

# Historic Resource Survey Form

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMISSION  
Bureau for Historic Preservation

Key # _____
ER# _____
Date Prepared _____

**Name, Location and Ownership** *(Items 1-6; see Instructions, page 4)*

HISTORIC NAME \_\_\_\_\_

CURRENT/Common NAME \_\_\_\_\_

OWNER NAME/ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL NUMBER OF RESOURCES \_\_\_\_\_

COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_ MUNICIPALITY \_\_\_\_\_

USGS QUAD \_\_\_\_\_

LOCATION \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

CATEGORY OF PROPERTY  Building  District  Object  Site  Structure

OWNERSHIP  Private  Corporate  
 Public/Local  Public/County  Public/State  Public/Federal

TAX PARCEL #/YEAR \_\_\_\_\_

**Function** *(Items 7-8; see Instructions, pages 4-6)*

Historic Function	Subcategory	Particular Type
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Current Function	Subcategory	Particular Type
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

**Property Features** *(Items 15-17; see Instructions, pages 7-8)*

Setting \_\_\_\_\_

Ancillary Features

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Acreage (round to nearest tenth) \_\_\_\_\_







Key # \_\_\_\_\_

ER# \_\_\_\_\_

## Site Plan Continued (Item 34)

See page 11 of the Instructions for more information regarding the site plan. Create a sketch of the property, showing the footprint of all buildings, structures, landscape features, streets, etc. Label all resources and streets. Include a North arrow and a scale bar (note if scale is approximate). This sheet may be used to sketch a plan or another map/plan may be substituted.

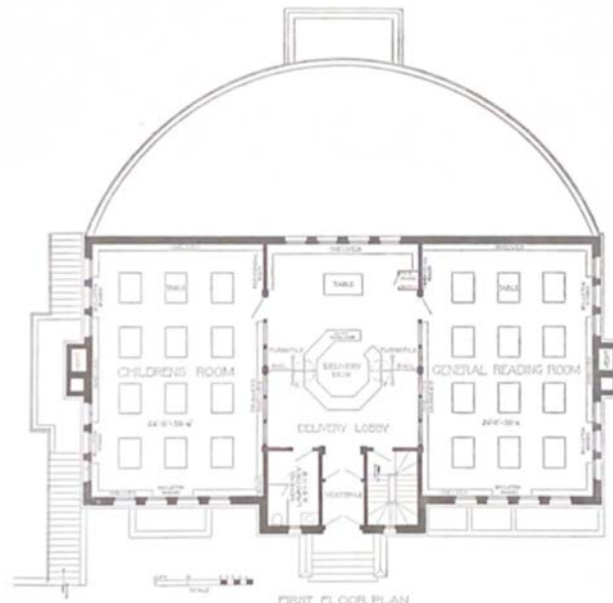


### Floor Plan (Item 35)

See page 11 of the Instructions for more information regarding the floor plan. Provide a floor plan for the primary buildings, showing all additions. Label rooms and note important features. Note the date of additions. Include a North arrow and a scale bar (note if scale is approximate) or indicate width/depth dimensions. This sheet may be used to sketch a floor plan or another map/plan may be substituted.



BASEMENT PLAN  
HAZELWOOD BRANCH CARNEGIE LIBRARY OF PITTSBURGH.  
ALDEN AND HARLOW ARCHITECTS.



FIRST FLOOR PLAN  
HAZELWOOD BRANCH CARNEGIE LIBRARY OF PITTSBURGH.  
ALDEN AND HARLOW ARCHITECTS.

## Physical Description and Integrity

### **Introduction [summarize the property, stating type(s) of resource(s) and function(s)]**

The Hazelwood Branch is a symmetrical one-and-a-half-story Richardsonian Romanesque building. The building is made of brick with a stone foundation. The original library served as a community center, performance center, and library for the Hazelwood community. The front of the building is symmetrical with two gables and matching chimneys on each end. The rear of the building has an octagonal auditorium at 1 story backing up to the symmetrical rectangular portion of the building. The building is currently abandoned with plans to rehabilitate the building for future community use. The property is based on the historic legal parcel that is currently fenced in by a chainmail and iron fence. The property is located within the Hazelwood residential neighborhood. The building is currently abandoned with plans to make this building into a new community center.

### **Setting [describe geographic location, streetscapes, natural/man-made landscape features, signage, etc.]**

The Hazelwood Branch is located off of Monongahela Street next to a church and surrounded by residential buildings. The Original Hazelwood Branch of the Carnegie Library is situated between Chatsworth Avenue and Monongahela Street with the front of the building located on Monongahela Street. The building is located on a hill with 1 story existing off of Monongahela Street and continuing another half story down the hill which holds the performance space. The building is fenced in by an original iron fence on both sides of the primary facade and chain fencing extending from the rear entrance up the hill to the iron fence.

