**Driving Visit to SF Carnegie Libraries**

Andrew Carnegie was born in Scotland on November 25, 1835 and immigrated to Pittsburg, USA with his parents at the age of 12.

He began work with his father in a cotton mill. He later worked for a telegraph company, and then as a telegrapher for the railroads. By 1875 he had become an industrialist who built Pittsburg Carnegie Steel Company. He sold his company to J. P. Morgan in 1901 for $303,450,000 (equal to $10,674,157,200 today).

During the last 18 years of his life he gave away 350 million dollars, almost 90% of his fortune, to charities, foundations and universities. He funded over 3,000 pubic libraries in the US, Canada and other English speaking countries. The Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore, MD. impressed Carnegie deeply. He claimed that Pratt was his guide and inspiration.

Carnegie’s method was to provide funds to build and equip the libraries on the condition that the local authority match that by providing land and a budget for operation and maintenance.

The library profession wanted designs that supported efficiency in administration and operation while wealthy philanthropists favored buildings that reinforced a paternalistic view and enhanced civic pride. Between 1886 and 1917 Carnegie reformed both library philanthropy and library design encouraging a closer correspondence between the two. Andrew Carnegie died on August 11, 1919.

San Francisco has seven Carnegie Libraries and all are still in use over 100 years later.

**Richmond**, **351 Ninth Avenue, built 1914**

The library was designed by Bliss & Faville in the Classical Revival style and composed of sandstone and reinforced concrete. First Carnagie library. Bliss & Faville also designed the St Francis Hotel and the Metropolitan Club.

**Mission, 300 Bartlett Street, built 1916**

First San Francisco branch library in 1888. G. Alfred Lansburgh designed the current building in the Italian Renaissance style.

**Noe Valley, 451 Jersey Street, built 1916**

The library was designed by John Reid Jr. in the Classical Revival style. John Reid Jr. also designed several schools in San Francisco.

**Golden Gate 1801 Green Street, built 1918**

Architect Ernest Coxhead designed the library in the Classical Revival style which resembles a Roman basilica with its long narrow rectangle and curved apse visible on three sides.

**Sunset, 1305 18th Avenue, built 1918**

G. Albert Lansburgh designed the building in the Classical Revival style. The central entrance is recessed within a loggia formed by three tall round arches supported by two segmented Corinthian columns and two pilasters. Names of authors, many western, are inscribed under the sills of recessed arched windows.

**Chinatown, 1135 Powell Street, built 1921**

This branch library was designed by G. Alfred Lansburgh in the Italian Renaissance style.

**Presidio, 3150 Sacramento Street, built 1921**

G. Alfred Lansburgh designed the library in the Italian Renaissance style. Carnegie supplied $83,228. Largest

Gustave Alfred Lansburgh was born in Panama but moved to San Francisco with is family.

He studied at UC Berkeley and worked for Bernard Maybeck as a draftsman. He went to Ecole des Beaux- Arts for his architect degree, which he received in 1906.

He is known for his designs of opulent movie palaces built between 1910 and 1930. He designed more than 50 theaters nationwide. Some of his surviving works are El Capitan Theater on Mission Street, the Elkan Gunst Building at Powell and Geary Streets, the War Memorial Opera House on Van Ness, Temple Emanu-El on Lake Street, and Miramar Apartments at 1589-1598 Market Street

He designed four of the Carnegie Libraries in SF.

There are enough of his buildings still being used that we could do a drive featuring his work.