

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 83004763

Date Listed: 12/13/91

Oskaloosa Public Library
Property Name

Mahaska
County

IA
State

1) Public Library Buildings in Iowa TR; 2) Oskaloosa MPS
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Beth Boland
Signature of the Keeper

12/13/91
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

The period of significance was omitted. The correct period for the architectural significance of this building is the date of completion, 1903.

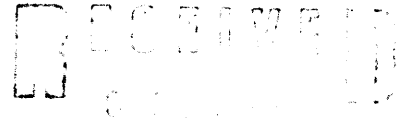
This information was confirmed by Lisa Linhart of the Iowa SHPO staff.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

8300476

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

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 Oskaloosa Public Library
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number SW corner Market & 2nd Ave W not for publication
city, town Oskaloosa vicinity
state Iowa code IA county Mahaska code 123 zip code 52577

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>	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	_____ objects
			<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
Architectural & Historical Resources of Oskaloosa, IA 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 of certifying official _____ Date 12/13/91
State Historical Society of Iowa
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:) _____

Beth Boland 12/13/91

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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)

Late 19th & 20th Century Revival:
Neo-Classical Revival

foundation Brick

walls Brick

roof Composition

other Terra Cotta

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Oskaloosa Public Library sets at the southwest corner of South Market Street and Second Avenue West. It is one of four Wetherell designed buildings that were originally located at this intersection: Across Second Street to the north was the Lacey Hotel (non-extant), and diagonally across Market Street is the City Hall, with the Fire Station immediately east.

The Oskaloosa Public Library is a two story red-orange brick building on a high tan colored brick foundation. It is Neo-Classical in style and features a symmetrical facade which faces east. The round arched front entrance is surrounded by a classical portico. First floor windows are rectangular in shape, brick jack-arched tops with stone keystones, set in round arched panels. Second floor windows are treated as small attic windows, with stone lintels, and the diagonal star pattern lights that were popular from c.1900-1915. The building is capped by a terra cotta cornice with brick parapet above. Terra cotta is used on the facade for a variety of details. Corners have been given a quoin-like treatment in brick on the main block of the building. The rear wing of the building is a single story high and features a bowed bay on the west. Limestone is used for the watertable, and for a belt course at the top of the west wing wall.

The interior reflects the symmetrical facade arrangement. The circulation, reading, and reference rooms are on the main floor, childrens' department is on the second floor, and the basement is used primarily for meeting rooms. The second floor was finished several years after the original construction, but no other major alterations have been made to the interior.

A complete set of plans for this building is available in the files of Wetherell & Ericsson. The few changes which have been made over the years have been primarily in terms of usage, not in terms of physical alterations.

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)

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

ARCHITECTURE

Cultural Affiliation
N.A.

Significant Person

N.A.

Architect/Builder

Wetherell, Frank E. (Arch)
Gier, John (Bldr)

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

The Oskaloosa Public Library is significant under Criterion C as a good example of library design from the early 20th century. It is a major early work by Wetherell and illustrates his public building designs from the period as noted in the "Works of Frank E. Wetherell: 1892-1931" context. Wetherell selected for this building the Neo-Classical style that was thought to be dignified and appropriate for such a public structure. This is the same style that was used by Chicago architects Patton and Miller for many of the libraries they designed across the mid-west. The Oskaloosa facility illustrates the style executed in brick rather than stone. In many small county seat towns, brick was the material of choice. The use of two colors of brick, tan for the foundation, and a red orange for the wall, gives the illusion of a stone foundtion. The two areas are separated by a stone watertable.

The Oskaloosa Library represents the first major public commission Wetherell received. In later years he was to become well known for his library designs, many of which are listed on the National Register (including the Cherokee Public Library, 1903-04, which is based on his Oskaloosa design with only minor changes). He was also responsible for libraries in Eldon, Bloomfield, Boone, Bedford, and Mount Ayr. While several of these continue the Neo-Classical tradition, the Bloomfield building (1913) was constructed in the Tudor Revival style.

The Oskaloosa Public Library is one of 101 Carnegie libraries built in the state of Iowa. In March 1902, with the influence of Congressman John F. Lacey, Andrew Carnegie agreed to provide the sum of \$20,000 to construct a public library in Oskaloosa. This grant was made with the

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bobinski, George S. Carnegie Libraries. Chicago: American Library Association, 1969.

