

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Atlanta Public Library

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Race Street at Arch Street

CITY, TOWN

Atlanta

STATE

Illinois

VICINITY OF

CODE

012

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

21

COUNTY

Logan

CODE

101

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER Library

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

City of Atlanta

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Atlanta

VICINITY OF

STATE

Illinois 61723

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Logan County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Lincoln

STATE

Illinois 62656

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Illinois Historic Landmarks Survey (1)
Illinois Historic Structures Survey (2)

DATE November 1973 (1)
October 1974 (2)

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Illinois Department of Conservation

CITY, TOWN

Springfield

STATE

Illinois 62706

011

77 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Atlanta Public Library has been in continuous use since its dedication on March 28, 1908. Designed by Paul A. Moratz of Bloomington and built by Joseph A. Reichel of El Paso, the building continues to be well-maintained and accurately reflects its original design.

The building combines two significant movements in American architectural history, the Neo-Classical Revival and the Octagon Mode. The plan of the structure is based upon a 48 foot diameter octagon but is dressed in Neo-Classical detail. Only the Classical front portico breaks the octagonal rhythm.

Exterior: The library is sited on a 180 by 143 feet parcel in Atlanta's central business district at the southwest corner of the intersection of Arch and Race Streets. The grounds are grass with a few trees and shrubs. A graveled parking area separates the Library from the Illinois Central Gulf Railroad through this downtown. Commercial structures dominate the adjacent blocks.

The octagon plan is evident from any of the eight sides of the structure. Seven faces are symmetrical with three tall lintelled windows in the main floor and three similarly spaced basement windows near grade. The entrance facade is completed in the temple style. A central double doorway capped with a rounded arch is flanked by two Roman Doric unfluted columns supporting a full pediment, graced with the words "Public Library" and "Museum". Dentils are in evidence on all facades. The columns are one inch cast iron shells. The structure is comprised of a basement, main floor, and roof. A string course defines the bottom of the main floor. The roof is a typical of Neo-Classicism but mates well to the octagon plan. The eight-sided red tile roof rises to a central peak, topped with a white finial. A single brick corbelled chimney rises from the fireplace in the northwest reading room. The library is constructed of brick and be-rock stones.

Interior: See continuation pages 3 and 4. The octagon mode determines the interior plan. The basement is primarily one large room, now with the Atlanta Museum. The basement was paneled in 1973 when the museum was established. The furnace and a storage room flank the stairs and were partitioned at that time. (The building was constructed with a central furnace.) Wire glass is used in the basement windows, as noted in the original plans.

The main floor consists of the foyer, lobby, two reading rooms, and a stacks area. The foyer is at entrance level, with nine steps down to the basement and six steps up to the main floor. The lobby is a 14 feet, 3 inches diameter octagon framed by archways to the three other principal areas. The reading rooms and stacks area are created by sectioning off the base octagon plan minus the central lobby area. One fireplace sits in the northwest reading room. This plain brick fireplace was altered about 1960. A round-shaped hearth was replaced with a rectangular shape; the original materials were used. See continuation page #5.

