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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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, work processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Sioux City Public Library, North Side Branch

other names/site number Bruce Meyer Productions

2. Location

street & number 810 29th Street N/A not for publication

city or town Sioux City N/A vicinity

state Iowa code IA county Woodbury code 193 zip code 51104

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the national Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Pauline (Allison) DSTRD 11-2-00
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

- I hereby certify that the property is :
 - entered in the National Register.
 - See continuation sheet.
 - determined eligible for the National Register
 - See continuation sheet.
 - determined not eligible for the National Register.
 - removed from the National Register.
 - other, (explain:)

[Signature] _____
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action
Edson H. Beall 12/7/00

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	1	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

none

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/Library

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling

COMMERCE/TRADE Specialty store

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19th and 20th CENTURY REVIVALS/
Tudor Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick
walls Brick

roof asphalt
other stucco

Narrative Description

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

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark an "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for national Register Listing)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- 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.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Education

Period of Significance

1929

Significant Dates

1929

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Steele, William J

Holtze, H.S.

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Sioux City Public Library, North Side Branch
Name of Property

Woodbury, IA
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 14 713600 4710660

3 _____

2 _____

4 _____

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Glenda Castleberry
organization SiouxLandmark date August 21, 1998
street & number 2311 Nebraska Street telephone 712-258-4239
city or town Sioux City state IA zip code 51104

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

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.)

name Bruce Meyer
street & number 810 29th Street telephone 712-258-4415
city or town Sioux City state IA zip code 51104

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 seq.).

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.

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Sioux City Public Library, North Side Branch
Woodbury County, IA

7. Narrative Description

The Sioux City Public Library, North Side Branch, is located in a residential area and was designed as a neighborhood outlet of the Sioux City public library system. At one time it was one of six branches. An effort was made by the 1928 Library Board of Trustees to have this branch designed to blend in with its residential surroundings. It does not look like a public building but instead looks more like a home and is now used as a commercial photographer's place of business and his personal residence and still blends beautifully in this neighborhood.

Located on a lush, park-like, residential lot in the Peirce's Addition of Sioux City, Iowa, the North Side Branch is surrounded by a sunken area of vacant ground which slopes from the north (the high end) to the south (the low end). The north edge of the property is on 29th Street and the front of the building faces 29th Street. City Assessor records indicate the lot size is 80 feet by 150 feet however, visually it appears to be larger because of the vacant city-owned land (formerly park land) which surrounds it.

The building is a one and one-half story Tudor Revival structure and the outside dimensions of the building are 50 feet by 25 feet. On the north side only the one and one-half story is visible but at the sides and the back of the structure, the basement walls are visible because of the extreme sloping of the lot. Walls are brick and tile with face brick facing to main floor windows and stucco surface with wood half timber trimming above. The main floor is reinforced concrete which was to give the structure "fireproof" construction. The exterior of the building is constructed with brick up to approximately halfway up the wall and stucco with half timber trimming to the roofline. The brick is dark brown, however original records indicate the brick to be by A. C. McNeil and Son and was marked "Pastell" which may be a style and not a color indicator. The stucco is tan and the roof has brown asphalt shingles.

Approaching the building to the front entrance there is a small entrance front porch which is attached to an entrance addition to the main structure which has a front gable roof. On each side of the entrance doors there are small, concrete capped, brick half-walls which jut perpendicular to the building. The half timber trimming on this entrance section of the building has been changed from a diamond pattern (see historic photo) to a more simple pattern. This was done because of the cost savings during a recent repair project and will be returned once funds allow. From the cross beam up the entrance section gable end, half timber trimming forms vertical lines. Centered in those vertical lines is a rectangular, louvered vent in the same color as the half timber trim. The entrance section and the porch are placed symmetrical to the rest of the building. A band of windows flank the west side of the entrance section and under these

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windows are the original flower boxes. One half of the windows which were on the east side of the front and which matched the west band of windows have been removed and replaced with stucco and half-timbering however the original matching flower boxes remain. A fireplace chimney is located on the west end of the building and is centered in the gabled from the basement through to the main roof.

