

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

SENT TO D.C.

3-27-03

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 **Oregon Public Library**

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number **300 Jefferson Street** Not for publication
city or town **Oregon** vicinity
state **Illinois** code **IL** county **Ogle** code **141** zip code **61061**

3. 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide ☒ locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

William C. Lher 15490
Signature of certifying official

3-26-03
Date

Illinois Historic Preservation Agency
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 commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

American Indian Tribe

Oregon Public Library

Name of Property

Ogle, Illinois

County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

 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):

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

 private

 X public-local

 public-State

 public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

 X building(s)

 district

 site

 structure

 object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing

Noncontributing

 1

 0 buildings

 0

 0 sites

 0

 0 structures

 0

 0 objects

 1

 0 Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

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

Illinois Carnegie Libraries Multiple Property Document form, as amended

Oregon Public Library
Name of Property

Ogle, Illinois
County and State

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/library

SOCIAL/meeting hall

RECREATION & CULTURE/museum

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/library

SOCIAL/meeting hall

RECREATION & CULTURE/museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th & Early 20th Century American Movements

Other: Arts and Crafts

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation **Brick**

Roof **Other**

Walls **Brick**

other **Limestone**

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Oregon Public Library
Name of Property

Ogle, Illinois
County and State

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.)

- ☐ **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

Architecture

Period of Significance **1908 - 1953**

Significant Dates **1908; 1909**

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder **Pond, Allen and Pond, Irving**

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

Oregon Public Library

Name of Property

Ogle, Illinois

County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

(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

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property **Less than 1 acre**

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
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1	16	307065	4653676	3	_____	_____
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2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____
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☐ 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.)

Oregon Public Library
Name of Property

Ogle, Illinois
County and State

11. Form Prepared By

name/title **Marsha Behrens, Bonnie Kelly, and Helen Sierra**

organization **Historic Register Committee of the Oregon Public Library** date **1/15/03**

street & number **300 Jefferson Street** telephone **815/732-2724**

city or town **Oregon** state **IL** zip code **61061**

Additional Documentation

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)

Property Owner

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

name **Oregon Public Library District, c/o Rick McCanse, Board President**

street & number **300 Jefferson Street** telephone **815/732-2724**

city or town **Oregon** state **IL** zip code **61061**

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.

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Oregon Public Library

7. Narrative Description

The Oregon Public Library is located one block south and east of the main business district, facing a residential area. It sits on a slight rise on a corner lot graced with lawn and mature trees, evergreens and bushes. The front entrance is about 25 feet from the pedestrian sidewalk. A municipal parking lot to the north provides some parking for patrons, as does street parking to the east and south.

The building is loosely based on classicism but is not purely a Classical building. It conveys distinct influences of late 19th century and early 20th century American architecture. It is a transition from the purely classical to a more asymmetrical and creatively playful style, celebrating the hand-crafted—a distinct characteristic of the Arts and Crafts movement. The building is asymmetrical in design with regard to rooflines, main entrance, and the placement and style of windows. The simple massing and lack of ornamentation throughout the building are hallmarks of Arts and Crafts design.

The Chicago architectural firm of Pond and Pond (Allen Pond and Irving Pond) designed the Oregon library. The buff-colored brick building features contrasting red brick accents and belt coursings, which appear in different forms on all four elevations. This two-story structure has a full brick basement and is approximately 5,500 square feet. The influence of Arts and Crafts is especially strong in the library's interior. The overall sense of the past is still very evident in the building today.

Exterior of building

South Elevation, Facade

The central section is two stories high, runs north and south, and has a gable roof. There are two one-story wings to the east and west, forming a modified cross. The brick is laid in a variation of the American bond with five courses of stretchers to one course of headers. The variation occurs in that this sixth course has a repeating pattern of two headers followed by one stretcher.

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Oregon Public Library

All windows are made of wood and have aluminum storms, but they vary in design. The larger windows are double-sash, the smaller windows are not. They not only are placed at varying levels, but they also differ in size, design, form and number on all three floors. In the west wing there are five first-floor windows grouped together and two lower-level (basement) windows. The center has three windows in three different styles, sizes and shapes in varying placement. The east wing has three windows on the main level, and one double basement window.

The muntins on the upper sashes of the first floor windows on the west wing form a diamond shape in the center. The lower sashes have four lights. The windows have wood mullions and are framed on both sides by one column of red bricks in the stretcher position. The red brick sills are laid in a rowlock position.

At the lower corners of the window groups the stretcher and rowlock bricks connect to the red brick stringcourse. The stringcourse consists of two rows of bricks that protrude slightly from the wall with a third row flush with the wall. The stringcourse is laid in a stretcher bond. Three red bricks in the stretcher form four decorative squares, two on either side of the window groups.

Beneath the gable in the center of the façade, in an alternating pattern, are four rows of beige bricks in the stretcher bond, two rows of red bricks laid in various bonds, beginning at the top with the English cross bond, followed by the header bond, then the English cross bond, the stock bond, and the stretcher bond. The stretcher bond is the last of the alternating patterns and is followed by several rows of buff-colored brick.

The lintel of the upper story window is part of this stretcher bond. The window is the same as those on the west wing and also has the same decorative brick surrounds and sill. As on the west wing, the sill is inset in a red brick stringcourse. Beneath the stringcourse are three rows of beige brick in the stretcher bond.

A window with 9 over 9 lights is located between the first and second floor, opening onto the stairwell. It is adorned by a red brick segmental arch, with a limestone keystone and a red brick sill. Bricks laid in the header position beneath the sill give the appearance of brackets. A third window, located between the first floor and the basement, is directly beneath this window. It has 2 over 2 lights and a red brick sill.