Originally decorated in tan and gold, the plastered walls are now again a light tan. Gold accents interior architectural trim, including an interior cornice at the base of the interior dome over the lobby area. All other ceilings are flat. Windows are tall and narrow on the main floor and evenly spaced. All woodwork is oak. A general restoration was completed in February, 1948. The main floor was carpeted in 1977.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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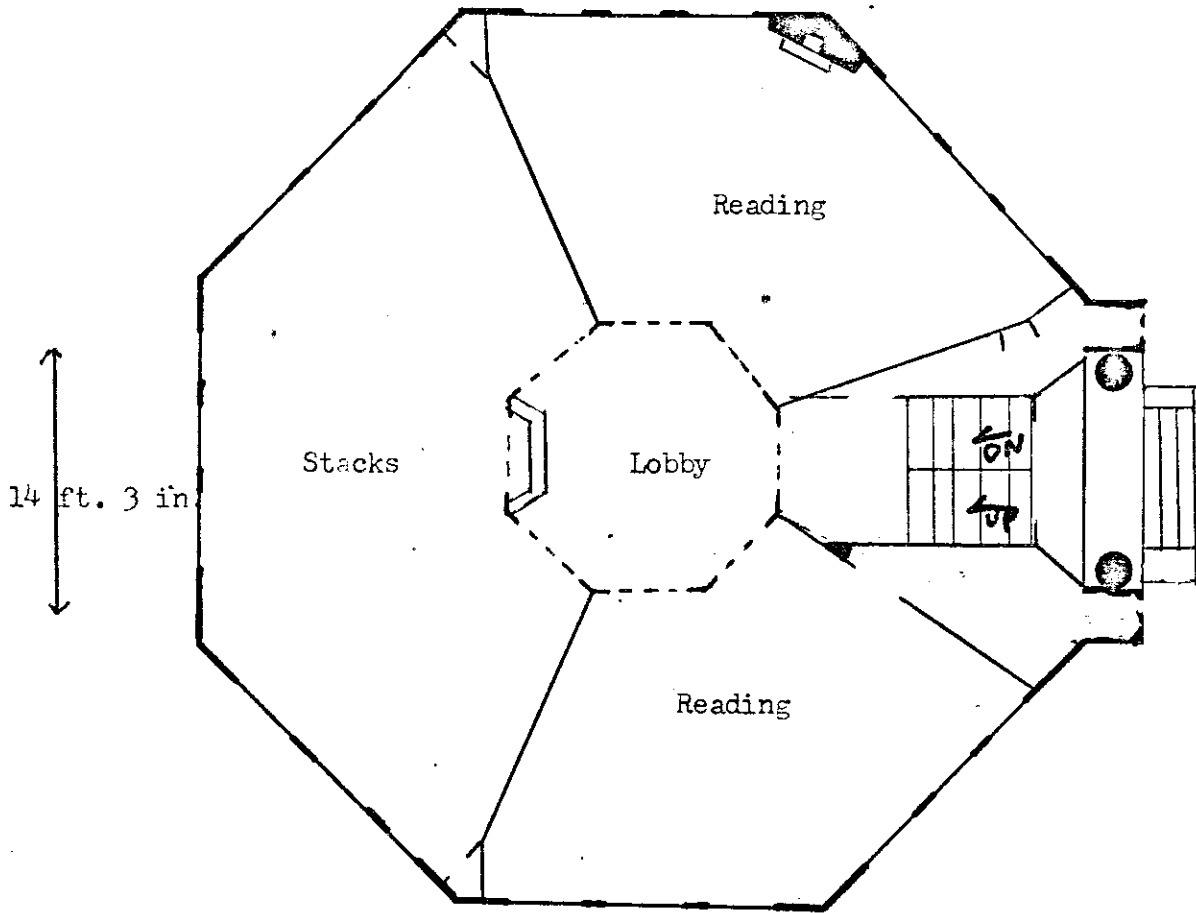
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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Atlanta Public Library
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 3



