

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: Fortville Carnegie Library

Other names/site number: Fortville Public Library, Fortville Community Building

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: 115 N. Main Street

City or town: Fortville State: IN County: Hancock

Not For Publication: Vicinity: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 x nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property x meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

 national statewide x local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

 x A B x C D

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Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
<u>Indiana DNR-Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology</u>	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property <u> </u> meets <u> </u> does not meet the National Register criteria.	
<hr/>	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
<hr/>	
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>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION: library

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

WORK IN PROGRESS

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS:

Prairie School

Bungalow/Craftsman

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: CONCRETE

walls: BRICK

LIMESTONE

roof: ASPHALT

other: _____

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 Fortville Carnegie Library, in Fortville, Hancock County, Indiana, reflects architectural features associated with the Prairie and Craftsman styles, and retains a significant amount of historic integrity. Built in 1917, the brick, one-story building is rectangular in plan with a hipped roof, and is located on the east corner of North Main and East Church Street in a well-established residential neighborhood.

Narrative Description

The Fortville Carnegie Library, built in 1917,¹ is an excellent example of the Prairie and Craftsman styles of architecture. Constructed of light brown brick with limestone accents, the library is located one block northeast of Fortville's historic and current commercial corridor, and occupies the east corner of North Main and East Church Streets, facing North Main Street. At the time the library was constructed, the neighborhood was well-established as residential with small

¹ "Fortville Public Library," *Fortville (IN) Tribune*, 31 July 1947, 6.

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narrow lots. Two houses had previously existed on the library site.² Behind the library is a small shed and large, fenced-in playground with rubber mulch ground cover, shaded by two deciduous trees. A large pine tree on the east corner of the property largely obscures the north end of the southwest elevation. The remaining property is covered in grass. Presently, the neighborhood retains much of its historic residential density, and North Main Street is a fairly busy roadway with two-way traffic.

Exterior

Facing North Main Street, the Fortville Carnegie Library is a one-story structure on a raised basement, and is oriented northwest to southeast in the center of the lot. It has a hipped roof, and is constructed of light brown brick, in a running bond pattern, on a concrete foundation. The wide eaves are covered in ivory-colored vinyl, and a narrow band of painted wood forms the cornice. The first story windows are accented across the top by a row of soldier bricks with squares of limestone at each end. Across all four sides of the building, a row of soldier bricks simulates a watertable along the top of the basement windows. The corners of each row are accented by a limestone block. Along the top of the concrete foundation is a row of rowlock bricks. Other overall details include a restrained use of limestone accents and a reddish-orange asphalt shingle roof to mimic the look of the original clay tile roof. The windows are double-hung, vinyl replacement models in a style that replicates the original versions. The windows have steel lintels, and those not at ground level have limestone sills.

From the North Main Street public sidewalk, and approximately centered along the lot line, three concrete steps with black aluminum handrails lead to a wide sidewalk and eight concrete steps to the main entrance of the library centered on the southwest elevation (photo 1). Originally, brick cheek walls with concrete caps flanked the eight steps, but due to deterioration, they were eventually replaced with black aluminum handrails. The entrance, within a projecting middle bay, contains a set of aluminum-framed, glass doors topped by a wood-framed, semi-circle-shaped, multi-paned transom. Surrounding the doorway are four rows of header bricks with each row stepped forward from the previous row. A wooden barrel-shaped canopy over the entrance, accented along the front edge with raised, square wood details, has a beadboard ceiling, metal roof, and is supported by two pairs of substantial wood brackets. The brackets each appear as if they sit on a stretcher brick on top of two rowlock bricks that protrude from the wall surface. Directly over the canopy, and slightly below the cornice, the façade is accented by a row of soldier bricks with a limestone block at each end. To either side and directly below the cornice, the outer edges of the bay are accented by an upright rectangle formed by slightly protruding stretcher bricks. Within the rectangle are two rows of five soldier bricks and a rowlock brick in the middle along each side. In the middle of the rectangle, four rowlock bricks form a diamond that is accented in the center with limestone. At the base of the rectangle, and slightly extending beyond its width, is a row of protruding rowlock bricks. Below this, and slightly receding, is a header brick sandwiched between two stretcher bricks. Accenting the corners of this bay are limestone blocks about at the point on the façade where the steps meet the doors.

² *Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from Fortville, Hancock County, Indiana* (Sanborn Map Company, 1895), 1, https://www.loc.gov/item/sanborn02335_001/ (accessed 19 September 2022).

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The bays flanking the middle bay of the southwest elevation are identical in design. At the outer edges of each and just below the cornice, the brick rectangle and limestone detail of the middle bay is repeated. Centered in each bay is a three-part window consisting of a larger, one-over-one window with a smaller, one-over-one window to each side. A simulated multi-paned transom tops each window, and each window grouping is protected by a slatted metal awning. At basement level are two, double-hung windows with simulated three-over-three lights.

Positioned at the outer edges of the southeast elevation (photo 1) and just below the cornice, the brick rectangle and limestone detail of the southwest elevation is repeated. At the first story level and placed high on the wall are two pairs of double hung windows with simulated three-over-three lights. Below each pair of windows, and approximately the same height and width of the window openings, is a rectangular brick panel outlined by two rows of soldier bricks connected by nine stacked stretcher bricks and limestone squares at each corner. Below each rectangle at basement level is a double-hung window with simulated three-over-three lights.

