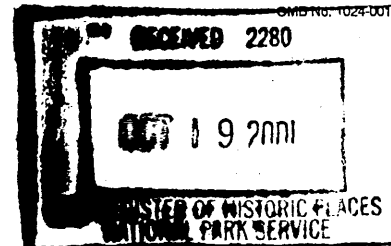


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1275



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties 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" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any 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 Schuyler Carnegie Library

Other names/site number Schuyler Public Library / CX06-39

2. Location

Street & number 1003 B Street

Not for publication

City or town Schuyler

Vicinity

State Nebraska

Code NE

County Colfax

Code 037

Zip code 68661

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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.)

Lawrence Sommer
Signature of certifying official

10/12/01
Date

Director, Nebraska State Historical Society
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 this 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): _____

Edson A. Bell 11/29/01

Edson A. Bell
Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

Schuyler Carnegie Library

Name of Property

Colfax County, Nebraska

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- Private
- Public-local
- Public-state
- Public-federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		Buildings
		Sites
		Structures
		Objects
1		Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

Carnegie Libraries in Nebraska, 1899 to 1922

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION / Library

SOCIAL

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Tudor Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Foundation Concrete Block

Walls Brick Veneer

Roof Asphalt

Other

Narrative Description

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

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- X 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.
X 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" in all the boxes 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 a 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.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Education

Architecture

Period of Significance

1911 - 1951

Significant Dates

1911

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Fisher & Lawrie - Architect

P.H. Wind & Sons - Builder

9. Major Bibliographical 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):

- Preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
Previously listed in the National Register
Previously determined eligible by the National Register
Designated a National Historic Landmark
Recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
Recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location for additional data:

- X State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
Federal agency
Local Government
University
Other
Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property

UTM References (place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet).

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1.	14	662280	4589960	3.			
2.				4.			

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Stacy Stupka-Burda / National Register Coordinator
organization Nebraska State Historical Society date 08/30/01
street & number 1500 R St PO Box 2554 telephone (402)471-4770
city or town Lincoln state NE zip code 68501-2554

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 the SHPO or FPO.)

name/title City of Schuyler
street & number 1103 B St telephone (402) 352-3101
city or town Schuyler state NE zip code 68661

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determined 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, (15 USC 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the 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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Schuyler Carnegie Library

Name of Property

Colfax County, Nebraska

County and State

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The City of Schuyler is located in the southern portion of Colfax County in east central Nebraska. Situated approximately 1.5 miles north of the Platte River valley, the surrounding area is characterized by fertile agricultural land irrigated by subterranean aquifers. Schuyler (2000 pop: 5100), the county seat and largest community of Colfax County is 73 miles northwest of the State Capitol in Lincoln, Nebraska. The Schuyler Carnegie Library is located near the center of the city, just one block south of the central business district.

The Schuyler Carnegie Library, constructed in 1911, was funded through a grant from Andrew Carnegie. The prominent Omaha architectural firm of Fisher & Lawrie designed the library and P. H. Wind & Sons of Council Bluffs, Iowa served as the builder.

The structure is a one-story brick building with Tudor Revival elements. The floor plan of the Schuyler Carnegie Library is rectangular in shape and measures 45' x 25'. The basement is raised, and the hipped roof, formerly covered with red clay tile, is now asphalt and has a stepped and gabled parapet. Key-hole window openings are situated in the gable peaks (two on the east; two on the west facades; and one each on the north and south facades).

The 3-bay main (east) façade features a recessed round-arch molded entrance treated by a frontispiece with a Palladian motif. The date "A.D. 1911" is inscribed in a stone medallion placed immediately above the stone arch of the entrance. The frontispiece is flanked on either side by gnome-like grotesques carved in stone. Each of these caped figures is holding a scroll. The wooden entry door is fashioned from oak, is set within a recessed doorway with a segmented stone arch. Gothic styling is evident in the tracery of the windows which emphasize repeated gothic elements. A wooden screen door has been shaped to fit the entryway. The nameplate above the main entrance (east façade) is inscribed with "Schuyler Carnegie Library". The lower portion of the front entry steps were replaced sometime after initial construction of the library.

Tripartite ribbon windows are located on the front and sides of the Schuyler Carnegie Library. These narrow windows are operable in the lower one third of each window. The lower portions of these windows are designed to swing inward, allowing for air circulation within the library. A stone belt course is positioned near the top of these windows and continues around the building on all four facades. The tripartite window pattern is repeated directly below the windows of the first floor in the basement windows. These 1/1 double hung windows are at ground level. A second stone belt course delineates the first floor and also continues around the building.

