

NPS Form 10-900 (Rev. 10-90)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historical 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 any 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 Arcadia Free Public Library
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 406 East Main Street not for publication N/A
city or town Arcadia vicinity N/A
state Wisconsin code WI county Trempealeau code 121 zip code 54612

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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.)

Signature of certifying official [Signature] Date 15 March 1994
State Historic Preservation Office-WI
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 commenting or other official Date
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action Entered in the National Register
Edson H. Beall 4/29/94
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):

**5. Classification**

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resources within Property		
		Contributing	Noncontributing	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>1</u>		buildings
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district			sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site			structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure			objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<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.)  
Public Library Facilities of Wisconsin

**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)
<u>Education/Library</u>	<u>Education/Library</u>

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)  
Classical Revival

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone

roof Asphalt

walls Brick

Stone

other 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.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Education

Architecture

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1906-1943

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a 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.

**Significant Dates**

1906

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/BUILDER**

Omeyer, Diedrik A.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

**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: Arcadia Free Public Library

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** Less than one (1) acre

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	<u>15</u>	<u>620100</u>	<u>4900760</u>	3	—	—	—
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	—	—	—	4	—	—	—
						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 Elizabeth A. Butterfield

organization U.S. West Research, Inc. date December 16, 1993

street & number 421 Main St., Suite 306 telephone (608) 782-3338

city or town La Crosse state WI zip code 54601

**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 the SHPO or FPO.)

name City of Arcadia

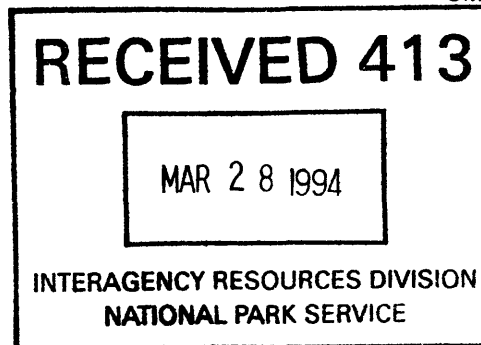
street & number 203 W. Main Street telephone (608) 323-3359

city or town Arcadia state WI zip code 54612

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 1 Arcadia Free Public Library, Arcadia, Trempealeau County, Wisconsin

**Describe present and historic physical appearance**

The Arcadia Free Public Library, located in Arcadia, Wisconsin, is a highly intact representative example of Neo-Classical Revival architecture, a style that was derived from both the Greek and Roman architectural orders and used extensively in the design of public buildings from 1900 to 1920.<sup>1</sup> The library, located on a 60' x 120' corner lot, was constructed in 1906. D. A. Omeyer, an architect from St. Paul, Minnesota designed the plans.<sup>2</sup>

The one-story rectilinear plan, free standing brick building stands on the northeast corner of Main and St. Joseph streets and is flanked by residential dwellings to the north and east. The Arcadia Public Grade School sits across St. Joseph Street to the west. Two large bushes frame the front south-facing facade, small bushes line north, and west elevations, and the east side, located approximately ten feet from a neighboring residence, exhibits no foliage. A large circular concrete walkway allows access to the front door from both Main and St. Joseph streets.

**Exterior**

The building rests on a raised rock-faced stone foundation. A smooth stone belt course runs continuously along the top of the stone foundation. Black Neacok #100 pressed light brown brick covers each facade, whereas, each corner of the building is ornamented with Black Neacok #400 dark brown pressed brick rusticated quoins. The same brick used on the quoins also ornaments the first floor windows. A plain cornice and frieze surrounds the entire structure below the asphalt-shingled hipped roof. Slightly overhanging eaves display block modillions. Two finials were erected on the tops of the east and west hips of the roof.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> John Blumenson, Identifying American Architecture: A Pictorial Guide to Styles and Terms, 1600-1945, Nashville: American Association for State and Local History, 1981, p. 69.

<sup>2</sup> "Specification of the Material and Labor Required in the Erection of Free Public Carnegie library," 28 September 1905, Arcadia Free Public Library Files.

