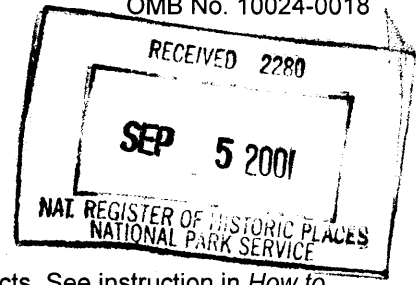


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1121



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determination for individual properties and districts. See instruction 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 Sterling Public Library

other names/site number 5LO469; Old Library Inn

### 2. Location

street & number 210 S. Fourth Street [N/A] not for publication

city or town Sterling [N/A] vicinity

state Colorado code CO county Logan code 075 zip code 80751

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this [X] 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 [X] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant [ ] nationally [ ] statewide [X] locally. ([ ] See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

*Margaretta Cortez* State Historic Preservation Officer *August 22, 2001* Date

State Historic Preservation Office, Colorado 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 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 \_\_\_\_\_  
[ ] See continuation sheet.

Signature of the Keeper *Entered in the National Register* Date of Action *10-20-01*

Sterling Public Library  
Name of Property

Logan County, Colorado  
County/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 count previously listed resources.)

Contributing                      Noncontributing

<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	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.)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register.**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Function**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Library  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Not in use  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century Revivals  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete  
walls Brick  
\_\_\_\_\_  
roof Asphalt  
other Granite  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

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

Sterling Public Library  
Name of Property

Logan County, Colorado  
County/State

## 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.

### Narrative Statement of Significance

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

### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Social History  
Community Planning and Development  
Architecture

### Periods of Significance

1918

### Significant Dates

N/A

### Significant Person(s)

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above).

N/A

### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

### Architect/Builder

Cowe, William

## 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 of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:  
Colorado Historical Society

Sterling Public Library  
Name of Property

Logan County, Colorado  
County/State

## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** less than one

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1. 13 651360 4498250  
Zone Easting Northing

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

3. \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

4. \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

[ ] See continuation sheet

### 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 Jennifer J. Goble

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date May 2, 2001

street & number 1020 Fifteenth Street, #22N telephone 303-595-8559

city or town Denver state CO zip code 80202

## 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 Jennifer J. Goble

street & number 1020 Fifteenth Street, #22N telephone 303-595-8559

city or town Denver state CO zip code 80202

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Sterling Public Library  
Logan County, Colorado

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**DESCRIPTION**

The Carnegie Public Library is located on a triangular block defined by the intersection of South Fourth and Ash streets and Division Avenue in Sterling, Colorado. The site contains 8,200 square feet with 4,418 square feet being unobstructed open space. The library is the only building on the block which measures 192.5 feet x 164 feet x 100 feet. The triangle block is landscaped with lawn and mature deciduous and pine trees. Concrete sidewalks follow the street edge on all sides of the block and similar walks lead to all three library entrances. The approach to the south entrance has been reconstructed as a wheelchair ramp.

The library building is a rectangular plan, measuring approximately 61 feet by 31 feet. A coal bin extends out from the northwest corner of the building and measures 6 feet 8 inches by 3 feet 10 inches. The building fronts east onto the intersection of Ash and S. Fourth Streets. The streets in the downtown section of Sterling are oriented diagonally to the main compass points to match the orientation of the Union Pacific Railroad tracks which run through town from the northeast to the southwest. The building also faces the Logan County Courthouse across the intersection.

The classical-inspired two-toned brick building is one story with a raised basement. The brick on the basement portion of the building is dark brown. The brick on the main level is tan in color. The building has a hipped roof with a central cross gable that forms a pedimented entry. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The eaves are boxed with a wide, galvanized metal cornice with modillions. The windows are all wood framed. Aluminum storm windows have been installed on all the windows but are not original to the building. Sandstone is used for coping on the front staircase walls and on the lugsills of the main level windows. The City of Sterling maintained the property and it remains in good condition.

A wide concrete walk leads to the projecting steps of the library's main entrance. Short brick walls with sandstone coping flank the steps that climb to the rusticated pavilion entrance projection. Metal light posts with round globes (currently missing) sit on each wall. Two glazed wood doors provide access to the entry vestibule. The doors swing both inward and outward. Above the doors is a segmentally arched transom window that illuminates the vestibule with natural light. The doors sit back in the arch resulting in a deep reveal. Granite quoins and keystone-like voussoirs intersect the granite architrave. Decorative scrolled brackets, also of granite, support the eave returns.

