

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

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received JUN 25 1986
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Carnegie Public Library

and/or common Havre Public Library

2. Location

street & number 447 4th Avenue N/A not for publication

city, town Havre N/A vicinity of

state Montana code 030 county Hill code 041

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<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: vacant

4. Owner of Property

name Kathleen Shirilla

street & number 447 4th Avenue

city, town Havre N/A vicinity of state Montana

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Hill County Courthouse

street & number 300 4th Street

city, town Havre state Montana

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Havre Carnegie Public Library is a one story, buff-colored brick building raised one-half story above grade, located at the corner of 4th Avenue and 5th Street in Havre, Montana. Erected in 1914, the rectangular-shaped Classical Revival style building rests on a low concrete foundation and is symmetrical in design with a central (west-facing) entrance on the primary facade.

The main floor is raised about six feet above grade, allowing for windows to provide ample light to the basement rooms. Twelve concrete steps lead up to the main entrance, which consists of a single light wooden door with an infilled panel to the side and above. These replaced the original double doors and transom at an undetermined date. Surmounting the entrance is a pediment with a slightly-raking cornice; directly below the pediment in the frieze are the raised letters "CARNEGIE PUBLIC LIBRARY." Along the primary facade the lower half story has two sets of paired, 4/1 double hung windows with concrete sills. A wide, concrete beltcourse encircles the entire building directly above these windows.

The main floor also has four paired windows with concrete sills, but they are 8/1 double hung sash and have small, 14-light transoms. Three rows of darker, corbeled bricks directly below the frieze extend around three sides of the library. Along the main facade the frieze has circular motifs located at the corners and in line with each area of brick between the windows; two similar decorations on each side of the building are located near the corners. The slightly-projecting cornice is surmounted by a crenelated parapet capped with corbeled brick coping.

The south end of the Carnegie Library features two sets of 4/1 double hung windows on the basement level. The north end has a similar fenestration except for a new basement entrance near the northeast corner, which replaced one of the windows at an undetermined date. The rear (east) facade is covered with stucco, lacks any decorative features, and has six 4/1 double hung windows and an entrance on the basement level. The upper floor has eight 4/1 double hung windows with concrete sills and arched lintels. Most of the windows on both the basement and main floor are covered with four-light storm windows. There is an exterior brick chimney which projects through the eave.

The interior of the library is accessed by a vestibule and consists of one large room on the main floor with an original wood floor and pressed metal ceiling. Modern fluorescent lights replaced the original fixtures at an undetermined date. The lower floor has a large reading room, restroom, storage closets and several offices. Pressed metal also covers the ceiling in the basement. Original doors, hardware and trim are found throughout the building.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates	1914	Builder/Architect	E.C. Richmond, builder Marion Rizzo, architect
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Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Havre Public Library is significant for its representation of and important association with the boom period of construction and resulting growth in the community of Havre, Montana, the government seat of Hill county, an agriculturally-based county in north-central Montana. The erection of the Carnegie Library, with financial assistance provided by a direct gift from the Carnegie Foundation's library fund, indicated community support for the library, town stability, as well as local pride and concern for public education. Indeed, Carnegie believed that, like the local schools or any other municipal service, the public library required public support in order to be successful. The Havre Library is also significant as a good example of an adaptation of the Classical Revival style to a Carnegie Library building plan.

In Montana, 17 cities received grants from the Carnegie Foundation to build new libraries dating from 1901-1918. As early as January 5, 1901 the Milk River Eagle newspaper reported a movement in Havre to obtain a "public library and free reading room here." The paper suggested that if the community gave substantial aid for a library "that would be one way of showing the outside world that the mayor and aldermen plan better things for Havre and do not dream them all day long." Three years later, the first Havre library was founded by a group of about 50 local women who formed the Women's Club and each agreed to pay twenty-five cents a month toward the upkeep of the facility. Initially, a room in the Havre Security State Bank served as the library, and 200 books donated by local residents were available for use.

In 1906 the library had outgrown space in the bank and moved into the Havre City Hall. By 1908, after Glasgow, Montana (160 miles east) had successfully used Carnegie funds to build a library, there was growing public interest in constructing a new public library in Havre. The Havre Plaindealer reported on August 1 that Glasgow's Carnegie Library was a "splendid example of public pride and enterprise and worthy of emulation by Glasgow's onlooking neighbors." Two years later city officials and Women's Club members lobbied for tax funds to support a library, and in 1911 the first paid librarian was hired by the city.

