

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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APR 9 1985

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Cherokee Public Library (Public Libraries In Iowa Thematic)

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 215 South Second Street not for publication

city, town Cherokee vicinity of

state Iowa code 019 county Cherokee code 035

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name City of Cherokee (Mrs. John Cook, Librarian)

street & number City Hall

city, town Cherokee vicinity of state Iowa 51012

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County Clerk's Office

street & number Cherokee County

city, town Cherokee state Iowa 51012

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Public Libraries In Iowa has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1977-80 federal state county local

depository for survey records Iowa HPO, E. 12th & Grand Ave.

city, town Des Moines state Iowa 50319

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Cherokee Public Library is a fairly plain example of the parapetted box type of library plan with a distyle portico. The principal failing of the exterior is that the proportional relationships between the pavilion and the wings have not been well thought out. The scale of the portico is too diminutive in relation to the generous proportions of the windows and its seems insubstantial.

Alterations:

In 1910 it was necessary to remove the skylight because of leakage problems. For a few decades vines were allowed to cover the major part of the building's exterior. In the 1950's the vines were removed and maintenance work was done on the masonry. A new front entry was installed during this time period as well. Wood framed storm windows were added before or during this era and the usual roofing work was done. Except for the addition of storm windows and the replacement of the front entry, the exterior of the library building was unchanged.

Early interior renovations would include conversion of the basement to a children's section. In the 1950's funding was obtained from the city to replace all shelving in the adult department and some of the furniture in the adult and children's section. Both of the beautiful fireplaces on the main floor were left intact but were covered with freestanding shelving to reduce heat loss and to increase storage space. In later years the shelves were rearranged to expose the two fireplaces which, at the present time are viewed as an important architectural feature of this building. Other interior renovation work completed over a span of years includes a finished meeting room in the lower level (now a work room and staff lounge) and change in lighting and floor covering.

Between 1978 and 1979 the library consulted with architect George F. Cundy, Stanley Fishman Associates Inc. of St. Paul, in the preparation of a facility review. In the early 1980's the front steps and handrails were replaced. In 1981 a Community development Block Grant funded the addition of an elevator. Owen M. Mamura, Duffy Mannes & Brygger, Sioux City, planned this work along with the addition of a second bathroom with handicapped access. Wood frame Marvin windows were installed in the fall of 1983

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1905–13 **Builder/Architect** F. E. Wetherell, Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Cherokee Public Library attests to the local importance of a permanent library facility in small town Iowa just after the turn of the century.

The library movement in Cherokee dates from September 1886 when the Cherokee Ladies Library Association organized. The small library was housed in the Y.M.C.A. and other shared facilities.

In the spring of 1898 the City of Cherokee took control of the library following a favorable referendum vote. Action to secure a permanent facility began in January 1903 when the Carnegie Foundation awarded \$10,000 to the city for a building. Local efforts secured a site and construction began in August 1904. The firm of Hansen and Lambkin of New Hampton was the general contractor. F. E. Wetherell of Des Moines designed the building. An additional \$2,000 was granted by Carnegie and by April of 1905 the library was finished except for the basement finishing. Local funds were raised by 1913 to complete the basement areas.

The Cherokee grant took place at the "high water mark" of Carnegie library grants to Iowa communities, and Cherokee was one of twenty two fundings awarded that year. Like most libraries, the Cherokee library provided basement meeting areas for community groups.

Prior to the construction of a permanent building, the Cherokee library movement was a minor and poorly funded local activity. They left their first home in the Y.W.C.A. when rent was requested. Even after the city took charge and some operating funds were made available, space was lacking and the library was open only two afternoons weekly.

City support made the Carnegie grant possible, since land and local support were pre-requisites for eligibility. The additional grant paid for fixtures and furniture. With the opening, the collection naturally increased*and the use by local children of the reference collection was noted soon after the opening of the new building. A children's department was added in 1913. Activities therein included the playing of games and some forms of instruction in addition to reading.

*The collection numbered 1,641 volumes when the city took charge, 3,888 in 1906, and some 8,000 by 1914.

9. Major Bibliographical References

McCulla, Thomas. History of Cherokee County, Iowa. Vol. 1, Chicago: S. J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1914, pp. 337-342.
DHPLSQ-1, Mrs. L. E. Ehrlich, Director.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Cherokee South

Quadrangle scale 1/24,000

UTM References

A

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Zone Easting Northing

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots 1, 2, and 3 of Block 13, Lebourceau's Addition, City of Cherokee. Contains only library building.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N.A. code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title James E. Jacobsen, National Register Coordinator

organization Iowa HPO date 13 February 1985

street & number E. 12th & Grand Ave. telephone 515-281-4137

city or town Des Moines state Iowa 50319

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Adrian A. Anderson*

title Executive Director Iowa State Historical Department date 2/15/85

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Beth Grosvenor
Keeper of the National Register

date 4/9/85

Attest: *See Continuation Sheet for other listings*
Chief of Registration

date