

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received MAY 12 1987

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Fort Scott Public (Carnegie) Library

and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number 201 S. National

___ not for publication

city, town Fort Scott

___ vicinity of

state Kansas

code 20

county Bourbon

code 011

3. Classification

Category

- ___ district
- building(s)
- ___ structure
- ___ site
- ___ object

Ownership

- public
- ___ private
- ___ both

Public Acquisition

- N/A in process
- N/A being considered

Status

- occupied
- ___ unoccupied
- ___ work in progress

Accessible

- yes: restricted
- ___ yes: unrestricted
- ___ no

Present Use

- ___ agriculture
- ___ commercial
- educational
- ___ entertainment
- ___ government
- ___ industrial
- ___ military

- ___ museum
- ___ park
- ___ private residence
- ___ religious
- ___ scientific
- ___ transportation
- ___ other:

4. Owner of Property

name City of Fort Scott

street & number City Hall

city, town Fort Scott

___ vicinity of

state Kansas 66701

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Bourbon County Clerk

street & number Bourbon County Courthouse

city, town Fort Scott

state Kansas 66701

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Kansas State Historical Society

has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes no

date 1970

___ federal state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records Kansas State Historical Society, 120 West 10th Street

city, town Topeka

state Kansas 66612

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Fort Scott Public (Carnegie) Library (c. 1902) is located at 201 S. National in Fort Scott, Bourbon County, Kansas (pop. 8,893). The one-story, brick, Second Renaissance Revival building stands on a corner lot directly east of the Bourbon County Courthouse and one block south of Fort Scott's central business district. Its facade orientation is west. The building measures approximately seventy-six feet from east to west and forty-six feet from north to south. The building retains its original function as a library.

The one-story, red brick building sits on a coursed ashlar, limestone block raised foundation. It is a rectangular structure with a ridge hipped roof. Three bays comprise the building's facade and rear, it is three bays deep. A brick chimney projects from the center of the southern elevation. The original roofing material, probably clay pantiles, has been replaced with asphalt shingles. The building retains the two oculus roof dormer vents on the east and west elevation roof slopes but the three oculus roof dormer vents on the north and south elevation roof slopes have been removed. A wooden dentilled entablature ornaments the building.

A slightly recessed doorway bay faced with coursed ashlar limestone stands in the center of the facade. An arched doorway with a bundled reed inspired limestone door surround and a keystone pierces the center of this bay. Double wooden doors with glass panes in the upper half and an arched transom covered by an iron grille stand in the doorway. "Public Library" is inscribed above the doorway, "AD" and "1902" are inscribed in circles below "Public Library". Stone steps lead up to the doorway. Cast iron lightposts with milk glass bowls stand on the limestone abutments which flank the door, these do not appear to be original but retain the original character. "Carnegie" is inscribed in the western sides of the two limestone abutments.

The center facade bay is flanked by two identical bays. Each of these bays is pierced by a recessed arched window on the first level. Each of the bay's two corners conclude in a limestone quoin treatment which runs from the building's entablature to its limestone water table. This treatment is employed on all of the building's corners. An above grade foundation window underscores each of the first level windows.

The building's first level fenestration is primarily comprised of recessed, 1/1 double hung, arched wooden windows with limestone sills. The arched, upper sash is comprised of six panes which form a horseshoe around a center, arched pane. The lower sash is comprised of a center rectangular pane flanked by two vertical sets of smaller rectangular panes. Limestone impost stringers and limestone keystones further delineate the fenestration. This treatment is original. There are two such windows on the facade, three on the east elevation, and five apiece on the north and south elevations. Additionally, three small window openings with limestone sills and keystones pierce the southern elevation's western side. One opening is closed, two openings retain 4/1 double hung frames.

The foundation fenestration is generally comprised of large, 6/1 double hung windows surmounted by incised limestone jack arches which pierce the wall below a first level window. These windows rest on the foundation's rusticated limestone base. A transomed

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates c. 1902 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Fort Scott Public (Carnegie) Library (c. 1902) is being nominated to the National Register as part of the Carnegie Libraries of Kansas thematic resources nomination (c. 1902-1921) at the local level of significance under criteria A and C for its historical association with the Carnegie Corporation Library Building Program and for its architectural significance as a new building type. A library association was organized in Fort Scott in 1883. The community received their \$18,000.00 Carnegie Library grant in 1901, library construction was completed in 1902. The Fort Scott Public (Carnegie) Library is an example of the Second Renaissance Revival style.

Sixty-three Carnegie funded libraries were built in Kansas during the first three decades of the Twentieth Century; four of these libraries were built on college campuses. In most cases, the Carnegie funded library represented the community's first library building although many Kansas communities had book clubs and library organizations well before the Carnegie Corporation Library Building Program was founded. In the case of the four college libraries, the building represented the first structure which was solely devoted to housing the institution's books and providing study space. Carnegie did not solicit interest in the program, with the exception of the Anderson (Carnegie) Memorial Library which was built by Carnegie as a memorial to his friend John Anderson and was the first college library nationally to receive Carnegie funding. Communities initiated contact with the corporation by letter, indicating their desire for a Carnegie funded library. If the Corporation responded favorably to the request, a firm local commitment to the program's requirements, which generally resulted in a public election in support of the library, followed. Obviously these actions represented a perceived need within the community for a library building and the Carnegie Corporation Library Building Program represented an excellent way to secure the funds to build one. Many of the Carnegie Libraries built in Kansas reflect the high space utilization design guidelines promoted by the Carnegie Corporation after 1910, underscoring the point that before the Carnegie Corporation Library Building Program, few architects and/or builders had experience designing this building type.

