

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received MAY 23 1984
date entered JUN 28 1984

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

1. Name

historic College View Public Library
and/or common College View Public Library (LC13:F3-282)

2. Location

street & number 3800 South 48th Street na not for publication
city, town Lincoln na vicinity of
state Nebraska code 031 county Lancaster code 109

3. Classification

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Category | Ownership | Status | Present Use |
| <input type="checkbox"/> district | <input type="checkbox"/> public | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> na being considered | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial |
| | | <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: Public Radio |

4. Owner of Property

name Union College
street & number 3800 South 48th Street
city, town Lincoln na vicinity of state Nebraska

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Lancaster County Courthouse
street & number 555 South 10th Street
city, town Lincoln state Nebraska

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Lincoln Historic Preservation Comm, has this property been determined eligible? yes no
date Ongoing federal state county local
depository for survey records City Planning Department
city, town Lincoln state Nebraska

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The College View Public Library is a small rectangular structure with a projecting entrance pavilion. The building is a tall, single-storied edifice over a raised basement. Designed in a vernacular Neo-Classical Revival style, the building features a symmetrical front facade, simple brick corner pilasters, a water table and wall cornice, and a pedimented entrance enframed by Roman Ionic columns in Antis.

The College View Public Library, following the library design recommendations set forth by the Carnegie Corporation, is a rectangular, brick, one story structure above a raised basement. The main structure, which measures 51' x 34', has a symmetrical 3-bay main facade. Centered on this facade is an entrance pavilion with Roman Ionic columns in Antis, and a pediment containing a missing herald flanked by organic stone carving. A parapet, which continues around the tip of the flat roof, rises from the pediment and a lower, stone-coped parapet encircles the building above a continuous dentil cornice. Stone watertables are above and below the rusticated brick basement walls. From the top stone watertable rise brick pilasters on each corner and the rear facade, where two pilasters define the rear wall's 3 bays. The rear wall is also treated with a pediment-with-parapet. All windows are cleanly cut and are treated with a stone lintel at sill level.

The building is currently being used as a public radio station. Therefore, a few interior modifications have been made. These include the addition of broadcasting studios and false ceilings on the main floor. Window sashes and entry door were replaced in 1983 with energy-efficient glazing, yet retain historical design and appearance. Otherwise, the structure remains unaltered.

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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 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 | 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 J.G.L. Cordner (Nesbit, 1930)

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The College View Public Library reflects the state-of-the-art in the design, use, and funding for library buildings erected in the smaller communities of Nebraska in the first two decades of the twentieth century. With the help of the Carnegie grants, the number of library buildings in Nebraska grew from two prior to 1900 to seventy by 1921; the College View Library, built in 1914, was part of this growth.

Public libraries, along with many other improvements, were created in the 19th century. Previously, libraries were owned by private individuals or by volunteer associations open only to members. The movement for libraries supported by tax monies and open to the public was fostered in New England by reformers advocating an informed electorate and social improvement. Petersborough, New Hampshire, opened the first municipally-supported library in 1833 (Bobinski, p. 3). Public libraries were established in many cities in the latter half of the century, often located in rented rooms or a room in a governmental structure. The construction of buildings specifically for library use occurred in large urban centers in the last decade of the century. Nebraska's first public library building was the Omaha Public Library, 1891-94 (NRHP 5-22-78). As communities of all sizes began considering the housing of libraries in appropriate buildings, Andrew Carnegie offered his famous grants for the construction of library buildings.

Carnegie grants (1898-1921) came at an opportune time in the history of libraries, in the nation, and in Nebraska. The state library commissions, especially those of the Midwest, were providing strong leadership in the encouragement of libraries. The Nebraska State Library Commission, founded in 1901, was particularly noted for its guidance (Bowers & Klingensmith, p. 20). At the same time, the City Beautiful movement, the Chicago World's Fair, and Omaha's Trans-Mississippi Exposition were inspiring interest in civic architecture prior to the Carnegie grants (see also Morton-James Public Library, Otoe County, Nebraska, NRHP 5-26-76). Beginning with the Carnegie grant to the City of Lincoln in 1899, Carnegie awarded grants for the construction of 68 Nebraska libraries in the next 18 years (Bobinski, pp. 207-241).

9. Major Bibliographical References

(See Continuation Sheet)

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Lincoln, Nebraska

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

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| Zone | | | Easting | | | | | Northing | | | | | | |

Verbal boundary description and justification

Beginning at the southwest corner of the Union College Campus, thence running east 100 feet, thence north 100 feet, thence west 100 feet, thence south along the west line of the Campus to the place of beginning, all within the City of Lincoln.

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

state na code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Greg Hodgson, Director of Development/Tech. Ed., D. Murphy, Architect

organization KUCV/Nebraska State Historical Society date February 8, 1984/March 1, 1984

street & number 3800 S. 48/1500 "R" telephone (402)488-0996/(402)471-3270

city or town Lincoln state Nebraska

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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 Murphy D. Kneth 5/10/84

title Director, Nebraska State Historical Society date

For NPS use only

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

John Melrose Byers Entered in the date 6/28/84
Keeper of the National Register National Register

Attest: date
Chief of Registration

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

**National Register of Historic Places
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date entered

Continuation sheet Significance Item number 8 Page 2

Andrew Carnegie, often called the Patron Saint of Libraries, funded the construction of 1, 679 libraries in the United States, their value totaling over 40 million dollars (Bobinski, p.1). Carnegie wished to assist cities, but only if the community authorized continuing tax funds for library operation. The community was required to own the site and approve an annual tax levy equal to 10 % of the Carnegie gift for library support (Bobinski, pp. 38-42). The building was only to be used for library purposes. These requirements helped insure a building the city could and would support. Small towns under 1,000 population were not considered necessary by Carnegie or the library profession. After 1908, the plans were required to be submitted to Carnegie for approval, so that unprofessional plans, wasted space, and excessive decoration could be eliminated. The Carnegie Corporation published a leaflet in 1911 outlining for communities and architects the approved design ideas of the library profession. The public library, especially the small library, was such a new building type that architects were commonly unfamiliar with recommended practices." (Chatfield: 1981, 8: 1-8:2)

The College View Public Library was constructed in 1914 under the auspices of a \$7,500.00 Carnegie grant. Then part of the separate College View community, it was annexed by the City of Lincoln in the 1920's and the library absorbed by the library system of Lincoln.

The library building conforms to the standards of the 1911 Carnegie Corporation leaflet. The small size of the particular grant to College View probably partially accounts for the very restrained interpretation of the Neo-Classical Revival style executed by architect Cordner. In all other respects, however, the library perpetuates the Classicism which characterized both the Carnegie library movement in Nebraska, and most major public buildings in the state during this period.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Bibliography ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

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

Bowers, Martha H. and Samuel J. Klingensmith. "An Architectural and Historical Survey of Public Libraries in Iowa, 1870-1940." Iowa Division of Historic Preservation, 1980.

Chatfield, Penelope. "North Bend Carnegie Library (DD09-10), North Bend, Dodge County, Nebraska," National Register of Historic Places, Inventory--Nomination Form. Lincoln: Nebraska State Historical Society, 1981.

Nesbit, Margueritte. "Nebraska and Carnegie Libraries," typed MS (Nebraska State Library Commission), 1930.

Form No. 10-300a
(Rev. 10-74)

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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CONTINUATION SHEET Geographical Data ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 2

Nebraska (formerly College View), in Section 5, Township 9 North, Range 7 East;
and including all historically associated property.