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In the United States, there were only 1689 library buildings funded by the Andrew Carnegie Foundation. These buildings are unique to the early 20th Century and to the conditions of that time in our Country. Many of these have been destroyed or have been altered beyond recognition. Edmonds is fortunate to have one in almost perfect preservation.

Andrew Carnegie with his family immigrated from Scotland in 1848 arriving in America almost penniless. Before he was 14 years old he went to work in the cotton mills in Alleghanny, Pennsylvania. He quickly moved up the industrial ladder. By the time he retired, he had established trusts and foundations worth many millions. His philanthropies emphasized education, child-welfare, fine arts, museums, international peace, hero commissions, medical research, scholarships, and many more.

It is significant that many public buildings in and near his birthplace, Dumferline, Scotland, are basically the same - architecturally - as our Carnegie Library buildings. A photograph of the Old Customs House on the quay at Greanock across the firth from Dumferline, looks like it could be one of our Carnegie Libraries, minus the long stairway that led "upward to the halls of learning". Altho no positive declaration has been found that all Carnegiefunded library buildings should be of an identifiable style, it is likely that this is so. Andrew Carnegie was so careful in other areas of his "gift" buildings, such as the fact that the City had to agree to furnish the land, maintain the building and supply the books and materials by the assessment of taxes.

Andrew Carnegie was one of the truly great philanthropists of our time. The few remaining, intact library buildings that were his gifts to new and struggling communities and cities should certainly have the protection of a mature and affluent and grateful Nation.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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SURVEY-INVENTORY FORM

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COMMUNITY CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY

| 1. | NAME |
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| | |
| <u></u> | Edmonds Carnegie Library (Carrigie Librarie of Washington |
| | and/or Common |
| | Edmonds-South Snohomish County Historical Society |
| 2. | LOCATION UTM References: |
| ۷. | |
| | |
| | 118 Fifth Avenue, North1:24 000- not for publicationCity, Town |
| | Edmonds - vicinity of |
| | State County |
| | WA Snohomish |
| 7 | CLACELEICATION |
| 3. | CLASSIFICATION |
| | Ownership: public private both |
| | Status: occupied _ work in progress |
| | Present Use: agriculture commercial educational entertainment governme |
| | industrial military museum park private residence |
| | religious scientific transportation other: |
| 4. | OWNER OF PROPERTY |
| 71 | Name |
| | City of Edmonds |
| | Street & Number 250 Fifth Avenue North |
| | City, Town State |
| | Edmonds - vicinity of WA |
| 5 | MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES |
| יר | HAJOR DIDETOGRAFITCAE RELERENCES |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| 6. | FORM PREPARED BY |
| 0. | Name/Title |
| | J.H. Vandermeer, Historian |
| | Organization Date Office of Archaeology & Historic Preservation July 1981 |
| | Street & Number 111 West 21st Avenue (206) 753-9685 |
| | City or Town State |
| | Olympia, WA |

| 7. | DESCRIPTION | | |
|----|-------------|----------------|-----------------------------------|
| | Condition: | excellent good | fair deteriorated ruins unexposed |
| | Circle one: | unaltered | altered |
| | Circle one: | original site | moved date |

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

The exterior of this two-story Edwardian building is concrete scored to resemble masonry blocks up to the second story level and red pressed bricks from there to the eaves. A wide concrete stairway leads from the sidewalk to the main entry at the second floor level of the west facade. Each corner is emphasized with staggered insets of buff-colored pressed brick. The tall, arched windows are capped with the same buff-colored brick, as is the wide-arched main entrance. Above the main door is a fan-shaped window of beautiful Tiffany glass. There is a large skylight on the apex of the roof, which is otherwise copper sheeting in excellent condition.

Verbal boundary description:

Let 1 and 2 of Blcok D, Plat of Edmonds

Acreage: Less than one

8. SIGNIFICANCE

Specific dates 1910

Builder/Architect H.B. Ward

a. History

This building was constructed with a \$5,000 grant from Andrew Carnegie in 1910. The architect was H.B. Ward. It served the community for many years as a library and city hall. In recent years it has been an office for the city Parks Department and is now the home of the Edmonds-South Snohomish County Historical Society.

b. Evaluation of Significance

The Edmonds Carnegie Library was placed on the National Register of Historic Places on April 24, 1973, based on its excellent state of preservation, the fact that it is a good example of a typical Carnegie Library, and because of the important role it has played in this history of the community.