Twenty-eight Carnegie Libraries are included in this nomination (see inventory). Twelve Carnegie Libraries have been listed individually on the National Register: Argentine, Case Library (Baker University, Baldwin City), Caldwell, Dodge City, Emporia, Goodland, Lawrence, Leavenworth, Newton, Ottawa, Parsons, and Pittsburg. The Carnegie Library at Arkansas City is included in a downtown historic district. Thirteen Carnegie Libraries have been demolished: Great Bend, Halstead, Hays, Iola, Kansas City, McPherson, Morrison Library (Fairmont College, Wichita), Olathe, Osawatomie, Plainville, Russell, Salina, and Washington. Five Carnegie Libraries have been altered enough to make them ineligible for the National Register: Abilene, Garden City, Hiawatha, Lyons, and Stockton. (The nominations for the Concordia, Eureka, Independence, and Winfield libraries were deferred.) Twenty-two of the nominated libraries retain their original function. All of the buildings are in use or have an active use planned for them. The

9. Major Bibliographical References

See attached page.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Fort Scott

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	5	3	4	9	8	4	5	4	1	8	9	2	6	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification The nominated property is located on Lots 1, (N $\frac{1}{2}$)3; Block 123 in Fort Scott, Kansas. It sits on a rectangular tract bounded to the west by National, to the north by Second, and to the east and west by adjacent property lines.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Martha Gray Hagedorn, Architectural Historian

organization Kansas State Historical Society date April 2, 1987

street & number 120 West 10th Street telephone 913-296-5264

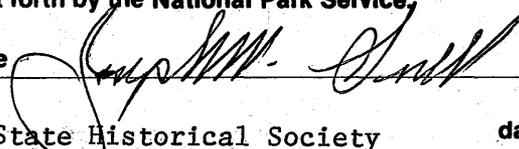
city or town Topeka state Kansas 66612

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

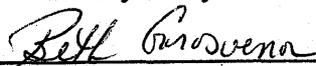
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title Executive Director, Kansas State Historical Society date April 6, 1987

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

 date 8/18/87

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only
received MAY 12 1987
date entered

Continuation sheet 1

Item number 7

Page 1

single door with detached sidelights pierces the foundation wall below the north elevation's center window, providing access to the basement. Incised limestone jack arches surmount the door and sidelights. A transomed single door pierces the foundation below the first level window on the southern elevation that is second in from the western corner. An incised limestone jack arch surmounts this door. A narrow opening stands just west of the door, surmounted by an incised limestone jack arch. It is covered with wood or metal and may have been a coal chute.

The interior of the library retains its original open floorplan. The vestibule entrance, with steps leading to the library space, is also retained. The first floor ceiling has been covered with dropped acoustic tiles. The interior woodwork, such as door and window surrounds, has been painted. The interior walls have been covered with plywood panelling.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only	987
received	
date entered	

Continuation sheet 2 Item number 8 Page 1

nominated libraries maintain a high to moderate degree of architectural and structural integrity.

Industrialist Andrew Carnegie (1835-1919) and the Carnegie Corporation significantly influenced the development and expansion of public library systems worldwide. Between 1886 and 1921 Carnegie funds assisted in the construction of 1,681 city and 108 college libraries in the United States. As a region, the Mid-West, Kansas included, did not have a well established public library system until the Carnegie Program and ranks highest in the number of communities which obtained Carnegie Libraries nationwide. Out of the forty-six states to participate in the library building program, Kansas ranks approximately eleventh in the number of Carnegie Libraries built. For many Kansas communities, the Carnegie Library represented its first library building, providing an environment that all members of the community could share for the purposes of reading, learning, and education.

Eligibility for Carnegie Library funds rested on several factors. Firstly, the population of the community had to exceed 1,000; in Kansas this indicated at least a second class city status. This population requirement generally resulted in county seat communities applying for and receiving Carnegie Libraries. Some communities with populations less than 1,000 banded together with neighboring communities to achieve the 1,000 mark and applied for township libraries, as in the case of the Peabody and Canton Township libraries. In the case of college libraries this constraint may not have applied, although the four Kansas colleges to receive Carnegie libraries were located in cities which had populations in excess of 1,000 by 1900. Secondly, the applicant had to provide a site for the library. The sites tended to be one or two blocks outside of the community's main business district. Thirdly, the applicant had to provide an annual endowment for the maintenance and improvement of the library which amounted to at least ten percent of the initial grant from the Carnegie Corporation.