<sup>3</sup> "Specification of the Material and Labor Required in the Erection of Free Public Carnegie library," 28 September 1905, Arcadia Free Public Library Files.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 2 Arcadia Free Public Library, Arcadia, Trempealeau County, Wisconsin

---

The front facade, which faces south, displays a symmetrical design. It is divided into three bays by two large rusticated brick pilasters that flank the centered entrance. Letters forming the words "Carnegie Library" are affixed to the plain frieze above the main entry and the date "1906" is attached to the capitals of the adjacent pilasters. The center bay is crowned by a parapet-like projection that suggests a section of a classical balustrade. This projection is positioned on the slope of the roof and features two-brick pedestals that flank a solid wood balustrade. This projection is positioned on the slope of the roof and features two-brick pedestals that flank a solid wood balustrade which is decorated with a lozenge fret pattern upon which a grid is superimposed.

A centered entrance containing a pair of single panel doors, each having a large elongated beveled glass light is positioned between the two pilasters and is surmounted by a fanlight filled with fishscale-shaped panes. A round brick arch, containing a white keystone, encircles the fanlight. A limestone stairway, exhibiting eight steps and an iron railing, is flanked by bush-hammered Bedford stone block wing walls.<sup>4</sup> It allows the only access into the library. Two tall arched window openings, also crowned by round brick arches and footed by smooth stone lug sills, flank the centered doors. The one-over-one sash windows are each surmounted by a single light stilted arch transom. The dimension of the tall windows contribute to the illusion of a tall building. Two smaller flat-arched one-over-one sash windows are located directly below the arched first-floor windows, positioned in the raised basement story.

The west elevation also displays a symmetrical design. The first story exhibits three tall arched windows that are identical to those described above on the front facade of the building. Four one-over-one sash windows are located below in the basement story. The two outer windows, which are located below the two outer first story windows, are twice the

---

<sup>4</sup> "Specification of the Material and Labor Required in the Erection of Free Public Carnegie library," 28 September 1905, Arcadia Free Public Library Files.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 3 Arcadia Free Public Library, Arcadia, Trempealeau County, Wisconsin

---

width of the offset inner windows. All lower level windows are footed by rock-faced stone sills. Approximately ten stone blocks, located in the center of the basement story, were replaced following a car collision.<sup>5</sup>

The east elevation of the building is identical to the west elevation, with the exception of the number of lower level windows. Three flat-arched one-over-one sash windows, located directly below each tall arched window, reside in the stone foundation on the east side of the building. Again, the lower level windows abut the belt course and display rusticated stone sills.

The rear, north-facing elevation features four small one-over-one flat-arched windows with stone lug sills and brick lintels, set directly beneath the plain cornice. A panelled brick chimney, which has a corbeled cap, extends from the roof of the building in the rear. Four flat-arched window openings, all now blocked in by wood, are located in the basement story.

Interior

From the front doorway, library patrons enter a small foyer. Two semi-circular windows, covered with grills formed by wood muntins, fill the upper portions of the east and west walls in the foyer. These echo the shape of the fanlight above the outside doors and admit natural sunlight into the foyer. An original light fixture provides additional illumination.

Upon passing through a second set of doors, which are identical to the exterior doors and crowned by a rectilinear one-light transom, the interior displays a U-shaped floor plan. An interior south wall flanks either side of the second set of doors. A paneled door, which leads to the unfinished basement, is located to the west of the foyer on the south interior wall. To balance the symmetry of the floor plan, a 5' x 10' closet, recently converted to a restroom, is located to the east of the foyer.<sup>6</sup> Access to the room is provided by a door located on the

<sup>5</sup> Oral Interview of Marie Stopla, Librarian, Conducted by U.S. West Research, Inc., 12 February 1993 and 9 March 1993.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid,

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 4 Arcadia Free Public Library, Arcadia, Trempealeau County, Wisconsin

south interior wall. An office is located in the southwest corner of the building. Two sets of panel sliding doors, located to the east and north, provide access into the office. Two tall arched windows are located on the south and west walls of the office.

The reading room occupies the back two-thirds of the building. The library provides approximately 1620 square feet of public space.<sup>7</sup> A beam, which extends from east to west across the center of the ceiling, serves as the visual divider for the reading room. Two square columns, topped by scrolled brackets on their east and west sides, support this beam. The west, north, and east walls are lined with secured bookshelves. Mobile bookshelves, tables, chairs, and a circulation desk fill the center of the room. The bookshelves, arranged to follow the flow of the U-shaped floor plan, frame a brick chimney piece located on the north wall. A picture of Andrew Carnegie hangs from the chimney. Both the east and the west walls each contain three tall arched windows. The north wall contains four small one-over-one flat-arched windows, set seven feet six inches off the floor. Even though the extensive use of windows in the building provide a substantial amount of natural light, florescent lights were installed in 1941 and 1956.<sup>8</sup>

An alcove, currently used as a childrens section, is located in the southeast corner of the building. The alcove, which contains a small table and chair set and low level bookshelves, counterbalances the space used as an office. The south wall contains two, evenly-spaced tall arched windows. One is located in the alcove, whereas the other is in the office.

