

**Survey of Historic and Cultural Resources**  
**City of Medford, Oregon**  
**Downtown Commerical Area, Phase I, 1993-94**  
[Jackson County 029]

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Historic Name: **Medford Carnegie Library**  
Location: **413 MAIN ST W**  
City: **Medford, Oregon 97501**  
Owner: **Jackson County**  
MailAdd **413 Main St**

Common: **Jackson Cty Library HQ**  
Date of Construction: **1912**  
Original Use: **Educ:Library**  
Present Use: **Educ:Library**  
Architect: **Mc Intosh, J.A.**  
Builder: **Ivey, Alfred**  
Style: **Period:Neo-Classical**  
Resource Type: **Building**  
Theme: **Culture:20th C. Arch**  
Condition: **Good**

**MEDFORD, OR 97501**  
Addition: **Original Town Plat of Medford**  
Block: **77** Lot: **1-18** Taxlot: **8700**  
T/R/S **372W25DA** Acct# **10397856**  
Quadrangle: **Medford [15min]**

Plan: **Rectangular**  
Foundation: **Concrete;Poured**  
Roof Form:  
Wall Construction: **Brick**  
Primary Window:

No. of Stories **1.5**  
Basement: **Daylight**  
Roof Material:  
Stuct. Frame: **Masonry;Brick**

Exterior Surface: **Stucco**  
Decorative Features: **Recessed porch with Ionic columns, gable end decorations, parapet walls, stringcourse,**

Other: **Bronze plaque at entrance, incised concrete marked "J.W. Boswell, 1912" at entry walkway**

Alterations/Additions: **Major addition to rear [1951]**

Landscape Features: **Large trees, established plantings, flowers in well-maintained setting.**

Associated Structures: **Gazebo with conical roof at SE corner**

Setting: **Centrally located upon entire city block framed by Ivy, Main, Oakdale and 8th in core commercial area, buffers government uses to west and south from traditional business area.**

Sources

**Beson, NR Nomination form, MMT 1-Nov-1981,**

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Photo Roll: **4** Frame[s]: **04a**  
Date Recorded: **06/13/94**  
Medford Planning Map Code: **CC**  
Medford Planning Overlay: **CB** Zoning: **C-S/P**  
Ranking: **Primary [NR]**

Recorded By: **George Kramer, M.S., HP Ashland, Oregon**

Medford Survey ID **164.0**  
SHPO NO: **553**

Survey of Historic and Cultural Resources  
City of Medford, Oregon  
Downtown Commercial Area, Phase I, 1993-94

MFRNO: 164

372W25DA 8700

HISTORIC NAME: MEDFORD CARNEGIE LIBRARY  
413 MAIN ST W

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The original volume of the Medford Carnegie Library Building was completed in 1912 with funding provided by financier Andrew Carnegie. A local commission established a competition for the design and the project was awarded to John McIntosh, a local architect of the period. The building was built by Alfred Ivey, contractor of a number of public buildings erected during Medford's "Orchard Boom" period of growth.<sup>1</sup>

Mr. J.A McIntosh, a local architect, drew the plans that were submitted for the proposed Carnegie Library and Mr. Alfred Ivey. . . was awarded the contract on August 24, 1911 in the amount of \$19,360. . . Mr. Ivey started construction promptly and the building was dedicated on 8-February-1912.<sup>2</sup>

McIntosh's design for Medford's library, built upon one of the two city blocks set aside for public purposes in the original town plat, is typical of the Carnegie Library type with a classically-inspired entrance framed by twin Ionic columns and the required flight to stairs to the main entry.<sup>3</sup> In 1951 a major addition to the rear of the original volume was designed by Herbert Mackie, Architect. Stanley G. Parrish served as the contractor and the project was completed in 1951.

By the early 1980s, the Medford Carnegie Library was considered by many to be outdated and too small. Then the headquarters of the Jackson County Library System, some called for its replacement with a modern structure.

Some call Jackson County Library System Headquarters in Medford's Carnegie Library second rate and an embarrassment to the fifth largest city in Oregon.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Among other buildings, McIntosh designed the Central Fire Hall [MFRNO No. 28]. Mr. Ivey built both the Roosevelt and Wilson schoolhouses.

<sup>2</sup> John Benson, *NR Nomination Form*, 1980.

