

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

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SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 88000924 Date Listed: 7/6/88

Healdsburg Carnegie Library Sonoma CA
Property Name County State

Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Amy Schlazell
Signature of the Keeper

7/6/88
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

Item #6 of the nomination form indicated the current function of this resource to be Recreation and Culture--Museum, but the text of the nomination stated that the property still functioned as a library and the transition to use as a museum had not yet been made. Consequently, as of the date of listing for this nomination, the current function should be the same as the historic function: Education--Library. This change was confirmed with Marilyn Lortie of the California SHPO staff on 7/6/88.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

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National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

MAY 23 1988

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Healdsburg Carnegie Library
other names/site number Healdsburg Public Library

2. Location

street & number 221 Matheson Street N/A not for publication
city, town Healdsburg N/A vicinity
state California code CA county Sonoma code 097 zip code 95448

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> objects
			<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet.

Kathryn Matheson 5-12-88
Signature of certifying official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. 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:) _____

Amy Schlager 7/6/88
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Education - Library

Recreation and Culture - Museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

Neo-Classical Revival

foundation Concrete

walls Concrete

roof Asphalt

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Healdsburg's Neo-classical Revival Carnegie Library building is rectangular in plan and two stories in height, with the main or first floor above the grade level lower floor. The central pedimented and columned entrance is at the first floor level, at the head of an imposing flight of brick stairs. Behind the pediment, a parapet surrounds the flat roof; that horizontal line is repeated in entablature, the wide courseline that encircles the building at the first floor level, and the smooth and slightly projecting band at grade level. The building is constructed of poured, partially reinforced concrete. Exterior walls are faced with a 1/2" layer of textured white concrete: the first floor exterior lightly scored to resemble stone blocks; the ground floor exterior with deep horizontal grooves creating the impression of a massive stone foundation. Designing for a small rural agricultural community, at a time when the Carnegie Foundation directives emphasized economy and simplicity, noted Petaluma architect Brainerd Jones created a structure that is modestly scaled but dignified. Classical elements include sculptured garlands of the pediment, egg and dart detailing of the entablature, Doric columns, and keystone motif over paired first floor windows. The structure sits on a corner lot in residential Healdsburg. The building today appears essentially as it did upon its completion in 1911.

The facade is symmetrical. Viewed from the front, the projecting first floor central portico contributes an element of height to the building. The pediment is supported by squared pillars that enclose the portico and extend to grade level, emphasizing the appearance of the ground floor as a foundation. Adjacent to the squared pillars, two tapered Roman Doric columns rest on the first floor portico. The substantial brick staircase is as wide as the space between the pillars, then narrows to enter the portico between the Doric columns. On each side of the stairs is a wide solid three-stepped railing; a central iron pipe handrail was added in the 1940s.

At the corners of the building, pilasters repeat the line of the squared columns of the central portico. Between these, at the first floor level of each wing, a gently recessed area frames paired windows with a common lintel and radiating keystone motif. Windows are tall and narrow, one-over-one, double hung, each with projecting sill. Below, at the ground floor level, similarly spaced windows, also one-over-one and double hung, are deeply recessed, shorter, and receive no ornamentation.

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The parapet surrounding the building is solid behind the pediment and at the corners, and fenestrated in a Union Jack motif between. The pediment is ornamented with sculptural garlands and egg and dart detailing surrounding the date 1910, which is the date construction began and the building was dedicated. The roofline is enriched by a wide entablature with plain frieze and egg and dart molding beneath a projecting cornice, and bears the words "Public Library". Below, within the portico and above the wood and glass double doors is a multi-light transom and keystone motif crown, then the single word "Carnegie". Each squared entrance pillar also bears a decorative emblem.

The building is situated on a northwest corner lot, with the entrance facing on Matheson Street, the premier residential street of Healdsburg. The east side of the narrow rectangular building parallel to the cross street, presents five first-floor windows and, at the ground floor level, four windows flanking a central wood and glass door. This door is the one now used as the library's more accessible main entrance. Like their counterparts in front, the first floor side windows are recessed between the corner pilasters, but are more narrow with a single keystone.