The unfinished basement story displays concrete floors. Due to water problems, the majority of the basement has never been utilized. However, a room located in the northeast corner of the building, containing a raised concrete floor, is used for archival storage. The basement also houses a furnace which was installed in 1951.<sup>9</sup> One-over-one sash windows, located on the south, west, and east walls of the basement, provide natural light.

<sup>7</sup> James White, "Building Program for Arcadia Free Public Library," March 1984.

<sup>8</sup> "History of Arcadia Free Public Library, #1," Arcadia Free Public Library Files.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.



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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number   7   Page   5   Arcadia Free Public Library, Arcadia, Trempealeau County, Wisconsin

---

Integrity

The Arcadia Library has remained in continual use as an educational center since its construction in 1906. The major physical characteristic, which include spacial proportions, physical setting, window fenestration, orientation and integrity of major facades, formal entry sequence and materials, are unaltered. The building stands as an excellent example of a Free-standing Public Library Facility property type in Wisconsin.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 1 Arcadia Free Public Library, Arcadia, Trempealeau County, Wisconsin

---

**Statement of Significance**

The Arcadia Free Public Library in Arcadia, Trempealeau County, Wisconsin is locally significant in the context of the Public Library Facilities in Wisconsin Multiple Property Form as an example of the Free-standing Public Library Facility property type. The library meets the registration requirements for the property type under Criterion A in the area of Education. The Arcadia Free Public Library has provided educational facilities through its library space both for the public at-large, as well as for the public schools in Arcadia. The period of significance ranges from its construction date of 1906 to 1943, fifty years ago. The building has continually served as a library since the date of construction through the present-day. The library is also significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture. The one-story brick building, located at 406 East Main Street, is a fine example of Classical Revival architecture. The building has not undergone any significant physical changes during its history.

**Historical Background**

Arcadia, located in Trempealeau County, lies in the southwest region of the state of Wisconsin. The city resides in the Trempealeau Valley and is bisected by the Trempealeau River. Fertile rolling bluffs, which surround Arcadia, facilitated settlement of the area.<sup>10</sup>

Early Euro-American explorers found the region inhabited by either Winnebago or Dakota Indians, depending on changing migratory patterns.<sup>11</sup> Father Louis Hennepin, while ascending the Mississippi River in 1680, was most likely the first non-Indian to traverse the

<sup>10</sup> A majority of the information for the historical section was derived from vertical files housed at the Arcadia Free Public Library. Since three works contained in the files are entitled "History of the Arcadia Free Public Library", they have been numbered from one to three. Please note that the above-referenced works do not contain authors or bibliographies. Therefore, whenever possible, the information was confirmed by other scholarly sources.

<sup>11</sup> Both tribes are member of the Siouan family.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 2 Arcadia Free Public Library, Arcadia, Trempealeau County, Wisconsin

---

banks of present-day Trempealeau County. During the winter of 1685-1686, Nicholas Perrot set up camp several miles from the present site of Trempealeau. Sieur Linctot traveled through present-day Trempealeau County in 1731. By 1766, Jonathan Carver, a Connecticut native, explored and distributed a narration of the untamed Trempealeau region<sup>12</sup>

In the early 1800s, following two significant events, Wisconsin opened its boundaries to settlement. First, after the Blackhawk War of 1832, the United States government pushed the Winnebago onto reservations. American soldiers returned home from the war and encouraged emigration to Wisconsin. Second, in 1837 the Dakota entered into a treaty with the United States government. Based upon the terms of the treaty, the Dakota relinquished all their land east of the Mississippi River. Thereafter, the Dakota's dominance in Trempealeau County ended and the territory opened to non-Indian settlement.<sup>13</sup>

