


1 City, Village or Town: Kaukauna		County: Outagamie	Surveyor: M. Betz	Date: 4/29/83	Main Avenue
Street Address: 111 Main Avenue		USGS Quad and UTM Reference: See Continuation Sheet		Acreage: Less than one acre	
Current Name & Use: Free Public Library of Kaukauna			Current Owner: Craig Lahm, Librarian City of Kaukauna		111
Film Roll No. 17			Current Owner's Address: 201 W. Second Street		
Negative No. 31			Legal Description: NE 100' of SW 229' of Lots 1 and 2, Block 1, Ledyard Plat		
Facade Orient. E					

2 Original Name & Use: Free Public Library of Kaukauna	Source A	Previous Owners	Dates	Uses	Source
Dates of Construction/Alteration 1905/Additions 1976	Source A,C				
Architect and/or Builder: Claude and Starck	Source A				

3 Architectural Significance <input type="radio"/> Represents work of a master <input type="radio"/> Possesses high artistic values <input type="radio"/> Represents a type, period, or method of construction <input type="radio"/> Engineering <input checked="" type="radio"/> None	4 Historical Significance <input type="radio"/> Assoc. with lives of significant persons <input type="radio"/> Assoc. with significant historical events <input checked="" type="radio"/> Assoc. with development of a locality <input type="radio"/> Other: <input type="radio"/> None Period of significance: 1905-1933	City Engineer
Architectural Description and Significance: See Continuation Sheet	Historical Background and Significance: See Continuation Sheet	
Interior visited? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No		

5 Sources of Information (Reference to Above) A Kaukauna Times, 1903, 1904, 1905, 1976	6 Representation in Previous Surveys <input type="radio"/> HABS <input type="radio"/> LDMK <input checked="" type="radio"/> WIHP <input type="radio"/> NRHP <input type="radio"/> other:	17/31
B Lion of the Fox Valley, 1891, p. 223	7 Condition <input checked="" type="radio"/> excellent <input type="radio"/> good <input type="radio"/> fair <input type="radio"/> poor <input type="radio"/> ruins	
C Cornerstone	8 District: <input type="radio"/> pivotal <input type="radio"/> contributing <input type="radio"/> non-contributing	
D	9 Opinion of National Register Eligibility date: 4/29/83 initials: MB <input checked="" type="radio"/> eligible <input type="radio"/> not eligible <input type="radio"/> unknown <input type="radio"/> national <input type="radio"/> state <input checked="" type="radio"/> local	
E		
F		

Architectural Statement:

Description: The small rectangular Kaukauna Public Library is characterized by its symmetrical composition with central portico, gable roof, and raised foundation. Built in 1905 by the Madison firm, Claude and Starck, the Library reflects the Prairie School influences of the turn of the century with its wide overhanging eaves, decorative half-timbering on stucco and casement windows grouped into horizontal bands. String courses are located beneath the casement windows. Its human-like scale and decorative features such as its curvilinear bargeboards on the central portico pediment, scroll brackets beneath the eaves and bay windows also hark back to Gustav Stickney's "Craftsman" movement which encouraged the return of the skilled craftsman as a reaction against the Industrial Revolution. It reflects, in part, an adaptation of English Gothic motifs, and is similar to Claude and Stark's design for the public library in Richland Center, WI. Alterations made to the central portico including the removal of the original door and the decorative half-timbering, as well as the large west side addition (6,300 feet) constructed in November of 1976,^(A) contribute to disqualify the Kaukauna Public Library for a nomination to the National Register as an architectural landmark. However, the building does retain enough integrity to convey its historical associations.

Historical Statement:

Associated with the development of a locality: The Kaukauna Public Library built in 1905^(A) and located centrally on the largest island between north and south Kaukauna, signalled the cultural coming of age of Kaukauna as a community and set a pattern for centralizing municipal facilities which was continued with the municipal building-1921-22, the high school-1923, and the post office-1935.

Concerned citizens donated books for a public reading room in 1899, but as the local Women's group pointed out, the available municipal space above the jail on the grounds of the present high school was not conducive to quiet reading with local drunkards noisily sobering up in the cells below. They found a sympathetic ear in the nationally known philanthropist Andrew Carnegie and a former Kaukauna Mayor, Dr. Herbert Tanner, who became the first president of the Kaukauna Library Board. Tanner successfully negotiated an arrangement with Carnegie, whereby the latter would donate \$1,000 for every \$100 raised by the City. The library building cost \$7,164. The Kaukauna Library Board began with very influential people in the community as members, including two former Mayors besides Dr. Tanner: Peter Reuter and J.H. Mulholland;^(B) and Kaukauna industrial giants Oscar Thilmany and Norman Brokaw.