The rear of the building, like the front, is tri-partite in form with a central projecting element; the rear projection is less deep, planned to partially accommodate an interior block containing staircase and other functions. Paired windows in each wing are more widely spaced and first floor windows are higher than those in front. In the central triad there are three narrow windows in a recessed frame at the first floor, with three square windows below. At the west side of the building, close to the adjacent property line, the five first-floor windows are higher than those on the east; there are just two windows at the ground level adjacent to a third, seldom used, door.

Alterations to the exterior building over the years have been minimal. The original stairway of molded concrete was replaced with a brick overlay, and the iron pipe handrail added, in the 1940s. Two cast-iron lamp standards, visible at the top of the banisters in some older photographs, were added several years after the building was constructed and were removed in the early 1960s.

Neither have there been major alterations to the building's interior, although original architectural plans indicate that a wall partition may have been added on the ground floor. Originally a storage area, the ground floor now houses the check-out desk next to the east entrance, children's reading room, and adult fiction.

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On the occasion of a recent restoration fund-raising event, the original front door was opened and entrance as planned by the architect was once again experienced by the public. A planned restoration of the building will make that entrance functional once more. From the portico at the top of the monumental stairs, the wood-framed glass doors lead directly into the first floor reading room. With Douglas fir paneling used sparingly throughout, a sense of light and space is created by windows on all four sides, as well as the white plaster walls and high ceiling arching above the dark wood molding.

The triadic proportions of the facade are repeated in the interior, where the central section is defined by four tapered columns panelled in Douglas fir and with Ionic capitals in the same wood, extending to wooden ceiling beams which cross between the columns, and pilasters at the entrance and at the stairwell block. This unit projects into the room to create an enclosed space for staircase, restrooms, and library office space. On either side the remaining rectangles extend from the front to back alongside the stairwell block and create a sense of extended space. The molding above and wainscoting below extend around the perimeter of the room uniting the three sections. The tall narrow windows extend below the wainscoting, and their simple sills add an element of interest to that otherwise unadorned feature. Tall narrow corner shelving appears to be original as does a unique set-in rack for magazines and newspapers. Small doors on either side of the original entrance lead to cloakroom space located in the interior of the squared portico columns. Venetian blinds on the windows are a relatively recent addition.

Landscaping is minimal. At the historical main entrance, two tall sycamores flank the central staircase. These trees were planted after 1959, and for most of its existence the building stood starkly unadorned. The currently used ground floor entrance has been enhanced by a wide paved walk and benches, and two small trees have been more recently planted. The original bell of Healdsburg's first elementary school, made by Rumsey & Co. of Seneca Falls NY, is mounted on cinderblocks near the sidewalk at the Matheson Street entrance.

The public library will soon move to new and larger quarters now under construction. Major funding has been received and additional funds are being sought to restore the Carnegie Library building as the new home of the Healdsburg Museum.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

<p>Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Social History _____</p> <p>Architecture _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>Period of Significance</p> <p>1911 - 1938 _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Cultural Affiliation</p> <p>_____</p> <p>N/A _____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>Significant Dates</p> <p>N/A _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>
<p>Significant Person</p> <p>NA _____</p>	<p>Architect/Builder</p> <p>Jones, Brainerd _____</p> <p>_____</p>	

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Healdsburg Carnegie Library is eligible for listing in the National Register both for its architecture and its history. One of only a handful of buildings in Healdsburg in the Neo-Classical Revival style, the library is a strong representative of that category and retains a high degree of integrity. Moreover, it was the first permanent home of the city's library collection, and for more than 70 years the building was Healdsburg's only public library. The Healdsburg Carnegie Library building is one of five constructed in Sonoma County between 1904 and 1916. By the time that Healdsburg sought funding in 1908, the Carnegie Foundation had reacted to examples of elaborate buildings and non-library functions by requiring greater economy of design. The three Sonoma County Carnegie buildings designed by noted Petaluma architect Brainerd Jones--Petaluma (1906)--Healdsburg (1911), and the no longer exant Sebastopol (1916)--demonstrate increased simplicity while reflecting community desire for significant public buildings stimulated by the City Beautiful movement, often expressed in the Neo-classical Revival style. In Healdsburg, the Carnegie Library is the only remaining example of a civic building of impressive architectural style.