An open pediment occupies the area above the entry. The pediment base is open along its horizontal cornice, the center of which contains a limestone plaque with the words "Public Library" in relief. An oculus fills the tympanum.

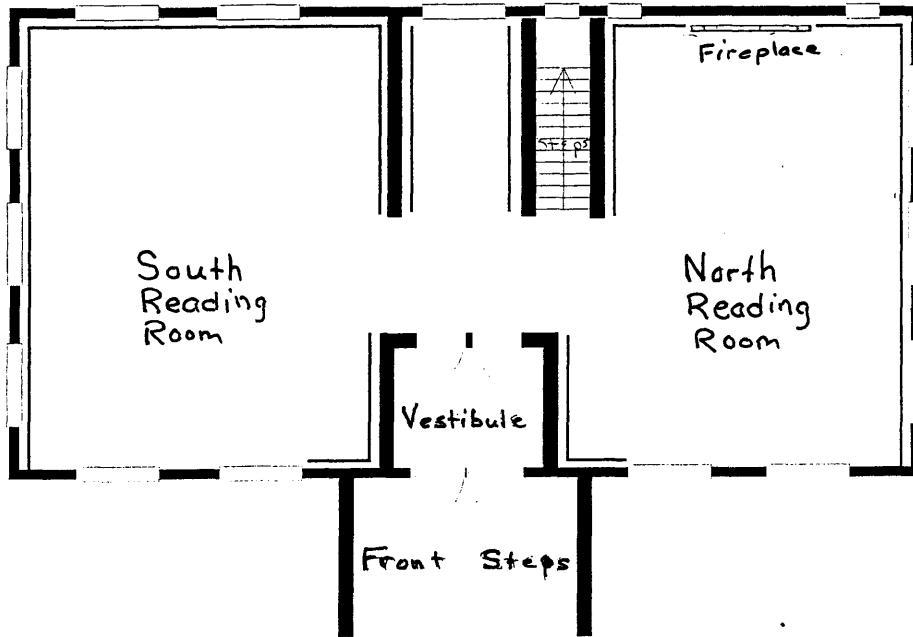
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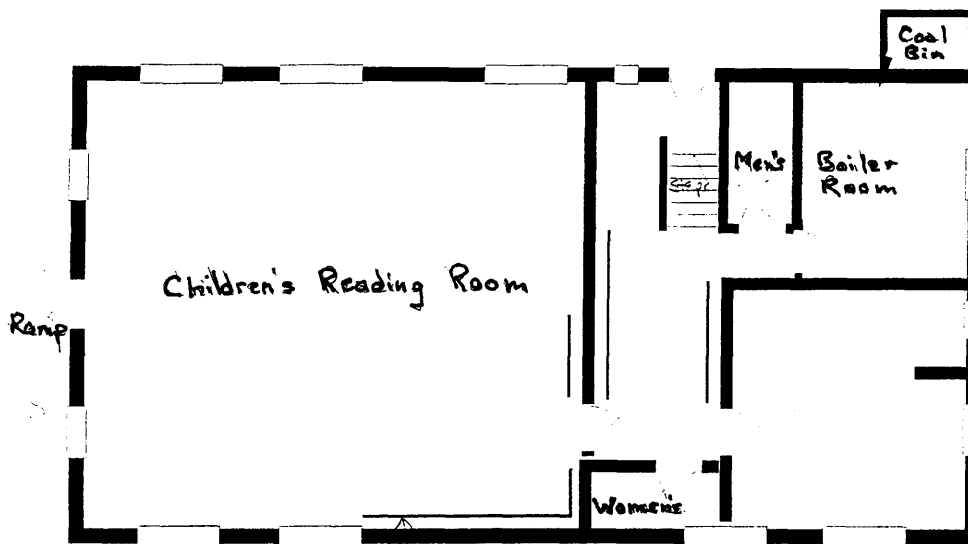
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Sterling Public Library  
Logan County, Colorado

FLOOR  
PLANS



First Story



Basement

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Sterling Public Library  
Logan County, Colorado

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On each side of the entrance are two pairs of tall narrow, wood framed, one-over-one windows. Each pair has a flat brick surround with decorative keystone. A sandstone stringcourse forms the sills. The double-hung basement sash are paired and centered below the first-story sash.