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The off-center entrance is adorned with a stone, segmental hood supported by stone pilasters. A globe light fixture is sheltered by the hood. Three carved stone book motifs and a rectangular block of stone inscribed with "Oregon Public Library" and carved flowers are also beneath the hood. Paneled, double-glazed doors, which are not original, are inset in the entrance. The entryway has a stone lintel and red brick door surround, and buff-colored brick pilasters on each side. A stone lintel caps the pilasters. A decorative cast iron railing was added in 1978 in the center of the 10-foot wide concrete entry steps.

The east wing has alternating rows of beige and red brick beneath the cornice. From the top, the first row is a single course of brick in stretcher bond. Next are three rows of beige brick in the stretcher bond, followed by two rows of red brick headers, followed by three more rows of beige brick and ending with two rows of red brick in English cross bond. The last row also forms the lintels of the windows on this wing. The windows are in a group of three and have 4 over 6 lights, brick muntins and brick sills. The lintel of the middle window forms a segmental arch and is adorned with a limestone keystone. This treatment gives the windows the appearance of a Palladian window. The brick headers beneath the sills give the appearance of brackets.

East Elevation

The alternating rows of east wing brick that appear on the front façade continue around all three sides of this wing. The east elevation has a Palladian-like window identical to the one on the front façade. Another window, slightly lower, with a flat arch, brick sill and 4 over 6 lights is located on the north side of this elevation. This wing is flanked at the corners by two ornamental buttresses with limestone caps. There are four 2 over 2 double-hung windows in the basement level.

North Elevation

From this view, starting with the east wing, the first floor window is 4 over 6 and has a flat arch and red brick sill. Directly beneath, on the basement level is a 2 over 2 window. Another 2 over 2 window with brick sills is located above the rear entrance opening onto the rear stairwell. The doorway has a segmental red brick arch. The metal replacement door is flush and has a small 1 over 1 window adjacent to it. The threshold is stone. Two concrete steps lead to this entrance.

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Oregon Public Library

The center of the north elevation is two stories and has a front gable with returns on the eaves. It has the same alternating brick pattern beneath the gables as the front façade. A red brick stringcourse with four rows of beige brick beneath is located between the first two stories. There are four, 4 over 4, double-sash windows with brick lintels, symmetrically placed. Beneath these windows is a 2 over 2 double-sash window on the basement level.

In the southernmost corner of the juncture between the west wing and the central, two-story building are two 4 over 4 windows with brick sills on the first floor. There are two, 2 over 2 windows on the basement level directly beneath these.

The west wing on the north elevation is almost identical to the west wing on the south, or front façade. The only difference is the addition of a bulkhead door and a vent, located on the basement level.

West Elevation

On the west elevation, a chimney is located on the gable wall. The chimney has multiple shafts, limestone caps and patterned brickwork. The two uppermost shafts are alternating single rows of red and beige brick laid in the stretcher bond. This is followed by two rows of red brick in the English cross bond, four rows of beige brick in the stretcher bond, two rows of red brick in the stack bond, five rows of beige brick in the stretcher bond and two rows of brick in the stack bond. The remainder is buff brick.

A red brick string course extends the perimeter of this wing. Three decorative red brick squares are located on either side of the chimney. The brickwork beneath the gable is the same pattern as found beneath the other gables.

Interior

The interior space design features wood coffered and exposed beam ceilings on the first and second floors; extensive wood molding and trim on all three floors, and front and rear wooden staircases, all of simple hand-crafted design with a dark finish.

The entry and the upper front stair landings are spacious, light-filled and inviting. In this entry area, there is one staircase leading to the second story gallery and another leading down to the lower level bathroom and genealogy collection.

The original interior double doors with windows lead into the circulation area. Each door has a window with a diamond shape in the center, like the exterior windows in the west wing.

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East of the interior vestibule doors, two interior windows form an arch. These doors and windows divide the entryway from the circulation area. The windows have a diamond shape in the center, upper portion. The lower portions are single panes.

Beyond the vestibule, the circulation area is the center of the main floor. Arched doorways lead to a stack area to the north, and reading rooms in the east and west wings. A librarian's office and stairwell in the northwest corner also are on this floor.

Several pieces of original furniture are still in use, including a Sessions floor clock presented to the library in 1909 by the Oregon Women's Council, a wood book display rack, and wooden tables and chairs.

On the second floor, the art gallery and the recently installed (Nov. 2002) Family Reading Room command the most space. Two rows of covered skylights top the gallery/reading room. A small staff kitchen to the east is surrounded by attic storage.

The center portion of the lower level has a magazine room, office, storage space and public restroom. Beneath the east wing is the Genealogy Room, a storage room and a staff restroom. Under the west wing is the maintenance/furnace room.

Alterations

The overall integrity of the structure and its finishes has not been compromised. It continues to reflect its historic appearance and retains its basic physical materials, design and construction features from the period of significance.

The building, however, has undergone slight alterations over the last hundred years, including:

1. The south entrance stoop was rebuilt before the 1950s; and the north entrance stoop was slightly altered at about the same time.
2. A kitchen was carved from the attic space in 1955.
3. The fireplace in the west wing reading room was removed to allow for more shelf space in the early 1960s.
4. Aluminum storms and screens were installed and original exterior doors were replaced to make the building more energy efficient. Dates of these changes are unknown but believed to be in the 1960s.
5. The original wood floors were covered by either VCT or carpet, and acoustical ceiling tiles were installed for soundproofing, probably 1960s or 1970s.

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6. In the 1970s, wood paneling was installed in some areas of the main floor and basement. In the gallery, burlap wall treatments were added in the 1980s. At about this time, a cellar entrance on the north side of the building replaced a basement window to provide a direct entrance to the basement.
7. A handcrafted wrought-iron center railing with the Eagle's Nest tree motif was installed outside the south entrance in Sept. 1978.
8. An additional staff office was enclosed in 1997 in the basement.
9. In Sept. 2001, a new gray, stone-coated metal shingle roof was installed to cover the original roof; the original roof, which was deteriorating, may be asbestos slate. Replacement roofing material was approved by the Springfield (IL) Office of the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency. The gallery skylights were covered to halt leakage and protect the art collection, but the skylights are intact.

