

Iowa Site Inventory

Division of Historic Preservation
Iowa State Historical Department
26 E. Market St., Iowa City, Iowa 52240

Site Number 8-008-003

District Name _____

Map Reference # _____

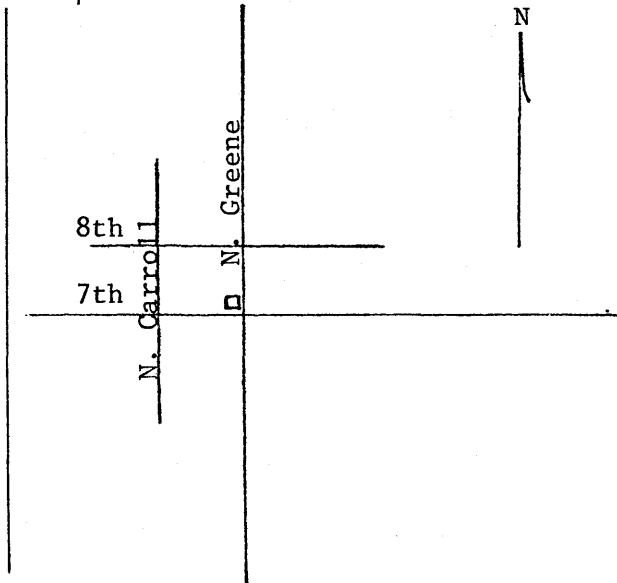
Identification

1. Site Name Ericson Public Library
2. Village/Town/City Boone Township _____ County Boone
3. Street Address 702 Greene Street
4. Legal Location original town 91 13-16
Urban: subdivision block parcel subparcel
Rural: township range section % section of 1/4 section
5. UTM Location: zone 15 easting 426770 northing 4656930; Acreage 2.1
6. Owner(s) Name City of Boone
7. Owner(s) Address _____ Boone, Iowa 50036 _____
(Street address) (City) (State) (Zip)
8. Use: Present library Original library

Description

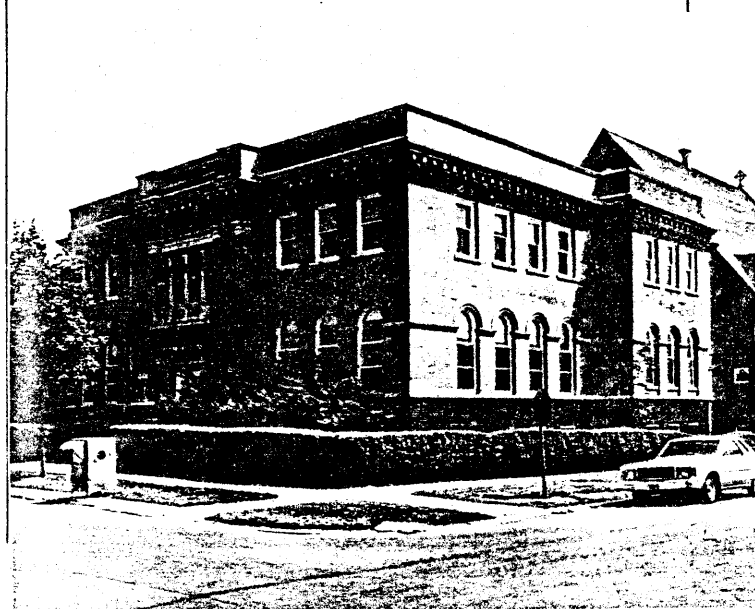
9. Date of Construction 1900-01 Architect/Builder Liebhe, Nourse & Rasmussen, Des Moines
10. Building Type:
 single-family dwelling industrial other institutional religious
 multiple-family dwelling educational public agricultural
 commercial
11. Exterior Walls: clapboard stone brick board and batten shingles stucco
 other _____
12. Structural System: wood frame with interlocking joints wood frame with light members (balloon frame)
 masonry load-bearing walls iron frame steel frame with curtain walls reinforced concrete
 other _____
13. Condition: excellent good fair deteriorated
14. Integrity: original site moved—if so, when? _____
Notes on alterations, additions (with dates and architect, if known) and any other notable features of building and site:
Addition to rear(1922-23); drop ceiling installed on first floor(1975);
aluminum combination window sash installed on first floor(recently).
15. Related Outbuildings and Property: barn other farm structures carriage house garage privy
 other _____
16. Is the building endangered? no yes—if so, why? _____
17. Surroundings of the building: open land woodland scattered outbuildings densely built-up commercial
 industrial residential other _____

18. Map



19. Photo

Roll 624 Frame 1 View SW Corner



Significance

(Indicate sources of information for all statements)

19. Architectural significance

- a. Key structure/individually may qualify for the National Register
- b. Contributing structure
- c. Not eligible/intrusion

The Ericson Public Library is a good example of a library building designed as an astylar Italian palazzo. It departs from the cubic purity characteristic of this building type in having a projecting central pavilion. The pavilion, however, with its Venetian window-piece cum balcony on the "piano nobile," is in keeping with the rest of the building stylistically. Although the pavilion and wing walls are scaled differently, they share the triple window motif and are thus well related. The 1922-23 addition replicates the style of the original building and is in no way obtrusive. The recently installed window sash is inconspicuous, as the windows have sufficiently deep reveals.

20. Historical Significance

Theme(s) Social/humanitarian

- a. Key structure/individually may qualify for the National Register
 - b. Contributing structure
 - c. Not eligible/intrusion
- This library was the gift of C.J.A. Ericson, a wealthy local businessman and politician, who served five terms in the Iowa General Assembly. Ericson's interest in libraries went beyond local philanthropy to advocacy at the statewide level. As a member of Iowa's legislature, he actively supported many items of library legislation. As a longtime member of the Iowa Library Association, Ericson served as vice president, and held a strategic seat on the Association's Legislative Committee. Ericson was recognized upon his death as a true "friend of libraries"; inclusion of his library at Boone in the National Register will serve as a fitting material reminder of his longstanding support for the Iowa public library movement.

21. Sources (for primary and secondary sources, give complete facts of publication: author, title, place of publication, date, etc.):

- Goldthwait, N.E., ed. History of Boone County, Iowa. Vol. I. Chicago: Pioneer Publishing Co., 1914. pp.495-499.
- DHPFIR, F. Hunter, 1979.
- DHPLSQ-1, Dorothy Fitzgerald, Director.
- Prints of architect's drawings in possession of Ericson Public Library.

Prepared by S. Klingensmith

Date August, 1980

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Organization _____

For Division of Historic Preservation Use Only

1. Office Information Sources on this Property

- County Resource File
- Windshield Survey
- National Register
- Grants-In-Aid: _____
- Determination of Eligibility

Review and Compliance Project:

- Other _____
- Other _____
- Other _____

2. Subject Traces

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____
- e. _____

3. Photo Images 624/1; 648/30-37; Roll 647; 1005/9-10.

- _____
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