

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**SENT TO D.C.**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**

3-22-2002

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 **Arcola Carnegie Public Library**

other names/site number

**2. Location**

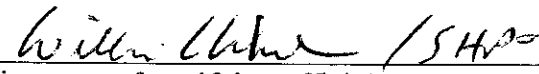
street & number **407 East Main Street** \_\_\_\_\_ Not for publication

city or town **Arcola** \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity

state **Illinois** code **IL** county **Douglas** code **041** zip code **61910**

**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.)

  
Signature of certifying official

3-20-02  
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

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Arcola Carnegie Public Library  
Name of Property

Douglas County, Illinois  
County and State

**4. National Park Service Certification**

~~OT 113~~

I, hereby certify that this property is:	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> 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):	_____	_____

**5. Classification**

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.)

**Illinois Carnegie Libraries Multiple Property Submission**

**Paris Carnegie Public Library**  
Name of Property

**Douglas 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)

**EDUCATION/Library**

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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           **synthetics**

Walls          **limestone**

other

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

**Arcola Carnegie Public Library**  
Name of Property

**Douglas County, Illinois**  
County and State

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**8. Statement of Significance**

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Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or a grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

**Education**  
**Architecture**

Period of Significance      **1905-1951**

Significant Dates      **1905**

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)      **N/A**

Cultural Affiliation      **N/A**

Architect/Builder      **Moratz, Paul A., architect**  
   **Morehead, J.P., builder**

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

**Arcola Carnegie Public Library**  
Name of Property

**Douglas 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 **Arcola Carnegie Public Library**

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**10. Geographical Data**

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Acreege of Property **less than one acre**

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

Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

1 16 388255 4393523 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.)

**Arcola Carnegie Public Library**  
Name of Property

**Douglas County, Illinois**  
County and State

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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name/title **Vance S. Martin**

organization **University of Illinois at Springfield (student)** date **June 1, 2001**

street & number **252 County Road 1600 North** telephone **217-687-2747**

city or town **Seymour** state **Illinois** zip code **61875**

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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 **Mayor Andrew A. Manna**

street & number **114 North Locust Street, P.O. Box 215** telephone **217-268-4477**

city or town **Arcola** state **Illinois** zip code **61910-0215**

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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.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 1

**Arcola Carnegie Public Library**

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**Narrative Description**

The Arcola Carnegie Public Library is located at 407 East Main Street in downtown Arcola. Arcola is approximately 25 miles south of Champaign, Illinois. The library was designed by the architectural firm of Paul A. Moratz of Bloomington and constructed in 1905 by J.P. Morehead of Tuscola. Funds were obtained from Andrew Carnegie in 1903.

The Arcola Carnegie Public Library is a free standing rectangular shaped one story building with a raised basement and a hipped roof topped by a dome. The building is symmetrically arranged with steps leading to the gable front portico of the building which reflects the typical temple front of the Classical Revival style. The entrance is adorned with paired limestone pilasters. A decorative cornice is visible on all sides of the structure. All doors and windows are original.

The library building is a one story rusticated limestone structure with the basement extending approximately five feet above ground. The front of the library faces south. The entrance of the library is centered and has cement steps leading up to it. The stairs are bordered by limestone cheek walls on each side that are the height of the highest step. Closer to the street is a second set of steps that lead from the sidewalk and grade level up to the bottom of the library

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windows.

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**Arcola Carnegie Public Library**

stairs. The entrance door has sidelights and a transom. The sidelights have a bottom wood panel and glass top that extends to the height of the door. The transom is as wide as the door and has a small window on each side that is as high as the transom and as wide as the sidelights that they sit above. The entrance is sheltered by a six-foot portico with two limestone pilasters on either side. The gable over the entrance has dentil molding and is embossed with lettering that reads "Arcola Public Library." There is a small window with decorative glass nestled between the pilasters on each side. On each side of the main entrance is a large window unit with a double hung window with transoms and sidelights, similar to the look of the entrance door. There are four small double hung basement windows that line up with the sidelights of the large first floor window units. The hipped roof is topped by a dome with asphalt shingles and small rectangular windows around the dome.

The east side of the library is also constructed of rusticated limestone and has two depths. The first area toward the front has two large window units and a limestone chimney centered near the edge of the roof. These windows are identical in configuration to the front windows. This area accounts for two-thirds of this side. The section that accounts for the other third recesses approximately seven feet. This section has one small first floor double hung window and two small double hung basement windows. The detailed entablature continues from the



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**Arcola Carnegie Public Library**

front of the building around this side and to the rear of the building. A drain pipe goes down the corner of the recession.

