

McKissack and McKissack Buildings in Nashville (1908-1930) Thematic Resources

IDENTIFICATION

✓ **Historic name:** Carnegie Library
Common name: Academic Building
Address: Fisk University Campus
17th Avenue, North, Nashville, TN
Owner's name: Fisk University
Owner's address: 17th Avenue, North
Nashville, TN 37208
Classification: Building
Tax map reference: 92-3 Davidson County
Acreage: .25 acre
UTM reference: 16/517535/4002390

STATUS

Open to public: Yes No Restricted
Visible from road: Yes No
Occupied: Yes No
Present use: Education
Current condition: Excellent
Alterations: Minor interior alterations
Site features: The building rests on a large open lot on the Fisk University Campus.

HISTORY

Date of construction: 1908
Architect/builder: McKissack and McKissack
Original or previous owners: Fisk University
Original use: Library
Theme/s: Primary Architecture
Secondary Black History
Other N/A

SOURCES

Bibliographical data: See nomination form.
Form prepared by: Philip Thomason
Title: Architectural Historian
Organization: Thomason and Associates
Nashville, TN **Date:** 8/84

DESCRIPTION

The Carnegie Library is the earliest building constructed by Moses McKissack in Nashville. It was built in a modified Neo-Classic style in 1908. The building is two stories in height with a hipped roof of clay tiles. On the south facade is the main entrance which features rectangular stone columns supporting a hipped roof of clay tiles. Below the eaves of the building are large modillion blocks. Windows on the building are one-over-one sash and below the first floor windows is a continuous stone belt course. The masonry structure rests on a cut limestone foundation. The interior has not been significantly altered and still features its original open lightwell and woodwork.

SIGNIFICANCE

The Carnegie Library is an early building on the Fisk University campus and it is the earliest remaining building designed by Moses McKissack. Fisk University was one of the first black colleges in the United States and has played an important role in black education. The Carnegie Library was begun in 1908 after a gift of \$20,000 by Andrew Carnegie to the school. The Board of Trustees selected Moses McKissack to design the building which was McKissack's first large contract

(continued)

PHOTOGRAPHIC DATA

Photographer: Thomason and Assoc.

Date: August, 1984

Negatives on file: Thomason and Assoc.

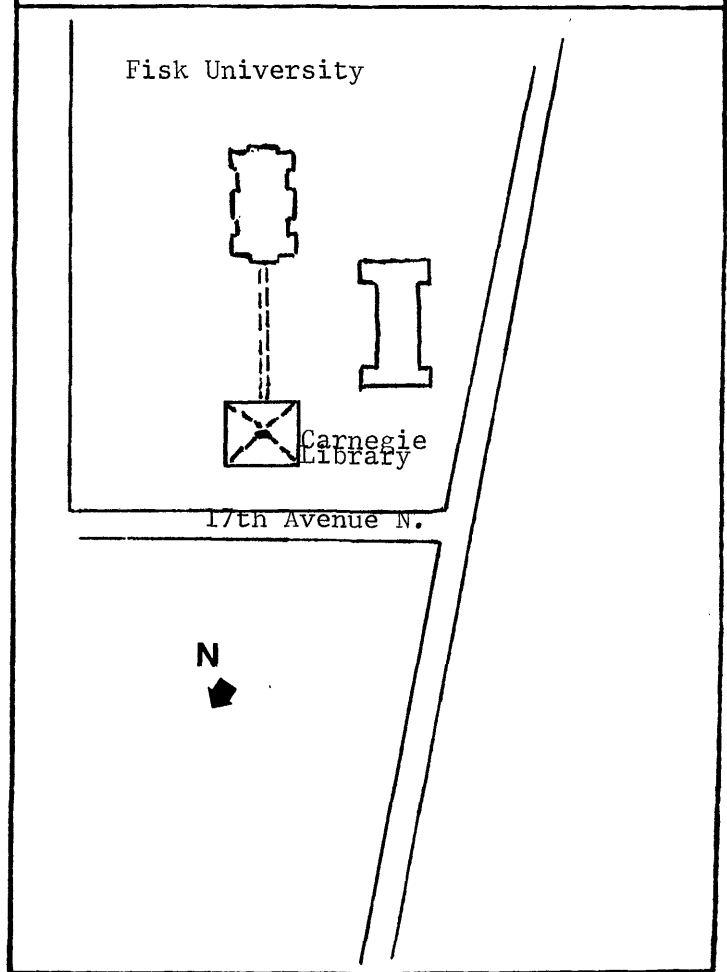
Nashville, TN

Photographer facing: Southwest

Photograph number 1-2 of 9.