The window fenestration of the main façade is repeated on the secondary or south façade. The north façade features tripartite windows, while the rear (west) features two pairs of windows in addition to one set of tripartite windows. The basement level windows on the north and west facades are 1/1 double hung windows centered below the first floor windows. All windows feature stone sills. A brick chimney is located on the rear (west) side, as is a rear door that provides basement egress.

The primary entrance to the Schuyler Carnegie Library opens into a large front vestibule and cloakroom with four steps leading to a door fashioned of golden oak. This paneled door features a window of leaded glass with green stained glass accents near the top of the window. The leaded glass pattern is repeated in the sidelights and in a leaded glass transom.

Located immediately opposite this very striking doorway, is an area designed for placement of the librarian's delivery desk to allow for excellent visual access to the main rooms of the library located on either side. These main rooms feature golden oak trimmed columns around the entrances and golden oak door casings and crown molding along the entire perimeter of the rooms. A restroom and storage closet is located in the northwest corner of the main floor. Water damage from a broken pipe is apparent in this restroom. Despite this water damage, all of the oak woodwork remains intact and in

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Schuyler Carnegie Library

Name of Property

Colfax County, Nebraska

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Section 7 Page 2

good condition. All doors, windows, hardware and trim are intact from the date of construction. Bookshelves, however, have been removed.

Access to the basement of the Schuyler Carnegie Library is gained through a door at the northwest corner of the first floor. Steps lead to a large room that served as a "society" meeting place. A smaller room is located along the northeast side of the basement. Along the eastern (main) façade, are two exterior exits one that still serves as an exit, and one which has been bricked in to accommodate access to a basement level restroom.

This building was in use as a city library until 1975 when the City of Schuyler purchased it for \$9000.00. In 1977, the Schuyler Carnegie Library began serving the community again as the Schuyler / Colfax County Historical Society Museum. The building was vacated by the county historical society in 1998 following interior water damage from a broken pipe and remains vacant in 2001. The City of Schuyler has retained ownership of the Schuyler Carnegie Library and is now actively exploring possible reuse opportunities.

While no longer in use as a public library, the overall physical condition of both the interior and exterior of the Schuyler Carnegie Library is stunning. The design of the exterior and the interior spaces remains intact, as do the doors, windows and trim work. Notable in the design of this building are the "extras" not normally included in the design of a Carnegie Library. The ornate Palladian entrance, the liberal uses of golden oak trim and leaded glass combine for a quite distinctive building.

According to the *Multiple Property Document Carnegie Libraries in Nebraska, 1899 to 1922* (MPD) "A high degree of historic architectural integrity will be required of all potentially eligible Carnegie Libraries under Criterion C. Of primary importance are the exterior plan and style, with secondary emphasis on the building materials and layout" (Sec. F, IV, p.1). The minor changes to the Schuyler Carnegie Library (construction of new lower steps on front entrance, closing of one of the exterior basement entrances and interior water damage) do not preclude its eligibility under Criterion C. The MPD also states "under Criteria A and B, where significance is derived from associations with important persons or events, integrity must be sufficient to convey the original function and design of the building" (Sec. F, IV, p.1). The overall physical integrity of the Schuyler Carnegie Library is intact, and despite no longer functioning as a public library, the building retains the ability to convey the historic nature and significance of Carnegie libraries.

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Schuyler Carnegie Library

Name of Property

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The Schuyler Carnegie Library meets registration requirements of the *National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, Carnegie Libraries in Nebraska, 1899 to 1922*. The Schuyler Carnegie Library is significantly associated with the historic context Educational Enrichment: Carnegie Libraries. The Library is locally significant in the area of education as an important example of a Carnegie Library. Additionally, the Schuyler Carnegie Library meets the Multiple Property document's criteria for listing under Criterion C for architectural significance. The building's period of significance is derived from the year the library was constructed, 1911, through 1951, fifty years before the date of this nomination.

During a Schuyler community library board meeting on April 11, 1910, a motion was made that the secretary of the library board write immediately to Mr. Andrew Carnegie to determine whether or not it would be possible for the City of Schuyler to construct a Carnegie Library.

Approximately one year later, presumably after a favorable initial response, the City of Schuyler began correspondence with the well-known architectural firm Fischer & Lawrie of Omaha, Nebraska and the contracting company of P.H. Wind & Sons of Council Bluffs, Iowa. This correspondence was undertaken to insure the "utmost useful accommodation for the (Carnegie) money, consistent with good taste in the building".

