

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**

**SENT TO D.C.**

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 **Hoopeston Carnegie Public Library**

other names/site number

**2. Location**

street & number **110 North Fourth Street**  Not for publication

city or town **Hoopeston**  vicinity

state **Illinois** code **IL** county **Vermilion** code **183** zip code **60942**

**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.)

William Clark / SHPO  
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

**Hoopston Carnegie Public Library**  
Name of Property

**Vermilion 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	_____	_____
<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):	_____	_____

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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	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 0	buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> 0	<input type="checkbox"/> 0	sites
<input type="checkbox"/> 0	<input type="checkbox"/> 0	structures
<input type="checkbox"/> 0	<input type="checkbox"/> 0	objects
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 0	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**

**Hoopeston Carnegie Public Library**  
Name of Property

**Vermilion 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            **slate**

Walls          **brick**

other

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

**Hoopeston Carnegie Public Library**  
Name of Property

**Vermilion 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**

Period of Significance      **1904-1951**

Significant Dates      **1904**

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

Cultural Affiliation      **N/A**

Architect/Builder      **Alexander, James F., architect**

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

**Hoopeston Carnegie Public Library**  
Name of Property

**Vermilion 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 **Hoopeston Public Library**

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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	443636	4479977	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.)

**Hoopeston Carnegie Public Library**  
Name of Property

**Vermilion 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 Chalmers Flint**

street & number **301 West Main** telephone **217-283-5833**

city or town **Hoopeston** state **Illinois** zip code **60942-1507**

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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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**Hoopeston Carnegie Public Library**

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**Narrative Description**

The Hoopeston Carnegie Public Library is located at 110 North Fourth Street. Hoopeston is approximately 50 miles northeast of Champaign, Illinois. The library was designed by architect James F. Alexander and constructed in 1903-1904 by James M. Strate. Funds were obtained from Andrew Carnegie in 1903.

The library building is a one story masonry structure painted white with the basement extending approximately five feet above ground. The front of the library faces west. The entrance of the library is centered and has cement steps leading up to it. Above the entrance is carved "Public Library 1904." The stairs are bordered by cheek walls on each side that are the height of the highest step. The entrance has a modern glass double door with a transom. There are four freestanding Tuscan columns on the front of the building that hold a gable forming a large portico--thirteen feet deep and thirty one feet wide. The door is centered between two columns, between the columns to either side of the door are two oval windows set high on the building. Below the southern oval window on the basement level is a window. Below the northern oval window is a glass double door unit with transom that enters the basement. To the north and south of the portico is a large flat arch double hung window and then another window below it for the basement. There is dentil molding and railing around the top of the building on

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**Hoopeston Carnegie Public Library**

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all four sides. The northern side of the library has a recessed red brick addition that was added in the 1970's. There is glass door with transom that enters the basement on the addition, it is located where the addition joins the original building. A new addition is currently being constructed on the south side of the original library. The addition is only slightly setback from the façade of the original building. It is tan brick similar in height to the original building with a hipped roof. It has evenly spaced double hung windows with flat arches evenly spaced around the building.

The north side of the library is red brick with one recessed emergency exit door at the rear. The east side of the library is almost as sparse as the north side. On the addition there is one small window set high near the original building, and one set low next to the joining of the original building and addition. Centered on the original building is a steel door with transom. To the north of this is another door with a window in it and to the south is a window. These are at the basement level.

The original south side of the building has been covered by the new addition. A gable roof extension projects south from roughly the center of the new addition.

Entering the building, one can ascend steps straight up to the first floor, or descend to the right into the basement. There are double doors at the top of the stairs on the first floor. Past these doors is a large semi-circular librarian's desk. Behind the desk are stacks of books. The



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**Hoopeston Carnegie Public Library**

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room is painted beige/yellow, with brown accents. To the right of the desk are more stacks of books. There is also a marble fountain, memorializing the founders and Andrew Carnegie. To the left of the desk are more stacks of books mirroring the right side. These are in the original section of the library. To the left through the original wall into the addition are two door size openings. Through these doorways is a large open room with desks and more stacks of books. To the right through the doorway is the librarian's office. Behind this office is a small room with genealogical and historical information and items about Hoopeston. Across from the librarian's office is a storage and staff area. Behind the librarian's desk is another stairway leading to the outside and basement. To the right of the circulation desk is the opening to the addition that is currently under construction.

