

United States Department of the Interior
 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.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Enfield Carnegie Library

Other names/site number: Pearl Street Library

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A

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

2. Location

Street & number: 159 Pearl Street

City or town: Enfield State: CT County: Hartford

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide ___ local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

___A ___B ___C ___D

_____ Signature of certifying official/Title:	_____ Date
_____ 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	

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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:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

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

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION/library

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION/library

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Late 19th/Early 20th

Century Revivals/

Classical Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Brick, Stone/limestone

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Enfield Library is a Classical Revival-style “Carnegie” library in Enfield, Hartford County, Connecticut, designed in 1911 by the Boston architectural firm of McClean & Wright. It was the first purpose-built free library constructed in the rapidly growing town of Enfield and one of only eleven such libraries funded by the Carnegie Corporation in the state. The brick and stone three-bay façade has a characteristic central, projecting portico executed using brick with stone detailing drawing on classically inspired motifs. It continues to serve the public as a branch known as the Pearl Street Library and retains a high degree of architectural integrity throughout.

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Narrative Description

Setting

The Enfield Carnegie Library, designed in 1911 and completed in 1914, is located in the former industrial village of Thompsonville, in the Town of Enfield, Hartford, County, Connecticut. Thompsonville is in the northwest corner of Enfield along the eastern bank of the Connecticut River. The library occupies a 0.29-acre parcel at the northeastern corner of Pearl and Franklin streets near the southern edge of this densely populated neighborhood (Figure 1).¹ The building is arranged with the main entrance facing southwest. The parcel is bounded on the east and north by residential properties, to the west by Pearl Street, and to the south by Franklin Street (Figure 2). The surrounding area is residential with streets arranged in a grid pattern and closely spaced houses dating from the first decades of the 20th century. Franklin Street marks the end of the residential district north of where Route 190 crosses the Connecticut River approximately 1000 feet to the west. Municipal offices are located approximately three quarters of a mile to the northeast. A curved sidewalk leads across the lawn to the front steps and connects Pearl and Franklin streets. The path is lit by four streetlamps with opaque glass shades and cast-iron posts (later 20th century recreations). The lawn continues around to the north and south sides of the building. Low crabapple trees dot the lawn to the north and deciduous trees line the rear and side property lines. A short, unpaved parking area is located southeast of the building.

Building Description

The library is a single-story, hipped-roof, Classical Revival-style building that faces southwest at the corner of an intersection (Figure 3, Photograph 1). It is one story in height with a full basement and attic and measures 62-by-58 feet in plan. The exterior is clad in pressed grey brick with limestone quoining and granite trim. The roof is covered in asphalt shingles with lead-coated copper flashing lining the ridge. The central portion of the roof is covered contains a skylight is located northeast of the ridge.

The façade is three bays wide with a central entrance set within a projecting portico. The portico side walls are finished at the front with incised pilasters, each featuring a Greek key design atop a tall vertical panel (Photograph 3). These, along with two engaged Ionic columns, support the tympanum which carries the frieze and pediment. The frieze above is carved with the words “PUBLIC LIBRARY” arranged centrally above the entrance.

The hipped roof features two wide, interior brick chimneys with corbeled caps. There is a narrow overhang at the eaves, which is lined by a projecting molded cornice set atop a band of egg-and-dart molding that, in turn, sits atop a wide frieze band. This is lined at the bottom by a tripartite stepped architrave (Photograph 2). This same design continues around the roofline of the building on all elevations. A Yankee gutter system installed in 2005 supplies roof drainage. The building rests on a raised, rough-cut granite foundation lined by an ashlar cut granite belt course.

¹ Prior to construction of the library, this road was known as South Pearl Street.

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The door is set within a wide, flat surround and is topped by a festoon meeting a central cartouche with stylized palmettes at each corner. This sits atop a projecting cornice supported by scrolled corbels. The door itself is a modern, metal and glass unit flanked by narrow, full-height sidelights and topped by a tall, square transom. This replaced a pair of wooden framed doors and transom in the original design (Figure 7).

The entrance is accessed by seven granite steps lined by granite pier walls capped by slabs. Each knee wall is topped by a roaring lion statue with a bronze plaque recording a dedication to Attorney Phillip E. Tatoian, Sr. by his wife (Photograph 4). Historic postcards indicate that wrought iron lamp posts topped by globe lights once stood in their place (Figure 6). Modern wrought iron and steel pipe railings line the steps. A ground level entrance to the basement is accessed on the north side of the portico behind the steps. The door to this entrance has a single, square light set above two panels set within an unadorned, recessed surround.

The windows are the same on the façade and side elevations. All are paired with single lights topped by paired, square transoms set in wooden frames within a recessed surround. The lintel features a Greek key design set between incised panels and the windows rest on projecting, molded limestone sills.

The northwest and southeast (side) elevations are identical to one another in design with large, semi-circular bays along the western (front) half of the building. A single window, mirroring those on the facade supplies light to the rear half of the structure on each side (Photograph 5). The roofline trim (minus the egg-and-dart detail) continues above the three windows of each bay, forming a continuous lintel course formed by the bottom of the stacked architrave. The window glass is curved to accommodate the shape of the bay, and each is a single light set in a fixed wooden sash topped by a transom. A simple limestone sill finishes the window framing. The rear window is composed of a pair of one-over-one double-hung sash windows topped by a lintel featuring the same Greek key design found on the façade and a flat sill (Photograph 6). Basements windows consisting of square, single lights set in wooden sashes rest are arranged beneath each opening above and rest directly on the rough-cut granite foundation.

The northeast (rear) elevation is dominated by a semicircular, double-height projection that is composed of ten bays divided by brick piers (Photograph 7). Each pier rests directly on the granite foundation. The eight central bays feature double-hung sash windows topped by tall transoms set in wooden frames that provide natural light to the stack room. Each window is topped by flat lintels and rest on flat sills that reach from pier-to-pier. These windows are aligned above square, single-light fixed basement windows with wide, flat lintels. Brick spandrel panels fill the spaces between the windows. The southernmost bay has a single window set within a brick spandrel panel and provides light to the librarian's office. The northern bay features a ground level paneled door with a single light above. A wooden door with a light in the upper panel provides access to the ground level (Photograph 8) at the northwest corner and a metal fire door at the basement level is located south of the projecting section on this elevation (Photograph 9).

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Interior

The interior of the library includes 5,404 square feet on the first and basement levels. After entering through the vestibule, the plan of the main floor is arranged around a central circulation area that is flanked by reading rooms on the north and south. East of each of these rooms are offices that flank a central stack area. Stairs on the north and south of the vestibule lead to the basement level and a second stair is at the southeastern corner of the first floor. Entrance to the building is through a modern steel and glass door leading into a small square vestibule with tall ceilings (Photograph 10). A curving stairwell leading to the basement is located to the north immediately upon entry and is lined by a balustrade featuring a molded handrail and turned balusters. The public is blocked from using this stairwell by a velvet rope. The newel post has a simple flat cap and is turned to repeat the same pattern found on the balusters (Photograph 11). On the opposite wall is a five-panel door leading to a set of straight stairs and a radiator to heat the space (Photograph 12).² Bulletin boards line the plaster walls, which feature a tall baseboard. Wide, molded trim surrounds all the openings and a molded plaster picture rail and cornice line the ceiling. This same molding scheme is carried throughout the interior.

