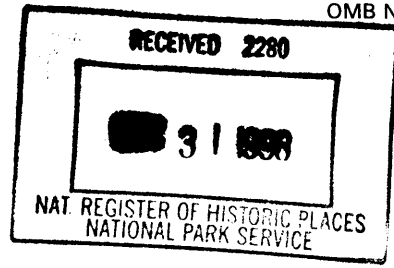


JUN 5 1998

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 "x" 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 Council Bluffs Free Public Library
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 200 Pearl Street N/A not for publication ___
city or town Council Bluffs N/A vicinity ___
state Iowa code IA county Pottawattamie code 155 zip code 51503

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.)

Patricia Quinn DSHPO 12-21-98
Signature of certifying official 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

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. 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): _____

Signature of Keeper Edson A Beall Date of Action 1-27-99

Council Bluffs Free Public Library
Name of Property

Pottawattamie County, Iowa
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property

private
 public-local
 public-State
 public-Federal

building(s)
 district
 site
 structure
 object

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

Name of related multiple property listing(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

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 20th CENTURY REVIVALS/
Beaux Arts Classicism

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE/Limestone
roof ASPHALT
walls BRICK
other _____

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

Areas of Significance
Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE
EDUCATION

Council Bluffs Free Public Library

Pottawattamie County, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State

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.

Period of Significance

1905 - 1948

D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Significant Dates

1905

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.)

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

B removed from its original location.

C a birthplace or a grave.

Architect/Builder

Patton & Miller

D a cemetery.

Woodward, J. C. & W.

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.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more 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)

Primary Location of Additional Data

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 # _____

State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other

Name of repository:

Council Bluffs Free Public Library
Name of Property

Pottawattamie County, Iowa
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing
1 15 261140 4571110
2 _____

Zone Easting Northing
3 _____
4 _____
____ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Donald D. Gross, Director of Community Development

organization City of Council Bluffs, Iowa date June, 1998

street & number 209 Pearl Street telephone (712) 328-4629

city or town Council Bluffs state Iowa zip code 51503

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)

Color slides of the property.

Property Owner

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

name City of Council Bluffs
street & number 209 Pearl Street telephone (712) 328-4601
Mayor's Office
city or town Council Bluffs state Iowa zip code 51503

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.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7, 8 Page 1

Council Bluffs Free Public Library, Pottawattamie County, Iowa

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The Council Bluffs Free Public Library is a 2-story (plus basement) Beaux Arts Classical, Carnegie Foundation funded public library. Built in 1904-05, the library is located on the fringe of Council Bluffs' Downtown Business District. Other public and/or civic buildings near the site include the Pottawattamie County Courthouse, the historic Pottawattamie County Jail, Council Bluffs City Hall, and Bayliss Municipal Park.

Library planners in the early 1900's believed that libraries should be centrally located, free from noise and well lit with a home-like character that would make its patrons feel comfortable. Space for expansion was also important. Although many libraries built at this time are located on main commercial streets, a location on the edge of the down town district, bordering a residential district, is more common. This is precisely how the Council Bluffs Free Public Library is sited.

Patton and Miller of Chicago designers of the library, were among several architectural firms who earned reputations as experts in library design and worked closely with the Professional Librarians' Organization and the State Library Commission. Patton and Miller designed 20 libraries in Iowa between 1900 and 1915.

The library is situated on the northeast corner of the block, surrounded by a grassed area. The building was constructed of variegated rust brick with iron spots. The bricks are unusually elongated. The vermiculated stone base reflects that the foundation continues one-half story above grade to allow natural light to enter the basement level through larger than usual windows. Brick pilasters with stone Ionic capitals continue the order around the front and sides. The main entrance is flanked by two pair of fluted Ionic columns, with an additional column of the same design at each end of the pavilion. The traditional Ionic design incorporates "stopped" flutes approximately four feet from the bottom. This entrance pediment features a cartouche. Three stone Roman arches between the columns provide the focus for the pavilion. The structure has been well maintained and in continuous use as a library since it was built. In 1953, the side entrance on the north was closed and the stoop was removed. In conjunction with closing the north entrance, the interior was remodeled with new flooring and doors. In 1984, the windows were weatherized and stained glass panes were removed and placed in storage.

