

239

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

FEB 28 1989

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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 Carnegie Library of Covington
other names/site number Covington Public Library, 045-137-32094

2. Location

street & number 622 South Fifth Street
city, town Covington
state IN code IN county Fountain code 045 zip code 47923

3. Classification

Table with 3 columns: Ownership of Property, Category of Property, and Number of Resources within Property. Includes checkboxes for private/public and building/district/site/structure/object.

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

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.
Signature of certifying official: Indiana Department of Natural Resources
Date: 2-13-87

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of commenting or other official
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:
entered in the National Register.
determined eligible for the National Register.
determined not eligible for the National Register.
removed from the National Register.
other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper: [Signature]
Date of Action: 4/3/89

## 6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION: library

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION: library

## 7. Description

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

Neo-Classical Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: limestone

walls BRICK

STONE

roof TERRA COTTA

other WOOD

### Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Carnegie Library of Covington was constructed in 1913-1914 in the Neo-Classical Revival style by Liese and Ludwig, a Danville, Illinois firm. The one-story rectangular plan brick structure has served as a library up to the present time with few exterior or interior alterations.

The library occupies a corner in a predominately residential area. The neighborhood is located just northeast of the courthouse square and dates from the 1830's into the early twentieth century. The library is set back from the street with a landscaped front and side lawn. Parking for library patrons is on-street.

The structure is one-story with a raised base of approximately four feet. The rectangular plan library is of masonry construction. A stone water table separates the high brick foundation from the first story. The building has walls made of dark red brick laid in a stretcher bond.

The main facade faces west and has five symmetrically placed bays with a central entry. The building's main focus is a one story projecting pedimented portico. The portico rests on a stone staircase with flanking brick walls. The pediment is supported by two Tuscan columns in antis, all of limestone. The entry entablature is engraved with the following: "19 Covington Library 13.", in a Roman style typeface. The pediment has a stone raking cornice with dentils and an oculus window with a stone surround. The entry consists of double leaf paneled doors with a large transom, a stone architrave surround frames the entry. Two bays flank either side of the portico. The basement windows are one over one double hung sash with frosted glazing. The principle floor windows are large with keystones. A wide stone entablature with a plain frieze and a dentiled cornice finishes the wall treatment. This entablature is carried around the entire building. The library has wood box gutters with a cornice-like treatment, giving the roofline deep eaves.

The building has a low pitched hip roof covered in red terra cotta Spanish tiles. The roof was recently restored with all new matching replacement tiles.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 1 Carnegie Library of Covington

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The north facade has three bays (photo 2). An entry to the basement level is located in the easternmost bay. This side entry has a stone surround with paneled pilasters and two large scroll consoles supporting a stone hood. The door has a single leaf, paneled design with a large light. Two typical basement windows are evenly spaced to the west of the entry. The primary floor has three symmetrically placed windows. The windows are similar in detailing to those of the west elevation, but are almost square in proportion. The usual entablature and roof treatment are repeated on this facade. The south elevation also has three bays (photo 3). The basement and primary stories each have three window openings, identical to those of the north elevation.

The rear elevation of the Covington Library faces east (photo 4). This elevation is symmetrical in design, and organized around a centrally placed semi-hexagonal projection. The projection is divided vertically by an exterior square chimney which rises well above the roofline. The projection has small one-over-one double-hung sash with plain wide stone lintels and narrow stone sills. There are two of these windows on the east face of the projection and one each on the northeast and southeast walls. Two larger windows of the same design flank the projecting bay.

The library's interior plan reflects the pattern of use suggested by exterior massing. The main reference/reading area extends across the front bays with an office occupying one rear side bay and the stairs leading to the lower level at the opposite side bay (photos 5, 6, 7 and 8). The central rear bay houses the circulation desk. A children's reading room and two storage areas are located in the lower level.

