

Historic Preservation Research Office

Structure/Site Information Form

IDENTIFICATION 1

Street Address: 47 East Vine Street
Tooele, Tooele County, Utah

UTM: 12 390180 4487300

Name of Structure: Tooele Carnegie Library
(Carnegie Library)

T. R. S.

Present Owner: Tooele City Corporation

Owner Address: 90 North Main, Tooele, Utah 84074

Year Built (Tax Record):
Legal Description

Effective Age:
Kind of Building:

Tax #: 2-32-1 (T-139)

Commencing at the Southeast Corner of Lot 1, Block 7, Plat A, Tooele City Survey; thence North 82.5 feet, West 133.25 feet, South 82.5 feet, East 133.25 feet to beginning. .25 acres.

STATUS/USE 2

Original Owner: Tooele City Corporation

Construction Date: 1911

Demolition Date:

Original Use: Education - 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.):

History of Tooele County. Salt Lake City: Tooele County Company of the Daughters of Utah Pioneers, 1961.

Architect/Builder: Frank M. Ulmer/Olaf and Julius Miller

Building Materials: Masonry - Brick

Building Type/Style: Classical Revival

Description of physical appearance & significant architectural features:
(Include additions, alterations, ancillary structures, and landscaping if applicable)

The Tooele Carnegie Library is a long rectangular building set on a slight hill so that from the facade it appears to be a one story building, but it actually drops off to two stories in the rear. It is oriented gable end to the street, resembling a temple-form building, with a door centered between two windows, and has a portico spanning the facade. The low pitch of the gable roof, the domestic scale of the building and porch, and the use of fishscale shingles in the gable section are reminiscent of bungalows that were being built at the same time. The symmetrical arrangement of openings on the facade, the returns of the cornice, and the wide frieze of the entablature, however, counter the domestic character and emphasize Classical Revival influences.

Alterations to the Tooele Carnegie Library include the addition of a large brick wing on the west side of the building in 1973, which cuts into the west wall of the library building, and the painting of the exterior brick walls (n.d.). These changes, however, do not substantially affect the original integrity of the building. The addition was set back far enough that the facade of the library is completely unaffected by the addition. The 1973 addition visually joins the library building with the 1867 stone Tooele County
(See continuation sheet)

Statement of Historical Significance:

Construction Date: 1911

Built in 1911, the Tooele Carnegie Library is significant as one of sixteen remaining Carnegie libraries of the twenty-three built in Utah. Thirteen of the sixteen library buildings maintain their original integrity and are included in the Carnegie Library Thematic Resource Nomination. In addition to making important 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 Tooele Carnegie Library was built in 1911 with a \$5000 grant from millionaire/philanthropist Andrew Carnegie. 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. The city of Tooele provided the books and building site for the library, and promised to provide at least \$500 per year for the upkeep and operation of the library building. Designed by Salt Lake City based architect Frank M. Ulmer, the Tooele Carnegie Library, which, complete with books, cost a total of \$6500, was officially opened on May 10, 1911.

Although the Carnegie library was the first building constructed and used specifically for library purposes in Tooele, it was not the first library organized in the city. The Tooele City Library Association was first organized in February 1864 under a territorial legislative charter. Due to financial difficulties brought about by the Association's involvement in the
(See continuation sheet)

Tooele Carnegie Library
Description continued:

Courthouse/City Hall on the west, although the addition is joined to the courthouse only at the roof level and the two buildings neither share a common wall nor are connected on their interiors. The Tooele County Courthouse/City Hall was listed in the National Register in 1983.

Tooele Carnegie Library
History continued:

construction of a social hall in the town, the book collection was taken over by the Tooele (LDS church) Ward Ecclesiastical Board in 1878. Members of the library were assessed annual dues to cover the operation expenses of the library and to pay the \$35 annual salary of the librarian. The library operated out of the social hall (known as the Opera House), which it shared with other community activities. A private, fiction library was opened in Tooele in 1893 by William C. Foster, secretary of the library association. Foster, who operated his library until his death in 1906, rented out books for a fee of 25¢ per month. The \$5000 Carnegie grant enabled the city to replace those private, user-funded libraries with the city-supported Tooele Free Public Library. It has continued to serve as the city's library up to the present, although the original building was expanded in 1973 by a major addition on the west. Despite that addition, the building retains its original integrity.