In 1845, records note that James Reed, an agent for the American Fur Company stationed at Trempealeau, passed through present-day Arcadia searching for furs and trading partners. Ten years later, in the fall of 1855, four men traveled up from southern Wisconsin to Arcadia with the intention of building a grist mill and starting a village. These men--Collins Bishop, George Dewey, George Shelley, and James Broughton--acquired land under the Pre-emption Act of 1841. The settlement was initially called "Bishop's Settlement".<sup>14</sup>

Nine years after Wisconsin received statehood, the state legislature passed an act on January 24, 1854, which created Trempealeau County. Then, in 1856, the founders of Bishop's Settlement petitioned the county board to form a new town. At such time, upon

---

<sup>12</sup> "A Retired Politician Recalls Early Days, 7 January 1954, The White Hall Times; Franklyn Curtiss-Wedge, History of Trempealeau County Wisconsin, Chicago: H. C. Cooper, Jr., & Co. 1917, p. xi.

<sup>13</sup> Franklyn Curtiss-Wedge, History of Trempealeau County Wisconsin, Chicago: H. C. Cooper, Jr., & Co. 1917, p. xii; Robert Nesbit, Wisconsin: a History, Madison: The University of Wisconsin Press, 1973.

<sup>14</sup> "A Retired Politician Recalls Early Days," 7 January 1954, The White Hall Times; "Statement Made by Noah D. Comstock, April 21, 1882," Arcadia Free Public Library Files; and Franklyn Curtiss-Wedge, History of Trempealeau County Wisconsin, Chicago: H. C. Cooper, Jr., & Co. 1917, p. 89-91.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 3 Arcadia Free Public Library, Arcadia, Trempealeau County, Wisconsin

---

acceptance as a town on November 20, 1856, the name Arcadia replaced Bishop's Settlement.<sup>15</sup>

Growth of the new village was slow at the beginning, however, by 1867 an influx of pioneers entered Arcadia at the end of the Civil War. In 1873, the Green Bay & Minnesota Railroad connected the agricultural industry of the Arcadia area with larger Midwestern markets. One year later, on January 27, 1874, Arcadia was platted. Then, on December 17, 1878, the village was incorporated. By 1900, its population reached a total of 1,212.<sup>16</sup>

Education

The Arcadia Free Public Library has served as an education facility for the community since 1906. Providing books and other services to local patrons make the building particularly important in the area of Education.

To accommodate the expanding community, Senator Levi Withee donated a traveling library to Arcadia early in 1899 and encouraged residents of the village to establish a permanent free library. As a result of this action, at the request of the Arcadia Businessmen's Association, the village board appointed a board of directors for a library.<sup>17</sup> In March 1899, Arcadia's village board appropriated \$200 for the establishment of the Arcadia Free Public Library. The by-laws of the board of trustees of the new library were drafted on July 25, 1899.<sup>18</sup> Thereafter, the doors for the new library, housed in a room on the second floor of

<sup>15</sup> "A Retired Politician Recalls Early Days," 7 January 1954, The Whitehall Times; Franklyn Curtiss-Wedge, History of Trempealeau County Wisconsin, Chicago: H. C. Cooper, Jr., & Co. 1917, p. x. & 90.

<sup>16</sup> Franklyn Curtiss-Wedge, History of Trempealeau County Wisconsin, Chicago: H. C. Cooper, Jr., & Co. 1917, p. 88-92 & 224-225.

<sup>17</sup> "Arcadia Free Public Library, Minutes of Proceedings, Board of Directors," Arcadia Free Public Library Files; "History of the Arcadia Free Public Library # 1," Arcadia Free Public Library Files.

<sup>18</sup> "By-Laws of the Board of Trustees of the Free Library of Arcadia, Wisconsin, 25 July 1899," Arcadia Free Public Library Files; "Arcadia Public Library: Pertaining to the 50th Anniversary as Recorded in the Local

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 4 Arcadia Free Public Library, Arcadia, Trempealeau County, Wisconsin

---

the city hall, opened to the public. At the onset, the Arcadia Free Public Library contained 569 volumes. By January 1, 1904, the library had received five annual appropriations totalling \$1,405.96.<sup>19</sup>

