### National Register of Historic Places **Registration Form**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property	•			
historic name	Drake Public	Library		
other names/site number				a a fa
2. Location				
street & number	115 Drake Ave	nue		NZAnot for publication
city or town	Centerville			NA vicinity
state Iowa	codeIA	county Appanoose	code <u>007</u>	zip code _52544
3. State/Federal Agency C	ertification			
The first boost not meets boost not meets boost not meets boost not meets boost not meet boost not meet boost not bo	t the National Register Lically, ( See cor al/Title CAL SOCIETY OF I d bureau	essional requirements set for criteria. I recommend that th ntinuation sheet for additional HDO 9-22-9 Date CMA	is property be considered sig comments.)	jnificant
Signature of certifying offic		Date		
		Date		
State or Federal agency ar	nd bureau			
4. National Park Service	Certification	Allore	• •	
I hereby certify that the property entered in the National F See continuation determined eligible for th National Register See continuation	egister. sheet. e	O Fignature of A	Blall	Date of Action
determined not eligible for National Register.				
removed from the Nation Register,				
🖵 other, (explain:)				

OMB No. 10024-0018

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Drake Public Library Name of Property		Appanoc County and	<u>se County, Iowa</u> State	
. Classification				
Ownership of Property Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Res (Do not include pre	sources within Proper viously listed resources in t	ty he count.)
D private	building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing	
I public-local public-State public-Federal	☐ district ☐ site ☐ structure		0	building sites
				structu
		1	0	objects
Name of related multiple p Enter "N/A" if property is not part	of a multiple property listing.)	Number of cor in the National	ntributing resources p I Register	
chitectural & Historic	cal Resources of Centerv	ville, IA 0	· •	
6. Function or Use				
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)		Current Function (Enter categories from		
EDUCATION: Librar	CY	EDUCATION:	Library	
7. Description Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions		Materials (Enter categories from	n instructions)	
Late 19th & 20th (		foundationBri		
Neo-classical	l Revival	walls <u>Bri</u>		
		·		
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			<u>halt</u>	
			ra cotta	

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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#### Drake Public Library

Name of Property

#### 8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- X A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- K B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- **X** C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- □ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- $\Box$  F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Appanoose County, IA County and State

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Education

Architecture

Period of Significance

1901-1946

Significant Dates 1901-02

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Drake, Frances Marion

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Eastman, C.E.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References	
Bibilography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form	on one or more continuation sheets.)
Previous documentation on file (NPS):	Primary location of additional data:
<ul> <li>preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested</li> <li>previously listed in the National Register</li> <li>previously determined eligible by the National Register</li> <li>designated a National Historic Landmark</li> <li>recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>State Historic Preservation Office</li> <li>Other State agency</li> <li>Federal agency</li> <li>Local government</li> <li>University</li> <li>Other</li> <li>Name of repository:</li> </ul>
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #	

Drake Public	Library	Appanoose County, IA	
Name of Property		County and State	
10. Geographica	Data		
Acreage of Prop	erty <u>Less than one acre.</u>		
UTM References (Place additional UTM	references on a continuation sheet.)		
1 1 5 5 1 ( Zone Easting 2 4	0 0 0 0 4 5 0 4 5 0 Nonthing	3 Zone Easting Northing 4 J See continuation sheet	
Verbal Boundary (Describe the bounda	Description ries of the property on a continuation sheet.)		
Boundary Justifi (Explain why the bou	cation ndaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)		
11. Form Prepa	red By		
name/title	Molly Myers Naumann, Consultant		
organization	Centerville Historic Preservatio	n Comm date2/97	
street & number	167 West Alta Vista	telephone (515) 682-2743	
city or town	Ottumwa	state IA zip code _52501-1437	
Additional Docu			
Submit the following	items with the completed form:		
Continuation Sh	eets		

#### Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

#### Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

#### Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner (Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)			
street & number	312 Maple	telephone (515) 437-4339	
city or town	Centerville	stateIA zip code _52544	

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et sec.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_

DRAKE PUBLIC LIBRARY APPANOOSE COUNTY, IA

#### **DESCRIPTION:**

The Drake Public Library (1901–02) is located one block southeast of the Courthouse Square "in a prominent position near the head of Drake Avenue..." (<u>Semi-Weekly lowegian</u>, 16 Jan 1903). This is just south of Maple Street which was the original Centerville city limits. At the time of construction the lot next door at the corner of Maple and Drake was occupied by the Armory-Opera House, and there was a lumberyard across the street to the west. Today the library is surrounded by commercial buildings.