The doors have brass knobs and hardware (Photograph 13). The floor in this area is carpeted but was originally terrazzo (which is likely present beneath). The original inner vestibule door leads to the delivery room and has a single, full-height light set into a wooden frame lined by a narrow band of molded trim. The doorway is topped by a large, square transom. Engaged pilasters decorate each corner of the circulation room (Photograph 14).

The central part of the library is the circulation room; a square space that measures approximately 15-by-15 feet and has 14-foot ceilings. The floor is finished in two-color terrazzo marble. A circulation desk for the librarian is located at the southeast corner (Photograph 15). Per Carnegie's recommendations, this location was chosen to provide a clear view of the reception and reading rooms. The walls in the reading and circulation rooms have tall baseboards, a picture rail, and a narrow band of cornice trim (Photograph 16). Windows and doors are trimmed with a wide band of molding throughout. Apart from the central circulation space, the floors have been carpeted and the walls are plastered. Lighting is through a combination of new and older dropped pendants, none of which appear to be original.

To the south of the delivery room is the adult reading room, measuring 30-by-20 feet (Photograph 17). On the opposite side of the hall is a children's reading room measuring around the same size. In both spaces there are fireplaces centered on the eastern walls. In the adult reading room, the fireplace has a simple surround decorated with three panels arranged above the brick opening and two engaged pilasters supporting the mantle. The hearth is a single slab of granite (Photograph 18).

² The original plans for the building (Figure 11) indicate that two curved staircases were originally planned for this space.

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In the children's reading room, a door on the east wall, north of the fireplace, leads into what was originally planned as the reference room and now is used as a computer lab (Photograph 20). The fireplace surround in the reading room is more ornately decorated with carved bows, swags, and birds. A plaque on the fireplace states that it was taken from a local house that was demolished (Photograph 21). The walls in this space are only lined by a narrow band of cornice trim near the ceiling. A second doorway on the south wall leads into the stack room.

The circulation area opens to the east into the semicircular stack room with double-height windows which floods the room with natural light. A librarian's office that measures approximately 14-by-8 feet is accessed through a rear stair hall that also leads to the basement and attic (Photograph 22). There are two closets on the north wall as well as another access to the stairwell (Photograph 23). A small storage room that was converted to a bathroom is found on the other (east) side of the stairwell (Photograph 24).

The attic is unfinished, with only portions of the floor covered by sheathing. The roof rafters run from the plate (set on top of the brick walls) to the ridge and are supported by angled braces at the corners of and midway along the center of each hip. Additional vertical 2 x 4 members provide support and appear to have been added during the most recent renovation. A skylight is located on the northeast elevation. (Photograph 25). The brick chimneys and knee walls are also visible in this space (Photograph 26). Extra egg and dart molding is being stored in this space.

The basement level is accessed at the front and rear of the building. The western half of this space is used as a community room/meeting hall and the eastern half for utilities and storage. The walls in the community room are plastered and the rest of the spaces are exposed brick (Photograph 27). At the landing of the rear stairwell is a door leading directly to the exterior. The stairwell has a wooden banister with straight balusters and square newel posts (Photograph 28).

On the west side of the stairwell is access to the meeting hall and south of the stairs is a small lavatory. Continuing down to the basement level, the stairs end at a hall with brick walls and arched openings. Floors in the basement are covered in original asphalt tile over cement. To the north is a door leading to the work room with brick walls and windows (Photograph 29). Light is provided by the bottom edges of the windows from the stack room (Photograph 30). Immediately to the north of the lower stair hall there is a door leading to a rear hall that, according to the original plans was an area for a stage (Photograph 31). This area continues north to a second door which leads to a second stairwell. This area has a double stair with central pipe railing that leads directly to the exterior of the building at the northeast corner (Photograph 32). A door on the west wall of this space leads back into the meeting room.

In the meeting room, the plaster ceiling is approximately eight feet in height and the floor is carpeted. Windows on the side bays extend down into this space to provide light. Additional light is provided by hanging fluorescent units. There are three wooden steps that lead to a set of double doors on the western wall (Photograph 33). These provide access to the front stairwells leading from the vestibule. South of these doors is the curved base of the stairs leading to the second floor (Photograph 34). The curved staircase is finished with a turned post and squared cap. The railing is molded, and the balusters are similarly turned (Photograph 35).

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Integrity

The Pearl Street Library has undergone very few changes since it was originally constructed and therefore retains a high degree of integrity. It occupies the same small corner lot on which it was first constructed within a densely built residential neighborhood, thereby retaining integrity of location and setting. It also retains integrity of design - the building underwent restoration in 1990, which resulted in some changes to the use of spaces such as inclusion of a computer room in the former research area, but it appears to have resulted in very little alteration of the original interior materials. The granite steps were reset in 2005 and additional railings put in place. A full lead remediation project was also undertaken that same year, but plans indicate that historic fabric was retained wherever possible, and any repairs or replacement of materials was completed with in-kind. The original Yankee gutter system was also restored at that time. Plans show that integrity of materials and workmanship was maintained since they were repaired where possible or replaced in kind utilizing the same high level of craftsmanship employed in the construction of the original building. Since the Pearl Street Library also continues to function as a branch library and is an important community landmark, it retains integrity of feeling and association.

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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.)

- 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 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

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Social History

Architecture

Period of Significance

1914

Significant Dates

1914: Building constructed

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

McLean & Wright

McLean & McLean (after 1911)

Savage & Drake, builders

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Enfield Carnegie Library (now known as the Pearl Street Branch Library) is significant under Criterion A in the area of Social History at the local level as an example of the philanthropic program administered by Andrew Carnegie (1835-1919) and his personal secretary James Bertram (1872-1934) from 1892-1917 that funded 1,679 public libraries in communities across the United States, 11 of which are in Connecticut.³ By constructing these libraries, Carnegie provided residents with access to a self-taught education. As a rapidly growing factory village with an equally growing need to provide public infrastructure like roads and schools, the decision to invest in a public library for Enfield was a fraught one. Ultimately, it was through the unwavering efforts of local John Lamont Pickens (1870-1954) that the funding was secured. The library is also significant under Criterion C as an excellent example of a Classical Revival-style, or “Carnegie Classical” library designed by Boston-based architect William H. McLean (1871-1943) who was well-known for his designs of schools and libraries throughout New England. Most of his designs drew on classically inspired and Beaux-Arts precedents. McLean designed two other Carnegie-funded libraries in Connecticut in West Haven (1906) and South Norwalk (1908) prior to taking on the design for Enfield. Of these, Enfield’s library remains the most intact; there have been no major additions or renovations to the original plan as it was constructed in 1914. The period of significance is the building date of 1914.

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

Criterion A: Social History - Andrew Carnegie and the Carnegie Corporation

Andrew Carnegie (1835-1919) was a well-known 20th century industrialist, who contributed to the global expansion of American steel. He was born in Dunfermline, Scotland to William and Margaret (Morrison) Carnegie.¹ His father was a linen weaver and one of the founders of the local Tradesman's Subscription Library. Carnegie’s formal education in Scotland ended in 1848 when his family immigrated to America in search of employment. Once there, they joined his mother’s family in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Carnegie supplemented his formal education through weekly visits to the home of Colonel James Anderson, who allowed working boys from Pittsburgh access to his personal library every Saturday. Carnegie began work as a bobbin boy in a weaving shed and later became a messenger boy for a telegraph company. He was introduced to the Pennsylvania Railroad Company through his work as personal secretary and telegraph operator for superintendent Thomas Scott.⁴ Carnegie capitalized on what were initially the modest investments in ironworks he made while working for

³ Mary M. Donohue and Kory Mills, “Connecticut’s Carnegie Libraries,” Accessed November 30, 2023, <https://www.ctexplored.org/connecticut-carnegie-libraries/>

⁴ George S. Bobinski, *Carnegie Libraries* (Chicago: American Library Association, 1969), 9.

