United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.* 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name **Ironwood Carnegie Library**

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 235 East Aurora Street — N/A not for publication

city or town Ironwood — N/A vicinity

state Michigan code MI county Gogebic code 053 zip code 49938

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this _x_ 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 _x_ meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

__ national X statewide __local

Signature of certifying official/Title — Date 6/17/14

MI SHPO
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official — Date

Title — State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

___ entered in the National Register
___ determined eligible for the National Register
___ determined not eligible for the National Register
___ removed from the National Register
✓ other (explain:) **Additional Documentation Approved**

for Edson W. Beall — 8.11.14

Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- [ ] Private
- [x] public – Local
- [ ] public – State
- [ ] public – Federal

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

- [x] building(s)
- [ ] district
- [ ] Site
- [ ] structure
- [ ] object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	1	buildings
		sites
1		structures
4		objects
6	1	**Total**

Contributing structure: stone retaining wall
Contributing objects: concrete fence posts
Non-contributing building: yard equipment shed

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Education/Library

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Education/Library

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Classical Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Sandstone
walls: Brick
Sandstone
roof: Asphalt
other:

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with **a summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

The Ironwood Carnegie Library is a hip-roof brown sandstone-trimmed red-orange brick building of Neoclassical design with a symmetrical front dominated by a gabled central projection containing the main entrance. The building is one story in height above a raised basement. Built in 1901-02 with a grant from Andrew Carnegie, the library retains its historic interior layout typical of Carnegie libraries and most of its original interior wood trim and a fireplace in one of the front rooms. The Carnegie Library stands on a corner lot at the east end of Ironwood's historic downtown area.

Narrative Description

The library stands at the south corner of Aurora and Norfolk streets at the east edge of Ironwood's central business district, with commercial buildings to its southwest along Aurora Street and a number of churches and public buildings and some residential nearby to the east and northeast, including the First Presbyterian Church and the city's Memorial Building. The building's front faces northwest on East Aurora and the northeast side on South Norfolk Street.

The library is set back a short distance from the two streets behind shallow frontages landscaped with flowers, full-grown trees, and lawn, but has a more extensive lawn area in back. The grade along the Aurora Street frontage is significantly higher than the sidewalk. A rubble stone retaining wall several feet tall, but descending from southwest to northeast, stands adjacent to the sidewalk forming the main line of grade change. It has a precast concrete coping. Square-plan concrete posts that once supported a wrought iron railing stand atop the northeast end of the retaining wall at the Norfolk corner, near the southwest end of the retaining wall, along the southwest edge of the library property nearly in line with the library's front, and at the east corner of the property along Norfolk. The fence itself is long gone. Perennial flowers are planted atop the retaining wall's back side. South Norfolk Street along the building's northeast side rises to the southeast from the Aurora intersection. At the southeast or back wall of the building the street grade is only about three feet below the first-floor level.

From the sidewalk directly in front of the central front entrance a broad concrete staircase, flanked by broad stone parapets, rises in two runs of seven steps each, with a landing halfway up, to a landing in front of the entrance. A non-original small gable-roof brick projection from the front basement wall northeast of the main entrance, its doorway level with the front sidewalk, serves as an emergency entrance. An ADA accessible concrete ramp has been added along the library's back, extending from Norfolk Street to a new door at the back of the rear extension. An older concrete walk leads from the sidewalk by Norfolk Street to an old basement staircase along the main section's back wall east of the rear extension. A small shed-roof structure faced in T-111 siding now covers this unused staircase. Directly adjacent stands a small hip-roof T-111 sided shed that houses yard equipment. Both structures date from the 1970s.

The building stands on a basement level that is raised above grade on all sides, but especially on the street-facing northwest front. The basement is faced on all sides in smooth-faced brown coursed ashlar sandstone and contains low-to-the-ground windows aligned with the main floor ones.

The library is broadly cruciform in footprint, with a long hip-roof southwest-northeast axis and short wings projecting from the midpoint on the northwest (front) side containing the main entrance and southeast (rear) side. The asphalt shingle-clad roof has a very slight flare at the eaves. Above the basement the one-story building is constructed of red-orange face brick with more of the smooth-cut brown sandstone trim. The sandstone is used for the front entrance surround, quoining at the corners of the gabled front projection containing the entrance, window sill strips, window lintel-level beltcourses, and slightly raised rectangular panels below the eaves that are aligned with the windows. Three tall brick chimneys rise above the roof – one midway along the building's northeast side wall and one on either side of the rear wing at the points at the corners where the wing connects to the main section.

