

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 WOODLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 250 First Street ___ not for publication

city, town Woodland ___ vicinity of congressional district 4th

state California code 06 county Yolo code 113

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

4. Owner of Property

name City of Woodland

street & number 300 First Street

city, town Woodland ___ vicinity of state California 95695

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Yolo County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Woodland state California 95695

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

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	1927 moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	(Expanded in 1915; unaltered since then)	

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

SETTING

The Woodland Public Library, raised on a landscaped groundswell, is situated in a park-like setting of palms (Washington Filifera and Phoenix Dactylifera) and ornamental trees. It is located near the center of the Woodland business district across the street from Woodland City Hall. It is one block away from the Yolo County Courthouse and near the Woodlandland Opera House, listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

BUILDING

The Woodland Public Library is an "L" shaped single story structure with basement. It was constructed in three stages, one original and two additions. The original Woodland Public Library unit, measuring 40' x 64', was built in 1905 with a \$10,000 grant from Andrew Carnegie. The West, or County wing, was built in 1915 with an additional \$12,000. It measures 66' x 33', and there is a mezzanine floor of 800 square feet at the west end of this addition.* The north addition, built in 1927 with city funds of \$8000, measures 36' x 42'.

The structure is of unreinforced brick, with wood frame floor and roof. The brick walls are a minimum of 14" thick and have one inch of exterior plaster. The basement floor is concrete slab on grade. The main floor is wood flooring on wood joists which are supported by brick walls with and interior beam and post system. The roof is wood sheathing on either light trusses or a system of purlins, ceiling joists, beams and trusses. Roofing is a composition asphalt material. Story heights are nine feet from basement to first floor and a minimum of 13 feet from first floor to roof. There is approximately 5200 square feet of first floor area, 5200 square feet of basement, and 800 square feet of mezzanine. The ceilings and interior partitions are wood lath and plaster, and the inside face of all exterior brick is plaster.**

ARCHITECTURE

The original 1905 Library was designed in Mission Revival Style by San Francisco architects George A. Dodge and John Walter Dolliver. Its most distinctive feature is the rotunda of the lobby, barely visible as a centrally located dome from the exterior. This wing has large arched windows divided into several lites and surmounted by tiled skirt roofs. The entry porch on the facade (east elevation) has four square pillars, coved ceiling, and a curvilinear Mission Revival parapet (espadaña) with trefoil decoration. It is reached by a straight flight of steps with solid railings and light standards. The roof has a very shallow hip which is completely hidden by parapets, and a shallow dome on a diminutive drum. The basement has simple rectangular windows.

* This wing has been occupied from the beginning by the Yolo County Free Library established by the Board of Supervisors, and served as its administrative headquarters and sometimes as a branch library. The loan desk was closed in 1975. On October 1, 1975, the Yolo County Free Library promised to vacate its wing by 1984. At that time, the Woodland Public Library will occupy the entire building.

**This description adapted from a report by Gary Wirth, AIA, and Larry Admunsen, Structural Engineer. This report concludes that this unreinforced masonry structure will not withstand a major earthquake and recommends remedial measures.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Library
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1905/1915/1927 **Builder/Architect** Dodge & Dolliver/Wm. H. Weeks/C.A. Walton

Statement of Significance (In one paragraph)

The Woodland Public Library is significant historically and architecturally. In addition to its contribution to learning in Woodland and Yolo County, this library played an important part in the development of the county library system in California. Architecturally, this library is a good and representative example of Mission Revival design and is one of few such public buildings in California still functioning in its original use.

During its 107 years of existence the Woodland Public Library has made a vital contribution as an educational resource and civic cultural center. It began with the efforts of the Library Association in Woodland, organized in 1874. In 1891, the City of Woodland created the Woodland Public Library, housed in small quarters in the old City Hall. The library moved to its present Carnegie grant building in 1905. The structure was expanded in 1915 and 1927, as noted earlier. Library space today is very limited but the City has demonstrated its commitment to preserving the present structure while providing facilities for the expansion of library services.

The Woodland Public Library's role in the development of the county library system in California is obscured by the exaggerated claims of several Yolo County historians, that the County Library system began in Yolo County. While this claim is false, it is true that the Woodland Library and Yolo County residents very early joined the the turn-of-the-century grassroots movement to bring library services to rural residents. In 1905, Library trustees votes to allow persons living outside city limits to borrow books without charge, being reimbursed \$200 annually by the County Board of Supervisors. In 1910, under a new state law, the Supervisors contracted with the city library to provide county library services. Branch libraries were established throughout rural Yolo County. Administrative quarters were in the large basement of the original 1905 Woodland Public Library. In 1915, the Woodland Library Trustees applied for and received a second Carnegie grant to build a wing for the County library system. That year, the Supervisors established the Yolo County Free Library system. In this manner, this library has since 1915 served both urban and rural residents, fulfilling its basic mission to the people of Woodland while reaching out to farm families in the remainder of Yolo County as well.