The northeast elevation (photo 2) contains three bays. At the first story level, the south bay contains two double-hung windows with simulated three-over-three lights set high on the wall. Below the windows, and approximately their same height and combined width, is a wide, rectangular brick panel outlined by two rows of soldier bricks connected by nine stacked stretcher bricks and limestone squares at each corner. At basement level, and in line with the first story windows, are two, double-hung windows with simulated three-over-three lights. At the first story of the middle bay, and set high on the wall, is a pair of double-hung windows with simulated three-over-three lights. Below the windows, and approximately their same height and combined width, is a brick panel outlined by two rows of soldier bricks connected by nine stacked stretcher bricks and limestone squares at each corner. The north bay is very similar to the south bay except that a brick chimney, extending from ground level and through the eave, protrudes from the façade in the space between the windows. The basement windows each contain a fixed, simulated three-light sash. Just below these windows and extending almost to the north edge of the façade is a brick exterior coal storage room with concrete pad on top.³ In approximately the middle of the pad is a steel manhole cover.

The northwest elevation (photo 3) is nearly identical to the southeast elevation except that there is an entrance in the middle of the wall at ground level. Access to the entrance from the public sidewalk is by a sloping walkway flanked by curved concrete cheek walls followed by brick cheek walls with concrete tops. The opening itself contains a pair of aluminum-framed, glass doors. Protecting the entrance is a white metal awning supported by two metal poles.

Interior

The southwest entrance to the library first opens into a small vestibule with three carpeted steps up to the original pair of wood-framed, multi-light doors with multi-light transom (photos 6 and

³ Alex Yovanovich, Gateway Community Church Trustee, e-mail to Jill Downs, 26 September 2022, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

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7). Passing through these doors reveals the main library space characterized by a large, carpeted, open room with painted plaster walls and detailed with the original darkly stained, oak wood casings and baseboards. The original staircase to the basement, constructed of darkly stained oak with a balustrade of square balusters and square posts, is positioned off the rear (northeast) wall and slightly off-center to the north. Also original to the library is a short, darkly stained oak shelving unit with paneled back that serves as a wall along the width of the northwest staircase opening. The space is heated by radiators along each wall and lit by modern spotlight fixtures (photos 4-7).

The basement is divided into five areas as was originally designed. At the bottom of the staircase, a sloped hallway with paneled walls and dropped ceiling leads up to the northwest entrance (photo 8). On the northeast side of the hallway is the boiler and storage room with a small bathroom in the southeast corner. Across the hallway is another room, originally designed as a "Committee" room but now used for storage, that also has paneled walls and a dropped ceiling. To the southeast of the stairs (photo 9), a pair of French doors open into a larger space, also with a dropped ceiling, occupying the rest of the basement area (photos 10 and 11). This was originally used as an assembly room. From the northeast side of the doorway, a partial wall extends southwest to create a small kitchen area that is partially separated from the rest of the room. Off the northwest wall of the large space is a bathroom. As the library was built originally, access to this bathroom was from the basement hallway across from the stairs. It has been modernized with newer fixtures, a shower stall, and vinyl flooring. The flooring throughout the rest of the basement is painted concrete.⁴

Although the library lacks most of its original shelving, its circulation desk, and its original windows, it retains its massing. No additions have altered its plan.

⁴ E.L. Fausset, Architect, blueprints for the Fortville Carnegie Library (undated), Fortville-Vernon Township Public Library, Fortville, IN.

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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.)

ARCHITECTURE _____

EDUCATION _____

Period of Significance

1917-1972 _____

Significant Dates

1917 _____

Significant Person (last name, first name)

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A _____

Cultural Affiliation

N/A _____

Architect/Builder (last name, first name)

Fausset, Ernest L. _____

Side, W.A. _____

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Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance for the Fortville Carnegie Library begins in 1917, at the time of construction, and ends in 1972 representing the fifty year mark for eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The building was in continuous use as a library for the entire period.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

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 Fortville Carnegie Library is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A as it is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of history, namely the establishment of public libraries, assisted by grants from philanthropist Andrew Carnegie, for the education and social benefit of communities of all sizes across the United States. In 1915, the citizens of Fortville, Indiana, began a campaign to secure funding for their own Carnegie library.

The library is also eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C in that it embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, and method of construction. Built in 1917, the library is an excellent example of the Prairie and Craftsman styles of architecture.

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

Education

The Fortville Carnegie Library is locally significant under National Register of Historic Places Criterion A in that beginning in 1915, the citizens of Fortville began a campaign to secure funding from philanthropist Andrew Carnegie to build a community library.⁵

Andrew Carnegie immigrated to Allegheny, Pennsylvania, from Scotland as a teenager in 1848. Through hard work and self-study, largely using books borrowed from the private collection of Colonel James Anderson, he eventually established the Carnegie Steel Company which at one time was the largest steel manufacturing company in the world. Carnegie felt that his acquired wealth should be used for public good and thought the development of public libraries would be

⁵ "Library For Fortville," *Greenfield (IN) Republican*, 4 March 1915, 8.