The basement can be accessed from many doors. The descent from the main entrance stairs leads to the children's room. The double doors on the front to the north of the entrance lead into the children's room. The stairs behind the librarian's desk lead to the outside and to the children's room. The children's room is a large rectangular room with many short stacks of books. To the rear or east of the room is a large stage that is made of concrete and part of the original building. Currently it has one rack of bookshelves where it meets the wall, and on rack of bookshelves along the drop off to make it safer. The ceiling in the children's room has fluorescent lighting and an exposed cement ceiling. The stairs, which lead down from behind the

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**Hoopeston Carnegie Public Library**

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librarian's desk also, lead to a short hallway. This hallway on the south end leads to an unfinished storage area. To the north the hallway leads into a meeting room. The meeting room can also be accessed from the door on the western side that adjoins the addition and the original building. This large rectangular room is used for meetings, presentations, and potlucks. The meeting room has a drop ceiling.

The library was completed in 1904. The original building still has its original oak woodwork. Other than painting and maintenance little was done to the library until 1975. In 1975, the first addition was added. Along with the addition came drop ceilings, which covered new heating and electrical systems. The entryway from the west side into the children's room was replaced in the 1980's due to crumbling brick. In 1990, the foundation on the south side was repaired. Currently a new addition is being added to the south side of the original library building.

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**Hoopeston Carnegie Public Library**

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**Statement of Significance**

The Hoopeston Carnegie Public Library is locally significant for Criterion A for education due to its role in providing library services to the citizens of Hoopeston. Its period of significance is from 1904 to 1951, the fifty year cutoff for significance to the National Register of Historic Places. The Hoopeston 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).

Hoopeston, Illinois started its existence as the crossroads of two railroads in 1872. These railroads happened to cross on the property of Thomas Hoopes. The town was thus surveyed and began to grow, incorporating in 1878 with 1,000 people. The town is located in Vermillion County and is about 50 miles northeast of Champaign, Illinois.

The idea of a library in Hoopeston started with the formation of the Mary Hartwell Catherwood club, which started in 1895. In 1898, the club started the first library lending books from the town hall. In 1903, the library petitioned Andrew Carnegie for the money to build a library building. Carnegie pledged \$12,500 dollars and Alba Honeywell, of Hoopeston,

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**Hoopeston Carnegie Public Library**

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donated the land for the project. James F. Alexander was accepted as architect and James M. Strate as contractor. The project was completed in 1904. The newspaper coverage of the opening of the library promoted it as one of the most beautiful buildings in Hoopeston.

The building is a Classical Revival structure of white brick and stone with a slate roof. It stands in the center of a beautiful plat of ground, graded to exactly the right pitch, and is sufficiently high to present a handsome appearance from all directions. The original interior design was green frescoes with gold and ivory details. The woodwork and furniture was a golden oak. There was apparently a book elevator from the basement to the first floor behind the librarian's desk in the stairway. The original library started with 1,000 books now contains 30,000 volumes.

The library was relatively untouched until 1975. In 1975, the library received funds from the city for an addition. The library had been painted in the 70 year period, and new curtains, had been hung, the furnace had been replaced and the roof covered. The addition added room for a meeting room and extra book space. Today the Hoopeston Carnegie Public Library is a designated local landmark. Currently, the library is also undergoing a new addition which has been reviewed by the Illinois State Historic Preservation Agency.

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**Hoopeston Carnegie Public Library**

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The Hoopeston Carnegie Public Library played a significant role in the city's history from its inception to present day. It has been used by residents, local schools, and community organizations for meetings and reading enjoyment. The library meets Criterion A for education and meets the requirements of the Illinois Carnegie Libraries Multiple Property Documentation form. It retains sufficient integrity for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

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**Bibliography**

Graham, Lou. "Early Hoopeston History". 2000.

Hoopeston Times. "Public Library Dedicated". Jan 28, 1905

"Illinois Carnegie Libraries", National Register of Historic Places, Multiple Property Documentation Form, 2000, Marcia Anderson.

"Illinois Carnegie Libraries", National Register of Historic Places, Multiple Property Documentation Form, 1993, Karen E. Schnell.

"Litchfield Public Library", National Register of Historic Places, 1998, Kevin L. Handy.

[www.hooplib.com](http://www.hooplib.com)

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Additional Documentation--Floor Plans

Hoopeston Carnegie Public Library