In the gabled front projection containing the main entrance, the square-head doorway, now containing a modern aluminum and glass door with tall transom and sidelight on one side, is framed by an eared architrave trim surround outlined by paneled pilasters that once supported a flat-top cornice supported at each end by a corbel – the uppermost section of the pilasters and the projecting sandstone cap were removed and some of the bricks replaced sometime prior to the mid-

1970s, presumably because of deterioration of the stonework. A sandstone strip above the doorway displays the carved inscription, "FREE TO THE PEOPLE." A lantern anchored into the stonework over the front door was installed in 1920. Below the front gable a larger sandstone plaque bears the building's name, CARNEGIE LIBRARY, and above that, in the front gable, within a raised sandstone triangular form shaped like the pediment, is a small five-sided plaque carved with the year when construction began, 1901.

The main floor's windows are square-head double-hung one-over-ones, with three set close together on either side of the entrance projection, three in the southwest narrow end, two in the northeast narrow end (a chimney that serves a fireplace rises above the midpoint on that side), and three more set close together on either side of the center projection in the rear facade. The present windows are replacements but retain the historic form and overall dimensions of the originals.

When the library was built only the main floor was used. This floor is accessed via the nine foot wide concrete front steps to the central front entrance. The front door is now an aluminum and glass one but old photographs show what appears to have been wooden double doors, each containing a single large light. The front door leads into a vestibule, from which an original set of wood and glass double doors, with brass fittings, leads into the main room with its fifteen-foot high ceiling. The room still contains, directly ahead, the original wood circulation desk with its angled ends. Behind the circulation desk an arch opening provides access to the staff work area that extends into the rear projection. From the lobby inside the front entry, to the left and right are reading rooms that occupy the ends of the building. Today, these are where the adult fiction and nonfiction, respectively, are housed. Originally these rooms were filled mostly with tables and chairs for reading. The windows are large, and there is a fireplace in the fiction room (on the northeast side). The windows have been replaced but the window size and one-over-one configuration have been maintained. The fireplace is original, although no longer in use. The original woodwork remains as well as the radiators and air intake vents. Windows and doors in the partitions between the reading rooms and lobby that once provided more of a sense of separation between these areas and the lobby have been removed. The lighting has also been replaced, but period ceiling fans remain. The walls on this floor are the original plaster.

A stairway to the southwest of the vestibule leads to the basement. The basement was originally not used, but in 1916 some of the basement space was made into a community room and a ladies bathroom, which was attended by a volunteer from the local women's club. Further expansion into to the basement space took place as the original floor plan was quickly outgrown. The Children's and Young Adult areas now are housed in the basement. The bathroom has been updated to be more accessible. In the furnace room can be seen the rough hewn stone foundation and the original back entrance. The back entrance is now covered by the handicap ramp which was built in the later part of the twentieth century. The furnace room contains the modern and smaller furnace. However, the original coal room and coal shutes can still be seen.

Ironwood Carnegie Library
Name of Property

Gogebic, MI
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

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

- [X] 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.
- [X] 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.)

Property is:

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

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture
Social History

Period of Significance
1901-64

Significant Dates
1901 Beginning of construction
1902 Completion

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
Alden and Harlow, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Period of Significance (justification)

Date of construction to fifty-year cutoff. The building remained in its original use through the period of significance and down to the present.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

Not applicable

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The Ironwood Carnegie Library meets national register criterion A as the first building constructed to house Ironwood's public library and for its long and continuing service as the library's home. It possesses a state level of significance in that it was built as a result of Andrew Carnegie's first library donation to a Michigan community and was the first Carnegie library constructed in Michigan. Unlike the typical request for library funds made to Carnegie, Ironwood's request was made by the superintendent of Carnegie's iron mines in the Ironwood area through his superior, Carnegie Steel executive James Gayley, a trusted Carnegie associate, and followed up on a Gayley conversation with Carnegie about providing libraries for towns in the upper Great Lakes region in which his mines were located. The community's choice of Alden & Harlow, the Pittsburgh architects Carnegie selected to design many of the branch libraries he donated to Pittsburgh in the years just before construction of the Ironwood library, also suggests that Carnegie himself may have pointed the Ironwood building committee in the direction of his architects – though there is no specific documentation, only a request made by the Ironwood people to Carnegie for any suggestions in relation to the proposed building. The library also meets criterion C. Designed by Alden & Harlow, the building is an architecturally distinguished example of the early twentieth-century library buildings of Neoclassical inspiration. It is similar in plan and form to some of the firm's Pittsburgh branch libraries, and follows closely the planning precepts Carnegie's secretary James Bertram outlined in his 1911 "Notes on the Erection of Library Buildings."

