

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

RECORDED
JUL 13 1990

NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Lake City Public Library
other names/site number none

2. Location

street & number 120 No. Illinois Street not for publication
city, town Lake City vicinity
state Iowa code 19 county Calhoun code 025 zip code 51449

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u> </u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
Historic and Architectural Resources of Lake City
Iowa, 1854-1940

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet.

[Signature] 7/3/90
Signature of certifying official Date
Bureau of Historic Preservation
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. 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:)

Entered in the
National Register

[Signature] 8/27/90

[Signature] Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/Library

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/Library

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Classical Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

walls brick

roof asphalt

other limestone trim

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Education
Social History

Period of Significance

1909-1910
1909-1910

Significant Dates

1909-1910
1909-1910

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Significant Person

none

Architect/Builder

Edgar Lee Barber, architect [Denison]
Nelson Construction Co., builder [Mason City]

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

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 of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Iowa Bureau of Historic Preservation

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property .11 acre

UTM References

A

1	5
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3	5	7	1	6	0
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4	6	8	10	8	10	10
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 Zone Easting Northing

B

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 Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

A rectangular parcel measuring 60' x 80' and located on the northern portion of Lots 7 and 8 of Block 4 of the Original Town Plat. Beginning at the northwest corner of Block 4, the parcel measures 60' south along Illinois Street, then east 80", then north 60", then west 80" along Washington Street to the point of beginning.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary takes in the actual plot of land occupied by the library and surrounding grounds. It is slightly larger than the parcel deeded by S.T. and E.S. Hutchison to the City in 1908.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Rebecca Conard, Ph.D. (research assistance by Vivian Campbell and Rose Rosendahl)
 organization PHR Associates date March 22, 1990
 street & number 725 Garden Street telephone 805/965-2357
 city or town Santa Barbara state CA zip code 93101

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The Lake City Public Library is a tall one-story brick structure elevated over a high basement. It is centrally located in the downtown area, adjacent to the public square on the east and southeast of the Community Memorial Building. As does the Community Building, the library reflects the public spirit that characterized the Progressive Community Era. Also like the Community Building, the library is one of the more prominent public buildings in Lake City. The original exterior design and materials have been changed by modifications to the front entry and the windows, while the original interior design is completely intact on the main floor. When compared with most of the buildings in the surrounding commercial area, the library stands out as having good integrity, and, despite alterations, still conveys a sense of time and place that is important to document as part of Lake City's community history.

Designed by Edgar Lee Barber of Denison, the library is a rectangle measuring 45' wide x 42' deep, with an short "T" extension to the rear measuring 27' x 10'. Although the main body is nearly square, the visual effect from the front facade is quite different because the front half of the building is designed on a side-gable plan with parapeted gable ends. The rear portion of the building has a hipped roof with two flat-roofed wings. The exterior walls are clad with tan brick, which has been sandblasted in recent years. The steeply pitched roof has a slight overhang with exposed rafters. Originally the roof was slate-covered, although it has been reroofed with asphalt shingles. Windows line all the walls, almost in ribbon fashion. Originally wood sash, windows throughout have been replaced with anodized aluminum frame windows. While the modern materials are incompatible with the original, the design and color of the replacements do harmonize with the building and therefore minimize the inconsistency visually. In addition, the limestone sills were retained.

The most distinctive feature of the library is the main entry, located centrally along the front facade. A parapeted gable with limestone coping, overscaled for the size of the building, echoes the parapeted gable ends. It frames a Classically styled and pedimented architrave. The original entry doors have been replaced with modern steel and glass double doors. A more noticeable change has been the front steps, originally an open flight of concrete steps approaching the building directly from the west to a platform landing. The replacement steps approach the building from the north and south sides of the front facade, then "T" to the landing. They are protected with solid concrete partial walls, a feature that probably enhances pedestrian safety but which is quite different from the original design.

While the exterior has been modified to a considerable degree, the interior retains most of its original furnishings and the plan of the main floor remains unaltered. The circulation desk is centrally located to afford a sweeping view of the interior, one of the design features which Carnegie promoted. In addition, the original book shelves still line the walls. All of the interior woodwork, in fact, remains. The lower level, originally designed as a community meeting room, was converted to a children's library in 1970.