Alterations:

This was a public library building which was altered to be used as a private residence and a commercial photography studio. Changes made are still sympathetic to the overall original Tudor Revival style. An exterior deck has been added to the back of the building and an exit door to the deck was added. The original interior was in an open plan designed specifically for the use as a library and when the structure was remodeled as a home in 1986 it was designed to keep the open-plan concept. A kitchen and bedrooms have been added and the basement now houses the current owner's commercial photography business. A two-story detached garage was constructed on the property in 1992 and is designed to match the main structure with stucco and half timber trimming. On the front of the house, three narrow windows which were above the front entrance doors have been removed and are now stucco and half timber trimming. Entrance hall windows are also new and smaller. Lastly, the half timber trimming on either side of the front entrance has been altered and is no longer in a diamond pattern but instead is in an inverted "Y" pattern. This inverted "Y" pattern is original to the building and is still evident on the east side. Windows on the east side have been altered. The rest of the half timer trimming remains unchanged.

8. Statement of Significance

The Sioux City Public Library, North Side Branch (opened April 1, 1929) This structure meets criterion A as a property associated with the Carnegie Library movement in Iowa and in particular the development of branch libraries in Iowa and in Sioux City, Iowa. Sioux City was one of only thirty-four cities throughout the nation and the only city in Iowa to receive Carnegie funding for both a main library and for a branch facility. The Sioux City Journal's July 25, 1954 "Centennial Issue" on page 16 notes that William L. Steele and his partner George Hilgers were the architects for all the branch library structures in Sioux City. Mr. Steele was also the consulting architect for the Main Library building.

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Sioux City Public Library, North Side Branch
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Andrew Carnegie and the Carnegie Libraries

After amassing his fortune from the manufacture and production of steel and oil, Andrew Carnegie spent approximately ninety percent of his fortune on various philanthropic endeavors for what he termed the “improvement of mankind”. Evolving from his desire to furnish reading materials for all individuals regardless of their economic status, Mr. Carnegie began funding library construction on a grand scale by 1898, reaching a peak in 1903, and ending with his death in 1919.¹

Although his library giving only amounted to a small portion (17 percent) of the total \$333 million of Carnegie benefactions, during his lifetime Mr. Carnegie contributed over \$56 million for the construction of 2,509 library buildings throughout the English speaking world. Of the 46 states receiving Carnegie funding, Iowa ranked sixth in the number of libraries built (101 buildings) and eighth in the amount of money received (\$1,495,706).²

Sioux City’s Carnegie Main Library

On April 8, 1911, the Carnegie Corporation granted \$75,000 to Sioux City for the construction of its Main Library. In 1916, the Carnegie Corporation granted Sioux City an additional \$10,000 for the construction of a branch library (not a part of this nomination) in the Leeds neighborhood northeast of downtown.³ Records from the Carnegie Corporation reveal that Sioux City was one of thirty-four cities throughout the nation and the only city in Iowa to receive funding for both a main library and for one branch facility. In addition, the sum of money granted to Sioux City was the largest single amount granted to any city in the state of Iowa where most grants ranged from \$5,000 to \$12,000.⁴

In their Minutes of February 6, 1911, the Library Board noted that they had met with City Council and decided that the only way to receive funding from the Carnegie Corporation was through New York architect Edward Tilton, a nationally recognized figure in the field of library design. Shortly, a controversy arose when the Board chair suggested that there was an existing understanding that a local architect, William Steele, was to be the Main Library architect. When contacted regarding Tilton’s possible involvement in the building plans, Mr. Steele stated that if Tilton were hired such that he would have some part in the building plans, he [Steele] would

¹ Bobinski, George S. *Carnegie Libraries, Their History and Impact on American Public Library Development*, (Chicago: American Library Association, 1969).

² *Ibid.*

³ *Sioux City Journal*, 25 July 1954.

⁴ Bobinski.

