United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Carnegie Public Library

and/or common Cabell County Public Library

2. Location

street & number 900 Fifth ___ not for publication

city, town Huntington ___ vicinity of congressional district Fourth

state West Virginia code county Cabell code 011

3. Classification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Ownership</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Present Use</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>___ district</td>
<td>X public</td>
<td>X occupied</td>
<td>___ agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X building(s)</td>
<td>____ private</td>
<td>____ unoccupied</td>
<td>___ commercial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>____ structure</td>
<td>____ both</td>
<td>____ work in progress</td>
<td>___ educational</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>____ site</td>
<td>Public Acquisition</td>
<td>Accessible</td>
<td>___ entertainment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>____ object</td>
<td>___ in process</td>
<td>___ yes: restricted</td>
<td>___ government</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>___ being considered</td>
<td>___ yes: unrestricted</td>
<td>___ industrial</td>
<td>___ military</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. Owner of Property

name Board of Directors, Cabell County Public Library

street & number 900 Fifth Avenue

city, town Huntington ___ vicinity of state West Virginia

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Cabell County Court House

street & number 8th Street and 4th Avenue

city, town Huntington state West Virginia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes ___ no

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state
The Carnegie Public Library of Huntington, Cabell County, West Virginia, was built in 1902, in a style incorporating the then fashionable Beaux Arts classicism. Although the Huntington library building is modest in size compared to a famous counterpart, the New York Public Library by Carrere and Hastings (1895-1902), it nevertheless exhibits certain similarities of detail and proportion characterizing many public buildings of the period now rapidly disappearing from the streetscapes of late twentieth century America.

Precise symmetry and academically correct placement of classical detail distinguish the two major elevations of the Carnegie Library. The sense of mass is purveyed, in part, by rusticated raised basement carrying pedimented pavilions on the south (front) and west (side) elevations. The pedimented central pavilion of the front elevation is especially forceful in its conveyance of monumentality as seen in paired Ionic columns of its portico. Triangular pedimentation of the ground floor entrance tabernacle is echoed on a grand scale by the greater porticoed pediment articulated with raking cornices, acroteria, and a garland-enriched cartouche all fashioned of terra cotta.

The smooth, gray ashlar wall surfaces of the building are evenly divided by pileaster carrying an entablature carved with rondels and the names of classical and literary figures. The paneled wall surfaces, thus created by the pilasters are filled with windows elaborately framed at the second level with shouldered stone trim and headed at the ground level with triangular pediments.

General overall condition of the exterior is good, though water erosion of upper wall surfaces and efflorescence appearing in the entablature may require possible future stabilizing or restoration efforts.

The interior of the library building was renovated in the 1930's under the direction of local architect Albert F. Tucker. Among significant interior features that survive are the large oaken double stairway with its fine newel posts and the large, broadly proportioned windows enriched with egg and dart moulding. The building also retains, for the most part its original hardwood floors.

"Constructed on the corner of what was called Government Square in Huntington, the monumentality of the building has been reduced in appearance by the construction of two buildings, to the rear and east side, that are of equal height. Nonetheless, the building stature is still plainly evident from the front (south) and west elevations.

The Carnegie Public Library in Huntington, West Virginia, is a public building of local distinction, built at a time when Beaux Arts classicism was an architectural style at the height of popularity.
**8. Significance**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Areas of Significance—Check and justify below</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>prehistoric</td>
<td>archeology-prehistoric</td>
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<tr>
<td>1400-1499</td>
<td>archeology-historic</td>
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<td>1800-1899</td>
<td>commerce</td>
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<td>X 1900-</td>
<td>communications</td>
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**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Carnegie Public Library, located at the corner of Fifth Avenue and 9th Street in Huntington, Cabell County, West Virginia, stands as a significant example of Beaux Art Classicism in a small town setting. It is also significant as an example of the philanthropy practiced by many of the late 19th century "robber barons" and as an early center of educational activity in this part of the state.