The south elevation faces the corner of South Fourth Street and South Division Avenue. On the main level are three pairs of casement windows. The window surrounds are similar to those on the facade, though these are shorter with an apron below the sill. On the lower level two double-hung windows flank an elaborate entry. The upper light in each sash is frosted while the lower is clear. The original door in the projecting entry has been replaced by a solid wood door with a short transom. The original door is believed to have been similar to the doors on the front entrance. The archivolt is formed by triple rowlock arches which spring from sandstone impost on brick piers. The archivolt contains a sandstone keystone. The area within the archivolt contains a carved crest that reads "1916." Below the crest is a metal plate dedicating the interior space as the "Margaret Marvin Memorial Room 1920-1929." A metal cornice with modillions surmounts the archivolt and the wall above is topped by a sandstone parapet with coping. The entire entry is of dark brown brick which rises half-way up the elevation.

The rear elevation faces west. The main level contains three pairs of casement windows on the southern portion of the elevation and three double-hung windows on the northern portion. Each of these bays repeats the design of the window surrounds found on the south elevation. On the lower level are three pairs of double-hung windows, one small fixed window measuring 20 inches square, and a single wood door with aluminum storm door leading into the stairway. A protruding chimney to the north of the door rises along the wall and through the eave. A brick coal bin with a sandstone roof extends 3 feet 10 inches from the northwest corner of the building.

The north elevation faces Ash Street. This elevation is similar to the south elevation, though it lacks a lower level entry. The main level windows are taller than those on the south. On the basement level a small, 31 inch square window occupies a position between the two one-over-one sash.

The building's exterior appears much as it did when it was originally built. Exterior changes include the handicap ramp and the replacement of the door on the south elevation of the building. The windows are all original and have been covered with aluminum storm windows. The masonry is in need of repointing. The sandstone lugsills on the south and west elevation are badly eroded as are the sandstone coping on both sides of the rear door.

**INTERIOR**

The main doors open into a vestibule with a ceramic tiled floor. Three steps lead to another set of glazed doors that access the main floor of the library. A flat arch transom above the doors adds natural light to the main lobby. The library closed in 1976 and in the years that followed it was used for city offices or left vacant. The city altered the inside of the building to accommodate office space. The

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Sterling Public Library  
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basic frames of the original oak bookshelves remain but nearly all the shelves are missing. With the exception of one painted section on the south wall, the bookshelf frames retain their original natural finish. Two sets of bookshelves on the east wall are enclosed by pine doors to provide concealed storage areas. The windows on the south, west and north are situated high to accommodate the wall-mounted bookshelves in the reading rooms. The windows provide natural lighting for the entire area. The windows are single glazed. Two windows on each of the three walls have been covered over with sheets of drywall. A drop ceiling conceals the original ceiling in the majority of the main floor. The original oak floors are carpeted. Non-original partition walls provide separate office spaces. Steam radiators still form the primary heating system. The oak window trim and staircase retain their original, natural finish. A glass partition wall has been installed above the bookcases on the south wall of the south reading room. A fireplace stands on the west wall of the north reading room.

The stairs leading to the lower level are located to the north and west of the front entrance. The staircase is finished in unstained oak with oak handrails on both sides. To the north of the stairs on the lower level are the men's restroom and the boiler room. The women's restroom is located at the end of the lower level corridor. In 1930, the library staff moved the children's corner to the basement, which had up to that time been used for club meeting, social hours and lectures. The room was dedicated to the memory of Margaret Marvin, the assistant librarian, who died that year. Partition walls now divide the room into five office spaces. The entire lower level, including bookshelves and windows, has been painted with white enamel. The floors, with the exception of the two restrooms and the boiler room, are covered with carpet. The original coal room has been used for storage. There appear to be original bookshelves on the two corridor walls and on the north wall to the south of the women's restroom. With the exception of two windows on the west wall, all the window glass is embossed.

The bookshelves are the only interior reminder that the building was once a library. There is no original furniture in the building. The city moved some of the furniture to the new library building in 1976. All of the original light fixtures have been replaced with florescent ceiling lights.