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the railroad and eventually founded the Keystone Bridge Company. Along with his brother and a small group of investors, Carnegie founded the Carnegie Brothers Steel Company, later renamed the Carnegie Steel Company. This company became massively successful and dominated the steel industry in America throughout the latter part of the 19th century. Because of this, Carnegie earned the moniker of the “Steel King.” He sold his steel company, then known as U. S. Steel, to a conglomerate operated by J. P. Morgan, for just over \$490 million (which would be the equivalent of \$8.9 billion today) upon his retirement in 1901.⁵

Carnegie was well-known for believing that “the man who dies thus rich dies disgraced” and funded his first library in his hometown of Dunfermline, Scotland in 1879. It was dedicated in a ceremony attended by Carnegie and his mother who laid the foundation stone in July of 1881 and opened to the public in August of 1883.⁶

By 1889, Carnegie had published two articles entitled “Wealth” and “Best Fields for Philanthropy” in *North American Review* that detailed his stance on philanthropic work. The second of these articles outlined Carnegie’s seven key areas of philanthropic giving: 1) to found or enlarge a university, 2) to found Free Libraries, 3) to establish hospitals or laboratories, 4) to present Public Parks, 5) to open Public Halls with Organs, 6) to erect Swimming Baths, and 7) to build Churches.⁷

In his section on Free Libraries, Carnegie wrote about his own experience and the impact that free libraries had on his life:

“The result of my own study of the question, ‘What is the best gift that can be given to a community?’ is that a free library occupies the first place, provided that the community will accept and maintain it as a public institution, as much a part of the city property as its public schools...It is no doubt, possible that my own personal experience may have led me to value a free library beyond all other forms of beneficence. When I was a boy in Pittsburg [sic], Colonel Anderson...opened his little library of four hundred books to boys. Every Saturday afternoon he was in attendance himself at his house to exchange books...My brother and Mr. Phipps, who have been my principal business partners through life, shared with me Colonel Anderson’s precious generosity, and it was when reveling in these treasures that I resolved, if ever wealth came to me, that it should be used to establish free libraries, that other poor boys might receive opportunities similar to those for which we were indebted to that noble man....No millionaire will go far wrong in his search for one best forms for the use of his surplus who chooses to establish a free library in any community that is willing to maintain and develop it. John Bright’s words should ring in his ear: ‘It is impossible for any man to bestow a greater benefit upon a young man than to give him access to books in a free library.’”⁸

⁵ “Andrew Carnegie & James Bertram,” *Carnegie Libraries in Iowa Project*, Accessed December 12, 2023, <https://carnegiibrariesiowa.org/andrew-carnegie-james-bertram/>; Davis Nasaw, *Andrew Carnegie* (New York: The Penguin press, 2006).

⁶ Nasaw, p 204.

⁷ Andrew Carnegie & James Bertram – Carnegie Libraries in Iowa Project (carnegiibrariesiowa.org), Andrew Carnegie, “The Best Fields for Philanthropy,” *North American Review* v.149, n.397 (December 1889), 688-691.

⁸ Andrew Carnegie, “The Best Fields for Philanthropy,” *North American Review* v.149, n.397 (December 1889), 688-691.

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Carnegie followed this article with the publication of a book entitled *The Gospel of Wealth* in which he stated that the first half of a man's life should be spent amassing wealth, and the second half should be spent giving it away. Carnegie began his program at a period in American history when communities desperately needed help financing public buildings, including libraries. Instead of purpose-built public buildings, many communities relied on memorial bequests to fund construction. It was common for libraries to occupy offices, shops, or other private buildings. His philanthropic library scheme was divided into two periods. The first, known as his "retail period," lasted from about 1886 to 1896. During this time, he funded the construction of 14 buildings in six communities across the United States. Most of these included attached recreational facilities such as pools, galleries, or lecture halls making the libraries serve as community centers. Carnegie's second phase of library grants, known as his "wholesale period," lasted from 1898 to 1919. During this phase Carnegie distributed grants of \$10,000 or less to 1,406 towns totaling \$39,172,981 (approximately \$180,000 and \$711,397,185 respectively today) and shifted his support to smaller library buildings intended for municipalities that had limited access to cultural establishments.

In 1911, Carnegie was influenced by his friend, well-known statesman Elihu Root, to establish a philanthropic trust charged with distributing his wealth. In response, he founded the Carnegie Corporation to administer the grants and remained its president until his death in 1919.⁹ Two other men served on the executive committee alongside Carnegie. James Bertram (1872-1934), Carnegie's personal secretary, had almost total control over the library granting program. Bertram, like his boss from Scotland, created and reviewed submitted applications for proposed libraries, and handled all correspondence between the applicants and the Corporation. Robert A. Franks, the financial secretary and later treasurer of the Carnegie Corporation, distributed funds through the Home Trust Company of Hoboken, New Jersey, which was established to manage Carnegie's wealth after his retirement.¹⁰

When John Pickens of Enfield decided to pursue a grant through the Carnegie Corporation, he corresponded directly with Bertram, who was known for his abrupt tone. Albeit tersely written, the voluminous correspondence with Pickens also demonstrated that Bertram often went above and beyond to accommodate requests. Applicants were expected to display several requirements, including town population and whether the town already had a library, in their Schedule of Questions. He also asked whether a site had been secured by the town and how much the town was willing to dedicate annually in support of the completed library. When deciding on amounts for each applicant, Bertram calculated approximately \$2 to \$3 per resident.¹¹

It should be noted that many viewed Carnegie's philanthropy with suspicion.¹² In 1892, the labor contract between the Carnegie Steel Company and the Amalgamated Association of Iron and Steel Workers Union, who represented 3,800 workers in the company, was set to expire on July 1. Carnegie, who was in Scotland at the time, left his company in the hands of his operations manager, Henry Clay Frick, who broke the contract ahead of the expiration date. Frick cut wages, locked the workers out of the mill and surrounded the building with a barbed wire-topped fence, and then

⁹ George S. Bobinski, *Carnegie Libraries* (Chicago: American Library Association, 1969), 3.

¹⁰ Bobinski, 26.

¹¹ Bobinski, 39.

¹² Bobinski, 105.

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fired all 3,800 workers. Four days later, Frick hired 300 Pinkerton detectives to occupy the mill, which incited thousands of workers and their families to raid the plant. Pinkerton detectives were a private security and detective agency which began around 1850. They became involved in anti-labor activities and strikebreaking after the Civil War and were known for their brutality in dealing with such situations. This episode, called the 1892 Homestead Strike, resulted in the death of 16 people and numerous others wounded.¹³ Although out of the country during this time, Carnegie's reputation was damaged, and he was viewed as a ruthless businessman. While some said that his libraries were built "on the backs of working men who couldn't have the time to use them," others criticized him for granting money to municipalities with unreasonable stipulations. In retrospect, the stipulations that included community investment appear to be fair. He required the municipality to own the land on which the library was to be built; that future expansion had to be possible to accommodate a growing population; and maintenance had to be pledged in an amount that was equivalent to ten percent of the gift annually.