Architect/Builder continued
Winchester and Cullin

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Council Bluffs Free Public Library is significant because of both its architecture (Criterion C) and its contribution to the civic and educational development of the City of Council Bluffs. (Criterion A). The library is significant architecturally, because it remains as the largest Carnegie funded library in Iowa. It is a well preserved example of the Type III, sexpartite plan. The library has been in continuous use since it was completed in 1905. The structure is a focal point among the civic and commercial buildings adjacent to it. The north side faces Bayliss Park which is used for community events and celebrations. The main entrance pavilion is across the street from City Hall. The consensus of the community is to preserve the building as a link to a proud heritage and recognition of the role the library has played and will continue to play as a community resource. The period of significance begins with construction of the library in 1905 and ends in 1948 with the arbitrary cutoff date for National Register eligibility. A new library will open in August, 1998. A final determination of reuse for the existing library building has not been made, but the community is committed to preserving the Council Bluffs Free Public Library as the cornerstone to the City's past.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 2

Council Bluffs Free Public Library, Pottawattamie County, Iowa

Architectural significance

The Council Bluffs library features a sexpartite plan. Such libraries have two zones of three parts each: a front zone composed of a central delivery room (and entrance vestibule), flanked on either side by a reading room; and a rear zone composed of central bookstack, flanked on one side by the librarian's office and on the other by a reference room. The front zone is deeper from front to rear than the rear zone and may also be somewhat wider, creating an overall shape that departs somewhat from the pure rectangle. The delivery room has a domed, central rotunda. In spite of their compartmentalization, the interiors often retain the effect of spaciousness. The openings connecting the delivery room to the reading rooms and the bookstack, often either arched or set with columns in-antis, are usually high and wide. The bookstack is generally wider than the delivery room and may be entered directly from the reading rooms. Particularly in the larger libraries, it often projects substantially from the rear of the building.

As with libraries having a sexpartite plan, the roof over the rear zone forms an appendage to the main roof. Also, in keeping with this plan Council Bluffs' library has a large pavilion at its main entrance on the east side of the building. The north (side) entrance to the building was closed and the stoop removed in 1953.

Another noticeable characteristic of the library is its fenestration. The building has a relatively large amount of wall area on the front facade devoted to window openings. Natural light was highly valued by the librarians of the period. Because the side windows were generally kept small and high, in order that bookshelves underneath could be uninterrupted, the front windows became the principal source of light for the interior.

The Council Bluffs Free Public Library is the largest example of this type in the state. It departs from the standard type in that the component spaces are less well defined in the plan. The delivery room is relatively large and has pushed the radiating bookstack to the extreme rear, where it projects substantially. The delivery room, domed and skylighted, opens to the surrounding reading rooms through broad, low arches, creating an effect of great spaciousness. The exterior is executed in the elegant Beaux-Arts classical style which the architects (Patton and Miller) used for their larger Iowa libraries (e.g. Mason City, Clinton, and Marshalltown). Instead of the projecting portico at the center of the front, found in small and medium sized libraries, Council Bluffs' Library features three arches set within a column screen in-antis, a motif often encountered in post offices of the period. Brick pilasters continue the order around the front and sides. Both of these features are a function of the size of the building.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8, 9 Page 3

Council Bluffs Free Public Library, Pottawattamie County, Iowa

Historical Significance

The library is eligible under criterion A for its association with the significant local effort to establish a new and enlarged facility for its growing city with the help of Andrew Carnegie's library philanthropy.

By 1902, the existing public library had outgrown its quarters and a movement was underway to obtain more space. One of the library trustees, W. S. Baird, had learned of Andrew Carnegie's interest in giving funds for public libraries and began writing letters to Carnegie about their needs. A 1931 issue of *Greater Council Bluffs* magazine explained what happened next:

He received the answer that Mr. Carnegie was willing to give \$50,000 provided the city would guarantee to raise an annual tax of \$5,000 and furnish a site for the building. After continued correspondence, Mr. Carnegie was induced to raise his offer to \$70,000, and the city agreed to raise a yearly sum of \$7,000 and furnish a suitable site. The proposition was accepted and the money was furnished as agreed. Then the question of a site became the point for speculation and argument. The trustees finally settled on the site occupied by the Pusey property on Willow Avenue, and the Pinney property on Pearl Street. The property had a frontage on Willow Avenue of 125 feet and 201 feet on Pearl Street, the price paid for it was \$14,201.

With the award of the Carnegie funds in 1903, Council Bluffs Free Public Library became one of 22 public libraries in Iowa receiving such construction grants from Carnegie for that year. The 1903 library philanthropy of Andrew Carnegie proved to be the highest point of his giving nationally and in Iowa. Of the 100 libraries built with the aid of Carnegie funds between 1898 and 1919, nearly one-fourth of the Carnegie total for the state had gone to towns and cities in 1903..

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Council Bluffs Free Public Library, *Annual Reports of the Board of Library Trustees*. 22nd (1903). 23rd and 24th (1904-05).

