

1 City, Village or Town: Hudson		County: St. Croix	Surveyor: R. LaRowe	Date: 10/1/83	Locust Street
Street Address: 304 Locust Street		USGS Quad and UTM Reference: Hudson/Zone 15, easting: 519300; northing: 4980070		Acreage: less than one acre	
Current Name & Use: Hudson Public Library		Current Owner: City of Hudson			304
Film Roll No. SC 5		Current Owner's Address: 505 Third Street			
Negative No. 9		Legal Description: Lot's # 1 and 2, Block "M", Allen's Add.			
Facade Orient. N					

2	Original Name & Use: Hudson Public Library	Source A	Previous Owners	Dates	Uses	Source	TOWN RANGE SECTION
	Dates of Construction /Alteration 1903 to 1904	Source B					
	Architect and/or Builder: VanRyn and DeGelleke/Peter Kircher	Source B,D					

3 Architectural Significance

Represents work of a master

Possesses high artistic values

Represents a type, period, or method of construction

Engineering

None

4 Historical Significance

Assoc. with lives of significant persons

Assoc. with significant historical events

Assoc. with development of a locality

Other: assoc. w/ cultural dev. of locality

None

Period of significance: 1903-1934

Architectural Description and Significance:

Description: Resting atop a slight knoll and pleasantly landscaped with hedges, yews, maturing maples and flowering trees, the Hudson Public Library is a rectangular one-story with basement structure designed in the Neo-Classical style and constructed of buff colored brick. The flat roof is accentuated with a parapet, capped with Bedford limestone and a projecting limestone cornice. The first floor windows are rectangular and featured flush shaped lintels and the north, east, and west facade. Basement and south side windows have rectangular flushed

Interior visited?  Yes  No

Historical Background and Significance:

Background: From the early days of Hudson's development, a privation was felt by local citizens for literary gratification. Prior to the Civil War, Elizabeth (Mrs. Amos E.) Jefferson and Carrie Martin (Mrs. Alfred J.) Goss formed the Ladies Literary Association in an attempt to promote and supply scholarly works for the people of Hudson.

Mrs. Jefferson, being very devoted to the cause, opened her home at 1109 Third Street as a meeting place for the society.

5 Sources of Information (Reference to Above)

A "Hudson's Carnegie Free Library", Hudson Star-Times, July 3, 1903, p.1.

6 Representation in Previous Surveys

HABS  LDMK  WHHP  NRHP

other:

B "Hudson Public Library...", Hudson Star-Times, June 28, 1904, p.1

7 Condition

excellent  good  fair  poor  ruins

C Goss, Memoirs, (Hudson: By Author, 1934)

8 District:

pivotal  contributing  non-contributing

D Hudson Star-Times, August 21, 1903, p.4.

9 Opinion of National Register Eligibility

date: 10/1/83 initials: [initials]

E

eligible  not eligible  unknown

F

national  state  local

Locust Street  
 304  
 TOWN RANGE SECTION  
 MAP NAME Hudson/North Hudson Intensive Survey Map  
 MAP CODE SC 5/9

Architectural Statement (cont'd):

lintels, east and west windows are separated by brick pilasters with stone capitals, and all feature lug sills. Double entrance doors have enriched panels and beveled glass. A rectangular transom over the entrance is divided into three square lights, each with wood muntins radiating from a central point. The emphasis of the Bedford stone ornamentation, situated on a north facade, is a full pedimented portico in the Greek Doric order, supported by fluted Doric columns. The pediment's entablature frieze is accentuated by trygliphs. Round medallions with open books surrounded by wreaths of leaves flank the pediment. The use of oak, in the form of entablature shelf lintels and doorframes, a circulation desk, and delicately turned spindle railing on the staircase leading to the basement level, is a representation of local contractor John A. Lee's craftsmanship.

Significance: Erected in 1903 with finances provided by philanthropist Andrew Carnegie, the Hudson Public Library is the finest example of Neo-Classical architecture in Hudson. Designed by Milwaukee architects VanRyn and DeGelleke, the building is constructed of buff colored St. Louis brick with Bedford, Indiana limestone trim. The original integrity of the structure has been strictly maintained, enhanced by a meticulous setting.

Historical Statement (cont'd):

Founded in 1868, the Ladies Literary Association was comprised of members from the Margaret Fuller Literary Society, a sister organization established three years earlier to study literature and to discuss events of the era, including "the question of the rights of women to the franchise which was being agitated with considerable heat...". (C) Financed by annual dues, the Ladies Literary Association purchased books and subscribed to many newspapers and periodicals.

Having collected over 500 volumes, adequate storage and accessibility was needed. Over a period of 30 years, the Association relocated as their holdings increased, moving first from the Jefferson home to the Goss Bank on Second Street at Walnut, then to the Baptist church. The library transferred again to the Taylor-Goss Block on Second Street until 1897, when the space was adapted for Albert T. Presson's telephone exchange.

Three of Hudson's noteworthy citizens were appointed in 1902 by the Board of Trade to establish a public library: George D. Cline, editor of the True Republican newspaper and Postmaster, philanthropist William H. Phipps, lumber tycoon and land commissioner for the North Pacific Railroad, and James A. Andrews, a descendant of one of Hudson's distinguished pioneer families. Industrialist Andrew Carnegie's office was immediately contacted and in March, 1903, William Phipps personally met with Carnegie's financial agent. As a result, a \$10,000 contribution was received for the erection of the facility.

Established under State Law in April, 1903, the Hudson Public Library was erected of St. Louis buff brick with Bedford limestone trim from the Neo-Classical designs of VanRyn and DeGelleke of Milwaukee. George D. Cline, proclaimed "founder" of the literary facility, was elected president of a library board, a position he held until his death in 1919. With their dream fulfilled, the Ladies Literary Association disbanded, donating their collection to the Hudson Public Library.

The library has supplied the community with a cultural service for 80 years, although the facility's roots date back to the middle of the 19th century. It has provided area citizenry with belles-lettres and technical resources significant in community, as well as personal, growth and awareness.

Significance: Hudson Public Library, erected in 1903 to 1904, and one of the oldest public libraries in the state constructed with funds provided by Andrew Carnegie, signifies the cultural and literary stride of community residents evident throughout Hudson's historical development. A structure of high integrity,

Historical Significance (cont'd):

the library is the most prominent representation of the community's cultural evolution, beginning as early as 1868, when the Ladies Literary Association starting collecting volumes and subscribing to many periodicals to fill the necessity of scholarly literature. Their service continued until Hudson Public Library opened their doors July 4, 1904.