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**SIGNIFICANCE**

The Sterling Public Library in Sterling, Colorado, meets Criterion A in the area of social history because of its association with the nationwide public library movement sponsored by Andrew Carnegie. The building is eligible in the area of community planning and development for its place as the town's first public library, an important part of Sterling's civic infrastructure. The building also meets Criterion C for its architectural significance. The building typifies the basic library design standards first set forth by the Carnegie Corporation in 1911 for small community libraries funded by the corporation.

**ESTABLISHING THE LIBRARY**

In addition to the important role he played in the history of this country's railroad and steel industries, Andrew Carnegie became known in his later years as the "patron saint of libraries." Born November 25, 1835 in Dunfermline, Scotland, Andrew Carnegie made his fortune in the iron and steel industries before selling his firm, Carnegie Steel, to J.P. Morgan for \$480 million in 1900. Fond of saying "He who dies rich dies disgraced," Carnegie gave away more than \$300 million of his fortune before his death in 1919. His most visible and widely recognized philanthropic activity was the gift of library buildings.

Between 1886 and 1919, Carnegie funds of over 41 million dollars constructed 1,679 public library buildings in 1,412 United States communities. In 1911, Carnegie set up a trust fund called the Carnegie Corporation of New York. The corporation promoted the advancement and diffusion of knowledge and understanding among the people of the United States by aiding technical schools, institutions of higher learning, libraries, scientific research, and useful publications.

Andrew Carnegie divided his gifts of libraries into two periods. The first, what he called the "retail" period, lasted from 1886 to 1896. During this period he gave over \$1.8 million for fourteen buildings in six communities. These early libraries tended to be large structures containing not only libraries, but general community centers with exhibition halls, lecture and recital rooms, gymnasiums and even swimming pools. All these first grants came with endowments for continuing building maintenance.

Carnegie's self-proclaimed "wholesale" period of library philanthropy lasted from 1898 to 1919. During this later period, grants totaling just over \$39 million went to 1,406 communities across the nation. Carnegie changed his philosophy on library construction during this period. While he recognized the value of multi-functional facilities and of the large number of patrons which could be served by a main, big city library, after 1898, Carnegie funded primarily branch and small town libraries.

All of the Colorado Carnegie libraries received their grants during the "wholesale period." From the \$8,000 award to Grand Junction in 1899 to the last Colorado grant of \$10,000 to Florence in 1917, a total of nearly three-quarters of a million dollars went to construct 35 library buildings in 27

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communities. In total dollars received, Colorado ranked seventeenth among the forty-six existing states in 1919. When ranked by appropriation per 100 population, Colorado's \$72.4 per 100 population came in third behind Wyoming and Indiana and ahead of Washington. In number of buildings constructed, Colorado's 35 gave it a rank of fifteenth, behind Washington and ahead of New Jersey.

Denver, Colorado Springs and Pueblo each received funds to construct a large main library. Denver also received funds for 8 branch libraries and Colorado Springs received funds for one branch in Colorado City. Of the 24 Colorado communities that received funds for a single building, 50 percent received \$10,000 or less. This was just slightly below the national percentage.

States that had the smallest number of established libraries received the smallest number of Carnegie gifts. In Colorado, of the 27 communities receiving gifts, only eight, or 30 percent, did not have a public library established prior to the Carnegie grant. Sterling was among the communities without a public library prior to obtaining a promise of library funding from the Carnegie Corporation.

The first mention of a public library for Sterling was recorded in the minutes of the Zeta Zeta Club's meeting of October 7, 1910, when it was reported, "we started discussing with our husbands the matter of a Carnegie Library." As a result of this meeting the Zeta Zeta Club and other area clubs and organizations met with the Sterling City Council, on October 7, 1912, to discuss plans for a library. Sterling's formal efforts to secure a Carnegie library began in early 1913 when Mayor J.H. King appointed a public library committee of three men and three women.

