



## 7. DESCRIPTION

Condition: excellent good fair deteriorated ruins unexposed  
Circle one: unaltered altered  
Circle one: original site moved date \_\_\_\_\_

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Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance  
attach photo

The old Wenatchee Carnegie library is located in a corner of a large park in which the Chelan County Courthouse is also located. The courthouse exploits a vista of the park, but the Carnegie building faces the intersection of three streets and is screened from the rest of the park by trees. The building is rectangular with a flat roof. There is a projection in the center of the north-west facade for the main entry, which has an arched transom and is flanked by two outdoor lamps attached to the building. Notable features of the building are the dentilled cornice, the engaged brick columns, and the numerous, symmetrically arranged double-hung windows, the upper portions of which are complexes of tiny triangular panes.

Verbal boundary description:

Acreage: Less than one

City portion, Block 15, Great Northern Plat

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## 8. SIGNIFICANCE

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Specific dates	1911	Builder/Architect	Blackwell & Baker
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### a. History

The first library in Wenatchee was operated by the Women's Christian Temperance Union. When donations for its operation proved too small, city funds were appropriated. The city applied for a Carnegie grant of \$10,000, which was awarded in 1909. The architect, Blackwell and Baker, was required by Carnegie to revise the plans because too much space was devoted to the lobby, vestibules and stairways. Construction took place in 1911 by the contractor Bird and Hobsen, and the building formally opened on January 1, 1912. By 1918, it was already being criticized for being too small, and Carnegie was asked for money to build an addition. None was granted, however, because the program was being discontinued. In 1939 the library moved to a new building across the street. For some years the building was a museum, and it is now used for various city offices.

### b. Evaluation of Significance

This building is a well-preserved library of the most common size built in the state. It played a role in the cultural and intellectual history of the city for many years.