

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

PH0037346

|                  |             |
|------------------|-------------|
| STATE:           | Idaho       |
| COUNTY:          | Ada         |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY |             |
| ENTRY DATE       | NOV 21 1974 |

## 1. NAME

COMMON:

~~Boise~~ Carnegie Public Library

AND/OR HISTORIC:

## 2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

815 Washington Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Boise

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

District 1

STATE

Idaho

CODE

16

COUNTY:

Ada

CODE

001

## 3. CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY<br>(Check One)                                                                                                                                                               | OWNERSHIP                                                                                                       | STATUS                                                                                                                                           | ACCESSIBLE<br>TO THE PUBLIC                                                                                                    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building<br><input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure<br><input type="checkbox"/> Object | <input type="checkbox"/> Public<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private<br><input type="checkbox"/> Both | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied<br><input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied<br><input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work<br>in progress | Yes:<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted<br><input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted<br><input type="checkbox"/> No |

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

|                                                |                                     |                                            |                                                     |                                   |
|------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural          | <input type="checkbox"/> Government | <input type="checkbox"/> Park              | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation             | <input type="checkbox"/> Comments |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial | <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial | <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Educational           | <input type="checkbox"/> Military   | <input type="checkbox"/> Religious         | Private offices                                     |                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment         | <input type="checkbox"/> Museum     | <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific        |                                                     |                                   |

## 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:

William A. Hon Investment Company

STREET AND NUMBER:

815 Washington Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Boise

STATE:

Idaho

CODE

16

## 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:

Ada County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

514 West Jefferson Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Boise

STATE

Idaho

CODE

16

## 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

None

DATE OF SURVEY:

☐ Federal☐ State☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

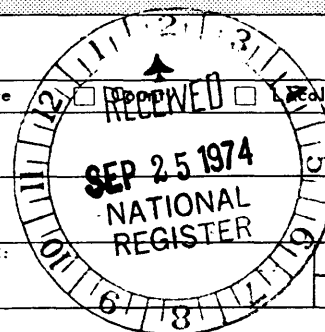
STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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|--------------|-------------|
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| DATE         |             |

FOR NPS USE ONLY

# 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

☐ Excellent ☒ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Deteriorated ☐ Ruins ☐ Unexposed

(Check One)

☒ Altered ☒ Unaltered

(Check One)

☐ Moved ☒ Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Boise's old Carnegie Public Library is a handsome brick structure in the French Renaissance style. A short flight of steps leads up to the projecting central bay which contains the double front doors. A pattern of graceful round arches marks the facade, contrasting with the rectilinear lines of the building. On either side of the central bay is a trio of tall, round-arched windows, and the central bay itself contains a large, round-arched window above the entrance and a smaller one on either side. Emphasizing these round-arched windows are rusticated stone arches, with keystones in all but the arch above the main door. All other windows are rectangular, with lintels of brick set at an angle. A pedimented gable tops the central bay, and a low hip roof tops the main structure. The simple projecting cornice is complete with dentils, a pattern which is continued in the pedimented gable.

The building was constructed of materials local in Boise. The beige pressed brick was made in Boise, and the sandstone used in the foundation and trim was quarried from Table Rock just east of town.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## 3. SIGNIFICANCE

## PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian      ☐ 16th Century      ☐ 18th Century      ☒ 20th Century  
☐ 15th Century      ☐ 17th Century      ☐ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1904-1905

## AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |                                                  |                                               |                                              |                                                |
|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering          | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry             | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____                                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention            | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____                                          |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape            | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____                                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture         | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____                                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature           | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____                                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Military             |                                              |                                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                |                                              |                                                |

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

As the city of Boise grew in size, the need for a larger and more permanent library became apparent. In 1902, a request was made to Mr. Andrew Carnegie by the secretary of the state library commission, bearing the endorsement of Gov. F. W. Hunt. Carnegie gave the city \$20,000 for a new building, but as this was not quite sufficient, the city donated \$4000 more and the Columbian Club an additional \$1000. The school board donated the site at the corner of Eighth and Washington, only a block from the State capitol.

