

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

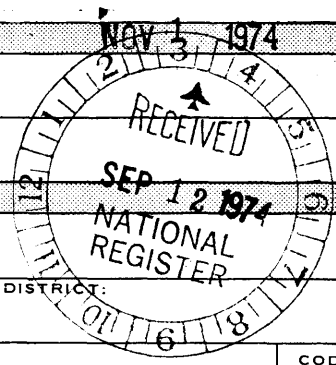
(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:
New Jersey

COUNTY:
Hunterdon

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY DATE



2-18 NOV 20 1974
 2-18 NOV 20 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
Old Grandin Library

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Grandin Library

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
12 E Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Clinton

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
13th

STATE: **New Jersey** CODE: **34** COUNTY: **Hunterdon** CODE: **019**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments Unoccupied at present

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Town of Clinton

STREET AND NUMBER:
Municipal Building, Leigh Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Clinton

STATE: **New Jersey** CODE: **34**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Hunterdon County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Flemington

STATE: **New Jersey** CODE: **34**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory (725.5)

DATE OF SURVEY: **1974** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Historic Sites Section, Dept. of Environmental Protection

STREET AND NUMBER:
Box 1420

CITY OR TOWN:
Trenton

STATE: **New Jersey** CODE: **34**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: **New Jersey**

COUNTY: **Hunterdon**

ENTRY NUMBER: **1974**

DATE: **NOV 1 1974**

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Old Grandin Library on East Main Street in Clinton is an unusual cast-iron-type front building for the area with pressed metal elements on the second floor.

This two story building, constructed of brick save the front, consisted basically of one room on each floor. This floor plan is unaltered on the first floor and on the second. A cement block leanto addition was added onto the rear probably sometime in the 1940's and served as a kitchen. Another wing was constructed onto the west facade, also of cement blocks, probably built at the same time as the leanto. This addition was to provide additional garage facilities for the fire department.

A 1906 postcard of the Grandin Library shows the building in its original form indicating that the building had a small rectangular hip-roofed tower at the rear where the kitchen leanto now is located. In addition, the original garage facility on the west end also had a cast-iron front. Most of this section has been eliminated, probably when the cement block unit was built.

The front facade of the building, unaltered since construction in 1898, has a cast iron first floor. The center double doorway is somewhat inset under the main facade of the building and flanked by two closely set large bay windows on each side. In addition, off to the east side is another entrance door, leading up to the second floor.

The second floor front facade is comprised of pressed metal ornamentation and four large bay windows. The windows are separated by pressed metal columns.

Above the windows is a decorative pressed metal cornice. The gable end, which faces the front of the building, is obstructed from view by a triangular marquee, original to the building, which proclaims the date of construction (1898) and partial use (Grandin-Library).

The rest of this rectangular building is constructed of brick which is painted and has a stone foundation, but no cellar. The gable roof has a very flat pitch.

The concrete block units to the back and on the west side are of modern construction. The first story brick wall in the rear was removed when the leanto kitchen wing was added.

Except for these additions the exterior of this building is unaltered.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1898**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Education

The residents of the Town of Clinton were provided with their first public library as a result of a bequest in the will of Daniel F. Grandin.

His will delegated a substantial amount of money to the town for the purpose of establishing a public library to be called the Grandin Library. Apparently this will was seriously contested causing a considerable delay and depletion of the legacy.

Eventually, however, in about 1898 the Court of Chancery released the remaining legacy of the will to be used for the purpose of building the library. Citizens of the town and surrounding vicinity soon complied with the bequest by purchasing a centrally-located lot and donating it for the library site. A Building Committee was appointed by the Common Council to oversee construction.

Originally, it was hoped the \$2,000 left in the will would be enough to cover construction, but in June, 1898 the Mayor, who was in charge of the work, notified the Common Council that the fund was exhausted and requested an appropriation of \$1,000 from the Town of Clinton for the library's completion. A special public election was called to authorize the money, but before it was held Ralph Voorhees, a philanthropic citizen of Clinton, donated the money needed to complete the work in every detail. (Voorhees also contributed another \$500 for the acquisition of books).

