



1N2-31 CB / 9000

District: Central Common/Historic Name: Carnegie Library
Address: 209 NE Lincoln Map/Lot: 1N2-31 CB / 9000
Present Owner: Scheller Present Use: office space
Original Owner: City of Hillsboro Original Use: public library
Date Built: 1914 Style: Italianate
Condition: good

Outstanding Features:

- front entrance enclosed, surmounted with pediment and swept cement roof
- cement trim sills on all windows and around building above 2nd story windows
- boxed cornice with decorative brackets

History:

- building was erected in 1914 as part of Carnegie philanthropic library system

Significance:

- One of only a few examples of Italianate-style architecture in Hillsboro.

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CITY OF HILLSBORO CULTURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY

LOCATION 209 NE Lincoln RESOURCE NO. 14
TOWN 1N RANGE 2W SECTION 31 $\frac{1}{4}$ SECTION CB TAX LOT 9000
COMMON/HISTORIC NAME Carnegie Library
ADDITION Original Survey BLOCK 2 LOT 8
ORIGINAL OWNER City of Hillsboro CONSTRUCTION DATE 1914
ARCHITECT/BUILDER Ernest Kroner CURRENT CONDITION Good
PRESENT OWNER AND ADDRESS Dale & Ellen Scheller
641 E Main St Hillsboro, OR 97123
USE: ORIGINAL Public Library PRESENT Commercial-office
RESOURCE TYPE Building THEME Arch.: 20th Century

DESCRIPTION OF RESOURCE AND STATEMENT OF HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Funded by the Carnegie Foundation in 1914, this Library was constructed in a simple Italian Renaissance manner. The one-story brick structure has a raised basement allowing natural lighting, and is supported by a foundation of concrete. Its plan is a simple rectangle with a low-pitched ridge hipped roof. The eaves are deep and feature scrolled brackets. Exterior walls are veneered by rough-textured stucco with brick exposed in the window surrounds and in a diamond motif in the frieze below the eave. Upper lights are paired one-over-one sash, while the basement lights are single two-over-two sash.

The facade is oriented south, composed symmetrically with a central entry. The entry is accessed through a small enclosed porch with a roof composed in a segmented arch with returns. The main level is lighted by five paired sash windows.

CONTEXTUAL DESCRIPTION

The old Carnegie library is found at the northeast corner of Second and Lincoln Streets, one block from the Washington County Courthouse. It is situated at the north edge of the main commercial district with a residential area extending north.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

Funded by the Carnegie Foundation around 1914, the Hillsboro Public Library was one of over 26 libraries in Oregon granted money by the Foundation from 1906 to 1916. Andrew Carnegie began this fund, wishing to make libraries accessible to the public, spurred by a memory of his youth. Apparently a wealthy man opened his own private library to young boys for study and this act had left a strong impression with the young Carnegie.

Dr. F.A. Bailey first conceived the idea to participate in the Carnegie Foundation program. A building committee was selected by the City Council on October 7, 1914. Carnegie's grant included the total cost of the building, but required the city to provide the land and promise continued maintenance of the structure. Dr. S.T. Linklater donated the property for the library site. After the Hillsboro committee was awarded \$10,000.00 for the building project, an ordinance was passed by the city councilmen which maintained a perpetual maintenance fund of 10 percent of Carnegie's gift, \$1,000. This sum was intended to meet all expenses and book purchases, \$600 for expenses, \$400 for books.

A respected Portland architect, Ernest Kroner, was hired to design the structure and the design was carried out by the contractors, Book and Engelder. The secretary of the library board wrote in a letter dated June 24, 1915 that, "the structure is brick, with a half basement, containing a lecture room, board room, laboratories, etc., and steam heating plant. Main floor is devoted to one large combination reading room and library, with shelf capacity for 6,600 volumes."

Designed to serve a population of 2,000 people, the library's space became restrictive after 61 years of service. In 1975 it was replaced by a new structure constructed in Shute Park, and the old building was sold to Dale Scheller. Scheller converted the building into several offices spaces and it has been used commercially to this date.

Sources Consulted:

Capitol's Who's Who for Oregon, 1935-37, "Ernest Kroner", Capitol Publishing Co., Portland.

Hillsboro Argus, April 9, 1959.

Hillsboro Argus, Bicentennial Edition, October 19, 1976.

Barret, Myrna. History of Oregon Public Libraries, University of Oregon Master Thesis, 1940.

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COMMON/HISTORIC NAME Hillsboro City Library

RESOURCE NO. 14

