

Utah State Historical Society

Property Type:

Historic Preservation Research Office

Site No. \_\_\_\_\_

Structure/Site Information Form

IDENTIFICATION 1

Street Address: 6 West Main Street UTM: 12 432930 4641330  
 Richmond, Cache County, Utah  
 Name of Structure: Richmond Carnegie Library (Carnegie Library) T. R. S.  
 Present Owner: Richmond City Corporation  
 Owner Address: 6 West Main, Richmond, Utah 84333  
 Year Built (Tax Record): Effective Age: Tax #: 09-053-0001  
 Legal Description: Kind of Building:

Commencing 160.5 feet, West of Southeast corner of Lot 1, Block 23, Plat A, Richmond City Survey; thence West 100 feet, North 140.5 feet, East 100 feet, South 140.5 feet to beginning. Less than one acre.

STATUS/USE 2

Original Owner: Richmond City Corp. Construction Date: 1913-14 Demolition Date:  
 Original Use: Education - Library Present Use: Education - Library  
 Building Condition: Integrity: Preliminary Evaluation: Final Register Status:  
 Excellent  Site  Unaltered  Significant  Not of the  National Landmark  District  
 Good  Ruins  Minor Alterations  Contributory  Historic Period  National Register  Multi-Resource  
 Deteriorated  Major Alterations  Not Contributory  State Register  Thematic

DOCUMENTATION 3

Photography: Date of Slides: 1983 Slide No.: Date of Photographs: 1983 Photo No.:  
 Views:  Front  Side  Rear  Other Views:  Front  Side  Rear  Other

Research Sources:  
 Abstract of Title  Sanborn Maps  Newspapers  U of U Library  
 Plat Records/Map  City Directories  Utah State Historical Society  BYU Library  
 Tax Card & Photo  Biographical Encyclopedias  Personal Interviews  USU Library  
 Building Permit  Obituary Index  LDS Church Archives  SLC Library  
 Sewer Permit  County & City Histories  LDS Genealogical Society  Other

Bibliographical References (books, articles, records, interviews, old photographs and maps, etc.):

Hepworth, Bobbee McGee. "Carnegie, Libraries in Utah." Unpublished research paper, Brigham Young University, 1976. Available at University of Utah Library.  
 Richmond City Records. 1912. Available at Utah State Historical Society.

Researcher: Roger Roper

*listed*  
 OCT 25 1984

Date: 6/84

Architect/Builder: Richard C. Watkins and John F. Birch/August S. Schow

Building Materials: Masonry - Brick

Building Type/Style: Classical Revival

Description of physical appearance & significant architectural features:

(Include additions, alterations, ancillary structures, and landscaping if applicable)

The form of the Richmond Carnegie Library is similar to that of many other Carnegie Libraries in Utah. It is a one story yellow brick rectangular building with a raised basement and a flat roof. It was designed in no particular style, but the symmetrical facade, the division of the facade by pilasters, the raised basement, the capitals of the pilasters, the wide cornice, and the parapet above the cornice reflect Classical Revival influences.

Pilasters with simple geometric capitals divide the building into bays. The facade is five bays wide, the center bay being a projecting pavillion with the main entrance set into it. Each of the window bays is a large three pane opening with a transom that is also divided into three panes. The entrance pavillion not only projects beyond the rest of the wall, but it is framed by brick piers which have geometric capitals that differ from those on the rest of the building. Into each pier is set a small rectangular window, each highlighted by a band of red brick. The entry itself is also framed by thin bands of red brick. The original door has been replaced by a modern glass door, and the transom has been filled in.

(See continuation sheet)

Statement of Historical Significance:

Construction Date: 1913-14

Built in 1913-14, the Richmond Carnegie Library is significant as one of sixteen remaining Carnegie libraries of the twenty-three built in Utah. Thirteen of the sixteen library buildings maintain their original integrity and are included in the Carnegie Library Thematic Resource Nomination. In addition to making important contributions to public education in their respective communities, these libraries are Utah's representatives of the important nation-wide Carnegie library program, and they document its unparalleled effect in the establishment of community-supported, free public libraries in Utah.

The Richmond Carnegie Library was built in 1913-14 with an \$8,000 grant from millionaire/philanthropist Andrew Carnegie. Carnegie funded the construction of over 1650 library buildings in the U.S., 23 of which were built in Utah communities. The major conditions upon which all Carnegie grants were given were that the recipient community donate the building site and provide an annual maintenance budget of at least 10% of the grant amount.

On July 1, 1912, a special election was held in Richmond to determine public support for a city library tax. Approval for the tax was overwhelming, with 95 of 107 voters choosing to support the move. Five days after the vote, a special session of the city council was held to appoint members of the Board of Directors for the Public Library. Three months later, on October 14, 1912, the city council passed a resolution accepting an \$8000 grant from Andrew Carnegie for the construction of a library building, concurrently accepting the accompanying \$800 annual maintenance commitment.

(See continuation sheet)

Richmond Carnegie Library  
Description continued:

The ends of the building are two bays wide, again defined by pilasters, and there are two oblong three part windows per end. The rear of the building like the facade is divided into five bays. The pilasters along that wall, however, have no capitals and there are no distinctive decorative features on that side of the building. There are small square windows in four of the five bays, and long, narrow windows have been set into the central bay.

Red brick which contrasts with the yellow brick of the building, has been used to provide visual interest and is the key to the decorative scheme of the building. Narrow strips of it have been arranged to create the geometric capitals, to frame the rectangular windows in the entrance piers, and to frame the entrance area. Red brick has also been used to outline rectangles of yellow brick on each end of the building and to create a keystone centered in the lintel of each window on the front and sides of the building.

Except for the change made to the entrance, the exterior of the building is virtually unaltered. That change in no way affects the original integrity of the building.

Richmond Carnegie Library  
History continued:

Although the town received the Carnegie grant in the fall of 1912, it was not until the fall of 1914 that the building was completed. Land for the library was purchased in March 1913 from Mary J. Hendricks for \$800, and in April library board members traveled to Salt Lake City to inspect the library facilities there in order to get a better idea what they wanted in their own library. The architectural firm of Watkins & Birch were awarded the design contract for the building, and August S. Schow was given the construction contract.<sup>3</sup> The building was officially opened on October 20, 1914, and Lulu Burnham was appointed librarian.

Watkins & Birch, a Provo, Utah based architectural firm, actively pursued Carnegie library contracts throughout the state and were responsible for designing several other library buildings besides this one. Their design for this and other library buildings conformed to the rectangular, one-story with raised basement design recommended by the Carnegie Library Board as being the most efficient and economical plan for a small town library. Other library buildings designed by the firm include those in Ephraim, Provo, Eureka, Manti, Cedar City, and possibly Garland, since it closely resembles this building in Richmond.

Although the Richmond Carnegie Library was apparently not the first library in the town, it has continued to serve as the town's library since its construction up to the present, and it is the only building in town known to have served as a library.<sup>4</sup>

(See continuation sheet)

Richmond Carnegie Library  
History continued:

Footnotes

<sup>1</sup>Richmond City Records, July 1, 1912.

<sup>2</sup>Richmond City Records, October 14, 1912.

<sup>3</sup>Bobbee McGee Hepworth, "Carnegie Libraries in Utah," (unpublished research paper, BYU, 1976), p. 102.

<sup>4</sup>Hepworth, p. 21. Richmond is included among the 18 Carnegie library towns in Utah which already had functioning libraries before their Carnegie libraries were built.