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Oregon Public Library

8. Statement of Significance

The Oregon Public Library meets Criterion A for education, providing library services to the public. It also qualifies in Criterion C for its architectural characteristics. While the massing of the building is loosely based on classicism, it is not a purely Classical building. The structure strongly reflects the Arts and Crafts movement in America. The period of significance is from 1908 to 1952, the cutoff date for significance to the National Register of Historic Places. The Oregon Public Library satisfies the requirements of the property type "Carnegie Library" as defined in the Multiple Property Documentation form, Illinois Carnegie Libraries.

Criterion A

The Oregon Public Library contributed significantly to the intellectual development of the community as the area grew in population and economic activity. Its history is an integral part of the town's history.

Oregon was founded by John Phelps. Later, it was discovered that the site, which eventually became Oregon, contained many prehistoric mounds, most were 10 feet to 12 feet in diameter.

Phelps first visited the area in 1829 and returned in 1833 to explore it in hopes of finding a suitable site to build a settlement. By December 4, 1838, because of his efforts and the work of his brothers B.T. Phelps and G. W. Phelps and their families, the land had been claimed, subdivided and certified by the county clerk as Oregon City.

In 1839, the name of the town was changed to Florence, prompted by a visitor who compared the beauty of the river area to Florence, Italy. The name was used for only about three years before it was renamed Oregon early in 1843. But in returning to the former name, the word "city" was dropped and the town was known as Oregon, Illinois. The population grew to 225 by 1847. The town had a general store, sawmill, river ferry, and 44 household units.

During the 1870s, 2,000 people lived in the town and nearby. The first election was held on March 21, 1870, and James V. Gale was elected the first mayor.

The population growth was reflected in the founding of several churches in the 1850s and 1860s and the building of a railroad in 1871. Along with the railroad came an oatmeal mill, furniture factory, chair factory, flourmill, and the Paragon Foundry, which functioned until the 1960s.

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Oregon Public Library

The first Oregon library was organized in 1872. In the early years, books were housed successively in a drug store, the County Treasurer's office, and then in rented office space in the First National Bank building.

Dissatisfied with this situation, the citizens of Oregon voted in a 1905 referendum to change from a city library to a township library to qualify for an Andrew Carnegie grant. The grant application describes the library as having been forced to "occupy undesirable rented rooms." The grant required that a site be selected before funding. The current site at the corner of Jefferson and Third Streets was chosen for a new building. Initially \$7,000 was promised but once the referendum passed, Carnegie increased the grant to \$10,000. Construction ensued, and the library began providing services in 1909.

Prior to the library's construction, the Eagle's Nest Art Colony, founded in 1898 by renowned Chicago sculptor Lorado Taft, camped on the east side bluffs of the Rock River overlooking the town of Oregon. The art camp participants were artists, other professionals, and their families who became associated with one another via their involvement in the 1893 Chicago World's Fair.

The Eagle's Nest artists, interested in having an exhibition space, influenced the library design by encouraging the inclusion of a second-story gallery. In fact, the first use of the new library building was in October 1908 for an exhibition of 100 paintings by Leon A. Makielski, a colony member. The library itself did not open until May 12, 1909.

In the early 1900s, the Eagle's Nest Art Colony required its artists to contribute to the area's culture by having art shows and giving lectures and dramas. After a busy and productive summer at camp, it was the custom of the artists to have an annual exhibit in the library's gallery. Hamlin Garland, recipient of the 1921 Pulitzer Prize for Literature and Eagle's Nest Art Colony member, lectured there.

In 1908, Taft began to create clay sculpture models for "Monument to the American Indian," commonly known as "Blackhawk." The "Blackhawk" sculpture stands a prominent 76 feet high and is situated on the original camp property overlooking Oregon's Rock River Valley. Taft's 4-foot plaster study for "Blackhawk" is part of the library's gallery collection.

On July 4, 1918, the art gallery was formally dedicated with the beginning of the permanent collection of paintings and sculptures donated by Eagle's Nest Art Colony members. The collection now consists of 32 paintings and 23 sculptures from Eagle's Nest. The community was fortunate to receive the Currier and Ives lithograph collection

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of a local resident in a bequest to the library. The collection consists of 46 Currier and Ives lithographs, and 14 Nathaniel Currier lithographs. The two collections currently are appraised at over \$700,000.

In January 1933, a small, contained fire started in the basement of the west wing. Scorched beams in this portion of the basement still can be seen. The fire destroyed 200 books, and partially damaged 481 books. Some building damage also was sustained. Library archives state that the cost of repair, material replacement, and cleaning was \$570.13.

In the fall of 2002, the gallery space was opened to wider usage. A portion of the children's collection along with furnishings to match the Arts and Crafts interior was moved into the gallery. This has helped alleviate space problems in the first floor children's room, and is promoting a wider awareness of and appreciation for the local historic art collection.

In addition, an Oregon resident has donated artwork to the library from the annual Grand Detour (IL) Art Show each year. Other residents have donated additional contemporary paintings. There are about 30 contemporary pieces by local artists currently in the collection.

Other residents have continued this tradition of philanthropy by remembering the library with substantial memorial bequests and donations.

In November 1984, a referendum to change from a township to a district library passed by a 75% affirmative vote. The board and director believed this would provide a wider tax base and greater autonomy.

The library has a long history of offering meeting space and sponsoring special cultural events along with customary library services. Artist groups regularly held shows in the gallery, starting with the turn-of-the-century Eagle's Nest Art Colony and ending with the contemporary Eagle's Nest Art Group during the 1950s through the 1980s.

In the early days, the local Women's Club (April 26, 1910), Men's Club and later, the Junior Women's Club met at the library. In 1958, the St. Bride's Episcopal Church group used the facility until their church was built. That same year, the building was the meeting place for the Junior Eagle's Nest Art Group. The Ogle County Arts Alliance now holds its regular meetings in the gallery.

