UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED OCT 2 9 1980

DATE ENTERED

# SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS NAME HISTORIC

HISTORIC Ottawa	a Library		1973 - 1980 - 1980 - 1980 - 1980 - 1980 - 1980 - 1980 - 1980 - 1980 - 1980 - 1980 - 1980 - 1980 - 1980 - 1980 -	
AND/OR COMMON		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
	gie Free Library		ř	
LOCATION				
STREET & NUMBER				0
	h and Main Sts.		NOT FOR PUBLICATION	
CITY, TOWN	tawa		3, Larry Winn	RICT
STATE		20 <sup>E</sup>	COUNTY	CODE
	Insas	20	<u> </u>	037
CLASSIFIC	ATION			
CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRES	ENTUSE
DISTRICT	X_PUBLIC	XOCCUPIED	AGRICULTURE	MUSEUM
XBUILDING(S)	PRIVATE	UNOCCUPIED	COMMERCIAL	PARK
STRUCTURE	ВОТН	WORK IN PROGRESS	EDUCATIONAL	PRIVATE RESIDENC
SITE ·	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENT	RELIGIOUS
OBJECT	IN PROCESS	X_YES: RESTRICTED	GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC
	BEING CONSIDERED	YES: UNRESTRICTED	INDUSTRIAL	TRANSPORTATION
		NO	MILITARY	<u>x other</u> : Librar
NAME	PROPERTY			
STREET & NUMBER	ity_Hall		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
CITY, TOWN	wa		STATE Kansas	66067
LOCATION	OF LEGAL DESCI	RIPTION		
COURTHOUSE,	·			
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, E	Register of Deeds			
STREET & NUMBER	-	_		
	Franklin County Co	urthouse		
CITY, TOWN	<b>A 1 1</b>		STATE	nc7
	<u>Ottawa</u>			067
REPRESEN	TATION IN EXIST	ING SURVEYS		
title Historia	c Preservation Survey	,		
DATE				····
1978		FEDERAL	STATECOUNTY _XLOCAL	
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS	Ks. State Historical	Society		
CITY, TOWN	Tanaka		STATE	66612
	Topeka		Kansas	66612

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE	
EXCELLENT	DETERIORATED	-XUNALTERED	X_ORIGINAL	SITE
GOOD	RUINS	ALTERED	MOVED	DATE
	UNEXPOSED			

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The old Carnegie Free Library in Ottawa is a rectangular two-story yellow brick building. It is located in the north west corner of the city park. A shallow two-story temple portico frames the main entrance on the west. A onestory semi-circular projection at the east serves as an extension of the main reading room.

A raised foundation capped by a cut stone watertable supports the brick walls. The foundation is built of coursed, rough-pitched limestone. The fenestration is regular with the window openings accentuated by raised brick surrounds above stone sills. The hip roof is covered by standing seam metal roofing which has been painted red.

On the exterior, classical detailing is evident in the entrance portico and the wall cornice. Original detailing also remains in the interior, including wood columns and trim in the reading room.

#### Alterations

Generally, the historic integrity of this building is excellent. Only minor features have been changed. In 1972 the "Carnegie Free Library" sign was replaced. The new sign is located on the lower frieze rather than above the columns. Anodized aluminum storm windows have been added. Alterations to the main stairway and other interior rooms include the introduction of acoustical ceiling tile and modern decorative treatments.

# **8 SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
_PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION	
_1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE	
_1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE	
1600-1699	ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	X_SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
_1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER	
_1800-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION	
<b>(</b> _1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		INVENTION			

#### SPECIFIC DATES 1903

BUILDER/ARCHITEC George P. Washburn

#### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The old Carnegie Free Library in Ottawa, through its association with Andrew Carnegie's attempt to promote cultural enrichment, represents an important aspect of American history at the turn of the twentieth century. Characteristic of the taste in design during this period for classically detailed civic structures, the building is also a late example of the work of Kansas architect George P. Washburn.

A \$15,000 grant from Carnegie financed the construction of the library. Mrs. R. A. Wasson and Mrs. R. S. Black had solicited the gift in 1902 on behalf of the Ottawa Library Association which had been active since 1873. In accordance with Carnegie's customary procedure when making such gifts, the city had to agree to provide a site and accept the obligation of spending annually an amount equal to 10% of the gift for maintaining the library before the grant was advanced.

The city proposed to erect the building in the city park. Because of a deed restriction which stipulated that any change in use must have unanimous consent, it was necessary to gain written approval for the proposed library from all owners of property adjacent to the park.

Grants from the Carnegie Corporation for libraries were awarded as early as 1886, but the number of donations increased dramatically from 1898 to a peak in 1903 when the Ottawa Library was built. Carnegie's purpose was to contribute to civic advancement through cultural enrichment. His philanthropy (finally amounting to \$56 million for 2,509 libraries) was an impressive and successful attempt to affect American life on a broad scale. The program ended in 1917. Eventually, there were 59 Carnegie libraries in Kansas. As late as 1967, fortyfour were still in use.

The Ottawa Library opened in the fall of 1903. It was designed by the office of George P. Washburn (an Ottawa resident) in what was termed at the time as a "free classical" style. Because of this and the constraints of a modest budget, the building is detailed simply. A feature of this design which may reflect Washburn's hand is the distinctive hemicycle. The usual Carnegie Library had a simple rectangular plan.

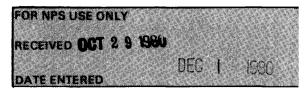
# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(see the attached sheet)

	ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED
10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1	UTM NOT VERIFIED
QUADRANGLE NAME Ottawa South	QUADRANGLE SCALE
C	B ZONE EASTING NORTHING
GLI LILL LILL	
size; it is located in the northwest corr also known as City Park. Beginning at the	d property is approximately one-half acre in ner of Block 111,original plat of Ottawa, e southeast corner of Fifth & Main Streets, th ximately 110 yards, then south 110 yards, then
STATE CODE	COUNTY CODE
NAME/TITLE Julie A. Wortman, Architectu Dale Nimz, Historic Preserva ORGANIZATION Ks. State Historical Society STREET & NUMBER 120 West 10th	DATE DATE
Торека	Kansas 66612
12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION	
THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF TH	IS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:
NATIONAL STATE_	LOCAL <u>X</u>
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the Natio hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Regi criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE	
TITLE	DATE 10-14-80
Executive Director, Ks. State Histo FOR NPS USE ONLY I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN Company And Angel	prical Society
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	DATE
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION	

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In its first year of operation, the library circulated 24,434 books. For some time after its opening, however, the library leased extra rooms to women's clubs, doctors, and others.

Early in 1979, a library advisory committee called for the construction of a new, larger facility for Ottawa. The report recommended preservation of the original building, but with an alternative use.

THIS STATEMENT REFLECTS CURRENT KNOWLEDGE AND MAY BE SUBJECT TO FUTURE AMENDMENT.

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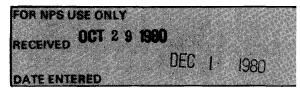
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Bibliography:

- Anderson, Florence, <u>Carnegie Corporation Library Program</u>, 1911-1961, (Carnegie Corporation of New York, New York, 1963).
- Beisel, Mark L., Stephen J. Mudrey, and Ivan D. Veldhuizen, "Carnegie Library Architecture," History of Architecture IV-Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS.
- Von Achen, Kurt, "Lives and Works of Early Kansas Architects," thesis, M. Arch. Kansas University. Lawrence, KS., 1966.

Ottawa Herald. October 27 and 28, 1903.

Reflections of Franklin County and Chatauqua Days. Ottawa, KS. (1961).