Thompsonville

Around the turn of the 20th century, Thompsonville was one of several smaller population centers in the town of Enfield. The village's development from farmland to industrial center began in the late 1820s when Orrin Thompson built a weaving mill and hired a small group of experienced carpet weavers from Scotland.¹⁴ In 1837, he consolidated this plant with the neighboring Tariffville mill, which he had acquired that same year. Over the next 14 years, Thompson grew increasingly tired of dealing with his highly skilled workforce of Scottish weavers¹⁵ and made a deep investment in mechanized looms to replace them. He went bankrupt in 1851.¹⁶ The company grew prosperous in the late 19th century thanks to the demand for the types of carpets made in Thompsonville and became known as the Hartford Carpet Company. To house the incoming workers who came from England, Scotland, Prussia and later Poland, Greece, and Italy tenement housing was constructed on the blocks surrounding the factory. As the village continued to expand,

¹³ Joseph Adamczyk, "Homestead Strike," *Britannica*, Accessed December 18, 2023, <https://www.britannica.com/money/topic/Homestead-Strike>; "Homestead Strike: Topics in Chronicling America," *Library of Congress*, Accessed December 18, 2023, <https://guides.loc.gov/chronicling-america-homestead-strike#:~:text=In%201892%2C%20the%20Carnegie%20Steel,people%20and%20causing%20many%20injuries>.

¹⁴ Because industry and the establishment of mills was a relatively new pursuit in New England, importation of skilled labor from Europe was common at this time, particularly from places like England and Scotland where the Industrial Revolution had been underway for decades. See Jamie H. Eves, "Mills and Migrants," *The Mill Museum*, Accessed December 18, 2023, [https://millmuseum.org/mills-and-migrants/#:~:text=Because%20rural%20Yankees%20had%20little,Industrial%20Revolution%20was%20already%20Ounderway; And Matthew Lavalley, "Immigration in Lowell: New Waves of Nativism," Boston University, Accessed December 18, 2023, https://www.bu.edu/writingprogram/journal/past-issues/issue-3/lavalley/](https://millmuseum.org/mills-and-migrants/#:~:text=Because%20rural%20Yankees%20had%20little,Industrial%20Revolution%20was%20already%20Ounderway; And Matthew Lavalley,)

¹⁵ The immigration of Scottish weavers resulted in the settlement of a distinct ethnic population whose numbers equaled the non-Scottish residents of Thompsonville. The skill of the Scottish weavers, along with their large numbers, enabled them to have significant bargaining power. Over the course of the 1820s and 1830s, this power led to disputes over wages and working terms, which finally erupted into a major strike in 1834. The case was finally settled in court in 1836 with a jury finding in favor of the weavers. See "Thompsonville Carpet Weavers Strike of 1834," *State of Connecticut*, Accessed December 18, 2023, <https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Publications/Labor/Thompsonville-Carpet-Weavers-Strike-1834>

¹⁶ Bruce Clouette and Maura Cronin, *National Register nomination for Bigelow-Hartford Carpet Mills Historic District* (NPS, 1994).

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Pearl Street became a major north-south thoroughfare. From 1890 to 1910 the number of employees working in the carpet factory rose from 1,800 to 2,900.¹⁷

By the 1910s, the carpet mills were known as the Bigelow-Hartford Carpet Mills and were the single largest employer in town, providing jobs for 2,900 people.¹⁸ To serve the needs of the population several schools, churches, and social halls were constructed in addition to several commercial buildings that accommodated professional offices, newspaper, saloons, and the stores.¹⁹ The need for a public library to serve the growing populace became apparent by the first decades of the 20th century.

Library in Enfield

The Enfield Library Association was first established in 1874 and its first collection housed in a private home on Enfield Street. It was funded by both private donations as well as the collection of annual dues - \$2.00 for an annual fee or \$10.00 for a lifetime subscription. Enfield's first publicly funded library was opened on the second floor of the Town Hall in Thompsonville on April 11, 1896.²⁰ Given the distance of Enfield's villages from the town center, it became necessary to establish branches. For instance, the E. C. Allen & Son General Store located in Hazardville had books for public use that were transported back and forth to the main branch via trolley on a weekly basis.²¹

In the decades preceding the turn of the 20th century, the town center shifted to Thompsonville where the bulk of the population then resided. In 1910, the town's library remained above the Town's offices but the need to expand and move the library was becoming readily apparent. As Enfield grew, it also required a library to mark its evolution from a small town to industrial center. However, the amount of money that could be gathered from taxes placed on a largely working-class population was limited. The funds that were raised were prioritized to provide schools and improve sanitary conditions in the town. This need to provide services for the new population meant that there was a very limited pool of money available for the construction of a library.

One citizen, John Lamont Pickens (1870-1954), took the need for a new library into his own hands. It was his persistence and unabashed determination to request money from the Carnegie Corporation that resulted in Enfield acquiring the funding to build its first public library. John Pickens was born in Enfield to Irish-immigrant Elizabeth Lamont and Scottish-immigrant John Pickens.²² As an adult, Pickens became a Library Board member, and it was this placement that led him to being responsible for filling out the application to the Carnegie Corporation. The

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ "The Thompsonville Carpet Industry (1829-1971)" Enfield Historical Society, Accessed December 10, 2023. <https://enfieldhistoricalsociety.org/old-town-hall/the-carpet-industry/>

¹⁹ Clouette and Cronin, 1994.

²⁰ This building was demolished as part of an urban renewal scheme. Enfield's first Town Hall now houses the Enfield Historical Society.

²¹ Dougherty, Gerry. "Enfield Central Library - 1874-1867" Enfield Public Library website. <https://www.flickr.com/photos/gcdougherty/3106725842/>

²² 1880 Federal census record.

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Federal Census from 1900 states that Pickens was living on Church Street along with his mother Elizabeth (67) and sister Jennie (26), who was employed at the nearby carpet factory. Mr. Pickens continued to live with his mother and sister in 1910 and by this time he and Jennie were both employed as bookkeepers in a flour and feed store.²³ It was that year that Pickens took it upon himself to apply to Andrew Carnegie to build a library for the growing town of Enfield. Pickens maintained his job at the feed store through 1940. Neither he nor his sister ever married, and they continued to live together through 1940 along with a lodger by the name of Annie Chestnut.²⁴ He later became a proprietor of the local hardware store and died after being struck by a car outside of his home at the age of 84.²⁵ From these facts we can discern that Mr. Pickens was a man of modest means and education, born to first generation American parents, yet had no trouble entreating one of the largest corporations in the world for exactly what Enfield needed. For these efforts he became known as the “father of Enfield’s library.”

