

Iowa Site Inventory

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

Site Number 53-004-002
District Name _____
Map Reference # _____

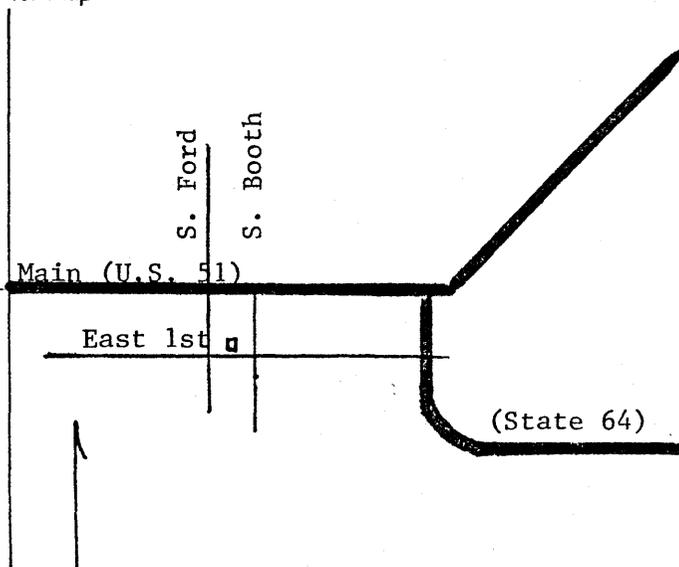
Identification

1. Site Name Anamosa Public Library
2. Village/Town/City Anamosa Township _____ County Jones
3. Street Address 100 East First Street
4. Legal Location Edmund Booth's Sub. Lot 2, J.H. Fisher's Add. Lot 22, S17' 121
Urban: _____ Rural: _____ subdivision township _____ block range _____ parcel section _____ subparcel % section of % section _____
5. UTM Location: zone 15 easting 641820 northing 4662810; Acreage /
6. Owner(s) Name City of Anamosa
7. Owner(s) Address _____
(Street address) _____ (City) Anamosa, Iowa (State) _____ (Zip) 52205
8. Use: Present library Original library

Description

9. Date of Construction 1902-03 Architect/Builder Dwight H. Perkins, Chicago
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 stone from nearby Stone City, Iowa
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: Basement remodeled for children's room(1977); rear staircase added(1977); changes made to central delivery desk(1977); front door replaced(recently); exterior sandblasted(1973)
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 167 Frame 11A View looking NE



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 Anamosa Public Library is one of the more architecturally successful examples of the side-gable-end type of small library building. It is rectangular in plan, with a projecting entrance vestibule in the center of the long side. The building is one of the few libraries in the state that is frankly Romanesque in style. The exterior is simple, restrained and extremely homogenous. Its character is set in large part by the elegant masonry work. The walls are laid in random courses, with stones of varying relief, which results in a rough, but uniform texture. The heavily molded, coursed stone of the battered basement contrasts with this and anchors the building firmly to the ground. Thick, heavy moldings reinforce the gable lines and terminate in huge square blocks at the shoulders of the gables. The building is an exercise in planes that never meet in simple corners. The gable-end walls not only rise above the roofline in parapets, but also extend beyond the

(continued)

20. Historical Significance

Theme(s) _____

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

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

- Corbit, R.M., ed. History of Jones County, Iowa. Vol.1. Chicago: The S.J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1910. pp.359-363.
- DHPFIR, G. Mansheim, June 1979.

Prepared by Samuel J. Klingensmith Date August, 1980
Address 617 N. Cayuga, Ithaca, N.Y. 14850 Telephone 607 273-5684
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 167/10A-13A;
561/4A-8A, 9A-29A; 562/1A-29A;
167/9A.

53-004-002

Anamosa Public Library

19. cross walls, to form stalwart buttresses at the salient angles of the building. The library is an interesting variation on Plan Type V, in which a reading room on one side balances the bookstack on the other. At Anamosa, the center is occupied not by a rotunda, as is the case with the large libraries of this type, but by the delivery area, which is planned as a sort of "booth," with windows looking out toward the vestibule and reading room (there are also recent openings toward the stack and rear work area; whether there were originally openings in these positions is not known). This plan is based essentially on that of Richardson's small libraries, although it may not have incorporated the Beaux-Arts visual axis set perpendicular to the entrance axis, with which Richardson organized his plans. The shelves in the stack are ranged perpendicular to a center aisle and form small alcoves.