

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries complete applicable sections)

STATE	Nebraska
COUNTY	Hall
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	

## 1. NAME

COMMON:

Grand Island Carnegie Library

AND/OR HISTORIC:

## 2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

321 West 2nd Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Grand Island

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

Third

STATE

Nebraska

CODE

031

COUNTY:

Hall

CODE

079

## 3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

## 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:		
Edgar A. Reynolds		
STREET AND NUMBER:		
2105 W. Louise Street		
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE
Grand Island	Nebraska	031

## 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:		
Hall County Courthouse, County Clerk		
STREET AND NUMBER:		
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE	CODE
Grand Island	Nebraska	031

## 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:			
DATE OF SURVEY:			
<input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE	

STATE  
NebraskaCOUNTY:  
Hall

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

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## 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

The Grand Island Carnegie Library is an exquisite example of a small library building executed in the Neo-Classical Revival style of architecture so popular in Nebraska during the early 20th century.

The building, basically a two-story structure with the main floor on the second level, measures 88 feet by 132 feet and rises approximately 20 feet above grade. Construction is of 18 inch thick pressed brick walls with the second floor supported by cast iron columns and fire coated steel beams. The exterior is trimmed with stone, terra cotta, and molded pressed brick. The low hipped roof is covered with slate with tile hip rolls and the whole topped with copper cresting. The front (north) facade reinforces the symmetry of the plan. The classically symmetrical facade rises above the partial basement on a high base of rusticated brick. Wide steps lead monumentally through the stone Ionic columns to the double doors of the main entrance on the upper level. Ornate iron grillework adorns the doors and transom light of the entrance.

Through the entrance vestibule of the original building were the lobby and the main desk. Behind the desk was the receiving and storage area for the book stacks. To either side of the lobby were the east and west reading rooms. The basement of the original structure was used for storage, work rooms, and lecture room, with the boiler room in a separate structure to the rear of the lot. The interior finishes consisted of plaster on brick walls with classically detailed cornices, hardwood and ceramic tile floors and hardwood trim. The main feature of the lobby was the steel columns with an imitation marble finish.

The building today retains its original character and integrity on the exterior. The building is in good repair with the entrance steps and a portion of the copper cresting the only items in an obvious state of disrepair.

The interior of the building has been stripped of all its non-permanent features and is presently being converted to an adaptive use as a music conservatory and private residence.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## 8. 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)

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

- |  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input 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 Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                        | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation                 | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |   |  |

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The importance of the public library as a cultural institution is an undeniable fact to most of the towns and cities in Nebraska. Grand Island is no exception. The board of directors met for the first time in 1884 and made their first book selections that same year. The library itself moved from place to place on a short term basis until 1889 when space in the new City Hall was found. It wasn't until February of 1902 that a joint meeting of the Library Board and the City Council decided to devise a plan for the maintenance of a new Public Library Building. The city agreed to levy the sum of \$2,000 for maintenance and support of a library provided the Library Board secured a donation of \$20,000 for the building.

By April of 1902 the board had accepted an offer from Andrew Carnegie for the sum of \$20,000. The board soon began to confer with the top architectural firms in Lincoln and Omaha and found Tyler & Son of Lincoln to be "the best and most reliable." The board unanimously elected them architects on June 28, 1902. One month later plans were received by the board for consideration. It was decided, at this time, that the building would be made one-fifth smaller to allow for monies to fire-proof the building. Complete construction documents were then prepared and bids were received in March of 1903 with Falldorf and Kirchke selected contractors. Ground was broken April 27, 1903, with President Theodore Roosevelt attending. Final acceptance of the building was in December, 1905.

The building was completed at a cost of \$19,000 with \$1,000 for the architects' fees. The building exhibited the finest of design skills and workmanship at the time. Today it still stands as an excellent example of the small Carnegie Library and Grand Island's first public library building.

