

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

OCT 2 1981

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

NOV 2 1981

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

(Old) Emporia Public Library

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

118 East Sixth Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Emporia

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Kansas

CODE

20

COUNTY

Lyon

CODE

111

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
DISTRICT	X PUBLIC	X OCCUPIED	AGRICULTURE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
BUILDING(S)	PRIVATE	UNOCCUPIED	COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
STRUCTURE	BOTH	WORK IN PROGRESS	EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
OBJECT	IN PROCESS	X YES: RESTRICTED	GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	BEING CONSIDERED	YES: UNRESTRICTED	INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		NO	MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

City of Emporia

STREET &amp; NUMBER

522 Mechanic

CITY, TOWN

Emporia

VICINITY OF

STATE

Kansas

66801

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Register of Deeds

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Lyon County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Emporia

STATE

Kansas 66801

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Historic Sites Survey

DATE

1971

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Kansas State Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

Topeka

STATE  
Kansas 66612

# ✓ DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE <input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The old Emporia Public Library is a one-and-a-half-story building, rectangular in plan and constructed of brick on a raised stone foundation. It is located on the northwest corner of Sixth and Market streets. The main roof is hipped with lower gable extensions on the east and west. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles.

The asymmetrical south facade and the east and west end walls are topped by stepped parapets that mask the lower roof line. There is an end chimney on the east. The parapet is continuous except for a section above the main entrance. Bay windows on both sides of the doorway are surmounted by battlements.

The basement walls and entrance steps are made of rock-faced stone. A water table rests atop the stone foundation. A narrow, projecting belt course defines the top of the first story and stone trim also caps the gable and parapet walls. Door and window openings have stone surrounds.

On the south the double wooden entrance doors and stone portal form a miter arch opening. There is a terra cotta wall ornament above the entrance in the gable, which is also crowned by a finial. Windows are grouped in banks of five on the first floor and in banks of three in the gable ends. Some of the windows are made of leaded, beveled glass.

The interior plan of the library's main floor is unaltered. The original oak woodwork is also intact.

## ALTERATIONS

Alterations to the old Emporia Public Library have been minor. An outside stairway has been enclosed and a handicapped access ramp constructed in the rear. This work was done in 1980.

Inside the building on the main floor, a cork tile floor was laid in 1937 to reduce noise. Beginning in 1959, some unused basement rooms were finished to provide a children's room and an office. Closets were also remodeled for a bathroom.

Since the building has become the Lyon County Museum, the interior wood-work has been stripped and refinished. Two original fireplaces, which had been covered, were uncovered and reconstructed.

## 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 type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN					
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER					
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION					
X 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)					
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION							

SPECIFIC DATES 1905

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Van Brunt and Howe

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

"After her schools and churces, a town's best investment is her library..." concluded the Emporia Gazette when the town's new library building, financed by a grant from the Carnegie Corporation, was formally dedicated February 22, 1906. The building, designed by one of the leading architectural firms in the region, Van Brunt and Howe of Kansas City, is associated with a period of national enthusiasm for public libraries which was stimulated by Andrew Carnegie's philanthropy.

### CHRONOLOGY

Although there was a library association formed in Emporia as early as December, 1869, it was the third such organization, established by a city ordinance in December, 1884, which has continued in operation to the present. Since 1884 a free library has been supported by a portion of city tax revenues.

In 1901 Mrs. Amanda Wicks, a former librarian, proposed that the city apply to Andrew Carnegie for a building grant. The library was housed in the Masonic Building at the time. During the summer Mrs. Wicks had visited a friend in Detroit. The two librarians discussed Detroit's new public library which had been donated by the Carnegie Corporation. After returning to Emporia, Mrs. Wicks urged the mayor and city council to ask for a building for the city. Along with the official request, she sent a personal letter of support.

The Emporia Republican announced May 1, 1902, that a \$20,000 gift had been offered from the Carnegie Corporation. The city had to agree to provide at least 10% of the grant annually for maintenance of the proposed building. A few days later, the city council voted unanimously to accept the donation with its stipulations. In addition to yearly maintenance costs, the city had to provide an adequate building site.

In Emporia this provision led to a controversy that lasted a year. On July 1, 1902, Mrs. Carrie S. Plumb, widow of one of the founders of the town of Emporia, offered two lots on the corner of Market and Sixth Avenue for a building site. This was accepted July 7 by the city council. Later in the month, the mayor vetoed an ordinance accepting the site. An attempt to pass the ordinance over his veto failed. On November 17, 1902, the mayor cast a tie-breaking vote in favor of a site on the corner of Fifth Avenue and Constitution Street. A building committee was appointed December 1, 1902, but supporters of the original site brought suit to force the council to honor its first decision. The district court judge agreed that the city was bound to accept the lots on Market Street and

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

### Articles

"Accepts the Offer," Emporia Republican, May 6, 1902.