**Carnegie Grants for the Establishment of  
Public Libraries in Colorado**

By Date of Grant Award

Location	Grant Date	Grant Amount
Grand Junction	12/21/1899	\$ 8,000
Cañon City	6/10/1901	13,000
Leadville	6/21/1901	20,000
Pueblo	2/4/1902	70,000
Denver (9 buildings)	3/14/1902	360,000
Colorado Springs	1/2/1903	60,000
Fort Collins	1/22/1903	12,500
Colorado City	3/20/1903	10,000
Trinidad	3/20/1903	15,000
Idaho Springs	6/1/1903	10,443
Boulder	2/20/1904	15,000
Silverton	1/19/1905	12,000
Salida	12/23/1905	9,000
Durango	1/16/1906	15,000
Lamar	2/6/1907	12,000
Loveland	5/2/1907	10,000
Longmont	12/13/1907	12,500
Rocky Ford	12/24/1907	10,000
Alamosa	3/21/1908	6,000
Manitou Springs	12/13/1909	6,500
Delta	2/20/1911	6,500
Brush	6/11/1914	6,000
Fort Morgan	11/17/1914	10,000
Littleton	1/6/1915	8,000
<b>Sterling</b>	<b>12/3/1915</b>	<b>12,500</b>
Monte Vista	5/15/1916	10,000
Florence	2/3/1917	10,000

27 Communities

35 Library Buildings \$749,943

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

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Sterling Public Library  
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The Zeta Zeta Club and the local chapter of the Women's Christian Temperance Union contributed \$1,000 toward the \$4,000 purchase price of the triangle lot at South Fourth and Ash streets for the building site. The club determined that at least \$500 ought to be raised by the men in the community. The sale of tickets for a picture show constituted the first money-raising venture and netted the club \$78. The city placed an engraved bronze tablet beside the library's main entrance to recognize the instrumental role played by the Zeta Zeta Club women in the acquisition of the public library. The tablet contained the names of four club members. The tablet is no longer on the building.

The Zeta Zeta Club organized the opening ceremonies for the library. The April 9, 1918, edition of the Sterling *Evening Advocate* promoted the new public library. The library formally opened three days later. At that time, the library was worth approximately \$20,000. The community supplied the additional funds beyond the \$12,500 Carnegie gift. In addition to the \$4,000 raised for the purchase of the building site, the city raised all the funds necessary to furnish the new building and stock it with nearly 2,000 books. The city also levied a half-mill tax which generated \$1,500/year to provide maintenance funds for the library. Carnegie gifts came with the stipulation that the community establish a yearly fund equal to at least 10 percent of the grant award for the annual maintenance of the library building.

The number of books in the library grew steadily, numbering 10,000 by 1930 and 25,000 by 1960. The first librarian was Katherine Marvin. In 1930 Lulu Boone, who served until 1950, replaced Marvin. The city hired Eunice Cochrane following Boone's resignation. Cochrane served until 1961. Fifi Snyder took over in 1961 and continued as librarian until the library building closed in 1976.

#### ARCHITECTURE

Until 1908, Carnegie officials did not take an active role in reviewing plans for the libraries it funded. Once a site was provided and the annual maintenance pledge was signed, the community built its library as it saw fit. As community requests for additional funds to pay for cost overruns increased, Carnegie's private secretary, James Bertram, began examining building plans regularly to improve on poor library planning. From 1908 on, Bertram requested plans be submitted for approval in order to correct deficiencies and avoid excesses.

Carnegie was aware of some of the architectural abuses being rendered with his funds. On a clipping from a Denver newspaper showing a drawing of the projected main library promised in 1902, he wrote, "I am sorry to have my money wasted in this way – This is no practical library plan. Too many pillars."

Bertram believed the problems in library design stemmed from the fact that so few architects had training or experience in library planning. He put together a conference of leading authorities from the library and architectural professions and developed basic standards in library architecture. These standards were spelled out in a leaflet entitled *Notes on Library Buildings* [sic]. Beginning in 1911, this publication went to each community receiving a Carnegie funding promise. The *Notes* went through six editions, though each varied only slightly in presentation and information.