The library is architecturally significant for the intrinsic merit of its Mission Revival style design and for its distinction as one of the few remaining unaltered Mission Revival public buildings still in its original use. The structure clearly exhibits the distinctive features of that style: the espadana, arched windows, lack of exterior molding and sculptural ornamentation, hipped roof, "Mission" tile, low dome, trefoil, and smooth plaster walls.

The most striking interior feature, and the most obvious break with Mission Revival detailing, is the classically-detailed rotunda of the lobby. Ironically, it was this feature to which Mr. Carnegie objected in 1913, when approached for a second library grant. His people felt that prudent use had not been made of the original grant, that the rotunda was "conceived as an architectural feature and not

9. Major Bibliographical References

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

NOT NOT VERIFIED

10. Geographical Data

NOT NOT VERIFIED

Acreege of nominated property Less than 1

Quadrangle name Woodland

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

110	606770	41281161810
Zone	Easting	Northing

B

Zone	Easting	Northing

C

--	--	--

D

--	--	--

E

--	--	--

F

--	--	--

G

--	--	--

H

--	--	--

Verbal boundary description and justification

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

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 James M. Neill, Brandon McClintock, with additional information by Ester Clark

organization date Febraary 18, 1981

street & number P.O. Box 2696 telephone (916) 662-6166 or 446-1282

city or town Sacramento state California 95814

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature K. Neill

title SHPO date 8/17/81

For HCERS use only

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

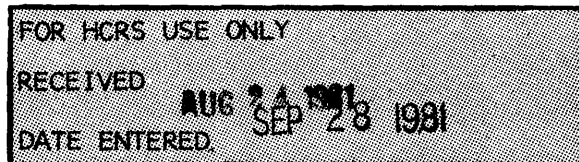
from fact...
Delores Payne
Keeper of the National Register

date 9/28/81

Attest:

Chief of...

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**



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The West addition, designed by William H. Weeks, mirrors the original unit with a central porch entrance, shallow hip roof hidden by parapet, tiled skirt roofs, and tall groups of arched windows. The only access between the two units is through a single door on the main floor and one at the basement level, for staff use only. The smaller north wing, designed by C.A. Walton, also repeats the scale and design of the original, with rectangular first story windows substituted for the round headed windows of the original.

The central or lobby area of the 1905 unit is a large domed space in neo-classical style. The dome has a central plaster medallion from which an interior light is suspended. The dome rests on a peristyle of Tuscan columns. There are windows to the east and west in the peristyle. The dome appears to be supported by four pairs of composite columns. The entablature has a plain frieze with dentil course and egg-and-dart molding at its cornice. The reading room features a fireplace faced with large hand-made brown tiles and a simple painted wood mantle. All walls are smooth plaster and the woodwork is painted.

The County Wing is presently occupied by desks and office equipment.. It is distinctive for its richly paneled wood and built-in floor to ceiling bookshelves, all of golden oak, stained and varnished.

The public entrance to the basement consists of an exterior set of steps beneath the east porch. There is an exit door on the west wall. There is a basement level door on the north wall of the County Wing and one of the west wall of the City wing for use of employees. All have short ramp approaches from the parking area. Most of the County wing is used for clerical work. The large room directly beneath the main reading room has recently been refurbished for clerical use as well. This room has a Mission Style fireplace located directly beneath that in the upstairs reading room. Dumbwaiters for moving books from one floor to the other are located in each wing. There is a rather narrow interior set of stairs for staff use in the 1905 unit, and a broader set of stairs in the county unit.

ALTERATIONS

There have been remarkably few alterations to either the interior or exterior of this building. When the west wing was added, it was necessary to close up the windows on the southwest wall of the original unit. When the north wing was added, two additional windows were lost from the original plan. Originally, the Library was illuminated by gas and a few of the original fixtures remain. The trefoil decoration on the facade appears to have lost some part of its plaster ornamentation.

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

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as a genuine attempt to secure the utmost of effective library accommodations for the money."

The architects for this library were prominent in northern California in the early twentieth century and have numerous noteworthy designs to their credit. The firm of Dodge and Dolliver, for example, designed the San Mateo County Courthouse, listed on the National Register of Historic Places. William Weeks designed numerous important private residences and public buildings throughout northern California, including the B.V. Sargent Home and Judge Lee House, both listed on the National Register.

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The following are the primary bibliographic sources used in the preparation of the application of the Woodland Public Library for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

1. Yolo County Democrat. Woodland, California. 1874.
2. The Daily Democrat. Woodland, California. 1891, 1892, 1904, 1905, 1915, 1927.
3. Gregory, Tom. History of Yolo County, California. Los Angeles, California. Historic Record Company, 1913.
4. Russell, William O. History of Yolo County California. n.p. 1940.
5. Wirth, Gary F. and Larry Amundsen. Rehabilitation Study for Woodland Public Library Building. Woodland, California. Schaefer Wirth Long AIA, 1978.