According to the Healdsburg "100th Centennial Book", Healdsburg's earliest library was launched in 1859 when the Sotoyome Literary Society maintained a library at the Alexander Academy on University Street. Later these books were given for safekeeping to Charles E. Hutton until such time as a "town library" might be organized.¹ The Centennial booklet cites no sources, and confirmation

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Koch, Theodore Wesley. A Book of Carnegie Libraries. New York: The H. W. Wilson Company, 1917.

Historic Homes of Healdsburg: A Self-Guided Tour.

City of Healdsburg Centennial 1867-1967.

Local newspapers:

Russian River Flag, 1869.

Sonoma County Tribune, 1891-1.

Healdsburg Enterprise, 1906.

Healdsburg Tribune, 1892, 1909-11, 1916. See continuation sheet

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

Specify repository:

Historic Resources Inventory
Healdsburg Museum, Public Library

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property .21 acres

UTM References

A 1,0 5,1,1 6,6,0 4,2 7,4 4,4,0
 Zone Easting Northing

C

B
 Zone Easting Northing

D

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Rectangular log 82.5' x 112.7', portion of lot #82 of the original town, situated on northwest corner of Matheson and Fitch Streets in the City of Healdsburg, CA. AP#002-191-07.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary is the City lot which has historically been associated with the library.

0-5473H

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Lucy Kortum
 organization (Sonoma State University) date 3/11/88
 street & number 180 Ely Road telephone (707) 762-6219
 city or town Petaluma state CA zip code 94952

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has not been found in the newspaper index of the Healdsburg Museum. In fact, a 1906 Healdsburg Enterprise column entitled "Forty Years Ago"² refers to the first meeting of the Sotoyome Literary Society on October 30, 1863, further noting that the minutes of the group then in the possession of the Healdsburg Library extended only to 1865. Information in the Centennial book has been generally verifiable, however, and further confirmation of the 1859 date is being sought. At any rate, in 1869 the books that had formerly belonged to the Sotoyome Literary Society were offered to the Masonic Library Association by Professor J.W. Anderson. They were accepted with thanks and Professor Anderson was offered an honorary membership.³

Healdsburg's literary associations appear to have constituted a significant part of the town's social life over a period of time. In the late 1860's the Mill Creek Literary and Debating Club met weekly for members' orations, essays and declamations and for "social discussion" of issues. Another literary society of the same period, the Alexander Literary Society was apparently associated with the Alexander Academy, mentioned previously, and the Athenian Literary Society of the 1890's was also related to local schools. Newspapers of the 1870's report on the Healdsburg Literary Society; the Lowell Literary Society, and Excelsior Club met during the 1890's. Many of these groups appear to have supported the library at its various stages and their activities sometimes supplement the incomplete newspaper documentation available.

Again according to the Centennial booklet, in 1876 the Healdsburg Public Library Association was formed, with a Board of Trustees and an elected librarian who received a monthly salary of \$15. Average nightly attendance of 30 was noted. There were then 515 books, the 300 volumes from the Sotoyome Literary Society apparently the nucleus of the collection. This was a membership library, with a \$1 entrance fee plus \$1 per quarter. To supplement fees for the purchase of new books, the Healdsburg Library Association and the Healdsburg Literary Society in March 1878 planned a "social entertainment" to include charades and tableaux.

The new library was housed in rented space on the second floor of the new Masonic Lodge on Healdsburg Avenue. When the new City Hall was completed in 1886, the library moved into a second floor location overlooking the Plaza. However it is unclear if the library came under municipal control at that time. According to the Centennial Publication this step occurred in 1896 when, following a donation of books and property from the WCTU, the first Board of Trustees was appointed by the City Council.