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withdraw, "not caring to deal with Mr. Tilton in any respect".⁵ Mr. Steele, however, was involved in the design all of the free standing branch library buildings in Sioux City.

By April, 1911 records show that Mr. Steele did accept the position of local supervising architect for the Main Library, and the Library Board voted to appoint Mr. Tilton as architect. Officially, the Main Library opened to the public Saturday, March 8, 1913. There is no documentation as to why Mr. Steele decided to work with Mr. Tilton, however, records do show that Mr. Steele had always been closely involved with the Library Board. Tilton provided Sioux City with a Main Library building design that followed the Carnegie theme of economy of space and dignified design. Mr. Steele provided Sioux City with three library branches designed in the prairie school style and one in the Tudor style.

Sioux City Branch Libraries

On April 8, 1911, the Carnegie Corporation granted \$75,000 to Sioux City for the construction of its Main Library. In 1916, the Carnegie Corporation granted Sioux City an additional \$10,000 for the construction of a branch library in the Leeds neighborhood northeast of downtown. Records from the Carnegie Corporation reveal that Sioux City was one of thirty-four cities throughout the nation and the only city in Iowa to receive funding for both a main library and for one branch facility. In addition, the sum of money granted to Sioux City was the largest single amount granted to any city in the state of Iowa where most grants ranged from \$5,000 to \$12,000.

In 1926 a city bond issue of \$100,000 was approved by the citizens of Sioux City in a general election to provide permanent homes for the then temporary branch libraries throughout the city. Following is the list of the planned branches as budgeted in 1926:

Leeds Branch (already built in 1916 with Carnegie funds)
Fairmont Park Branch (a/k/a Greenville) opened June 1927
Smith Villa Branch (a/k/a Rebecca Osborn Smith) opened November 1927
North Side Branch opened April 1929
Riverside Branch opened 1930
Morningside Branch (in remodeled Garretson mansion) 1932
Kendon-Kelly Park Branch (never built)

Fairmont Park, Smith Villa and Riverside branches were all designed in the Prairie School style of architecture. The Morningside Branch was placed in an existing Richardsonian

⁵ Sioux City Public Library. Board of Trustees Minutes 6 February 1911.

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Romanesque structure and the Leeds Branch was built in a more common Carnegie style. Only the North Side Branch was designed in the Tudor Revival style.

The Sioux City Council voted on January 22, 1982, upon recommendation from the Library Board, to close all of the branch libraries effective July 1, 1982 except for the Morningside Branch which was housed earlier in a new building in the early 1960's. They also voted to open a branch in a retail store front inside the mall on the north side. The Sioux City Library system, as of this date, is no longer in any historic buildings.

On August 4, 1982 the City Council voted to find a "reuse" for all the closed historic buildings. The North Side Branch building was then resold to Mr. Bruce Meyer in December 1986. The Main Library was resold and is now a residential apartment complex.

North Side Branch

The Sioux City Library, North Side branch library is significant as marking an important era of library services expansion throughout the City. No similar instance of branch construction is known to exist elsewhere in Iowa during this period. It was built on city property located in the northeast corner of a city park at 29th and Jones Street. Constructed at a cost of \$20,000 the books and equipment to furnish this library cost \$5,000. The design selected is discussed in the April 1929 Annual Report from the Library Board to the City of Sioux City Council: "On account of the nature of the site, the proximity of private residences and the limited area available, the architectural style was varied from the three branch buildings previously built. The result is a very attractive and useful building."

Earlier in the September 5, 1928 minutes of the Library Board, Mr. Steele explained the design selection was different from his earlier branch designs two of which were Prairie School Style structures: "Because of the location it was necessary to change the type of building to an English or Swiss style and the interior plan will remain about the same as the buildings at Fairmont Park and Smith Villa." And in the minutes of September 29, 1928, Mr. Steele addresses the site location and the building: "The building will face north and will be graded up to the level of the sidewalk on 29th. This is a very desirable feature since it permits entering the building without ascending or descending steps."