The West side of the property borders a community church and the east side borders the back of two residential buildings.

**Exterior materials, style, and features [describe the exterior of main buildings/resources]**

It is constructed of brick with a stone foundation. The building is Richardsonian Romanesque, a design style the architects Alden & Harlow are especially known for using in their designs. The rear is semicircular with a radius of about 35 feet. A projecting chimney rises from the center of each gable end. The building's façade has a central pedimented entrance pavilion whose corners are defined by rusticated stone quoins. The pavilion contains a pair of wooden double doors within an arched surround of rusticated stone voussoirs. A clear glass transom occupies the space above the doors. The doorway is flanked by a pair of narrow double-hung windows with stone sills and lintels. Above the central doorway and below the pediment is a pair of stone tablets with inscriptions reading "CARNEGIE LIBRARY / FREE TO THE PEOPLE / HAZELWOOD BRANCH." Centered in the pediment is another tablet inscribed, "A.D. MDCCCXCIX." The foundation of the building features a stone water table at the base elevation.

On either side of the entrance pavilion is a row of four double-hung windows with a continuous stone sill across the front entrance windows. A matching stone lintel connects the tops of the windows, and above this are the three stone tablets. Both the sill and lintel courses turn the corners of the building, where there are three double-hung windows on either side of the chimneys. The coursing is interrupted only by the projecting chimneys on both ends of the building. Smaller double-hung windows a floor above let light into an attic apartment originally



used by the building's caretaker. The building's exterior retains no trace of a dome that originally existed at the intersection of the front and side gables.

At the rear of the building are 8 angled exterior walls that form an octagonal interior space protruding only on the ground floor. A set of wooden double doors projects from the central wall of the octagonal footprint. Above the central doors is a stone tablet embossed with the word "HALL." Each wall contains a round arch window framed by brickwork and featuring a stone sill. These windows have been boarded up with wood panels. The second floor of the main structure, which does not extend over the octagonal ground floor area, features 4 central windows with stone lintels and sills. Above the two middle windows is a small, central balcony that protrudes from the slant of a roof, similar to a dormer window. There is a skylight to the right of the balcony visible from the rear elevation.

The north and south elevations are identical and include a brick exterior with the stone water table foundation at the base. There are six windows across the main level of the building with two windows on either side of the projecting chimney above the main row of windows. The two upper windows are on the top floor/apartment level of the building while the six windows are on the main level. Below that there are no windows and the south elevation contains an exit door and a staircase attached to the building. Both the north and south elevations have the brick all the way down to the foundation and then jut out towards the rear of the property expanding to the addition of the auditorium.

### **Interior materials, style, and features [describe the interior of main buildings/resources]**

The Hazelwood Carnegie Library interior opens from the main entrance into a vestibule that encounters a set of interior wood doors that open into the main lobby. At the center of the

lobby is the original octagonal wooden desk. At the far end of the lobby are built-in bookshelves. On either side of the entrance vestibule is a small room. One leads to a doorway to a stairwell, and on the other is a restroom containing one stall and a sink. On both sides of the lobby, there are walls with the bottom half of the wall constructed of wood and the top being windows looking into the two symmetrical rooms with built-in wood-paneled bookshelves on the lower half and windows on the top half. All of the bookshelves remain intact and are a classic feature of historic libraries.

On the lower level exiting from the main stairwell, it opens into a small hall that leads into 5 different rooms. The room closest to the stairs has shelves on the left wall but is otherwise open space. The next room clockwise from the stairs is a restroom with a urinal, single-stall, and one sink. Following the clockwise pattern, the next room is the boiler room. This room has a secondary room attached that originally served as the coal vault. The original boiler room also contains stairs down to a boiler pit and stairs leading to an exit door at the far end of the room. Exiting from the boiler room and heading clockwise, there is a small stairway down to then enter the auditorium stage. The stage is elevated and looks out into the semi-circular room. There are sound panels along the wells surrounding the windows. The windows are round arch windows. The auditorium has four poles across the room to support the ceiling. There are chairs stuck in the cement flooring in a curved pattern. The chairs are broken into 3 pie sections with two main aisles at 60 and 120-degree angles from the stage. The chairs are original to the 1900 construction and are immovable continental seating. Across from the center of the main stage, there are the entrance/exit wood paneled doors. The stage is inset into the wall with an arch over the entire stage. The arch is accented by a wooden arch surround. From the main lower level hall there are two more rooms located off a small hallway. There is a workroom with shelves on the

right side of the first room. The workroom is on the right side of the hallway coming from the stairwell. The final room is at the end of the hallway and it is a square storeroom with wood paneling.