Pictures of Healdsburg's ornate new City Hall include a sign indicating the presence of the library within. However little is known of the space, furnishings, or accessibility to the public of the second floor quarters. Many libraries so situated found themselves facing successive moves according to the

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demands of other city services. It was this lack of a permanent home for the library, typical nationwide, that was addressed by Andrew Carnegie, immigrant self-educated millionaire industrialist.

Carnegie had already endowed several libraries by 1889 when he wrote "Wealth", re-published in 1900 as the title chapter of the more widely read The Gospel of Wealth and Other Essays, advocating disposal of "surplus wealth" by attending to its distribution while alive. He praised Enoch Pratt, whose funding constructed and endowed the major library in Baltimore, for understanding that "the best means of benefiting the community is to place within its reach the ladders upon which the aspiring can rise".⁴ Libraries exemplified Carnegie's own self-help concepts: "The fundamental advantage of a library is that it gives nothing for nothing. Youths must acquire knowledge themselves".⁵ Of the Carnegie philanthropies, libraries were a proportionately small part but are probably the most familiar.

The library building itself became the focus for Carnegie funding, again as an aspect of the concept of self-help. Carnegie provided all, or substantially all, of the funds needed for a building, contingent upon the community providing adequate tax support for the book collection and building maintenance, and sometimes supplemental funding and land purchase.

The first Carnegie libraries were funded in 1886; the last requests were granted in 1919, and upon completion of those buildings 1,412 communities in the United States had constructed 1,679 Carnegie-funded libraries.⁶ There were also Carnegie library buildings in Canada, the British Isles, South Africa and Rhodesia, India, Mauritius, Australia and New Zealand, and Fiji. As of 1967, 1,348 of the Carnegie buildings in the United States were still used as libraries. Of the remainder, 130 were functioning in other capacities, 141 had been demolished, and the fate of 60 was unknown.⁷ Carnegie buildings still standing now range from sixty to one hundred years old, are usually cherished locally, and their significance is increasingly recognized.

In Sonoma County, five Carnegie Libraries were constructed and four still served as libraries at the time of the 1967 survey; now all five communities have provided new library facilities. The Santa Rosa and Sebastopol buildings have been demolished. The Sonoma building now houses the Chamber of Commerce. Petaluma's Carnegie building became an historical library and museum in 1976. Within the past year Healdsburg has signed a contract for renovation of its Carnegie building for a historic museum as soon as the library can move into its new quarters.

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There was no architectural history for the small community library and in few cases did an architect design more than one, resulting in buildings of various styles and degrees of practicality. Community pride, stimulated by the Chicago Columbian Exhibition and the City Beautiful movement, often demanded monumental library buildings, sometimes including space for other cultural facilities. As a result, more rigorous controls were placed on Carnegie allocations after 1908⁸ and, after 1911, communities were provided with "Notes on the Erection of Library Buildings"⁹ (an example of the simplified spelling used in all Carnegie communications). Suggested plans called for modest, efficient buildings, preferably one story and basement. By the time Healdsburg received Carnegie funds in 1909, the new emphasis on simplicity and efficiency was well established.

Healdsburg applied for Carnegie funding in 1908 and was granted \$10,000 on August 31, 1909. Little is yet known about the decision to seek Carnegie funding, but activity and anticipation is indicated by news stories of August 21 and August 28, 1909, describing the "Society Vaudeville" program to take place on August 31 under the auspices of the Carnegie Club to benefit the library.¹⁰ (Unfortunately the issues between August 31 and September 11 were not microfilmed.)

A site for the building was purchased on January 20, 1910.¹¹ The City of Healdsburg received clear title to the Flack property on a prominent corner just one block from the Plaza; the price was \$2,125. Existing building and fence were to be cleared. Reporting on the sale, the Russian River Flag newspaper of February 12 noted that there was "nothing now to interfere with the work going ahead" but past or potential obstacles were not identified.