The historic description of the building's plans are in the Library Board Minute Book:

"The first floor consists of a large entrance vestibule, with stair to basement and the main room with charging desk facing the entrance. The east side is

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assigned to adults and the west side to children. On the west wall is a large stone fireplace and special care has been taken to make this side convenient for juvenile readers. The ceiling is raised to give added height in which to place windows without the sacrifice of much needed book space. Dark beams are added to relieve plainness. The concrete floor is covered with a grey linoleum and the walls, wood work and furniture are varying shades of brown and tan.

The lower floor, with the main rooms amply lighted by adjustment of the building to the natural and abrupt lot grade, contains a large lecture room for use of community gatherings and children's story hours. A fireplace of simple design is provided. Access can be had to this room from the main front vestibule or from a rear entry, thus permitting use of the room at times when the library accommodations are not open to the public.

On the opposite side of the building is the librarian's work room, a large well-lighted compartment necessary for work that cannot be done at the charging desk."

Architect William LaBarthe Steele (1875-1949)

This property is designed by the prominent Prairie-school architect William L. Steele. This is the only known Tudor Revival Style structure he designed. This is important as he clearly allowed the Sioux City Library Board to dictate the style in which the building would be constructed. Minutes of the Library Board meetings of the time also indicate his own personal involvement in the library system. In addition, the North Branch Library building is the only Tudor Revival public or institutional structure in Sioux City.

H. S. Holtze, Builder

Harry S. Holtze (1893 – 1972) founded the H. S. Holtze Construction Co. in 1919. Prior to that he was involved in the home building business with his father, Samuel Holtze. He was born in 1893 in Sioux City and graduated from Sioux City's Central High School in 1911. In 1916 he received a degree in architectural engineering from the University of Illinois. During World War I he served as a first lieutenant in the Rainbow Division Engineers in France and later he became a registered professional engineer.

An article in the February 2, 1958 issue of the Sioux City Journal on page 15 is entitled "Holtze Firm Plays Major Role in City Construction". Highlighted are nearly 40 years worth of

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important construction projects. His company went on to play a major role in regional development and exists today as the Holtze Construction Company, still operated by family members.

9. Bibliography

Allen, Arthur Francis "William LaBarthe Steele," *Northwestern Iowa: Its History and Traditions 1804-1926* (Chicago: Clarke, 1927), vol. II pp. 1042-43.

Bobinski, George S. *Carnegie Libraries: Their History and Impact of American Public Library Development*. American Library Association, 1969.

Brooks, H. Allen, *The Prairie School. Frank Lloyd Wright and his Midwest Contemporaries* (Toronto: U of Toronto Press, 1972), pg. 298.

Sioux City, City Directories. Sioux City. 1919-1930.

Sioux City, Iowa: An Architectural View (Sioux City: Sioux City Art Center, 1983), pg 36.

Sioux City, Iowa: An Architectural View (Sioux City: Sioux City Art Center, 1983), pg 36.

Sioux City Journal, 25 July 1954.

Sioux City Library Board of Trustees Minute Books 1926 to 1933

Smith, G.E. Kidder *Source Book of American Architecture: 500 Notable Buildings from the 10th Century to the Present* (New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1996), pg. 343.

Smith, Mrs. Lewis Worthington "Creative Artists in Iowa," a series of articles published in the *Des Moines Sunday Register*. Undated.

Wilson, Richard Guy and Sidney K. Robinson, *The Prairie School in Iowa* (Ames: Iowa State UP, 1977), pg24 and pg. 25.

Who Was Who in America, vol. 2 (1950) Steele, William LaBarthe. See also *Who's Who in Iowa* (Sioux City, 1922), pg. 72.