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a fine fit considering the useful knowledge he personally gained from books. Beginning in the late 1800s, Carnegie began funding the construction of library buildings, through his own offer, but it wasn't until 1891, when he was asked by Iowa Senator James Wilson for \$40,000 to build a library in Fairfield, Iowa, that his efforts began to gain steam. Carnegie began accepting letters from communities requesting grants for public libraries. His requirements were that the community had to demonstrate the need, provide the building site, and be able to support the library's services and maintenance with tax funds equal to 10 percent of the grant amount annually. In this regard, Carnegie ensured that each community had a stake in the library's success. By 1919, when the last grant was given, Carnegie had awarded 1,419 grants for 1,689 libraries, amounting to \$41,478,689, across the United States. Indiana received 156 grants which was the most given to any one state.⁶

Indiana's first constitution, written upon achieving statehood in 1816, made references to having a general system of education and made provisions for building a library in every county. While systemic state financial problems quashed this initiative before it was completed,⁷ Hancock County had a public library in 1850.⁸ In 1852, a state law was passed for every township to have a free public library. Each township received about 300 books which were placed in the care of the township trustee.⁹ Vernon Township received such a collection.¹⁰

In 1899, the Public Library Commission of Indiana (Commission) was created to oversee the establishment of more public libraries throughout the state as 44 of the 92 counties were without one. The Commission was also tasked with training new librarians. Only one librarian in the state had graduated from a library school by that time. In terms of the library facility itself, the Commission reasoned that for patrons to want to spend time in a library, it needed to be physically inviting, and therefore began advising architects and library leaders on library architecture.¹¹

In January of 1901, Goshen became the first town in Indiana to receive a Carnegie library grant.¹² The following March, the Indiana General Assembly passed a law allowing for city councils and town boards of incorporated towns to levy taxes "to establish, increase and maintain

⁶ Theodore Jones, *Carnegie Libraries Across America: A Public Legacy* (New York, NY: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 1997), 3-13, 26, 128.

⁷ The Public Library Commission of Indiana, "Indiana Libraries in the Nineteenth Century," <https://publiclibrarycommissionofindiana.wordpress.com/the-public-library-commission-of-indiana/indiana-libraries-in-the-nineteenth-century/> (accessed 27 October 2022).

⁸ George J. Richman, B.L., *History of Hancock County Indiana: Its people, industries and institutions* (Greenfield, IN: Wm. Mitchell Printing Co., 1916), 194.

⁹ The Public Library Commission of Indiana, "Indiana Libraries in the Nineteenth Century."

¹⁰ Richman, 195.

¹¹ The Public Library Commission of Indiana, "Creating the Public Library Commission of Indiana," <https://publiclibrarycommissionofindiana.wordpress.com/the-public-library-commission-of-indiana/creating-the-public-library-commission-of-indiana/> (accessed 27 October 2022).

¹² Alan McPherson, *Temples of Knowledge: Andrew Carnegie's Gift to Indiana* (Kewanna, IN: Hossier's Nest Press, c2003), 226.

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a public library...open to and for use and benefit of all the inhabitants thereof.”¹³ With the benefit of Carnegie funding, more libraries were quickly built throughout the state. Between 1899 and 1925, the number of libraries in Indiana more than quadrupled.¹⁴ Greenfield, in Hancock County, received a Carnegie grant of \$10,000 in 1904 toward its library. Nearer to Fortville, the towns of Noblesville, Pendleton, and Carmel received grants in 1903, 1911, and 1913 respectively, averaging \$10,500.¹⁵ Likely the residents of Fortville were paying attention.

In 1910, it was reported that “a few of the progressive citizens” were discussing the possibilities of a Carnegie library for Fortville,¹⁶ but it wasn’t until five years later that the idea gained any real traction. On March 4, 1915, the *Fortville Tribune* reported that “a move is on foot by our citizens to make an effort to secure a Carnegie library.” Anyone who was interested was invited to attend a meeting the following evening.¹⁷ Later that same month, several Fortville citizens filed a petition with the Hancock Circuit Court indicating they had the funds to establish a library. Subsequently, the court appointed J.F. Hoopingarner, Arthur B. Ayers, and James W. Trittipio as members of the library board which then applied for a grant from Andrew Carnegie to build a library.¹⁸ Through daily donations by local citizens over a period of one year, some giving as little as one cent per day and some as much as 10 cents per day, enough money was collected by October of 1916 to pay \$2,300 for a lot on Main Street where the library was to be built. Andrew Carnegie then granted \$10,000 to the effort,¹⁹ and was among the last grants given in Indiana.²⁰ The architect was Ernest Fausset of Fortville²¹ and the contractor was W.A. Side of Indianapolis.²² Construction began on September 4, 1917, and on July 3, 1918, the library first opened to the public.²³ There were 644 books for adults and 244 books for children. In 1953, a township library district was formed by combining Fortville and Vernon Township taxing units. In 1955, the Riley children’s room opened on the ground level of the library and in 1957, a teen room opened on the main floor. The library also worked with schools in Fortville and McCordsville to supplement their collections. By 1967, the library was “classed as one of the best small libraries in the state of Indiana.” Its collection had grown to 56,047 books for adults; 23,021 books for teens; and 32,950 books for children.²⁴ Upon the library’s 50th anniversary in 1968, it was reported that since 1918 “many lives have been enriched, many children have

¹³ State Library, *Library Laws of Indiana*, https://books.google.com/books?id=XCvYMmkJYT0C&printsec=frontcover&source=gbs_ge_summary_r&cad=0#v=onepage&q&f=false (accessed 27 October 2022).

