

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**SENT TO D.C.**  
10-22-2001

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

**1. Name of Property**

historic name **Olney Carnegie Library**  
other names/site number **Carnegie Building Museum**

**2. Location**

street & number **401 East Main Street** \_\_\_\_\_ Not for publication  
city or town **Olney** \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity  
state **Illinois** code **IL** county **Richland** code **159** zip code **62450**

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination \_\_\_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant \_\_\_\_\_ nationally \_\_\_\_\_ statewide  locally. ( \_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Walter C. Wheeler / SHPO 10-4-01  
Signature of certifying official Date

Illinois Historic Preservation Agency \_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_\_\_ meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria. ( \_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date

**Illinois Historic Preservation Agency**  
State or Federal agency and bureau

\_\_\_\_\_  
American Indian Tribe

Olney Carnegie Library  
Name of Property

Richland County, Illinois  
County and State

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#### 4. National Park Service Certification

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I, hereby certify that this property is:	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register ___ See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register ___ See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other (explain):	_____	_____

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#### 5. Classification

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##### Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private  
 public-local  
 public-State  
 public-Federal

##### Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)  
 district  
 site  
 structure  
 object

##### Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>  1  </u>	<u>  0  </u> buildings
<u>  0  </u>	<u>  0  </u> sites
<u>  0  </u>	<u>  0  </u> structures
<u>  0  </u>	<u>  0  </u> objects
<u>  1  </u>	<u>  0  </u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register      N/A

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

**Olney Carnegie Library**  
Name of Property

**Richland County, Illinois**  
County and State

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

**Education/Library**

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

**Recreation and Culture/Museum**

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification  
(Enter categories from instructions)

**Classical Revival**

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation **Brick**

Roof **Tar Paper**

Walls **Brick**

other **Wood**  
**Limestone**

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)



Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Olney Carnegie Library**  
Name of Property

**Richland County, Illinois**  
County and State

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### 9. Major Bibliographical References

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(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

previously listed in the National Register

previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Location of Additional Data

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Name of repository

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### 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property **less than one acre**

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing    Zone Easting Northing

1 16 406000 4287280 3    \_\_\_\_\_

2    \_\_\_\_\_ 4    \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**Olney Carnegie Library**  
Name of Property

**Richland County, Illinois**  
County and State

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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name/title     **E. L. Bosomworth**

organization   **Richland Heritage Museum Foundation**                      date   **August 2, 2001**

street & number     **Post Office Box 153**                      telephone   **618/395-3893**

city or town   **Olney**                      state   **Illinois**                      zip code   **62450**

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**Additional Documentation**

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Submit the following items with the completed form:  
Continuation Sheets

**Maps**

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

- Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

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**Property Owner**

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(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name   **Richland Heritage Museum Foundation**

street & number     **Post Office Box 153**   telephone   **618/395-3893**

city or town   **Olney**                      state   **Illinois**                      zip code   **62450**

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Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

OLNEY CARNEGIE LIBRARY

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Narrative Description:

Exterior of building

North Elevation

The Olney Carnegie Library is an example of the Classical Revival style, much the preferred style for libraries at that time.

The building is constructed of buff colored brick trimmed in natural limestone. The 11"x 1½ " brick is not common in this area. Dealers tell us several brickmakers tried making this size but for some reason the size was discontinued.

The facade shows symetrically balanced windows, a set of three on each side of the entryway. The windows are double hung, with a plain glass lower pane. The upper pane is a very pale lavender leaded glass in a geometric pattern. The contiguous windows are separated by wooden mullions. Sills are limestone and the stone lintels feature a center keystone design with half-keystones at each end.