The Grandin Library, as a result, was quickly completed and the upstairs functioned as the public library for the Town of Clinton from 1898 to the 1960's.

The building served multiple purposes at numerous times. When first constructed, while the upstairs of the building was a library, the first floor functioned as a municipal office and a fire department. The dates of the municipal usage is uncertain, but the Fire Department used the first floor until 1968. (From 1968-1973) it was the headquarters of the Rescue Squad).

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

The Clinton Democrat. August 17, 1899. Volume 32, #33, Clinton, NJ
The Origins of Cast Iron Architecture in America. Edited by Adolf K. Placzek. Da Capo Press Series in Architecture & Decorative Art, New York: 1970. (See especially Plates 36, 46, 74, & 92 for similarities in commercial building design)
 Additional information supplied by: Margot Gayle, Chairman Friends of Cast Iron Architecture, 44 W. 9th Street, NY, NY
 Hæley J. McKee, FAIA, 701 Crawford Ave., Syracuse, NY
 Charles Detwiller, Jr. Architect 120 Depot Park Plainfield, NJ
 Daniel D. Reiff, Phd. Dept of Art. State University College (cont.)

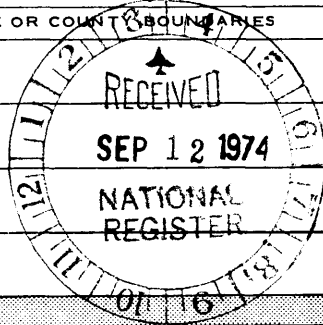
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		40	38	14
NE	° ' "	° ' "		74	54	33
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 0.1

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Terry Karschner, Historian-Curator

ORGANIZATION: Historic Sites Section, Dept. of Environmental Protection DATE: 7/3/74

STREET AND NUMBER: Box 1420

CITY OR TOWN: Trenton STATE: New Jersey CODE: 34

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: David J. Bardin

Title: Commissioner, Dept. of Environmental Protection

Date: August 8, 1974

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

Arthur H. Hays
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 11/1/74

ATTEST:

Wm J. Mumley, Jr.
 Keeper of The National Register

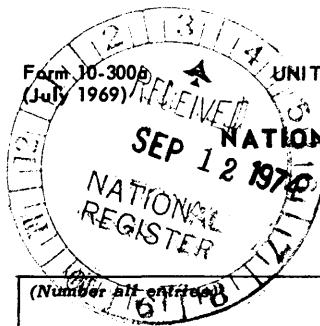
Date: 10.29.74

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Form 10-300b
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

STATE New Jersey	
COUNTY Hunterdon	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER NOV 1	DATE 1974



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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(Continuation Sheet)

In addition, the Grandin Library first floor served as a temporary schoolhouse from 1921 to 1923 after the regular school burned.

Architecture

The front facade of the Grandin Library which is comprised of cast iron on the first floor and pressed metal for the second floor is typical of the once numerous modest commercial and public buildings which stood on the streets of smaller American towns and cities at the end of the 19th century.

Doing these buildings all or in part out of cast iron and pressed metal reduced the costs incurred with stone facades while retaining a high degree of ornamentation. The strength of the cast iron facade also made possible either increased size or increased space in a public building. The Grandin Library, which was built on limited funds, probably took all these factors plus that of durability into consideration when it was decided to add a cast iron/pressed metal front facade.

Although at one time these types of buildings were apparently fairly common throughout the United States they have been numerous destroyed throughout the years making the existence of such a building in Clinton of local significance architecturally.

A 1913 catalog of George L. Mesker & Co. of Indiana claimed that they had 51 pressed metal fronts in New Jersey alone. (And this company was a considerable distance from the state)

Other scattered reports of late 19th-early 20th century businesses which produced similar facades indicate that there may have been several hundred such buildings in New Jersey. And although a census has never been completed concerning cast-iron type buildings which presently exist within the state the presence of the Grandin Library is unique to Clinton, and, possibly, the county.

9. Major Bibliographical References (Cont.)

Fredonia, N.Y.
Linda Smith, Curator, Clinton Historical Museum, Clinton, NJ