Pickens began writing to Carnegie on March 22, 1910. The attached application noted that the town was served by a library that held 5,600 books and was situated in a 130 by 40-foot room above town offices. This room was used for everything including reading rooms, stacks, and circulation. It was noted that a site was available, and that the town had already pledged one sixth of one mill on \$6,500 or \$1,000 annually to maintain the library. Pickens wrote that “Enfield’s [10,000] inhabitants needed a library building here very much and I write these few lines to let you know our condition.” The following week, Pickens sent another letter stating that it would cost between \$25,000 and \$40,000 to build a suitable library building, “which would be a noble monument to the generosity of the giver.”²⁶

Enfield’s Board of Selectman supplemented Pickens’ application stating that the Town could only offer \$1,000 annually in maintenance, since funds had already been appropriated for the construction of two new schools. They also noted that raising additional money through taxes would be difficult since the majority of the population was composed of “wage earners”.²⁷ Bertram replied three days later reiterating that the conditions of the grant required the pledge of revenue from taxation and the advice that “you had better discuss the matter with your state librarian.”²⁸ The Board of Selectmen agreed to Bertram’s terms. Bertram made it clear that that Carnegie would only give \$10,000 for every town pledge of \$1,000 annually and that \$1,000 would not go very far in maintaining work on a \$25,000 building. He suggested that they wait for the result of the federal census to verify the amount that should be given based on the confirmed population. The issue of population was finally resolved on August 4, 1910, when Pickens forwarded the latest census bureau report stating that the total population of Enfield (inclusive of all villages) was 9,719.²⁹

In October, Bertram sent word that the amount pledged - \$1,000 annually raised through taxation – was again too low to serve the population and was “hardly worthwhile considering the matter

²³ 1910 Federal census record.

²⁴ 1940 Federal census record.

²⁵ “John Pickens Funeral,” *Hartford Courant* (Hartford, Conn), Feb. 15, 1954.

²⁶ Letter from Pickens to Bertram and Application for a library, March 22, 1910.

²⁷ Letter from the Board of Selectmen to Bertram, April 6, 1910.

²⁸ Letter from Bertram to the Board of Selectmen, April 9, 1910.

²⁹ Letter from Pickens to Bertram, August 4, 1910.

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further.”³⁰ Pickens refused to give up and responded on November 6 that he would like to call upon the offices of Andrew Carnegie in New York. The threat of appearing in person appeared to be an effective one. The following day, Bertram replied that Carnegie was unable to meet, but the application was on file and if the Town Council was willing to pass a resolution pledging \$1,250 annually to maintain the library and provide a suitable building site, Carnegie would give the money totaling \$12,500 to the town.³¹ Although grateful, Pickens requested an extra \$1,000 for every additional 100 residents.³² Bertram, clearly irritated, replied, that he had spent a considerable amount of time going back and forth on the matter already and that “You had better get together and say finally what you are prepared to give (sic).”³³

On December 8, 1910, the *Thompson Telegraph* ran a story with the heading “Town Meeting is Called” which mentioned citizens’ concerns over what would be included in the library stacks as well as Carnegie’s control of the library building process. Bertram hashed out terms throughout December until Pickens finally stated, “I trust that I may receive a letter from you at once stating that Mister Carnegie will stand by the offer he made, with no other conditions as I do not want to be made a liar in the eyes of our community because I took Mr. Carnegie's offer at its face value.”³⁴ Bertram replied that while there were no other conditions, it was his job and duty to review plans to be sure the money was well spent.³⁵

A special town meeting was held on December 15, 1910, and a resolution for the annual appropriation of \$1,250 for maintenance of the library was passed. The Carnegie Library Building Committee was formed asking for \$20,000 based on the \$2,000 agreed. The building site to be given by “citizens and former townspeople.”³⁶ On January 10, 1911, Bertram wrote to Pickens that he would happily increase the grant to \$20,000 once the site was purchased, and paid for, and the plans approved.³⁷ Pickens responded: “I express to you the gratitude of our entire community for your generosity and kindness to Old Enfield, Connecticut, wishing you many years of joy and kindness in this noble work you are doing.”³⁸ Bertram provided Pickens with guidance regarding site and building plans including his booklet, “Notes on Library Building.”³⁹

All seemed to be settled, especially after it became clear that all permanent fixtures, including stacks, were included in the funding.⁴⁰ On April 1, 1911, Pickens wrote Bertram asking what would happen if the Town could no longer afford the maintenance going forward. In his own handwriting at the bottom of the page Pickens asked in a postscript if Mr. Carnegie could give an exception because two of his childhood friends from Scotland - Robert Atkin and David Bennett -

³⁰ Letter from Bertram to Pickens, October 26, 1910.

³¹ Letter from Bertram to Pickens, dated November 7, 1910.

³² Letter from Pickens to Bertram, November 15, 1910.

³³ Letter from Bertram to Pickens, November 17, 1910.

³⁴ Letter from Pickens to Bertram, December 9, 1910.

³⁵ Letter from Bertram to Pickens, December 12, 1910.

³⁶ Minutes of the Special Town Meeting, December 15, 1910.

³⁷ Letter from Bertram to Pickens, January 10, 1911.

³⁸ Letter from Pickens to Bertram, January 14, 1911.

³⁹ Correspondence from Bertram to Pickens, January 18, 1911.

⁴⁰ Letter from Bertram to Pickens, March 29, 1911.

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were buried in Enfield.⁴¹ Bertram replied, that it appeared that the community was not in support of the library.⁴² Two days later, Pickens replied that the selectmen had called a special meeting after a resolution. He relayed that a petition started by the largest taxpayers in town had scared many people from the vote.⁴³

The townspeople rectified their differences and managed to pass a resolution by the Town Council on April 20th for a maintenance fund of \$2,000 a year to receive \$20,000 from Mr. Carnegie.⁴⁴ A newspaper article entitled “Enfield to Accept Carnegie’s Offer” was published in the *Hartford Courant*.⁴⁵ A committee was established and included: Charles H. Williams, Doctor Thomas G. Alcorn, George T. Matthewson, John Pickens, Mark W. Bushnell, H. Stephen Bridge, M. J. Conner and Francis P. Leary. The newspaper article stated, “Thus has Enfield redeemed herself from the ridiculous situation in which the town was placed by the unusual action at the last town meeting.”⁴⁶

On June 29, 1911, Pickens wrote Bertram stating that the town had accepted a site in the “best residential section in town” which was “quite a bit out of the way for most residents.” In October, he requested additional funds to purchase his preferred site near the High School in honor of Atkin. Pickens often tried to cajole Carnegie into releasing money or doing special favors on account of two of his “friends” who were buried in Enfield. On October 30, 1911, Bertram once again had enough and asked Pickens to stop making those requests and “keep within the limits originally set by us.”⁴⁷

Pickens remained undaunted and continued to ask Bertram for additional funding in a variety of ways through February of 1912. *The Springfield Union* reported on February 8, 1912, that a Carnegie library was to be erected in Thompsonville at the corner of Pearl and South Pearl streets. The Lot at Pearl and South Pearl was owned by William Watson and was purchased by the Town for \$1,500, of which \$1,000 was given by a former resident of town - Helen Phelps-Stokes. An additional \$450 was donated from residents in the vicinity of the favored site and \$465 by other citizens of Enfield.⁴⁸

It was reported that W. H. and Henry McLean, of Boston, were hired to design the building and John Egan of Windsor Locks would be the surveyor.⁴⁹ Plans were approved on January 20, 1912, albeit with some changes. The overall floor plan was not affected, however, and it was noted that the main entrance would face the street corner. The article also noted that contractor bids were going out shortly. The firm of Savage & Drake was ultimately chosen to construct the building

⁴¹ Letter from John Pickens to James Bertram, April 1, 1911.

⁴² Letter from Bertram to Pickens, April 4, 1911.

⁴³ Letter from Pickens to Bertram, April 6, 1911.

⁴⁴ A copy of the Town’s meeting minutes and resolution regarding the library was included with Pickens’ letter to Bertram on April 6, 1911.

⁴⁵ “Enfield to Accept Carnegie’s Offer”, *Hartford Courant*, April 21, 1911, p. 1.