The top floor of the library was originally the caretaker's apartment. There are 4 rooms and a balcony. The balcony is across from the stairwell and looks out above the auditorium. There are rooms on either side of the balcony. Each is a square room and there is a small bathroom located directly above the two on the lower floors and immediately next to the stairs on the left side.

**Outbuildings/Landscape [describe briefly additional landscape features found on property, substitute Building Complex Form if preferred; See Instructions, page 18]**

There are no additional outbuildings. The landscape extends on the Parcel ID: 0056-B-00240-0000-00 in Allegheny County. The area of significance expands beyond the building with the extensive use history of the yard with events spilling out from the performance area and some events even existing entirely outside in the courtyard. The landscape consists of a sidewalk splitting the rear landscape of the parcel. Beyond the sidewalk, the landscape is entirely grass with trees bordering the sides of the building. 20th-century gas lamps are bordering the main sidewalk in the rear of the building. The sidewalk path continues to wrap around the building leading to a concrete stairwell on the east side of the building with an iron railing leading up to the original iron gate and fence that borders both sides of the building's facade.

**Boundaries [explain how/why boundaries chosen, such as historic legal parcel, visual natural features such as tree lines, alley separating modern construction, etc.]**

The boundary is based on the historic legal parcel. The historic parcel is also the fenced-in area of the land. It is located on a hill and the parcel extends the entire width of the block from Chatsworth Avenue to Monongahela Street. Due to the history of community use of the entire parcel of this boundary, this entire parcel is relevant to historical significance. The Hazelwood Carnegie Library hosted outdoor events in the area behind the theater throughout the period of significance including community events like outdoor concerts, game nights, and more.

**Integrity [summarize changes to the property and assess how the changes impact its ability to convey significance]**

The original dome above the main desk on the exterior of the building was demolished due to structural issues. The unique and distinctive character of the dome was replaced with a circular skylight. The dome was destroyed in the 1950-60s leaving the skylight as the main representation of the building throughout its primary period of significance. The remaining exterior materials of the building are original to the building including brickwork, iron, stone, and windows. Most of the original ironwork has rusted throughout the use of the building. Due to limited changes to the property since its construction in 1900, with the main exception being the removal of the dome in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, the building retains a high level of integrity.

## **History [Summarize the evolution of the property from origin to present]**

After retiring from the steel industry in 1870, Andrew Carnegie endeavored to distribute his vast wealth to various charitable causes worldwide. A lover of libraries, Carnegie sought to create free public library systems with his fortune. He believed that libraries afforded individuals access to knowledge in America that could allow them to become successful. At the same time, he believed that access to free libraries would assist immigrants who needed to acquire new cultural knowledge of their new country. Beginning in his native town of Dunfermline, Scotland, Carnegie successfully funded his first free and public library. After his success in Scotland, he set his philanthropic sites on Pittsburgh, his adoptive hometown, and his industrial empire's original site. In 1890 Andrew Carnegie provided funding for the city of Pittsburgh to construct the main library and six branches to be spread throughout the city's boroughs to reach the greatest number of community members. The original Carnegie Library of Hazelwood was designed and constructed by the architectural firm of Alden & Harlow at the behest of Andrew Carnegie. The original Hazelwood branch finished construction and was subsequently opened to the community on August 15, 1900.

As a part of his original donation to the city of Pittsburgh, the six main branches of the Carnegie library have been owned by the city of Pittsburgh; this includes the original Hazelwood branch. However, as a stipulation of Andrew Carnegie's donation, all of the original six branches of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, including the original Hazelwood branch, received yearly funding of \$40,000 from Carnegie's estate. As of the branch's closing in 2004, the property was internally transferred to Pittsburgh's Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA), an extension of the city's government, which currently holds both the building and its surrounding property at an asking price of \$109,000.

As designated by Andrew Carnegie, the property's primary function was as a public library for the community of Hazelwood. However, resulting from fundraising efforts made by the women of Hazelwood, money was raised to expand the library for an auditorium. These efforts were subsequently matched by Mr. Carnegie and allowed the library to expand. Shortly after its initial opening in 1900, the library grew to include a 500-seat auditorium at the basement level of the property. The addition of the auditorium allowed the library to also serve as a venue for theater and musical performances and afforded it the ability to host community meetings. Following the industrialization of Pittsburgh, the neighborhood of Hazelwood transitioned from an upper-middle class community to one populated by immigrants and African American industrial workers. As such the library also served a third purpose for the large Hungarian immigrant population, and later for the African American community while still functioning as a library, meeting hall and performance space.