This last factor contributed to the ending of the Carnegie Library Building Program in 1917, although grants for books and other improvements continued for several more decades. An inherent problem for second class cities in Kansas was the .4 mill levy restriction for libraries, making it difficult for some communities to meet the annual ten percent maintenance appropriation solely through public dollars. In 1917 the Kansas State legislature increased the library levy to .5 mill for second and third class cities, an amendment which affected most of the communities in the State that had Carnegie Libraries. In 1916, large communities such as Topeka, Wichita, Hutchinson, and Leavenworth had library mill levies of 1.06, 1.2, 1.8, and 3.5 respectively. In Kansas, the average public library grant was \$12,000 and the average college library grant was \$37,000. These monies covered the cost of the building, the necessary furniture and fixtures, and the architects' fees.

Prior to 1910, the Carnegie Corporation did not provide design guidelines for the libraries that it funded and because the library was a relatively new building type, few architects and/or builders had experience with its design. Many of the early libraries were expensive examples of the Beaux Arts style with little focus on floor plan and space

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet 3

Item number 8

Page 2

efficiency. In 1910, Carnegie's personal secretary James Bertram developed model specifications and floorplans for proposed libraries, entitling his work Notes on Library Buildings. The Notes on Library Buildings provided the first widely circulated guidelines for library design in this country.

Bertram wrote:

Small libraries should be pland (sic) so that one librarian can oversee the entire library from a central position.... The bilding (sic) should be devoted exclusively to: (main floor) housing of books and their issue for home use; comfortable accomodations for reading them by adults and children; (basement) lecture room; necessary accommodation for heating plant; also all conveniences for the library patrons and staff. Experience seems to sho (sic) that the best results for a small general library are obtained by adopting the one-story and basement rectangular type of bilding (sic), with a small vestibule entering into one large room sub-divided as required by means of bookcases.... The rear and side windows may be kept about six feet from the floor, to giv (sic) continuous wall space for shelving. A rear wing can be added for stack-room (when future need demands it) at a minimum expense, and without seriously interfering with the library servis (sic) during its construction. The site chosen should be such as to admit lite (sic) on all sides, and be large enuf (sic) to allow extension, if ever such should become necessary.

The thirty-six Carnegie Libraries built in Kansas after 1910 reflect Bertram's precedents, exhibiting high space utilization, and often including full basements, although the raised basement is a design element employed in the earlier libraries as well. Most of these one-story libraries exhibit a three bay, Neo-Classical facade with a projecting central pedimented entry pavilion and are one bay deep. The use of native limestone is evident in some of the libraries but the most common material combination is brick with a limestone foundation. While there is some tendency toward a vernacular interpretation to the design ornamentation of these libraries, the general approach verges on high style.

Correspondence between the Carnegie Corporation and the library boards from the Kansas communities that received Carnegie Libraries indicates that the designs for these libraries were carefully scrutinized by Bertram and in many cases, were resubmitted several times before meeting his requirements. Upon the completion of a library, the library board was instructed to send a full set of blueprints and elevations of the building to the Corporation. However, recent correspondence between the Kansas State Historical Society and the Carnegie Corporation reveals that the Corporation does not have blueprints of the Kansas libraries. The Corporation does have some library photographs but the collection is not inclusive.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet 4

Item number 8

Page 3

Three architects were particularly active in the design of Kansas Carnegie Libraries: George P. Washburn of Ottawa, Kansas designed nine, A. T. Simmons of Bloomington, Illinois designed six, and William Warren Rose of Kansas City, Kansas designed four. Washburn's libraries are primarily of the standard three-bay, Neo-Classical variety. His firm is credited with the Carnegie libraries in Burlington, Canton, Cherryvale, Columbus, Eureka, Halstead, Osawatomie, Ottawa, and Sterling. Simmons engaged in a more eclectic approach, designing libraries in Abilene, Chanute, Council Grove, Downs, Hays and Yates Center. Rose is credited with the classically inspired libraries in Argentine, Kansas City, Manhattan, and Newton. In Kansas, many Kansas based architects were commissioned to design Carnegie Libraries as well as architects from Illinois, Missouri, Nebraska, and Texas.

Today, many of the state's Carnegie Libraries are facing serious space shortages. The alternatives of adding on or vacating both present preservation problems. Additions to these libraries must be such that the building's original character is not altered. Vacating the library for a larger facility leaves the problem of an empty building, in some communities county historical societies have inherited the empty Carnegie Library. In any event, when these buildings are no longer recognized from a design standpoint as Carnegie Libraries, their architectural significance ceases.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only	
received	87
date entered	

Continuation sheet

5

Item number

9

Page

1

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Bobinski, George S. Carnegie Libraries: Their History and Impact on American Public Library Development. (Chicago: American Library Association, 1969).

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Gardiner, Allen. The Carnegie Legacy in Kansas: A Retrospective View of the 59 Public Libraries Built by Andrew Carnegie; A Souvenir Publication to Commemorate the Sequicentennial of Carnegie's Birth. (Topeka: Kansas State Library, 1985).

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Koch, T. W. A Book of Carnegie Libraries. (New York: H. W. Wilson, 1917).

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