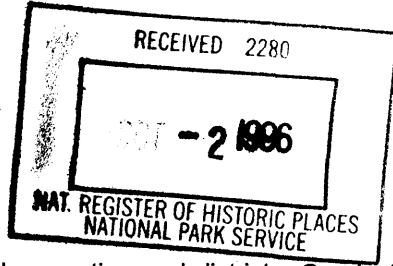


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determination for individual properties and districts. See instruction in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Colorado Springs Public Library/Carnegie Building  
other names/site number Palmer Wing; Penrose Public Library; 5EP646

### 2. Location

street & number 21 West Kiowa Street [N/A] not for publication  
city or town Colorado Springs [N/A] vicinity  
state Colorado code CO county El Paso code 041 zip code 80903

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally.  
( See continuation sheet for additional comments [ ]. )

[Signature] State Historic Preservation Officer September 26, 1996 Date

State Historic Preservation Office, Colorado Historical Society  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  
( See continuation sheet for additional comments [ ]. )

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register  
See continuation sheet [ ].
- determined eligible for the  
National Register  
See continuation sheet [ ].
- determined not eligible for the  
National Register.
- removed from the  
National Register
- other, explain  
See continuation sheet [ ].

[Signature] Signature of the Keeper 11-1-96 Date  
Edson W. Beall

Colorado Springs Public Library/Carnegie Building  
**Name of Property**

El Paso County, Colorado  
**County/State**

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only one box)

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

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not count previously listed resources.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing.**

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register.**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Function**

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION: library  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION: library  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Classical Revival  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: Sandstone  
walls BRICK  
TERRA COTTA  
CONCRETE  
roof COPPER  
SYNTHETICS  
other STONE: Granite  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Name of Property

County/State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- [X] A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
[] B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
[X] C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
[] D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- [] A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
[] B removed from its original location.
[] C a birthplace or grave.
[] D a cemetery.
[] E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
[] F a commemorative property.
[] G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

- ARCHITECTURE
COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
SOCIAL HISTORY

Periods of Significance

1905-1946

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person(s)

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Kiessling, Calvin

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- [] preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
[] previously listed in the National Register
[] previously determined eligible by the National Register
[] designated a National Historic Landmark
[] recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey
#
[] recorded by Historic American Engineering Record
#

Primary location of additional data:

- [X] State Historic Preservation Office
[] Other State Agency
[] Federal Agency
[] Local Government
[] University
[X] Other:

Name of repository:

Pikes Peak Library District Archives



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Colorado Springs Public Library/Carnegie Building  
El Paso County, Colorado

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**DESCRIPTION**

The Colorado Springs Public Library is located in the northwest part of downtown Colorado Springs at the intersection of Kiowa Street and Cascade Avenue. The 1905 original Carnegie Building fronts north onto Kiowa Street and the newer Penrose Building addition fronts east onto Cascade Avenue. A large parking lot is located to the south of the Penrose Building first story and on top of the building's extended basement level. A smaller lot flanks the Carnegie Building on the west. The Carnegie Building is a cruciform plan, one-story, Neo-Classical building of tan brick with extensive terra cotta trim in the spandrels, pilaster capitals, elaborate frieze and cornice, parapet and main entry. The building contains a full garden-level basement and is topped by a flat roof with a central copper-roofed monitor and flanking brick chimneys. The library contains a large addition which is joined to the original building through the window openings in the east transept. The two-story addition is of modern concrete and glass design. Although larger than the original Carnegie Building, the visual impact of the Penrose Building is minimized by its narrow attachment to the Carnegie Building through an existing opening on a secondary elevation, by its modern design, and by its orientation toward Cascade Avenue. Several of the windows in the Carnegie Building have been painted or covered with wood panels. Interior alterations consist of the replacement of glass side walls in the central hall with wood panels and the construction of a wall across the end of the south room to form an enclosed auditorium space. Despite the addition and other minor exterior alterations, the Colorado Springs Public Library remains capable of conveying its architectural and historical significance.

The Carnegie Building of the Colorado Springs Public Library is located on a hill in the historic section of downtown Colorado Springs. The site was chosen for its magnificent views of Pikes Peak and the Front Range to the west. Construction of the Knights of Columbus Building on the west in 1923 narrowed the original panoramic view of the mountains. The building is set close to Kiowa Street on the north. The Penrose Building addition obscures the view of the southern-most part of the east elevation.

