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

9. Major Bibliography 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):

- previous determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Record
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository

Perry Carnegie Library Building
Name of Property

Dallas County, Iowa
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 | 15 | 4 0 8 2 4 5 | 4 6 3 2 2 0 0 |

Zone Easting Northing

2 | | | |

Zone Easting Northing

3 | | | |

Zone Easting Northing

4 | | | |

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Michael W. Farley, City Administrator

organization City of Perry date January 30, 1996

street & number 908 Willis Avenue, P. O. Box 545 telephone 515-465-2481; FAX 515-465-4862

city or town Perry state Iowa zip code 50220

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 A Charitable Trust/Howard and Roberta Green Ahmanson

street & number c/o William Clark, 1106 Willis Ave. telephone 515-465-4686

city or town Perry state Iowa zip code 50220

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.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 1

CFN-259-1116

Perry Carnegie Library Building, Dallas County, Iowa.

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The Perry Carnegie Library Building was the original public library in Perry, recently replaced by a new, modern facility across the street from it. The historic building is built on a concrete block foundation. It is wood framed with a veneer of beige-colored brick. The building is situated on a small, triangular lot in the middle of Perry's central business district. It has a small amount of landscaping of grass and shrubbery around it, and the city lot is surrounded by sidewalks and city streets. Originally the streets were not as wide as they are now, and their subsequent expansion has replaced some grass areas. The building is ell shaped with the interior of the ell filled with a curved wall, designed to allow the building to fit the oddly shaped lot. (See Continuation Sheet 7-5.) The building possesses two stories with the lower-level ceiling (and upper-level floor) beginning about eight feet above grade. Large rectangular windows surround the upper-level floor including the curved wall portion. Smaller windows surround the below ground floor with the bottom of these windows coming nearly to grade.

The front of the building is viewed from Willis Avenue. This view presents a rectangular building with a large window on each side of the entrance and a smaller window below the larger one. A wide concrete stairway with a middle handrail accesses the main entrance. This stairway is flanked by two iron light posts placed at the top of the stair. The posts are seven feet high with round white globes. These posts are not original but were added prior to 1910. They match the original street lights that once illuminated the central business district. The posts are painted silver. The main entrance is an indented archway with protruding rectangular sections of the building on each side. A large wooden door has long narrow windows on each side and an arched latticed window above.

The west elevation of the building is viewed from Railroad Street. It contains one portion with two upper-level and two lower-level windows. Another portion of this elevation consists of the curved wall mentioned above. This portion contains seven large upper-level windows and seven small lower-level windows. The curved wall joins the south elevation (rear of the building). (See Continuation Sheet 7-7.)

At the bottom of the lower-level windows, surrounding the entire building (nearly at grade), there is a brick watertable capped with a limestone veneer. The top of the building features a decorative metal cornice. The roof is flat. A chimney is placed near the southeastern corner of the roof. The view from 2nd Street is a rectangular brick wall with windows.

Except for the installation of two rows of solar collectors installed on the roof in the 1970s for solar heat (subsequently removed in 1995), the integrity of the building has not been disturbed. The windows were replaced with energy efficient windows of wood with metal covering (white) in the 1970s. The new windows were placed in the existing openings and are similar to the original. The solar collectors and windows were installed at the same time. No other additions have been made to the building.

The words "Carnegie Library Bldg" are written in granite in a plaque above the arched entryway to the interior of the building. The foyer allows a person to enter either the upper-level via a wide stairway or

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 2

CFN-259-1116

Perry Carnegie Library Building, Dallas County, Iowa.

the lower-level via a narrower stairway adjacent to the main stairway. Both stairways are now carpeted. The foyer, stairwell, and upper-level floor feature original oak paneling. The walls are painted plaster above the paneling and the ceilings are suspended ceiling tile with fluorescent light fixtures. The upper-level floor has a small square room on the northwest, a very small triangular-shaped room immediately to the south, and a large room. The large room is situated in the southwest portion of the upper-level floor (the circular wall). This room is triangular-shaped with a short wall separating it from the room to the east, but also leaving the entire back half of the floor open. This spacious area, which serves both as a reading room and for book stacks, has a fireplace on the south wall near the southwestern corner. The northeastern corner is the location of a wooden ell-shaped circulation desk. Behind this desk is a small office separated from its by a door.

The interior wall paneling, trim, and woodwork on the upper-level floor is oak in its original natural finish. The doors are large and are surmounted with transoms for ventilation. There are several columns supporting a coffered ceiling. These columns, square in section, feature fluting, taper toward the ceiling, and are capped with modified Ionic capitals. The main reading room is open and spacious, and contains large oak book shelves.

The lower-level floor is situated similarly to the upper-level. It is not as decorative, as it has knotty paneling half way up the walls with painted plaster above. These rooms were renovated in the 1970s and it is unknown if the knotty paneling is original. Windows extend from the ceiling to about four feet above the floor. The main room is open with a circulation desk in the middle. Some original doors and trim remain. There is a narrow hallway along the front lower floor extending from the bottom of the stairs to the side door which opens a few feet below the sidewalk. There are outdoor stairs up to the sidewalk.