In addition, the Ogle County Genealogical Society met at the site and to this day has its records and research collection in the room formerly called the Men's Club Room.

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Members come weekly to help patrons with family history searches. Classes on genealogy also have been offered in this space.

The facility has been a meeting place for one-on-one Reading Literacy sessions, work sessions to help individuals with income tax questions, financial planning, and an "Antiques Roadshow" style event. Currently the library is certified as a voter registration site. It also was used recently for English as a Second Language classes.

In recent years, cultural programming has included talks on bird watching, geological features of the area, river and soil conservation, travelogues by local residents, the history of the Chicago Columbian Exposition, and the history and work of sculptor Lorado Taft and the art colony. Monthly evening and afternoon book club meetings led by library staff are very popular as are regular meetings of Writers' Forum.

Paid programs have been held in the gallery on banking and real estate. Training for computer use is offered to adults. A staff-written weekly column about new acquisitions and activities appears in local newspapers.

Each year the staff organizes a children's summer reading program, which is attended by at least 100 and sometimes more children. Preschool story hours throughout the year have been expanded to include a weekly baby and toddler time program. Children's program attendance for fiscal year 2001/2002 was 1,513.

Tours of the gallery are frequently given for general visitors as well as for art and history groups. The library is located within 10 miles of three state parks, which attract thousands of visitors each year. Many tourists come to the library for assorted short-term services and to visit the gallery.

In 1902, the Oregon Library opened with a collection of 2,646 volumes. Today, the collection has grown to 32,161 books, 5 computer stations for public use, 285 audio-tapes and 1,261 videotapes, extensive newspaper and periodical holdings, and a varied large print collection. According to a recent community survey, a popular service is the interlibrary loan program.

In fiscal year 2001/02, the total number of items loaned out was 33,850; the facility is open 58 hours a week; and the average number of reference questions answered weekly is 50. The library serves a district population of 6,719.

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Criterion C

The building's Arts and Crafts influence can be traced directly to its architects, Allen Pond and Irving Pond. They were charter members of The Chicago Arts and Crafts Society founded in October 1897. Chicago was one of the earliest, most important centers of American Arts and Crafts. Pond and Pond designed the first buildings at Chicago's Hull House Settlement with Arts and Crafts interiors. The Oregon library is one of only two Illinois libraries designed by Pond and Pond; the other is in Park Ridge. (For a more detailed description of the work of Pond and Pond and the style of the Oregon Public Library, please refer to the cover document, Multiple Property Documentation form, Illinois Carnegie Libraries.)

Not only were the Ponds followers of this design movement, they also were members and trustees of the Oregon's Eagle's Nest Art Colony. Indeed, after 1900 (which preceded the Oregon building) the Ponds' designs began to show the cleaner lines of Arts and Crafts.

Arts and Crafts is generally regarded as a movement, not a rigid style. Nevertheless, certain design elements stand out--dark heavy woodwork and simple design with lack of ornamentation.

Numerous Arts and Crafts elements exist and are functional at the Oregon facility. They include four-panel wooden interior doors, coffered and exposed beamed ceilings, chair rails and wainscoting, and staircases with plain dark banisters and newel posts. The balusters and newel posts on the rear staircase are square, and the newel caps are unornamented wooden balls. The front staircase has turned balusters.

Two original wooden fuse boxes, a large 1909 wooden floor clock, and a sizable built-in office storage cabinet are of the Arts and Crafts motif. On every floor original light fixtures and capped gas jets remain.

The building only minimally reflects Classical Revival features. There are two stone pilasters and a stone lintel below the hood over the front entrance. Two carved stone flowers and three open books adorn the pediment. Seven concrete steps lead to the entrance. The modified buttresses on the east wing are stone-capped. The entrance façade has a gabled roof as in the temple front style. The windows are also accented by contrasting brick lintels. These are all characteristic of Classic Revival style.

When the library was being built, Andrew Carnegie had become increasingly dissatisfied with the way his grant money was used by various recipients. He felt that too

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Oregon Public Library

many towns had planned poorly and spent unwisely on unnecessarily extravagant architectural designs. He appointed his very efficient secretary James Bertram to oversee the grant requests in an effort to eliminate cost overruns due to expensive site selection and building ornamentation.

The Oregon Library was built just as Carnegie's newer and stricter guidelines were beginning to be put into place. Therefore, it has a unique mixture. It has the less expensive, unpretentious interiors of Arts and Crafts motifs as well as more ornamental features including a reading room fireplace, expensive brickwork with polychrome accents, barrel vaulted ceilings and an art gallery exhibition space with two rows of skylights.

In July 2002, the library board commissioned an assessment and feasibility study and report by Frye, Gillan and Molinaro Architects, Ltd., Chicago, Ill., to determine the current condition and continued use and occupation of the building as a District Library. In the report's general description, the architects state that the building has not changed much over the last 100 years, noting that the fireplace and the exterior doors have been removed. "The library is sound and exhibits typical and expected wear patterns," the report states. The study notes the many architectural exterior and interior features that remain as well as the original interior appointments such as wood beams and trim pieces.

It is unclear whether other true Arts and Crafts buildings exist in Oregon. Two residences exist in town that seem to reflect the Arts and Crafts movement. Frank Carpenter, an architect from Rockford, Illinois designed the houses; one was built in the early 1900s, the other in 1912. Both homes show some Arts and Crafts elements.

Located on North 4th Street, one of two main roads in town, the homes are showcased on large corner lots. Strong unadorned horizontal and vertical lines are formed by roofs, windows and entry doors. They feature traditional Arts and Crafts standards of beauty found in wood trim, moldings, and exterior doors and windows. It is not surprising that Carpenter was familiar with and influenced by the Arts and Crafts movement, which was popular at the time when these two Oregon homes were designed and built.