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Andrew Carnegie

Andrew Carnegie (1835-1919), was born in Dunfermline, Scotland, the son of damask weaver William Carnegie and Margaret (Morrison) Carnegie. In 1848 the family migrated to America, settling in Allegheny, Pennsylvania, near Pittsburgh, because his mother's two sisters lived there. Carnegie's first jobs were as bobbin boy at cotton factories in Allegheny. His career began to advance when in 1850 he obtained a job as a messenger for the O'Reilly Telegraph office. Through contacts with leading men in Pittsburgh acquired through his delivering telegraph messages, he was enabled to greatly improve his education. Carnegie advanced in the office to become a telegraph operator within two years. His career began its meteoric rise when, in 1853, he was hired by Thomas A. Scott, superintendent of the Pennsylvania Railroad's Pittsburgh Division, to serve as his telegraph clerk and operator. Carnegie soon learned to take the initiative, when Scott was out of the office, in managing and solving crises on the line, and Scott quickly came to value his abilities. After only six years, in 1859, when Scott was made president of the railroad, he saw to it that Carnegie was appointed superintendent of the Pittsburgh Division to replace him.

At Scott's behest, Carnegie made his first investment – a purchase of $500 in Adams Express stock – in 1855. In the early 1860s, with his experience in the needs of the Pennsylvania and other railroads for improved iron for bridge construction and rails, he entered into his first investments in the iron and steel industries, partnering with others in iron forges, blast furnaces, a bridge works, rail mill, and locomotive factory. A highly successful investment in Pennsylvania petroleum in 1862 provided huge profits that fueled his rapidly escalating business investments.

In 1865 Carnegie resigned from the railroad to concentrate his energies on his industrial interests. He believed his growing success in the iron and steel industry resulted from his willingness to experiment with new technology and his reliance on scientific study to improve both quality and efficiency in production. Carnegie's steel industry interests culminated in the development of huge mills in the Pittsburgh area – particularly the Edgar Thompson Works in Braddock, Pennsylvania, the greatest steel rail mill in America, which went into production in 1874, and the Homestead Works, opened in 1886. The various Carnegie-controlled companies and mills were consolidated in 1892 into the Carnegie Steel Company Ltd., but through the 1890s and into the new century Carnegie continued to broaden his iron and steel interests, especially focusing on the purchase and lease of iron mines to provide control of raw materials for his plants. In 1901 Carnegie sold Carnegie Steel and retired from business.

Carnegie, Michigan's Upper Peninsula, and Ironwood

Carnegie's gift of a library to Ironwood, Michigan, resulted directly from his investments in the area's iron mines. For Carnegie, investing in iron mines was part of a movement in his steel business toward vertical integration as a means of controlling both supply and costs. One prime example was his buying into the H. C. Frick Coke Company to obtain less expensive coke for his mills. From an initial 11.25% interest in Frick's firm in 1882, Carnegie secured control of the company within a few years (Krass, 175-76).

One area that Carnegie had generally avoided was investing in iron mines, whether in Pennsylvania, Michigan's Upper Peninsula, or in the Iron Ranges of Minnesota, thinking them to be financial drains. In the early 1890s development of Minnesota's Mesabi Range mines, soon to become the pre-eminent source of iron ore, was just beginning, and an initial railroad to carry the ore to docks on Lake Superior was incomplete. In addition, the technology to adapt the iron industry's furnaces to the Mesabi's new sifted-flour-like ore had not yet been established. In the wake of the Panic of 1893, when Leonidas Merritt and other Merritt family members, who together held the largest interests in Mesabi ore and were financing the still far from complete railroad to Lake Superior, were in desperate need of cash, petroleum mogul John D. Rockefeller, Sr., in the summer of 1893 suddenly stepped in to finance the Merritts capital through establishment of a holding company, Lake Superior Consolidated Iron Mines. By 1895 Rockefeller had acquired control of Consolidated's ore properties and the now completed railroad. When Lake Superior shippers charged exorbitant prices to lease ore boats to Rockefeller, he established his own Bessemer Steamship Company, acquiring "fifty-six steel vessels, the largest fleet on the Great Lakes and the world's biggest assemblage of ore carriers" (Chernow, 386). At the same time Rockefeller was making his move in the iron mining and ore-shipping business, new technology was solving the previous problems in utilizing Mesabi ore in the furnaces.