Oskaloosa Daily Herald, 1 March 1900, p.3, c.3.

Oskaloosa Weekly Herald, 17 April 1902, p.8, c.5.
29 May 1902, p.5, c.8.
25 September 1902, p.7, c.6.
10 September 1903, p.4, all columns.

Minutes of the Oskaloosa Public Library Board.

Plans from the files of Wetherell & Ericsson, Des Moines, IA.

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: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Less than one acre.

UTM References

A

15	5	2	9	7	2	0
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4	5	7	1	1	5	0
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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

Original Plat, Blk 36, Lots 1 & 2, City of Oskaloosa.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

This is the area historically associated with this resource.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

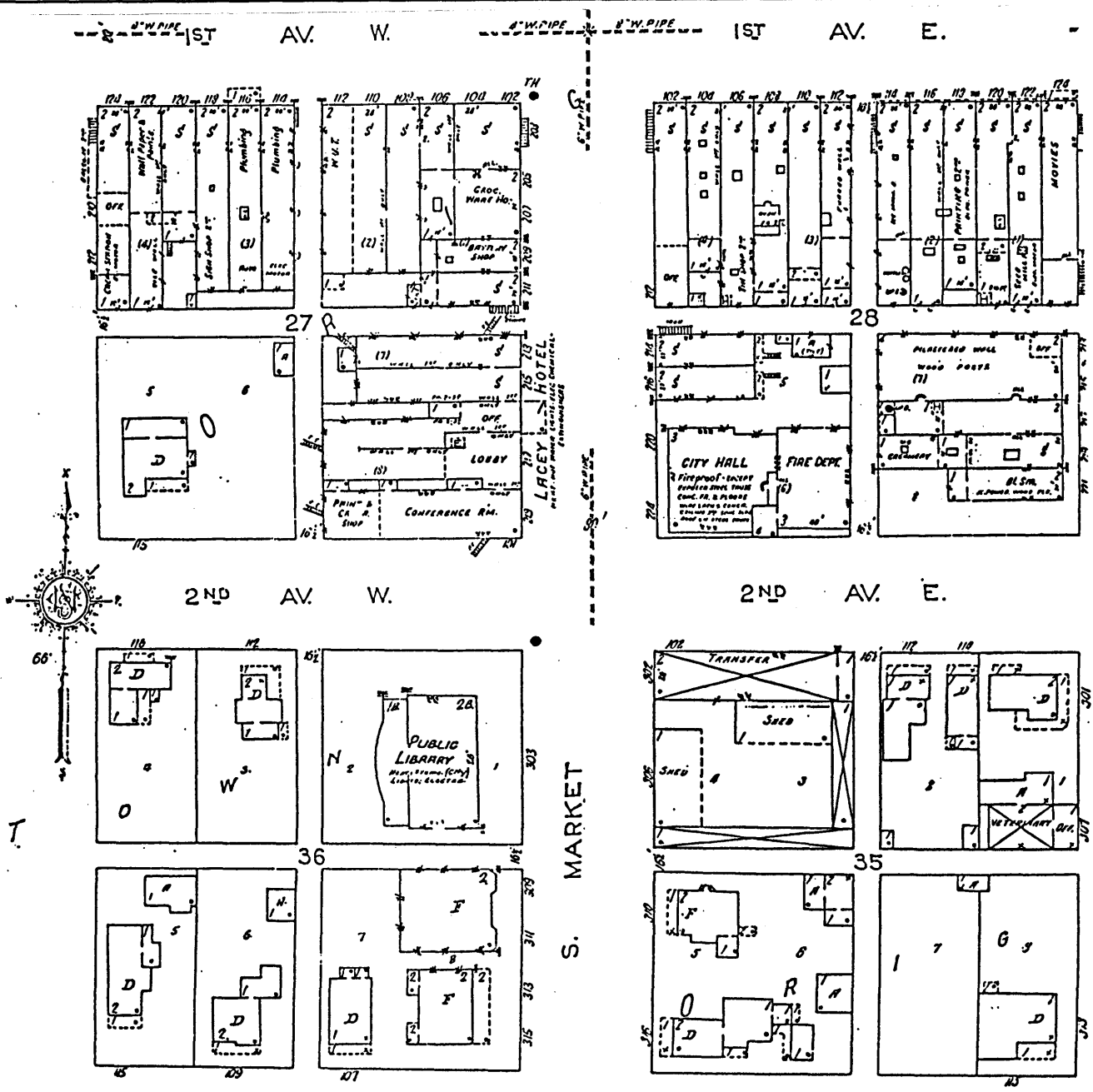
name/title Molly Myers Naumann, Consultant (515) 682-2743
 organization Oskaloosa Historic Preservation Comm. date June 1991
 street & number City Hall, P.O. Box 1010 telephone (515) 673-8361
 city or town Oskaloosa state Iowa zip code 52577

