

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 90001765

Date Listed: 12/4/90

York Public Library
Property Name

York
County

NE
State

Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Beth Boland
Signature of the Keeper

12/4/90
Date of Action

=====

Amended Items in Nomination:

Item #7: Materials:

The foundation material is limestone.

DISTRIBUTION:
National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

1765

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

10 3 1990

NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name York Public Library
other names/site number NEHBS # YK11-10

2. Location

street & number 306 East Seventh Street n/a not for publication
city, town York n/a vicinity
state Nebraska code NE county York code 185 zip code 68467

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

| Contributing | Noncontributing |
|-------------------|------------------------------|
| <u>1</u> | <u> </u> buildings |
| <u> </u> | <u> </u> sites |
| <u> </u> | <u> </u> structures |
| <u> </u> | <u> </u> objects |
| <u>1</u> | <u> </u> Total |

Name of related multiple property listing: na

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet.

James A. Hansen
Signature of certifying official

October 14, 1990
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

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.

Beth Boland

12/4/90

- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Education: library

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Commerce/Trade: business

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Romanesque

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation sandstone

walls brick

roof asphalt

other stone

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The York Public Library is located next to the City Auditorium in the Original Town district of York, the county seat of York County. The library, completed in 1902, is a raised platform building with one story over a raised basement. The exterior red brick and sandstone foundation is original and in excellent condition. Architect Morrison H. Vail incorporated Romanesque Revival details in the building's design.

The building is a 'T' shaped plan with the main cross of the 'T' running east-west on the north end of the structure. The north facade is dominated by a gabled dormer flanked by two semi-circular turrets, all symmetrical about the face of the building. This central feature serves as the main entrance to the structure. A secondary entrance occurs on the west at the juncture of the north/south, east/west axis. An earlier remodeling (approximately the early 70's) added access enclosures to both entrances and included the removal of masonry entrance stairs at the main entrance (north side) of the building. A recent rehabilitation (approximately 1989) has removed the north enclosure and included the reconstruction of the masonry and concrete stairs. The building's Romanesque features include cross gable with round topped arched entry and clerestory windows within the gable, conical roofs over the flanking turrets, rough faced brick with smooth stone lintels and sills, rough faced ashlar limestone foundation and stone beltcourse.

The interior underwent several changes due to the rehabilitations cited earlier, however, neither of these periods of remodeling resulted in a irreversible change to the building envelope.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)
Architecture

Period of Significance
1901-1902

Significant Dates
1901-1902

Cultural Affiliation
na

Significant Person
na

Architect/Builder
Vail, Morrison H.

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Locally significant under Criterion "C" (architecture) the York Public Library is a fine example of educational architecture in York. Designed by Architect Morrison H. Vail, the building incorporates elements of the Romanesque Revival style of architecture. The York Public Library represents one of a small number of libraries built in the state prior to, and without Andrew Carnegie funding. Mrs. Lydia Woods, a local citizen, donated monies to build the public library, the first permanent home for the library since its early beginnings in the 1880s. The period of significance is derived from the original construction date (1901-02) of the building.

In 1885 several York ladies attempted to arouse community interest in creating a library. Donations totaling \$100 were gathered by canvassing townspeople and used to purchase books. Dr. Hatfield offered the use of a bookcase in his office because there was not any money available to rent a room. Various rooms were donated to be used as the library until 1894. In February, 1894, the City Council officially opened the "York Free Library" in the city office building.

Approximately 1,200 books were donated to the library from a local society, the YMCA and the city schools. In January, 1901, Mrs. Lydia A.B. Woods bequeathed \$10,000 for library purposes. Mrs. Woods stipulated that \$8,000 be spent for the site and the building; \$2,000 for books. This money enabled the City of York to buy the property and construct their first permanent library.

9. Major Bibliographical References

McAlester, Virginia and Lee, A Field Guide to American Houses, 1984, Alfred A. Knopf, New York, pp. 301-305.

Panek, R.T., American Architectural Styles 1600-1940, 1976, Architectural Styles: Dover, MA, pp. 15-1, 2.

Sedgwick, T.E., York County Nebraska and Its People, 1921, S.J. Clarke Publishing Company, Chicago, Illinois, pp. 417-421.

Whiffen, Marcus, American Architecture Since 1780: A Guide to the Styles, 1969, The MIT Press, Cambridge, MA, pp. 61-67.

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:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property less than one acre

UTM References

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The property is described as: The north forty-five feet of Lot Nine (9), all of Lot Ten (10) in Block fifty-two (52) of the original town of York in York, County, Nebraska.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes that parcel of land that has historically been associated with the property.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Suzanne Kohmetscher
 organization Hanna:Keelan Associates, P.C. date July 3, 1990
 street & number P.O. Box 30552 telephone (402) 464-5383
 city or town Lincoln state Nebraska zip code 68503

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 2

The plans for the library submitted by Morrison H. Vail of Dixon & Chicago were accepted because Mr. Vail had visited 370 libraries before designing his first library so "The Board felt it could not err in adopting the plans of such an expert" (Sedgwick, 1921, p. 421). Architect Vail incorporated Romanesque Revival details in the library's design.

The semi-circular arch used in the window and door openings typifies the Romanesque Revival style. Ornamentation in the library building is confined primarily to the front entryway, which features a prominent round arched opening with flanking turrets and a steep-sided triangular gable pierced by twin recessed windows.

The York Public Library was opened to the public November 4, 1902. The library has served as a meeting place for various organizational meetings and committees. In 1920, the library was also improved with the addition of new shrubs, grass, sidewalks and steps. The library had grown to include 10,412 books by June 1, 1920.

In Nebraska the establishment and operation of libraries, for the most part, was made possible by the efforts of local women's clubs. The York Public Library represents this era in Nebraska's history when women played an important role in the establishment of public libraries. Privately-funded public libraries number far less than those libraries that were constructed as a result of grant monies from Andrew Carnegie. While many of these "Carnegie" libraries have been recognized due to their important role in Nebraska history, it is equally important to identify and preserve those libraries such as York that were erected solely as a result of privately-secured funds.

The York Public Library is truly a symbol of community spirit and cooperation. Threatened with demolition by the city in 1986, the building was saved through local preservation efforts, spear-headed by a woman. It has since been rehabilitated for commercial use.