Rockefeller's control of so much now useable iron ore and of key means of shipping the ore to the furnaces threatened for Carnegie higher shipping as well as ore costs. From this time Carnegie began to acquire iron mines. In 1896 Carnegie and Rockefeller had come to an agreement that in return for Rockefeller staying out of the iron and steel business in the future, Carnegie Steel would lease all of his Lake Superior Consolidated mining properties and ship the full output from both (a minimum of 600,000 tons a year) from the Lake Superior region to port in Conneaut, Ohio, on Rockefeller's railroads and ships at rates lower than those granted competitors in the steel industry.

One of the Mesabi Range iron mining companies hard hit by the economic depression of the early 1890s was the Oliver Iron Mining Company, whose primary owner was Henry W. Oliver, with whom Carnegie had remained acquainted since their days together at O'Reilly Telegraph in Pittsburgh in the 1850s. In 1894 Oliver's company agreed to turn over a half interest in Oliver Iron Mining to Carnegie Steel in return for a $500,000 loan then badly needed for development capital. The agreement was negotiated by Carnegie Steel's board chairman, Henry Clay Frick, without Carnegie's knowledge. Carnegie was initially strongly opposed to the deal, but let Frick have his way. The 1896 deal with Rockefeller gave Carnegie control of vast ore reserves, but the whole episode with Rockefeller convinced Carnegie of the need to acquire more mines to assure a continued adequate supply.

As a first step in the process, early in 1897 Carnegie acquired a controlling interest (another third, giving him a five-sixths share) in the Oliver Iron Mining Company. After that Oliver became an iron-mining subsidiary of Carnegie Steel that, under Carnegie's control, acquired and operated additional mines. In 1897 Oliver Iron Mining acquired a controlling interest in mines owned by the Metropolitan Iron & Land Company. Established in 1880, with S. P. Burt of New Bedford, Massachusetts, as president, the company owned most of the leading iron producers on the Gogebic Iron Range. Bruce Cox's mine histories suggest that Oliver may have acquired or leased additional Gogebic mines in 1899, 1900, and 1902 (Cox, *Mines of the Pewabic Country,* 18-19, 29, 45, 83, 143, 152).

The Gogebic Range runs in a generally east-west direction across part of the western Upper Peninsula of Michigan and into Wisconsin. The prime part of the range extends from east of Wakefield, Michigan, west past Bessemer and Ironwood, Michigan, and into Wisconsin to west of Hurley, Ironwood's near neighbor to the west. Exploration for iron on the Gogebic began with prospector Richard Langford as early as the period between 1859 and 1864, but the development of mines began only in the early 1880s with large scale exploration undertaken by A. Lanfear Norrie, Capt. James A. Wood, and others and the opening of railroad transportation. The Colby Mine near Bessemer shipped the first Gogebic Range ore in October and November 1884 (Cox, *Headframes 2,* 14). The Ironwood mines lay in an east-west row just to the south of what soon became the central part of Ironwood. Oliver controlled all of Ironwood's leading producers – the Norrie, East

Norrie, Aurora, Vaughn, Pabst, and Newport mines – except the Ashland Mine (Cox, *Headframes 1*, vi; Cox, *Mines of the Pewabic Country,*18-19, 70, 135-36, 147-49, 158).

Carnegie and Free Public Libraries

Between 1886 and 1919 Andrew Carnegie (after 1911 through his Carnegie Corporation) made $56,162,622 in donations for 2509 library buildings throughout the English-speaking world, with more than $40 million of that for 1679 libraries in 1412 communities in the United States (Bobinsky, 3). Carnegie's donation of library buildings reflected "his philosophy of the trusteeship of wealth or, as it came to be called, the Gospel of Wealth."

> In his first essay written on the subject, "Wealth," Carnegie declared that wealthy men were to live without extravagance, provide moderately for the legitimate needs of their dependents, and then consider all the remainder as surplus funds which they as trustees should distribute in their lifetime for the best promotion of welfare and happiness of the common man. The main consideration was to help those who would help themselves – but only to assist and never or rarely ever to do all, because neither the individual nor the group was improved by almsgiving. ...the trustee was to do his part in uplifting mass intelligence and character (Bobinsky, 11).