Council Bluffs Nonpareil. July 26, 1936. July 13, 1953.

"The Original Development of the Council Bluffs Free Public Library". Greater Council Bluffs (July 1931), pp. 5-6.

Field, Homer H., and J.R. Reed. *History of Pottawattamie County, Iowa*. Vol. 1. Chicago: S.J. Clarke Pub. Co., 1907. pp. 168-172.

Klingensmith, Samuel J. and Martha H. Bowers, "Public Libraries in Iowa", TR (1980).

Prints of architects' drawings in possession of the City of Council Bluffs.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 10 Page 4

Council Bluffs Free Public Library, Pottawattamie County, Iowa

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 1 and 2, and the east 1/2 of Lot 3, Block 14, Bayliss First Addition to the City of Council Bluffs, Iowa.



BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary consists of the legal description of the entire property, including the building and lawn area, historically associated with the library.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

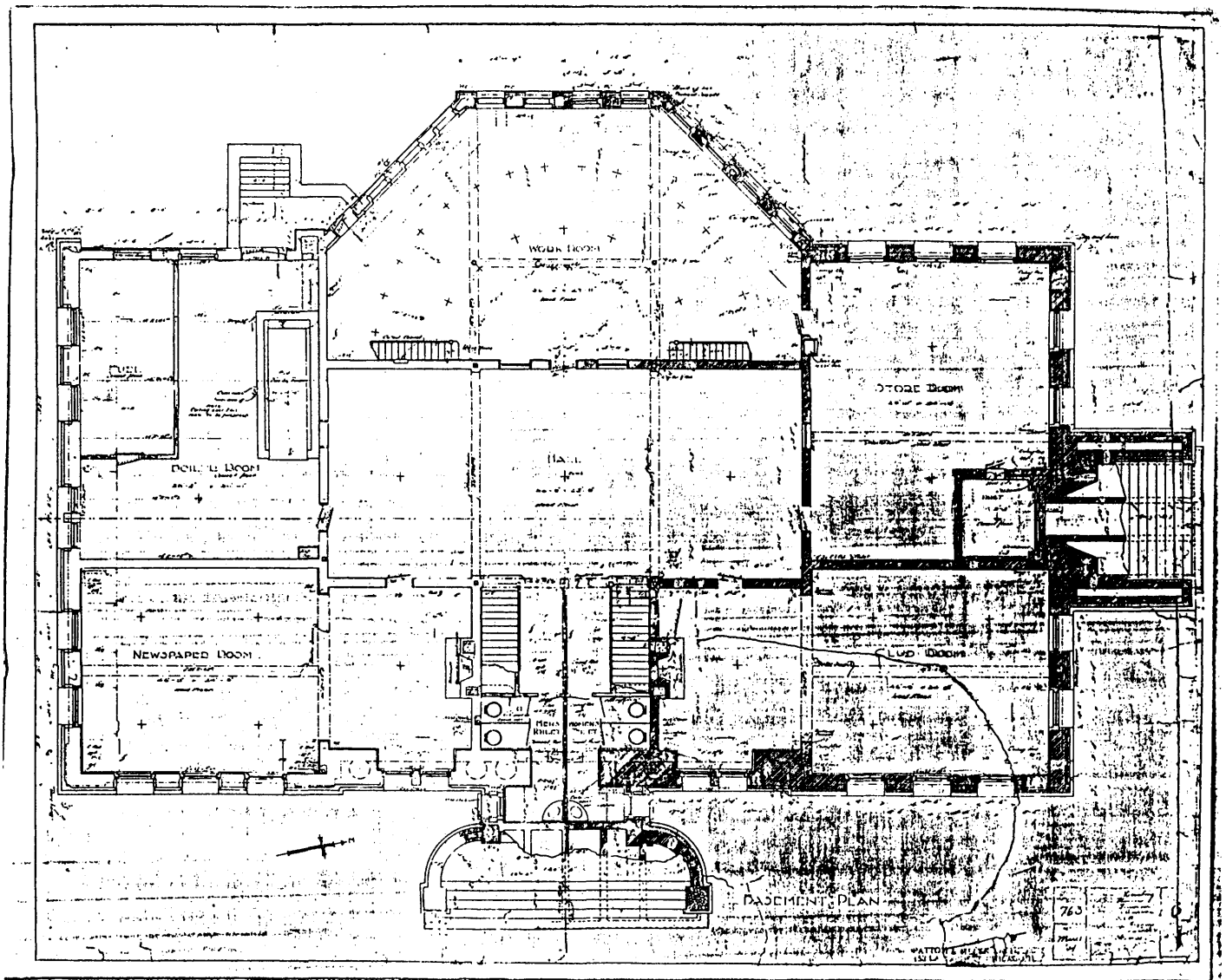
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Add'l Page 5

