

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

JAN 26 1993

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

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 any 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, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Plainview Carnegie Library

other names/site number NeHBS # PC06-013

2. Location

street & number 102 South Main Street not for publication  [N/A]

city or town Plainview vicinity  [N/A]

state Nebraska code NE county Pierce code 139 zip code 68769

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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.)

Lawrence Sommer  
Signature of certifying official

1/15/93  
Date

Director, Nebraska State Historical Society  
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 this 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): \_\_\_\_\_

entered in the  
National Register  
Melvin Byer

2/25/93

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

Plainview Carnegie Library  
Name of Property

Pierce County, Nebraska  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

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

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

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

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

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

Carnegie Libraries in Nebraska, 1899 to 1922

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Education/library  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Education/library  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Prairie School  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

foundation Brick  
walls Brick  
\_\_\_\_\_  
roof Wood  
other Brick  
\_\_\_\_\_

**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 "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 a 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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Education

Period of Significance

1917

Significant Dates

1917

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Stitt, J.C.

Houx, Frank T.

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical 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 # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
  - Other State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other
- Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

Plainview Carnegie Library  
Name of Property

Pierce County, Nebraska  
County and State

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### 10. Geographical Data

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**Acreage of Property** Four tenths of an acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1.	14	599385	4689200	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.)

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### 11. Form Prepared By

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name/title Janyce Warneke

organization Plainview Library Board date July 4, 1992

street & number 212 North Elm Street telephone (402) 582-3728

city or town Plainview state NE zip code 68769

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### Additional Documentation

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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.)

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### Property Owner

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(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name City of Plainview

street & number Box 757 telephone (402) 582-4928

city or town Plainview state NE zip code 68769

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**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 the 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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Plainview Carnegie Library

Name of Property

Pierce County, Nebraska

County and State

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### Description

The Plainview Carnegie Library is located on the edge of the downtown business district of Plainview (1992 population: 1483), a town situated in the northwest part of Pierce County, Nebraska. The building faces east and is located on Highway 20, one block north of Locust Street, the town's main thoroughfare. The library, dedicated on April 5, 1917, is one of forty-six Carnegie libraries constructed in Nebraska during the last phase of the Carnegie Library "Wholesale" period, and conforms to the building plan prototype established by Carnegie. The one-story building is rectangular shaped with a raised basement, and is designed for efficiency. The original exterior configuration and detailing of the building remains intact; the building retains a high degree of historic integrity.

Constructed in 1916-17, the Plainview Carnegie Library is a one-story with raised basement brick building, measuring 30' x 42', with a hipped roof showing wide eaves and modillions. The building incorporates Prairie style detailing in its design, and displays a Neo-Classical Revival frontispiece. Fenestration consists of double hung window units. Concrete steps leading up to the entrance landing are flanked by brick banisters with concrete copings. Entry features consist of a new glass door unit with book drop and original multi-paned transom. The word "Library" is inscribed in a concrete header above the entrance. An additional entry is located on the south facade. The library's architectural design is enhanced by the use of dark colored brick in the basement level, and accenting window and door openings, quoining, and cornice and water table areas. A concrete and brick raised platform to the rear of the library encloses an old cistern. The cornerstone in the northeast corner reads "Carnegie 1916."

The interior of the library's main floor includes a foyer with steps leading to the main library room and the basement. The library features 12' ceilings, the original oak floors and woodwork, and plastered walls. Bookshelves extend along the outside walls and are strategically located throughout the room. The librarian's desk is in the southwest corner of the room, and a small alcove opens to the west. The lower level contains a restroom, Chamber of Commerce office, furnace room, and a children's reading room, completed in 1977. Today, the building continues to function as a library.

### Statement of Significance

The Plainview Carnegie Library meets the registration requirements of the National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, "Carnegie Libraries in Nebraska, 1899 to 1922," and is significantly associated with the historic context "Educational Enrichment, Carnegie Libraries." The property is locally significant in the area of public education (Criterion A) as an important example of the property type "Carnegie Libraries in Nebraska." The period of significance is derived from the year its operation began (1917).

On January 11, 1908 a library room was established in a building on the Frost Block in Plainview. A Library Board was also formed. Officers and a Book Selection Committee were elected. A library ordinance was passed on February 22, 1908 and the library board met with the school board for the purpose of securing the school library. One hundred twelve volumes from the school were given to the public library in the form of a loan.

