

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

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1. Name of Property

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historic name: Yreka Carnegie Library _____

other name/site number: Yreka Police Department _____

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2. Location

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street & number: 412 W. Miner Street _____

not for publication: NA

city/town: Yreka _____

vicinity: NA

state: CA county: Siskiyou _____ code: 093 zip code: 96097

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3. Classification

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Ownership of Property: Public/Local _____

Category of Property: Building _____

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
__1__	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
__1__	__0__	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: __0__

Name of related multiple property listing: California Carnegie Libraries

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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. See continuation sheet.

Stade R. Craig Signature of certifying official February 13, 1992 Date

California Office of Historic Preservation

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): _____

entered in the National Register

Alcous J. [Signature] 3/26/92

[Signature] Signature of Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic: Education _____ Sub: Library _____

Current : Government _____ Sub: Correctional Facility _____

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7. Description
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Architectural Classification:

Classical Revival____

Other Description: _____

Materials: foundation concrete__ roof asphalt____
 walls concrete__ other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheet.

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8. Statement of Significance
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Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: locally_____.

Applicable National Register Criteria: A & C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : NA

Areas of Significance: Social History_____
 Architecture_____

Period(s) of Significance: 1915-1942 _____

Significant Dates : NA

Significant Person(s): NA_____

Cultural Affiliation: NA

Architect/Builder: Weeks, William, architect_____
 Peterson & Wilson, builder_____
 Noel, C.L., builder_____

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above. X See continuation sheet.

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9. Major Bibliographical References
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X 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:

- x State historic preservation office
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository: _____

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10. Geographical Data
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Acreage of Property: Less than one acre

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

Table with 4 columns: A, 10, 530100, 4619940, B, C, D. Row 1: A 10 530100 4619940 B. Row 2: C D.

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: Assessor's Parcel #53-352-100, County of Siskiyou

Boundary Justification: This is the lot historically associated with the property.

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11. Form Prepared By
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Name/Title: Mary Lou Smith _____

Organization: City of Yreka _____ Date: June 30, 1991 _____

Street & Number: 701 Fourth Street _____ Telephone: (916) 842-4386 _____

City or Town: Yreka _____ State: CA ZIP: 96097 _____

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The Yreka Carnegie Library is an example of Classical Revival styling with the central element recessed and not breaking the roofline. Constructed of concrete, it is a small building, one story over a basement airspace. Above a projecting cornice a low parapet surrounds the building and rises slightly above the central element, providing space to frame the word "Library." The entrance is recessed under a simple half-round arch with keystone design and the arch is in turn recessed with a rectangular frame. The door itself is wood framed glass under a half-round transom, many-paned with diagonals. A solid panel between door and transom identifies in small letters the current occupant of the building, "Police Dept." Low, wide steps lead to the door, and within, a few additional steps lead to the main rooms. On each side of the entrance is a small wrought iron lamp fixture and a wide window, with wider central section and narrower side panels divided once horizontally. Above all is a transom with clathri design. A simple sill is shaped slightly at each end. Two small rectangular recessed basement windows are centered below each large window. A 1979 addition to the rear is not visible from the front and the integrity of the building appears to have been maintained.

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The Yreka Carnegie Library meets the National Register registration requirements set forth in the Multiple Property nomination "California Carnegie Libraries".

The Yreka Carnegie is the most northerly in California, beyond Eureka and Ferndale on the coast, and Alturas in the northeastern corner of the state, all still standing. Few municipalities existed between these and the next tier further south: Redding, no longer standing; Willits, Ukiah, and Lakeport to the west; Nevada City and Grass Valley in the Sierra foothills, and the many Carnegies which still dot the Sacramento Valley from Corning south.

Yreka's interest in libraries dates from 1855 according to a San Francisco newspaper report on agitation for a joint stock library. Probably no formal steps were taken. In 1857 a "ladies library" was formed which differed from Sierra gold country "saloon substitute" libraries in that it was intended to fill the void left for the women and children of the community in the absence of the miners. This may have been the nucleus of the 1910 Yreka Improvement Club library, initial project of the newly organized group, which became the Yreka Public Library after the passage of Ordinance No. 68 in June, 1910. The city requested Carnegie funding, and purchased a lot for \$1000, with the aid of the Improvement Club. Promise of \$8000 was given in March, 1913. W.H. Weeks designed the building, modified after the first bids were all too high. Peterson & Wilson of San Francisco won the contract, only to suffer financial reverses, and C.L. Noel completed the building. With the contribution of \$400 from the Improvement Club for furnishings, the building opened to the public on October 20, 1915. After 1970, consolidation of city and county libraries at a new location, the police department moved into the Carnegie building. In 1980, with the requirement for more space, an addition was added to the rear of the building.

Although the Carnegie Library was Yreka's only library until 1970, the period of significance has been ended at 1942, fifty years ago, because of the absence of exceptional significance.

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References used:

Bobinski, Goerge S., Carnegie Libraries: Their History and Impact on American Public Library Development. Chicago: American Library Association, 1969.

Held, Ray, Public Libraries in California, 1849-1878. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1963.

Kortum, Lucy, "California Carnegie Libraries" Multiple Property National Register nomination, 1990.

Lewis, Betty, collection: "Carnegie Library," Siskiyou County Public Library, 719 Fourth Street, Yreka 96097, 1985, 4 pages.

Mussmann, Victoria Kline, "Women and the Founding of Social Libraries in California, 1859-1910." Ph.D. dissertation, University of Southern California, 1982.