## 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Lawrey, Roberta (comp.): Chronology of Events, Grand Island Public Library

Research Files: Nebraska State Historical Society

## 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0     '     "	0     '     "		40     55     25	98     20     31	
NE	0     '     "	0     '     "				
SE	0     '     "	0     '     "				
SW	0     '     "	0     '     "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

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: D. Murphy, Curator of Historic Sites		
ORGANIZATION Nebraska State Historical Society	DATE Jan.-9, 1975	
STREET AND NUMBER: 1500 "R" Street		
CITY OR TOWN: Lincoln	STATE Nebraska	CODE 031

## 12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

## NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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 Marvin F. Kivett

Title Marvin F. Kivett, State Historic Preservation Officer

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

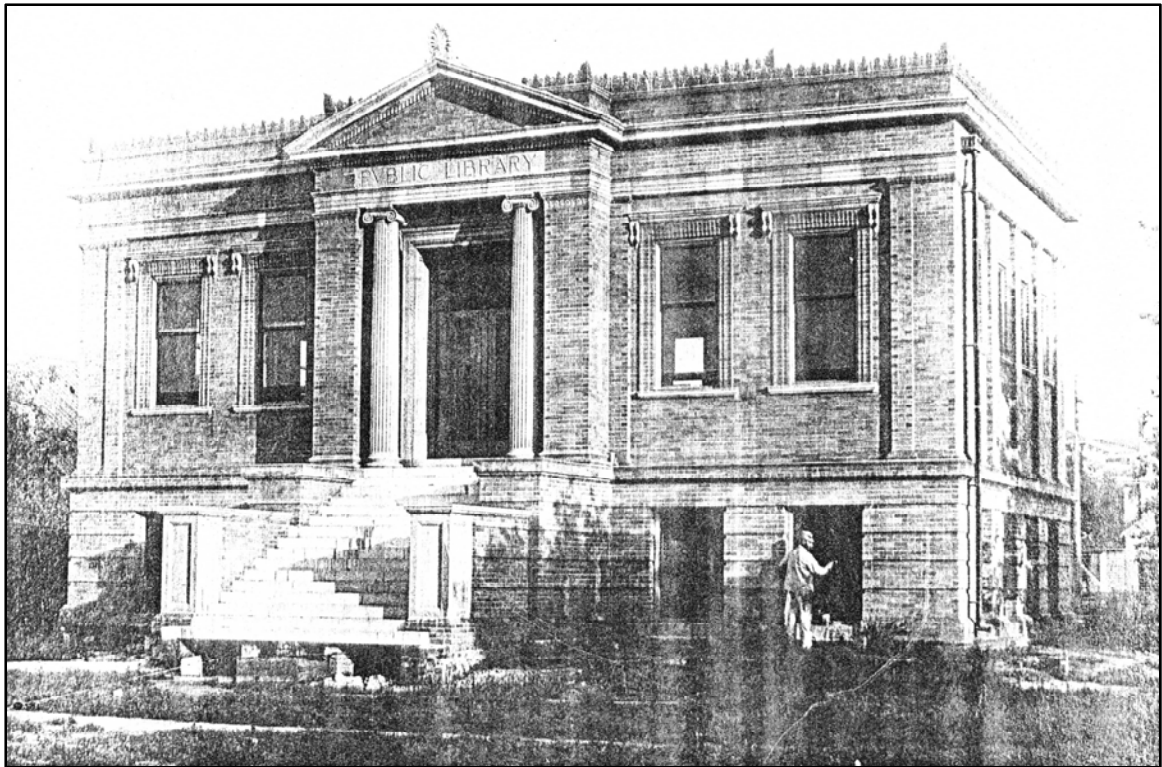
Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



1905 view of north and west façades taken near completion  
 Photo credit: Leschinsky, Grand Island – Grand Island Public Library



View of main entrance (north) façade  
 Photo by D. Murphy, NSHS, Nov 1974 (7411/18:6)



General view of west and south facades  
Photo by D. Murphy, NSHS, Nov 1974 (7411/18:16)



Detail of main (north) entry, showing double doors with iron grille-work  
Photo by D. Murphy, NSHS, Nov 1974 (7411/21:23)



Detail view of stone work at main (north) entrance, base of jamb, looking east  
Photo by D. Murphy, NSHS, Nov 1974 (7411/18:12)