The symmetrical, 118' x 75' Carnegie Building rests on a foundation of Pueblo sandstone. The building features identical window bays on each of its elevations. Each bay is flanked by brick pilasters. Windows fill the full expanse of each first-story bay and consist of double two-over-two windows flanked by narrow single-lights. These are topped by two rows of clerestories. The lower row consists of small clerestories with diagonally crossed muntins while the upper row consists of a series of six single-light windows. The basement bays are separated from the first story windows by elaborate terra cotta spandrels and each consists of a one-over-one sash window and flanking single light windows. The west and east elevations are mirror images. They contain three bays to the north of the transept and one bay in the transept itself. The seven bays on the curved south elevation open onto a curved balcony with a decorative wrought iron railing. The main entry is located in the north elevation and is centered between two window bays. Six granite steps provide access to the double, glazed doors with large single-light transom. The entry is surrounded by terra cotta molding, a decorative architrave, and a frieze with name plate. The current doors are replacements for the original double doors with their decorative grill work. Decorative grill work over the transom has also been removed. The entire

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building is surrounded by a terra cotta entablature consisting of a decorative frieze, dentils, and crenelated cornice. A brick parapet with terra cotta coping finishes the walls.

The built up composition flat roof is broken by a central copper-roofed monitor surrounded by windows with the same cross muntin pattern used throughout the building. The monitor is flanked by a single brick chimney on the west and two brick chimneys on the east.

A two-story library addition, the Penrose Building, connects to the Carnegie Building through the window openings of the east transept. The Penrose Building was constructed in 1968. The addition is of modern design and is oriented towards Cascade Avenue with its main entry to the southeast off the large parking lot. The two-story addition employs plain concrete walls and narrow vertical windows. The second story on the east elevation is cantilevered over the first. The 60,000 sq. ft. addition is actually larger than the original Carnegie Building. However, it is oriented in such a way as to minimize its impact on the historic structure. The connection between the two buildings is minimal and utilizes existing openings in the Carnegie Building made by the removal of the central windows in the east transept. The design, materials, and workmanship of the original Carnegie Building exterior remain largely intact. The setting is impacted by the addition but is minimized to the greatest extent possible by its setback from Kiowa Street and its orientation towards Cascade Avenue.

The main entrance vestibule of the Carnegie Building opens onto a terrazzo tile stairway that leads to a wide central corridor and into the delivery room/reference desk area. Along this hallway the interior spaces are now functionally divided with panels of walnut. Originally, glass partitions opened and visually unified this space. There are two large reading rooms (24' x 30') along this corridor and two smaller collections rooms (20' x 20') on either side of the delivery room/reference desk area. Through the exterior wall of the room to the east (originally the librarian's office) an entrance was made in 1968 to connect the Carnegie Building to the Penrose Building by means of a covered passage. Beyond the delivery room is the semi-circular alcove reading room that served as an auditorium from 1968 to 1995.

A research room occupies the north end of the basement and contains a fireplace with a mantel from the Irving Howbert house carved by William Ege. The remainder of the basement has always been used for library support services.

The interior retains its overall design, although some changes have occurred in spatial arrangements and materials. In 1968-69 the semi-circular reading room was converted to an auditorium. Tiers were installed for seating, an exterior stairway was added from the balcony, and the windows were painted out. A wall was constructed on the north end of the reading room to separate it from the delivery room/reference desk area. In 1995 the tiers were removed and the space converted to storage. The exterior balcony stair was removed at the same time.

Other interior changes include the walnut panels and doors that replaced the glass partitions along the corridor; the replacement of the original interior lighting fixtures; and the addition of acoustical ceiling tile and carpeting.

The building is in good condition but requires work to halt deterioration and to upgrade mechanical systems for current uses. The roof beneath the copper monitor was replaced in 1988. Masonry walls and stone foundations need repair. The bricks (cleaned by sandblasting in 1968) need repointing. The entry steps need to be repaired.

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The building has the same exterior appearance and configuration of the original design with the exception of the link to the Penrose Building and a few minor alterations. The integrity of the 1905 exterior is documented by comparison with the 1905 photographs and by the description of the building written by its architect, Calvin Keissling. The building retains sufficient integrity to convey its architectural and historical integrity.