After 1908, communities wishing to construct public libraries with the assistance of the Carnegie Foundation were required to submit design plans to the Carnegie Foundation for approval. This design approval was to insure professional plans that encouraged simplicity with decorative elements. Once Mr. Carnegie's representative approved the building plans, Andrew Carnegie agreed to donate the sum of \$9000.00 needed for construction of the new public library. This donation came with the stipulation that the City of Schuyler agree to maintain the building at an expenditure of not less than \$900.00 annually.

On May 16, 1911, Mayor John E. Arnold and the Schuyler City Council approved Mr. Carnegie's stipulation that the City of Schuyler agree to an annual maintenance fee and accepted Mr. Carnegie's donation. Three families within the community and Mayor Arnold donated a downtown lot valued at \$1,500.00. A warranty deed was filed two days later on May 18, 1911 reflecting this transaction.

Construction of the Schuyler Carnegie Library began in October of 1911 and was complete on January 27, 1912. Fischer & Lawrie, the architects of this building, stated that the "exterior of the building is designed in the Tudor style of English architecture and as a great many historical libraries are designed in this style it is well suited for such a building" (Fischer & Lawrie, 1911). Fischer & Lawrie established a relationship in the early 1900's and their firm grew to become one of the most prominent architectural firms in the State of Nebraska. They designed several buildings in the City of Omaha and throughout the Midwest, including the Gottlieb Storz House in Omaha (NRHP 1974), the Saunders County Courthouse (NRHP 1990) and the Ashland Public (Carnegie) Library in Ashland (NRHP 1983).

The Schuyler Carnegie Library follows the recommendations put forth by the Carnegie Foundation regarding library design, that is, a one-story rectangular brick building with a raised basement. Although similar in plan with many other Carnegie Libraries, the Schuyler Carnegie Library is somewhat unique to libraries in Nebraska due to the Tudor elements incorporated into the building design by the architects Fischer & Lawrie.

The Carnegie Foundation funded the construction of 1,679 public libraries across the United States, their value totaling over 40 million dollars. As in so many communities across the country, Schuyler did not have a sole-use public library until the Carnegie Foundation funded its construction. The generosity of the Carnegie Foundation assisted in the creation of public library systems that continue to have profound community impacts today. Many small communities are served

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Schuyler Carnegie Library

Name of Property

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by well-established public libraries whose existence, it may be argued, is founded upon an original gift by the Carnegie Foundation.

The Multiple Property Document, Carnegie Libraries in Nebraska, 1899 to 1922, states "the construction of library buildings in Nebraska communities had an impact beyond the provision of reading material to the public. The buildings were designed to provide facilities for other education activities as well as the library" (Sec. E, p.3). Carnegie Libraries served an educational function beyond their use as book repositories, a function that is maintained by most public libraries today. The gift of Carnegie Libraries helped create our system of educationally oriented, small town public library systems.

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Schuyler Carnegie Library

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Chatfield, Penelope

- 1981 National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form. *North Bend Carnegie Library, Dodge County, Nebraska.*
On File, Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office, Lincoln, Ne.

Colfax County

- 1911 Deed Record Book 42. Colfax County Clerk's Office, Schuyler, Ne. July 6.
1975 Warranty Deed. Schuyler City Hall, Schuyler Ne. August 18.

City of Schuyler

- 1911 Record Book 2. Schuyler City Hall, Schuyler, Ne. May 16.
1912 "Library Report" In *City of Schuyler Record Book 2*, Schuyler City Hall, Schuyler, Ne. June 5.

Fimple, Kathleen

- 1990 *Carnegie Libraries in Nebraska, 1899 to 1922.* On File, Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office, Lincoln, Ne.

Fisher & Lawrie

- 1911 Letter to Mr. J.T. Sumner. On File, Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office, Lincoln, Ne.
1911 Letters to Schuyler Library Board. On File, Schuyler Public Library, Schuyler, Ne.

Franks, R.A.

- 1911 Letters to Schuyler Library Board. On File, Schuyler Public Library, Schuyler, Ne.

Omaha Daily Bee

- 1906 "Fisher & Lawrie, Omaha Architects." January 1.

Schuyler Public Library

- 1909-1931. *Minutes, Records, Correspondence Book.* On file, Schuyler Public Library, Schuyler, Ne.

Schuyler Sun

- 1912 "Notice" January 26.
1999 "Mayor, city council ponder future of Carnegie Building." February 18.