Conclusion

The Oregon Public Library continues to provide an important educational and informational base for the community. It serves the educational needs of patrons of all ages, reaching out to them and the communities beyond with its interlibrary loan

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 13

Oregon Public Library

program, genealogy research assistance and special-interest programs. It also welcomes tourists needing services during visits to the area. Many come to visit the gallery and learn about the art colony that once inhabited the nearby bluffs.

Its architectural characteristics mark it as a unique example of the late 19th century/early 20th century architecture in America. It not only hints of classicism with its accents of stone construction, pediments, and long flights of stairs; but it also powerfully reflects the Arts and Crafts movement with its exposed wooden rafters, unadorned wooden trim and moldings, and simply designed wooden doors and windows. These features have been left untouched and remain in good condition. Many original furnishings are in the library and are still in use today. As a whole, the library's original exterior and interior features are largely intact, and the structure maintains sufficient integrity for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 14

OREGON PUBLIC LIBRARY

9. Bibliography:

1. Assessment and Feasibility Report for Oregon Public Library District. Frye Gillan Molinaro Architects, Ltd. July 10, 2002.
2. Bial, Raymond and Linda LaPuma Bial. The Carnegie Library in Illinois. 1991.
3. Bicentennial History of Ogle County. Ogle County Board. Ogle County, Illinois. 1976.
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5. Drury, John. Old Illinois Houses. Illinois State Historical Society. Springfield, IL. 1948.
6. The Growth of Outdoor Teacher Education: Forty years After the Vision. Lorado Taft Field Campus 40th Anniversary 1951 – 1991. Northern Illinois University, 1991.
7. Illinois Carnegie Library Amendment – MPD. "Illinois Carnegie Library Architecture." Marcia Anderson. September 29, 2000.
8. "Local History Divisible by 5?" White paper. Ogle County Historical Society. Oregon, Illinois. 1993.
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**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

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OREGON PUBLIC LIBRARY

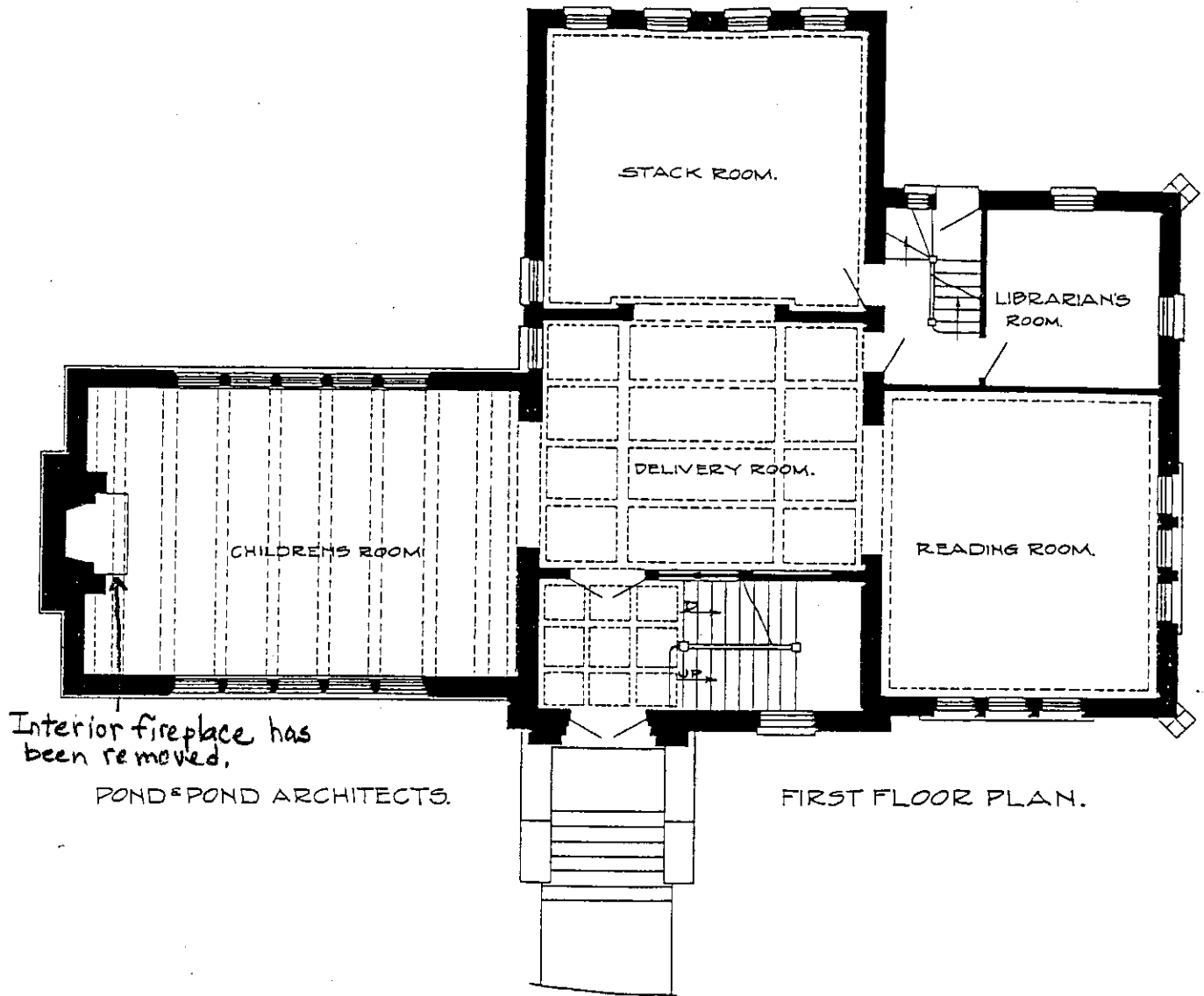
10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description:

The Oregon Public Library is located on Lots 7 and 8 in Block 28 in the original Town, now City of Oregon, according to the recorded survey thereof. The property is in the northwest corner of Jefferson Street and Third Street in Oregon, Illinois in Ogle County.