On August 25, 1914 a letter from the State Librarian was read to the Library Board regarding a Carnegie sponsored library. Authorization was made to explore the possibility of a Carnegie Library in

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Plainview Carnegie Library

Name of Property

Pierce County, Nebraska

County and State

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### Statement of Significance (continued)

Plainview. A postcard picture of a Carnegie library was received and examined by the Library Board on April 19, 1915.

A vote was taken to make application for \$6,000 for a Carnegie library on October 15, 1915. The application was sent to James Bertram, secretary of funds. To obtain a Carnegie gift the City Council had to pledge that the city would maintain and support the library by one-tenth of the amount requested and to obtain a suitable site. Thus, a committee was also appointed to secure a building site. Two lots were purchased from H.L. Buckingham for \$2,000 on January 21, 1916, consisting of a site 84' x 140'. The Community Club donated \$344.81 for the purchase of the lot. Miss Charlotte Templeton, Secretary of State Library Commission, came to Plainview on January 27 to offer suggestions on heating and lighting in the new library.

Architect J.C. Stitt of Norfolk, Nebraska drew up plans for the library building, and Frank T. Houx of Sioux City, Iowa served as the contractor. Construction on the library began in October of 1916. The building dimensions, floor plan, and materials conformed to the standards of the Carnegie Foundation's library program. The library moved into its new building on March 14, 1917. Dedication was held on April 5, 1917 at the Plainview Opera House. The front page of the April 12, 1917 issue of **The Plainview News** read: "The dedicatory services of the Plainview public library were held in the Plainview opera house on last Friday evening, and a large and appreciate audience was present....After the program the people were received at the new library building by the committee which had been in charge of the construction work....Many remarks were made in a complimentary way of this excellent new library building, and when the News says we are "proud of it" we voice the true sentiment of all our people." The cost of the library was approximately \$8,000 of which \$6,000 was provided by Carnegie.

Kindergarten classes were held at the library in 1920, paying rental of \$35.00 per month. It was also used as a polling place beginning in early years. The books were catalogued according to the Dewey Decimal System in 1939. A children's room was opened in the basement in September, 1977. Previously, the room had been used for caucuses and other public meetings.

### Bibliography

Bobinski, George S. Carnegie Libraries: Their History and Impact on American Public Library Development. American Library Association, Chicago. 1969, page 232, Appendix B.

"Carnegie Library." July, 1986, Plainview Centennial History Book, Plainview, NE (pp. 18-19).

"Carnegie Library Erected in 1917." June, 1961, Plainview. . .the Pride of the Plains, Plainview, NE (p. 42).

Fimple, Kathleen, "Carnegie Libraries in Nebraska, 1899 to 1922," National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, 1990, on file, Nebraska State Historical Society.

Fimple, Kathleen, "Education Enrichment: Carnegie Libraries," Historic Context Report 06.02.01.01, 1990, on file, Nebraska State Historical Society.

Minutes, Plainview Library Board, Plainview, NE, 1908-1977.

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**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Plainview Carnegie Library

Name of Property

Pierce County, Nebraska

County and State

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**Bibliography (continued)**

"Plainview Library Committees Choose Site." January 27, 1916, p. 1, Plainview News, Vol. 25, No. 27, Plainview, NE.

"Plainview Library Now in Its Fine New Building." March 15, 1917, p. 1, Plainview News, Vol. 25, No. 34, Plainview, NE.

"Plainview Public Library is Dedicated." April 12, 1917, p. 1, Plainview News, Vol. 25, No. 38, Plainview, NE.

"Public Library Completes Children's Room." December 14, 1977, p. 1, Plainview News, Vol. 85, No. 32, Plainview, NE.

Whiffen, Marcus, American Architecture Since 1780, A Guide to the Styles, MIT Press, Cambridge, Mass., 1969.

**Verbal Boundary Description**

Lots 19 and 20 in Block Number 2 of the original town plat to the City of Plainview, in Pierce County, Nebraska.

**Boundary Justification**

Legally recorded boundary lines of property on which the Plainview Carnegie Library is located, including all historically associated real estate.