In a second essay, "The Best Fields for Philanthropy," Carnegie identified a free library as the best gift the wealthy could offer a community, "provided the community will accept and maintain it as a public institution, as much a part of the city property as its public schools, and, indeed, an adjunct to these" (Bobinsky, 11, quoting Carnegie, "The Best Fields for Philanthropy," *North American Review,* 149: 688-89 (Dec. 1889)).

In 1880 Carnegie had donated his first library to his birthplace community of Dumfernline, Scotland. His autobiography notes that "My father was one of five weavers who founded the earliest library in the town by opening their own books to their neighbors" (Carnegie, 211; Krass, 157-58). In the United States Carnegie made his first library donations in the 1886-96 period, providing fourteen buildings to six communities, most in western Pennsylvania. These included ones for his long time home town, Allegheny, near Pittsburgh; Braddock and Homestead, the locations of the key Carnegie Steel mills; and a main and eight branch libraries in Pittsburgh (Bobinsky, 13). In 1898 Carnegie began a more broad program to offer funding to build and equip free public libraries for communities if they would provide sites and agree to provide annual operating support equal to at least ten percent of the funding offered (Bobinsky, 43).

Ironwood Carnegie Library

Carnegie gifts funded construction of sixty-one libraries in Michigan, the seventh highest total among the states (Indiana, with 164 buildings, was number one). The Ironwood library, for which he offered funding in 1900, was his first library gift for a Michigan community. In the following year he provided funds for libraries in Iron Mountain, Ishpeming, and Jackson and for nine buildings in Detroit (Bobinsky, 207-41).

The Ironwood Public Library began with votes of the Ironwood Board of School Inspectors in September 1890, only a few years after Ironwood's founding as an iron-mining boomtown, to purchase books and establish a library. In March 1891 the library opened in a second-floor room in the new city hall. In 1899 a room next to the library was set aside as a reading room.

Carnegie's donation of a library building to Ironwood began with a conversation he had in Pittsburgh with James Gayley, a trusted insider who was then head of Carnegie Steel's ore department. Gayley noted in a letter to Carnegie dated April 12, 1900, that,

> During one of your recent visits to Pittsburg I took up with you the question of having some modest libraries established at the towns representing our principal mining operations in the Lake Superior regions.
>
> I have just received a letter from our Supt. at Ironwood Mich. [James H. McLean] who has charge of the Norrie group of mines and also the Tilden mines. They have in the town 5000 volumes but have never had any suitable building and they write to ask if you would contribute $12000 to erect a building to meet their requirements. The town itself agrees to maintain the Library at their own expense.

Will you please advise what are your views in regard thereto.

A hand-written note appended to the letter asks what amount the town will vote for maintaining the library, and a short letter to Carnegie from Gayley responds that McLean "advises that the town pledges itself to raise annually $2,000 for the support of the Library." Carnegie then issued a one-sentence letter, dated April 21, making a formal offer of the $12,000 for the library, contingent upon the city's agreement "to pay $2,000 a year for maintenance of the Library, and provide a suitable site." The Common Council passed a resolution May 12, 1900, agreeing to provide the required annual maintenance (the city had already obtained the present site from Aubrey Garner for $951). In his May 14, 1900, letter to Gayley forwarding the city's resolution, McLean asked Gayley (and by inference Carnegie) if they had "any instructions or suggestions to offer, with reference to the erection of the building." The Ironwood Library has no letter responding to McLean's question on file, but the selection of Pittsburgh architects Alden & Harlow, the architects Carnegie employed for his Pittsburgh libraries, suggests that advice was likely given. The *Iron Mountain News* makes no further reference to the library building until February 2, 1901, when it reports that several contractors had already examined the plans and that work would likely begin in the spring as soon as the snow was gone. Then, a brief note in the paper's "Local Lore" column on June 1 stated that bids would be opened that afternoon at the city clerk's office.

The three bids received – William Kumm of Ironwood presented the low bid of $13,000; Dan Eagan of Ashland, Wisconsin, $13,993; and E. A. Darrow $15,597 – were all above the $12,000 available from the grant ("Library Bids Opened," *News Record,* 6/8/1901). The article commented, "The building committee took the tenders under consideration, and will award the contract in a few days." Clearly no contract was made at this time.