Unknown

- n/d Notes on Library Bilding (*sic*),. Schuyler Public Library, Schuyler, Ne.

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Schuyler Carnegie Library

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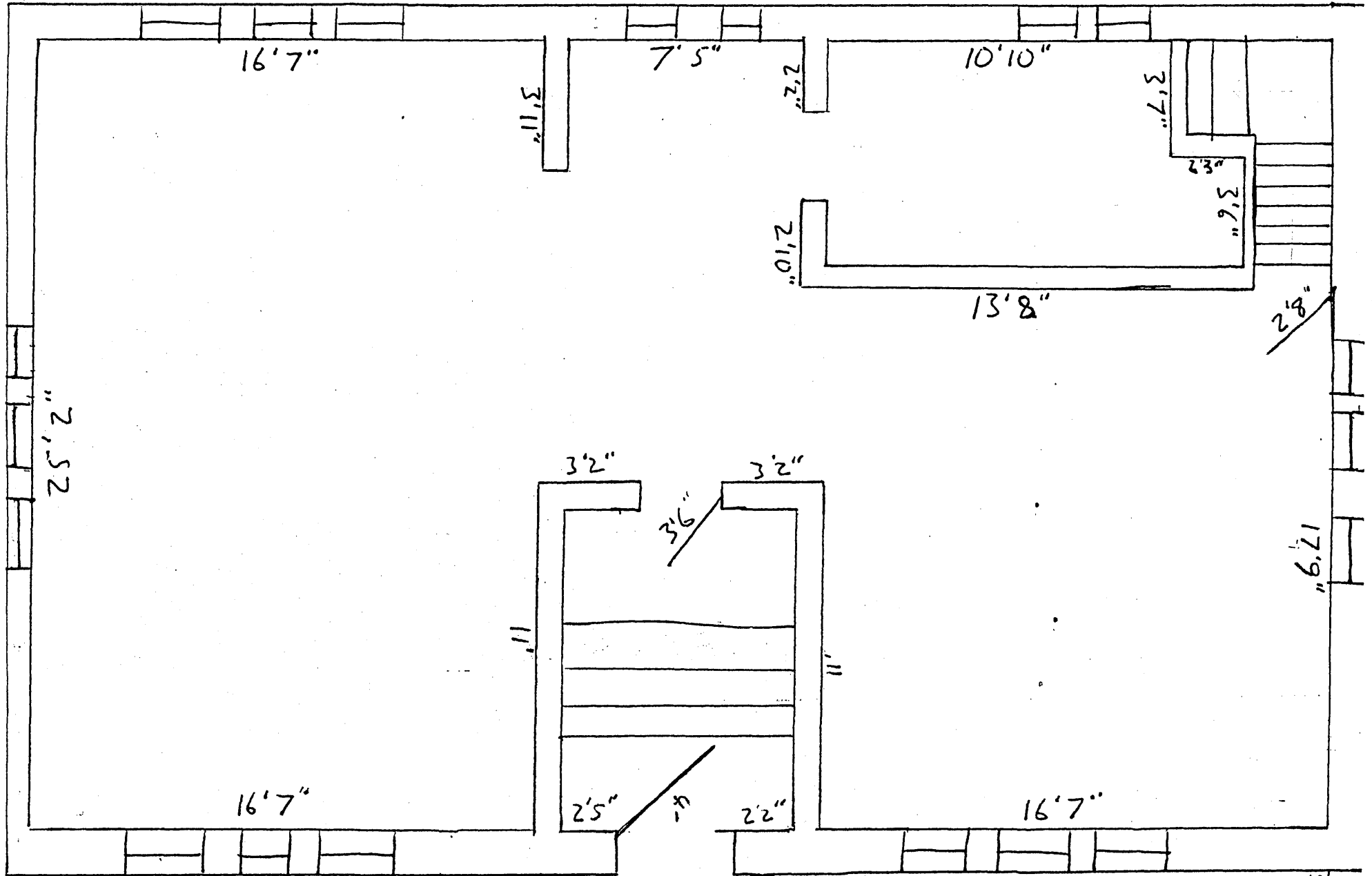
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Verbal Boundary Description

South 77 feet of Lots 22, 23 and 24, Block 98, Original Town of Schuyler, Colfax County, Nebraska.

Boundary Justification

Boundary includes parcel of land historically associated the Schuyler Carnegie Library.



Schuyler Carnegie Library NeHBS# CX06-039 Colfax County, Ne. - Floor Plan