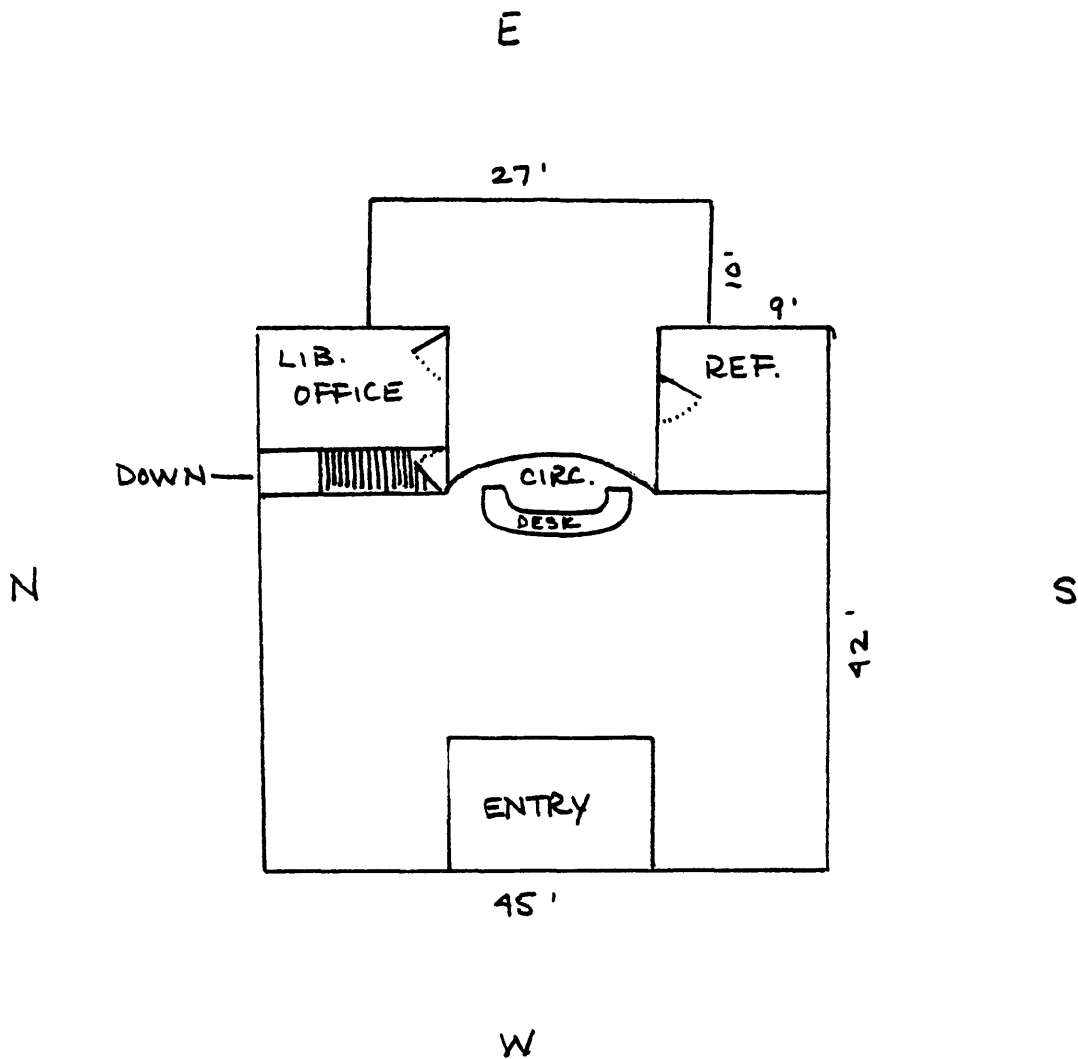
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Figure 1: Lake City Public Library, Plan of Main Floor



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The Lake City Public Library is significant under Criterion A as a prominent building that exemplifies the public spirit and results-oriented civic organizations that are associated with the Progressive Community Era in Lake City.

