

Iowa Site Inventory

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

Site Number 87-004-004
District Name _____
Map Reference # _____

Identification

1. Site Name Bedford Public Library
2. Village/Town/City Bedford Township _____ County Taylor
3. Street Address Jefferson Street
4. Legal Location _____

Urban:	subdivision	block	parcel	subparcel
Rural:	township	range	section	% section of 1/4 section
	<u>OT</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>2</u>	
5. UTM Location: zone 15 easting 352100 northing 449650; Acreage 1/4
6. Owner(s) Name City of Bedford
7. Owner(s) Address _____

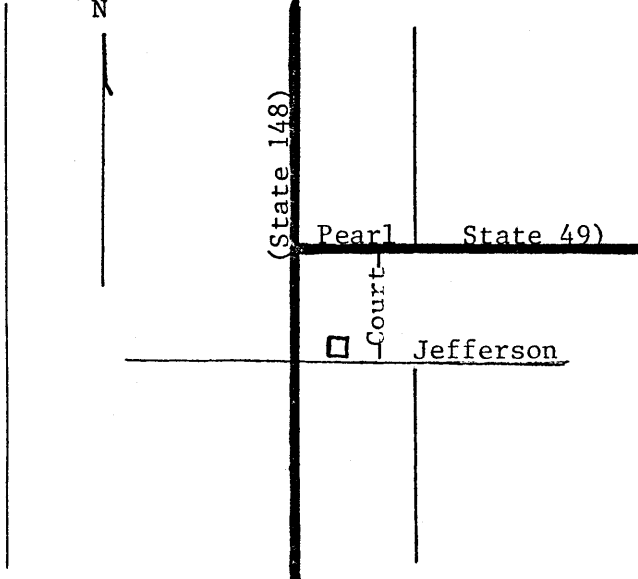
(Street address)	(City)	(State)	(Zip)
	<u>Bedford, Iowa</u>	<u>50833</u>	
8. Use: Present library Original library

Description

9. Date of Construction 1916-17 Architect Wetherell and Gage, Des Moines
10. Building Type:

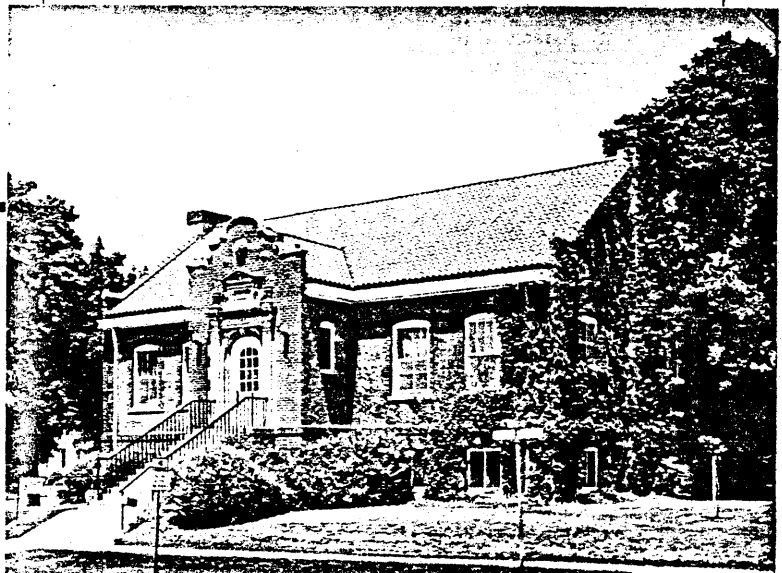
<input type="checkbox"/> single-family dwelling	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> other institutional	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> multiple-family dwelling	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agricultural
<input type="checkbox"/> commercial			
11. Exterior Walls: clapboard stone brick board and batten shingles stucco with brick basement and tri
 other _____
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:
The building is extremely well preserved.
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 The library faces the Taylor County Courthouse.
Two churches are nearby. An attractive ensemble of public buildings.

18. Map



19. Photo

Roll 82 Frame 3 View S & E elevations



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 Bedford Public Library is a highly competent example of the side-gable end type of small library building. It is rectangular in plan, with a projecting entrance vestibule in the center of the long side. In style, it is one of a small group of libraries which blend the Northern Renaissance and the Georgian (see Osceola). Architectural detailing is concentrated on the elaborate frame of the door, which features a pedimented inscription panel, flanked by urns, piled on top of the cornice. The plan conforms to Type II, in which the library is one single space, partitioned only by high bookshelves. There is a small stack area in the rear center, behind the delivery desk. The interior of the Bedford Library features two fireplaces once centered against each end wall.

20. Historical Significance

Theme(s) _____

- 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.):

- Bedford Centennial History. Bedford, Iowa, 1953. 1 p.
- Thompson, Mrs. Ralph. Early Memories of the Bedford Public Library
Written in 1948. typewritten ms. 7 pp.
- DHPLSQ-1, Sybil L. Sneed, Sec., Board of Library Trustees.
- Prints of architect's drawings in possession of Bedford Public Library.

Prepared by _____ Date _____
Address _____ Telephone _____
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 82/3

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____