

Iowa Site Inventory

Division of Historic Preservation
Iowa State Historical Department
26 E. Market St., Iowa City, Iowa 52240

Site Number 42-009-002
District Name _____
Map Reference # _____

Identification

1. Site Name Eldora Public Library
2. Village/Town/City Eldora Township _____ County Hardin
3. Street Address 1219 14th Avenue
4. Legal Location _____

Urban:	subdivision	block	parcel	subparcel
Rural:	township	range	section	% section of 1/4 section
		<u>17</u>	<u>2, W1/3L1</u>	
5. UTM Location: zone 15 easting 490950 northing 4684800; Acreage 2/
6. Owner(s) Name City of Eldora
7. Owner(s) Address _____

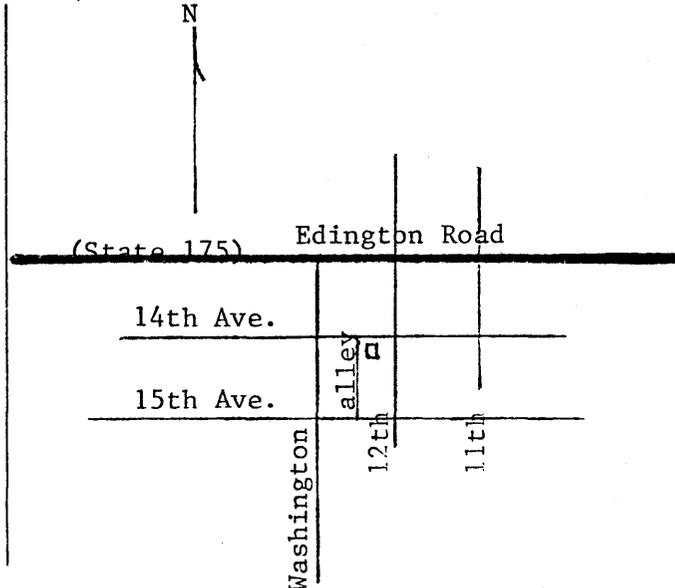
(Street address)	(City)	(State)	(Zip)
<u>Eldora, Iowa</u>	<u>50627</u>		
8. Use: Present library Original library

Description

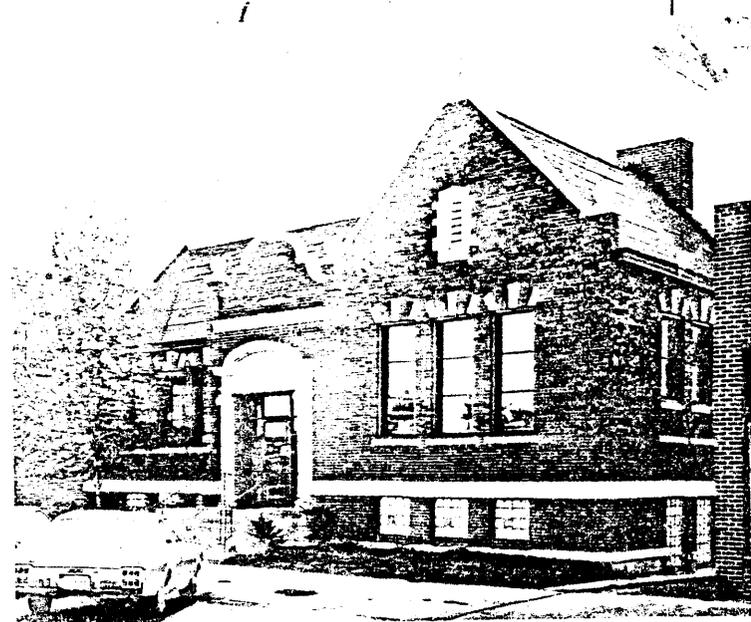
9. Date of Construction 1902-03 Architect/Builder xxxx Patton and Miller; Chicago
10. Building Type:

<input type="checkbox"/> single-family dwelling	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> other institutional	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> multiple-family dwelling	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agricultural
<input type="checkbox"/> commercial			
11. Exterior Walls: clapboard stone brick board and batten shingles stucco
 other with stone trim
12. Structural System: wood frame with interlocking joints wood frame with light members (balloon frame)
 masonry load-bearing walls iron frame steel frame with curtain walls reinforced concrete
 other _____
13. Condition: excellent good fair deteriorated
14. Integrity: original site moved—if so, when? _____
 Notes on alterations, additions (with dates and architect, if known) and any other notable features of building and site: Front door (including side-and top-lights) and windows replaced in bronzed aluminum, not unsympathetically (c.1976); tile roof replaced w/asphalt shingles (rec
15. Related Outbuildings and Property: barn other farm structures carriage house garage privy
 other _____
16. Is the building endangered? no yes—if so, why? _____
17. Surroundings of the building: open land woodland scattered outbuildings densely built-up commercial
 industrial residential other _____

18. Map



19. Photo



Significance

(Indicate sources of information for all statements)

19. Architectural significance

- a. Key structure/individually may qualify for the National Register
- b. Contributing structure
- c. Not eligible/intrusion

The Eldora Public Library is one of the small group of libraries composed of an asymmetrical massing of intersecting gables (see also Algona, Mt. Pleasant). Eldora features a front-gable at one side of the front elevation, balanced by a side-gable on the other, which is set slightly to the rear in plan. The entrance pavilion is found in the angle formed by these two intersecting masses. The exterior is in a restrained Northern Renaissance style, with a Georgianizing doorway, the elliptical pediment of which echoes the curves of the shaped gable above. The building is chiefly significant for its interior. The plan is an interesting variation on the standard sexpartite plan (Type II). The two reading rooms, one on each side of the central delivery area, are approximately the same in size but differ in shape (which is expressed in the massing). The radiating stack projects substantially from the rear of the building and is connected to the left-hand reading room through a diminutive

20. Historical Significance

Theme(s) _____

(continued)

- a. Key structure/individually may qualify for the National Register
- b. Contributing structure
- c. Not eligible/intrusion

21. Sources (for primary and secondary sources, give complete facts of publication: author, title, place of publication, date, etc.):

- "Dedication of the New Public Library Building, Eldora, Ia."
Iowa Library Quarterly 3(1903): 40-41.
- Moir, William J., ed. Past and Present of Hardin County, Iowa.
Indianapolis: B.F. Bowen and Co., 1911. pp.241-243.
- Koch, Theodore W. A Book of Carnegie Libraries. New York: H.W. Wilson
Company, 1917. pp.171-2. Pls. 95,96. (continued)

Prepared by Samuel J. Klingensmith Date August, 1980
Address 617 N. Cayuga, Tthaca, NY14850 Telephone 607 273-5684
Organization _____

For Division of Historic Preservation Use Only

1. Office Information Sources on this Property

- County Resource File
- Windshield Survey
- National Register
- Grants-In-Aid: _____
- Determination of Eligibility

Review and Compliance Project:

- Other _____
- Other _____
- Other _____

2. Subject Traces

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____
- e. _____

3. Photo Images

- W.S., 360/16-24, 359/29A-34A,
- 351/2
- _____
- _____
- _____

C O N T I N U A T I O N S H E E T

42-009-002
Eldora Public Library

19. semi-octagonal reference alcove (balanced on the other side by an office). The interior is in the medievalizing Craftsman mode--dark woodwork and light walls--not atypical for small libraries, but is much more elaborate and stylish than is usually the case. The openings connecting the different spaces are wide and reach almost to the ceiling. Their frames are a curious compromise between the rectilinear and the arched. Wall surfaces are divided into panels by dark wood strips.

21. --DHPFIR, S. Dennett, H. Muessig, 1978.