⁴⁶ Letter to Bertram from Pickens, April 24, 1911.

⁴⁷ Letter from Bertram to Pickens, October 30, 1911.

⁴⁸ “Enfield Carnegie Library Building to be Erected in Springfield,” *Springfield Union*, (Springfield, MA), February 8, 1912, 1.

⁴⁹ By this time Wright had transitioned away from the firm and it had become McLean and McLean.

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composed of mason Willard Drake of Windsor Locks and finish carpenter Thomas Savage of Thompsonville.⁵⁰

Despite the positive newspaper reports, there was a lot going on behind the scenes. In March of 1912, Bertram wrote first to Pickens to deny his request for additional funds and scolded him, "it is too bad that you put busy people to the trouble of reiterating a plain statement so many times"⁵¹ and then complained to the Town Selectmen that, "Mr. Perkins has been writing a great number of unnecessary letters and generally taking up our time in a way that is inexcusable."⁵² He requested that the plans for the building be sent immediately.

After reviewing said plans, Bertram wrote back to Pickens in May to tell him that the plans were not acceptable; principally, he said the hall on the second floor was too much and should be relocated into the basement instead.⁵³ He was firm that the plans needed to be amended and also wrote directly to McLean to air his concerns.⁵⁴ McLean responded that Enfield was pushing back on the plans⁵⁵ and on May 8, 1912, Bertram replied, "I hope they will be amenable to reason." Eight days later, Pickens mailed the revised plans with the lecture room in the basement to Bertram.⁵⁶ The following day Bertram accepted the plans, but thought they were too rigid and there was no way they could be expanded. He conceded that they "present a fine symmetrical layout of accommodation" and if they were approved by the locals, then he would not object.⁵⁷ It appears he had been worn down.

On August 12, 1912, contracts to furnish materials for the completion of all painting, plumbing and electrical wiring were drawn up by the town for \$16,400 and a bond was furnished to guarantee fulfilling of the contract.⁵⁸ Two weeks later R. H. Franks, the Director of Financial Operations for Carnegie, was put in charge of the Enfield case.⁵⁹ On January 1, 1914, Pickens wrote to Bertram stating that a carpenter and a mason had almost completed their work and that the library will be ready for furniture in two weeks. He could not resist the temptation to make one last request of Bertram -an additional \$350 to pay for furniture.⁶⁰

Four days later, Bertram replied sadly that he could not accommodate the request and that he had to be firm on such matters.⁶¹ In his final letter to the Carnegie Corporation, written on February 20, 1914, Pickens asked if Mr. Carnegie would be able to attend the dedication, but Bertram replied with regrets on behalf of the benefactor.⁶²

⁵⁰ "Carnegie Library Formally Opened" Springfield Evening Union, Saturday, February 28, 1914, 13.

⁵¹ March 2, 1912 letter from Bertram to Pickens.

⁵² March 4, 1912 letter from Bertram to Chairman Board of Selectmen.

⁵³ Letter from Bertram to Pickens, May 6, 1912.

⁵⁴ Letter from Bertram to McLean and McLean, May 6, 1912.

⁵⁵ Letter from McLean to Bertram, May 7, 1912.

⁵⁶ Letter from Pickens to Bertram, May 15, 1912.

⁵⁷ Letter from Bertram to Pickens, May 16, 1912.

⁵⁸ Copy of certified not regarding contracts from Town of Enfield to Bertram, August 12, 1912.

⁵⁹ Letter from Bertram to Pickens, August 23, 1912.

⁶⁰ Letter from Pickens to Bertram, January 1, 1914.

⁶¹ Letter from Bertram to Pickens, January 5, 1914.

⁶² Letter from Bertram to Pickens, February 18, 1914.

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The library was dedicated on the evening of February 27, 1914.⁶³ The Reverend Dr. William S. Voorhies, pastor of the Presbyterian Church delivered the address, and the program included orchestral music and vocal selections. The building committee turned the keys to the building over to Selectman Abraham Cope.⁶⁴ It was opened to the public four days a week from 2-9 pm beginning on the fifth of May with Lillian Bradley serving as the librarian and Bessie Pease the assistant librarian.⁶⁵

On December 23, 1920, librarian Elizabeth A. McCroskey wrote to the Carnegie Corporation asking if it would be possible to receive a photograph of Mr. Carnegie (who had died in August of the previous year). Mr. Bertram's last correspondence with Enfield was to offer that an approved photograph of Mr. Carnegie could be obtained from Misters Davis and Sanford at 597 5th Ave. in New York.

In the 20th century, as suburban residential development continued to increase Enfield's population two new library branches were opened; the first in 1937 was located at the Brainard School and the second, built in 1939, was built as a stand-alone building on Lincoln Street. After John Pickens died in 1954, a new library building was built in his honor on school street in the Hazardville section of town. It was dedicated to "a man who loved and knew the value of libraries."⁶⁶ Continued suburban expansion in the post war period saw another uptick in Enfield's population and the need for a modern, centralized library was clear. In May of 1967, the taxpayers of the town voted to approve \$800,000 to build a new facility on Middle Road and the Lincoln Street and John Pickens branches were closed.⁶⁷ The Pearl Street Library remains a crucial part of the Enfield community and in 2014 this was demonstrated by the community celebration of the building's centennial.

Criterion C: Architecture

The Enfield Carnegie Library was designed in the Classical Revival style by McLean & Wright, a firm known for their prolific designs of public buildings throughout New England. The design of Enfield's library was a slightly pared down version of a plan they had employed in multiple instances and showcases certain character defining features such as a central projecting portico, classically inspired detailing, and symmetrical placement of windows. The design of this building was initially identical to that of the South Norwalk Library, completed in 1908, which was funded by Carnegie and approved by Bertram. To manage overspending on excessively constructed buildings, Bertram began to request plans for each library that same year.⁶⁸

To further manage excess in the designs presented, Bertram published a pamphlet for applicants entitled "Notes on the Erection of Library Buildings" in 1911 which provided guidance on building

⁶³ "Thompsonville's New Carnegie Library," *Thompsonville Press* (Thompsonville, CT), Feb. 26, 1914.

⁶⁴ Ibid.

⁶⁵ "The New Library," *Thompsonville Press* (Thompsonville, CT), May 7, 1914.

⁶⁶ "Home," *Enfield Public Library*, Accessed December 4, 2023, <https://www.enfieldpubliclibrary.org/>.

⁶⁷ Ibid.

⁶⁸ George S. Bobinski, *Carnegie Libraries* (Chicago, IL: American Library Association, 1969), 47.

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design. Bertram commonly suggested changes or rejected plans that wasted space or money on inefficiencies such as grand entrances or “overwrought” domes. All the applications that were accepted shared similar characteristics: a rectangular shaped building with a single floor, a lecture hall placed in the basement, stacks, a circulation area, and separate reading rooms for adults and children.⁶⁹

Entrances were to be kept modest and the circulation desk was to be close to the entrance but in a place where the entire library could be made visible. The ability to see into the stacks was considered crucial according to the guidance provided.⁷⁰ The basement contained storage, lecture rooms, mechanicals and rest rooms. Fireplaces were discouraged by Bertram because they took up space that could be used for books.⁷¹ Natural light was preferred by Bertram for the reading rooms. He didn’t dictate a particular style, but it was assumed that it would be one that was both dignified and modest in design.

