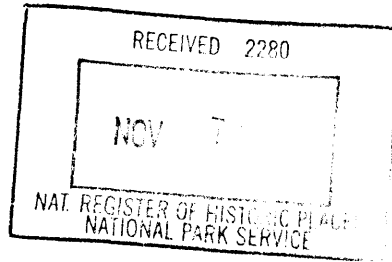


**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**



**National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting 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 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 Roann-Paw Paw Township Public Library

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 240 South Chippewa Road N/A not for publication

city or town Roann N/A vicinity

state Indiana code IN county Wabash code 169 zip code 46974

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 36CFR 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 of certifying official/Title

Date

Indiana Department of Natural Resources

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 of the Keeper

Date of Action

Edson H. Beall

12/20/02

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count)		
		Contributing	Noncontributing	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building	1	0	buildings
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	0	0	sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	0	0	structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	0	0	objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	1	0	Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register
 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)	Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)
EDUCATION: Library	EDUCATION: Library

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)	Materials (Enter categories from instructions)
19th & 20th c. AMER.: Bungalow/Craftsma	foundation BRICK
	walls BRICK
	roof
	other BRICK
	WOOD

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.)

- 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" 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 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)

ARCHITECTURE _____

EDUCATION _____

Period of Significance

1916 _____

Significant Dates

1916 _____

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A _____

Cultural Affiliation

N/A _____

Architect/Builder

Unknown _____

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographic 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 of additional data:

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Name of repository:

Roann- Paw Paw Township Public Library _____

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 1

Roann-Paw Paw Township Public Library
Roann, Wabash County, Indiana

Description

The Roann-Paw Paw Township Public Library continues to serve the needs of the town and township from the original Carnegie structure without significant changes over the decades. The corner site, all of the facades, and most interior finishes, details and original furniture remain intact. Significant changes to the structure include the installation of newer heating, cooling, and electrical systems over the years and most recently some interior renovations that included moving the original centrally located charge desk. Roann is the 214th smallest library in the state of Indiana and, therefore, fortunately for the Carnegie, changes have been minimal due to financial constraints.

The notably flat, corner site is located at the southern end of the downtown business district and the Arts & Crafts detailing and materials begin the transition to the residential neighborhoods of downtown Roann. The siting of the library is in keeping with the setbacks and yards of the residential neighborhoods to the south as opposed to the commercial structures to the north.

The library is typical of rectangular Carnegie libraries constructed during the teens. The building has a main floor, accessible from the elevated front steps and gabled entry, located over a semi-recessed basement. The upper floor is open with a very symmetrical plan, reading rooms on both ends with the entry and charge desk previously located in the central bay. There is an intact brick fireplace located directly opposite the entrance doors. The basement contains a meeting room with a separate entrance from the south, raised stage, toilets, mechanical areas, etc. Plans are included for reference. Stairs between the floors are located in the front vestibule to the north of the entrance doors.

General construction methods and materials are simple and straightforward. The only visible material of the foundation is brick and the exterior walls are brick masonry, running bond coursing, with plaster interior finish throughout. The ceiling is plaster below wood girder trusses and stick framing with clay tile hipped roof. Some important specific features include the two enclosed entries, the limestone detailing on all facades, and the wooden brackets along the eaves. These items are described in detail on each elevation description.

Exterior

The front façade is symmetrical and broken into three bays. The central bay contains the front entry. This has brick piers on both sides of the concrete steps that lead to a projecting brick entry foyer. There is a decidedly unhistoric center pipe handrail. The doors are paired wood, style and rail doors with single, undivided light. There is a half-round, divided light transom over the door with limestone keystone and limestone accents at the spring line of the arch. The entry has pronounced eaves that overhang the front doors by nearly three feet. There are large wooden

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 2

Roann-Paw Paw Township Public Library
Roann, Wabash County, Indiana

Description- continued

brackets, the same as the brackets along the soffits, which support the roof overhang. The bays on either side of the entry contain windows that are centered between the entry and the edge of the building. Each opening is composed of three double-hung units, side-by-side, with transoms over each unit. The outer units of each tripartite assembly are equal and slightly narrower than the center double-hung unit. The center transom has eight lights and the side transoms have four. A beltcourse divides the main floor from the lower level and runs around the entire building. It is made of limestone and bricks laid in a vertical header bond pattern. The front basement windows consist of a pair of small, double-hung units on each side of the entry aligned with the outer edges of the main floor windows above. There are two wood brackets located on each side of the entry and centered about the windows. These wood brackets rest on protruding limestone supports. The limestone windowsills, on the front only, also consist of protruding limestone supports that in turn the limestone sill rests upon. The window limestone brackets are aligned with the jambs of the windows. There are small limestone squares at the upper corners of the façade, aligned with the window heads.