Six simple brick pilasters sit on a stone belt course which begins about one-fourth way up the building. The columns have Corinthian style capitals. A wooden entablature rests horizontally upon these columns. Two short brick pilasters support the two very large terra cotta finials on the roof. The roof has a very low slope. A short flight of steps leads up to a small open porch and to the main entrance. Limestone posts support the wrought iron bannisters. Just inside the entrance another flight of stairs leads up from the tiled entryway to the main floor, and another short flight leads down to the lower level.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 2

OLNEY CARNEGIE LIBRARY

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East Elevation

The stone belt course mentioned in the north elevation continues around the building. Two sets of three windows each are separated by a bricked space which allows for a fireplace found on the inside wall. The back, or south section, is slightly narrower than the front section and has two windows, both double hung.

South Elevation

This elevation has four double-hung windows, separated from each other. At this elevation a small, approximately 4' x 4' entry way has been added at some unknown time, thus allowing for more efficient access and use of the service which it serves.

West Elevation

This elevation matches the East elevation with perhaps one exception. On this elevation a metal stairs has been added to serve as a fire escape.

Interior, Main level

Floors in this room are of black and white very small tiles. Plastered walls retain the original rosy brick color. Very narrow half-round moldings finished in gold leaf surround the room.

Two small fireplaces, located on east and west walls are featured. The fireplaces have narrow wooden mantels and small iron grates which were probably for coal. The fireplaces are finished in two by four inch red tile.



**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 3

OLNEY CARNEGIE LIBRARY

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Baseboards and inside windows are very wide. Egg and dart plaster molding adorn the walls and the four ceiling beams.

Most spectacular in this main area is the 12 ft by 12 ft stained glass dome. Twenty-four Fleur-de-lis designs in various shades of blue and green border the bottom of the dome. The dome peaks to a four foot by four foot area with a center flower medallion. The dome is in excellent condition, partly because it has been covered with another roof to prevent leakage and damage from hail and storms.

Since the dome was covered over with a roof, artificial lighting has been added and the stained glass remains attractive. The roof and dome area is supported by four large round wooden ionic columns sitting on square bases thirty-six inches tall.

The main floor contains five rooms. This included two rest rooms, an office, the main room, and another room in the Southwest, and which is under the mezzanine. The mezzanine had been added in 1960-61.

#### THE LOWER LEVEL

The lower level is carpeted, this was also done in 1960-61, and oak shelving for books added to each wall. This level has one main room, two rest rooms, a service entry hallway, a furnace room, and a reading room. This reading room was completed ca. 1984. Prior to that time the space had been a coal bin. The basic change was closing a doorway between furnace and the coal bin, and creating an opening in another wall to connect to the main room. This will also be mentioned under alterations.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 4

OLNEY CARNEGIE LIBRARY

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ALTERATIONS

The alterations have been minimal and were made to meet safety codes, increase capacity, or to protect the building and its contents:

1. Roofing over the dome to protect from leakage and damage. Date unknown but believed to be prior to 1950.
2. Addition of a small entryway at back of building. Improves servicing and acts as a fire escape. Date unknown but probably in 1960-61 when other changes were made in the lower level.
3. Fire escape added to west side of building, serves the main level. Date unknown but probably made to meet a safety requirement.
4. Addition of the mezzanine, 1960-1961. A partial wall was added to support the mezzanine floor, otherwise no significant change in structure. The addition did reduce the aesthetics on inside as some windows were partially blocked.
5. Coal bin converted to a reading room in 1984. Previously mentioned in describing the lower level. This made a very attractive reading room. Cost was approximately \$23,000, and partially reimbursed via a memorial to a business man and his wife.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 5

OLNEY CARNEGIE LIBRARY

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Narrative Statement of Significance:

The Olney Carnegie Library is locally significant for Criterion A for education due to providing library services to the City of Olney and Criterion C for architecture as a local example of Classical Revival. The period of significance is from 1904 through 1951, the cutoff date for significance to the National Register of Historic Places. The Olney Public Library satisfies the requirements of the property type "Carnegie Library" as defined in the Multiple Property Documentation form, Illinois Carnegie Libraries.