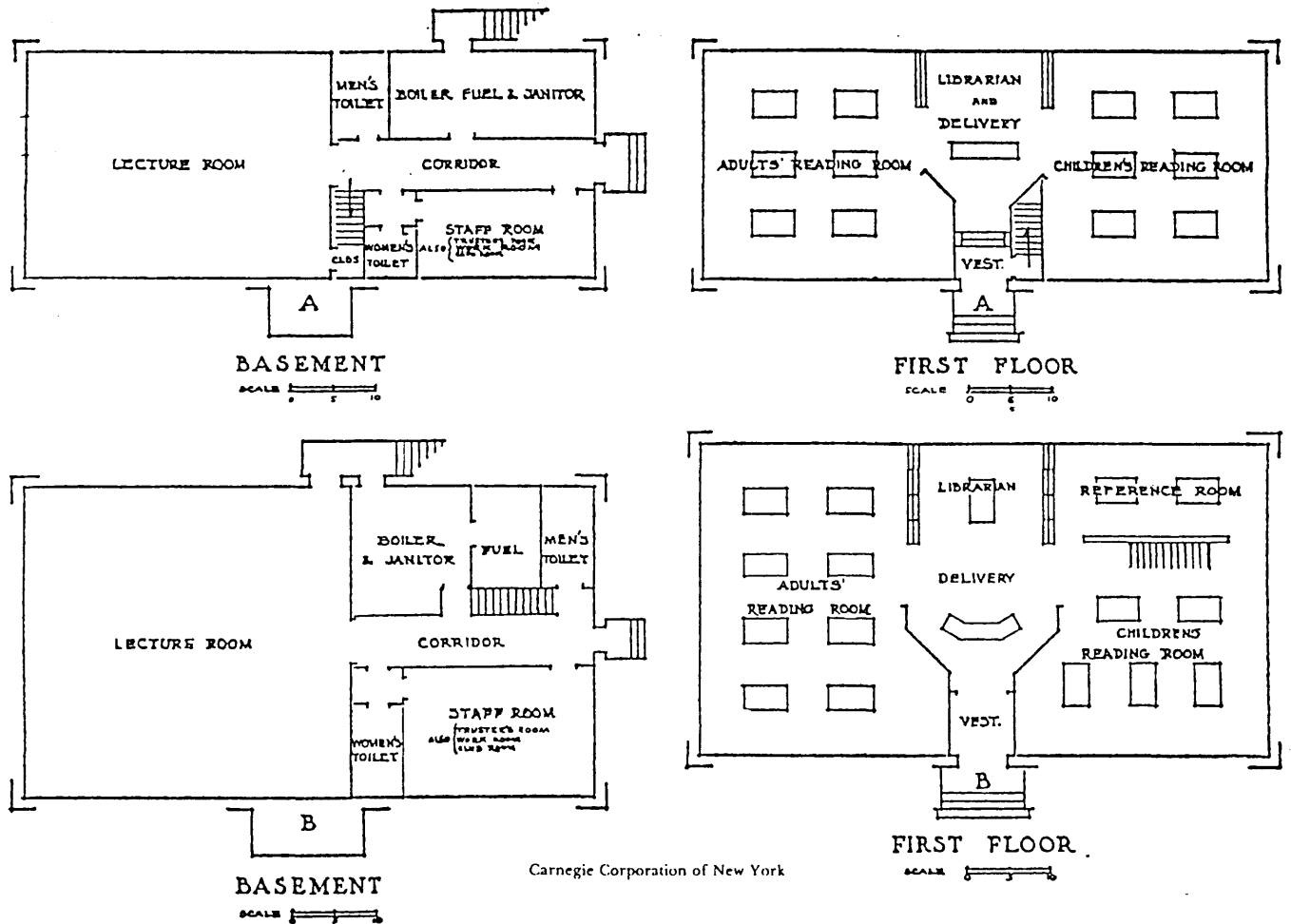
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Notes on Library Buildings Suggested Plans for a Small Library Building



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

The *Notes* urged each community to obtain the greatest amount of useable space consistent with good taste in building. The best results for a small library could be obtained from a rectangular-shaped, one-story building plan with a basement. The main floor, 12 to 15 feet in height, would accommodate the bookstacks, the circulation desk area, and suitable space for reading by adults and children. Rear and side windows were to be about 6 to 7 feet from the floor to permit shelving around the walls. The floor could be subdivided as desired by means of bookcases. Glass partitions built in above the stacks would provide quiet if, for instance, a separate children's department was to be established on the main floor.

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Library designers were told to avoid wasting space in the building entrance. The circulation desk was to be located close to the entrance and placed so that the librarian could supervise as much of the library space as possible. A small vestibule entering into one large room allowed two large, well-lighted areas or spaces on either side of the passageway in which readers were undisturbed by library traffic and circulation-desk conversation.

The basement was to be about 9 to 10 feet high and about 4 feet below the natural grade. Storage, work, and lecture rooms as well as the heating plant and restrooms would be located there. Care was to be taken so as not to allot too much valuable space to cloakroom, toilets and stairs.