Centered on the southern façade is the entry to the lower level and it has some similar design features to the front entry. The gabled roof is of the same pitch, has exposed rafters and is covered in the same tile roof as the main entry. A related look is achieved by using a brick segmental arch and limestone keystone and accent squares to mimic the brick round arch, limestone keystone, and the wood brackets of the main entry. The doors themselves differ considerably. While the main doors are naturally finished wood with a single large pane of glass in each door, those on the south entry are predominantly white painted wood with four small panes of glass in the top portion of the door. The main floor of the southern façade has a row of upper-floor windows. The window heads align with the heads of the transoms at the front façade. The window pattern consists of a pair of double-hung windows in the center of the façade and a single double-hung window centered between each jamb of the central window and the edge of the façade. There are three slightly projecting squares formed by header bond brick with limestone accents at the corner below each double-hung unit and they match the location of the lowest sashes on the front elevation. On the lower level there is a single, double-hung window similar in size to the upper windows, flanking the entry.

The northern façade mirrors the fenestration of the southern façade with one exception. The entry is replaced with a pair of double-hung windows. All of the double-hung windows on the ends and rear of the library are 3 over 3 lights. All of the basement windows on the north and south elevations have 8"x 8" limestone squares at the corners of the windows that fit in the header bond brick beltcourse. The sills of all basement windows are cut into the concrete band (watertable) that runs continuously around the structure. Again, both the northern and southern facades have the wooden brackets and limestone supports at the corners. There now and never have been brackets on the rear façade.

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Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 3

Roann-Paw Paw Township Public Library
Roann, Wabash County, Indiana

Description- continued

The western façade is punctuated with a central fireplace chimney that steps out from the center of the façade. The chimney was removed above the roofline when the tile roof was redone in the late 1970's. Along the top of the main floor on either side of this chimney are a series of windows. A set of double-hung three over three windows on the outside edges and two single double-hung three over three windows flanking the chimney. At the northwest corner there is another brick chimney that runs up the rear wall from the basement level boiler room. This chimney penetrates the roof and extends several feet above the roof. There is a semi-recessed boiler room and coal bin, located in the northwest corner, visible along this façade. The boiler and coal bin appear to be contemporary with the original library. It contains one double-hung window that matches the other basement windows in size and vertical location. The boiler room has a door to the outside on the southern face of the room that exits into concrete steps that go up to grade. The roof over the boiler is wood framing with asphalt roll material roofing and the roof over the coal bin is cast-in-place concrete with a round hatch for dropping coal into the bin

The only other apparent changes to the exterior are landscaping and planting and the addition of metal storm windows at all of the windows.

The corner site is somewhat rare in that the ground plane is level with the sidewalks. The property or yard has not been raised, as was normal with Carnegie buildings.

Interior

The entry vestibule is particularly notable as an example of Arts and Crafts workmanship. The oak stairs, doors, railings, and other millwork are all original features in the vestibule. The stained glass windows of the matching coat closets are also original. The stair rail has paneled newels and a patterned balustrade featuring a simple cut out shape. A suspended chandelier has been added. Once atop the stairs, there is a set of double doors, solid wood with 2 over 2 windows. These doors open in both directions.

The main floor is home to a 5-piece oak charge desk and matching librarian's chair. Originally located on axis with the main entry and stairs, it has been relocated south of the main entry and now faces west. The area at the top of the stairs is now used for patron reading area. Also on axis with the entry is a brick fireplace that has a wood mantle and surround and at one time burned coal. The remainder of the interior on the main floor is open with existing paneled oak book stacks, furniture and millwork. Suspended fluorescent lighting has been added to this level.