The library was designed by architect C.E. Eastman of Des Moines and is a two story rectangular brick building measuring 49' x 92' on a high foundation. The Neo-classical design features a symmetrical facade on the west elevation (facing Drake Avenue). The central pavilion features monumental two story lonic columns and the two entrance doors are reached by a broad set of stone steps. The corners of the projecting pavilion are treated as simple, heavy pilasters and are capped by stone globes, or orbs. A shallow dome covers the central portion of the building. The walls are of "St. Louis red granite, Roman shaped, pressed brick, best grade...." with "St. Louis Terra-cotta used for the water-table, panels, copings, columns, capitals, cornice and sills for windows." (Architect's specifications) The base course and entrance steps are of Bedford stone. The terra cotta entablature is crowned by a simple brick parapet. It appears that the only exterior changes involve new storm windows and a fire escape on the rear elevation. (The library board has engaged an architectural firm to install new storm windows during 1997. The architect has been in communication with the preservation architect of the State Historical Society of Iowa (S.H.S.I.) to assure that the windows will be appropriate.)

The floor plan shows that the building consists of three basic areas: the square central portion which is capped by the dome, and a rectangular wing to each side. The two entry doors on the west elevation open into a small vestibule which leads into the octagonal rotunda area. This first floor rotunda was planned as a receiving area with the circulation desk located to the left (north) side. The four triangles formed in the corners were used for conference rooms, offices, cataloguing, etc. The books were housed in four levels of stacks in the north wing. The original metal shelving is still in use, as is the heavy opaque glass flooring that was commonly used in stack areas at this time. A cast iron staircase (original) leads from floor to floor in this wing. The south wing on the first floor was, and still is, used as a reading room (with original light fixtures in place). A curving staircase connecting all three levels was originally located on the east side of the rotunda, directly opposite the entry doors. This stairwell became the location of the passenger elevator when it was installed, and a new steel staircase was constructed in the northeast triangular area.

On the second floor, the rotunda area is open, with the triangular corners being used for the men's and women's retiring rooms, a check room, and the trustee's room. The stacks occupy the north wing, and the south wing was available for use as an auditorium (said to accommodate "one hundred or more" people). This south room now houses the local history collection.

The basement level appears to have been primarily designed for storage and mechanical services, but the large room in the north wing was designated as the "children's room."

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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

DRAKE PUBLIC LIBRARY APPANOOSE COUNTY, IA

DESCRIPTION (Continued):

The highlight of the interior is the stained glass dome which covers the two story rotunda. Although this dome is noted in the architect's drawings, no source for the stained glass is identified. It says only "inner dome to be glazed with art glass by owner." The fluted columns in the rotunda repeat those found on the facade and are of terra cotta. The railing around the rotunda on the second floor is of decorative pressed metal panels. Changes to the interior have been primarily cosmetic in nature.

The Drake Public Library not only continues to serve its original purpose, it also retains a high level of integrity on both the interior and exterior.



Illustration from the "Official Souvenir Program of the Drake Public Library Dedication."

#### United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

DRAKE PUBLIC LIBRARY APPANOOSE COUNTY, IA



U.S.G.S. Map of Centerville (Centerville East and West Quads combined)

Public Square with Courthouse is show as white square near center.

Location of Drake Public Library indicated by arrow.

### United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_7 Page \_\_\_4

DRAKE PUBLIC LIBRARY APPANOOSE COUNTY, IA

DESCRIPTION (Continued):



Plat map shows relationship of the Drake Public Library (see arrow) to the Post Office one block west, the Courthouse Square one block northwest, and the County Jail one and one-half blocks north of the Square.

### United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Piaces Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 5

DRAKE PUBLIC LIBRARY APPANOOSE COUNTY, IA

**DESCRIPTION (Continued):** 



1924 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map shows Drake Public Library and surrounding area.