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**SIGNIFICANCE**

The Colorado Springs Public Library/Carnegie Building is eligible for the National Register under Criterion A in the areas of community planning and development, and social history. The building is associated with the efforts of the Colorado Springs community to establish a public library. It is also associated with the nationwide public library movement funded by Andrew Carnegie. The building is eligible under Criterion C for its architectural significance as a good local example of Neo-Classical architecture and its association with the turn of the century City Beautiful Movement.

Fountain Colony, later named Colorado Springs, was founded in 1871 by General William Jackson Palmer. Following the Civil War, Palmer became managing director of the Kansas Pacific Railroad and in that capacity visited the Pikes Peak region of Colorado in 1869. He predicted that a resort community would one day flourish there. Within a year, Palmer finalized his plan to build the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad south from Denver to Mexico through the Pikes Peak region. He purchased 10,000 acres of unoccupied grazing land as the nucleus for the resort town he envisioned. The community was to be no ordinary frontier town but a place of schools, colleges, libraries, churches and fine homes. His prairie town at the foot of the great mountains was laid out with wide boulevards and a system of parks.

Colorado Springs was not without library collections in the early years of the twentieth century. The Social Union Club established a Free Reading Room in 1885. Coburn Library existed on the Colorado College campus and a half dozen circulating subscription libraries provided books for the community. Yet the need existed for a permanent public library fitting the growing size of Colorado Springs. A group of community residents banded together as the Library Board to establish a public library for the town. Judge Horace Lunt, board president, headed the effort and others involved included Irving Howbert, Mayor Ira Robinson, Louis Ehrlich, Elsie Palmer, Ellen Brindley, William Kinney and Russel Wray. Judge Lunt tried unsuccessfully to persuade General Palmer to donate a plot of land directly east of the depot for the erection of the library. Palmer refused this request but offered the city a lot to the north on Kiowa Avenue.

The Library Board applied to Andrew Carnegie for funds to construct the library building. The wealthy industrialist chose libraries as a primary target for his philanthropy and consequently became known late in life as the "patron saint of libraries." Between 1889 and the mid-1920s, Carnegie funds helped to construct 1,679 public library buildings in 1,412 communities across the United States. The public library concept in America that began in 1849 realized its most significant growth with Andrew Carnegie's benefactions.

Carnegie awarded Colorado Springs \$60,000 to cover the cost of the library's construction. After making a survey of other Carnegie Libraries, the Library Board decided, against the advice of the American Institute of Architects, to select an architect by means of a national competition. Five architects were invited to submit plans and were each paid \$100 for their participation. Two of the five entrants were from Colorado Springs. The "Instructions to the Architects" spelled out the Library Board's building plans. The library was to cost no more than \$60,000; to be fire-proof; to be of simple classical style, appropriate to its use; to be of special design to incorporate a site that commanded a



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magnificent view of the mountains; to be arranged so that complete supervision of every area was possible from the librarian's desk; and to provide space in the basement for future library uses. Thirty-three sets of plans were submitted. The winner of the competition was Calvin Keissling, an architect associated with the Boston firm of Shepley, Rutan and Coolidge. Keissling had previous library experience having designed the Carnegie library for the city of Davenport, Iowa, in 1902. The design of Colorado Springs architect Thomas MacLaren was the Library Board's second choice.

The predominant architectural style applied to Carnegie Libraries was Classical Revival and the Colorado Springs Library followed the pattern. Neo-Classicism was popular during the first two decades of the twentieth century. It was based primarily of the Greek, and to a lesser extent the Roman, architectural order. Therefore, the arch and enriched moldings of the Roman orders are not often seen. The Carnegie Building tended more toward the Roman order with its extensive use of enriched terra cotta moldings. Other Neo-Classical elements seen in the Carnegie Building include the symmetrical composition, parapet, and pilasters with capitals. The large expanses of glass, particularly along the curved southern wall with its full-width balcony, offered commanding views of Pikes Peak and the surrounding Front Range of the Rocky Mountains.

The library building formed part of a core of classically-inspired downtown buildings reflecting the influences of the City Beautiful Movement. The movement emphasized environmentalism and the realization of aesthetic ideals through the harmonious use of monumental public buildings. In Colorado Springs, these buildings, designed by accomplished architects using high quality materials for permanence, expressed the pride and optimism of a rapidly growing community still prospering from the discovery of Cripple Creek gold during the previous decade. The library building, with its impressive simplicity and its full utilization of light as a design element, achieved an atmosphere of spacious openness rarely found in Carnegie library buildings. The classical architecture of the building conforms to General Palmer's ideal of an orderly, educated society living harmoniously within an environment of great natural beauty.