The lower level basement is accessed by a set of winding stairs from the vestibule. The oak stairs, handrails, and paneled newels remain intact. The landing allows access to a restroom and storage room. A majority of the space on the lower level is allocated for a large meeting room with a raised stage at the north end and the exterior entry on the south end.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 & 8 Page 4

Roann-Paw Paw Township Public Library
Roann, Wabash County, Indiana

Description- continued

The stage has original stage-left and stage-right doors and is trimmed with original millwork. There is a kitchen and another restroom west of the stage. There is an exterior entry and stair that accessed the kitchen and also the boiler/coal room on the northwest corner of the library. While doors and trim throughout this level are original, acoustical ceiling tiles and fluorescent lighting have been added.

Statement of Significance

The Roann- Paw Paw Township Public Library is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C. The Roann library is an outstanding example of the Arts & Crafts architecture of Carnegie libraries and represents the broad educational pattern established by the Carnegie libraries throughout the country. The state of Indiana has more Carnegie libraries than any other state. Roann is the 214th smallest out of 238 libraries and a perfect example of the successful impact of the Carnegie library program.

The library in Roann is relatively unchanged from the day it was built. The library has had mechanical and electrical improvements, new interior finishes, and the relocation of the charge desk. The overall condition of the building and the significant historical features remain intact.

Roann was platted in 1853 and its history mirrors that of the typical midwestern town. Platting of the town occurred after the first bridge was built across the Eel River for a road between Wabash and Rochester. The bridge was located just east of the present, restored covered bridge. From the time the first bridge was constructed until the opening of the railroad in the early 1870's, most commercial activity of the community was focused upon travelers and farming. There were a series of mills built along the Eel River, one of which still stands today a couple of miles west of town.

With the introduction of the railroad, the town began to boom due to the construction workers, the mill, and increased commercial activity. By the turn of the century, Roann had grown and was debating "modernization" such as concrete sidewalks. Following the fire of 1901, in which the bank and furniture store, along with a number of outbuildings, were burned, construction began on a number of newer commercial buildings along the main street. With the small construction boom, new concrete sidewalks were installed. In 1914 electricity was installed in town. The same year, the library board was established. Earlier attempts, notably in the 1880's, were made to establish library service in Roann. Mr. George Gunder, superintendent of the school, tried to establish an earlier circulating library in the community but the details of its failure are not known.

In July of 1915, the library site was deeded. The library property had been occupied as early as the 1870's, by a blacksmith's shop. On February 17, 1916 the first letter to the Carnegie

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Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 5

Roann-Paw Paw Township Public Library
Roann, Wabash County, Indiana

Statement of Significance- continued

Corporation was written asking for \$10,000 with a pledge of \$1,000 per year in operating revenue to be generated with tax levies. The Carnegie Corporation responded on June 5, 1916 with the commitment of an \$8,000 grant in a letter signed by Mr. James Bertram. In order to meet the requirements of receipt of a Carnegie grant, a library was established in town in a room of the schoolhouse in 1914. Books were borrowed from the State library and the library was only open on Sunday afternoons. Ms. Martha Van Buskirk was the driving force behind the establishment of the library.

As noted in the history of the town, attempts had been made in the past to establish a library and only after pursuing the Carnegie money did the town succeed. This success illustrates the seminal role Andrew Carnegie played in enhancing the education of America. The library has become a central feature to the community of Roann and to the larger township. Due to its centralized location, the library serves not only in an educational capacity but also as a host for community events. Town Board meetings take place here as do a series of civic, social, and educational meetings.

Architecturally, the library represents a model for the Carnegie library and, according to the Wabash County survey, an outstanding example of Arts & Crafts architecture. Additionally, the library is the only Arts & Crafts commercial building in downtown. The library contains many of the components of a mid-teens Carnegie library. The library is only one story and rests upon a raised basement. It is rectangular in plan and has a symmetrical façade. While the Carnegie Foundation did not make specific stipulations about the exterior of the libraries, the goal was to create a "plain, dignified structure and not aim at exterior effects that might make a practical and economic layout of the interior impossible."¹ The exterior of the Roann library with its Arts & Crafts style illustrates this.

