# UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE		PERMINTERE	RELIGIOUS
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#### CONDITION

CHECK ONE

CHECK ONE

XEXCELLENT

\_\_DETERIORATED

\_\_UNALTERED
X\_ALTERED

YORIGINAL SITE

\_\_GOOD \_\_FAIR \_\_RUINS

..\_MOVED DAT

#### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

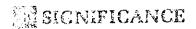
The Danville Public Library Building is a small scale building designed in Beaux Arts Style. The main (west) facade consists of a central entry pavilion with flanking wings, topped with a believest hip roof. The design is symetrical with the main entrance directly on the center line. The double door 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 apparant vertical joints and with wide herizontal 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 distingushed by the twin curving staricases 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 interfer with the significance of the original design.

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



PERIOD	AF	REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	IECK AND JUSTIFY BULOW	
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1600-1699	_XARCHITECTURE	<u>X</u> EDUCATION	MILITARY	X.social/humanitarian
1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
1300-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	LITRANSFORTATION
7900-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	OTHER (SPECIFY)
••		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 vay.

The library is an excellent example of Beaux Arts Classicism on a small scale. This building is one of few representitive examples of architectura 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 alcoated 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 comunity 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 BEILIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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

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### 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 Chio 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 & arhitectural field surveyor for Danville. Incorporated w. motion to nominate by IHSAC, 3/17/78