¹⁴ The Public Library Commission of Indiana, “Building a New Public Library,” https://publiclibrarycommissionofindiana.wordpress.com/the-public-library-commission-of-indiana/building-a-new-public-library/#_ftn2 (accessed 27 October 2022).

¹⁵ Jones, 139-141.

¹⁶ *Greenfield (IN) Republican*, 24 February 1910, 8.

¹⁷ “Library For Fortville.”

¹⁸ Richman, 813-814.

¹⁹ “Carnegie Library and New Pipe Organ,” *Greenfield (IN) Daily Reporter*, 21 October 1916.

²⁰ McPherson, 229.

²¹ *Fortville (IN) Tribune*, “Fortville Library Passes 40 Year Mark,” 3 July 1958, 1.

²² “Carnegie Library,” *Greenfield (IN) Daily Reporter*, 11 August 1917, 1.

²³ “Fortville Library Passes 40 Year Mark.”

²⁴ Teresa Helmick, “Library history, patrons listed to commemorate 65 years,” *Fortville (IN) Tribune*, 6 July 1983, 13.

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learned to love books, many facts have been implanted in the minds of citizens of this community.”²⁵

Architecture

The Fortville Carnegie Library is significant under National Register Criterion C. Built in 1917 and retaining significant integrity, architect Ernest Fausset designed the structure with influences of the Prairie and Craftsman styles of architecture.

Originating in Chicago and popular largely in midwestern states between 1900 to 1920, architect Frank Lloyd Wright created the Prairie style which is exemplified by an emphasis on the horizontal. After leaving the employ of architect Louis Sullivan, Wright and a group of architects, who came to be known as the Prairie School, further honed the style. Characteristic of Prairie style structures is their low pitched, usually hipped roof form with wide, overhanging eaves. Borrowing from the Mission and Italian Renaissance styles, clay tiles are often used as a roof covering. To further highlight the horizontal nature, decorative devices are used such as concrete caps on porch and balcony railings; contrasting wood trim between stories; horizontal board-and-batten siding; contrasting colors on eaves and cornices; and the selective recessing of horizontal mortar joints. Horizontal rows of windows, usually casements, also achieve this effect.²⁶ Prairie style buildings are typically constructed of a single building material, preferably brick, though wood and stucco are not uncommon.²⁷

As the Prairie School architects began to influence American architecture in the early 1900s, the Craftsman style gained a following in the United States after California-based brothers Charles and Henry Greene began designing homes based upon Asian-inspired architecture and the English Arts and Crafts Movement,²⁸ which emphasized the use of craftsmanship over machine-made objects. The “Craftsman” terminology took hold after Gustav Stickley, an American furniture maker also inspired by the Arts and Crafts Movement, began publishing the magazine *The Craftsman* in 1901 to further the Arts and Crafts ideals, as well as his own house designs based upon them.²⁹ The Craftsman style’s popularity spanned a period from about 1905 to 1930. Characteristic features include a low-pitched gable roof with wide, unenclosed, overhanging eaves; exposed roof rafter tails; the use of triangular braces or exposed roof beams, usually decorative rather than structural, under gables; large porches supported by square, often tapered, columns; and gabled or shed roof dormers. Additional commonly seen exterior elements include wood clapboard and wood shingle siding as well as stone, brick, and stucco. Craftsman-style

²⁵ “Library To Observe Golden Anniversary With Open House,” *Fortville (IN) Tribune*, 3 July 1968, 4.

²⁶ Virginia McAlester and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York, NY: Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 1984), 439-443.

²⁷ James C. Massey and Shirley Maxwell, *House Styles in America: The Old-House Journal Guide to the Architecture of American Homes* (New York, NY: Penguin Group, 1996), 206.

²⁸ McAlester and McAlester, 454.

²⁹ Rachel Carley, *The Visual Dictionary of American Domestic Architecture* (New York, NY: Henry Holt and Company, Inc., 1994), 208,

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windows are typically double-hung with a multi-paned upper sash over a single-paned lower sash,³⁰ while interior elements include a use of natural woodwork and built-in features.³¹

From an architectural perspective, the design of the Fortville Carnegie Library clearly utilizes details associated with the Prairie and Craftsman styles. While both styles feature low-pitched roofs with wide, overhanging eaves, this representation is more Prairie in design as the library lacks the exposed rafter tails of the Craftsman style. Its hipped roof form is also more typical of the Prairie style as is its orientation on the lot that places the longer side as the main façade to emphasize its horizontal nature. Accentuating this is the use of soldier courses of bricks over the windows on both stories and the concrete foundation that contrasts with the brick construction. When the library was built, it had a clay tile roof like those often used on Prairie style structures. Craftsman style elements of the library include the double-hung windows with a multi-paned upper sash over a single-paned lower sash and the natural woodwork of the interior's main floor.

