

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

NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Danville Public Library Building

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

307 North Vermilion

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Danville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

— VICINITY OF

22

STATE

Illinois

CODE

12

COUNTY

Vermilion

CODE

183

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

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

City of Danville (David S. Palmer, Mayor)

STREET & NUMBER

402 North Hazel

CITY, TOWN

Danville

STATE

Illinois

— VICINITY OF

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Recorder of Deeds Office, Vermilion County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Danville

STATE

Illinois

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Illinois Historic Structures Survey

DATE

October 1974

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Illinois Department of Conservation

CITY, TOWN

Springfield

STATE

Illinois

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 Danville Public Library Building is a small scale building designed in Beaux Arts Style. The main (west) facade consists of a central entry pavilion with flanking wings, topped with a bellcast hip roof. The design is symmetrical with the main entrance directly on the center line. The double door entry is flanked by a set of paired columns. The central pavilion boasts a parapet wall simulating a balustrade with festooned panels topped with decorative urns directly above the columns.

The one story building is a combination of brick and stone. The central pavilion is stone laid with no apparent vertical joints and with wide horizontal joints. This treatment is repeated in the quoins on the wings. The wings are brick with the exception of the stone quoins, window lintels and freely interpreted entablature.

The interior is distinguished by the twin curving staircases which lead from the main entrance to the basement, the decoration of the interior supporting columns, the archways between rooms, the functional and beautiful fireplaces, and the plaster work which decorates the wall edge where vertical and horizontal surfaces meet (as around the archways and atop the column).

In 1929 the rear of the building was extended for additional library space. This addition was designed to blend with the original structure and does not interfere with the significance of the original design.

Except for minor repairs, the building is in excellent condition.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" 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

1904

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Patton & Miller

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Carnegie donated the money for the construction of the original 1902 structure. He did this for many communities and the libraries built in his name are noted for their fine construction and quality of design. His significance in American history as a businessman and philanthropist are well-known and this building connects his life and work with that of Danville in a singular way.

The library is an excellent example of Beaux Arts Classicism on a small scale. This building is one of few representative examples of architecture from this time period in Danville. The community's development, particularly before the turn of the century, was such as to preclude any major funds being allocated to architectural or cultural development. That is why the library has such value in this location that it might not likewise have in another. The building is also of great significance in the community because it has housed the public library for 73 years out of the 95 years that Danville has had a public library.

The Danville Public Library is significant as a good, representative example of early 20th century library architecture. This library is typical of the scale feeling of other Carnegie libraries in smaller communities throughout the state.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

George S. Bobinski. Carnegie Libraries: Their History and Impact on American Library Development. Chicago: The American Library Association, 1969.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

UTM REFERENCES

A	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	B	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 6 and 7 of Amos Williams' Section Addition,
Range 1 East, Block 6 North

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE

Gary A. Greene

ORGANIZATION

None

STREET & NUMBER

18 East Newell

CITY OR TOWN

Danville

DATE

January 14, 1978

TELEPHONE

217-402-4327

STATE

Illinois

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

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

DANVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY BUILDING
ADDITIONAL SIGNIFICANCE

The firm of Patton and Miller, among those firms and individuals who participated in the genesis of an American architecture in Chicago, is particularly identified with library design. Patton and Miller are known to have designed at least 80 libraries, 17 of them in Illinois, alone, with the remainder scattered in 16 states from Ohio to Wyoming and Colorado. The Carnegie Library at Danville, a relatively early work -- the partnership lasted from 1901 until 1912 -- is nonetheless a fully mature and excellent example of the firm's command of Beaux Arts Classicism, of major significance in appreciating both the development of the design of small libraries in America and Patton and Miller's specific contribution to that development.

Drafted by Robert Wagner, staff of DOC & architectural field surveyor for Danville.
Incorporated w. motion to nominate by IHSAC, 3/17/78