

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Stinson Memorial Library

AND/OR COMMON

stinson Library

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

409 South Main Street

\_\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Anna

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Illinois

CODE

17

COUNTY

Union

CODE

181

**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 type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: Library

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

City of Anna

STREET & NUMBER

123 West Davie Street

CITY, TOWN

Anna

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

Illinois

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Union County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Jonesboro

STATE

Illinois

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Illinois Historic Structures Survey - Union County

DATE

October 1972

\_\_\_ FEDERAL  STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Dept. of Conservation - Historic Sites

CITY, TOWN

Springfield,

STATE

Illinois

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input 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

Walter Burley Griffin's Stinson Memorial Library is a simple rectangular form building, small but monumental in scale. The exterior is comprised of only three major elements; the heavy base, the continuous band of windows, and the large pylons flanking the entry.

The base is rough quarried limestone, randomly coursed with no apparent mortar joints. A slight indentation separates the high base from the heavily scaled window band. The band is textured concrete which appears smooth in contrast to the rustic surface below. The rhythmic window placement is continuous around the entire building, interrupted only at the rear (north) chimney and front (south) entryway. The geometric stained glass windows are each flanked by piers, scaled down versions of the giant pylons at the entrance. Like those of the entrance pylons, the capitals and bases of the window piers are interchangeable. Similarly, the continuous sill is a reflection of the continuous lintel. The lintel doubles as a cornice below the low hip roof.

The massive pylons define the entrance, directly on center of the symmetrical front (south) facade. The pylons squeeze a sharp triangular canopy which jets out over the entryway. The pylons appear solid but actually house the entry vestibule.

The two story building is entered via the mid-level vestibule. The vestibule contains a central half flight of stairs leading up to the library proper flanked by a pair of half flight stairs leading down to the auditorium level. The upper level is one large area with the various library functions defined by low bookcases. At window level the room is completely open, giving a deceptively spacious feeling. Below the window band, a horizontal divider tops the continuous wall of bookshelves. The bookshelves are stained dark to contrast with the brightness of the windows above. Decorative details such as lighting fixtures, radiator screens and stained glass patterns reflect the rectilinearity of the interior space.

The lower level contains an auditorium, heater room, and storage rooms. The lower level is also accessible by an exterior (west) side entrance.

The building is implanted into the site which slopes gently down from Main Street. The main (library) floor is raised about one half story above grade on the front, allowing a fully exposed two story rear elevation. This rear facade contains a row of five large windows illuminating the lower level auditorium.

The only alteration to the building is the addition of suspended air conditioning ducts and fluorescent lighting fixtures in the library area which tend to disrupt the dynamic qualities of this space. Otherwise the building is in good original condition on the exterior and interior.

# 8 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"/> THEATER
<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 1913

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Walter Burley Griffin

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Stinson Memorial Library is the culmination of Walter Burley Griffin's American Architectural career. The building exemplifies Griffin's maturity in the development of a strong personal style with the Prairie School.

Griffin graduated from the architectural school at the University of Illinois in 1899 and went to work in Frank Lloyd Wright's Oak Park Studio in 1901. In 1905, Griffin left the Studio to set up an independent practice. At first his work was Wrightian in character, but he gradually developed a marked style of his own, moving ahead of Wright in his use of bold expressionistic forms. The Stinson Memorial Library is one of the strongest statements of this maturity. Hallmarks of Griffin's style are evident; solid massive forms, simple rectangular shapes, clean lines and quiet silhouette, strong contrast in textures, and confined, rather than spreading interiors.

The estate of grain and livestock businessman, Captain Robert Burns Stinson, was left to the City of Anna in 1903 to establish and maintain a public library. By 1913 the sum had accumulated enough to begin plans for the library. Griffin's working drawings were made in 1913, construction continued into 1914 and the dedication was August 14, 1914, three months after Griffin moved his architectural practice to Australia. Griffin moved to Australia after winning an international competition for the plan of Canberra, Australia's capital, and worked in Australia and India until his death in 1937. Thus the Stinson Library is also one of the last buildings Griffin executed in America.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Brooks, H. Allen, The Prairie School: Frank Lloyd Wright and his Midwest Contemporaries, Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1972

Sprague, Paul E. "One of America's Greatest Architectural Treasures: The Stinson Memorial Library", Outdoor Illinois, Vol. XVI, No. 3, March 1977.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

UTM REFERENCES

A 


  
C 


B 


  
D 


VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Located on northwest corner of Main Street and West High Street, facing Main Street.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Brian D. Conway, Architectural Historian

8/12/77

ORGANIZATION

Illinois Department of Conservation

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

405 E. Washington

TELEPHONE

782-8256

CITY OR TOWN

Springfield,

STATE

Illinois

## 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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ILLINOIS  
STATE

Date Entered      JUN 9 1978

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Stinson Memorial Library	Anna Union County
Swift House	Chicago Cook County

Also Notified

Honorable Charles H. Percy  
Honorable Adlai E. Stevenson  
Honorable Paul M. Simon  
Honorable Ralph H. Metcalfe

**COPY OF CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION**

ILLINOIS HISTORIC SITES SURVEY INVENTORY

U-H-

21

2157

1. Name of Site:

Common

STINSON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Historic

2. Location:

S. W. Side Main, E of High

Street and Number

Township

Section

City or Town

Zip Code

Range

1/4 Section

ANNA  
County

UNION

3. Classification:

Category (check one)

Integrity (check one)

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

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

4. Ownership:

Status (check one)

( ) Private  
( ) Public

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

Access to Public

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

Present Use (check one or more)

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

5. Ownership of Property:

Owner's Name

Phone Number

Street and Number

City or Town

State

County

Zip Code

6. Description:

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

Is there a program of preservation underway?

( ) Yes ( ) No

REPOSITORIES

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

- |   |                          |
|---|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archeological Site       | (Pre-Columbian)          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archeological 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 type="checkbox"/> Famous People            | (give names & dates)     |

8. Specific Date: 1910

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 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 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. *DESIGNED BY WALTER BURLEY GRIFFIN*

9. Form prepared by:

Name and Title:

Date:

Organization:

Phone:

Street and Number:

City or Town:

County:

Zip Code

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.