Selection of Petaluma's Brainerd Jones as architect was announced on April 27, and plans were reported to be in progress. At the same time the Library committee announced appointment of an Advisory Committee consisting of three prominent citizens: Eli Bush, president of the Chamber of Commerce, attorney Ed M. Norton, and George C. Alexander. The article stated that Jones was "highly recommended", known for his Petaluma Carnegie Library and "other notable buildings", and was "also known to Healdsburg builders".¹²

By that time Jones had become well established as an architect, having completed the Lumsden, Comstock, and Wasserman residences in Santa Rosa. He had achieved local renown in Petaluma for his school buildings, commercial buildings, and residences. His commercial buildings were most often Neo-Classic Revival, while styles of his residences ranged from Queen Anne to Craftsman and Transitional. In addition to the Carnegie Library, he had recently completed the first Carlson-Currier Silk Mill addition and the new Elks Building in Petaluma. His design for the Healdsburg library was more modestly scaled and less elaborate in

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detail than his other buildings to date, reflecting both the funds allocated and the Carnegie limitations. Jones' career merits further research to determine his significance locally and over a wider area as indicated in his obituary.¹³

Announcement that the contract had been let did not appear until October 12, 1910. Frank Sullivan of Santa Rosa was the low bidder at \$9,473. Subcontracts were all to be let to "Healdsburg parties", "Garrett (local plumber, A.W. Garrett) getting the plumbing, Collins the painting"; local lumber dealers and building materials were also to be used. Work was to begin after the lot was cleared.¹⁴ Healdsburg newspaper files are not complete, and unfortunately no reports were found to report building progress, the laying of the cornerstone, or the opening day. Further research should uncover these dates in library minutes or Santa Rosa papers, but these could well lack the rich documentation of the usually enthusiastic local newspaper coverage which may yet be located. The library appears almost complete in a picture dated January 17, 1911.¹⁵

The building's modest and dignified Neo-Classical lines were in striking contrast to those of the ornate Victorian Romanesque style 1886 City Hall, the previous home of the library, just two blocks away. Today, the Carnegie Library is the city's only remaining example of a civic building of impressive architecture, though many fine examples of period commercial buildings and residences remain. The Healdsburg Museum has done much to encourage the recognition of this heritage, and recently published a popular book on the historic homes of Healdsburg, following completion of a State Cultural Resources Inventory in 1983. In 1982 there was a community-wide participation in a controversial Regional/Urban Design Assistance Team project that alerted many to the challenges of planned growth and preservation efforts.

Meanwhile, North Bay population growth has reached Healdsburg and the library can no longer function effectively in its present quarters; reading room and stacks now occupy the entire ground floor in addition to the first floor. A new building for the library is now nearing completion at another site. The community is now deeply involved in plans and fund-raising (to date having achieved 77% of its \$431,000 goal) to insure that when the library moves to its new site, the Carnegie building will be made safer and more accessible to all, and restored as a fine architectural example of its era, as the Healdsburg Museum.

The building's period of significance lasted into the 1980s, but that significance has not been shown to be exceptional. Consequently the period of significance has arbitrarily been ended at 1938.

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ENDNOTES

1. City of Healdsburg, Centennial 1867-1967, 13.
2. Healdsburg Enterprise, June 16, 1906.
3. Russian River Flag, February 28, 1869, 3:2.
4. Andrew Carnegie, The Gospel of Wealth and Other Timely Essays, ed. Edward C. Kirkland (Cambridge: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1962), p. 27.
5. Andrew Carnegie, Autobiography (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1920), p.45.
6. George S. Bobinski, Carnegie Libraries: Their History and Impact on American Public Library Development (Chicago: American Library Association, 1969), pp. 14, 20, 207.
7. Bobinski, Carnegie Libraries, pp. 172-3.
8. Bobinski, Carnegie Libraries, p. 45.
9. Theodore Wesley Koch, A Book of Carnegie Libraries, (New York: The H.W. Wilson Company, 1917), p. 17.
10. Healdsburg Enterprise, August 21 and 28, 1909.
11. Book of Deeds, Office of the Sonoma County Recorder, Book 262, page 163.
12. Healdsburg Enterprise, April 27, 1910.
13. Petaluma Argus-Courier, March 21, 1945.
14. Healdsburg Enterprise, October 12, 1910.
15. Healdsburg Museum