

Structure/Site Information Form

IDENTIFICATION 1

Street Address: 26 East Forest St. Carnegie Library Bldg.  
Brigham City, Box Elder County, Utah

UTM: 12 415370 4595740

Name of Structure: Brigham City Carnegie Library

T. R. S.

Present Owner: Brigham City Corporation

Owner Address: 20 North Main, Brigham City, Utah 84302

Year Built (Tax Record):  
Legal Description

Effective Age:  
Kind of Building:

Tax #: 03-103-0081

The library building is located on a multi-acre parcel of land that contains other city-owned buildings. The portion of the property upon which the library sits is Lot 1, Block 20, Plat A, Brigham City Survey. Less than one acre.

STATUS/USE 2

Original Owner: Brigham City Corp.

Construction Date: 1915

Demolition Date:

Original Use: Educational - Library

Present Use: Education - Library

Building Condition:

Integrity:

Preliminary Evaluation:

Final Register Status:

- Excellent     Site     Unaltered     Significant     Not of the     National Landmark     District
- Good     Ruins     Minor Alterations     Contributory     Historic Period     National Register     Multi-Resource
- Deteriorated     Major Alterations     Not Contributory     State Register     Thematic

DOCUMENTATION 3

Photography:

Date of Slides: 1983

Slide No.:

Date of Photographs: 1983

Photo No.:

Views:  Front  Side  Rear  Other

Views:  Front  Side  Rear  Other

Research Sources:

- Abstract of Title     Sanborn Maps     Newspapers     U of U Library
- Plat Records/Map     City Directories     Utah State Historical Society     BYU Library
- Tax Card & Photo     Biographical Encyclopedias     Personal Interviews     USU Library
- Building Permit     Obituary Index     LDS Church Archives     SLC Library
- Sewer Permit     County & City Histories     LDS Genealogical Society     Other

Bibliographical References (books, articles, records, interviews, old photographs and maps, etc.):

The Box Elder News 1914, 1915, 1935

History of Box Elder County Privately published by the Daughters of Utah Pioneers, 1937.

Architect/Builder: S. Arthur Shreeve and D. Leo Madsen/T. W. Whittaker

Building Materials: Masonry - Brick

Building Type/Style: Prairie

Description of physical appearance & significant architectural features:

(Include additions, alterations, ancillary structures, and landscaping if applicable)

The Brigham City Carnegie Library is a one story brick rectangular building designed in the Prairie Style. The Prairie Style, as it was commonly used in small public buildings in Utah towns, and as it has here been represented, consists of a low building, generally one story in height with a raised basement, a flat roof, a horizontal emphasis, and geometric decorative elements. Decorative features included in the Brigham City Carnegie Library that are generally common to Prairie Style buildings include: the banding of the entrance elements in contrasting materials; the geometric designs in the stained glass panels; the geometric patterns on the piers; and the terra cotta decorative squares that top the piers and the mullions of the window panels.

Although the horizontal has been emphasized in the design of the Brigham City Library, the interplay between horizontal and vertical elements on the facade is particularly notable. Vertical elements include the brick piers framing the entrance area and at the corners of the building, the rectangular windows, the contrasting white bands that frame parts of the entrance area, and the decorative cross patterns on the brick piers. The horizontal is emphasized by the use of Roman brick with wider horizontal mortar joints than vertical

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Statement of Historical Significance:

Construction Date: 1915

Built in 1915, the Brigham City Carnegie Library is significant as one of seventeen remaining Carnegie libraries of the twenty-three built in Utah. Thirteen of the seventeen library buildings maintain their original integrity and are included in the Carnegie Library Thematic Resource Nomination. In addition to making significant contributions to public education in their respective communities, these libraries are Utah's representatives of the important nation-wide Carnegie library program, and they document its unparalleled effect in the establishment of community-supported, free public libraries in Utah. The Brigham City Carnegie Library is also architecturally significant as an excellent example of the local expression of the Prairie Style in Utah, a distillation of the style made popular in the Chicago area. It is one of only three Carnegie libraries designed in the Prairie Style and is also one of the best of less than twenty well preserved examples of public buildings designed in that style in Utah.

The Brigham City Carnegie Library was built in 1915 with a \$12,500 grant from millionaire/philanthropist Andrew Carnegie on property donated by the city for that purpose. Carnegie funded the construction of over 1650 library buildings in the U.S., 23 of which were built in Utah communities. The conditions upon which all Carnegie grants were given were that the recipient community donate the building site and provide an annual maintenance budget of at least 10% of the grant amount.

Architectural firms from around the state submitted plans for the new building. They included Monson & Price of Salt Lake City, who submitted two separate plans, Watkins & Birch of Provo, who also submitted two plans, one of which had been used on a library in the southern part of the state, C. F.

(See continuation sheet)

Brigham City Carnegie Library  
Description continued:

joints, the prominent projecting white terra cotta cornice spanning the facade and over the entrance, the horizontal bands of vertical bricks beneath the window bands, the grouping of windows in horizontal bands, and the banding of the building itself with color differences-- white terra cotta for the cornice, brick for the middle section, light window bands, and the light finish of the concrete basement.

The facade is symmetrical with the entrance centered between two bands of stained glass windows. The basement windows, too, are banded. The entrance is the focal point of the facade, having been set above ground level, and fronted by a staircase that curves outward at both edges as it descends. The eye is drawn to the entrance because of the geometric patterns created by the combination of brick, stone, wood and glass used in that area. Double doors are framed by terra cotta panels, topped by a projecting cornice above which is a transom, also framed by terra cotta panels. The geometric design of the terracotta panels echo the shape of the doors. There are white terra cotta bands around the doors, the transom, and the terracotta panels. A large band of bricks around the entrance bay is also framed by narrow white bands, and accentuated at the upper corners by decorative terracotta squares.