In the early 1900s, the increasing demand on the makeshift library prompted Frank Richmond, the secretary for the library board and an attorney in Arcadia, to request an appropriation from Andrew Carnegie to construct a separate library building.<sup>20</sup> By February of 1905, Andrew Carnegie approved a donation of \$5,000 to construct a library facility in Arcadia. The donation was contingent on three factors. First, since Carnegie only provided funds for the construction of a facility, the community promised to provide a site for the library. Second, Arcadia's citizens guaranteed to pay 10% of the total received from Carnegie for maintenance.<sup>21</sup> Third, residents of Arcadia were responsible to furnish the building with its collection of books.<sup>22</sup>

The entire process of constructing a new library facility extended over a two year period. From May 9, 1905 to July 30, 1905, Carnegie made five \$1000 payment to Arcadia. Between that interval, on June 21, 1905, the Village of Arcadia purchased a piece of property for the library from Halvor K. Moen for \$400. Diedrik A. Omeyer, an architect and partner for the St. Paul, Minnesota firm of Omeyer and Thori, received the commission to design the new

Newspapers, 1899; and to the Establishment of the Carnegie Building," Arcadia Free Public Library Files.

<sup>19</sup> "History of the Arcadia Free Public Library, #1" Arcadia Free Public Library Files; "William Koslo to Joseph McGarvey, et. al.," 13 August 1985, Arcadia Free Public Library Files; and "Arcadia Free Public Library, Minutes of Proceedings, Board of Directors," Arcadia Free Public Library Files.

<sup>20</sup> "J. D. Gaveney to Tillie and Prosper, " ud., Arcadia Free Public Library Files.

<sup>21</sup> The City of Arcadia guaranteed to pay the sum of \$500 annually for the maintenance and upkeep of a public library and a site. The library operated on the \$500 annually for over 30 years. "History of the Arcadia Free Public Library, #2," Arcadia Free Public Library Files; "Village Ordinance #28," Arcadia Free Public Library Files.

<sup>22</sup> "J. D. Gaveney to Tillie and Prosper, " ud., Arcadia Free Public Library Files; Barbara Wyatt, Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin: Vol. 3. Madison, Wisconsin: Historic Preservation Division State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986, "Education," 5-4.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 5 Arcadia Free Public Library, Arcadia, Trempealeau County, Wisconsin

---

library. Almost one year later, on April 2, 1906, Charles Sweet entered into an agreement with the Arcadia Free Public Library to construct the new facility. Sweet, the lowest bidder, provided Arcadia laborers with employment. Upon completion, construction costs of the library totalled \$4,679.<sup>23</sup>

On November 1, 1906, the Arcadia Free Public Library opened its doors to Arcadia patrons. Since the interior of the library was not complete upon occupation, laborers continued to furnish it with shelves, tables, and chairs. By July 7, 1907, the building was dedicated during an open house. The bookshelves were filled with private collections. United States Senator Spooner donated eight large mail sacks filled with reference books. By 1934, an inventory revealed that the library housed 2,761 volumes. Nine years later, 4,287 books lined the library's shelves and circulation statistics reached 19,708 per year.<sup>24</sup> In 1992, the library circulated 39,575 sources to patron.<sup>25</sup>

In 1914, the Arcadia High School was constructed across St. Joseph Street to the west of the library. Since the school did not have an adequate library, the students frequently used the Arcadia Free Public Library for study halls, research project, and free reading. This situation ended in 1985 when a new librarian was hired at the school to improve their collection. In 1963, the Arcadia Elementary School was constructed adjoining the high school. The elementary school did not house a library, therefore, the students used the Arcadia Free Public Library. In 1989, a library was added to the elementary school.<sup>26</sup> Based upon the

<sup>23</sup> "Arcadia Free Public Library, Minutes of Proceedings, Board of Directors," Arcadia Free Public Library Files; "William Koslo to Joseph McGarvey, et. al.," 13 August 1985, Arcadia Free Public Library Files; "Articles of Agreement, 2 April 1906," Arcadia Free Public Library Files; "Agreement between Halvor K. Moen and the Village of Arcadia," 21 June 1905, Arcadia Free Public Library Files; "Resolution, 20 June 1905," Arcadia Free Public Library Files; and "Arcadia Public Library: Pertaining to the 50th Anniversary as Recorded in the Local Newspapers, 1899; and to the Establishment of the Carnegie Building," Arcadia Free Public Library Files.

<sup>24</sup> "J. D. Gaveney to Tillie and Prosper," ud., Arcadia Free Public Library Files; "History of the Arcadia Free Public Library, #2 & 3," Arcadia Free Public Library Files.

