Form No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED MAR 25 1976
DATE ENTERED JUN 17 1976

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

## 1 NAME

HISTORIC
Muncie Public Library

AND/OR COMMON

## 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
301 E. Jackson Street — NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN
Muncie — VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
10th

STATE
Indiana

CODE
018

COUNTY
Delaware

CODE
035

## 3 CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | PRESENT USE | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| _ DISTRICT | X PUBLIC | X OCCUPIED | _ AGRICULTURE | _ MUSEUM |
| X BUILDING(S) | _ PRIVATE | _ UNOCCUPIED | _ COMMERCIAL | _ PARK |
| _ STRUCTURE | _ BOTH | _ WORK IN PROGRESS | _ EDUCATIONAL | _ PRIVATE RESIDENCE |
| _ SITE | **PUBLIC ACQUISITION** | **ACCESSIBLE** | _ ENTERTAINMENT | _ RELIGIOUS |
| _ OBJECT | _ IN PROCESS | _ YES: RESTRICTED | _ GOVERNMENT | _ SCIENTIFIC |
| | _ BEING CONSIDERED | X YES: UNRESTRICTED | _ INDUSTRIAL | _ TRANSPORTATION |
| | | _ NO | _ MILITARY | X OTHER: Library |

## 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Muncie Public Library Board

STREET & NUMBER
301 E. Jackson Street

CITY, TOWN
Muncie — VICINITY OF

STATE
Indiana

## 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Recorder's Office, Delaware County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER
100 West Main Street

CITY, TOWN
Muncie

STATE
Indiana

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE — FEDERAL — STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

| CONDITION | | CHECK ONE | CHECK ONE |
|---|---|---|---|
| __EXCELLENT | __DETERIORATED | __UNALTERED | X ORIGINAL SITE |
| X GOOD | __RUINS | X ALTERED | __MOVED DATE_____ |
| __FAIR | __UNEXPOSED | | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Muncie Public Library is a northward facing Neo-Classical building located in the city's central business district. Built in 1903, it is about 60 feet wide, 90 feet long, and 60 feet high.

The front of the building presents an imposing Greek Doric Hexastyle facade surmounted by a well proportioned pediment. There are carved muses flanking the entrance and within the pediment; these panels are rich, detailed and well executed. Its imposing facade is defined by a handsome Greek Doric Hexastyle Portico with acroteria at the lower angles and apex of the well proportioned pediment. The tympanum has two semi-reclining human figures of cut stone encompassed by classically inspired ornament. Flanking the main entrance are two finely carved and well preserved panels of sculpted muses: law, science, prose, etc.

A Roman Classical dome is located centrally on the roof and it serves to define the central interior space.

The Roman CLassical dome is united successfully with the Greek Classical facade. It is well scaled and contains art glass of a rich abstract geometrical design. The dome is supported by free standing columns surfaced with varigated green-black marble. They effectually subdivide the interior into one of the finest public spaces in Muncie.

The east and west elevations have subtly projected porticos composed of tetrastyle piers and surmounted by unadorned pediments.

The exterior fabric of the building is Indiana limestone. The overall condition of the building is quite solid, and the stone detail is crisp and lucid.

The main interior space is square in plan but defined spatially by pedentives which support the dome. The east and west reading rooms are partially screened from the central domed space by scagliolated, marblized, free standing columns.

In 1941, during a period of renovation, painting and cleaning four of the pillars were removed from the main floor area, two from each reading room on the East and West sides. This was done to give more space to these rooms.

In 1951, the glass dome on the main roof was sheathed and shingled to eliminate the constant problem of leakage. The rest of the roof was repaired with new flashing and cement. The unfinished area under the front stairs and vestibule was converted into two rest rooms and a storage room, the former rest rooms were opened by an archway, and redecorated. The 525 square feet of floor space provided ample room for increased activity, in well-lighted, airy quarters. The fireplace was removed in the Reference Room in preparation for the addition of shelving. All old shelving along the south and west walls was removed and replaced. The new shelving and wood equipment were finished in light birch.

The year 1954 brought the greatest change to the library building. The installation of a mezzanine tier of book stacks; the new stacks, installed without closing the library for service, provided storage for an additional 30,000 volumes which had been stored in basement rooms for several years. New fluorescent lighting gave the stacks a higher

level of illumination and an attractive, modern appearance. The third floor area, after it was reinforced by the Indiana Bridge Co., was used for extensive supplementary storage.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

| PERIOD | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| __PREHISTORIC | __ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC | __COMMUNITY PLANNING | __LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | __RELIGION |
| __1400-1499 | __ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC | __CONSERVATION | __LAW | __SCIENCE |
| __1500-1599 | X AGRICULTURE | X ECONOMICS | __LITERATURE | __SCULPTURE |
| __1600-1699 | X ARCHITECTURE | X EDUCATION | __MILITARY | __SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |
| __1700-1799 | __ART | __ENGINEERING | __MUSIC | __THEATER |
| __1800-1899 | __COMMERCE | __EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | __PHILOSOPHY | __TRANSPORTATION |
| X 1900- | __COMMUNICATIONS | __INDUSTRY | __POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | __OTHER (SPECIFY) |
| | | __INVENTION | | |