Until recently, the building was filled with books and served as a library to a city of 6,700 people and the surrounding rural area. However, in 1994, the building was sold by the City of Perry to a charitable trust that has pledged to rehabilitate the property consistent with its architectural heritage and history in accordance with good preservation methods, and maintain the property for public use, including a museum or gallery open to the public.

The building's exterior is in good condition. In 1956, the entire building was cleaned and the metal and wood was painted. In 1976, some maintenance was completed. The foundation was stabilized, some brick was re-laid, tuck pointing was completed, and masonry areas of the building were waterproofed. The metal raintable near the top of the building was sandblasted, broken joints were riveted, and all seams were soldered. All wood and metal trim was cleaned and painted. Also, in the late 1970s, the building received the solar heating unit, new windows, a new roof, and a new air conditioning unit. In short, the building's interior and exterior are both in near original condition.

The building will soon be renovated and rehabilitated for use as a museum or gallery open to the public. The principals of this trust also own and are rehabilitating the Hotel Pattee in Perry. The Perry Carnegie Library Building was sold to the charitable trust so restoration could be accomplished to preserve the character of the building for future generations and to ensure the continued use and enjoyment of the building by the public.

United States Department of the Interior
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7

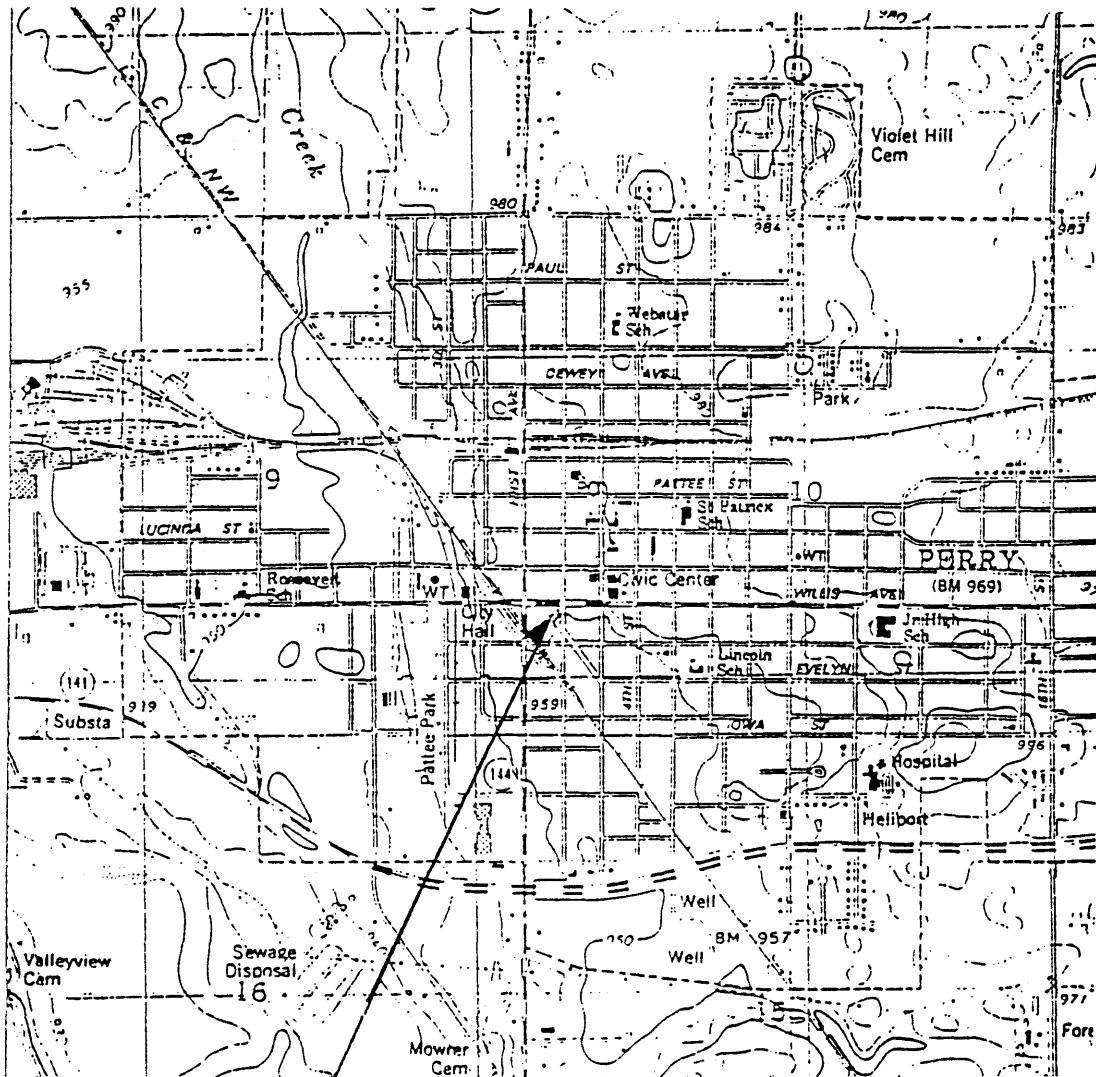
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Perry Carnegie Library Building, Dallas County, Iowa.

SITE MAP

ARROW LOCATES PROPERTY



Source: U.S.G.S. Map (7.5 Minute Series), Perry Quadrangle.

United States Department of the Interior
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7

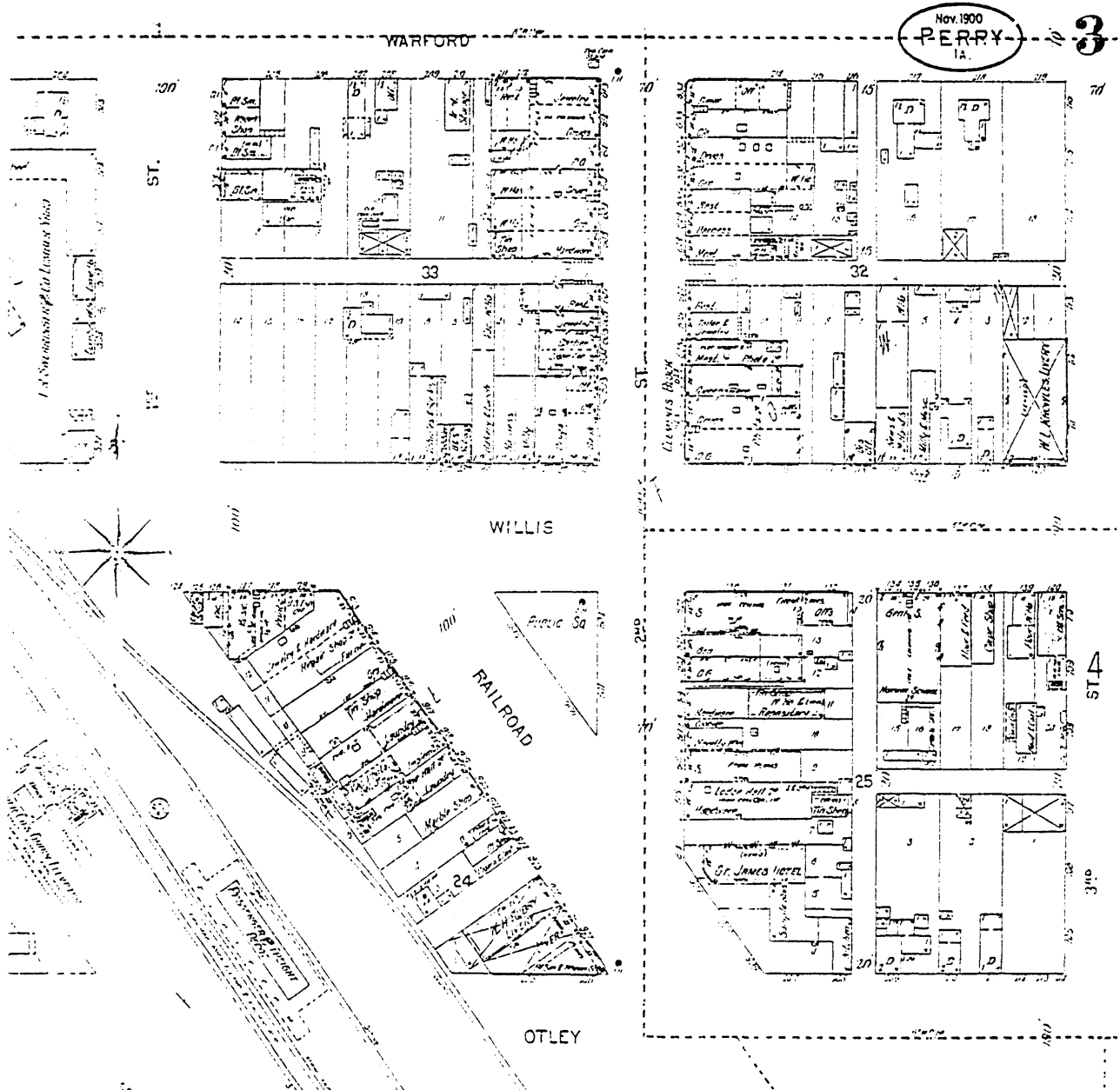
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Perry Carnegie Library Building, Dallas County, Iowa.

1900 FIRE INSURANCE MAP

SHOWS "THE TRIANGLE" PRIOR TO LIBRARY CONSTRUCTION



Source: Sanborn Map Company, Perry, Iowa, November, 1900.



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CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7

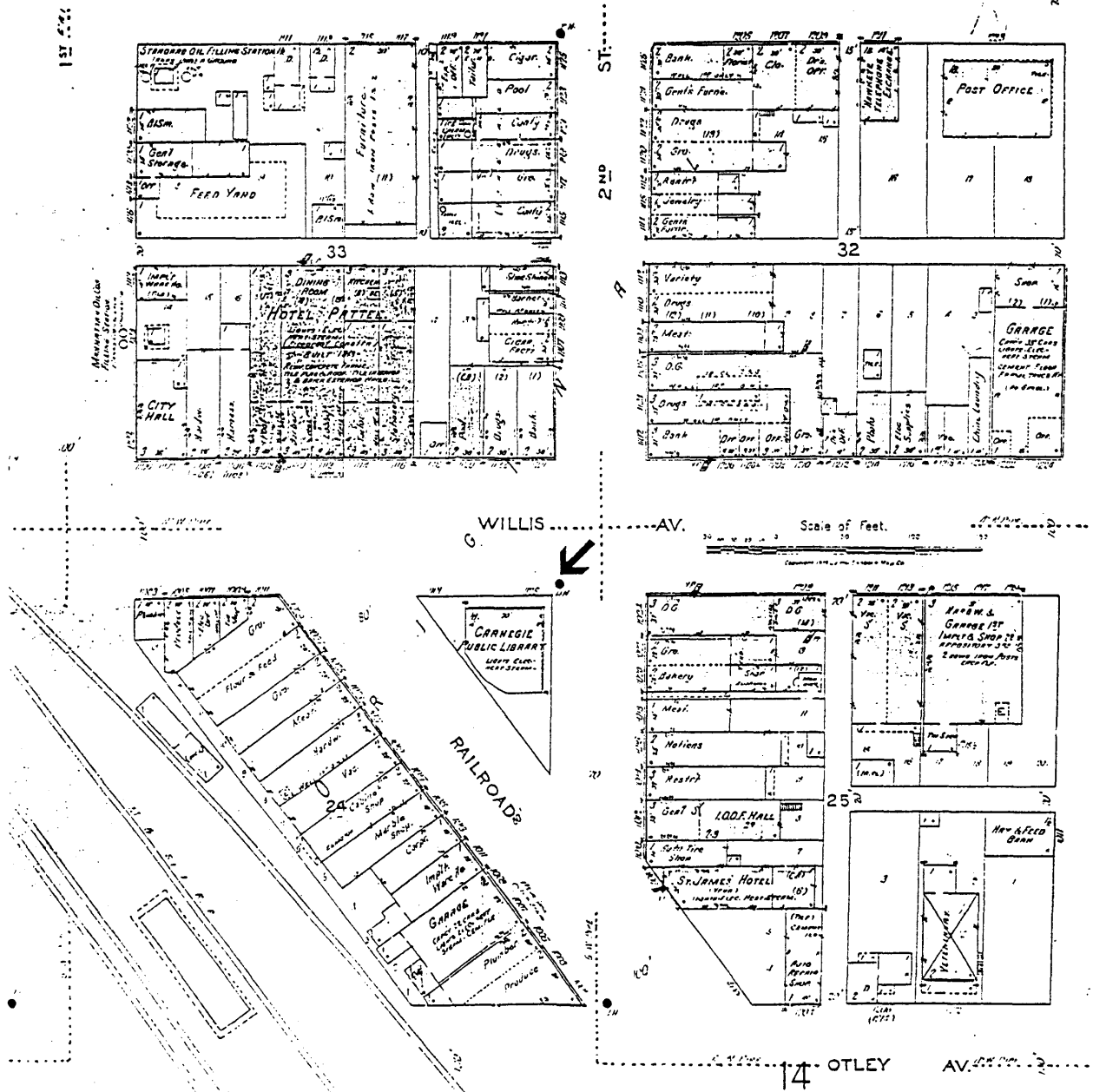
Page 5

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Perry Carnegie Library Building, Dallas County, Iowa.

1918 FIRE INSURANCE MAP

ARROW LOCATES PROPERTY



Source: Sanborn Map Company, Perry, Iowa, December, 1918.

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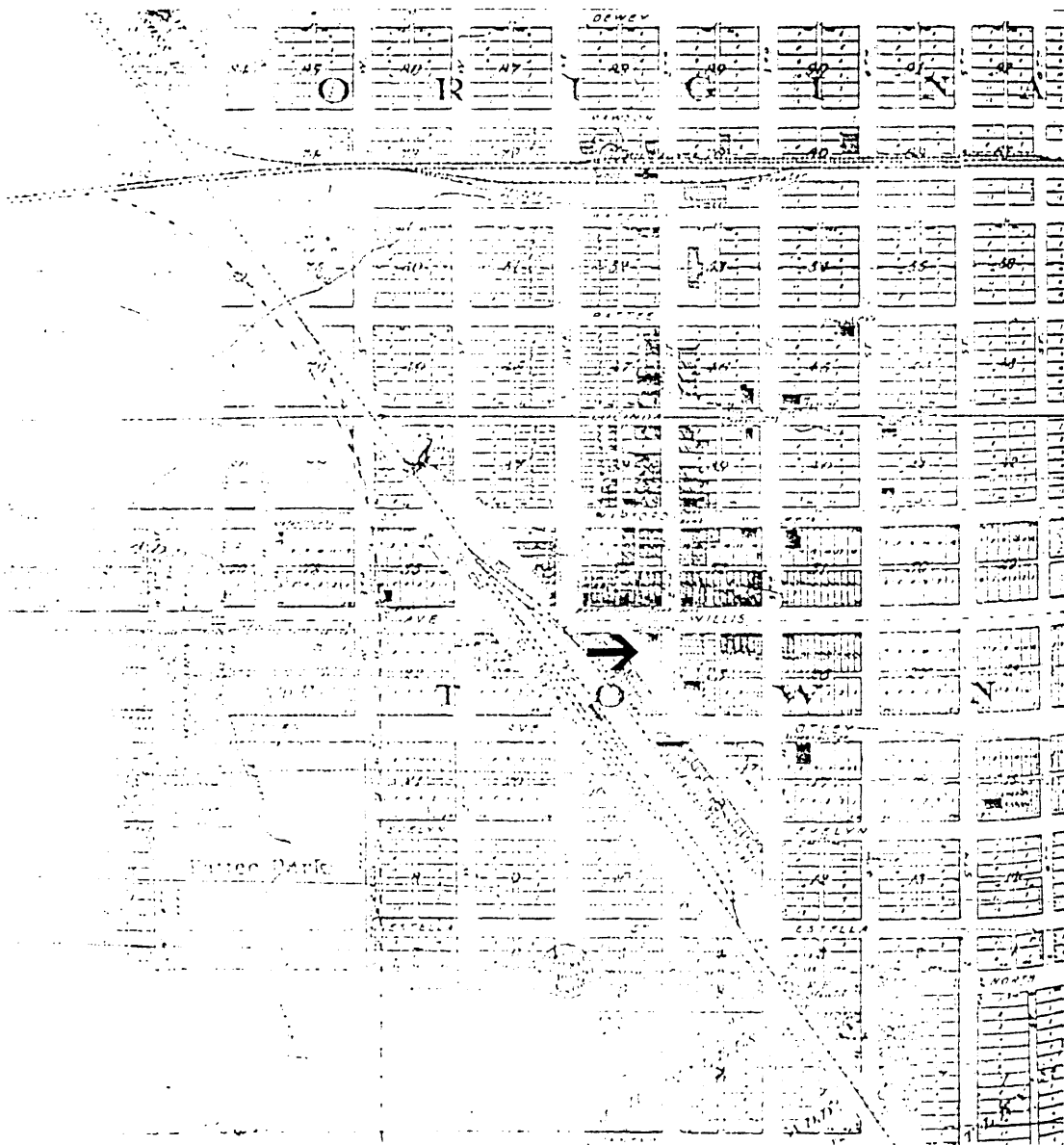
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Perry Carnegie Library Building, Dallas County, Iowa.

1916 PERRY MAP

ARROW LOCATES LIBRARY WITHIN CONTEXT OF CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT



Source: *Atlas of Dallas County, Iowa*, p. 38.