Council Bluffs Free Public Library, Pottawattamie County, Iowa

Council Bluffs Free Public Library

Basement Plan



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

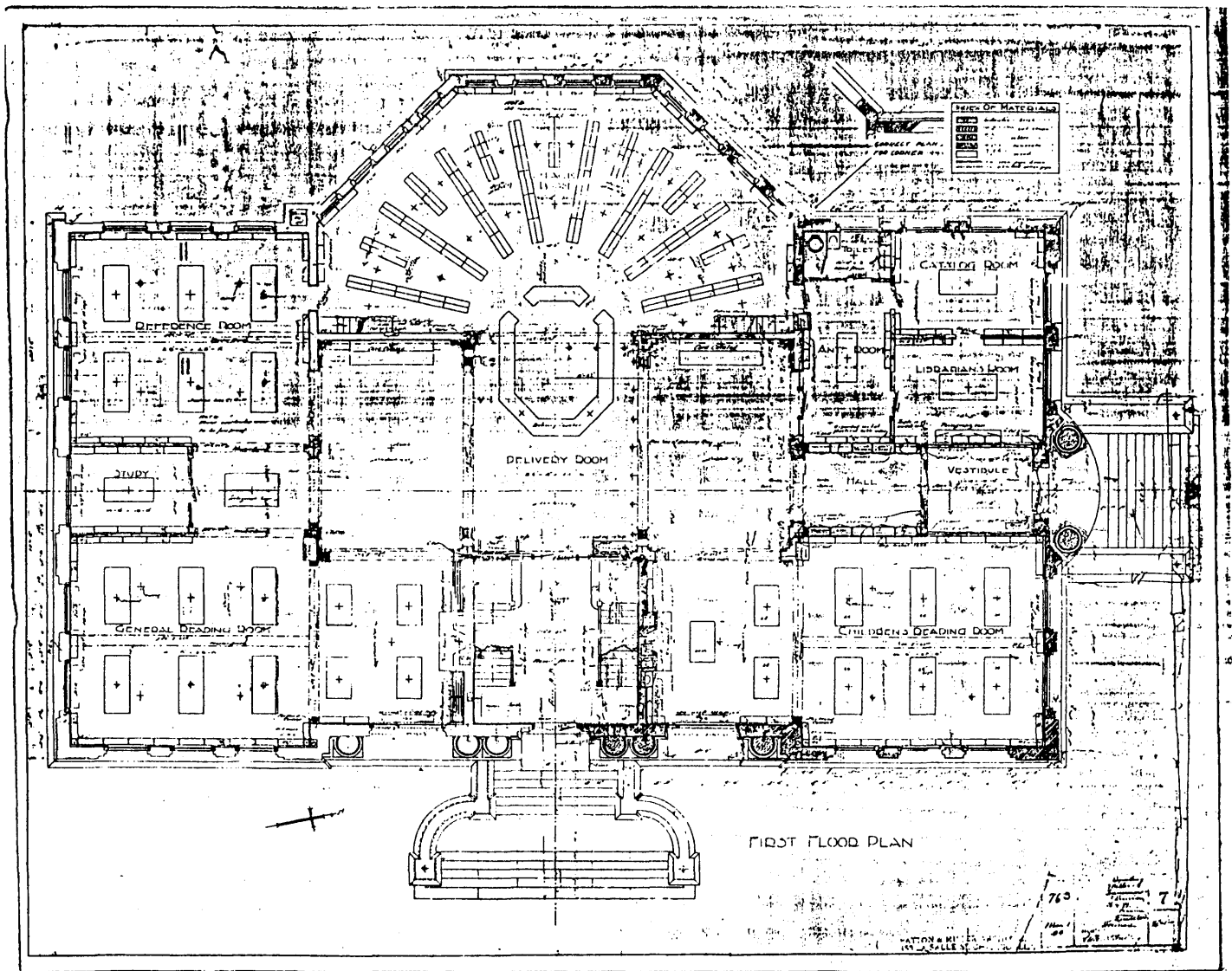
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Section Add'l Page 6

