

volume, *Executive Mansions and Capitols of America*. It covers the twelve midwestern states of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. For each, Liberman provides a half-dozen pages that comment gracefully on the character of the state, the background of the mansion, its architectural style and furnishings, and finally its renovations and restorations. The handsome book is illustrated by numerous gorgeous exterior and interior color images taken by the author's daughter, a professional photographer.

Although these mansions vary greatly, all of them are intriguing physical connectors of their respective states' past and future. Some were originally built as gubernatorial residences; others were privately constructed and later bought by—or donated to—the state. Rather than reflecting regional architectural variations, they mimic styles in fashion in the East during the era of construction. In a kind of hang-over from the sexist past, gubernatorial First Ladies often redecorate them to make their mark on this temporary family nest.

Terrace Hill, the governor's mansion in Iowa, is one of the largest and most architecturally distinctive in the group. An extravagant Second Empire structure built by two Des Moines business tycoons in the Gilded Age, it was donated to the state in 1971, saving it from likely demolition and giving Iowa's chief executive a striking Victorian setting in which to live and entertain.

The Carnegie Libraries of Iowa, by John M. Witt. Washington, MO: Robidoux Books, 2003. x, 309 pp. Illustrations, notes, index. \$24.95 paper.

Reviewer Karen L. Wellner is lecturer of science education at Arizona State University. In addition to writing many articles on science education, she has photographed and researched many of Iowa's Carnegie libraries.

The Carnegie Libraries of Iowa, by John M. Witt, is neither a true architectural guide nor a comprehensive history of Iowa's libraries, but simply documents pictorially and descriptively the impact of Andrew Carnegie on town and public library development in the Midwest. The author visited all of the 95 still-standing libraries across the state, which enabled him to combine photographs with interesting local history and public documents that help place each library in context. His style is friendly and not imposing. His use of primary sources such as blueprints, newspaper articles, and letters from the Carnegie Corporation provides valuable evidence related to the history of early library development, such as the role that women and library associations played in obtaining Carnegie grants, the requirements that had to be

followed in order to obtain funding from Carnegie, and the use of libraries to foster civic pride.

Even though it deals more with community history than architectural history, this book belongs on the shelf next to *Buildings of Iowa*, by Gebhard and Mansheim (1993), and *The Carnegie Library in Illinois*, by Bial and Bial (1991). Because Iowa received 99 public library Carnegie grants (fourth in number behind Indiana, California, and Illinois), these libraries had and continue to have a strong influence in Iowa. With so many Carnegie libraries still standing in Iowa's downtown cores, many will welcome the chance to flip through this book's pages and see how the visual presence of a "Carnegie" has contributed to the life of their community.

Buxton: A Black Utopia in the Heartland, by Dorothy Schwieder, Joseph Hraba, and Elmer Schwieder. Expanded edition. Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 2003. xx, 256 pp. Illustrations, tables, notes, bibliography, index. \$19.95 paper.

Reviewer Hal Chase is an instructor of history at Des Moines Area Community College. He is a coauthor of *Outside In: African-American History in Iowa, 1838-2000* (2001).

Buxton: A Black Utopia in the Heartland is a reprint of *Buxton: Work and Racial Equality in a Coal Mining Community* (1987). The only addition is an introduction emphasizing the people who wrote the Buxton story with their lives.

"From all perspectives," the authors write, "Buxton must be considered a success story for blacks" [and whites] (218). "For residents of Buxton, life began and ended with the Consolidation Coal Company" (88), and "its parent company, the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad, served as the sovereign power" (212). The United Mine Workers (UMW) was another power, as was the family, the YMCA, the company store, and the dozen churches that existed in Buxton.

The Buxton story began with Consolidation's purchase of Muchakinock in 1881 and its recruitment of black men in Virginia. Consolidation reached its peak in Buxton and its end with the closing of the mines in Haydock in 1927. But from 1900 to 1910, Buxton was "A Kind of Heaven" (viii). Chapters on The Creation of a Community, Workers, Consolidation Coal Co., Family Life, and Ethnicity employ census and company records, articles from *The Iowa Bystander*, recollections gleaned from 75 interviews, and personal photographs of many of those same people to document the truth of that vision.

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