The rear of the library has two depths. The rear wall and two smaller walls are formed by an extension that projects about five feet. The two small walls formed by the recession have three small double hung windows joined together for the first floor window, and one small double hung basement window. The rear wall of the extension has eight equally spaced double hung first floor windows. There are four small double hung basement windows, two set off center on each end.

The west side of the library is similar to the east. The two thirds section from the south side is identical with the two large windows and chimney. The section that is one third is identical, except instead of two basement windows, there is one basement window and a door.

Inside the entrance is a vestibule with announcement boards and two swinging doors that enter into the rotunda of the library. These doors have an arched transom over them. The rotunda of the library has a chandelier hanging from a flat ceiling. This ceiling covers a dome with glass and was covered in 1959 during a roof repair. The rotunda has a series of archways leading off from it and each archway leads to different stacks and the two wings. From the entrance there is a large semi circular desk that adjoins two archways and allows the librarian to sit under an archway. The stacks behind the desk are in a rectangular room. Behind the desk

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**Arcola Carnegie Public Library**

and to the west are stairs that go to the basement. Behind the desk and to the east is the librarian's office. The east side of the library has a large fireplace and the computers for the library. There is also a large meeting table in this wing. The west wing has a large fireplace centered in the room along the wall. There are chairs for reading in this wing.

The woodwork in the library is original medium stained oak, from the doors to the trim to the desk. The original windows are still intact. The interior is painted white and peach with white and gold accents. The floor is carpeted. The ceiling is an applied tile ceiling that covers the original plaster ceiling that has cracked.

As one descend the stairs from the first floor, there is an exit on the west side of the building. The stairs also descend into the basement. To the left at the bottom of the stairs is a small kitchenette and bathroom. Directly in front of the stairs is a small room for Spanish books and the furnace. This room still has exposed brick walls. To the right of the stairs is a large children's room. The southwest corner of the basement has been partitioned off for a genealogical room. The floor is carpeted and there is a drop ceiling covering a crumbling plaster and lathe ceiling. The walls in the basement are covered with drywall and painted.

The library was completed in 1905. This library has had little done to it other than general maintenance and upkeep. The library has been painted several times, the domed ceiling was enclosed due to water leakage, and the basement plastered and drywalled.

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**Arcola Carnegie Public Library**

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**Statement of Significance**

The Arcola Carnegie Public Library is locally significant for Criterion A for education due to its role in providing library services to the citizens of Arcola and for Criterion C for architecture, as a local example of the Classical Revival style. Its period of significance is from 1904 to 1951, the fifty year cutoff for significance to the National Register of Historic Places. The Arcola Carnegie Public Library satisfies the requirements of the property type "Carnegie Library", as defined in the Illinois Carnegie Libraries Multiple Property Documentation form. (see Section F, Property Type, p2).

Arcola was founded in 1855, which was four years before the founding or formation of Douglas County in which it is located. It was not incorporated until 1872. Today, the town has 3,000 inhabitants. Arcola is about 30 miles south of Champaign, Illinois. It is one of the largest Amish areas in the Midwest.

The idea for the library in Arcola was proposed and supported by Mayor Thomas F. Monahan. It was he who formed the library board and sent the original letter to Andrew Carnegie in 1903. The library was granted \$10,000. In 1903, the library board selected a site, an architect and a contractor. As indicated earlier in the form, the library was designed by the

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**Arcola Carnegie Public Library**

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architectural firm of Paul A. Moratz. Please refer to the Multiple Property Documentation form for additional information about Moratz. J. P. Morehead, a contractor from nearby Tuscola was hired to build the library. The library was completed in 1905, and the dedication ceremony held on October 17.

Ms. Mary Thayer was hired as the first librarian in Arcola making twenty-five dollars a month. During this time, books were donated to the library, or purchased through the proceeds from benefit performances. During World War I, the library began charging two cents a day on new books until the cost of the new book was recouped. The library had 2,544 books at the end of 1916. In 1931, money was received to start a trust fund for the library. In 1946 the library became a township library, increasing its service area. Today, the library stands an almost untouched example of the Classical Revival style, and boasts a multiethnic library holding of about 25,000 volumes. The Arcola Carnegie Public Library has continued to played a significant role in the city's history to present day. It has been used by residents, local schools, and community organizations for meetings and reading enjoyment.