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National Park Service

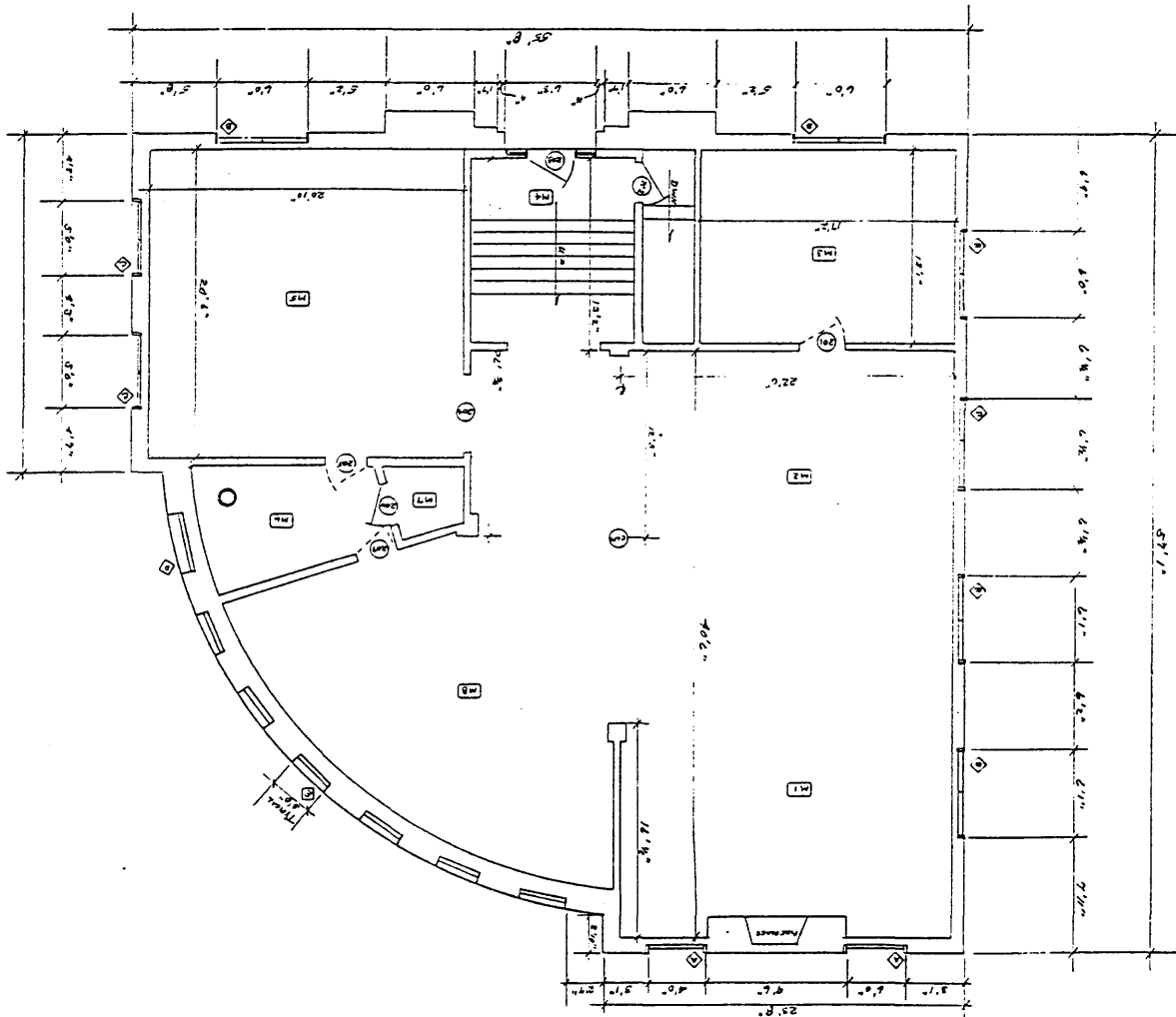
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Perry Carnegie Library Building, Dallas County, Iowa.

UPPER-LEVEL FLOORPLAN



Source: City of Perry, Iowa.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

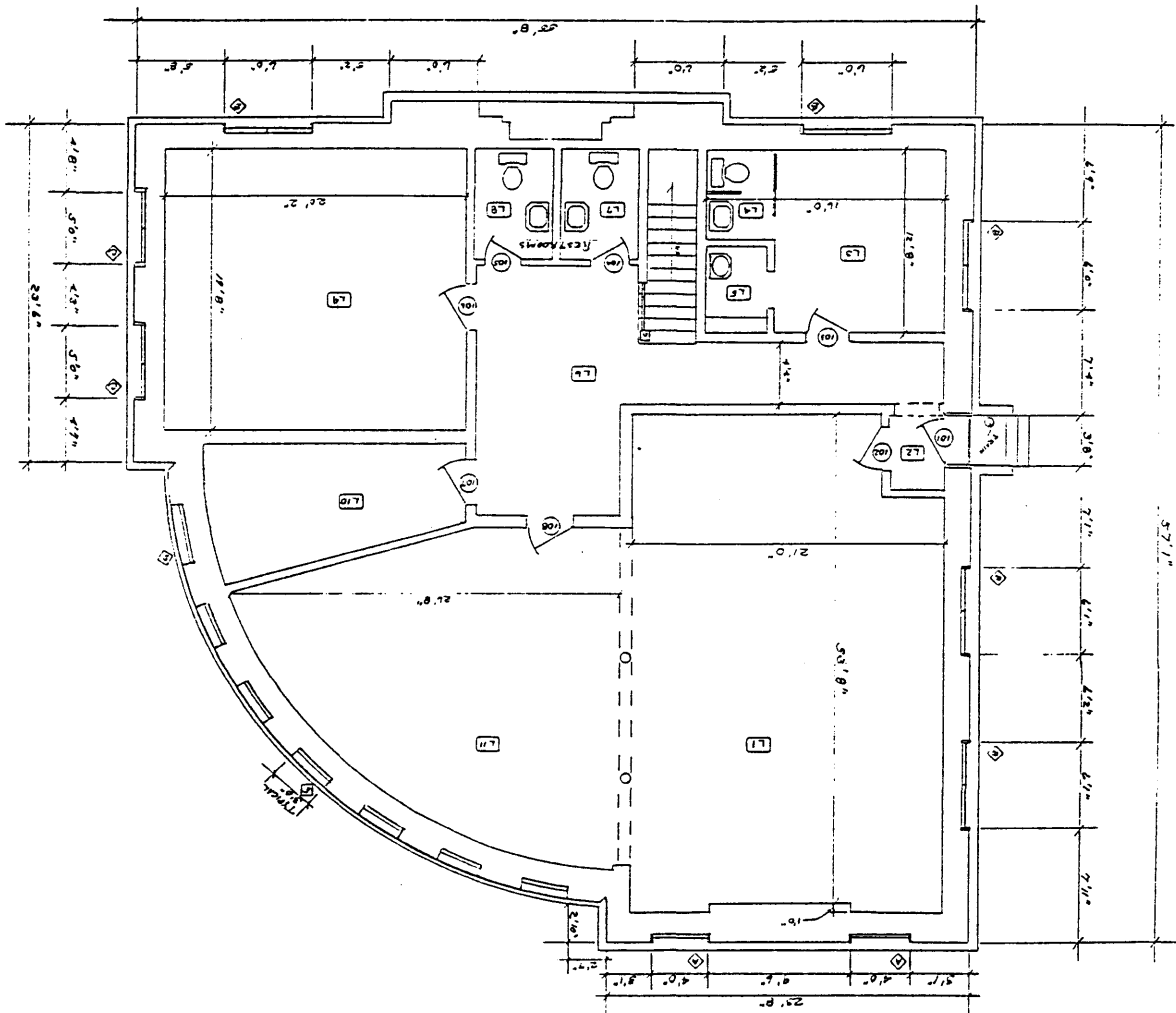
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CFN-259-1116