Richland County was formed in 1841 from parts of Clay County on the west and Lawrence County on the east. Olney was named the county seat. In the early 1850's a citizen of Olney, and an attorney, developed additions to the city of Olney. He was also a director of the O & M Railroad and gave the railroad certain income or rights to some of his additions in return for the railroad coming through Olney. The first train passed through Olney in 1855. Later Olney was also served by north/south railroads. This, together with being near the center of the county, helped Olney to grow. The population in 1900, just prior to the building of the Carnegie Library, was 4260. In the year 2000, 100 years later, the population was determined to be 8631.

Early efforts to have a library began in 1882 when a public meeting was held for that purpose. Twenty-four men subscribed to stock in the Olney Public Library Association.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 6

OLNEY CARNEGIE LIBRARY

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People donated vacant rooms in their homes for library use and donated time in providing library service. Nevertheless, it was always a financial struggle and in 1886 the association donated all its assets to the city in response to the city's pledge to continue the library.

Soon after 1900, the city learned of a Carnegie Library being built in Centralia, and an effort was started to obtain a Carnegie Library for this community. The building was opened in January of 1904. It was reported in the *Olney Advocate* that Mr. Gaddis was the architect and B.L. Robards was the builder.

In the early years of the Carnegie Library the lower level was not needed for library services and was available as a meeting room for various ladies' organizations in the community. The Olney Carnegie Library continued serving the community as a library until 1990 when a new and larger library was built.

#### ARCHITECTURAL COMPARISONS WITH OTHER BUILDINGS IN OLNEY

The Carnegie Library is the only Classical Revival building in Olney. The Classical Revival style is discussed in the Multiple Property Document.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

# **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9 Page 7

OLNEY CARNEGIE LIBRARY

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REFERENCES:

A Field Guide to American Houses, by Virginia and Lee  
McAlester, Alfred A. Knopf, 1984

Olney Advocate - 1903

"Illinois Carnegie Libraries - amendment"  
National Register of Historic Places, Property documenta-  
tion Form, 2000, Maria Anderson.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

## **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

Section number 10 Page 8

OLNEY CARNEGIE LIBRARY

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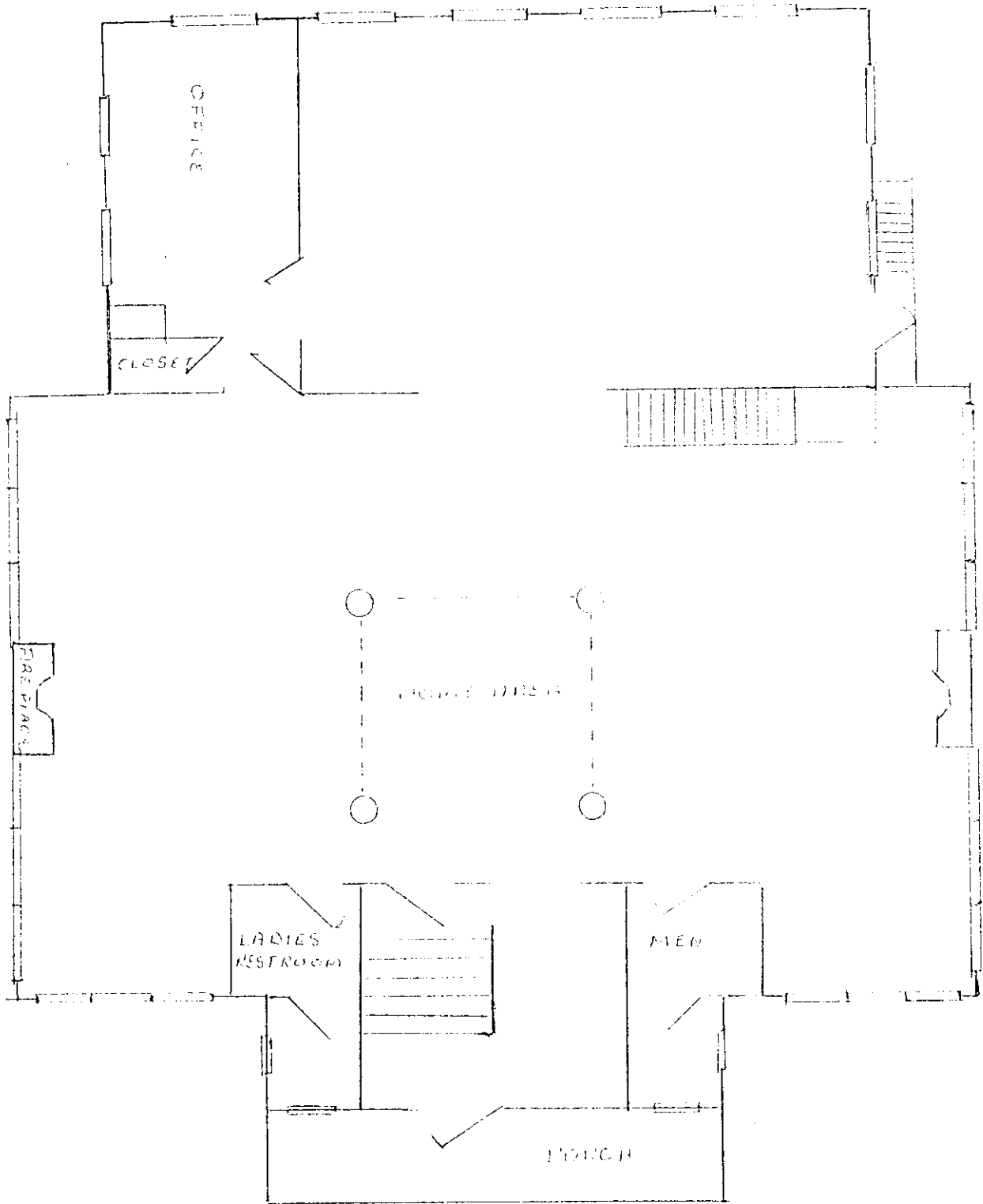
### 10. Geographical Data

#### Verbal Boundary Description:

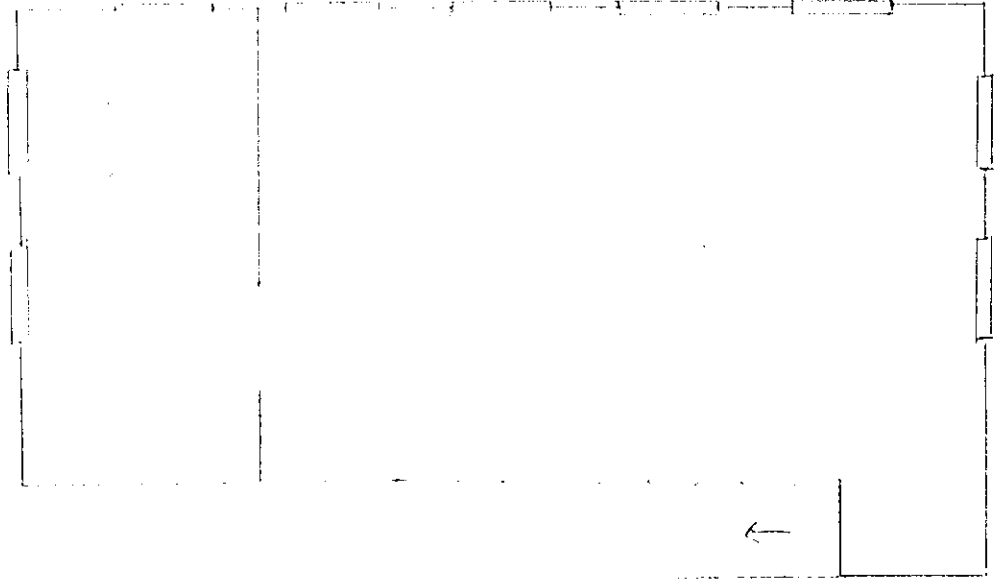
The Olney Carnegie Library is located on Lot 1 and part of Lot 2 in Reed's Addition in the City of Olney.

#### Boundary Justification:

The boundary includes the library building and the surrounding area that has historically been a part of the Olney Carnegie Library and maintains integrity.

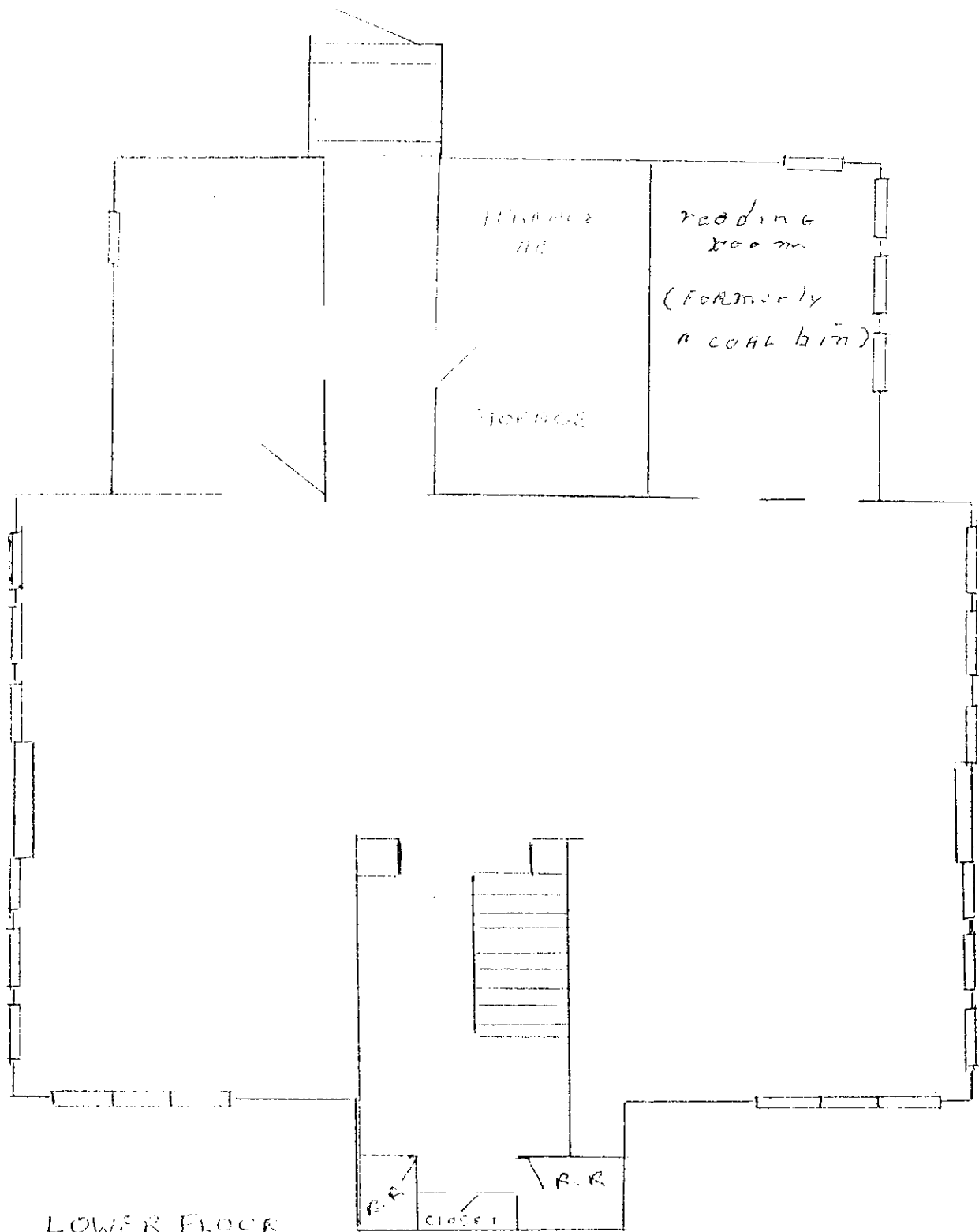


MAIN FLOOR



MEZZANINE





LOWER FLOOR