For a community to have a Carnegie library was a mark of cultural merit, and its architectural style usually reflected the styles prevalent at the time. A majority of Carnegie libraries were built in Italian Renaissance, Beaux-Arts, and Classical Revival styles with the remainder largely being Spanish Revival/California Mission, Prairie, Tudor Revival, and Craftsman styles. Although Andrew Carnegie let each community choose the style, he wanted to ensure a functional library space. After 1904, his secretary, James Bertram, reviewed all building blueprints. In 1911, Bertram issued a pamphlet on public library architecture that featured six interior layout options. Carnegie libraries utilizing these layouts were usually modest, utilitarian structures.³² The floorplans showed a one-story, rectangular building with a small vestibule leading directly to a single large room. The room could be subdivided by low bookcases, and the room's perimeter was lined with bookshelves. The basement was divided into a lecture room, a heating plant, and restrooms.³³

The Fortville Carnegie Library is indicative of the general layout described by Bertram, but it is not an exact replication of any of his actual plans. Although the architect was Ernest Fausset of Fortville,³⁴ this research did not find any other buildings designed by him. In fact, the exterior of the Fortville Carnegie Library very much resembles the exterior of the Thorntown Public Library in Thorntown, Indiana, approximately 48 miles northwest of Fortville. Dedicated in 1915, this library was designed by Wilson B. Parker of Indianapolis and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.³⁵ The subtle design differences of the Thorntown library include having a limestone water table, large limestone blocks at the foundation corners, and the chimney on one side as opposed to the rear. The Thorntown library is also deeper in depth allowing for more windows on each side façade, but the overall window style and placement, and brick and stone design is like that of the Fortville Carnegie Library.

³⁰ McAlester and McAlester, 442, 454.

³¹ Massey and Maxwell, 196.

³² Jones, 53-76.

³³ Abigail A. Van Slyck, *Free to All: Carnegie Libraries & American Culture 1890-1920* (Chicago, IL: The University of Chicago Press, 1995), 37.

³⁴ "Fortville Library Passes 40 Year Mark."

³⁵ McPherson, 136.

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In the days before the Fortville Carnegie Library was dedicated in the summer of 1918, a newspaper story proclaimed it to be “a very credible structure, in architecture similar to all the plans approved by the Carnegie corporation.” It was also noted that the library, conveniently located for everyone to use, “adds in a material way to the appearance of the town which has long been noted for its good business houses.”³⁶

Developmental History/Additional historic context information

Fortville, Indiana, is a small town located in Vernon Township in Hancock County slightly northeast of the central part of the state. It is approximately 13 miles northwest of Greenfield, the county seat.

Hancock County, first settled in 1818, was cleaved from Madison County and organized in 1828. It was named for John Hancock, the first signer of the Declaration of Independence. At the time, the area was mostly flat wilderness, populated by Native Americans, deer, bears, panthers, rattlesnakes, wolves, and other assorted wild animals. There were few white inhabitants. In 1836, a portion of the north part of Buckcreek Township in Hancock County became Vernon Township, though the first land entry in Vernon Township occurred in 1826. Fortville, originally called “Walpole” in honor of Thomas D. Walpole, was laid out by Cephus Fort in 1849 and was composed of 41 lots.³⁷ That same year, the first business, a general store, was established, and a railroad through the town was completed in 1852. In 1865, the town of 240 residents was incorporated and the name changed to “Fortville.”³⁸ By 1920, just after the Fortville Carnegie Library was built, Fortville’s population was 1,213.³⁹

Ann Trittipio was the first librarian for the Fortville Carnegie Library, and served in that position until June 1922.⁴⁰ She later spent more than 20 years working in the Law Library of the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. retiring in 1959.⁴¹

In 1986, the Fortville Carnegie Library was closed and library services were moved to a new, larger facility.⁴² It then served as a residence and photography studio and recently as space for the Youth Ministry, Noah’s Ark Daycare, and food pantry operated by Gateway Community Church of Fortville. It now belongs to private owners who are adapting the building into a cultural arts and events center.

³⁶ “Will Dedicate Their New Library Soon,” *Greenfield (IN) Daily Reporter*, 1 August 1918, 1.

³⁷ J.H. Binford, *History of Hancock County, Indiana: from its earliest settlement by the “pale face,” in 1818, down to 1882, illustrated with views, maps, charts, plats, portraits, sketches and diagrams*, 1st ed. (Greenfield, IN: King & Binford, 1882), 25-27, 33, 311, and 313.

³⁸ Richman, 799.

³⁹ STATS Indiana, “Indiana City/Town Census Counts, 1900 to 2020,” https://www.stats.indiana.edu/population/PopTotals/historic_counts_cities.asp (accessed 15 September 2022).

⁴⁰ “Fortville Library Passes 40 Year Mark.”