The Library Board chose local contractors, the Gillis Brothers, and local craftsmen to erect the building. Hassell Iron Works, in Old Colorado City, fabricated the elaborate wrought iron designs for basement windows, grills, entry door and transom treatment, balustrade with brass rail and continuous balcony around the open-air terrace. Colorado Springs Woodworking Company built the furniture, including the huge central reference desk that was recently refinished. Benn Brewer, a local firm, supplied the hydraulic pressed brick. The terra cotta was ordered from the American Terra Cotta Company in Indiana.

All those involved in the design and construction of the library building showed an awareness of the community and its needs. In addition to year-round residents, the library was designed to meet the needs of the thousands of people who came to the Colorado Springs area as health seekers or as tourist. In addition to the open-air terrace, the architect provided a white marble drinking fountain in the middle of the delivery room. This fountain served aesthetic, utilitarian and hygienic requirements.

The Carnegie Building has been used continuously to provide library services for the public. It functioned as Colorado Springs's main library from 1905 through 1968 without major alteration. In 1967-68 a new 60,000 square foot addition, the Penrose Public Library, was constructed on the adjacent lot and the two buildings were physically linked. At that time the Carnegie Building was designated

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as the Palmer Wing in honor of General William Palmer. Beginning in 1968, the Carnegie Building was used to house the library's Special Collections and to provide public meeting space in its auditorium and meeting rooms. Today, Special Collections (Local History, Genealogy, Local Government Documents, and the Pikes Peak Photo Archives) occupy the entire building with the exception of the former auditorium/alcove reading room. The collections include the records of some of those who built the library, including the records of General Palmer's Colorado Springs Company. Even within the altered spaces of the remolded building, researchers and visitors have an opportunity to experience first-hand the ambiance of an environment that was shaped by the town's founder and citizens. Many of the other buildings in Colorado Springs that could represent the elegance of the Second Classical Revival have been razed. This makes the significance of the Carnegie Building even greater and increases the need to preserve it for continuing public use.

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- Colorado Springs Gazette and Telegraph*, "Architect Kiessling's Description of the Building," 12 March 1905, p.2.

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**GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

**Verbal Boundary Description**

Lot 15 except for the south 15 feet, Block A, Addition 5, Colorado Springs; plus the footprint of the Penrose Building addition to the original Carnegie Building.

**Boundary Justification**

The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with the Carnegie Library Building plus the land occupied by the new Penrose Library addition.

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**PHOTOGRAPH LOG**

The following information pertains to photographs numbers 1-21 except as noted:

Name of Property: Colorado Springs Public Library/Carnegie Building  
Location: El Paso County, Colorado  
Photographer: Mary Jane Rust  
Date of Photographs: March, 1996  
Negatives: Pikes Peaks Library Photo Archives

<u>Photo No.</u>	<u>Information</u>
1	Photographer: Stewart's Commercial Photographers Date of Photograph: 1973 View to the west from Cascade Avenue showing north elevation of the Penrose Addition and the east elevation of the Carnegie Building.
2	Photographer: Stewart's Commercial Photographers Date of Photograph: 1973 View to the southwest from Kiowa Street showing the north elevation of Carnegie Building.
3	Photographer: Stewart's Commercial Photographers Date of photograph: 1969 Interior view of Carnegie Building to the south from main entrance.
4	Photographer: unknown (from Carnegie Presentation Scrapbook) Date of photograph: 1905 View of Reading Room alcove from east.
5	Photographer: unknown (from Carnegie Presentation Scrapbook) Date of photograph: 1905 Carnegie Building, west elevation, view to the east.
6	Main entry, Carnegie Building, north elevation, view to the southeast.
7	East elevation, Carnegie Building, view to the west.
8	Main entry, Carnegie Building, north elevation, view to the southeast.
9	East elevation, Carnegie Building, view to the west.

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<u>Photo No.</u>	<u>Information</u>
10	East elevation of Penrose Addition, view to the northwest.
11	East elevation of Penrose Addition, view to the west.
12	South elevation of Penrose Addition, view to the north.
13	Penrose addition entry, view to the northwest.
14	South elevation of Penrose Addition, beneath parking lot.
15	South elevation of Carnegie Building, view to the north.
16	South elevation of Carnegie Building, view to the north.
17	Connection between Carnegie Building and Penrose Addition, view to the north.
18	Carnegie Building, south elevation detail.
19	Carnegie Building, west elevation, view to the northeast.
20	Carnegie Building, west elevation, view to the east.
21	Interior view of reading room/auditorium, Carnegie Building.