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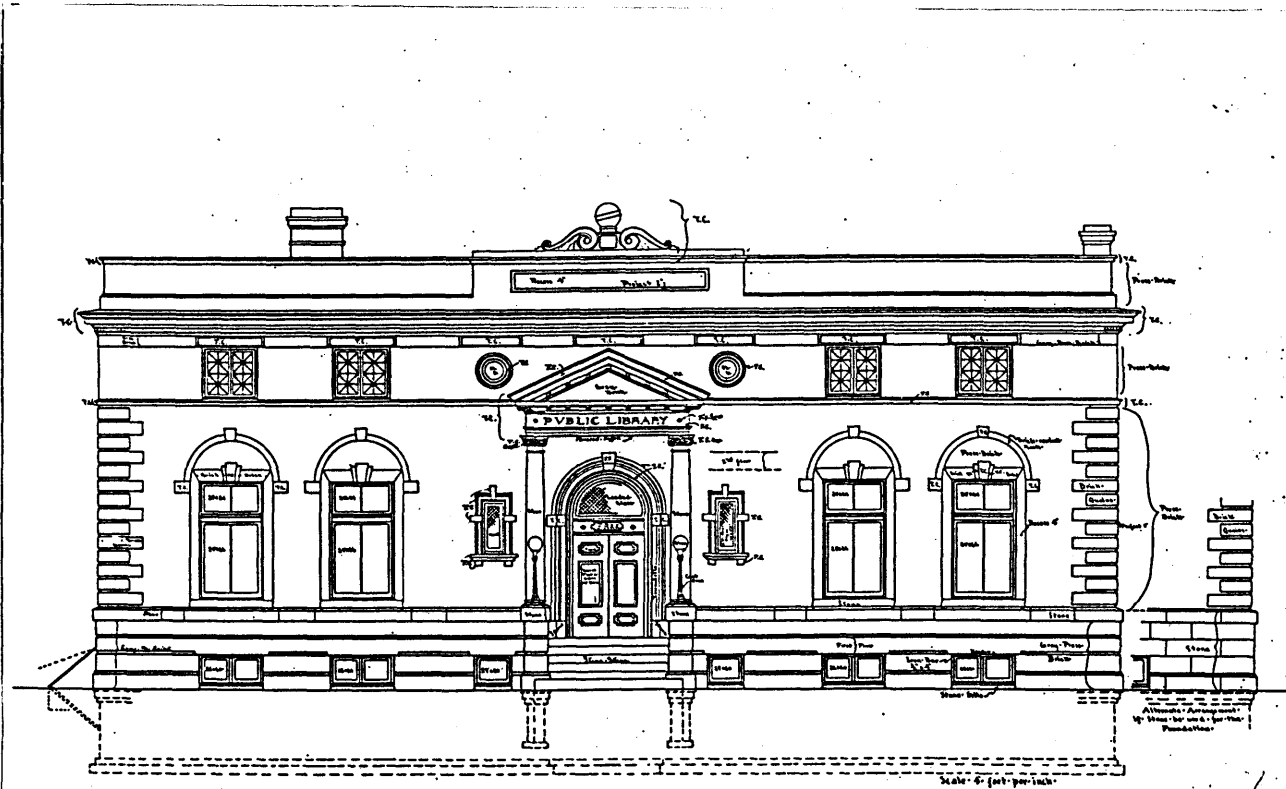
This map shows the relationship of the Oskaloosa Public Library on the southwest corner of the intersection, to three other Wetherell designs at the corner: the non-extant Lacey Hotel (1902), on the northwest corner, and City Hall/Fire Station to the northeast.