There are bands of stained glass windows on the three other sides of the building. Decorative terra cotta squares highlight the upper corners of each side of the building. On the north and east walls, with the exception of one square window on the north side, a new wing covers the stained glass windows. They, however, have not been removed, and because the new wing was attached to the original building by glass panels, they are visible from inside the new wing. Only the band on the south side of the east wall has been covered so that it is no longer visible.

The original building is completely intact with the exception of the addition of a large and a small door into the east wall, through which access to the library is possible from the new wing. The brick of the new wing was matched, both in color and size with that of the original library, and its scale is compatible. The original integrity of the exterior of the Brigham City Carnegie Library has been maintained while at the same time the building has been made more serviceable.

Few changes have been made to the interior of the building. A partition was constructed at the south end of the first floor reading room, but that change does not compromise the integrity of that room. The original wood moldings around the doors and bands of stained glass windows are completely intact.

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## Brigham City Carnegie Library History Continued

Wells of Brigham City, and Shreeve & Madsen of Ogden.<sup>1</sup> After careful consideration, the Brigham City Public Library Board awarded the design contract in September 1914 to Shreeve & Madsen, although with the understanding that the exterior of their proposed building would have to be altered to conform with the Carnegie Supervising Board's general outline.<sup>2</sup> The building was designed in the Prairie Style, which is found on only two other Carnegie libraries in Utah, but its basic form, with a rectangular box-like shape, flat roof, and one story with a raised basement, is typical of Carnegie libraries throughout the state and nation.

The building was completed, except for the installation of a few light fixtures and a few pieces of furniture, on December 15, 1915. Total cost of the building, complete with furniture and fixtures, was \$13,032.49. A local newspaper article provided the following description of the building:

The library...is a thing of beauty both from within and from without. The interior arrangement is most convenient. The Librarian's desk stands in the center of the room facing the entrance and the book shelves are so arranged that they form an alcove for the Librarian's office. Seated at her desk, the Librarian has a commanding view of the entire building or rather reading floor. The interior finishing is beautiful and harmonious. The walls and ceiling are done in panels in exquisitely dainty design which is enhanced by the subdued light which comes thru the art windows and from the indirect electric light. The entrance hall, from which wide steps lead up into the reading room and a stairway leads down into the lecture room, store room, lavatories and furnace room, is finished in brown marble and tile on the landings. The lavatories are finished in white marble and tiling and are the very last word in convenience.

A large lecture room has been provided in the basement occupying the north half of the building, while the furnace room, general store room and toilet room occupy the other half of the basement. The building was accepted from the contractor by the architect, Mr. D. Leo Madsen, who in turn asked the Library Commission to receive the building, which they did. Mr. T.W. Whittaker, the contractor, has done a splendid job on the building and can always look with pride on his work there.<sup>3</sup>

The first library in the town and in the county was opened in 1870 by the Brigham City Sunday School Superintendency. Books were purchased from funds solicited from the townspeople and consisted mainly of Bibles, music books, National Primers, First Readers, and a few historical books. The first public library in the city was organized in 1897 as the M.I.A. Library and Free Reading Room, and opened in February 1898 with 425 volumes. The building which housed that library was formally transferred to the city by the LDS church in 1913, after which it was extensively renovated. That building was abandoned prior to the completion of the Carnegie library, however, and the books and fixtures were temporarily stored in the Boothe Building.

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## Brigham City Carnegie Library History Continued

The Brigham City Carnegie Library was one of the most successful Carnegie libraries in the state, due to the strong support given to it by the residents and officials of the city. A 1934 report of the library provided statistics which compared the operations of the Brigham City Library with those of an American Library Association Model Library and with those of a library in a representative Utah town.<sup>4</sup> The Brigham City Library operated on 25% less funds, circulated 2.3 times as many books per capita, and had almost the ideal number of books in stock as the A.L.A. Model Library. It compared even more favorably with the representative Utah library, circulating 2.5 times as many books per capita and having almost 2.4 times as many books in stock per capita.

The Brigham City Carnegie Library is still functioning as the community's library, although a major addition was built on the back and side of the building in 1977. Special attention was given to maintaining the visual independence of the original building from the addition by using glass to join the old and new sections. Also, the coursing of the brickwork on the new section was done to match that on the old by having very narrow, unraked head joints, which emphasize the horizontal lines of the building.

Shreeve & Madsen, the architectural firm which designed the building, was an Ogden, Utah based firm which practiced in northern Utah and southern Idaho from about 1909 until 1917. They employed the Prairie Style in many of their designs, including the Bear River Stake Tabernacle in Garland, Utah, the Hotel Paris and Browning Block in Paris, Idaho, and, of course, the Brigham City Carnegie Library. S. Arthur Shreeve, a native of Ogden, received his architectural training at the Armour Institute of Technology in Chicago and at the Chicago Art Institute. Little is known of D. Leo Madsen except that he was a fellow student of Shreeve's in Chicago.<sup>5</sup> He apparently left Utah and the Ogden area around 1920.

### Footnotes

<sup>1</sup>The Box Elder News, August 20, 1914, p. 5; September 3, 1914, p. 4.

<sup>2</sup>The Box Elder News, September 24, 1914, p. 1.

<sup>3</sup>The Box Elder News, December 16, 1915, p. 1.

<sup>4</sup>The Box Elder News, November 29, 1935, p. 1.

<sup>5</sup>"Ogden, the Junction City" (Ogden, Utah: Pacific Realty Association, 1910), p. 24.