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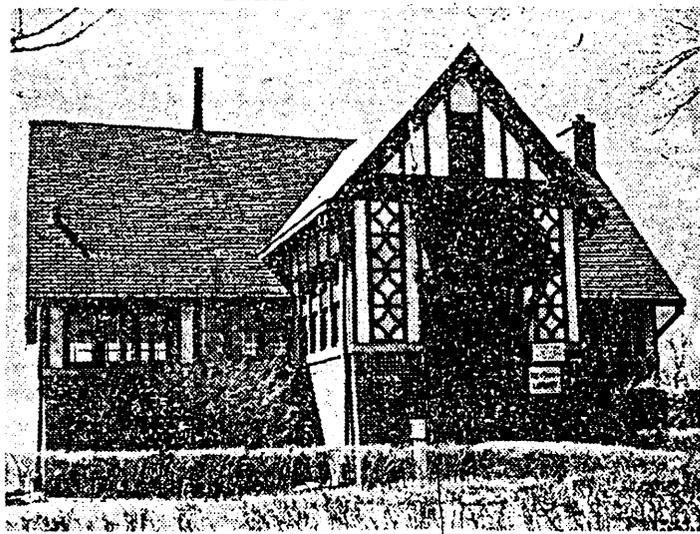
10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

The Sioux City Public Library, North Side Branch is located on the East Eighty feet of Lots Fourteen, Fifteen and Sixteen inclusive, Block Seven, Peirce's Addition, Sioux City, Iowa.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the Sioux City Public Library (North Side Branch) includes that portion historically associated with the property.



North Side Branch Library

Historic photo-- Source: Sioux City Journal July 25, 1954 pg. 16.

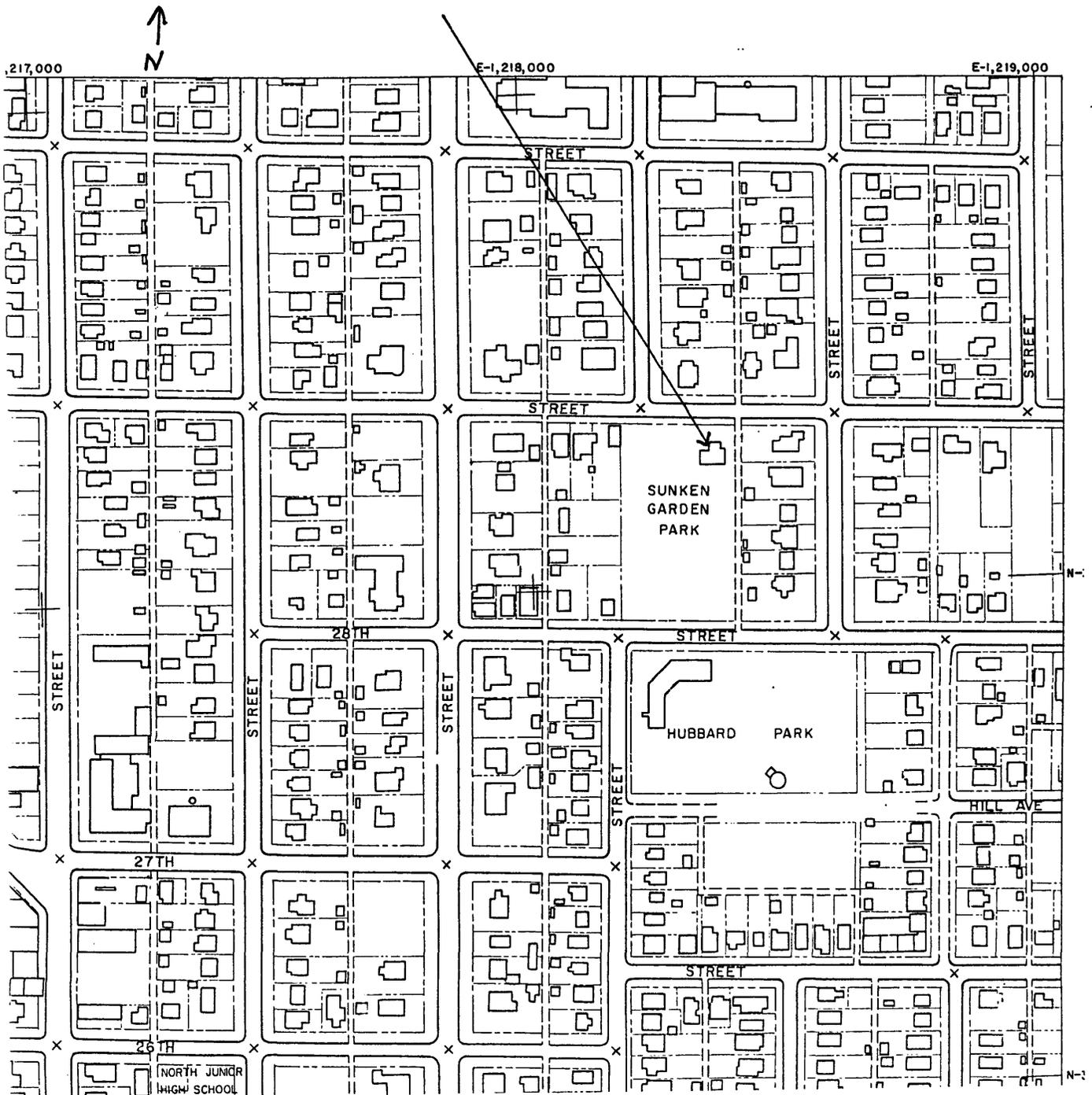
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Site Map: Source, SIMPCO, 507 7th, Sioux City, IA 51101