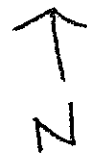
Boundary Justification:

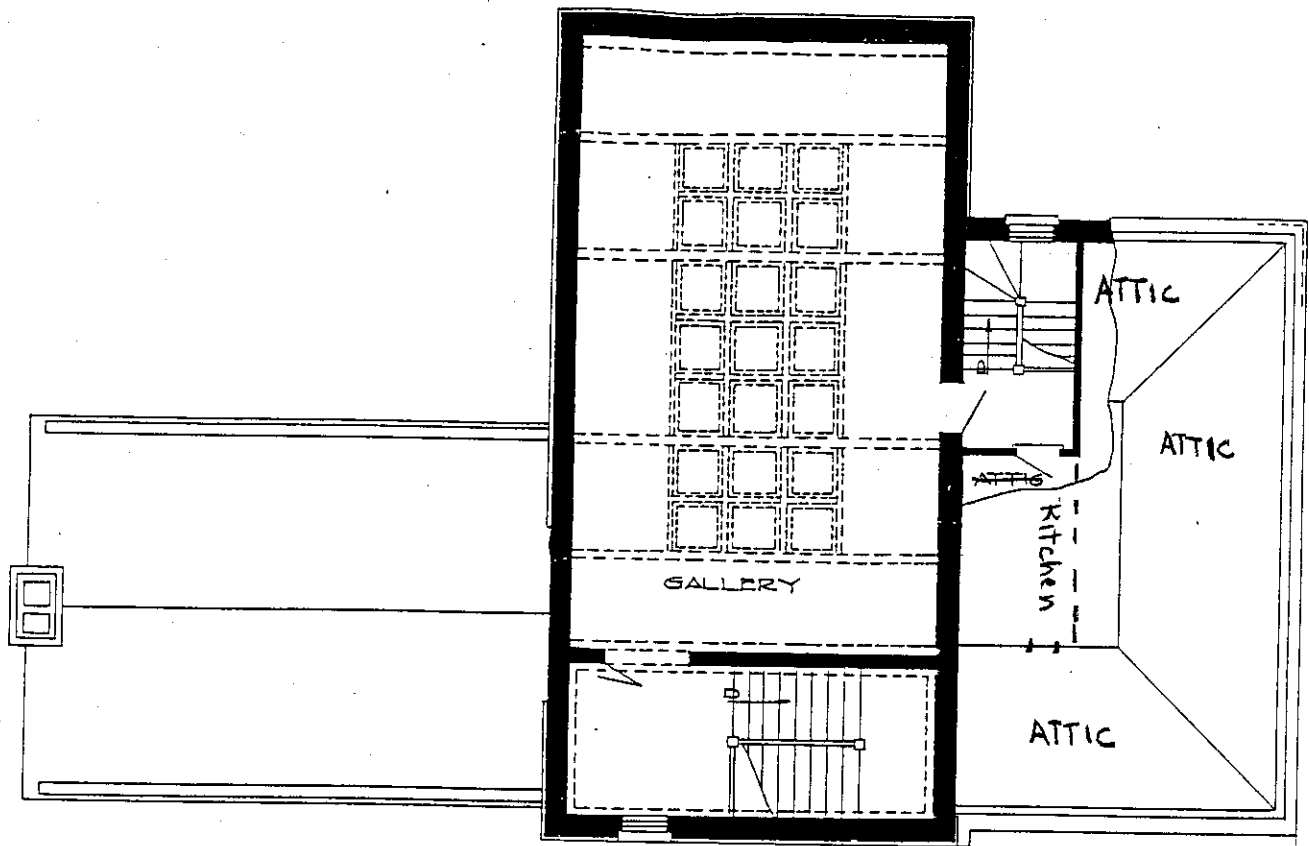
The boundary includes the library building and the surrounding area that is historically associated with the Oregon Public Library.



Original plans with changes indicated.