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CFN-259-1118



FRONT ELEVATION
OSKALOOSA
PUBLIC LIBRARY
OSKALOOSA, IOWA

FRANK E. WETMERELL, ARCHT.
OSKALOOSA, IOWA.

August 12, 1905

2

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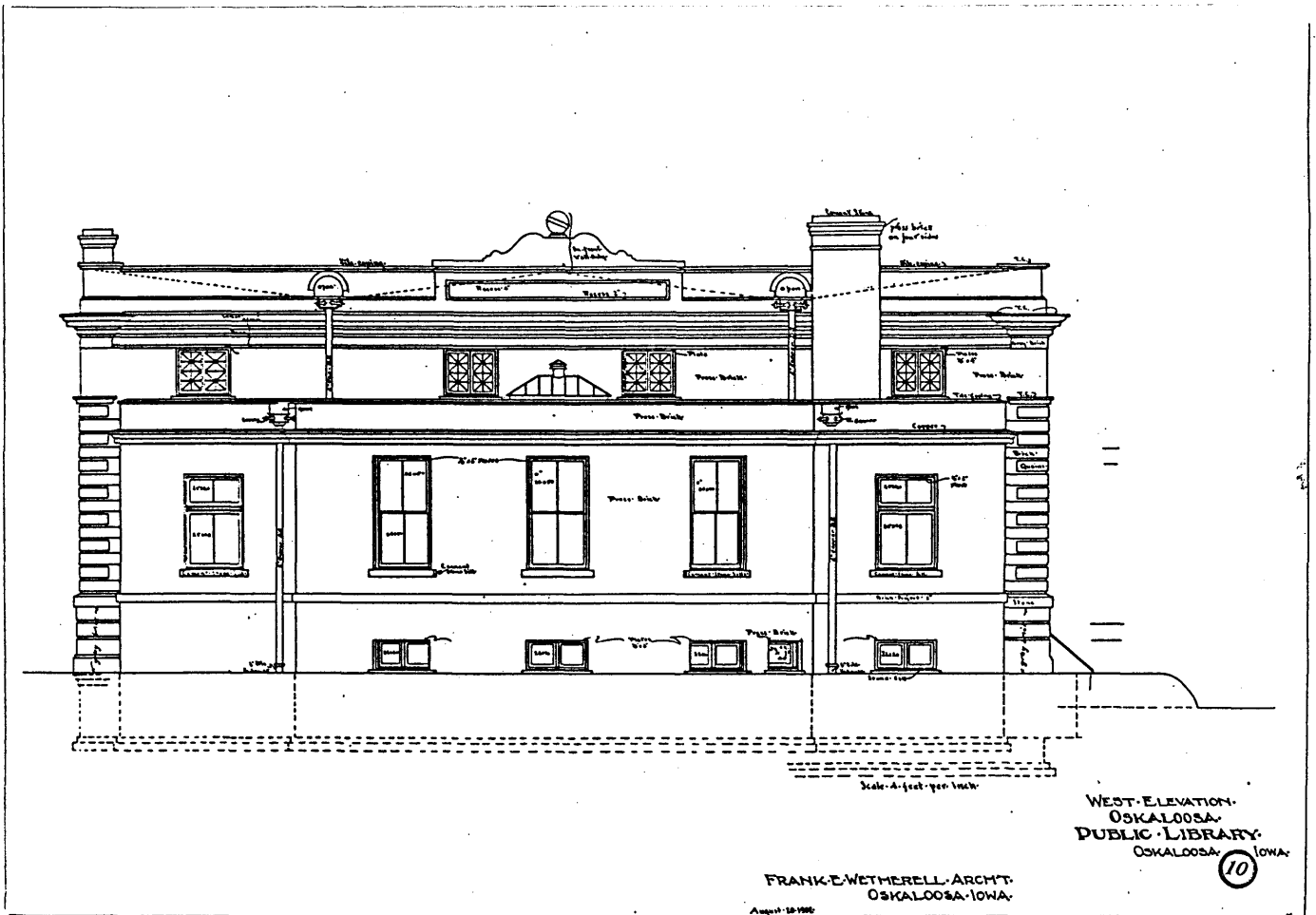