No suggestions were made about the exterior, but the implication was for the architect to keep to a plain, dignified structure and not aim at exterior effects that might make a practical and economic layout of the interior impossible. Bertram warned against building "Greek temples" instead of libraries.

Carnegie had no interest in buying existing buildings and converting them into libraries. Only in rare cases of very small communities or some very small branches were frame buildings constructed. Building costs were not to include shrubs, walks or other ground improvements. The installation of fireplaces was discouraged. Bertram felt that a fireplace installed for appearance only took up important wall space which would be adequate to shelve 500 to 600 books. If the fireplace were for actual use, it would be chiefly for the comfort of two or three people in its vicinity to the exclusion of others. It would be better to have an adequate heating plant in the basement. Smoking rooms also were not approved by Bertram, being inappropriate and unnecessary in library buildings. Finally, the building was to be exclusively for library purposes and not for any other, not even for related municipal or educational offices.

Generally Carnegie officials never interfered in the choice of an architect. On occasion, Bertram would suggest the names of experienced architects for communities requesting such information. Bertram did not want to communicate or correspond with architects in regard to building plans and would deal only with the civic or library authorities who were their employers.

The design of the Sterling library building is attribute to Denver architect William Cowe. Cowe was born in Aberdeen, Scotland, and emigrated with his wife to the United States in 1892. He came to Denver around 1894, working briefly as a draftsman before establishing his own practice. Two of Cowe's early buildings were featured in *American Architect and Building News* in 1896. During most of his career he maintained an office in the Mack Building on California Street. He belonged to the Colorado Chapter of American Institute of Architects and served as its secretary in 1901. During 1903 and 1904 Cowe went into partnership with George F. Harvey, Jr. After 1904 Cowe maintained his own practice until his retirement in about 1919. After a long period of failing health, Cowe died in Denver on August 8, 1930.

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Sterling Public Library  
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William Cowe designed primarily residential buildings. Most of his commissions were for single family residences in Denver, though he also designed several terraces and apartment houses. Examples of the latter include the Avery Apartments, at 2514 Champa, and the Hamilton, at 1475 Humboldt. He designed two houses for his own use. The first at 1330 Race (1901) and the second at 1420 Humboldt (1908). The house at 765 Marion (1904) is typical of his work. Two prominent non-residential buildings designed by Cowe are the Highland Christian Church at 2601 W. Thirty-fourth, in Denver's Potter Highlands Historic District, and the 1918 Carnegie Public Library building in Sterling.

Local builder L.J. Brown won the contract for the construction of Cowe's plans with a bid of \$12,240. Cowe closely followed the Carnegie recommendations for a small building for the Sterling library. He utilized the basic rectangular-plan with a raised basement. His plan included the suggested entry vestibule, the two large main level reading rooms and the basement level lecture room. The tall facade windows admitted nature light, but in keeping with Carnegie suggestions, the other windows were placed high to allow bookshelves to wrap around the interior walls. Cowe relegated the storage and work areas, the restrooms and the heating plant to half the basement space, allowing ample room for the lecture room with its own outside entry. The only aspect of Cowe's interior plan at odds with the Carnegie standards was the inclusion of a reading room fireplace.

The exterior reflects the organization of the interior spaces. Cowe utilized a somewhat eclectic assemblage of classically-inspired elements to create a dignified masonry building in keeping with Carnegie standards. The symmetrical composition with the central entry to the raised main level immediately identifies the building as a Carnegie library. Though later modifications to the interior resulted in the loss of some design integrity, the building retains sufficient integrity in its design, materials, and workmanship to be a good example of the Carnegie standard for small library design.

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**GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

All of Block 20, King and Smith's Addition, Sterling, Logan County, Colorado.

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The nomination includes all the land historically associated with the library building.

**PHOTOGRAPH LOG**

The following information pertains to photograph numbers 1-8:

Name of Property: Sterling Public Library  
Location: Logan County, Colorado  
Photographer: Dale Heckendorn  
Date of Photographs: June 19, 2001  
Negatives: Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation  
Colorado Historical Society, Denver, Colorado

<u>Photo No.</u>	<u>Photographic Information</u>
1	East elevation; view to the northwest.
2	South elevation; view to the northwest.
3	South and west elevations; view to the northeast.
4	North and west elevations; view to the southeast.
5	South entry detail; view to the northeast.
6	East entry detail; view to the west.
7	East entry detail, view to the west.
8	East elevation window detail; view to the northwest.