SPECIFIC DATES 1903 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Marshall S. Mahurin

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Muncie Public Library is a well detailed monumental edifice harmonizing Greek and Roman Classical architectural forms. This rustic and well executed combination of both classical periods into a successful solution renders the building an important architectural node of more than local importance.

The Library was designed by Marshall S. Mahurin (1857-1939) of Fort Wayne. His architectural firm designed several fine Indiana county courthouses and Muncie's Edmund Burke Ball residence. In the Muncie Public Library we witness his attempt to imortalize both the Neo-Classical aspirations of the nineteenth century and Andrew Carnegie's generous donation to the community.

On February 21, 1901, the Muncie Library Board called a special meeting to consider the advisability of asking Andrew Carnegie for a gift to the city for library purposes. After considerable discussion the board unanimously agreed to ask Mr. Carnegie for the sum of $50,000 to fill the needs of a growing library housed in the city building.

Mr. Carnegie agreed to furnish the $50,000 if the city of Muncie would provide a site and perpetual maintenance.

On March 25th the City Council passed a resolution to guarantee perpetual maintenance for a free public library at the annual minimum cost specified by Mr. Carnegie, i.e., 10 percent of the donation of $5,000.

The southeast corner of Jackson and Jefferson Streets was selected as the most suitable location and purchased from W.W. Shirk and C.M. Kimbrough for $13,000. The home of George W. Spilker, given by the owner to the city for library use, was sold for $6,000 and the money applied on the purchase price.

Wing and Mahurin of Ft. Wayne were chosen as architects, and the contract for the construction of the building was awarded to Morrow and Morrow of Muncie. On June 1, 1902, the foundation was laid for the new building with the expectation of having to ready for use by February 22, 1903, but due to difficulty in getting labor and material the building was not ready for use until December 31, 1903.

Construction was completed one and one-half years later at a total cost of $55,900.85.

| | |
|---|---|
| Morrow and Morrow, general contract | $46,970.85 |
| Art Metal Construction Co., book stacks and furniture | 2,500.00 |
| Sutherland Mfg. Co., electrical fixtures | 1,500.00 |
| Mandel Bros., art glass | 750.00 |
| Mandel Bros., decoration | 1,500.00 |
| Wing and Mahurin, architects | 2,000.00 |
| Cement side walks | 350.00 |
| Miscellaneous | 330.00 |
| | $55,900.85 |

The building was dedicated on January 1, 1904, with appropriate exercises.

A souvenir spoon with the picture of the new library engraved in its bowl was presented to the small daughter of Mr. Carnegie. He was so pleased with the gift that he donated an additional $5,000 which was used for the purchase of equipment.

The passing years have brought few visible changes to the exterior of the library building. Changes in the interior have come about only because of the need for expanded space for books and reading services and do not basically alter the original structure.

Space has continued to be at a premium in the Main Library building and plans were begun in 1967 for a new library facility. Plans are to build an expansion behind the present library building in the same downtown area of Muncie where both can continue to serve business and governmental units, householders, students, and visiting scholars such as Robert S. Lynd who write at the time of his revision of his "Middletown" study, "I am so endebted to the Muncie Library and have its welfare so much at heart that I am eager to do all I can to show what a good job it is doing on a financial 'shoe string'."

This building is an outstanding example of architectural design, a specific local monument to Andrew Carnegie and a key landmark in downtown Muncie.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES


Chapin, Arteva M. A Sketch of the Muncie Public Library. Privately Printed, Muncie, Indiana 1907

Hambaugh, F.D. History of Delaware County Vol. I, Indianapolis: Historical Publishing Co. 1924

Renper, G.W. History of Delaware County, Chicago: The Lewis Publishing Co. 1908


## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

| | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING |
|---|---|---|---|
| A | 16 | 637515 | 4450160 |
| B | | | |
| C | | | |
| D | | | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

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

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE: Gary S. Prater

DATE: October 23, 1975

ORGANIZATION: City of Muncie

TELEPHONE: 317 747-4825

STREET & NUMBER: 220 E. Jackson Street

CITY OR TOWN: Muncie

STATE: Indiana

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ___ STATE ___ LOCAL X

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 X [signature]

TITLE Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer DATE March 22, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

[signature] DATE 6/17/76

Acting DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: [signature] DATE 6-16-76

Acting KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER