

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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

For NPS use only

received FEB 22 1985

date entered MAR 21 1985

**1. Name**

historic Carnegie Public Library

and/or common Anderson Public Library

**2. Location**

street & number 32 West 10th Street N/A not for publication

city, town Anderson N/A vicinity of

state Indiana code 018 county Madison code 095

**3. Classification**

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

**4. Owner of Property**

name Anderson-Anderson, Stony Creek Township Public Library

street & number 32 West 10th Street

city, town Anderson N/A vicinity of state Indiana 46016

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Madison County Courthouse, Office of Recorder

street & number 16 East 9th Street

city, town Anderson state Indiana

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? yes X no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town state

## 7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
X excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" 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 Anderson Public Library is located on West Tenth Street in downtown Anderson. It is a one-and-one-half story structure with a raised, full basement. In plan, the building is a Greek Cross plus a portico on the south (main) side. This configuration creates a three step main facade: the forwardmost step is a one-bay wide portico; the middle step is three bays wide; and the third step back is seven bays wide. All facades are smooth-faced Indiana limestone except the rear facade of the building, which is brick. The red tile cross-gable roof is capped with a dome, which originally had an exterior of clear glass and copper but has since been sealed and painted green. Beaux Arts in style, the structure has been altered very little since its construction.

The main entrance to the library is centered on the south facade and surrounded by an elaborate distyle in antis portico. The main doors are glass with glass transoms. (The original doors—which were wood—and transoms have been replaced [Photo #5]). The doors have an architrave surround and an elaborate entablature, with the inscription, "OPEN TO ALL," on the frieze. The entablature of the portico has the inscription, "PVBLIC LIBRARY," on the frieze. Above the entablature of the portico is an elaborate pediment which features a wreath with an open book and scrolls in the tympanum. A set of 12 steps, the width of the portico, leads to the entry.

The entablature continues around the stone facades of the building. The second "step" of the main facade has a stone balustrade atop the roof. Windows of this part of the building are single-sash with elaborate, molded stone surrounds, sills, and entablatures. A molded stone band extends around this section of the building and around the third "step" just above the windows. A water table extends similarly at the base of the building except for where it is broken by the basement windows.

The third "step" has a gable tile roof with pediments on the gable ends. The windows in this part of the building are paired, single-sash, transomed windows with molded stone sills. There is an interior stone chimney near each end of this part of the building.

The north (rear) facade and the faces which form the north arm of the Greek Cross plan are brick. On these facades are 39 windows which provide lighting for two levels of bookstacks. The north facade basement level, which faces an alley, has two sets of wooden double doors.

The front doors open to a marble vestibule containing a bronze plaque expressing recognition of Andrew Carnegie's generous gift to the city. Directly ahead are a second set of doors leading to the rotunda, or lobby. This room is the most extensively decorated room in the building. Several molded plaster columns, pilasters, and a decorative cornice encircle the room. A 34" high marble wainscot, topped with four arched panels of wood, plate glass and formed plaster ornamentation, separate the lobby from the periodical room on the west and the reference room on the east. These two rooms have decorative cornices as well as black marble fireplaces with large carved oak mantels. The original tile floors have been covered with carpet. The north side of the lobby is open to the bookstacks. Originally, there was only one level of bookstacks, but the building was designed for an additional balcony level which has since been added.

The basement area is constructed one-half story above grade level with windows on all sides. It may be entered by an exterior door on the south side of the building or by stairs originating in the southeast corner of the lobby. Originally, the basement had

## 8. Significance

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

Specific dates 1905

Builder/Architect Thompson and Millspaugh/  
Richards, McCarthy and Bulford

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Anderson Public Library is significant as an outstanding local example of Beaux Arts classicism and public architecture at the turn of the century, as an expression of the philanthropic work of Andrew Carnegie, as one of the oldest and best-known landmarks in downtown Anderson, and as a long-time cultural center. The contribution of the library to the city's educational advancement cannot be measured. Thousands of people have found knowledge, entertainment, and relaxation in the books on the library shelves during the past three-quarters of a century.

The first real effort to establish a library in Anderson was made in 1879 when a group consisting of physicians, lawyers, judges and prominent businessmen met in the office of Mayor John F. Wildman for that purpose. A fund of \$800.00, raised by subscription, purchased 374 books. Winfield T. Durbin, later governor of Indiana, borrowed the first book loaned on the opening day of this small circulation library located in a business office. Over the next 25 years, the library was shifted from one location to another. The city assumed responsibility and support of the library in 1890. It was located in the Masonic Temple when the present library building was built.