<sup>25</sup> Oral Interview of Marie Stopla, Librarian, Conducted by U.S. West Research, Inc., 12 February 1993 and 9 March 1993.

<sup>26</sup> Oral Interview of Mary Jo Fetsch, Arcadia Public School Librarian, Conducted by U.S. West Research, Inc., 15 December 1993; Oral Interview of Jo Oelkers, Superintendents Office, Conducted by U.S. West Research, Inc., 15 December 1993.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 6 Arcadia Free Public Library, Arcadia, Trempealeau County, Wisconsin

---

situations at the public schools, students continually utilized the educational services offered by the Arcadia Free Public Library for 75 years.

The Arcadia Free Public Library is a fine example of the types of facilities donated by Andrew Carnegie in the early twentieth century. During approximately a fifteen year span, from 1901-1915, Carnegie donated funds for the construction of sixty-three free libraries in Wisconsin. These donations ranged from \$5,000 to \$75,000 per library. As of 1990, of the sixty-three Carnegie libraries constructed in Wisconsin, thirty-eight continued to provide patrons with library services. Twenty of the operating libraries, including Arcadia, have not been altered by additions.<sup>27</sup>

The Arcadia Free Public Library has served as a vital contributor to the education of local citizens for 87 years. The library is significant for its association with the theme of Education. Circulation statistics throughout the library's history prove its wide use and substantiate its' importance in the area of Education. Furthermore, the library's use as the primary research and study facility for both grade school and high school student of Arcadia also confirm the buildings educational value.

Architecture

The Arcadia Free Public Library stands as a fine example of the Neo-Classical Revival style in Wisconsin. The fact that this building is representative of one of the most prolific styles used in the construction of libraries enforces its importance in the area of Architecture.

---

<sup>27</sup> "William Koslo to Joseph McGarvey, et. al., 13 August 1985, Arcadia Free Public Library Files; "Some Financial figures in Library History," Arcadia Free Public Library Files; and "Carnegie's Gifts to Wisconsin Keep on Giving," March/April 1990, Wisconsin West.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

**CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number   8   Page   8   Arcadia Free Public Library, Arcadia, Trempealeau County, Wisconsin

---

representative of one of the most important architectural styles associated with similar public buildings constructed within the same time period in other Wisconsin communities. The building also serves as a product of the donations given by Andrew Carnegie to provide communities with civic services. The Board of the Arcadia Free Public Library, established in 1899, continues its commitment to providing the community with educational services, as well as leaving the Carnegie building intact.

Registration Requirements

The Arcadia Free Public Library meets the registration requirements for a Free-standing Library Facility property type specified in the Multiple Property Form in three areas. First, under Criterion A, the Arcadia Free Public Library served a significant role in the local community as an educational facility. Second, under Criterion C, the library, designed by Minnesota architect Diedrik A. Omeier, is a fine example of Neo-Classical Revival architecture. Third, in relation to its integrity, the library has remained in continual use since its construction in 1906, and its major physical characteristics are largely unchanged.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 7 Arcadia Free Public Library, Arcadia, Trempealeau County, Wisconsin

---

The one-story building, which displays a symmetrical design, brick quoins and pilasters, wood balustrade, and tall arch windows, was constructed in 1906. D.A. Omeyer, an architect from St. Paul, Minnesota designed the plans. From 1888 until the death of Martin P. Thori in 1907, the firm of Omeyer and Thori was best known for its design of Neo-Classical Revival public buildings, such as county courthouses, and Queen Anne style houses in the Midwest. Besides the Arcadia Free Public Library, the firm also designed the Steensland Library at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota in 1902. The Arcadia library was one of Omeyer's final projects. He died in 1905, the same year the specifications for the library were dated.<sup>28</sup>

Neo-Classical Revival architecture was utilized in the the upper Midwest from 1895 to 1935. Its popularity emerged after the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893 in Chicago, which transformed the trend from Victorian to Classicism. Based upon the Public Library Facilities in Wisconsin Multiple Property Form, the principal styles and forms illustrated by the public buildings constructed early 20th century are predominantly Neo-Classical in origin. This style, which displays formal symmetry, rich use of expensive materials, and imposing scale, was particularly popular for public and institution buildings, as well as commercial buildings.

