

# Iowa Site Inventory

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

Site Number 74-010-004  
District Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Map Reference # \_\_\_\_\_

## Identification

1. Site Name Emmetsburg Public Library
2. Village/Town/City Emmetsburg Township \_\_\_\_\_ County Palo Alto
3. Street Address Tenth Street (on Courthouse Square)
4. Legal Location Courthouse Sq. Pt. E 1/2  

Urban:	subdivision	block	parcel	subparcel
Rural:	township	range	section	% section of % section
5. UTM Location: zone 15 easting 361800 northing 4771850; Acreage 2/1
6. Owner(s) Name City of Emmetsburg
7. Owner(s) Address Emmetsburg, Iowa 50536  

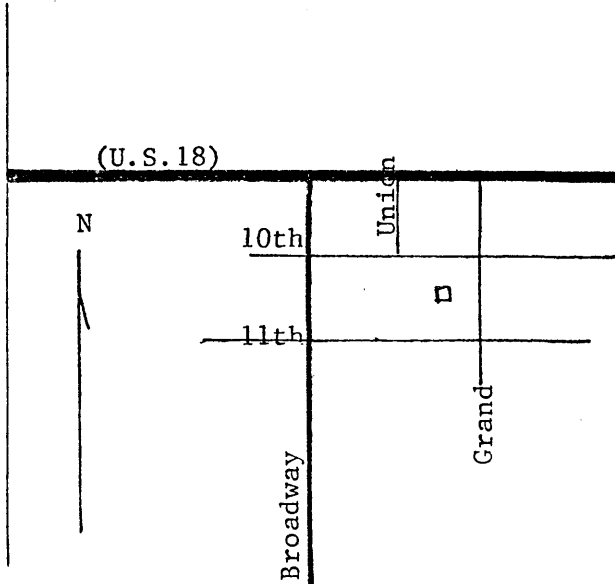
(Street address)	(City)	(State)	(Zip)
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8. Use: Present library Original library

## Description

9. Date of Construction 1911-12 Architect Walter A. T. Simmons, Bloomington, Illinois
10. Building Type:
 

<input type="checkbox"/> single-family dwelling	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> other institutional	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> multiple-family dwelling	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agricultural
<input type="checkbox"/> 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: Alterations to front stoop (1970's); minor rearrangement of interior (1970's).
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 on courthouse square; forms a grouping with the courthouse and the jail.

18. Map



19. Photo Roll 558 Frame 22A View Front (N) 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 Emmetsburg Public Library is one of the more distinguished examples of the side-gable-end type of library building with a projecting entrance vestibule in the center of the long side. The attempt at a rustic, almost primitive or grotesque, character, seen particularly in the stepped stone corner "buttresses" (which seem also somewhat like quoining) of the center pavilion, is interesting. This detail is not only novel and original, but also well designed and well integrated with that of the rest of the building. The building is tightly and cohesively proportioned. The stone stringcourse that extends around the entire building and engages the lintels of the windows provides the final note of unification (see the similar feature at the Knoxville Library, which is, however, not well conceived). The plan conforms to Type II.

## 20. Historical Significance

Theme(s) \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

- DHPFIR, G. Mansheim, June 1979.
- DHPLSQ-1, Mary Anderson, Librarian.
- Prints of architect's drawings in possession of Emmetsburg Public Library.

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 558/21A-26A, & 30A-33A; 555/18-25.

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