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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DRAKE PUBLIC LIBRARY APPANOOSE COUNTY, IA

**DESCRIPTION (Continued):** 



West Elevation



East Elevation

Elevations prepared by KNV Architects-Planners, 1996

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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 7

DRAKE PUBLIC LIBRARY APPANOOSE COUNTY, IA

DESCRIPTION (Continued):



North Elevation



Elevations prepared by KNV Architects-Planners, 1996

### United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 8

#### DRAKE PUBLIC LIBRARY APPANOOSE COUNTY, IA

**DESCRIPTION (Continued):** 



TOP: 1st Floor BOTTOM: Basement



Plans by C.E. Eastman

### United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_

DRAKE PUBLIC LIBRARY APPANOOSE COUNTY, IA

DESCRIPTION (Continued):





BOTTOM: Cross-section



Plans by C.E. Eastman

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 10

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DRAKE PUBLIC LIBRARY APPANOOSE COUNTY, IA

#### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The Drake Public Library is locally significant under Criterion A for its association with the introduction of a free public library in Centerville; under Criterion B as one of the most important examples of Francis Marion Drake's benevolence in the community; and, under Criterion C as a good example of Neo-classical design used for a public building.

Until the late 19th century if you wanted to borrow a book from a library in an lowa community you needed to be a member of the Library Association or to pay a subscription fee to the library. It was the women who usually took the lead in establishing a library in their community. They would hold fund raisers and staff the library reading rooms. In the 1880s millionaire Andrew Carnegie began giving money to towns for the construction of a library building if they would provide a site, provide annual maintenance funds of at least 10% of the Carnegie amount, and, if they promised it would be a free public library, open to all. The first Carnegie funded library outside of his home state of Pennsylvania was built in Fairfield, Iowa in 1892-93. In the following 30 years Carnegie funded the construction of 1679 libraries in 1412 towns across the United States. 101 of these were built in the state of Iowa (Sioux City and Waterloo each had two). Again, it was often the women in a community who made the initial contact with Carnegie concerning library funding, and they usually provided the "swing vote" to establish a public library. There were several perceived benefits from a free public library: that it would help provide a democratic education for all; that it would provide a good moral example; and, there was always the strong sense of basic civic pride. In 1900 when the Iowa Library Commission was established there were 48 free public libraries in Iowa. By 1903 that number had grown to 73, an increase of 25 in just three years.

Although Carnegie played a key role in the free public library movement, he was not the sole source of funds. In many communities local philanthropists offered funds to assist with construction costs. Two lowa examples are the Carnegie–Evans Library in Albia and the Carnegie–Ellsworth Library in Iowa Falls. In other instances a local benefactor provided all of the money needed for such a facility. This was the case in Centerville.

In 1896 the ladies of Centerville decided to mount a campaign to establish a public reading room. Several months later they were told that they would receive \$1,000 from the estate of an early settler in the county, Brazilian Bowen, if they raised a like amount. They immediately began a series of entertainments, suppers in church parlors, etc. to raise the \$1,000. Through generous contributions of citizens and school children the goal was achieved and they were able to establish a Library and Reading Room on the second floor of the Lane Building on the west side of the Courthouse Square. The new semi-public library was so successful that the books accumulated rapidly with no adequate space in which to keep them, and the reading rooms proved too small for the library patrons. Former Governor Francis M. Drake recognized the problem and in 1901 he submitted a proposition to the City of Centerville,

To the Honorable Mayor and the City Council of the City of Centerville, lowa: The undersigned having long recognized the beneficial influence of education on the moral and intellectual development of people as well as their happiness

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number <u>8</u> Page <u>11</u>

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DRAKE PUBLIC LIBRARY APPANOOSE COUNTY, IA

SIGNIFICANCE (Continued):

and welfare, and believing that no greater good can come to the public of the city of Centerville than through the influence of a well equipped and permanent free public library, and desiring at this time of my life to show the love for the city in which I have lived so long, and to evince my earnest desire for its future good, I have decided to make the city, through its common council the following proposition for the establishment and maintenance of a free public library for said city and its people.