Fine small-scale representations of the Neo-Classical Revival style in the state of Wisconsin include libraries, commercial buildings, and Masonic Temples. Clearly, the most popular stylistic form encountered in Wisconsin public library facilities is the Neo-Classical. This style was widely accepted as a logical building type because it symbolized democracy, civic self-esteem, and maturity. The Public Library Facilities in Wisconsin Multiple Property Form notes that in small communities the Neo-Classical style made a dramatic architectural presence and set forth a romantic image of small-town compatibility and open access.<sup>29</sup>

The Arcadia Free Public Library is an intact example of a Free-standing Public Library Facility constructed in the state of Wisconsin in the early 20th century. The design of the library is

<sup>28</sup> "Diedrik A. Omeyer File," Plans and Manuscripts at the Northwest Architectural Archives, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

<sup>29</sup> Barbara Wyatt, Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin: Vol. 2. Madison, Wisconsin: Historic Preservation Division State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986, "Architecture," 2-8.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number   9   Page   1   Arcadia Free Public Library, Arcadia, Trempealeau County, Wisconsin

---

Bibliography

**Published Material**

Blumenson, John. Identifying American Architecture: A Pictorial Guide to Styles and Terms, 1600-1945. Nashville: American Association for State and Local History, 1981.

Curtiss-Wedge, Franklyn. History of Trempealeau County Wisconsin. Chicago: H. C. Cooper, Jr., & Company, 1917.

Nesbit, Robert C. Wisconsin: A History. Madison: The University of Wisconsin Press, 1973.

Wyatt, Barbara, ed. Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin. Vol. 1-3, Historic Preservation Division State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986.

**Unpublished Material**

Lusignan, Paul. "Public Library Facilities in Wisconsin." National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, submitted 25 September 1990.

White, James. "Building Program for Arcadia Free Public Library." March 1984.

**Newspapers**

*The White Hall Times*

1954

"A Retired Politician Recalls Early Days," 7 January.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 9 Page 2 Arcadia Free Public Library, Arcadia, Trempealeau County, Wisconsin

---

Wisconsin West

1990

"Carnegie's gifts to Wisconsin Keep on Giving," March/April 1990.

**Maps**

Sanborn Fire Insurance Map Company. Insurance Maps of Arcadia, Wisconsin. 1914, 1934, and 1943.

**Primary Material**

Arcadia Free Public Library Files. Arcadia, Wisconsin.

"Diedrik A. Omeyer File." Plans and Manuscripts at the Northwest Architectural Archives, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

**Oral interviews**

Oral Interview of Mary Jo Fetsch, Arcadia Public School Librarian, Conducted by U.S. West Research, Inc., 15 December 1993.

Oral Interview of Jo Oelkers, Librarian, Conducted by U.S. West Research, Inc., 15 December 1993.

Oral Interview of Marie Stopla, Librarian, Conducted by U.S. West Research, Inc., 12 February 1993 and 9 March 1993.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 10 Page 1 Arcadia Free Public Library, Arcadia, Trempealeau County, Wisconsin

---

**Verbal Boundary Description**

County of Trempealeau, and State of Wisconsin in lot twenty-two (22) of block twenty-one (21) of the Revised and Consolidated Map of the village of Arcadia, Wisconsin, said lot being sixty (60) feet by one hundred twenty (120) feet dimensions.

**Boundary Justification**

Entire parcel of land historically associated with property.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number Photos Page 1 Arcadia Free Public Library, Trempealeau County, Wisconsin

---

Arcadia Carnegie Library  
Arcadia, Trempealeau County, Wisconsin  
Photographs by Barbara Kooiman, U.S. West Research, Inc.  
February 1993  
Negatives at the State Historical Society

The above information applies to all the following photographs:

Photo #1 of 10

Exterior - south facade  
View facing north

Photo #2 of 10

Exterior - southwest corner  
View facing northeast

Photo #3 of 10

Exterior - west elevation  
View facing east

Photo #4 of 10

Exterior - west and north elevations  
View facing southeast

Photo #5 of 10

Exterior - east elevations  
View facing northwest

Photo #6 of 10

Interior - vestibule window  
View facing west

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number Photos Page 2 Arcadia Free Public Library, Trempealeau County, Wisconsin