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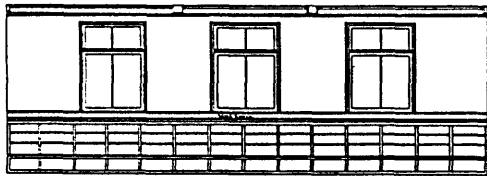
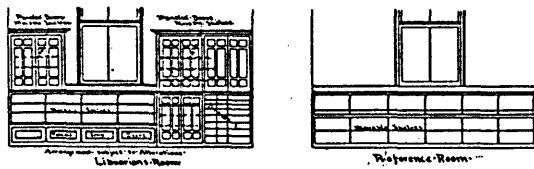


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SOUTH ELEVATION
OSKALOOSA
PUBLIC LIBRARY
OSKALOOSA IOWA

FRANK E. WETMERELL ARCHT.
OSKALOOSA IOWA

August 18 1901

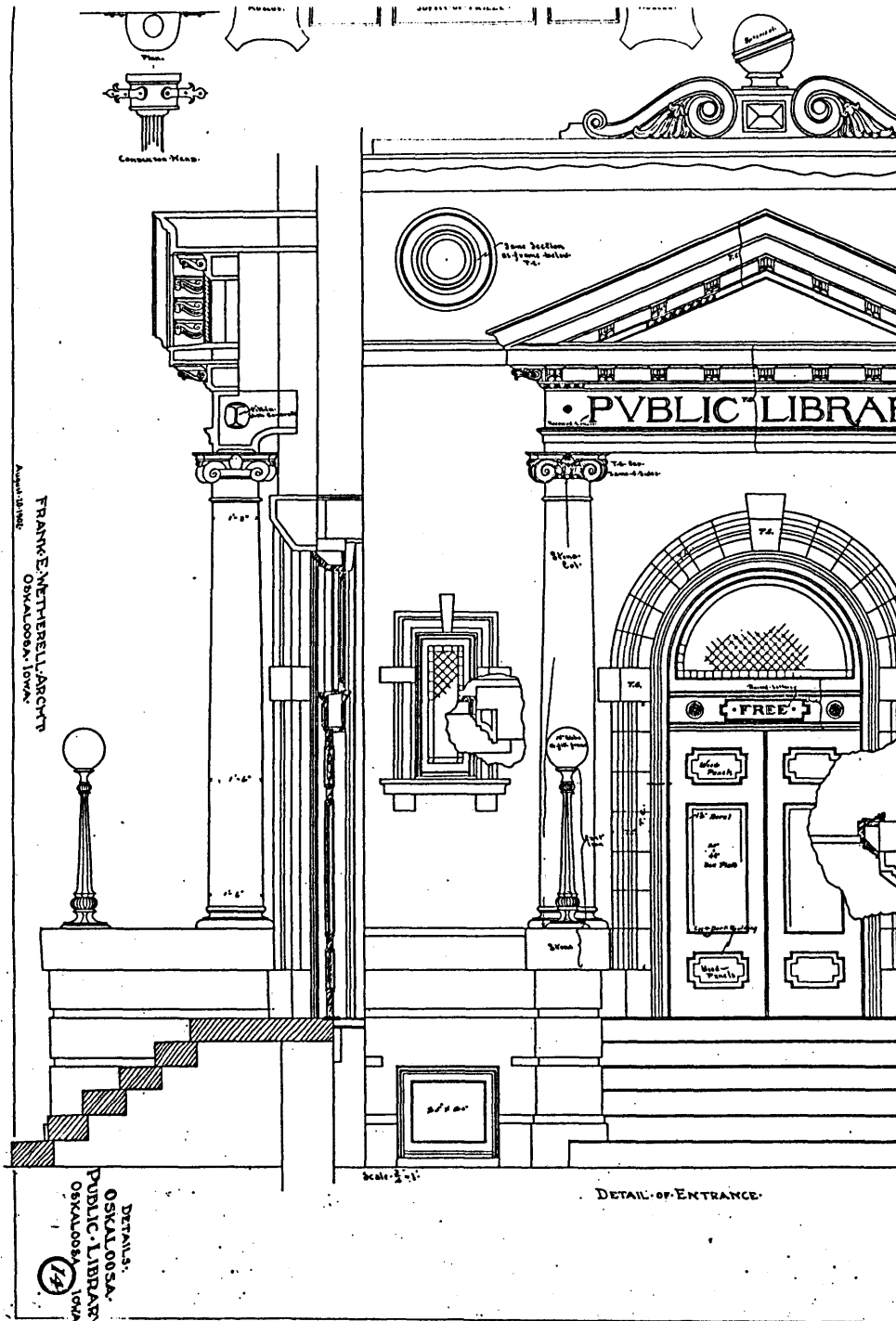


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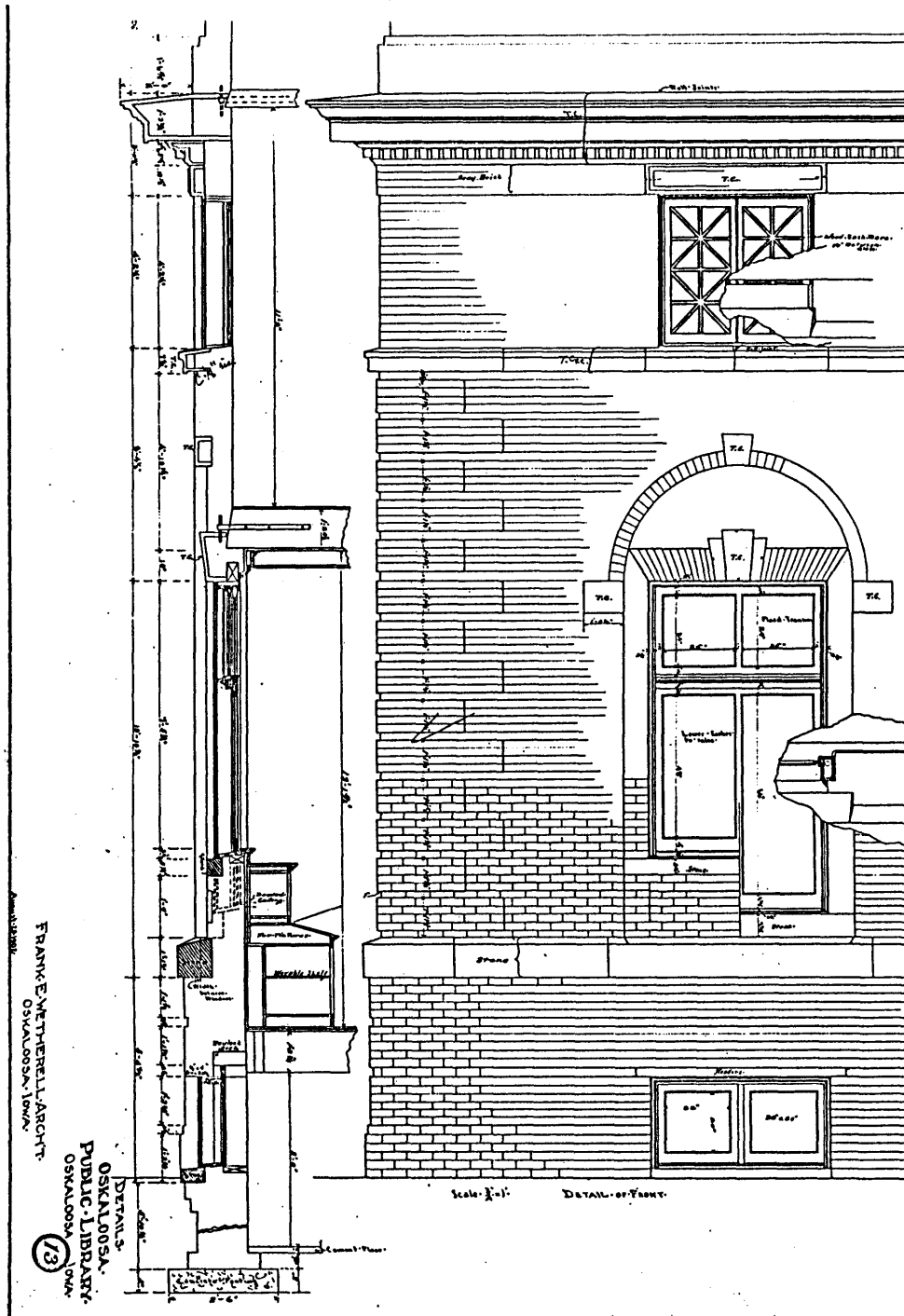