The rest of the proposition basically said that he would convey to the city a library building and grounds to cost not less that \$25,000 on the condition that the voters of the city approve the establishment of a free public library and approve a tax of two mils on the dollar to maintain the library and pay annual expenses. In a special election on May 5, 1901 a total of 1,528 ballots were cast, all but 65 being in favor of the proposition. Drake went far beyond his original promise by grading and seeding the grounds, having Bedford stone approaches laid, frescoing and decorating the interior of the building, and providing the furnishings. As the library was preparing for its opening he realized that there were relatively few books for the shelves and provided an additional \$1,000 for the purchase of more books. It is believed that his total investment in this free public library was around \$30,000.

Francis Marion Drake (1830–1903) was a revered figure in his home community. The 1903 Biographical and Genealogical History of Appanoose and Monroe Counties, Iowa said,

.....it is here fitting....to give a prominent place to the life and career of ex-Governor Drake. No fulsome tributes of praise will be here attempted, and none are needed; his deeds speak for themselves. As a business man, as a soldier, as a statesman, as the highest executive officer of his state, as the founder of a great university, and, above all, as the exponent of true, noble Christian manhood, he deserves to take rank among the leaders of men and makers of history.

Drake was born in Illinois, was raised in Davis County, Iowa, and in 1859 he moved to Appanoose County. He served in the Civil War, being wounded at the battle of Mark's Mills. Before leaving the service he was honored with the brevet commission of brigadier general. Following the war he entered the practice of law in Centerville. Drake saw the future of the railroad industry, organized a company and built what became the Keokuk and Western Railroad from Keokuk to Centerville in 1872. He was also involved with the Albia and Centerville Railway, several branches of the Iowa Central, and the Indiana, Illinois & Iowa (familiarly called the "Three I"). He organized the Appanoose County State Bank, and was the president of the Centerville National Bank and two banks in Albia. As the Republican party's candidate, Drake was elected governor in 1895. The major achievement of his governorship was the major revision of state laws.

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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DRAKE PUBLIC LIBRARY APPANOOSE COUNTY, IA

SIGNIFICANCE (Continued):

He chose not to run for re-election in 1897, returning instead to his home in Centerville. In later years Drake devoted time and money to promoting education and building institutions of learning. "He founded and was the most liberal supporter of the university in Des Moines which bears his name." He provided funding for the building of a new Christian Church in Centerville, as well as being the benefactor of the Drake Public Library. A major north/south street in Centerville was renamed in his honor. Drake appears to have been a shrewd business man who made his money in railroads and banking, and cared enough about his community to give something back to it.

When the library was dedicated on January 15, 1903, the expected crowds were so large that two dedication services had to be held, and one next door to the library in the Armory-Opera House, and one at the Presbyterian Church a block west of the library. The dedicatory address was given by lowa Governor A.B. Cummins. Cummins and approximately 525 other people, mostly Drake University students (including the complete University band and glee club), arrived from Des Moines on a special train of thirteen coaches. Cummins noted that "a public library was one of the great factors for good in a community, to be rated with schools, churches and other institutions that advance humanity and raise it to a higher plane" and he congratulated the people of Centerville "in having a man in their midst who exerted an influence that grows with the years and who also had the discrimination to give the community a gift that would be a center of moral influence the extent of which no man could define and that so long as the structure stood, so long would that influence be felt."

The Drake Public Library was designed by Des Moines architect C.E. Eastman in the style considered most appropriate for public buildings, Neo-classical. This interest in classical design can be traced to the buildings of the 1893 Columbian Exposition in Chicago. The fluted columns, monumental porticos, and domes which graced those buildings became a part of the streetscape in almost every town in America. The turn of the century was a period when communities across the country were beginning to construct impressive public buildings, symbols of their civic pride. The Neo-classical style gave them a sense of history while also being visually impressive. In southeast Iowa there were three public libraries under construction during 1901-02, and all three exhibited characteristics of the style: Centerville; Oskaloosa, designed by Frank E. Wetherell; and, Ottumwa, designed by Smith and Cutterson. Two of these (Oskaloosa and Ottumwa) were funded by Andrew Carnegie. It is important to note that all of these are located in county seats. Although smaller communities might have a public library, it was usually of the "reading room" variety and did not occupy an impressive building of its own. On rare occasions Carnegie funded libraries in noncounty seats, if they were progressive towns in their own right (lowa Falls is an example). Large county seats such as Ottumwa and Iowa City had libraries of limestone construction, while smaller towns like Centerville and Oskaloosa had brick structures. The common thread is the symmetrical Neo-classical facade with monumental columns and broad steps leading up to the entrance. The Centerville library is unusual in that it is two stories above the basement, making it taller than most others, though it is not as large in terms of square feet per floor.