---

Photo # 7 of 10

Interior - vestibule doors - interior set open  
View facing south

Photo #8 of 10

Interior - vestibule doors - interior set closed  
View facing south

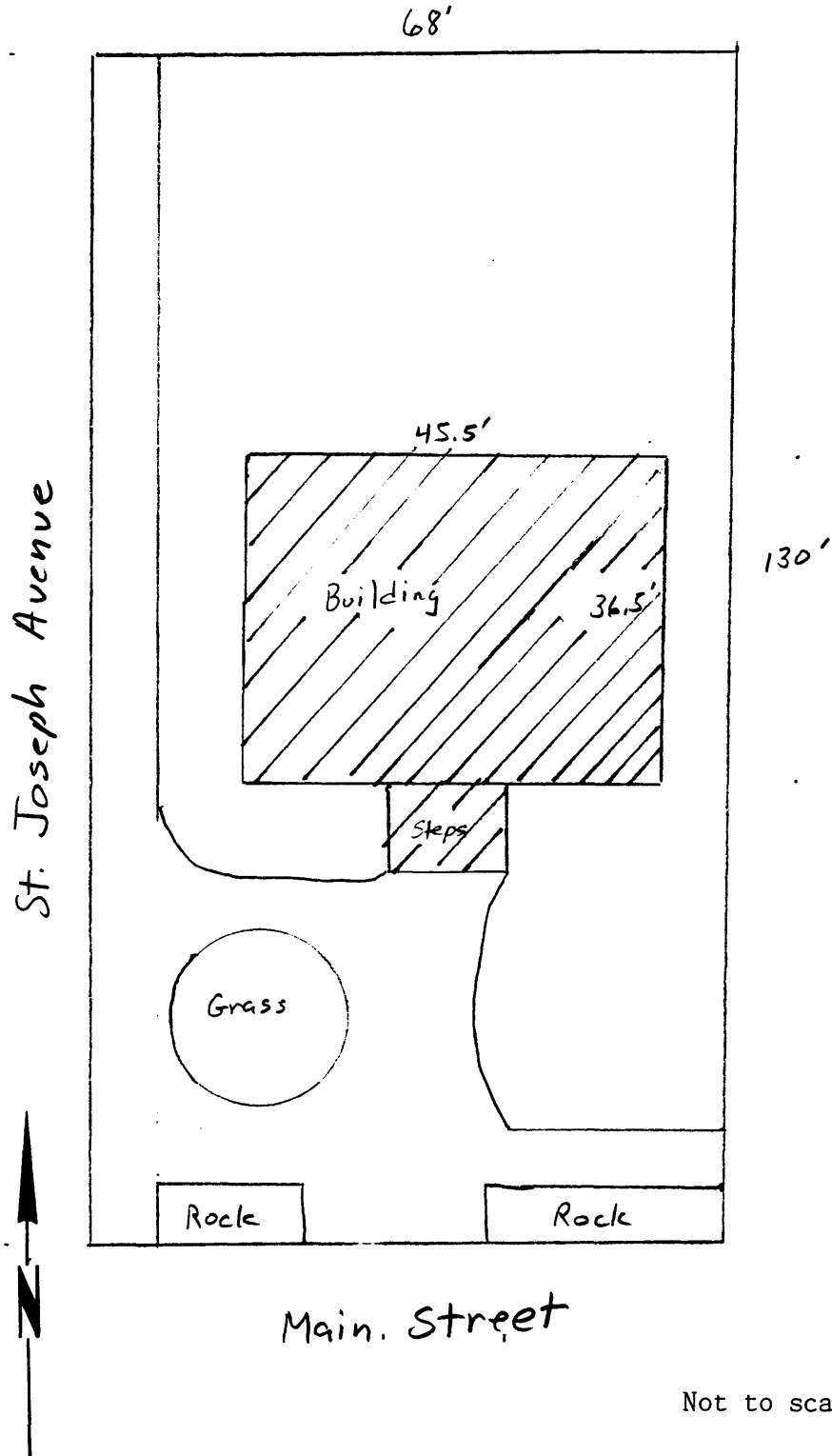
Photo #9 of 10

Interior - wall sconce light fixture  
View facing southwest


Photo #10 of 10

Interior - window, south facade, east window  
View facing south

ARCADIA FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY  
ARCADIA, TREMPLEALEAU COUNTY, WISCONSIN



Not to scale

 Contributing

1" = 20'