Council Bluffs Free Public Library, Pottawattamie County, Iowa

Council Bluffs Free Public Library

First Floor Plan



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

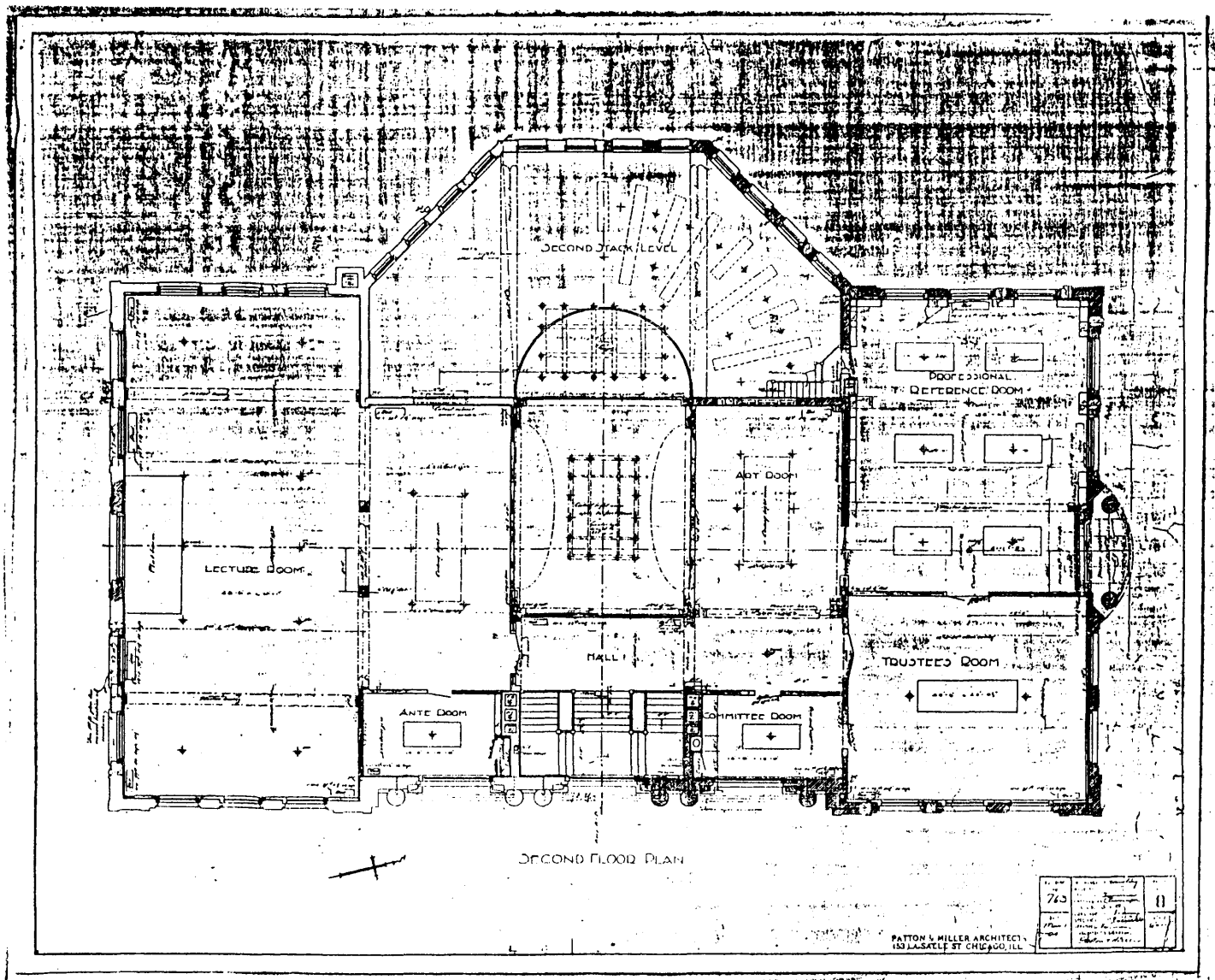
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Section Add'l Page 7

Council Bluffs Free Public Library, Pottawattamie County, Iowa

Council Bluffs Free Public Library

Second Floor Plan



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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section Add'l Page 8

Council Bluffs Free Public Library, Pottawattamie County, Iowa

Photographs

Council Bluffs Free Public Library, Pottawattamie County, Iowa

Three sets of seven photographs each were taken by Gayle Malmquist on May 26, 1998. The negatives are retained by the Community Development Department of the City of Council Bluffs, Iowa. Following each picture number below is the view indicating the direction of the camera.

1. Main entrance, facing west.
2. East and south side, facing northwest.
3. South side including east facade, facing northwest.
4. Northwest side, facing southeast.
5. North side, including west side, facing southeast.
6. North entrance, facing south.
7. North and east facades, facing southwest.