Mayor Morey M. Dunlap is credited with acquiring the generous gift from Carnegie. After several requests in 1901 and 1902, Mayor Dunlap received a letter dated April 8, 1902, offering to donate to the city \$50,000.00, on condition that the city would furnish a suitable site for the building and guarantee its maintenance under a yearly provision of not less than \$5,000.00. On May 19, 1902, a new City Common Council and Mayor John L. Forkner accepted the offer. They pledged at least \$5,000 per year for support and provided a quarter of a square in the best part of town for a site. The final cost of the library was \$76,200; \$17,400 for the land, \$6,800 for furnishing, and \$52,000 for the building. The library was dedicated on April 20, 1905.

The distinguished architectural firm of Richards, McCarthy and Bulford of Columbus, Ohio, was selected by the library board to design the building. They designed numerous office, hotel and public buildings in Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, Iowa and Kansas. Other examples of their work include the Phoenix Hotel in Lexington, Kentucky, the Carnegie Library in Marion, Indiana, and the United States Post Office, Hartman Theater, and Ohio National Bank in Columbus, Ohio.

The library site is part of the original land donated to Madison County by Sarah and Hohn Berry on December 7, 1827, on the condition that the county seat be moved to Anderson from Pendleton. The land which the city donated for the library site had been purchased by the city in 1899 as a site for the city building (the site was never used for this purpose). During the early 1900s the library grounds were used for speeches by prominent local and national politicians. These include Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft, J. P. (Champ) Clark and Charles Fairbanks.

Over the years, regular patrons of the library have included several nationally-known figures. Some of these are former Secretary of Defense Charles E. Wilson, former Secretary of Labor James Davis, Oswald Ryan, who served under five presidents in various high-level positions, including President of the Civil Aeronautics Board, authors Fred Mustard Stewart and Gordon Gordon, and pilots Amelia Earhart and Weir Cook. Miss Mattie

## **9. Major Bibliographical References**

Please see continuation sheet

## **10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name Anderson

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

<b>A</b>	1   6	6   1   2	5   0   0	4   4   4   0   1   9   0			
Zone	Easting	Northing					

C	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
E	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
G	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]

<b>B</b>	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Zone	Easting	Northing					
D	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
F	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
H	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]

**Verbal boundary description and justification**

Lot 8 and 11 of original plat of City of Anderson, an area 144 feet square, bounded on the west by Jackson Street, on the south by 10th Street, on the north and east by alleys.

**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 Lorine A. Combs, Economic Development Project Planner

organization City of Anderson date October 29, 1984

street & number 120 East 8th Street telephone 317/646-9690

city or town Anderson state Indiana 46016

## **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 Jane L. Hatchett

title Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer date 2-6-85

For NPS use only

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

Entered 11-12-84  
National Register

date

3-21-85

Jane L. Hatchett  
Signature  
Keeper of the National Register

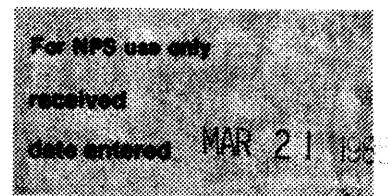
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
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Continuation sheet Carnegie Public Library

Item number 7, 8, and 9

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two large rooms with other smaller rooms. The wall between the two large rooms has been removed and that space is being used by the children's department. There are plain brick fireplaces located in the center of the east and west walls; but the basement is basically void of the interesting architectural detail which is concentrated in the lobby, east and west adjoining rooms, plus the south exterior facade.

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Item 8 (Continued)

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B. Frye, founder of the Safety Patrols of America, was a frequent user of the facilities, as well as serving as vice-president of the library's Board of Trustees.

The City of Anderson currently has plans to construct a new library building and is interested in identifying a new, compatible use for the old structure.

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Item 9

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Anderson Herald, various issues, 1905 through 1983.

Forkner, John. History of Madison County, Indiana. New York: Lewis Publishing Company, 1914.

Netterville, J. J. Centennial: History of Madison County, Indiana. Anderson, Indiana: Historian's Association, 1925.

Wade, Margaret. "Anderson Public Library," Anderson Business Magazine, February, 19371

Interviews with Howard Eldon, Anderson Historian, and Mr. John Wells, Carnegie Library Researcher.