The Classical Revival style is discussed in detail in the Multiple Property Documentation form. Classical Revival architecture became the preferred style for library construction in the late 1800's and early 1900's. Common aspects of the style are evenly spaced columns, a pediment, stone construction, and a long flight of stairs. The rooflines are usually flat, or slightly

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**Arcola Carnegie Public Library**

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hipped, generally unadorned atop a symmetrical building, with few angles or projections. A roof gable may be on the entrance façade of the building, as in the temple front style. Windows are often accented by contrasting masonry lintels. Domes are another major feature of Classical Revival libraries. The Arcola Carnegie Library exemplifies all of these traits. It is an excellent example of the Classical Revival style within the city of Arcola. The library is situated in a residential neighborhood, with some older Victorian homes and some newer ranch homes interspersed. The library is one of only a few buildings in the entire town built in the Classical Revival style, and certainly the building in the best repair. The Arcola Carnegie Public Library compares favorably with the remaining Classical Revival buildings in town and retains sufficient integrity for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. This building should be included in the National Register due to its architectural and educational significance.

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Arcola Carnegie Public Library

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**Bibliography**

Arcola Public Library. "Earliest History of the Arcola Public Library"

Gresham, John. Historical and Biographical Record of Douglas County Illinois. USA. 1900.

"Illinois Carnegie Libraries", National Register of Historic Places, Multiple Property  
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"Illinois Carnegie Libraries", National Register of Historic Places, Multiple Property  
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Rollings, Jantha. Arcola Library History. 2001

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**Arcola Carnegie Public Library**

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**Geographical Data**

*Verbal Boundary Description*

The Arcola Carnegie Public Library is located in Lot 8, Assessor's Subdivision B, Section 4, Arcola Township in Douglas County, Illinois.

*Boundary Justification*

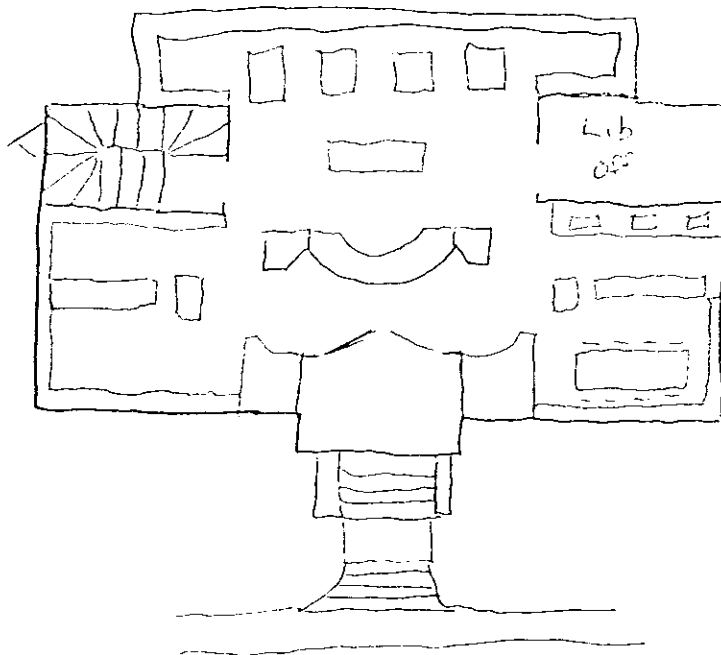
The boundary included the library building and the surrounding area that has historically been part of the Arcola Carnegie Public Library and maintains integrity.

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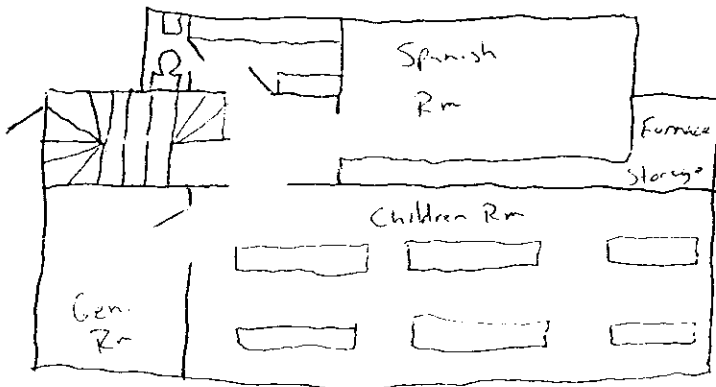
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Additional Documentation—Floor Plans

Arcola Carnegie Public Library



1st  
FLOOR



basement