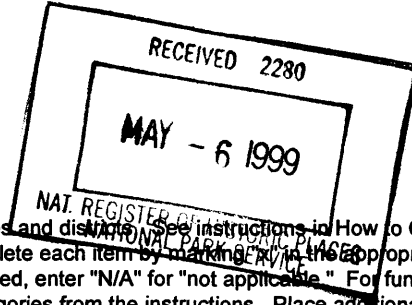


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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC 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 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 Wessington Springs Carnegie Library
other names/site number Wessington Springs Public Library

2. Location

street & number 124 North Main Avenue not for publication
city or town Wessington Springs vicinity
state South Dakota code SD county Jerauld code 073 zip code 57382

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Jay D. Vogt
Signature of certifying official

04-29-99
Date

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

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:)

Signature of the Keeper: Wilson H. Beall
Date of Action: 6/3/99

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

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0
Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Education Sub: Library

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Education Sub: Library

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and Early 20th Century American
Movement: Prairie School

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone
roof Asphalt Shingle
walls Brick

other Wood, Metal

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

See 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.

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.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Education _____
Architecture _____
Social History _____

Period of Significance

1917-1949 _____

Wessington Springs Carnegie Library
Name of Property

Jerauld, South Dakota
County and State

Significant Dates 1917
 1918

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
 N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder F.C.W. Keuhn

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

See Continuation Sheets

9. Major Bibliographical References

(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: Wessington Springs Carnegie Library

Wessington Springs Carnegie Library
Name of Property

Jerauld, South Dakota
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References

(place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>14</u>	<u>534272</u>	<u>4880531</u>	3	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	4	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
					<input type="checkbox"/>	See continuation sheet	

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.) See Continuation Sheet

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.) See Continuation Sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Arlein Fransen
organization Wessington Springs Carnegie Library Board date February 12, 1999
street & number 202 W. Main, Box 473 telephone 605-539-1620
city or town Wessington Springs State SD zip code 57382

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)

Wessington Springs Carnegie Library
Name of Property

Jerauld, South Dakota
County and State

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Wessington Springs City
street & number 107 Wallace Avenue North telephone 605-539-1691
city or town Wessington Springs State SD zip code 57382

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.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Narrative Description

The Wessington Springs Carnegie Library is located in the town of Wessington Springs. Its physical location is on the - side of West Main Avenue on Lots 16, 17, 19, and 20. The area is predominantly rural with most of the homes located outside the downtown area. The library sits prominently on West Main Avenue beside the City Park. F.C.W. Kuehn of Huron, South Dakota designed the Carnegie Library in Wessington Springs in 1918. It is constructed of brown brick in a simplistic Prairie style. This block shape building features a low horizontal design, overhanging hip roof, and geometric decorative designs.

Exterior

The facade of the library is a direct reflection of the simplistic Prairie style. The building rests on a poured concrete foundation highlighted by a brick soldier belt course. The basement level has three evenly spaced sets of two one-over-one double hung windows that form a ribbon pattern. The main floor has two large picture windows with sandstone sills and brick soldier course lintels. At the corners of the lintels are decorative sandstone blocks. The main entrance is accessed by a short flight of stairs that lead to a single glass entry door with sidelight and transom. The transom window also has a brick soldier course lintel with decorative sandstone blocks at each end. Approximately fourteen inches from the eave line is a decorative brick soldier course band. At the same height as the top of the windows and door and near each of the corners, is located a diamond shaped shield surrounded by decorative brick detailing.

The west elevation of the building continues with the decorative brick belt course at the foundation and near the eave line. There is a coal shoot door located just above the brick belt course. This elevation has three one-over-one double hung windows that form a ribbon pattern. The windows have sandstone sills and brick soldier course lintels. At the corners of the lintels are decorative sandstone blocks.

The south elevation, rear, features an extensively raised foundation with the decorative brick belt course at the foundation and near the eave line. The basement level has an entry door to the west and three one-over-one double hung windows. The main floor has one longer one-over-one window at the west corner and three one-over-one double hung windows placed directly over those at the basement level. The windows on the main floor have sandstone sills and brick soldier course lintels.

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Section number 7 Page 2

Finally, the east elevation of the building continues with the decorative brick belt course at the foundation level. It features a wood entry door at the north corner of the basement level. Also at this level are two one-over-one double hung windows, evenly spaced. The main floor has three one-over-one double hung windows with sandstone sills and brick soldier course lintels. Approximately fourteen inches from the eave line is the decorative brick soldier course band.

The Wessington Springs Carnegie Library has had only one set of alterations involving the windows. The windows on the facade were originally smaller with a larger transom. They have been replaced with larger windows and a smaller element enclosing them. Also, all of the one-over-one windows have been replaced with a similar style window.

