

PH00 1/625 413 No utm

STATE:	IOWA
COUNTY:	POCAHONTAS
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	NOV 5 1974

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON:
Laurens Public Library

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Laurens Carnegie Free Library

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
263 North Third

CITY OR TOWN:
Laurens

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
Sixth

STATE: Iowa CODE: 14 COUNTY: Pocahontas CODE: 15T

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Library

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
City of Laurens

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Laurens

STATE:
Iowa

CODE:
14

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Pocahontas County Courthouse - Auditor's Office

STREET AND NUMBER:
Courthouse Square

CITY OR TOWN:
Pocahontas

STATE:
Iowa

CODE:
14

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Deed of Dedication

DATE OF SURVEY: December 3, 1900
 Federal State County Local

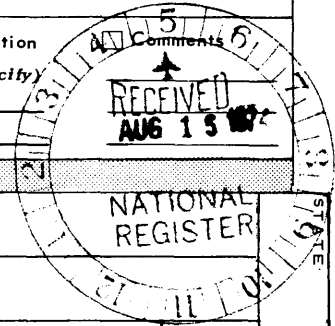
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Pocahontas Courthouse, Recorder's Office, Book F, page 308

STREET AND NUMBER:
Courthouse Square

CITY OR TOWN:
Pocahontas

STATE:
Iowa

CODE:
14



COUNTY: IOWA

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER: 1074

DATE: NOV 5 1974

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Laurens Public Library was conceived in the "mission style" according to its planners. Built in 1910, it consisted of one floor with a full basement. The building measures 42 feet long, 22 1/2 feet wide and has an 18 x 10 wing in front for an entryway. The exterior was formerly of grey stucco with red brick on either side of the door. Wood is incorporated above the door forming a half timber design effect. Carved here are the words, "Public Library", "Free", and the date, 1910. High steps lead to the main door. Below and to the side, steps lead down to a basement entrance. All windows have diamond panes. Both front windows are bays forming part of the architectural interest of the exterior. Inside, window seats are built in the bays. On each end of the main room there are book shelves built in. The ceiling has dark polished wooden beams that extend part way down the walls. The walls are white plaster.

✓ In 1955 a 26 x 12 foot addition was built on the rear. This permitted an inside stair to the basement, an upstairs lavatory, and a work room, which has since been converted to book shelves. White asphalt siding was used to blend with the rest of the building. The diamond paned windows that had to be removed, for the new construction, were placed in the new addition. In 1963 the library was painted cream with buff trim. Aside from these two changes, the library looks much the same as when it was originally built.

✓ The builder was W. J. Zitterell of Webster City. Material used for the building was plaster cement on steel lath.

It is located in the center of the town park, one and one-half blocks north of the business district. Across the street are the town hall and the fire station.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1910**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input 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 checked="" 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

Shortly after the turn of the century, a small group of ladies in the town of Laurens, formed a literary association with the idea of someday having a library building. For several years their library existed in a kitchen cupboard which was moved from place to place. After a few years of struggle they requested financial aid from Andrew Carnegie and his response was positive. The Laurens Carnegie Free Library was dedicated on October 13, 1910. It was reported that the town of Laurens was the smallest community in the nation at that time with a Carnegie Library.

During the early years of the library, it proved to be a main source of entertainment and pride. At one time it was reported that 400 books were circulated in one month. This was at a time when the library owned 500 books and the population numbered only slightly over 800. It was used by various organizations such as: The Federated Womens Club, Christian Scientists, the Latter Day Saints, Progressive Club, "Girllies" Club, Stitches Club, Boy Scouts, Army Reserve, 4-H and newspaper carriers. The school had a primary room in the basement in 1912.

In 1933, because Laurens was the smallest community in the nation with a Carnegie Library, it was featured in the Iowa exhibit of the 1933 Century of Progress, the Chicago World's Fair.

Now, as we see so many of our landmarks fall to so-called progress, the library is the last edifice remaining here with strong historic significance. We feel our library has national significance because of Carnegie's endowment to our small community. Locally, as a center for social activities, it has many associations with the past. Most important, we believe that this library is significant as an example of the preserverance and desire of the raw new towns of the Midwest to provide the higher things for their children and themselves. It continues to serve as a well preserved symbol of the pursuit of fine education in a small rural community.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Laurens Sun, SSSVII, June 23, 1921, page 1.
 Laurens Sun, LI, November 29, 1935, page 1.
 Pocahontas County Sun, XXII, Number 28, December 20, 1906, page 5.
 Pocahontas County Sun, XXXIII, Number 2, June 7, 1917, page 2.
 Register and Leader, of Des Moines, May 28, 1911, page 3.

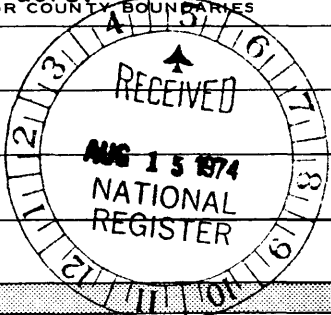
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	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	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		42 50 54	94 50 56	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than one acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Jeanne Cowan and Pat Harms, Library Trustees

ORGANIZATION: Laurens Public Library DATE: 12/4/73

STREET AND NUMBER:
263 North Third Street

CITY OR TOWN: Laurens STATE: Iowa CODE: 14

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 Adrian D. Anderson

Title Historic Preservation Officer

Date 14 June 1974

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

Adrian D. Anderson
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 11/5/74

ATTEST:

Charles H. Bennett
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 11-1-74