Perry Carnegie Library Building, Dallas County, Iowa.

LOWER-LEVEL FLOORPLAN



Source: City of Perry, Iowa.

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Perry Carnegie Library Building, Dallas County, Iowa.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Andrew Carnegie funded 101 libraries between 1889 and 1919 in Iowa. This is a very important era in the development of public libraries in Iowa. The Perry Carnegie Library Building was 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. The 22 libraries funded in 1903 make up nearly one fourth of the state's Carnegie buildings. These structures stand as significant reminders of Carnegie's donations and the great impact on the development of libraries in the nation and Iowa.

Constructed between 1903 and 1904, the Perry Carnegie Library is locally significant under Criteria A and C. The building is important under Criterion A because of its contribution and significance as a center of public learning and civic activity in the community of Perry. It is significant under Criterion C as a good local example of Beaux Arts architecture carefully planned for its site.

The period of significance for the Perry Carnegie Library Building, under Criterion A, embraces the years between 1904 and 1946, the time within the National Register's 50-year restriction in which it served as a library and center for public activities. The period of significance, under Criterion C, is 1904, the year it was completed and first occupied.

Significant dates include 1904, the year of its completion, and 1908, when the library provided a public gathering place for a presidential campaign address.

The Perry Carnegie Library is historically significant, under Criterion A, because of its relationship with the development of Perry. Located on "The Triangle," a plot of ground publicly owned since establishment of the community, the site itself can legitimately be called the town center of Perry. Construction of the library on this site in 1904 reinforced this quality. The Original Town Plat of Perry featured this unusually configured site. It resulted from a diagonal corridor, laid out to compliment a railroad, on top of a grid of streets laid out on the points of the compass. As Eugene Hastie, historian of Perry, has pointed out:

From the earliest times Perry had a unique Triangle instead of the customary town square. This was enclosed with a large log chain run through holes in the tops of large posts. This served admirably for a hitching place during the horse and buggy days. (Hastie:49).

For many years, this area was the only parkland owned by the city.

The Perry Library Association was formed in 1894, and William Tarr was chosen as librarian. Andrew Carnegie announced his donation of \$10,000 for the Perry Library in January 1903. The architectural firm of Liebbe, Nourse, and Rasmussen of Des Moines was hired to design the building. Plans were approved in July 1903 and Courtney and Bolt, contractors of Perry, were awarded the contract. Construction began in July 1903 and the new library opened in September 1904. Formal dedication was held on December 19, 1904. Governor Cummins of Iowa gave the keynote address to

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Perry Carnegie Library Building, Dallas County, Iowa.

the community. Ceremonies were held at the opera house, followed by a reception at the library with the Opera House Orchestra playing in the background.

The library served as a center for learning and reading pleasure for nearly ninety years. From its inception it provided children's programs and events. The collection grew through the years to include the provision of audio visual materials, computers, videos, paintings, and much more. It was a library that was utilized not only by Perry, but the surrounding rural area. It stands today as the oldest public building extant in the City of Perry.

The building is currently undergoing rehabilitation as a museum for local history. After this is completed and the museum opened, the Perry Carnegie Library Building will continue to serve the public for years to come.

This building has had public uses other than a library, too. The Perry City Council occupied the library basement in 1904. (Prior to this time, it is thought city government rented office space.) From 1907 to 1921 the Superior Court occupied the basement. It is unclear how long the City Council conducted business from the library. The library also provided public restrooms for the downtown area in 1934. At one time, there was a street sprinkling fountain in front of the library. The owner of the sprinkler (under contract with the City) was later asked to remove it because people constantly stopped to drink, creating a mud puddle. Located near the railroad tracks, it was also a popular spot for loafers.