⁴¹ “Ann Trittipio Honored On Retirement From Library of Congress in Washington,” *Fortville (IN) Tribune*, 11 November 1959, 5.

⁴² Dave Scott, *Greenfield (IN) Daily Reporter*, 18 April 1986, 1.

Fortville Carnegie Library
Name of Property

Hancock County, IN
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

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Fortville Carnegie Library
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Hancock County, IN
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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: Fortville-Vernon Township Public Library

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): 059-298-12015

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property less than one acre

Fortville Carnegie Library
Name of Property

Hancock County, IN
County and State

Use the UTM system

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 16 | Easting: 598264 | Northing: 4421140 |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

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

The boundaries of the Fortville Carnegie Library include all of lot 32 and the north 10 feet of lot 29 of the original addition to the Town of Fortville, Indiana.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary description encompasses the contributing resource, Fortville Carnegie Library, of this nomination. This is the property associated with the resource during the period of significance.

Fortville Carnegie Library
Name of Property

Hancock County, IN
County and State

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Initiated by Karla Simpson (GCCF); prepared by Jill Downs on behalf of
organization: Vasilis Makris and Julie Bandy
street & number: 1202 Elmwood Avenue
city or town: Fort Wayne state: IN zip code: 46805
e-mail jdowns1908@gmail.com
telephone: (260) 437-1192
date: May 5, 2024

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 3000x2000 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: Fortville Carnegie Library

City or Vicinity: Fortville

County: Hancock

State: IN

Photographer: Jill Downs

Date Photographed: September 16, 2022

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

- 1 of 11. Southwest and southeast elevations, looking north.
(IN_HancockCounty_FortvilleCarnegieLibrary_0001)
- 2 of 11. Northeast elevation, looking southwest.
(IN_HancockCounty_FortvilleCarnegieLibrary_0002)
- 3 of 11. Northwest elevation, looking southeast.
(IN_HancockCounty_FortvilleCarnegieLibrary_0003)
- 4 of 11. First floor, looking east.
(IN_HancockCounty_FortvilleCarnegieLibrary_0004)
- 5 of 11. First floor, looking north.
(IN_HancockCounty_FortvilleCarnegieLibrary_0005)
- 6 of 11. First floor, looking west.
(IN_HancockCounty_FortvilleCarnegieLibrary_0006)
- 7 of 11. First floor, looking south.
(IN_HancockCounty_FortvilleCarnegieLibrary_0007)
- 8 of 11. Basement hall, looking northwest.

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(IN_HancockCounty_FortvilleCarnegieLibrary_0008)

9 of 11. Basement hall, looking southeast.
(IN_HancockCounty_FortvilleCarnegieLibrary_0009)

10 of 11. Basement assembly room, looking west.
(IN_HancockCounty_FortvilleCarnegieLibrary_0010)

11 of 11. Basement assembly room, looking north.
(IN_HancockCounty_FortvilleCarnegieLibrary_0011)

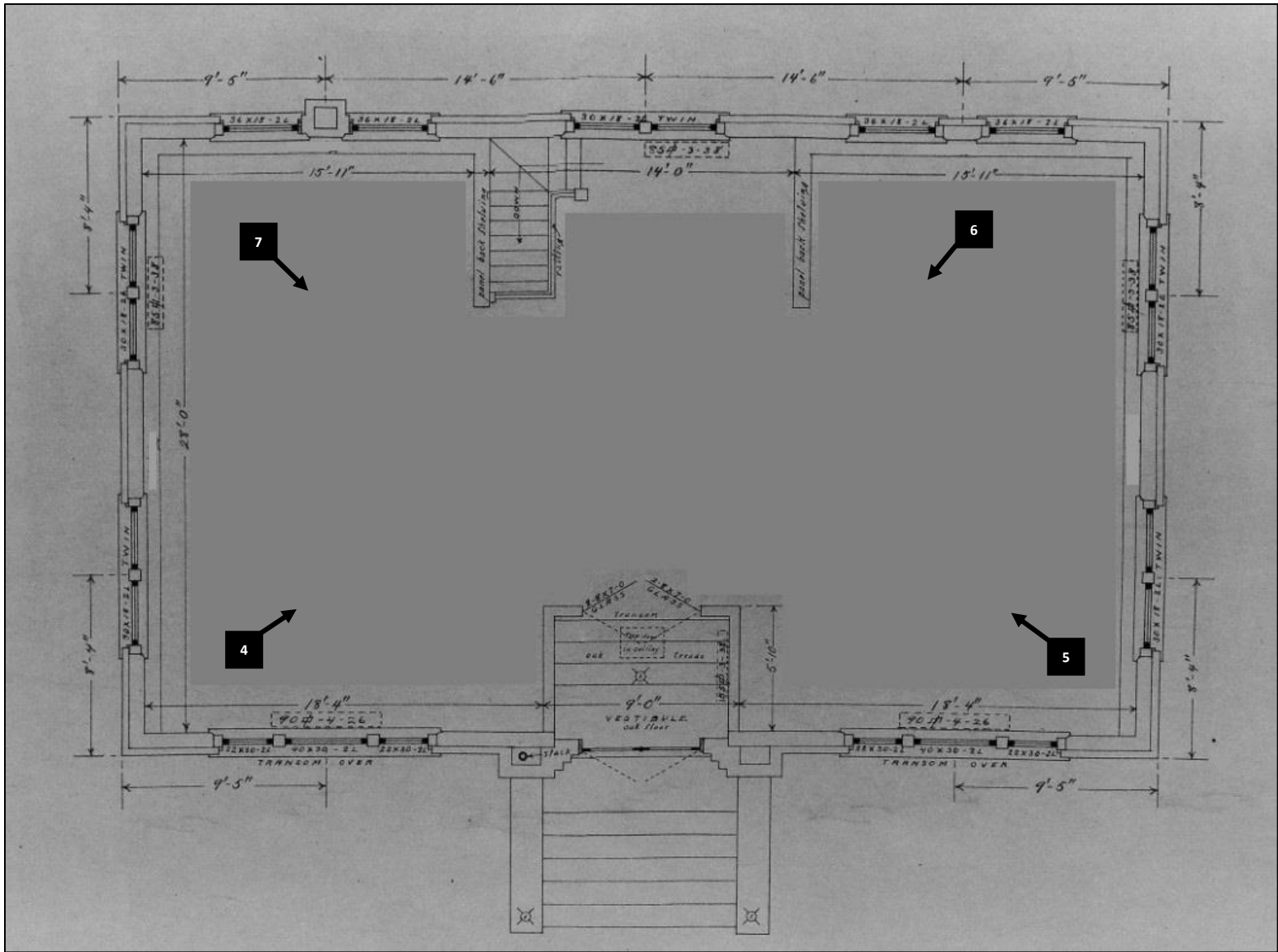
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