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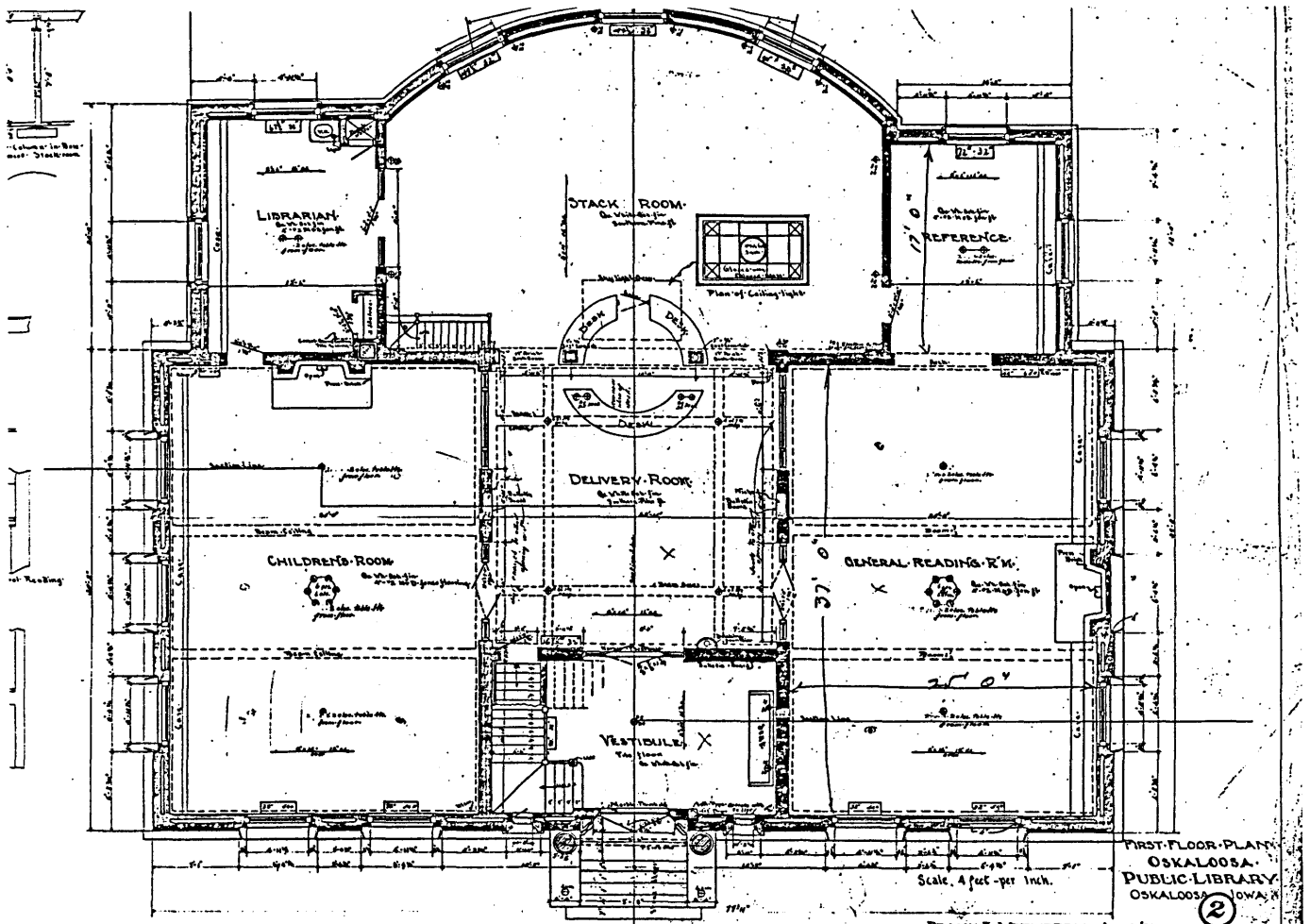


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stipulation that a suitable site be found, and that the City Council provide tax funds of not less than \$2,000 annually. The David Evans property at the corner of Market and Second, measuring 120' x 120' was purchased, the plans were drawn by Wetherell, and on September 8, 1902, the contract was let to John R. Gier. Construction was completed in September 1903.

The Oskaloosa Public Library retains a high level of integrity and meets the integrity requirements set out in the Multiple Property Document for Wetherell related properties.