Arch in lobby

MAIN FLOOR

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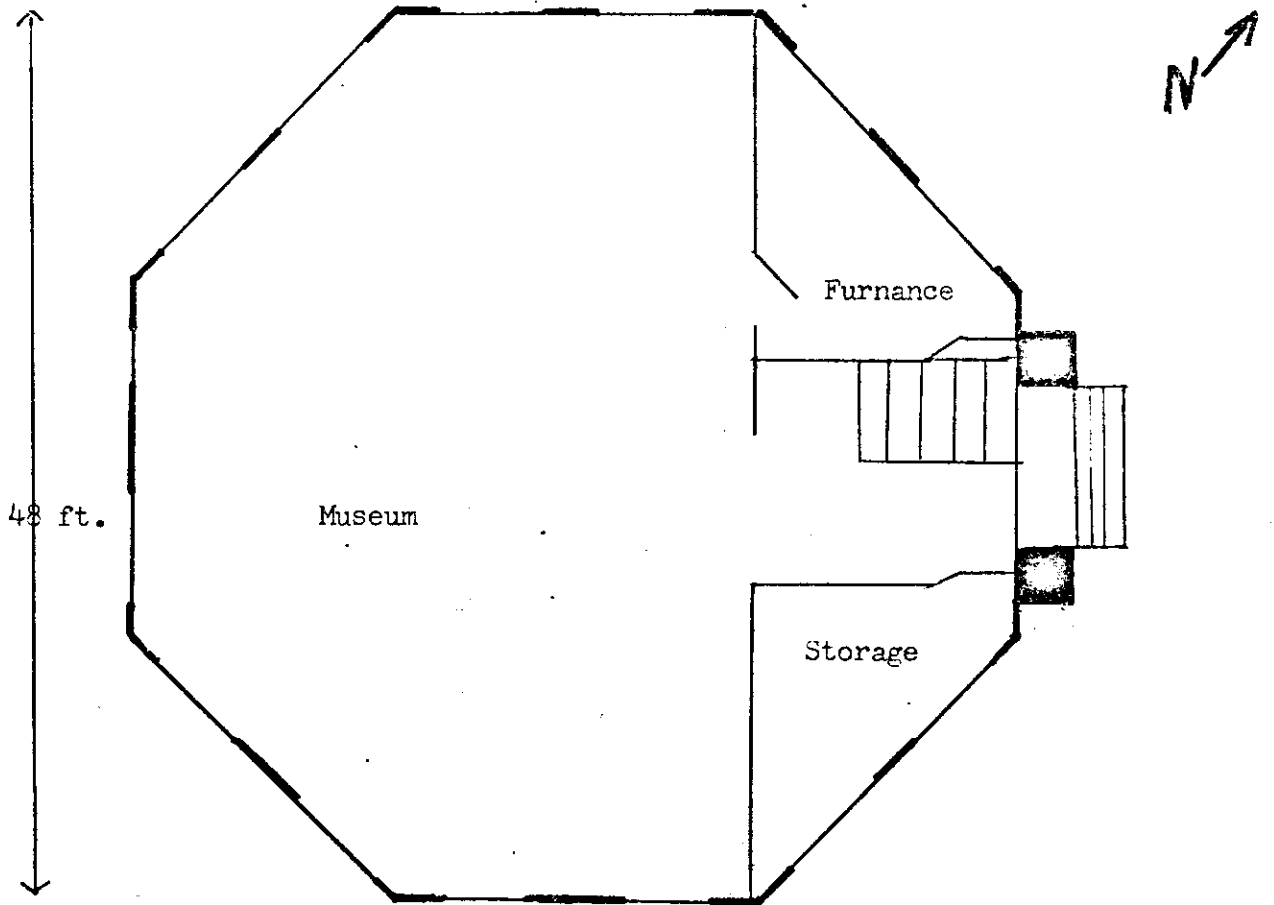
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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CONTINUATION SHEET Atlanta Public Library ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2



Wall with window

BASEMENT

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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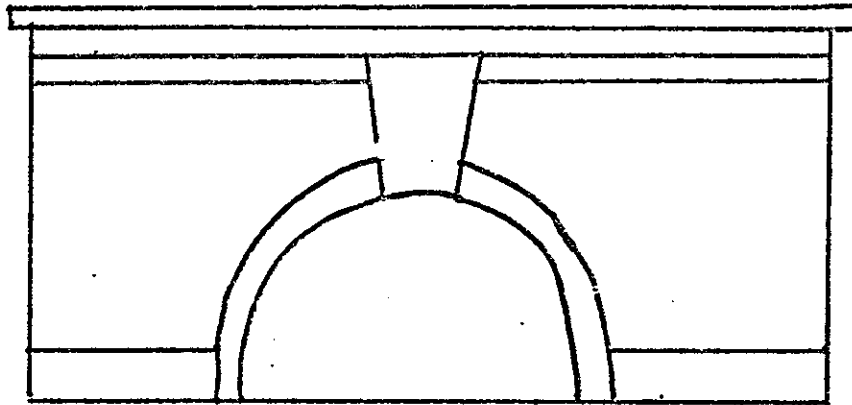
DATE ENTERED

Atlanta Public Library

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

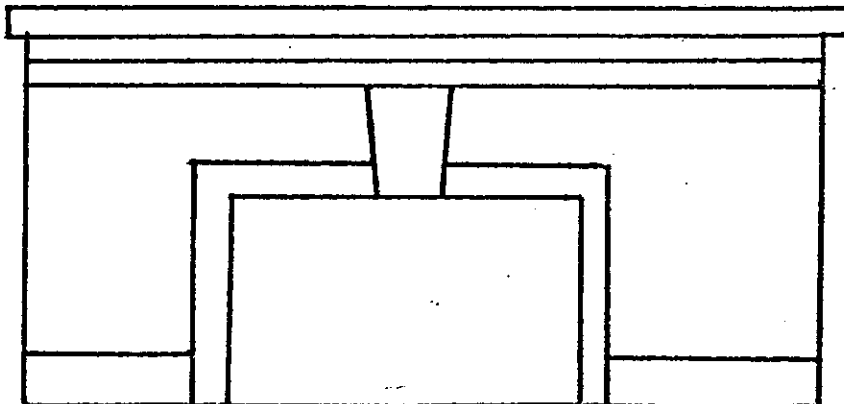
PAGE 4



Original

Fireplace Alteration

Northwest Reading Room



Existing (c. 1960)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Atlanta Centennial Committee. A History of Atlanta 1853-1953. Atlanta, Illinois: The Stewart - Finks Publishing Company, 1953