Fortville Carnegie Library
115 North Main Street
Fortville, Hancock County, Indiana
Site Plan

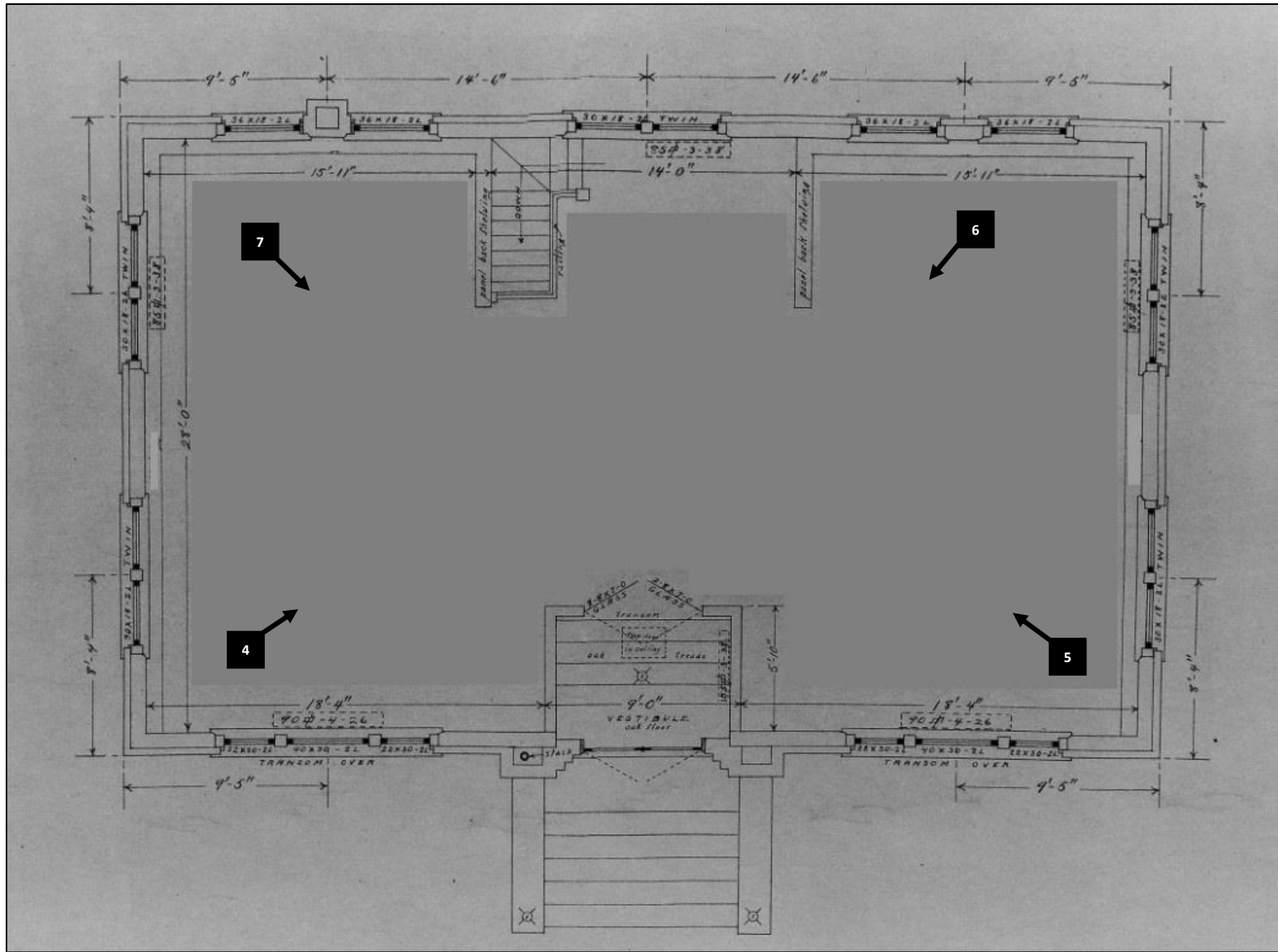
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Fortville Carnegie Library
115 North Main Street
Fortville, Hancock County, Indiana