"Emporia Public Library is 75 Years Old Today," Emporia Gazette, December 14, 1944.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one  
UTM REFERENCES

USGS Quadrangle Map Emporia

A 1 5 7 4 6 4 5 0 4 2 5 4 3 6 0  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B           
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 87 and 89, Market Street, City of Emporia

### LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
-------	------	--------	------

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
-------	------	--------	------

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Dale Nimz, Program Assistant

Julie Wortman, Architectural Historian; Nora Pat Small, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION Kansas State Historical Society DATE 8-14-81

STREET & NUMBER 120 West 10th TELEPHONE 913 296-3251

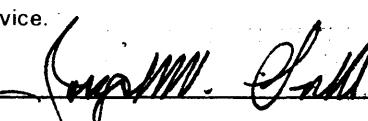
CITY OR TOWN Topeka STATE Kansas ZIP CODE 66612

## 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 Ex. Director; Ks. State Historical Society DATE 9-8-81

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
CUSTodian, KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 10-2-81

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

NOV 2 1981

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

so the council voted January 17, 1903, to use that site for the proposed Carnegie Library.

Van Brunt and Howe, a prominent Kansas City architectural firm, designed the building. The Emporia city council accepted the completed building from the Morse Construction Company October 16, 1905. An additional \$2,000 was required to finish the library so the Carnegie Corporation gift eventually amounted to \$22,000.

A gala public opening was held February 22, 1906. As the Emporia Gazette reported, the librarian and assistant, the mayor and former mayors, councilmen, and members of the building and library committees gathered to receive the public "in the building which has given the town more to talk about than any event, person, or thing in the past five years."

The main floor of the new building had an office, desk room, reading room, newspaper room, children's room, bound periodical room, stacks and a central lobby. There was a furnace room, fireproof vault, and storage space in the basement. The building was steam heated and had electric lights. After describing the oak floors and woodwork, the Emporia Gazette concluded that "the beauty of the interior will grow on people as they become used to it."

Even though the library served the community for many years after 1906, the building was not large enough to accomodate growth. A branch library was opened in the Grace Methodist Church in May, 1917 and another in the Mary Herbert School in 1930.

By 1958 the library board of directors desired a new facility, but they decided to remodel the basement of the original building instead. In 1979, however, a new library was built west of the old Carnegie library. The building now houses the Lyon County Historical Museum.

The old Emporia Public Library was one of the buildings constructed during the most active period of the Carnegie Corporation's philanthropic program. A few libraries were donated in the years from 1886 to 1896. There was a considerable increase in gifts from 1896 to a peak in 1903. The level of building activity then declined until all building was ended by a resolution of the Corporation trustees in 1919.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	OCT 2 1981
DATE ENTERED	NOV 2 1981

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

The Emporia library was built before the Corporation attempted to control the general plan of new facilities. From 1908 until 1919, James Bertram, who supervised the program, requested that local plans be submitted for approval. He wanted to prevent the use of Carnegie funds for buildings designed with expensive exteriors and insufficient, uneconomical interiors.

No particular architectural style was specified for the design of Carnegie libraries. Many of those built in Kansas, however, had monumental entrances, often with classical features. The Emporia building expressed a relatively uncommon theme for Kansas but one that was associated with education and learning.

The main facade of the library is asymmetrical. Two bays, surmounted by crenellated parapets, flank the main entrance to the west and a bank of windows light the main reading room to the east. The main doors in the form of a miter arch, the battlements, and the stepped gable edges are references to English architecture of the 16th and 17th centuries. Henry Russell Hitchcock described the use of these elements as the "Jacobethan Revival." Architectural historian Marcus Whiffen has commented that "although most Jacobethan designs may have been for houses, it was on educational architecture that the style had its greatest impact proportionally." This association may have led Van Brunt and Howe to choose this style for the Emporia Library.

Van Brunt and Howe worked in Boston for many years before C. F. Adams, president of the Union Pacific Railroad, asked Van Brunt in 1884 to design several railroad stations in the West. One year later Van Brunt, one of the leaders in American architecture during the second half of the nineteenth century, sent Frank Howe to open an office in Kansas City. Van Brunt followed and moved his family from Boston in 1887. Their partnership became the leading firm in the region according to William Coles. Their new work in the West was primarily concerned with commerce and industry. Van Brunt himself died in 1903, the year that the Emporia Public Library was designed.

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

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

NOV 2 1981

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

"Library Birth Caused City Hall Dispute," Emporia Gazette, April 17, 1967.

"Library for Emporia," Emporia Republican, May 1, 1902.

"Library Reception," Emporia Gazette, February 23, 1906.

"Settled the Library Row," Emporia Gazette, January 17, 1903.

"The Library Accepted," Emporia Gazette, October 17, 1905.

Books

Anderson, Florence. Carnegie Corporation Library Program, 1911-1961.  
(New York: Carnegie Corporation of New York, 1963).

Architecture and Society: Selected Essays of Henry Van Brunt.  
ed. by William A. Coles (Cambridge, Mass: Belknap Press, 1969), p. 20.

Whiffen, Marcus. American Architecture Since 1780. (Cambridge, Mass:  
MIT Press, 1969), p. 181.

Beisel, Mark, Steven Mudrey, and Ivan Veldhuizen. "Carnegie Library Architecture,"  
unpublished paper: College of Architecture & Design, Kansas State  
University, Manhattan.

Dible, A. Ora. "A Brief History of the Public Library of Emporia, Kansas."  
Master's paper: Department of Library Science, Kansas State Teacher's  
College, Emporia, 1957.