Although the building's main function was always as a library, it served the community in many other ways. The building has been the location for numerous community events and affairs. Two examples illustrate the building's civic role in the community. In 1908, the library was the site of an historic moment in Perry when William Jennings Bryan gave a speech from its steps. Bryan was running for the presidency against William Howard Taft at the time. Bryan was a Democrat from Nebraska and a well-known statesman. The choice of the public library for the site of this speech indicates the central role this institution played within the community. In September 1952 an honor roll billboard was dedicated on the corner of the library grounds. The billboard bore names of U. S. armed forces personnel from Perry and the Perry area. There was a concert and invocation. Two World War I cannons that once stood in Pattee Park were brought to flank the billboard during the ceremony. After the ceremony, the guns were dismantled, sold for scrap and the proceeds given to the Red Cross. Wooden parts were sold for souvenirs. There have been many other ceremonies and community activities associated with the library as well.

The library has been the beneficiary of many gifts from members of the community since its beginning. This also illustrates the institution's and the building's central role in Perry. For example, a drinking fountain was placed behind the library by businessmen in 1911 (it was removed in 1951). The community was very generous with its gifts of dollars for books, other materials, and furniture.

The library building was the center of activity in the city for many years. Throughout its history, it provided many public services and was the center for information, education, and entertainment for the

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Perry Carnegie Library Building, Dallas County, Iowa.

community and beyond. It has been and it remains, a very important structure in the community, and after restoration, this legacy and contribution will continue.

The Perry Carnegie Library Building is additionally significant, under Criterion C, as an excellent example of Beaux Arts architecture in Perry. The design is the work of Liebbe, Nourse, and Rasmussen of Des Moines. This firm was one of Iowa's leading architectural firms in the early 20th Century. The firm designed at least seven other libraries in the state. The others were in Atlantic, Boone, Grinnell, Hampton, Iowa City, and Nevada. The Nevada building has been demolished, and the Iowa City edifice has been compromised by a large addition. Of the five largely intact examples, the Perry Carnegie Library Building is one of the best preserved. It also has a very high level of interior integrity.

The Perry Carnegie Library Building is also significant, under Criterion C, because it shows the considerable architectural skills of Liebbe, Nourse, and Rasmussen. Designed under the influence of the Beaux Arts taste, the building features a symmetrically conceived facade, denticulated cornice, pilasters flanking the main entrance, and quoinwork on the corners, important characteristics of that style. Because the building occupies most of its site, it conveys a monumental feeling to the viewer far beyond its relatively small size. The architects also successfully solved a difficult site problem presented by the small, triangular-shaped city lot on which the building was to be erected. (See Continuation Sheet 7-5.) The firm's design employed a prominent quadrant of a circle connecting the west and south elevations. (See Continuation Sheet 7-7.) While a number of other Carnegie libraries in Iowa feature an ellipse on their rear elevations (as in Oskaloosa, where this interior space provides for book stacks), it is unusual for Carnegie libraries in Iowa to employ such a curved configuration as in Perry. This unusual design provided an efficient use of the irregularly-shaped city lot already chosen for the new library building. Situated at a key intersection in Perry's central business district, this building also provides an entrance feature to Perry's downtown.

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Perry Carnegie Library Building, Dallas County, Iowa.

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 10 Page 13

CFN-259-1116

Perry Carnegie Library Building, Dallas County, Iowa.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

A parcel of land and building east of Block 24, Original Town of Perry, Iowa. A parcel of land and building bounded by Willis Avenue, Railroad Street and 2nd Street in Perry, Iowa.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The property described is a small parcel completely surrounded by city streets. The property is the entire parcel which was publicly owned prior to 1900 and has historically been associated with the library and the City of Perry.

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National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

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CFN-259-1116

Perry Carnegie Library Building, Dallas County, Iowa.

LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

1. Perry Carnegie Library Building
1123 Willis Avenue
Perry, IA 50220
Looking south southwest
Denise Rockwell, Photographer, *Perry Chief*
February 27, 1996
2. Perry Carnegie Library Building
1123 Willis Avenue
Perry, IA 50220
Looking east southeast
Denise Rockwell, Photographer, *Perry Chief*
February 27, 1996
3. Perry Carnegie Library Building
1123 Willis Avenue
Perry, IA 50220
Looking northeast
Denise Rockwell, Photographer, *Perry Chief*
February 27, 1996
4. Perry Carnegie Library Building
1123 Willis Avenue
Perry, IA 50220
Looking north northwest
Denise Rockwell, Photographer, *Perry Chief*
February 27, 1996
5. Perry Carnegie Library Building
1123 Willis Avenue
Perry, IA 50220
Interior
Main Reading Room
Michael Williams, Photographer
June, 1993