Its existence is chiefly attributable to the women who organized a Library Association in 1905, and, from then to 1909, operated a subscription library in the old primary building adjacent to Central School. As early as 1889 citizens attempted to start a library by holding community socials to raise funds for books. It was not until 1905, however, that any formal organization or lending facility was established. In June of that year, after securing use of the primary building from the school board, members of the newly formed Library Association canvassed the town, house-to-house, soliciting books for the library or for money to purchase books. By the end of July 1905, over 200 books had been contributed, enough to begin operation. The Library Association then turned its attention to soliciting donations for book cases, tables, and chairs. The first library was known as the City Public Library, and the Association operated it as a subscription library, with family "tickets" priced at \$1.00 per year and individual "tickets" at \$.50. Subscriptions, or library tickets, could be purchased not only at the library, but at local stores. By the time officers were formally elected in August of 1905, the Library Association had attracted the support of men within the community, as evidenced by the results of the election: officers and directors were fairly evenly balanced between men and women.

The library appears to have filled a need felt throughout the community. By March of 1908 the Library Association reported that the book collection had reached 1500 volumes. Some of these volumes undoubtedly were donated. The minutes of the Association record only one benefit social to raise funds, sponsored by the Shakespeare Club, and when the Association dissolved in 1909, a total of \$655 had been received through subscriptions. Of this amount, \$440 had gone to purchase books, and the balance had been used to install shelving and purchase supplies.

Having established the need for a public library, members of the Association approached the City Council in February of 1908 and proposed to turn over its holdings for a free public library if the City would assist the organization in securing a Carnegie library. The Council agreed to submit the proposal to voters at the June election. Meanwhile, the Library Association submitted its request to Andrew Carnegie. In May 1908, his personal secretary, James Bertram, notified the Association that Mr. Carnegie would donate \$7500 toward the library if the City would obtain a suitable site and agree to maintain the institution at a cost of not less than \$750 per year. Voters approved the library proposal in early June, and later that month S.T. and E.S. Hutchison donated a 44'x80' portion of Lot 8 in Block 4 of the Original Town Plat "for public library purposes." With a site secured and annual support from the City assured, Carnegie tendered to the City the promised money.

During the next year, the Library Association turned its attention to securing an architect. Edgar Lee Barber of Denison was selected to design the building, but it is highly likely that

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James Bertram contributed to the final plan. After 1908, Bertram, who personally managed Carnegie's library project, closely scrutinized building designs and floor plans in an effort to see that communities obtained in their libraries "the greatest amount of usable space consistent with good taste in building" [Bobinski 1969:58].

In May of 1909 the Library Association dissolved by mutual consent and reformed as the Lake City Carnegie Library Board, later known as the Trustees of the Lake City Public Library. Once Barber's design was approved, the Library Board advertised for construction bids. Nelson Construction Company of Mason City, the lowest bidder, was selected, and ground was broken in July 1909. On April 21, 1910, the Trustees met to inspect the finished building. Books and equipment were moved into the completed structure immediately, and the library opened a few days later. The entire cost of the building came to \$7957.28 including the heating plant and plumbing.

Between 1886 and 1919, Andrew Carnegie gave funds to build at least 1679 libraries, almost one-half of them located in Midwestern towns and cities. One hundred Carnegie libraries were built in Iowa alone, constituting the vast majority of the approximately 135 libraries built in the state between 1900 and 1940. Many communities have since outgrown their Carnegie libraries, often converting them to compatible uses such as museums or cultural arts centers. The Lake City Public Library, still in use as a library, has served an an important community institution since 1910. More important, exemplifies the community cohesiveness that characterized the Progressive Community Era. It was an era when organizations and individuals promoted the establishment of libraries, parks, modern schools, recreational facilities, and other types of facilities or institutions that would enhance community life and contribute to the well-being of its citizens.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bobinski, George S. Carnegie Libraries: Their History and Impact of American Public Library Development. Chicago: American Library Association, 1969.

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Lake City Graphic. Various items: June 27, 1889; passim June 8, 1905-October 26, 1905; passim March 12, 1908-April 21, 1910.

Lake City, City of. Minutes of the City Council: February 10, 1908; March 2, 1908; June 1, 1908.