Per guidelines established in a leaflet entitled "Notes on Library Building", the interior of many Carnegie libraries have a similarity of plan. The raised lower level usually contains a lecture room, heating, storage, and restrooms. This is the case for the Roann library although a storage room has been converted into a kitchen. Carnegie libraries generally have small vestibules at the entrance that lead directly up a flight of stairs to the charge desk. Since the charge desk was moved in 1999 this is no longer the case at Roann library but the strong axial focus remains. Because of the great need for shelving in these small libraries, windows along the side and back walls were often smaller and placed high on the wall. One element that exists in the Roann library that differs from the standard Carnegie library is the fireplace. These were generally discouraged since they took up space that could be used for additional shelving. Even if the fireplace served as a heat source, it would only reach a few people and one that serviced the entire

¹ Bobinski, George S., *Carnegie Libraries: Their History and Impact on American Public Library Development*. (Chicago: American Library Association, 1969), 62.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 6

Roann-Paw Paw Township Public Library
Roann, Wabash County, Indiana

Statement of Significance- continued

building was considered a better option.²

The Roann- Paw Paw Township Library was rated as an outstanding property in the Wabash County Interim Report because of its architecture. Constructed in the Arts & Crafts style, the library possesses several of the identifying characteristics of the style. The low pitched roof with wide overhanging eaves, the exposed rafters on the projecting entry, and the knee braces are common elements that help identify the Roann library as Arts & Crafts. Traditionally, buildings of this style utilize natural materials, which this library does. There is also a focus on the horizontal that is evident with the low-pitched roof, overhanging eaves, and the beltcourse. Elements of the interior also illustrate the Arts & Crafts style. Oak is used throughout the library for doors, stairs, the charge desk, shelves, and other millwork. The doors of the closets flanking the main entry have stained glass panels in a geometric pattern.

Because of its outstanding architecture and the strong association of the library within Roann and Paw Paw Township as a whole, as well as its history as a Carnegie library, the Roann-Paw Paw Township Library is deserves recognition in the National Register of Historic Places.

² Bobinski, 63.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Roann-Paw Paw Township Public Library
Roann, Wabash County, Indiana

Section number 9 & 10 Page 7

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Jones, Theodore. Carnegie Libraries Across America: A Public Legacy. New York: John Wiley & Sons, 1997.

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McAlester, Virginia & Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1986.

“Roann Clarion”, Articles from June 14, July 10, July 17, and August 14, 1914.

Van Slyck, Abigail. Free to All: Carnegie Libraries and American Culture 1890-1920. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1995.

Wabash County Interim Report: Indiana Historic Sites & Structures. Indianapolis: Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, 1982.

Verbal Boundary Description

Butterbaugh East 80', Lot 46, Part NE ¼, Section 2, Township 28, Range 5.

Verbal Boundary Justification

This is the current and original boundary of the property as recorded in the title of the property.

Additional Documentation

The attached floor plans were created by Halstead Thompson Architects for documentary purposes only. They are not HABS/HAER standard drawings. Field measurements on file with the architect. They illustrate the plan of the library before the charge desk was relocated.

The following pages are included with this application: main level plan and lower level plan.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number Photo Descriptions Page 8

Roann-Paw Paw Township Public Library
Roann, Wabash County, Indiana

Photo Descriptions

The following information is the same for all photographs:

Roann-Paw Paw Township Public Library
240 South Chippewa Road
Roann, IN

Location of Negatives: Division of Historic Preservation & Archaeology, 402 West Washington
Street, Room W274, Indianapolis, IN 46204

Photo #1

Photographer: Ben Vanderpool
Date: November 2001
Camera facing west; View of main (east) façade

Photo #2

Photographer: Ben Vanderpool
Date: November 2001
Camera facing northwest; View of main (east) façade and entry

Photo #3

Photographer: Drew Rensberger
Date: February 2002
Camera facing north; View of south façade and basement entry

Photo #4

Photographer: Drew Rensberger
Date: February 2002
Camera facing east; View of west façade and furnace room

Photo #5

Photographer: Aria Eaton
Date: October 2001
Camera facing south; View of north façade

Photo #6

Photographer: Aria Eaton
Date: October 2001
Camera facing east; View from main floor into vestibule and main entry

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number Photo Descriptions Page 9

Roann-Paw Paw Township Public Library
Roann, Wabash County, Indiana

Photo Descriptions- continued

Photo #7

Photographer: Aria Eaton

Date: October 2001

Camera facing west; View from the vestibule into main floor and fireplace

Photo #8

Photographer: Aria Eaton

Date: October 2001

Camera facing northwest; View of newel post for main entry staircase

Photo #9

Photographer: Aria Eaton

Date: October 2001

Camera facing west; View of original railing hardware