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PAGE

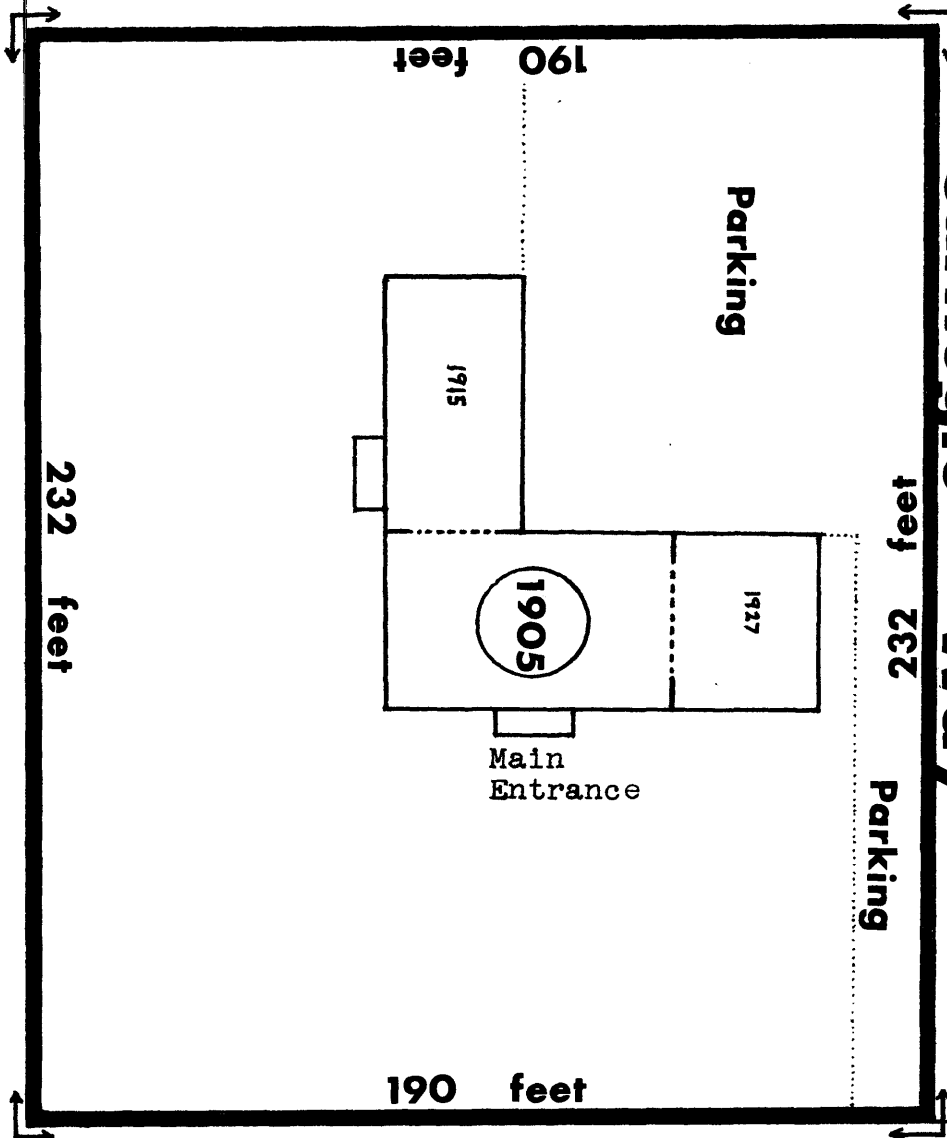
1

DESCRIPTION OF LIBRARY PROPERTY

A parcel of land lying within the southeast quarter of Section 29, T 10 N, R 2 E, M.D.B.&M., more particularly described as follows:

Beginning at the intersection of the north line of Court Street with the West line of First Street; thence from said point of beginning, Northerly along said west line to the south line of Carnegie Way; thence Westerly along said south line 218 feet to a point; thence Southerly along a line parallel with the west line of First Street to the north line of Court Street; thence Easterly along said north line 218 feet to the point of beginning.

Carnegie Way



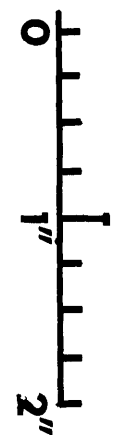
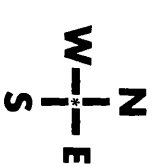
Court St.

First St.

Woodland Fire Dept Woodland City Hall
(Site of)



SITE PLAN Of The Woodland Public Library



Scale: 1/4 in. = 10 ft.