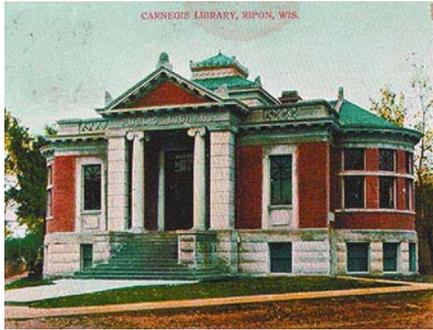


BREAKING GROUND

IDEAS & INFORMATION YOU CAN BUILD ON

SPRING 2007



Historical postcard image of a Carnegie library in Ripon, Wisconsin.

What's A Carnegie Library?

Andrew Carnegie (1835-1919) was a Scottish-American businessman, a major and widely respected philanthropist, and the founder of the Carnegie



Andrew Carnegie spent the latter part of his life consumed by philanthropic concerns, including the funding of more than 3,000 libraries in the U.S. and around the world.

Steel Company, which later became U.S. Steel. He is known for having built one of the most powerful and influential corporations in United States history and, later in his life, giving away most of his riches to fund the establishment of many libraries, schools, and universities in Scotland, America and worldwide.

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The Hamstra Group Busy With Library Renovations



The Colfax Carnegie Library was built in 1917 at 207 South Clark Street (see photo below). The building has elements of the Italianate-style. Fashionable in England and the U.S. in the 1840s and 1850s, Italianate is characterized by low-pitched, heavily-bracketed roofs. Today, the Colfax Library has 3,000 square feet of additional space, an elevator, a revamped children's area and adequate storage.

Why spend money on libraries? One reason can be glimpsed from talking with Brenda Kinslow, the children's librarian at Colfax Public Library in Colfax, Indiana. That library, a Carnegie-funded facility built in 1917, just underwent a major renovation and expansion completed by The Hamstra Group.

"While we were still trying to get moved in, some kids sneaked in to take a peek," Kinslow says. "They're just thrilled with the new space and how much nicer it is."

Children anxious to get into the local library—that's a powerful reason right there to invest in America's libraries.

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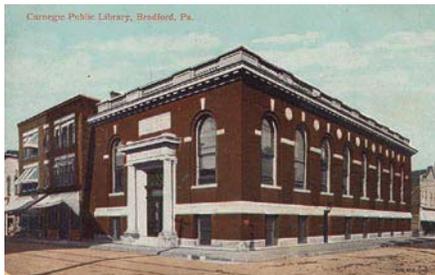
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Photo courtesy Mike Habeck, EcoIndiana

The 
HAMSTRA
Group, Inc



Historical postcard image of a Carnegie library in Bradford, Pennsylvania.

Carnegie... from page 1

There are many Carnegie libraries in Indiana and the Midwest. But the first was opened in 1883 in Dunfermline, Scotland, where Carnegie was born. His method was to build and equip, but only on condition that the local authority provided the site and ongoing maintenance.

To secure local interest, in 1885 he gave \$500,000 to Pittsburgh for a public library, and in 1886 he gave \$250,000 to Allegheny City for a music hall and library and \$250,000 to Edinburgh, Scotland, for a free library. In total, Carnegie funded some 3,000 libraries, located in 47 states. Carnegie also built libraries in Canada and overseas in United Kingdom, including what is now the Republic of Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, the West Indies and Fiji.

Library Renovations... from page 1

Completed in November, the Colfax Library benefited from a 3,000-square-foot addition and a remodeling of the existing building. To meet ADA standards, an elevator was added, as were handicap-accessible restrooms. Kinslow is happy because her basement children's library was thoroughly revamped.

"The Hamstra Group raised the floor, which helps because we're below ground, and converted small rooms into the one large, open area we wanted. It makes an amazing difference. And the kids love it."

The Colfax Library is just one of the recent library renovation projects taken on by The Hamstra Group. The company routinely tackles the logistics of bringing older buildings and facilities into the modern era.

"These older buildings are architecturally important and are often community landmarks," explains Curt Albertson, a Hamstra Group project manager who has worked on several library projects. "What we do is renovate as necessary so they can continue to be useful and beautiful structures, and make sure that up-to-date amenities make the buildings convenient for the people who use them."

The Hamstra Group has worked on a host of community libraries, including many historic Carnegie facilities. Among its recent projects are the Monon, Flora, Covington and Francesville libraries. The company is currently at work on renovations for the Linden Library, a Carnegie library in Linden, Indiana, and the \$2.7 million renovation project for the Tippecanoe Public Library, a county branch library located in Klondike, Indiana.

Youngsters don't have to sneak into their library in Colfax today—the doors are wide open.

"Every dollar we spend on libraries pays back huge dividends," Kinslow says. "It's such an important part of who we are in this country."

Albertson agrees. "A library, especially an older one that has stood on the same corner for almost 100 years, is often the heart of a community. Working on these projects is always rewarding in ways that go way beyond money."

Learn more about
The Hamstra Group today!
Visit us online at www.hamstragroup.com



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