**Significance [Explain why the property is important]**

The original library of Hazelwood is strongly associated with the philanthropy of Andrew Carnegie. Andrew Carnegie was a Scottish-American industrialist and philanthropist most famously associated with the steel industry in the 19th century through Carnegie Steel Corporation, one of the world's largest manufacturers of steel. Apart from his industrial and business pursuits, Carnegie is closely associated with both philanthropy and education. Most notably among the myriad of Andrew Carnegie's public projects and donations were his gifts of free public library buildings. This began with establishing a free library in his native home of Dunfermline, Scotland, before shifting his focus to assisting his industrial home of Pittsburgh. Following the Carnegie Libraries of Pittsburgh's successful establishments, Carnegie would continue his endeavors to provide free public library buildings to the English-speaking world

which included areas of the UK, Australia, and New Zealand. Carnegie's philanthropic ideologies were exposed through *The Gospel of Wealth*. He stated that monied elites should use their prodigious wealth to promote the happiness and welfare of others. Carnegie's dedication to such an ideology can be seen through the many charitable organizations that bear his name. Today, the original Hazelwood library stands as a physical testament to Carnegie's desire to enrich the community's lives and welfare through charitable and philanthropic acts.

Other than its connection to Andrew Carnegie, the original Hazelwood library is associated with architects Frank Ellis Alden and Alfred Branch Harlow. Alden & Harlow (formerly of Longfellow, Alden, and Harlow) held offices in both the Boston and Pittsburgh areas. However, within the Pittsburgh area, the pair became one of the city's leading architectural firms from the 1890s to the 1920s. Andrew Carnegie heavily favored the two in the design of many of his buildings. In 1890, he hired the firm to design the main Carnegie Library and its six subsequent branches and the Carnegie Institute. Apart from their work with Carnegie, the firm was also instrumental in designing office buildings, banks, elite social clubs, and mansions for Pittsburgh's industrial elites during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Finally, the Hazelwood library is closely associated with August Wilson, the multi-award-winning American playwright, whose works highlighted the lives of African Americans in the 20th century. As a young child Wilson's family moved into the Hazelwood neighborhood of Pittsburgh, where he attended school at Gladstone High School. In 1960 Wilson dropped out of Highschool at only fifteen years old. Despite dropping out of High school Wilson's education did not end, instead he spent every day for the next five years educating himself with the books found at the Hazelwood library. Wilson's time spent at the original Carnegie Library of Hazelwood had a lasting impact on both shaping his education and future career as a playwright.

Designed and constructed by the architectural firm Alden& Harlow, the exterior of the original Hazelwood library is comprised of red brick. The library is one of six original Carnegie branch libraries in Pittsburgh that features distinct Richardsonian influence; however, it is not uniform in its design. Each of the original six branches were designed to appear similar but not uniform—each boasting its own specific architectural design qualities. The original Hazelwood branch, in particular, incorporates raised parapets into the gabled ends of the building instead of the classical porticos or low-hipped roofs demonstrated within the architecture of the other six branch libraries by Alden& Harlow during this period. Yet within the library’s interior is a semi-circular wood desk situated on the library’s main floor, a distinct hallmark of the original six branch libraries. The desk is specifically placed contrapuntal to the curved stacks, which project from the rear of the rectangularly shaped building. Apart from such features, unique to the Hazelwood library is its octagonal auditorium situated in the lower floor of the library which opens onto the back lawn. This auditorium was added shortly after the completion of the main library as a result of community fundraising and a desire for the library to also function as a meeting space and theater for the Hazelwood neighborhood.

**Context and Comparisons [Describe briefly similar properties in the area, and explain how this property compares]**

The original branch of the Hazelwood library is located at 4748 Monongahela Street in the Hazelwood neighborhood of Pittsburgh. The community of Hazelwood itself is located in the southernmost valley of Pittsburgh and is situated above the Monongahela River. Hazelwood shares a border with the neighborhoods of Glen Hazel to the southeast, Squirrel Hill to the east, Greenfield to the north, and South Oakland to the northwest. The library itself is situated in a residential area rather than within the business district. The property is located caddy-corner



from a disused Catholic Church owned by the Diocese of Pittsburgh and is surrounded by housing on all sides. Most notably, the property is located a block down from Gladstone Middle school, which closed its doors early in 2014. At the time of the library's construction, Hazelwood's area was considered an upper-class community. However, with the rise of the steel industry, the neighborhood became inhabited by railroad workers and steel mill workers, many of whom were immigrants or African American. Characteristically, Hazelwood was considered to have the largest population of Hungarian immigrants in the City of Pittsburgh during its industrial phase. This is demonstrated by the significant collection of books and works written entirely in Hungarian found within the library, which helped to serve and educate this immigrant population. After the 1940s, however, the neighborhood of Hazelwood began to decline as the steel industry, along with many others, began to leave Pittsburgh. However, despite the decline the neighborhood of Hazelwood has maintained a strong African American community. While the neighborhood of Hazelwood has continued to experience prolonged population decline, it shows the promise of new growth due to industrial and commercial projects in the area.

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