At this point Gogebic Range superintendent McLean wrote Gayley asking him to forward a request to Carnegie for an additional $5000. Gayley forwarded McLean's letter with his own dated June 7, 1901. McLean received notification that Carnegie would provide the additional funds about August 1, 1901 ("Gives $5,000 More," *News Record,* 8/3/1901). The article explained that "The increased donation will enable the committee to construct the library as originally planned, and install a heating plant. The committee is negotiating with the contractors, and it is expected that work on the foundations will begin next week." Construction apparently began soon afterwards. Who was the actual contractor is not clear.

During April 1902 the city established by ordinance a board of trustees to manage the library. An April 19, 1902, article noted that "The furniture for the new library has arrived, and the work of removing the books from the old quarters to the new building will begin shortly" ("New Library Board," *News Record*). The May 24 paper contained only a brief item in the "Local Lore" column about the opening:

> The new Carnegie Library will be opened to the public Monday [i.e. May 26, 1902]. Some of the fixtures have not arrived as yet, but it is thought best to open it so that the circulating library will be open to the public.

Review of *News Record* issues through August 1902 provided nothing to suggest there was a later formal dedication.

James Gayley's letter to Andrew Carnegie dated June 7, 1901, and several surviving plansheets indicate that Alden & Harlow, the successor firm to Longfellow, Alden & Harlow, the firm that Carnegie had used for an addition to his Braddock library (1893) and for his Carnegie Library in Homestead (1896-98), designed the Ironwood Carnegie Library. Van Slyck notes an ongoing correspondence between Carnegie and Frank E. Alden throughout the 1890s.

> Indeed, Carnegie's patronage facilitated the cordial dissolution of the [Longfellow, Alden & Harlow] firm in 1896; newly independent from their Boston-based partner, the firm of Alden & Harlow did a thriving business in Carnegie-financed projects, designing the massive extension to Pittsburgh's Carnegie Institute, as well as all eight library branches in Pittsburgh (Van Slyck, 103).

The Ironwood Carnegie Library strongly resembles several of the Pittsburgh branch libraries, including the 1899 Wylie Avenue Branch, 1899 West End Branch, and 1899-1900 Mt. Washington Branch (see Van Slyck, 108-10) in its overall form and plan. Like the Ironwood building, these libraries paid heed to Carnegie's desires for planning for efficient operation and management as well as economical design and construction – planning ideals Carnegie's secretary, James Bertram, who soon came to manage the Carnegie library program, would institutionalize in his 1911 "Notes on the Erection of Library Buildings." The Ironwood Carnegie Library is a highly intact example of the Carnegie Library ideal.

Preservation

In 1977, in the wake of celebrating the library building's seventy-fifth anniversary, the library board began to look at remodeling and expanding the building. A November 15, 1977, letter to Dr. Martha Bigelow, then state historic preservation officer and director of the Michigan Department of State's History Division, from the librarian, Dale W. Hoffschneider, asked about the procedures for listing the building as a historic site and also about whether state or federal preservation funds might be available to help with renovation work while protecting the building's character. But during 1979 the library trustees approved in concept replacing the library with a new building. One of the architect's concepts, as described by Hoffschneider in an August 9, 1979, letter to the History Division's Historic Sites Research Unit supervisor, Kathryn Eckert, was to "leave the façade, at least the front main entrance and build a new structure around and behind the main entrance. ... Also, the façade would not be a front entrance but more a focal point (glassed in)." The proposal for a new library was caught up in larger political issues in the city and – fortunately – came to nothing. Today, planning is underway for expanding the library, which is badly cramped for space. This time, an addition sensitive to the historic building and located behind it is planned. There is a hope to come up with funds to restore the front entry to its original appearance as well.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Alden & Harlow. Photocopies of two (undated) plansheets listing Alden & Harlow as architects. In possession of Ironwood Carnegie Library.

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Carnegie, Andrew. *The Autobiography of Andrew Carnegie.* Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1920.

Chernow, Ron. *Titan: The Life of John D. Rockeffer, Sr.* NY: Random House, 1998.

Correspondence between Andrew Carnegie, James Gayley, and John McLean regarding Ironwood Carnegie Library, 1900-1901. Copies from the Carnegie Foundation provided by Ironwood Carnegie Library.

Cox, Bruce K. *Headframes and Mine Shafts of the Gogebic Range. Volume 1: Ironwood.* 10th Anniversary Edition. Wakefield, MI: Agogeebic Press, 2010.