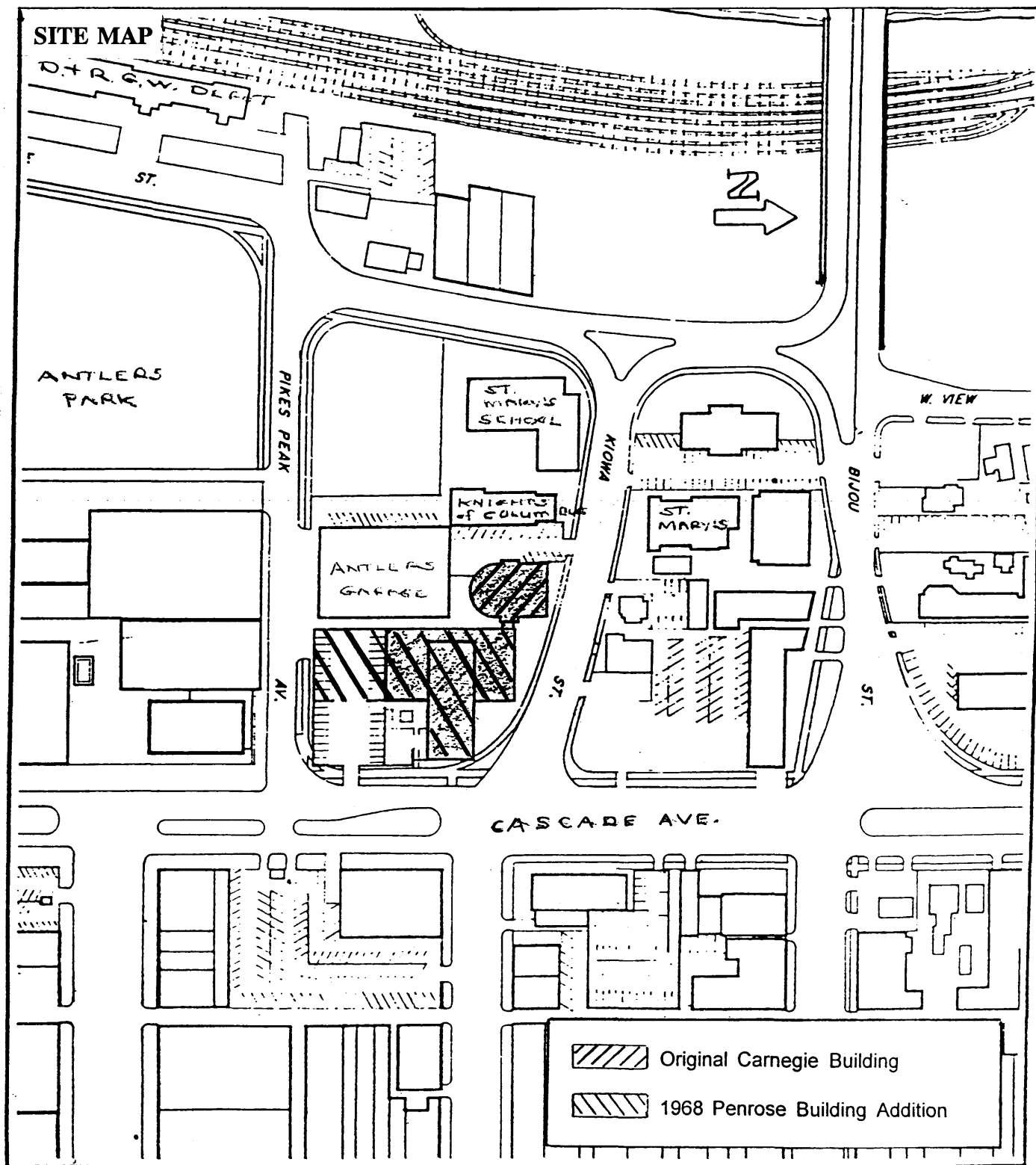
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Map: 1968 Plan of Downtown Area Immediately Surrounding Penrose Library Complex.  
(Courtesy of Colorado Springs City Planning Department)

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**USGS TOPOGRAPHIC MAP**  
Colorado Springs, Colo.  
7.5 Minute Quad  
1961, Revised 1994

