

11-18-01

# DATA SHEET

Form 10-300  
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	IOWA
COUNTY:	DES MOINES
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	MAR 27 1975

### 1. NAME

COMMON:  
Burlington Public Library

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Free Public Library

### 2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
501 North Fourth Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Burlington

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
First

STATE: Iowa      CODE: 14      COUNTY: Des Moines      CODE: 057

### 3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	Library	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

### 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
City of Burlington

STREET AND NUMBER:  
501 North Fourth

CITY OR TOWN:  
Burlington

STATE:  
Iowa

### 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Des Moines County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:  
513 North Main

CITY OR TOWN:  
Burlington

STATE:  
Iowa

CODE:  
14

### 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Original City

DATE OF SURVEY: July 7, 1836       Federal       State       County       Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Des Moines County Courthouse - Congressional approval March 3, 1837

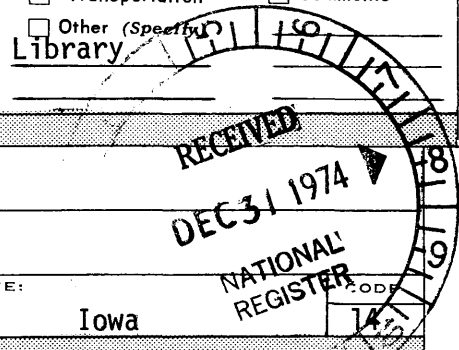
STREET AND NUMBER:  
513 North Main

CITY OR TOWN:  
Burlington

STATE:  
Iowa

CODE:  
14

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: COUNTY: ENTRY NUMBER: DATE:

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent   
  Good   
  Fair   
  Deteriorated   
  Ruins   
  Unexposed

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(Check One)

Altered   
  Unaltered   
  Moved   
  Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Burlington Public Library (Free Public Library) is essentially a two story red sandstone structure with basement (in part above grade), a square Italianate tower, and a slate hip roof. Its setting is the side of a hill in an urban area quite close to the Mississippi River. The building, with its unusual redish color and prominent profile, is a chief element in the Burlington cityscape. Its heavy monochromatic appearance is enhanced by the use of quoining, dressed stone banding and regular bonding, window enframing, occasional brackets, and Ionic columns. In spite of this strong classical and Italianate flavor, the building's sleek facades, near horizontal banding of openings and the hovering quality of the roof (especially the tower roof) indicate some relationship with pre-Prairie School designs.

Although the exterior symmetrical placement of windows might indicate a symmetrical interior distribution of space, the floor plan actually shows functional variations in room placement. A central open rotunda (circulation desk area) gives access to a two-level stack area in the rear (north), an open reading room (east), the front foyer (south), and two smaller rooms (reference and meeting room) to the west. The great oak stairway with garlanded newel post leads to the second floor where two toilets (north), a balcony overlooking the reading room (east), a small office (east), a work-room and museum room (west) can be found.

Interior finishings include a large stained glass window, Italian mosaic floors (rotunda and vestibule) and extensive panels and other ornaments in polished oak (including two fireplace mantels). Most of the oak furniture is original.

The Burlington Public Library has been altered little since its construction. Some window sills have been replaced; the exterior was sandblasted, repointed and sealed with silicone in 1971.

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**3. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1896-1898**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	As a library it would qualify in several of the listed categories.
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

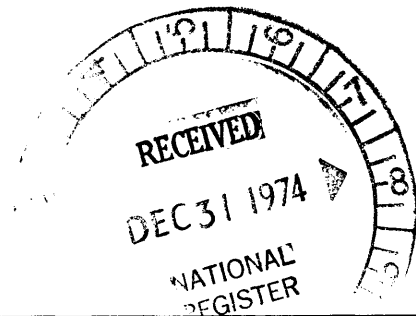
SEE INSTRUCTIONS

The major significance of this historic resource lies in its architecture. Built during the period 1896-1898, the Burlington Public Library is a very well preserved structure of an eclectic style showing classical, Renaissance and pre-Prairie School characteristics. Its unusual red color and prominent profile contribute greatly to the cityscape of Burlington.

The original design for the building, having a more Gothic flair, was submitted by T. S. Hoyt of Boston. This was subsequently modified to some extent by the builder, J. C. Sutherland, of Burlington.

Of nearly equal importance, the Burlington Free Public Library is the oldest such library in the State of Iowa. It began as a small subscription library in 1868 at the suggestion of Senator James W. Grimes, who contributed \$5,000.00 as a personal gift. Meeting with only lackluster success, the Directors of the subscription library in 1885 voted to present the institution to the city provided it could be maintained by tax levy.

It was largely the efforts of a local philanthropist, Philip M. Crapo, that brought about the completion of this present library. It was he who first proposed the plan of the erection of a new library building. And his zeal in promoting it was amply evidenced by his proposal to the City Council offering to donate \$20,000.00 to the building fund if they would provide an equal amount. The matching funds were quickly provided by the Council. In addition, many of the furnishings in the building were given at his private expense. The total cost of the library building was about \$55,000.00



**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Territorial Centennial Edition of the Burlington Hawkeye Gazette.  
 Burlington Hawkeye, June 29, 1898. story of dedication.  
 Federal Writers Project, Iowa. A Guide to Burlington, Iowa. Sponsored by  
 Burlington City Council. Burlington: Acres-Blackmar County, 1938.  
 Antrobus, Augustine M., HISTORY OF DES MOINES COUNTY, IOWA. S. J. Clarke,  
 1915. Volume 1, page 492.  
 Letter from Margaret N. Keyes, Old Capitol Restoration Committee Director,  
 Iowa City, Iowa, October 31, 1973.  
 Historic American Building a Survey Inventory. David Mathiasmeier, Ames,  
 Iowa State University, October, 1967.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

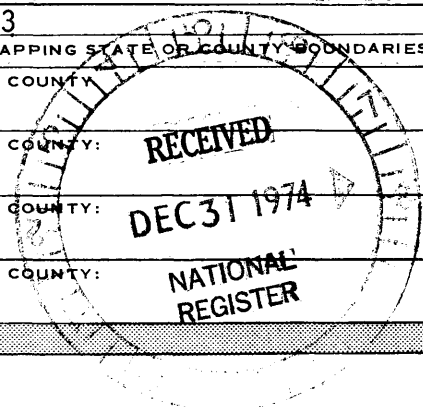
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		40	48	46
NE	° ' "	° ' "		91	6	13
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

15/65995C  
45:9420

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 0.33

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
Betty C. Schaile

ORGANIZATION: Burlington Public Library DATE: 11/14/73

STREET AND NUMBER:  
501 North Fourth

CITY OR TOWN: Burlington STATE: Iowa CODE: 14

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name John D. Anderson

Title Historic Preservation Officer

Date Dec. 17, 1974

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

A. R. Mortensen  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 3/27/75

ATTEST:

W. M. Hunt  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 3.26.75