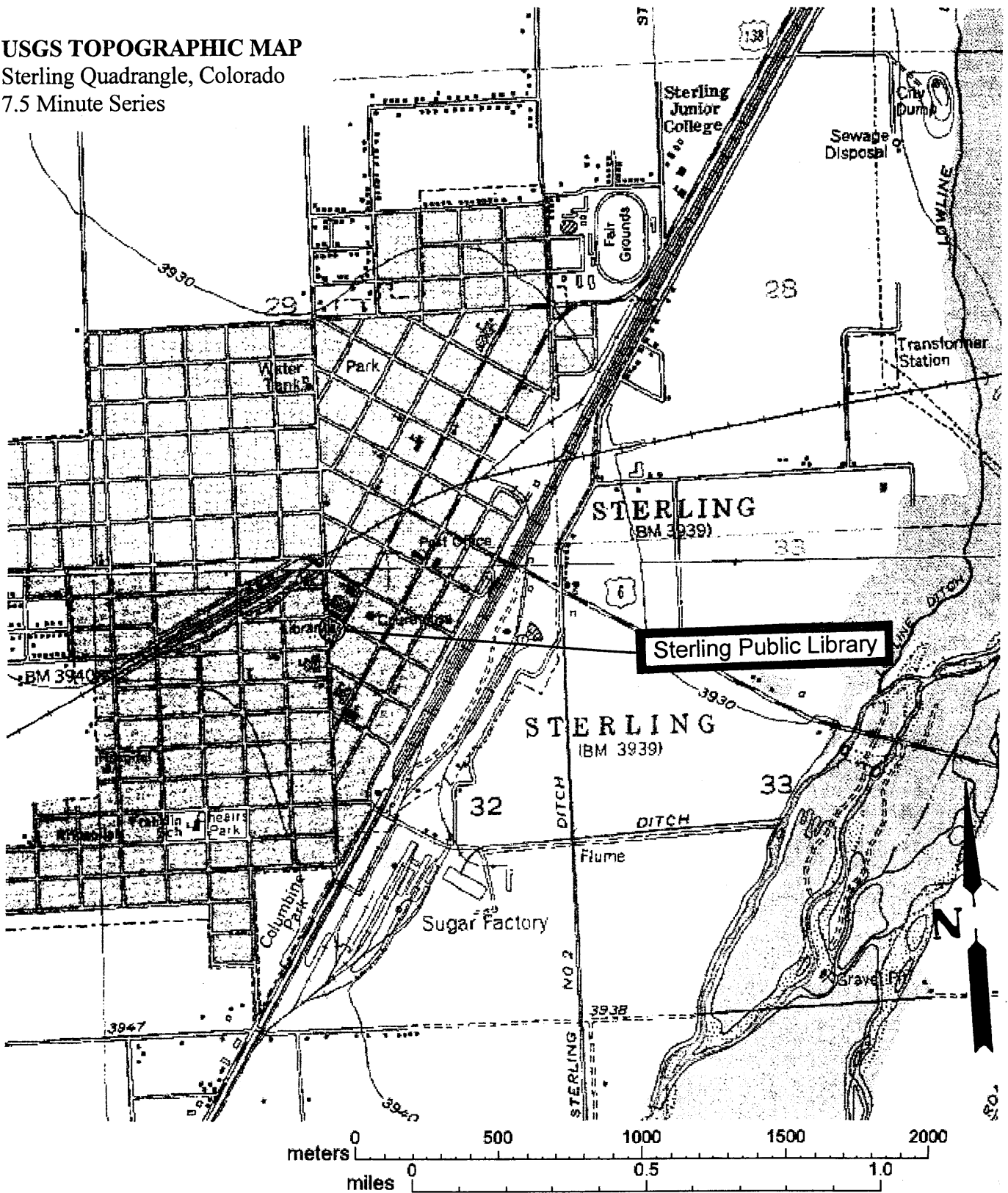
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USGS TOPOGRAPHIC MAP  
Sterling Quadrangle, Colorado  
7.5 Minute Series



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Sterling Public Library  
East elevation, view to the northwest  
Date: circa 1930  
Source: Sterling Public Library