Interior:

The basement of the library consists of the restroom, a storage closet, a furnace room that was originally the coal room and a large open area. There is a door leading from the exterior of the building into the furnace room. The basement can be reached one of two ways: from the main entrance utilizing the stairway or from the east elevation basement door.

The main floor entry contains a short flight of steps up to a door leading into the main library area. This area is approximately 27 feet by 47 feet. It features 12 foot high ceilings. The maple flooring in the main area remains intact but has been covered with carpeting. Bookshelves line the east, south and west walls. Stacks, a periodical reading area, space for computer users, and the charging area occupy the center of the room.

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Section number 8 Page 3

Narrative Statement of Significance:

The Wessington Springs Carnegie Library is eligible under Criterion A for its association with the Carnegie Library grants, as this library was the last constructed in the State of South Dakota. The Library is also eligible under Criterion C for its simplified Prairie style, a style that was only 3% of the overall styles used for Carnegie Libraries.

Historical Background

Andrew Carnegie, a man of great wealth due to his influence in the steel industry, made funds available to communities throughout the United States, to build libraries. A community desiring a library building simply wrote a letter to Carnegie, requesting money. James Bertram, Carnegie's personal secretary and chief administrator of the program, answered the letters. The community was then requested to complete a questionnaire answering questions such as: population, money collected for the building and pledges in community taxes. Grant awards were based on many factors but the actual amount awarded was based on the population of the town, resulting in \$2 per capita. Once the towns were chosen, the communities were left to find an architect and choose their own architectural style for the building. While the grants from Carnegie paid for the actual construction, the communities were left with the responsibility to purchase books and pay their staff.

In 1916, a group of Wessington Springs citizens realizing the cultural and educational impact of a library on a growing community, applied to the Carnegie Corporation for funding to construct a library building. They were awarded \$7,000.00 providing they would pledge themselves to expend at least 10% of the grant amount to provide books and ongoing services. F.C.W. Kuehn of Huron, South Dakota was contacted to develop plans for the building's design. Construction began in the summer of 1917 and officially opened on February 1, 1918.

Frank Charles William Kuehn ran an office in Huron, South Dakota. He designed numerous commercial buildings, churches and homes throughout South Dakota but he is best known for his work planning school buildings. He is known to have designed over 150 rural and town schools in South Dakota. The Wessington Springs Carnegie Library is the only library building designed by Mr. Kuehn.

Twenty-five cities in the State of South Dakota were fortunate enough to receive grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$30,000 for libraries from the Carnegie Corporation. The first two grants in the State of

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South Dakota were issued in 1901 for Carnegie Libraries in Sioux Falls and Aberdeen. The last grant issued was in 1917 to the town of Wessington Springs. After termination of the library grant program in 1917, the Corporation continued for about forty years with an interest in the improvement of library services. Other major programs in the Carnegie Corporation's early history included, adult education and education in the fine arts.

The most common style for Carnegie Libraries was Beaux Arts, 79% of all constructed. Typically, libraries that received Carnegie grant money, utilized styles that were dominating on the landscape of the city. The buildings were meant to be majestic in form and style. The library at Wessington Springs is unique, for it was designed in the Prairie style, a style that was merely 3% of the total style used. The library in Wessington Springs exhibits common Prairie style traits: a low and horizontal design emphasis; overhanging hip roof; walls of brick; ribbon windows; and geometric design elements. Most Prairie style libraries are located in the mid-west but isolated examples can be found as far a field as Washington but those are designed by mid-west firms.

Of the 25 Carnegie Libraries constructed in South Dakota three have been razed (25%), 14 no longer function as a library (56%) and 8 are still libraries (32%). The library at Wessington Springs is significant because it is one of eight libraries in the State of South Dakota that is still used as a library.

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Bibliography

Center for Western Studies. *Prairie Architect, FCW Kuehn, His Life and Work*. 1984.

Dunham, Fred N. *Jerauld County History*. 1963.

Jones, Theodore. *Carnegie Libraries Across America*. New York: John Wiley and Sons. 1997.

Marken, Jack, ed. *The Making of a Community: A History of Jerauld County to 1980*. Dunham Historical Society, 1982.

Richards, Susan L. South Dakota Historical Society Quarterly. "*The Building of Carnegie Libraries in South Dakota*." Vol. 20, No. 1, Spring 1990.

Wessington Springs Republican. Feb 7, 1918.

Wessington Springs Carnegie Library
Name of Property

Jerauld County, South Dakota
County and State

NPS FORM 10-900-A
(8-86)

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

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Continuation Sheet

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Verbal Boundary Description

Lots 16, 17, 19, and 20, Block 14, Original Town.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the building and the surrounding grounds.