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 0.6

QUADRANGLE NAME _____

QUADRANGLE SCALE _____

UTM REFERENCES

A	_____	_____	_____
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	
C	_____	_____	_____
E	_____	_____	_____
G	_____	_____	_____

B	_____	_____	_____
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	
D	_____	_____	_____
F	_____	_____	_____
H	_____	_____	_____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION Beginning at the southwest corner of the intersection of Arch and Race Streets, thence southwest along the west right-of-way of Arch Street _____ feet thence northwest _____ feet along a line parallel to Race Street, thence northeast _____ feet parallel to the west right-of-way of Arch Street, thence southeast along the southern right-of-way of Race Street to the point of beginning.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Patrick J. Glithero, Director

ORGANIZATION

Logan County Regional Planning Commission

DATE

April 20, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

529 South McLean Street

TELEPHONE

217-732-8835

CITY OR TOWN

Lincoln

STATE

Illinois 62656

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

13 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATRE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1908

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Builder: Joseph A. Reichel
Architect: Paul A. Moratz

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Atlanta Public Library represents a well-maintained example of turn-of-the-century public construction, combining two significant architectural styles, the Octagon Mode and Neo-Classical Revival. Alterations of the fireplace, carpeting on the main floor and conversion of the basement to a museum do not detract from the building's architectural quality.

The Octagon plan relates historically to the Octagon homes espoused by among others Squire Fowler in the mid-1800's. The advantages accounted to the mode were compact, spacious interiors and better hearing. The octagonal form also relatedly closely to natural shapes.

Simultaneously, the architect Paul Moratz utilized the public style of the day, the Neo-Classical. The influence of the Columbian and Pan-American Expositions resulted in a widespread use of the style in public and quasi-public buildings throughout the nation. As previously described, the portico and stylistic details highlight this style.

As curious and unique as this combination of Octagon and Neo-Classical is the roof. This red tile roof comprised on eight flat triangular forms hints back to the Romanesque pyramidal roof not long out of common use. The Atlanta Public Library therefore is a unique example of public construction in the Midwest.

In addition, the building of the library represents a notable example of a community wishing to improve the cultural climate with local efforts. Responding to the free library movement, the citizens of Atlanta had established the library in March, 1873. The present library structure was completed in 1908 without Carnegie assistance, a typical, approach to library building at the time. Seward Fields, a former citizen donated the land. Public contributions paid the cost of approximately \$9500, including a \$4000 donation by a local citizen Mrs. Martha Harness Tuttle. Further endowments helped then and continue to help support the library. These have included the establishment of a rental shelf of new fiction by the Atlanta Woman's Club in 1924, most now transferred to the free library; continuing contributions by the Junior Woman's Club; a Memory shelf in memory of Local men who lost their lives in World War II by G. Harry Tuttle; restoration work by both woman's clubs; many private gifts; and further endowments by Seward Fields, Alice Tuttle, and Lillian Harry. Included also is a gift of three pictures of Abraham Lincoln over the fireplace, given by Clinton D. McWhenney, from the collection of his mother Mrs. Anna Strong Forgy, whose grandchild Sylvester Strong was a warm personal friend of Lincoln. The Atlanta Public Library's basement now adds to this climate with the establishment of the city museum of the basement in 1973.

ILLINOIS HISTORIC SITES SURVEY INVENTORY

1. Name of Site:

Common Atlanta Public Library
Historic

2. Location:

Street and Number Township Section
100 Race St. 21N 20
City or Town Zip Code Range 1/4 Section
Atlanta 1W NE
County
Logan

3. Classification:

Category (check one) Integrity (check one)
() District () Building () Altered (x) Unaltered
() Site (x) Structure () Moved (x) Original Site

4. Ownership:

() Private (x) Occupied
(x) Public () Unoccupied
(x) 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 (specify)
() Government () Private Residence

5. Ownership of Property:

Owner's Name City of Atlanta Phone Number
Street and Number
City or Town
State County Zip Code

6. Description:

Condition:
(x) Excellent () Good () Fair () Deteriorated () Ruins
() Unexposed

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

REPOSITORY