Given the time in which they were funded, the Classical Revival style was a common choice for Carnegie libraries. The style became popular after it was used to build the famous White City of the 1892 Columbian Exposition in Chicago, Illinois. Around 25 percent of Carnegie funded libraries were designed in the Classical Revival style and as a result “Carnegie Classical” became a common term.⁷² Carnegie Classical libraries typically conformed to plans A, B or C from Bertram’s pamphlet and Enfield’s library is a variation on example B (Figures 8 and 9).⁷³ They were balanced, with simple ornamentation on the interior and exterior. Dentils, cartouches, and pilasters were commonly used and were employed in the design for Enfield as well.

The variations in Carnegie-funded libraries tend to be fairly minor despite location as evidenced by two Carnegie Libraries that have been listed on the National Register fairly recently: the neoclassical-style Ironwood Carnegie Library in Ironwood Michigan (1902, NR listed in 2011)⁷⁴ and the Canton Carnegie Library in Canton, South Dakota (1913, NR listed in 2016).⁷⁵ The first was built prior to Bertram’s approval of architects’ plans in 1908. The second was built after the approval process was instated and after Bertram codified guidelines in his published pamphlet. It is notable how similar in design the two buildings are to one another and to Enfield’s Library. They are all constructed of brick with hipped roofs, and central entrances arranged beneath classically inspired porticos. The porticos helped to identify the public entrance while lending a sober appearance to what was often one of the most important educational tools in the community.

⁶⁹ Ibid., 58.

⁷⁰ James Bertram. *Notes on the Erection of Library Buildings* (New York, NY: Carnegie Corporation of New York). Accessed December 10, 2023, <https://digitalcollections.library.cmu.edu/node/85459>.

⁷¹ Ibid., 62-63.

⁷² Theodore Jones, *Carnegie Libraries Across America: A Public Legacy* (New York, NY: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 1997), 67.

⁷³ Ibid., 69

⁷⁴ R. O. Christensen, “National Register of Historic Places Registration: Ironwood Carnegie Library” National Park Service, 2011 (NRHP 11000948).

⁷⁵ Becky Heikkila, Liz Almlie "National Register of Historic Places Registration: Canton Carnegie Library" National Park Service, 2016 (NRHP 16000826).

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The plans for Enfield's initial design differed somewhat significantly from the final product (Figure 10). Images in the local newspaper show a rendering of the original design by McLean & Wright with latticed attic windows, decorative urns and a large, elliptical transom above the main door. On the plan, two curved stairwells lead to the basement in the front stair hall (Figure 11). Instead, only one of the stairwells was built to save on construction costs. Most significantly, the initial designs by McLean & Wright called for an upper floor hall seating approximately 200 with a stage and three auxiliary rooms. These would include cabinets for mineral collections and curios constructed of white birch. The basement included utilitarian rooms containing a heater and coal bins, a men's reading room or gymnasium and storage.

These changes were facilitated by Bertram who asked McLean to revise the design. On May 6, 1912, Bertram wrote a stern letter to William McLean stating that the plans of this building were identical to those he had drawn up for South Norwalk, but unlike Norwalk, the people in Enfield were told that they had to adhere to the newly developed design review. The following day, McLean wrote back to Bertram that Enfield didn't want a basement conference room due to "a number of factors, but also owing to the grading at the site and the fact that it may end up being damp." It was clear that McLean was used to consulting with Bertram and happy to accommodate his request, but Enfield was pushing back on the modified plans. It is also clear that Enfield eventually capitulated to Bertram to secure the funding. Instead, the basement became the lecture hall as Bertram intended and the exterior ornamentation became much less elaborate. The rear, double-height windows and curved bay in the stack room remained unchanged – an element that brought a tremendous amount of natural light into the space and appears almost modern in its design when contrasted with the classical appearance of the façade.

Carnegie Libraries in Connecticut

Enfield's Library was one of eleven buildings in eight Connecticut communities funded by Carnegie between 1901 and 1914. All eleven of Connecticut's libraries are still standing, but of these, Enfield is the only one that continues to serve its original purpose with no major additions or changes to the plan as it was originally constructed in 1914. Two have been converted to churches – the neoclassical Dixwell Branch by Norton and Townsend in New Haven (1921, NR listed 1988) and the classical revival-style East Side Branch of the Bridgeport Public Library (1918). Two serve as offices - the Italian Renaissance revival-style North Branch of the Bridgeport Public Library (1918) and the classical revival-style Davenport branch library (1913). Finally, the Renaissance Revival-style West End Library by Edward Lippincott Tilton in Unionville (Farmington) (1917, NR listed in 2000) houses the local historical society.

Those that still function as libraries, but have undergone significant alterations include the Queen Anne-style Norwalk Library (1903, SR listed 1974) at One Belden Avenue, by William and George Audsley which was substantially expanded in 1982; the classical revival-style Derby Neck Library (1907) by Henry Killam Murphy at 307 Hawthorne Avenue which was enlarged in 1972 and again in 2002; the Carnegie classical revival-style South Norwalk Branch Library (1908), at 10 Washington Street, designed by McLean & Wright is still used as a branch library, but has had two large additions in 1950 and in 2005; the West Haven Library (1906) at 300 Elm Street by McLean & Wright was completed in August of 1906, with major additions constructed in 1960

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and 2002. A later example of a Carnegie Library that has been altered beyond recognition is the Fair Haven Branch (1916) of the New Haven Public Library at 182 Grand Avenue which was originally constructed by an unknown architect in the colonial revival-style but underwent a major renovation in 1993.

Of these, Enfield is the only Carnegie Library in the state that has remained in continuous use. As such, it is one of the best examples found of Carnegie libraries designed by an architectural firm that was not only prolific but specialized in library design. This was Enfield's main library building until 1967 when the current central library was constructed.

McLean and Wright/McLean & McLean

The Boston-based architectural firm of McLean & Wright were responsible for the initial design of the Pearl Street Library. William Herbert McLean (1871-1943) and Albert Hayden Wright (1871-1919) specialized in the design of public libraries from 1905 until 1911. The contract for Enfield came at the end of their partnership. By the time the building was constructed, the firm had been restructured to include William's father Henry McLean. They were referred to in various directories and newspapers after 1912 as either W. H. & Henry McLean or simply McLean & McLean. As part of these firms, W. H. McLean was responsible for the design of thirteen Carnegie-funded libraries.

William McLean was born in Boston in 1871, and he received his early training in part from his father who was employed as a builder in the Boston suburb of Newton, Massachusetts. William McLean graduated from the Massachusetts College of Art and Design in 1888 and first appears as an architect in Boston City directories in 1897. One of his first jobs was for the Boston-based firm of Gould, Angell & Swift and contributed to the design of the Richards Memorial Library, completed in 1894, in North Attleborough, Massachusetts.⁷⁶ After Gould, Angell & Swift was dissolved in 1897, McLean worked for the firm of Winslow & Wetherell. He operated an independent office on Tremont Street before forming a partnership with Albert H. Wright in 1902.⁷⁷ McLean was known for employing variations on the classical revival and Beaux Arts styles despite receiving no formal training.

By 1910, his firm had established a reputation designing several Carnegie public library buildings in towns located mainly in New Hampshire, Vermont, and eastern Massachusetts. McLean's portfolio of public buildings also included several schools throughout New England. In Connecticut, he designed the Tourtellotte Memorial High School in North Grosvenordale (1907); in Massachusetts he designed the Newton Street School in Greenfield (1915, NRHP listed in 1988); and in Vermont he was responsible for the design of Peoples Academy in Morrisville (1927-28, NRHP 1996).⁷⁸ Two of McLean's later commissions included the Vermont Building

⁷⁶ Betsy Friedburg. *North Attleborough Town Center Historic District* (MACRIS: NAL.A, 1985), 4.