As part of the arrangement with Carnegie, the City was to furnish a site for the library. The local newspaper, The Kaukauna Times, chronicled the development of library site selection and management as follows:

May 15, 1903--Mrs. Harriet Meade's proposal to donate a site on the north riverbank facing Wisconsin Avenue was considered with some consternation by the special committee to select a library site. The committee had been favoring a site on the south side. No decision.

June 12, 1903--When the City Council accepted the offer of Mrs. Meade of a north side site, Mayor Mulholland returned the council minutes without approval saying that he thought their decision was made too quickly and that the public should have a chance to express their feelings.

Free Public Library of Kaukauna (111 Main Avenue)
Intensive Survey Form - Continuation Sheet (2)

June 19, 1903--After considerable discussion, the Library Board was given authority to make the decisions that dealt with the library. The City Council was taken out of the matter.

October 28, 1904--Dr. H.B. Tanner, president of the Library Board, announced that Andrew Carnegie had accepted a central island location for the library which was offered by the Green Bay & Mississippi Canal Company. Mr. Carnegie would present up to \$10,000 in installments of \$2,000 and \$3,000 as work progressed.

What a wealth of effort and persuasion are outlined in those newspaper reports!

The Kaukauna Free Public Library has continued to be a focus for community pride and enthusiasm. As other Carnegie libraries around the country are destroyed, Kaukauna has updated its library building with a 1976 addition of 6,300 square feet. The addition has almost doubled the size of the original facility, but was designed to save the Carnegie facade while modernizing the library.^(A) The look and location of the library continue to bring satisfaction to Kaukauna residents, for "the library is now much more than just a book check-out facility, but instead a place to spend a leisurely afternoon in quiet, peaceful surroundings".^(B)

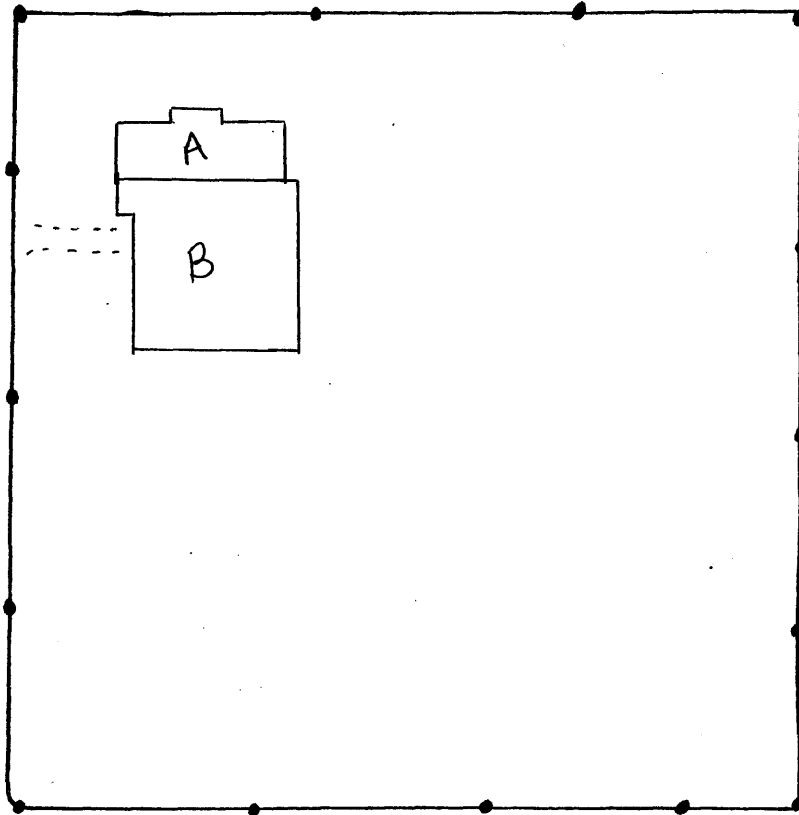
USGS Quad and UTM Reference:

UTM: Zone 16
Easting: 398620
Northing: 4903500
USGS Kaukauna Quadrangle
1:24,000

KAUKAUNA PUBLIC LIBRARY

111 Main Ave. - Kaukauna

Main Ave.



A. Orig. Building

B. Addition (Newer)

—•— = boundaries of nominated property