The interior plan is one commonly used for libraries, with the center, or rotunda, area used

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### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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DRAKE PUBLIC LIBRARY APPANOOSE COUNTY, IA

SIGNIFICANCE (Continued):

as public space and for the circulation desk. The stack area is located in a wing to one side, with the reading room on the opposite side. A special room for the children's library was considered an important part of the overall design. The public rooms in the library are spacious, with high ceilings and fine woodwork. All possible modern conveniences were included in the plans (central heating, electricity, large retiring rooms, etc.). The Drake Public Library was truly a public building of which the City of Centerville could be proud.

This building retains a high level of integrity on both the interior and exterior. The Library Board of Trustees is aware of its significance and is determined to preserve the structure. It has had, and continues to have, an important place in the life of the community.

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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DRAKE PUBLIC LIBRARY APPANOOSE COUNTY, IA

**BIBLIOGRAPHY:** 

- Architect's Plans, Drawings, and Specifications: C.E. Eastman, c.1901; KNV Architects-Planners, 1996.
- Bobinski, George S. Carnegie Libraries. Chicago: American Library Association, 1969.

Drake Public Library File. Des Moines: State Historical Society of Iowa (S.H.S.I.).

Iowa Library Commission Report 1900–1903. "Free Public Libraries of Iowa – Historical Sketches 1903," pp. 74–5.

Lewis, S. Thompson (Comp.) Biographical and Genealogical History of Appanoose and Monroe Countu, Iowa. Chicao: Lewis Pub. Co., 1903.

"Official Souvenir Program of the Drake Public Library Dedication," 15 January 1903.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps: 1883, 1888, 1893, 1898, 1907, 1913, and 1924.

Semi-Weekly lowegian, 16 January 1903, entire front page devoted to the new library.

Taylor, L.L. (Ed.) <u>Past and Present of Appanoose County, Iowa</u>. Chicago: S.J. Clarke Pub. Co., 1913.

Wellner, Karen. "History and Architecture of Iowa's Carnegie Libraries." Paper presented at Iowa Heritage EXPO, State Historical Society of Iowa, Des Moines, IA, June 1996.

#### **VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:**

Commencing at the northwest corner of the east half of the southeast quarter of Section 36, T69N R18W in Centerville, Appanoose County, Iowa, thence south 30', thence east 33' to post at the west corner of the Opera Lot, thence south 80' to establish the place of beginning, thence south 135.61', thence east 139.5', thence north 135.61', thence west 139.5' to the place of beginning.

#### BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

This is the area historically associated with this resource.

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Photo Page 15

DRAKE PUBLIC LIBRARY APPANOOSE COUNTY, IA

PHOTOGRAPHS: Drake Public Library 115 Drake Avenue, Centerville Appanoose County, Iowa

All photographs of the Drake Public Library were taken by Nancy Bennett in February 1997, and all negatives are located in the files of the Community Programs Bureau, State Historical Society of Iowa (SHSI), Des Moines, IA.

- #1 Exterior: Facade (west and south elevations), looking northeast.
- #2 Facade (detail of entrance doors and columns), looking east.
- #3 Facade (west and north elevations), looking southeast.
- #4 North and east elevations looking south southwest.
- #5 South elevation, looking north.
- #6 Cornerstone.
- **#7** Interior: Iron stairs and glass floor in stacks area.
- #8 Original lighting fixture in reading room.
- #9 Detail: glass dome.
- #10 Detail: pressed metal panels around rotunda.
- #11 Detail: looking down from 2nd floor toward 1st floor doors into stacks.

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