⁷⁷ McLean & Wright first appears in the Boston City Directories in 1902.

⁷⁸ Henry F. Withey and Elsie Rathburn Withey, *Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (deceased)* (Los Angeles, California: Hennessey & Ingalls, Inc., 1970), 413.

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(1929) and the New Hampshire Building (1930) at the Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield, MA.

Albert H. Wright was born in Clayton, New Jersey and came to Massachusetts as a young man. The partnership between McLean & Wright appears to have been dissolved by 1912, after which time Wright formed an independent practice from 1912 to 1917 in Quincy, Massachusetts. According to a newspaper report about his death in *The Boston Globe*, he had “designed the plans for many schoolhouses in this and other cities.” He died there unexpectedly on February 10, 1919 at the age of 48.⁷⁹ From 1912 to 1916 a new firm of McLean & McLean Architects was listed in Boston, and from 1917 until 1941 William McLean continued to work under his own name as an architect there. He died at Middleboro, MA on January 10, 1943.⁸⁰

Several of the public buildings designed by McLean have been listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In Connecticut, these include his designs for the Brainard Memorial Library in Haddam (1906-1908, listed in the Haddam Center Historic District in 1989), the Hungerford Memorial Library in Harwinton (1909, listed in the Litchfield-South Roads HD in 1996), and the West Haven Public Library in West Haven. In partnership with Albert H. Wright and his father Henry McLean, William McLean was responsible for the co-design of many libraries throughout New England, including 13 funded by Carnegie. These are almost uniformly designed using McLean’s typical three bay façade with an elevated, central portico. On the interior, McLean again almost uniformly employs a “T-shaped” plan similar to the one used at Enfield featuring a central receiving or circulation room flanked by reading rooms and offices, with stacks on the opposite end of the main entrance. Basements are public gathering spaces. Most of McLean’s works employ elements of Beaux-Art, neo-classical or classical revival styles. They are all also constructed of masonry (brick being most common) with stone detailing. Changes to his style and design again appeared to be driven by the economics of the situation.

One of McLean’s earliest Carnegie commissions was for the Rockland Memorial Library, in Rockland, MA (1903, NRHP listed in 1989). This is an elaborate Georgian Revival-style building with a central dome and elaborate modillioned cornice. Whether he was influenced by the sobering influence of Bertram or the financial concerns of his clients, McLean’s commissions appeared to draw consistently on the same classically inspired style but became more simplified over time. When comparing Rockland Memorial to one of his later commissions in Athol, MA, it is clear he is paring down his aesthetic. The Athol Library has a classical revival-style edifice, but the façade is flat with pilasters and only a stepped parapet marking the entrance. The arched openings and polychrome design of the red brick walls and limestone details carry the design.

A sample of McLean’s work includes the following commissions: Carnegie Public Library, Turners Falls, MA (1905); Gregg Free Library, Wilton, NH (1905–07, NRHP listed in 1982); Brainard Memorial Library, Haddam, CT (1906–08); Ramsdell Public Library, Housatonic, MA (1906–08, NRHP listed in 2014); William D. Weeks Memorial Library, Lancaster, NH (1906–08, NRHP listed in 2000); Hungerford Memorial Library, Harwinton, CT (1908–10); West Somerville Branch Library, Somerville, MA (1908–09, NRHP listed in 1989); Lebanon

⁷⁹ “Boston Architect Dies Suddenly in Quincy,” *Boston Globe* (Boston, MA), Feb. 11, 1919.

⁸⁰ “William H. McLean,” *Boston Globe* (Boston, MA), Jan. 11, 1943.

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Public Library, Lebanon, NH (1909); Shedd-Porter Memorial Library, Alstead, NH (1909–10, NRHP listed in 2010); Adams Public Library, Central Falls, RI (1910); Beals Memorial Library, Winchendon, MA (1910–11); Carver Memorial Library, Searsport, ME (1910, NRHP listed in 1993); Witherle Memorial Library, Castine, ME (1913); Abbie Greenleaf Library, Franconia, NH (1912, NRHP listed in 2003); and the Millbury Public Library, Millbury, MA (1915).

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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:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

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10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 0.29

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 72°59'76.10" | Longitude: 41°99'14.09" |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

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Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundaries of the nominated property are shown on Figure 2 and are consistent with the limits of the parcel identified as 22-85 in the Town of Enfield, Connecticut, GIS and assessment data (2024). This property is described in Volume 48, Page 306 of the Enfield Land Records.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries described above correspond to the legal parcel boundary those established for the property at the time the Pearl Street Library was constructed.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Stacey Vairo
organization: FuturePast Preservation
street & number: 17 Hard Hill Road
city or town: Woodbury state: CT zip code: 06798
e-mail svairo@gmail.com
telephone: 203-217-5795
date: November 15, 2023

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

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Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Pearl Street Library

City or Vicinity: Enfield, Connecticut

County: Hartford

State: Connecticut

Photographer: Stacey Vairo

Date Photographed: September 12, 2023 and December 3, 2023

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 35. Enfield Carnegie Library, view east.
- 2 of 35. Facade, view northeast.
- 3 of 35. Detail of portico, view northeast.
- 4 of 35. View of lion statue on knee wall of stairs, view northeast.
- 5 of 35. Southern elevation, view north/northeast.
- 6 of 35. Northern elevation, view south.
- 7 of 35. Rear of the building, view west.

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- 8 of 35. Entrance to ground level on northwest corner.
- 9 of 35. View of door leading to ground level on the southeast.
- 10 of 35. Main entrance to library – modern door, view southwest.
- 11 of 35. Curved stairwell in vestibule, view south.
- 12 of 35. Door leading to basement, northwest.
- 13 of 35. Door leading to circulation room, view northeast.
- 14 of 35. Door to vestibule, view southwest.
- 15 of 35. View through circulation desk to stacks.
- 16 of 35. View into adult reading room, view southeast.
- 17 of 35. Reading room, view northeast.
- 18 of 35. Fireplace surround, view east.
- 19 of 35. Children’s reading room, view north.
- 20 of 35. View into computer lab, formerly the research room, view north.
- 21 of 35. Mantle in children’s reading room, view east.
- 22 of 35. Librarian’s office, view south.
- 23 of 35. Stairwell leading to attic, view southwest.
- 24 of 35. View south looking into bathroom.
- 25 of 35. View in attic looking east.
- 26 of 35. View southwest in attic of knee wall.
- 27 of 35. Community room in basement level, view north.
- 28 of 35. Rear stairwell with wooden railings and bathroom with transom, view northeast.
- 29 of 35. Arched opening leading to storage, view northeast.
- 30 of 35. Storage room, view northeast.

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31 of 35. Former stage area, storage space, view north.

32 of 35. Stair leading to exterior, view northeast.

33 of 35. Steps leading to stairwell, view southwest.

34 of 35. View southwest showing the curved stairway leading to the second story.

35 of 35. Bottom on curved stairway in front vestibule of library.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for nominations 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.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

- Tier 1 – 60-100 hours
- Tier 2 – 120 hours
- Tier 3 – 230 hours
- Tier 4 – 280 hours

The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.