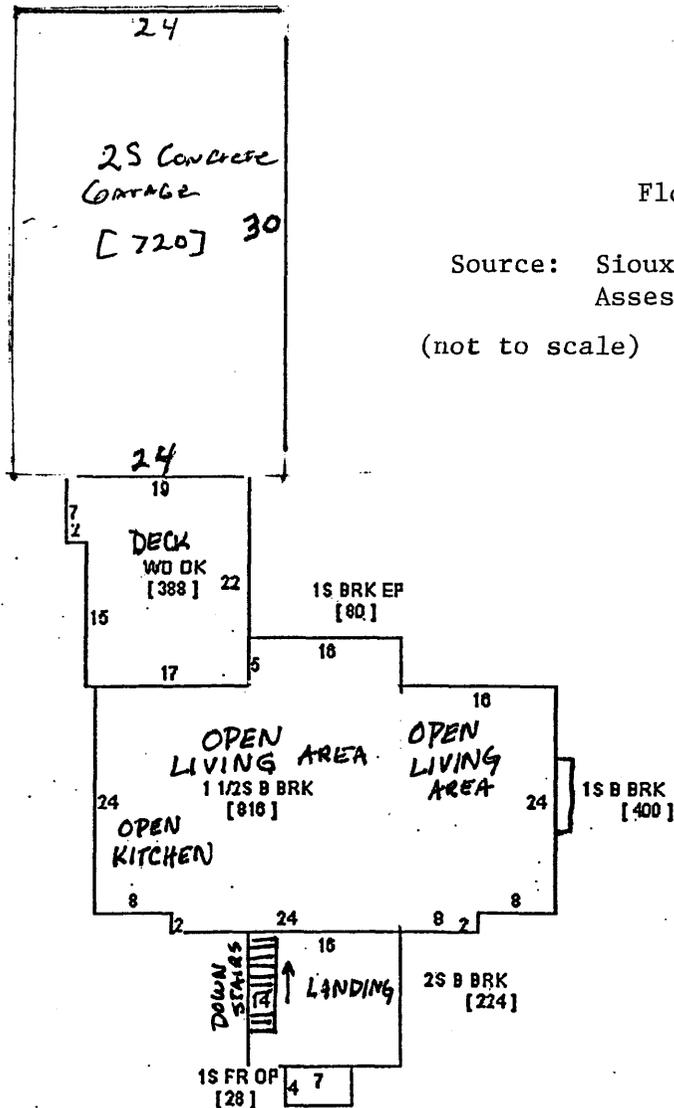


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Floor Plan

Source: Sioux City
Assessor's Office

(not to scale)