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Cox, Bruce K. *Mines of the Pewabic Country of Michigan and Wisconsin. Volume 4, Michigan Iron.* Wakefield, MI: Agogeebic Press, 2007.

Evans, Henry Oliver. *Iron Pioneer: Henry W. Oliver, 1840-1904.* NY: E. P. Dutton & Co., Inc., 1942.

Hoffschneider, Dale W., ed. *Ironwood Carnegie Library 75th Anniversary.* Ironwood, MI, 1976.

Hoffschneider, Dale W. Correspondence with Kathryn Eckert. Ironwood Carnegie Library working file, MI SHPO.

Ironwood News Record, Ironwood, MI.

- 5/13/1900: News of Carnegie donation.
- 2/2/1901: "The New Library."
- 6/1/1901: Bids to be opened, "Local Lore" column.
- 6/8/1901: "Library Bids Opened."
- 8/3/1901: "Gives $5,000 More."
- 4/19/1902: "New Library Board."
- 5/10/1902: "Library Board Organized" – transfer of books to begin.
- 5/24/1902: Library to open 5/26, "Local Lore" column.

Krass, Peter. *Carnegie.* Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2002.

Van Slyck, Abigail A. *Free to All: Carnegie Libraries & American Culture, 1890-1920.* Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1995.

Wall, Joseph Frazier. *Andrew Carnegie.* Pittsburgh, PA: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1989.

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 #_____
____recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey #_____

Primary location of additional data:

_X_State Historic Preservation Office
____Other State agency
____Federal agency
____Local government
____University
____Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 0.36 Acres
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	15	717540	5148320	3			
2				4			

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)
Lot 1, Lot 2, and Lot 3 Excepting the west 6.8 feet of Lot 3, Block 32, Original Plat of the City of Ironwood.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

Original and present property associated with building.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title R. O. Christensen (with Elaine Erickson, library director)

organization MI SHPO / Ironwood Carnegie Library date May 2014

street & number 702 W. Kalamazoo St. telephone 517/335-2719

city or town Lansing State MI zip code 48909

e-mail christensenr@michigan.gov

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
  ATTACHED
- A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
  N/A
- **Continuation Sheets**
  NONE
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)
  Attached articles, photos etc.

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Ironwood Carnegie Library

City or Vicinity: Ironwood

County: Gogebic County State: Michigan

Photographer: Emilie Braunel

Date Photographed: August 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

1 of 15: NW (front) façade
MI_Gogebic County_Ironwood Carnegie Library_0010.tif
2 of 15: NE and NW (front) facades
MI_Gogebic County_Ironwood Carnegie Library_0009.tif
3 of 15: NE and NW facades
MI_Gogebic County_Ironwood Carnegie Library_0002.tif
4 of 15: NW and SW facades and stone retaining wall in front
MI_Gogebic County_Ironwood Carnegie Library_0004.tif
5 of 15: NW front gable detail
MI_Gogebic County_Ironwood Carnegie Library_0003.tif
6 of 15: SE (rear) façade
MI_Gogebic County_Ironwood Carnegie Library_0007.tif
7 of 15: SW and SE façades
MI_Gogebic County_Ironwood Carnegie Library_0006.tif
8 of 15: Circulation desk area looking SE into rear wing

MI_Gogebic County_Ironwood Carnegie Library_0021.tif
9 of 15: Non-fiction room viewed from fiction room, looking SW
MI_Gogebic County_Ironwood Carnegie Library_0030.tif
10 of 15: Air return in fiction room
MI_Gogebic County_Ironwood Carnegie Library_0031.tif
11 of 15: Fiction room showing fireplace, looking ENE
MI_Gogebic County_Ironwood Carnegie Library_0029.tif
12 of 15: Radiator in non-faction room
MI_Gogebic County_Ironwood Carnegie Library_0018.tif
13 of 15: Basement staircase lower end
MI_Gogebic County_Ironwood Carnegie Library_0027.tif
14 of 15: Children's room, SW side of basement, showing old ceiling radiators
MI_Gogebic County_Ironwood Carnegie Library_0024.tif
15 of 15: Children's room, SW side of basement
MI_Gogebic County_Ironwood Carnegie Library_0025.tif

Property Owner:

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

name City of Ironwood

street & number 213 S. Marquette Street telephone 906 932 5050

city or town Ironwood state MI zip code 49938

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.460 et seq.).
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.
also enclosed as black and white photos)