Expressing confidence that funds would be available from the Carnegie Foundation, the Havre Library Board submitted a proposal on December 7, 1912 to the City Council to buy land at the corner of 4th Avenue and 5th Street on which to build a Carnegie Library. This proposal was in keeping with a stipulation by Carnegie that the community provide property for a library. At the same time a request was sent to Carnegie for a grant to construct a new building. During a visit to New York, the mayor of Havre attempted to persuade Carnegie of the need for a library. On March 29, 1913 the Plaindealer reported that the Carnegie Foundation was donating \$12,000 toward the construction of a new library, and within a year the building was completed and filled with over 4,000

9. Major Bibliographical References

Gunderson, Edna, ed. Grit, Guts & Gusto-A History of Hill County. Havre, MT.: Hill County Bicentennial Commission, 1976.
Rub, Timothy. "'The day of big operations": Andrew Carnegie and his libraries." Architectural Record (July, 1985) 81-85.
Milk River Eagle 5 Jan. 1901; Havre Plaindealer 1 Aug. 1908, 7 Dec. 1912, 29 March 1913.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Havre

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	2	5	9	7	6	8	0	5	3	7	7	9	7	8
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

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D

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Block 1 of the Havre Library Addition.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state None code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Linda Taylor, member Board of Trustees and Michael Koop, Montana SHPO

organization Havre-Hill County Library date 9 January 1986

street & number 1029 4th Avenue telephone (406) 265-9487

city or town Havre state Montana 59501

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

MK

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Marella Sheffy*

title SHPO date 6-16-86

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date 7-24-86

J. Alores Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

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books. Havre's request for funds to construct a Carnegie building was typical of the need for a new library in many communities throughout Montana. At the time Havre sought their Carnegie grant, the town was rapidly expanding from the homesteading boom (1910-1920) and establishing itself as the center of growth in north-central Montana. In addition to businesses typically found in smaller towns, Havre had a U.S. Land Office that was handling over 700 homestead requests per month by 1913, a hospital, three newspapers, a brewery which produced 100 barrels a day, a bottling works for soft drinks, and an athletic club. The town was clearly ready for a permanent library facility.

Funds provided by Carnegie were given only for the construction of a library building, not for the purchase of its contents or operating expenses, which were left to the responsibility of the community. As was the case with all Carnegie grants for libraries, the town was required to provide a suitable location for the building and had to agree to devote at least ten per cent of the building's cost to its maintenance.

Initially, Carnegie did not require that architectural plans be submitted to his office for approval. By 1908, however, Carnegie and his secretary, James Bertram, began to regularly review building proposals because of an increased concern regarding unnecessary architectural display and poor planning. In 1911 Carnegie published a pamphlet entitled "Notes on the Erection of Library Buildings," which contained general building suggestions and examples of library plans for use throughout the country. The publication suggested that the best results for a small library would be in a rectangular-shaped building with one floor plus a basement.

The 40'x 60' Havre Carnegie Library generally follows one of the standard building plans suggested by Bertram. The main floor, which is 12'-15' high, holds the bookshelves, circulation and reference desk area in the center, and an adult's and children's reading room. The plans for the building were drawn by the architect Marion Riffo who established a business in Kalispell, Montana in 1909. Riffo designed several hospitals and schools in communities near Havre such as Glasgow and Kalispell, and reportedly was responsible for designing buildings in northern Idaho and Spokane, Washington. The refined Neo-Classical style library reflects the prevailing vogue for classical forms in the first decades of the twentieth century. It also exemplifies design features promulgated by Carnegie which suggested a plain, dignified structure with an unornamented exterior, and practical and economic interior layout. The building is distinguished by a symmetrical design which is finished with a smooth pressed brick surface, and in keeping with the Classical Revival style, has a large parapet that is surmounted by an unadorned roof line.

The Havre Carnegie Library has had few minor interior and exterior changes, and despite these alterations it is in good condition and has retained its historic architectural integrity. The library reflects a commitment by the community

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to Havre's stability, and is among the most distinguished architectural representations of the town's primary period of growth and importance in the settlement of the Hi-Line area of Montana.