<sup>3</sup> Tradition has the Carnegie only approved plans which required patrons to "rise up" to the knowledge within, thus the ubiquitous entry stairs that are found on libraries he funded.

<sup>4</sup> Michele LeBounty, "More than a Dream," *Medford Mail Tribune*, 1-November-1981, C1:1-8.

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After various failed attempts to raise money for construction of a new facility, some plans for which included the demolition of the subject building and one which would have "wrapped" the old library in a glass atrium, the Library System finally determined to remodel and renovate the facility. The Medford Carnegie Library was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1980 and, along with its park-like setting, remains one of the most significant structures within the Medford downtown area.

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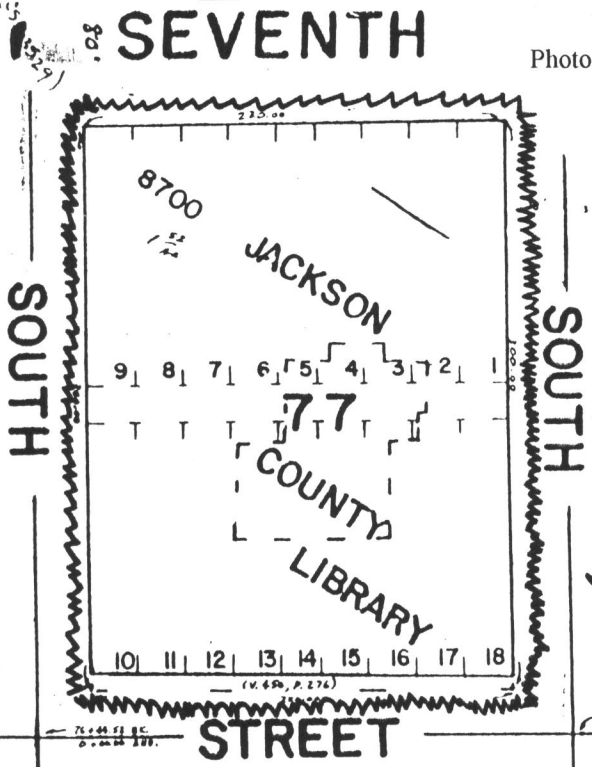


Photo Roll: 4      Frame: 04a



GRAPHIC SOURCES: Jackson Cty Assessor Plat, annotated location map

Ranking: **Primary [NR]**

Medford Survey No. 164.0  
**SHPO NO: 553**

STATE OF OREGON INVENTORY  
OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
State Historic Preservation Office  
Oregon State Parks, Salem, OR 97310

County Jackson County

Theme \_\_\_\_\_

Name  
(Common) Jackson County Public Library

(Historic) Medford Carnegie Public Library

Address 413 West Main Street  
Medford, Oregon 97501

Present Owner Jackson County

Address 108 South Oakdale Avenue

Original Use Public Library

Date of Construction 1911 - 1912

PUBLIC LIBRARY. MEDFORD, ORE.

statement of historical significance:

The property is a rectangular City Block (Number 77) being 220 feet by 300 feet. The original library building is 75 feet (front) by 44 feet (deep) of "Neo-Classic Revival" architecture. The 1½ story structure has smooth finished beige brick (locally kilned) for the main floor construction, laid in smooth common bond, and rests upon a poured, reinforced concrete base, covered with a rough textured plaster. This base has symmetrically arranged 1./1. double hung windows forming a daylight basement. The balance of the block is a park around the library.

The Carnegie Public Library in Medford, Oregon, is of historic significance as it is a well preserved building of brick kilned in the area, is a good example of "Neo-Classic Revival" architecture, and was one of the larger Carnegie Public Libraries of significance built in southern Oregon. It is one of the few buildings constructed in its era that is not changed in appearance from the original structure, except for the addition on the back, constructed in 1951. It has been continuously, and still is, being used as a Public Library. It is the oldest public-owned building that has been in constant use in downtown Medford. The library was one of the most valuable gifts that Medford received in those pioneer days. The

continue on back if necessary

Recorded by John D. Benson Date April 1980

Sources consulted (continue on back if necessary):

*CNSR FILE AVAILABLE*

Please enclose map. Township 37 <sup>N</sup> S <sup>E</sup> R 2 W Section 25

553  
567