

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED FEB 13 1979
DATE ENTERED MAR 30 1979

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

Le Mars Public Library

AND/OR COMMON

Le Mars Civic Center

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

200 Central Avenue SE

--- NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Le Mars

--- VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Sixth

STATE

Iowa

CODE

COUNTY

Plymouth

CODE

199

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER: civic center

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

City of Le Mars

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Le Mars

--- VICINITY OF

STATE

Iowa 51031

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Plymouth County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Le Mars

STATE

Iowa

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historical & Architectural Survey of Iowa Public Library Buildings

DATE

in process

--- FEDERAL STATE --- COUNTY --- LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Division of Historic Preservation, Iowa City, Iowa

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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 Le Mars public library has dimensions of 42' x 52', and has exterior walls of pink/buff brick on a high basement of rock-faced granite. It is basically rectangular in form, although the slightly recessed center sections of the side elevations give the building a slight dumbbell shape. The tall windows of the main floor (now with modern aluminum sash) are paired beneath continuous granite lintels; each pair is set within a "panel" formed by flat, engaged corner piers and brock corbelled out slightly below the cornice. The roof is a very low hip, with a full entablature including a narrow architrave, plain frieze, and denticular cornice.

The slightly protruding center entrance pavilion is crowned with a triangular pediment, with the initials "A.C." (for Andrew Carnegie) in the tympanum. The entrance (with glass and metal doors replacing original wood doors) has a small triangular pediment above a broad granite lintel. The entrance is recessed within a round, keystone arch formed by large granite voussoirs, supported on marble columns of the Ionic order set in antis.

The interior of the library has been remodelled for use as an art and civic center. Much of the original woodwork, the semicircular circulation desk, and some bookstacks are still used. The original room arrangement, with reading rooms to either side of the front, and stack area and workroom at the rear, has not been altered.

The building is located at the south end of the community's central business district, with commercial structures to the north and east, residential area to the south.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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

1903

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

John Werling

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Le Mars public library building (now civic center) is a straightforward, typical example of small-town library architecture of early 20th century Iowa. The style is an adaptation of the Renaissance Revival, with noteworthy features including the five-bay front with projecting entrance pavilion, and the heavy round arch of stone. The interior plan still displays the room arrangement characteristic of small libraries of this period.

The library building at Le Mars was one of 99 in Iowa funded by Andrew Carnegie during the first two decades of the 20th century. Carnegie's offer of \$10,000 was made in early 1903, one of 22 such offers to Iowa communities in that year. (1903 was the peak year in Iowa for Carnegie grants.) The building was opened in 1904.

The development of the public library in Le Mars was typical of most such institutions in the state. In 1876, local women organized a library association, and housed their small collections in various business buildings in Le Mars. The city assumed control (and support) of the library in 1885, and, in 1894, following passage of an amended state library law, the institution was reorganized and trustees elected. Until completion of the Carnegie building, the library operated out of rooms above the city offices.

As the functions of the public library expanded over the next 70 years, the little Carnegie building gradually became too small for effective library service. However, the building was considered a local landmark, and to maintain it, new uses were found for it. The local arts council and Chamber of Commerce took over the building in 1976; it was rededicated as the Le Mars Civic Center in 1977.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Iowa Library Commission Biennial Reports: 1904, pp. 104-5; 1906, p. 42.
 Iowa Library Quarterly, Vol. 3, No. 4, October 1903.
 Freeman, W.S. History of Plymouth County, Iowa. Indianapolis: B.F. Bowen & Co., 1917, Vol. 1, p. 429.
 Bowers, M.H. "Dimensions of the Public Library Movement in Iowa," mss. Division of Historic Preservation, 1978.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

QUADRANGLE NAME Le Mars, Iowa

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:62,500

UTM REFERENCES 830

A 14 73 083 47 41 020

B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 19, 20, and 21, Block 32, Le Mars

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

M.H. Bowers, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Division of Historic Preservation

DATE

January 1979

STREET & NUMBER

26 East Market St.

TELEPHONE

319/353-6949

CITY OR TOWN

Iowa City

STATE

Iowa 52240

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

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 D. Anderson

TITLE

Director, Division of Historic Preservation

DATE

2/8/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

3 30 79

ATTEST

Charles A. Brown
 CHIEF OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

3.28.79

William H. Graham
 CHIEF OF REGISTRATION