The board of trustees of the library solicited plans from architects all across the country. By the deadline of Feb. 1, 1904, 17 sets of plans had been submitted including four local Boise firms. After much deliberation, J. E. Tourtellotte of Boise was awarded first prize in the contest, giving him supervision of construction as well as 5% of the cost. The second prize went to C. Z. Hubbell of Spokane and third prize went to Campbell and Wayland of Boise. John E

The trustees wanted the new library to be local from the foundation up. The brick was locally made, the sandstone locally quarried, and the design was from a Boise architect. Labor, of course, was supplied locally, with the contract awarded in July 1904 to Michels and Weber of Boise.

The work proceeded more slowly than expected. The building was originally scheduled to be opened by the middle of February 1905, but did not open until May. Great excitement surrounded the opening of the new library. A grand ball was held on May 1st, with the new building open for tours that evening. The dedication was to follow the next day but had to be postponed until May 3 because of inclement weather. Judge C. C. Goodwin from Salt Lake was the main speaker, with others sharing the platform with him. All, of course, were lavish in their praise of the new library and its effect on the growing city.

After almost 70 years in the same building, the library finally moved to new quarters in 1973. The old building is still in use, however, after being converted quite successfully to office space. This is the best of the few surviving examples of Carnegie libraries in Idaho.

# 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Idaho Daily Statesman, 2 February 1904 thru 4 May 1905.

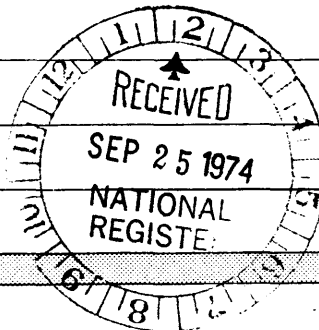
# 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

| LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES<br>DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY |                         |                         | OR | LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES<br>DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY<br>OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES |                         |  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| CORNER                                                                           | LATITUDE                | LONGITUDE               |    | LATITUDE                                                                                                | LONGITUDE               |  |
|                                                                                  | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees Minutes Seconds |    | Degrees Minutes Seconds                                                                                 | Degrees Minutes Seconds |  |
| NW                                                                               | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   |    | 43° 37' 10"                                                                                             | 116° 11' 58"            |  |
| NE                                                                               | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   |    |                                                                                                         |                         |  |
| SE                                                                               | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   |    |                                                                                                         |                         |  |
| SW                                                                               | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   |    |                                                                                                         |                         |  |

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than one acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY  | CODE |
|--------|------|---------|------|
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |



# 11. FORM PREPARED BY

|                                                            |                                           |
|------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| NAME AND TITLE:<br><u>Nancy F. Renk, Site Survey Staff</u> |                                           |
| ORGANIZATION:<br><u>Idaho State Historical Society</u>     | DATE:<br><u>18 Jan. 1974</u>              |
| STREET AND NUMBER:<br><u>610 N. Julia Davis Drive</u>      |                                           |
| CITY OR TOWN:<br><u>Boise</u>                              | STATE:<br><u>Idaho</u> CODE:<br><u>16</u> |

# 12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☒ Local ☐

Name

Maile W. Wells

Title

State Historic Preservation Officer

Date

1 April 1974

# NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

A. H. Mortensen  
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

11/21/74

ATTEST:

W. S. Smith  
Keeper of The National Register

Date

11.13.74

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

|                  |      |
|------------------|------|
| STATE            |      |
| COUNTY           |      |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY |      |
| ENTRY NUMBER     | DATE |
| NOV 21 1974      |      |

|                                                   |      |         |      |
|---------------------------------------------------|------|---------|------|
| 1. NAME                                           |      |         |      |
| COMMON: Carnegie Public Library                   |      |         |      |
| AND/OR HISTORIC:                                  |      |         |      |
| 2. LOCATION                                       |      |         |      |
| STREET AND NUMBER:                                |      |         |      |
| 815 Washington                                    |      |         |      |
| CITY OR TOWN:                                     |      |         |      |
| Boise                                             |      |         |      |
| STATE:                                            | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
| Idaho                                             | 16   | Ada     | 001  |
| 3. PHOTO REFERENCE                                |      |         |      |
| PHOTO CREDIT: Idaho State Historical Society      |      |         |      |
| DATE OF PHOTO: 1973                               |      |         |      |
| NEGATIVE FILED AT: Idaho State Historical Society |      |         |      |
| 4. IDENTIFICATION                                 |      |         |      |
| DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.                    |      |         |      |
| View of front from northwest.                     |      |         |      |
| # 1081                                            |      |         |      |