First Floor Plan

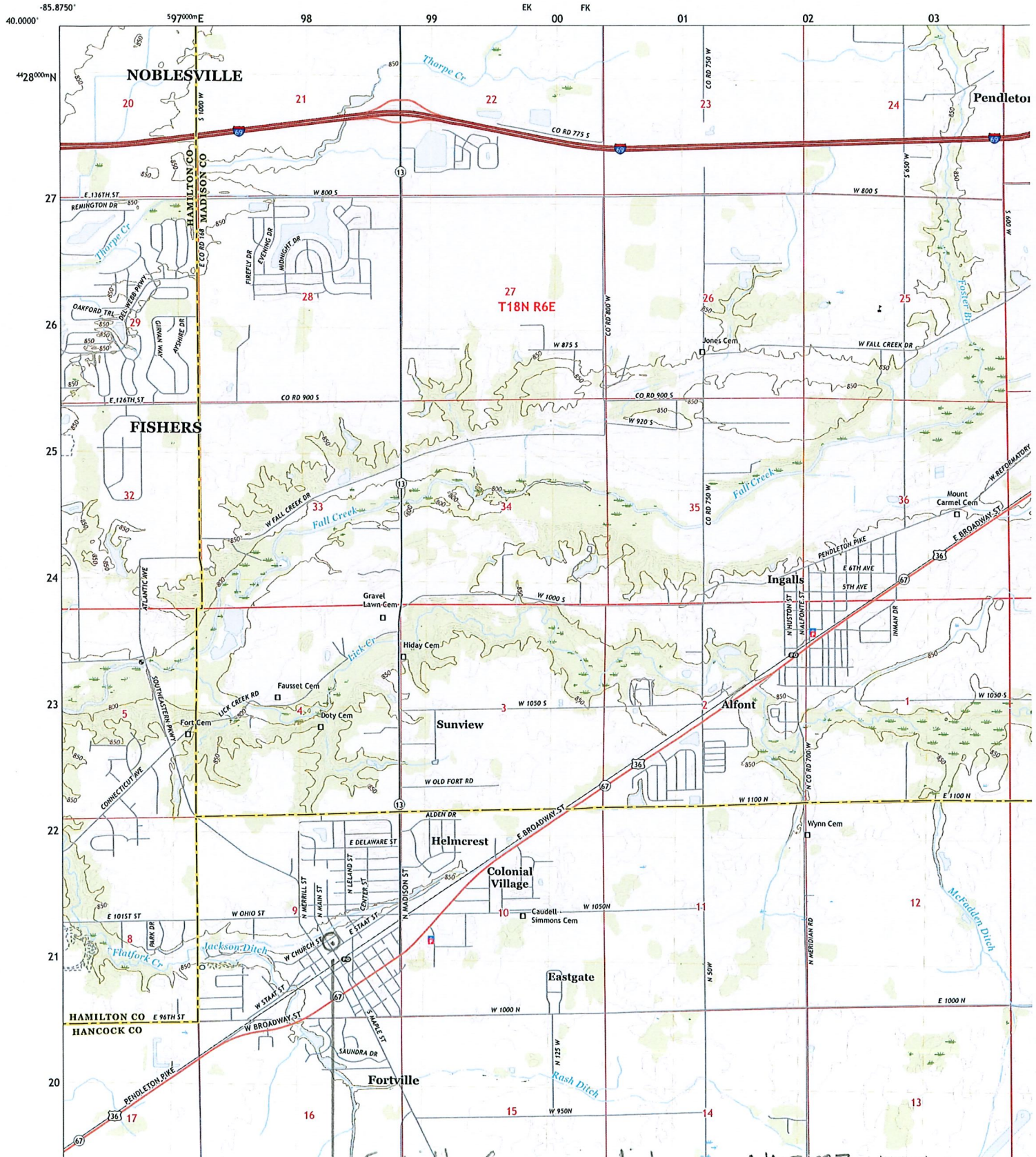


Fortville Carnegie Library
 115 North Main Street
 Fortville, Hancock County, Indiana
 First Floor Plan


 # = photo



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



Fortville Carnegie Library
Fortville Hancock Co., IN

NAD 83 UTM =
16 598264 4421140



IN_HancockCounty_FortvilleCarnegieLibrary_0001



IN_HancockCounty_FortvilleCarnegieLibrary_0002



IN_HancockCounty_FortvilleCarnegieLibrary_0003



IN_HancockCounty_FortvilleCarnegieLibrary_0004



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