Oregon Public Library

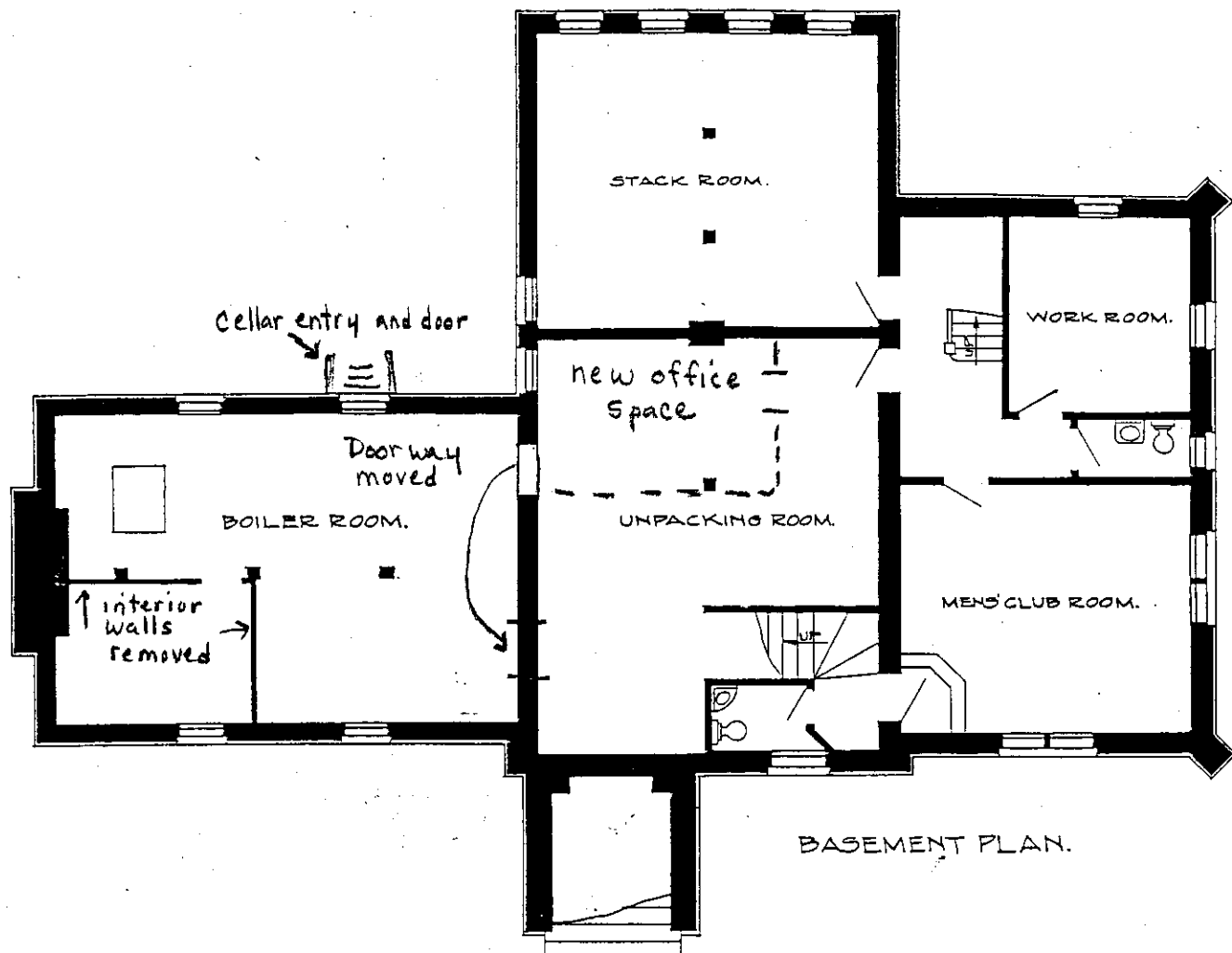




SECOND FLOOR PLAN.

Original plans with changes indicated.

Oregon Public Library



Original plans with changes indicated.

Oregon Public Library

- Interstate Hwy
- US Highway
- County Roads
- Urban Areas
- Schools
- Parks
- Post Office