Lake City Library Association. Minutes, 1905-1910.

Stonebraker, Beaumont E., ed. Past and Present of Calhoun County, Iowa. Chicago: Pioneer Publishing Company, 1915, p. 231.

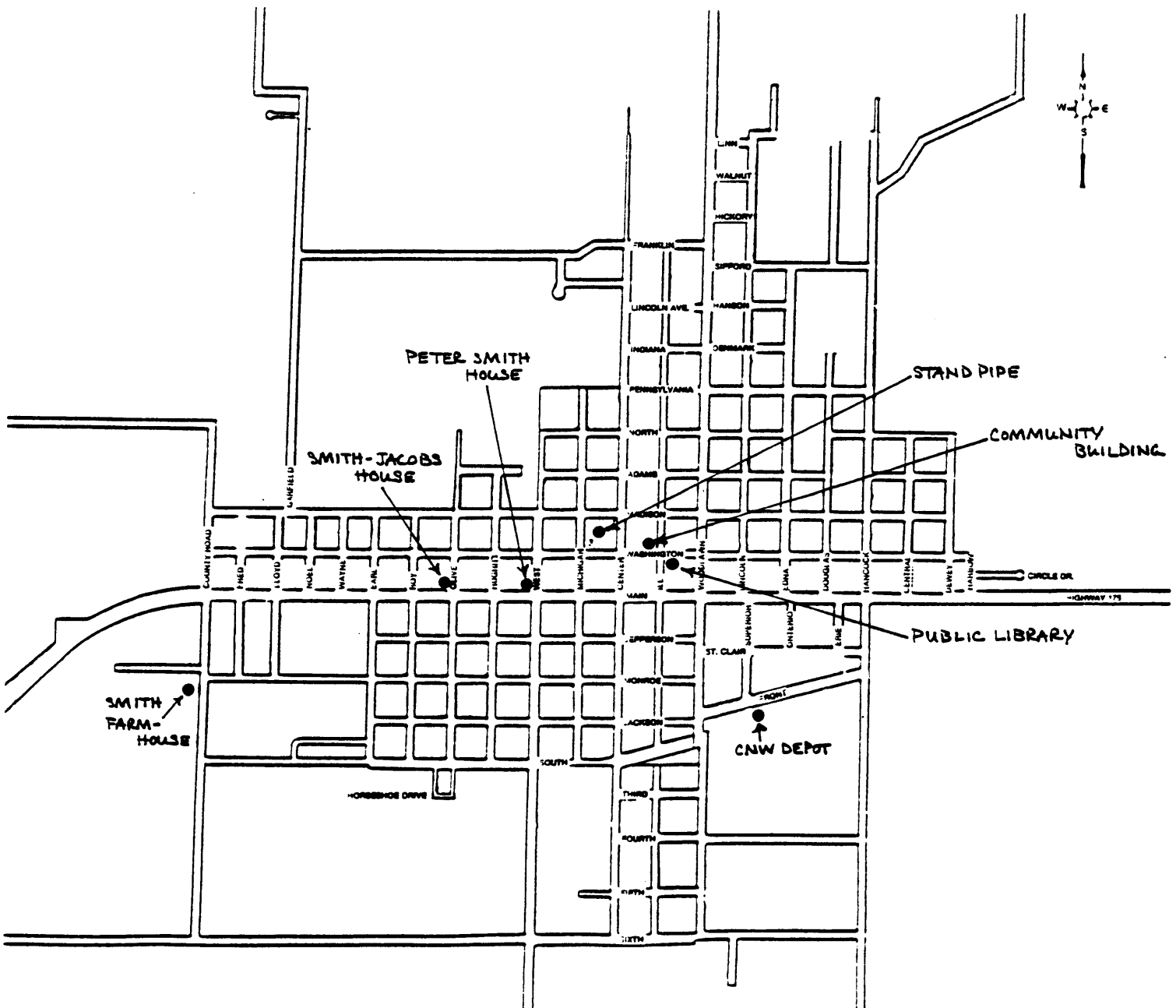
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Map 1: Lake City Vicinity Map



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Map 2: Lake City Public Library: Site Map