The interior finishes are plain and functional for the most part. An exception to this rule is the cased beams defining the ceiling area of the main reading room. The beams are decorated with a fretwork band, and a broad molding extends onto the ceiling area. The main reading rooms have cornice moldings similar in treatment to the beams. Four square paneled columns define the area into four sections—entry area, circulation desk and two main reading areas. Window and door casings have architrave moldings. Interior doors have horizontal paneling. Most of the built-in bookcases are original to the building.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number   7   Page   2   Carnegie Library of Covington

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On the interior and exterior, the Covington Library retains a high degree of integrity. With the exception of dropped ceilings in the basement and storm windows on the exterior, the building appears much as it did when it was completed in 1914.

**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

EDUCATION

Period of Significance

1914-1938

Significant Dates

1914

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Liese and Ludwig/Brown, Charles A.

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

The Carnegie Library of Covington, Indiana, 1913-14, is a well-preserved and fine example of a Carnegie Library. The building is significant architecturally for its Neo-Classical Revival style. It is one of two buildings in this style in Covington and is among the best examples of the mode in Fountain County. The building represents the first comprehensive free public library in Covington, and the building still serves the community.

The handsome, dignified architecture of the Covington Library is typical of later Carnegie libraries. Entrepreneur and philanthropist Andrew Carnegie established a program to fund the construction of new, public libraries in 1886. Earlier buildings donated by Carnegie tended to be imposing monuments, however, by 1908, the philanthropist recognized this problem and requested that plans of proposed libraries be submitted for approval. This process was formalized in 1911 when James Bertram, Carnegie's personal assistant, issued "Notes on Library Buildings." (sic)

The brochure outlined basic requirements for libraries and included some suggested floor plans. "Notes" also implied that building exteriors should be plain and dignified; Bertram warned applicants to avoid building "Greek Temples" instead of libraries. (Bobinski, p.62.) The Covington Library is partially based on plans from "Notes" and also reflects Carnegie's belief that such buildings should be relatively plain and stately. The general contractor for the structure was Charles A. Brown of Covington, and Fountain County Sheriff Van Martin was contracted for excavating. The architects were Liese and Ludwig of Danville, Illinois. This firm also designed a similar library in Danville.

The Covington Public Library has been serving the community since the late fall of 1914. Like many other American communities, Covington did not enjoy a comprehensive system of a free public library before Andrew Carnegie donated funds to build this facility. Late in the year of 1912, Covington Women's Club and many public-spirited citizens of Covington became interested in obtaining a local library. This interest and desire

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Bobinski, George S. Carnegie Libraries. Chicago: American Library Association, 1969.

"Building File," Notes and Documents on the Covington Library, on file at the Covington Library.

History of Fountain County. Covington, IN: Fountain County Historic Society, 1983.

"Minutes," Covington Library Board, on file at the Covington Library.

Wells, John. "Architecture of the Carnegie Libraries in Indiana." Ball State University, 1981.

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:

Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property Less than one acre

UTM References

A 16 466390 4443210  
 Zone Easting Northing

C         

B           
 Zone Easting Northing

D         

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Lot number (226) two hundred and twenty-six and the north half (1/2) of lot number (225) two hundred twenty-five in Rawles & Hatfields addition to the town, now city, of Covington, Fountain County, Indiana.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

This is the historic boundary of the property.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Nancy J. Wagner

organization Purdue University Extension-Fountain Co. June 24, 1988  
 date

street & number Fountain County Courthouse telephone 317/793-2297

city or town Covington state IN zip code 47923

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 1 Carnegie Library of Covington

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had been strengthened by their knowledge of the possible contributions of the Carnegie Corporation.

The Carnegie Corporation of New York offered a \$10,000 donation if the city would agree to maintain a free public library at a cost of not less than \$1,000 per year and if they would provide a suitable site for the building. The first board was formed on May 28, 1912, and the first tax levy was set February 10, 1913, at 10 cents per \$100 assessed valuation on city property. A number of sites were considered before the one at Fifth and Crockett, owned by J. B. Martin, was selected. Board members received \$1,250 to purchase the land. The brick structure cost \$10,466.36--only \$466.36 was not paid by the Carnegie grant. Excavations for the building began on July 30, 1913, and construction was complete by late fall in 1914.

Since its completion, the Covington Carnegie Library has remained the only public library in town.