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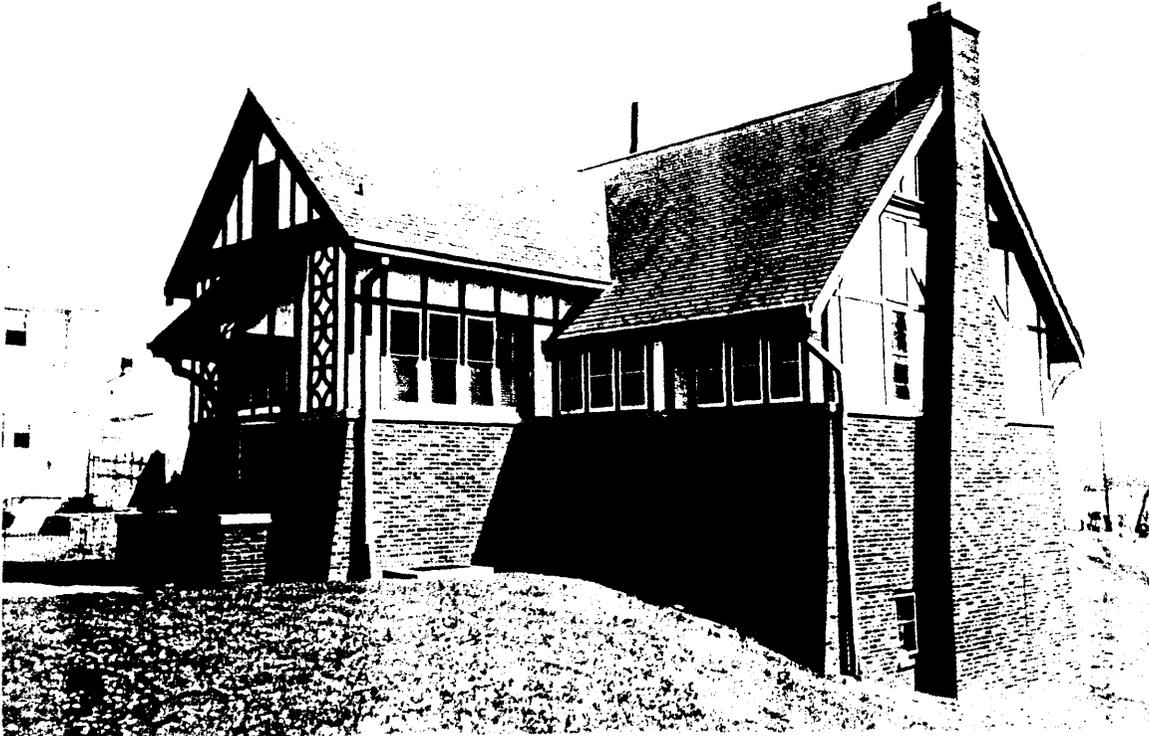
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Historic Photo.

Source, Sioux City Public Museum, Sioux City, IA
(no date)



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Photographs

Bruce Meyer was the photographer for all views and has the negatives. All photos date from August 25, 1998 to November 16, 1998 and depict the Sioux City Public Library, North Side Branch, 810 29th Street, Sioux City, Iowa, Woodbury County. All negatives are with Bruce Meyer at 810 29th Street, Sioux City, Iowa.

- #1 Front (North) entrance. Camera pointing South.
- #2 Back (South). Camera pointing North.
- #3 East side – Camera pointing West.
- #4 West side – Camera pointing East.
- #5. Interior – Upper level shows “library-display area”, lower level of print shows stairs to upper level (left), entrance (center) and kitchen, far right.
- #6 Interior facing West shows original fireplace on main level and original high windows.
- #7 Interior view facing Northwest – Shows original oak beam, fireplace and stairs.
- # 8 Photo of detached garage which is on the Southeast corner of the property and not original to the property.