



ORIGINAL CARD CATALOG CABINET
WITH COMPUTER ON TOP

DEWEY DECIMAL MEETS GOOGLE

In the same way the card catalog, home to the Dewey Decimal System, has become iconic to a bygone era and the Google Age has come to be the norm, so has the ICL adapted into the 21st Century. The ICL is proud to be able to respect its momentous beginnings and maintain this beautifully historic building while meeting the current patron's growing digital and media needs.

WHAT WE HAVE:

- **COLLECTIONS:** books, audio books, DVDs, periodicals, interlibrary loan service
- **TECHNOLOGY:** downloadable audio and ebooks, public computers, high-speed internet, Free Wi-Fi
- **PROGRAMS:** book clubs, story times, art programs, science + wildlife presentations, creative writing + technology, movies, and game groups
- **GREAT START** resource library
- **GENEALOGY** resources + expertise
- **CUSTOMER SERVICE:** individualized computer assistance, genealogy research, data base training

VISITING THE LIBRARY

IRONWOOD CARNEGIE LIBRARY

235 E. Aurora St., Ironwood, MI 49938

Phone: 906-932-0203

Fax: 906-932-2447

Email: Circulation@ironwoodcarnegie.org
www.uproc.lib.mi.us/ironwood/

The Ironwood Carnegie Library is a hub of knowledge, culture, and communication. Without your loyalty and support, this public service simply would not survive.

State and local funding cover only a fraction of our expenses. The ongoing support of donors like you determines what the Library is today and what it will be in years to come. Your donation to the ICL is tax deductible.

This brochure is made possible with funding from the Michigan Council for Arts & Cultural Affairs Minigrant program, administered by the Copper Country Community Arts Council. Together with the City of Ironwood, Michigan we welcome you to join us in restoring our past to build our future.



Snap this QR code to stay connected to the Ironwood Carnegie Library's programs, lectures, workshops, and clubs.



PHOTO: FUTURE SITE OF IRONWOOD CARNEGIE LIBRARY.
LOOKING WEST FROM EAST END OF AURORA ST. CIRCA 1890

Photo credits: Ironwood Area Historical Society, John Demario, and Sandy Sharp

Brochure design by: SHARP GRAPHIC DESIGN

WELCOME TO THE IRONWOOD CARNEGIE LIBRARY.

ANDREW CARNEGIE AND THE IRONWOOD CARNEGIE LIBRARY



ANDREW CARNEGIE - CA. 1913

The Ironwood Carnegie Library (ICL) is the oldest continuously operating Carnegie Library in Michigan. It is historically significant on a variety of levels.

Ironwood was founded primarily because of its importance to iron mining. In 1880, the census showed Michigan as the second largest producer of iron ore behind Pennsylvania.

Andrew Carnegie, in 1892, needed more reserves of iron ore to run his steel company furnaces. Therefore, in order to control the source of supply, Carnegie bought



PABST MINERS AT G SHAFT- 1918

controlling interest in the mines owned by HW Oliver. These Ironwood mines consisted of the Norrie and Pabst Mines. This inside advantage made Carnegie Steel Company self-sufficient. Never again would Carnegie Steel have to buy a ton of ore on the open market. These iron ore mine holdings in Ironwood, Michigan formed a part of Carnegie's vast industrial empire, helping to make him one of the wealthiest men in the history of the world.



IRONWOOD CARNEGIE LIBRARY - 1902

IN THE BEGINNING

The beginnings of the Ironwood Carnegie Library were shaped in the form of a letter in 1900 from James Gayley, VP of Carnegie Steel Company to Andrew Carnegie. This letter asked Carnegie the possibility of building a modest library "in our principal mining operations town in the Lake Superior region."

Carnegie answered, "If they, (Ironwood) will provide a suitable site, I shall give them the \$12,000 which they state is required to erect a library building."

In June of 1901, James Gayley once again wrote to Andrew Carnegie asking for an additional \$5000 to complete the building. There was no problem and the donation was increased to \$17,000. The building proceeded, and was dedicated to the city in January of 1902.

CARNEGIE ARCHITECTURE

In the early 1900s the ICL became an architectural landmark for surrounding townships and counties. Today, it is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The architects, Alden & Harlow of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, were the same architects that built the Pittsburgh library branches in 1898 and 1899. The library's floor plan is typical of many Carnegie Libraries.

It is a modified Georgian building, sits on a corner lot and is the cornerstone of Ironwood's historical downtown area. It is red brick with red-brown sandstone one story above a tall, raised basement. The building is rectangular with a hip-roof front section and a shallow gabled front central part containing the main entrance.

The architecture is simple yet formal, welcoming patrons to enter through a prominent doorway accessed via a "grand staircase". The entry staircase symbolizes a person's elevation by learning. Similarly, outside virtually every Carnegie library was a lamppost or lantern meant as a symbol of enlightenment.



ORIGINAL 1912
REGULATOR
CLOCK

Inside, the beautiful original woodwork is stunning as well as the high ceilings and archway above the charge (circulation) desk. The 1912 Regulator clock above the fireplace mantel along with several architectural details surprise and please visitors. These include the elaborate heat radiators and the scrolled iron grills for the cold air returns. A coal room is in the basement furnace room. A fireplace is in the adult fiction room.

Artifacts currently housed in the ICL Archive Collection. In the turn-of-the-century, Library images were put on china, sterling silver souvenirs and on postcards. The Dickens Dictionary is a book from ICL's first 5000 volumes.