**Explanatory Notes**

1. As described in some depth in the Description (Part 7) the Carnegie Public Library in Huntington is a significant example of Beaux Art Classicism in a public building erected in a small town setting. The Library was constructed in 1902-03, from the plans of a prominent Huntington architect, James B. Stewart. At its completion, it was "the most outstanding edifice of which Huntington can boast", and was "the most pretentious building on Government Square". Even today, despite intrusions on the rear and east elevations as well as many nearby buildings of equal or larger proportions, the Library is one of Huntington's most striking buildings. In addition, it is felt by some individuals that the erection of such an imposing structure in what was then a relatively small city of 10,000 contributed to the rising prestige of Huntington that helped to raise the city to become West Virginia's largest municipality.

2. In 1901 the City of Huntington, indeed the entirety of Cabell County, had no public library as such. The only existing library was the one found in the First Congregational Church of Huntington, which had been founded primarily with books donated by various New England individuals and institutions, including the historic Winthrop Church of Charlestown, Massachusetts. In 1901 the famous industrialist-turned-philanthropist Andrew Carnegie (1835-1919) offered to donate $25,000 to the City of Huntington for the erection of a public library on condition that the city provide a lot and promise to provide $2,500 annually for its maintenance and upkeep. The city immediately agreed. A lot on Government Square, 90 x 90 feet, was conveyed by the city to the Board of Education on February 18, 1902. As soon as the spring weather broke, construction began. In March of 1902 Mr. Carnegie agreed to make an additional gift of $10,000.00, raising the cost of the building to $35,000.00, with the Board of Education agreeing to raise their annual appropriation for maintenance from $2,500.00 to $3,500.00.

It took all summer and into the fall for workmen to excavate the basement and to lay the elaborate rusticated base and foundation (described in Part 7). A lavish cornerstone laying ceremony was held on November 14, 1902. and presided over by W.H.H. Holswade, President of the Board of Education, and Mayor H.C. Gordon of Huntington. Despite overcast skies, a large multitude turned out for the occasion.
achievements of the citizens of Huntington.

It has been said that Huntington has produced more Rhodes scholars than any other city of its size in the United States. Certainly, the existence of a free public library in this small town is not an exception to the rule. The Carnegie Public Library in Huntington is, therefore, significant, not only as a locally

...portion over the years.

...funds, 1908-1942.

...service spanning 50 years.

...had the longest tenure of any Carnegie County

...to the library, which was established in pro-

...into the community’s second decade.

...education were also located in the library building. But this situation did not endure.

...had grown to 6,000 volumes, many of them donated.

...closed during the war years.

...opened its doors on January 1, 1949.

...completed in 1949.

...he was pleased with the progress of the building.

...to the Huntington Advertiser.

...the building, which is located on the site of the old schoolhouse.

...the building was further enhanced when...
9. Major Bibliographical References

The Huntington Advertiser, Huntington, W. Va., 1902 through 1904; November 25, 1923, June 29, 1929; April 10, 1902.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property: One city lot.

Quadrangle name: Huntington, Ohio-West Virginia

UMT References

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Verbal boundary description and justification: The Carnegie Public Library stands on a parcel of land, 90' by 90', situated on Huntington City block 116, taking up portions of Lots 26, 27, and 28. The parcel is located on the corner of Fifth Ave., and Ninth Street.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>state</th>
<th>code</th>
<th>county</th>
<th>code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Michael J. Pauley, Historian; Rodney S. Collins, Architectural Historian

organization: W. Va. Department of Culture and History

Science and Cultural Center

city or town: Charleston

state: West Virginia 25305

city or town: Charleston

state: West Virginia 25305

city or town: Charleston

state: West Virginia 25305

city or town: Charleston

state: West Virginia 25305

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national: _____ state: _____ local: X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature: [signature]

date: February 5, 1980

For HCRA use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register
date: February 5, 1980

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: [signature] date: [signature] date:

Chief of Registration
Carnegie Public Library, Huntington, Cabell County, West Virginia

Miller, Doris C. A Centennial History of Huntington, W. Va., Huntington, 1971

Wallace, George Seldon, Cabell County Annals and Families, Garrett & Massis, Richmond, Virginia, 1935