CONTINUATION

SITE PLAN - Include North Arrow

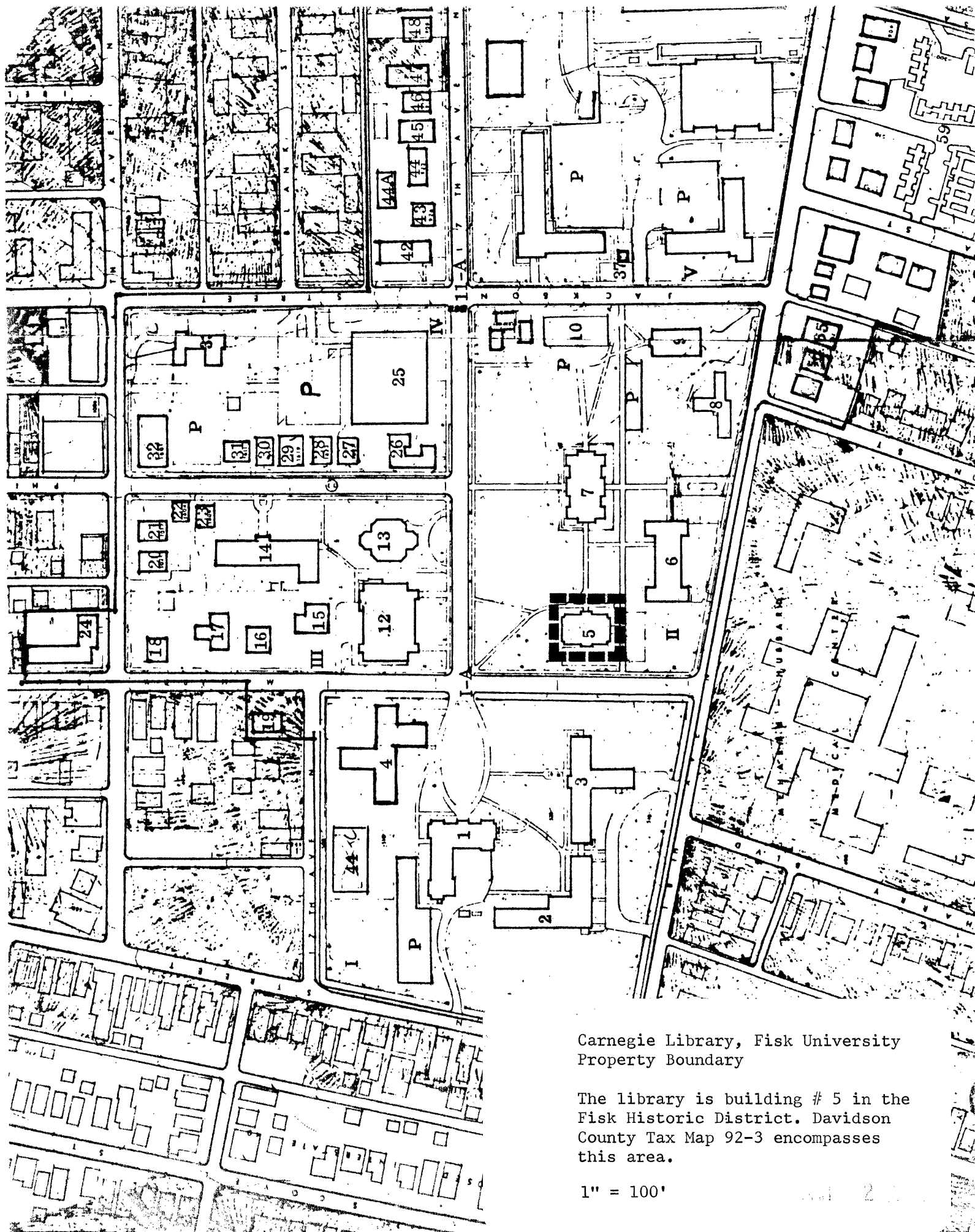


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Carnegie Library

Significance continued:

as an architect. The design was a simple masonry structure in the Neo-Classic tradition. The cornerstone for the building was laid on May 22, 1908 by Secretary of War William Howard Taft. The building operated as the main library for Fisk until recent years and it is now used as the Academic Building. The building is part of the Fisk University Historic District which was placed on the National Register in 1978.



Carnegie Library, Fisk University
Property Boundary

The library is building # 5 in the
Fisk Historic District. Davidson
County Tax Map 92-3 encompasses
this area.

1" = 100'