LOWDEN

STATE

PARK

Oregon

verizon

Lincoln Rd

Morgan Dr

Indian Ter

Tomahawk Dr

Cartwright Ln

Blackhawk Vista

Margaret Fuller Rd

Elyre Tr

Park Rd

River Rd

Fair St

Timber Ln

Ford St

Phelps St

Terrace View Blvd

Illinois St

Illinois St

Oregon Tr

Williams Dr

Jackson St

Monroe St

Amber Dr

Scott St

Franklin St

Mix Ln

Center St

Av

Av

Nohe Av

Jewett Av

Frontage Rd

Koontz Pl

14th St

13th St

12th St

11th St

10th St

9th St

8th St

7th St

6th St

5th St

4th St

3rd St

2nd St

1st St

High School

Jefferson St

Madison St

Clay St

Webster St

Gale St

Rhoades St

Hill St

Morning Ct

Aldrin St

Armstrong St

Collins St

Pines Rd

Devils Backbone Rd

Devils Backbone Rd

Daysville Rd

1st St

2nd St

Jefferson St

Honey Creek P

Lowden St

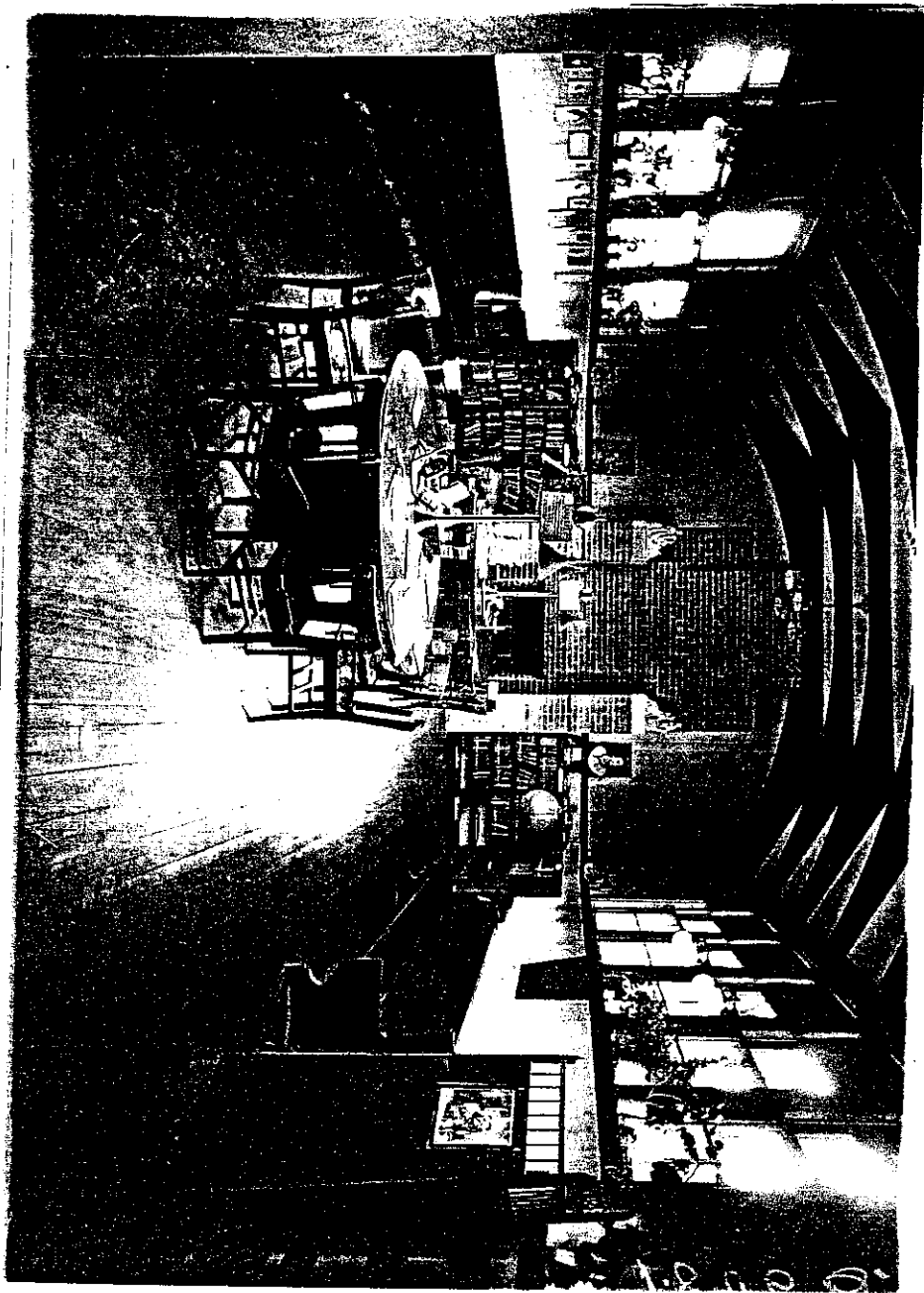
2

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Original
Reading Room
—
Currently the
children's
collection



Original Children's room
currently the adult collection
and reference



Originally called the delivery room (circulation desk
with stack room in the background.)
Currently used for the same purpose with all
original furnishings.



ILLINOIS HISTORIC SITES SURVEY INVENTORY

O-H-42

123428

1. Name of Site:

Common OREGON LIBRARYHistoric

2. Location:

Street and NumberTownship
OREGON
RangeSectionCity or Town
OREGON
CountyZip Code
610611/4 Section3. Classification:

Category (check one)

() District (X) Building
() Site () Structure

Integrity (check one)

() Altered (X) Unaltered
() Moved (X) Original
Site

4. Ownership:

Status (check one)

() Private
(X) Public

(X)* Occupied
() Unoccupied
() Preservation work in progress

Access to Public

(X) Yes () Restricted (X) Unrestricted () No

Present Use (check one or more)

() Agricultural () Industrial () Religious
() Commercial () Military () Scientific
(X) Educational () Museum () Transportation
() Entertainment () Park () Other
() Government () Private Residence

5. Ownership of Property:Owner's Name CITY OF OREGONPhone NumberStreet and NumberCity or TownStateCountyZip Code6. Description:

(X) Excellent () Good () Fair () Deteriorated
(X) Ruins () Unexposed

Is there a program of preservation underway? () Yes () No

7. Historical Themes: (check one or more of the following)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archaeological Site | (Pre-Columbian) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archaeological Site | (Post-Columbian to 1673) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> French Influence | (1673-1780) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Illinois Frontier | (1780-1818) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Illinois Early | (1818-1850) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Illinois Middle | (1850-1900) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Illinois Late | (1900-present) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Famous People | (give names & dates) ASSOC. WITH ANDREW CARNEGIE |

8. Specific Date: 1905

Areas of significance (check one or more of the following)

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

Brief statement of significance: (include all names and dates)
 Use additional sheets if necessary. ANDREW CARNEGIE GAVE \$10,000

9. Form prepared by:

Name and Title: Arnold J. VanBriesen Pres. Date: 5-10-80
 Organization: Ogle Co. Historical Society Phone: 815-648-24
 Street and Number: 222 W. Main St.
 City or Town: Stillman Valley County: Ogle Zip Code: 61084

During the course of the Survey we often find it necessary to search for a particular site. When filling out the Survey form, please list according to the following example, published references to the site for which forms are being completed. If a bibliography can be compiled, it will greatly deduct from the Survey's task.

Bibliography

Robertson, Robert, Of Whales and Men. New York, Alfred K. Knopf, Inc., 1954.



OREGON LIBRARY 1905

Our physical location address is:

National Park Service 2280
National Register of Historic Places
1201 "I" (Eye) Street, NW,
Washington D.C. 20005

Please have any Fed Ex, UPS packages sent to the above address. Please continue to use alternate carriers, as all mail delivered to us via United States Postal Service is irradiated and subsequently damaged.

WEEKLY LIST OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON PROPERTIES: 5/05/03 THROUGH 5/09/03

KEY: State, County, Property Name, Address/Boundary, City, Vicinity, Reference Number, NHL, Action, Date, Multiple Name

CALIFORNIA, KERN COUNTY,
Burro Schmidt's Tunnel,
Address Restricted,
Ridgecrest vicinity, 03000113,
LISTED, 3/20/03

ILLINOIS, DU PAGE COUNTY,
Butler School,
1200 31st. St. (Oak Brook Rd.),
Oak Brook, 03000355,
LISTED, 5/09/03

ILLINOIS, OGLE COUNTY,
Oregon Public Library,
300 Jefferson St.,
Oregon, 03000352,
LISTED, 5/09/03
(Illinois Carnegie Libraries MPS)

ILLINOIS, STEPHENSON COUNTY,
AF and AM Lodge 687, Orangeville,
203 W. High St.,
Orangeville, 03000354,
LISTED, 5/09/03

IOWA, SAC COUNTY,
Chicago and North Western Passenger Depot,
3727 Perkins Ave.,
Wall Lake, 03000358,
LISTED, 5/09/03

IOWA, STORY COUNTY,
Nevada Downtown Historic District,
Approx. 6th St. from I Ave. to M Ave.,
Nevada, 03000356,
LISTED, 5/09/03
(Nevada Central Business District MPS)

IOWA, WEBSTER COUNTY,
Oleson Park Music Pavilion,
1400 Oleson Park Ave.,
Fort Dodge, 03000357,
LISTED, 5/09/03

IOWA, WOODBURY COUNTY,
Sanford, Arthur and Stella, House,
1925 Summit,