

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

For NPS use only

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

received **DEC 16 1983**  
date entered

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

**1. Name**

historic Carnegie Library of Valdosta

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number 305 West Central Avenue N/A not for publication

city, town Valdosta N/A vicinity of

state Georgia code 013 county Lowndes code 185

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum (historical society)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Lowndes County Commission; Fred DeLoach, Jr., Chairman

street & number Box 1349

city, town Valdosta N/A vicinity of state Georgia 31601

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Superior Court

street & number Lowndes County Courthouse

city, town Valdosta state Georgia

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

Historic Structures Field Survey:  
title Lowndes County, Georgia has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1981  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources

city, town Atlanta state Georgia

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input 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 Carnegie Library is a Neoclassical-style building located on a city lot just west of Valdosta's commercial district. Many of the structures in the neighborhood surrounding it have been demolished. The one-story-with-raised-basement building is constructed of load-bearing brick. It is finished at the basement level with limestone and above with tapestry brick laid in running bond. On the library's symmetrical front facade, granite steps lead up to a projecting pedimented entrance bay in which Ionic columns set in antis support a prominent "Carnegie Library" plaque. The building is capped with a pronounced cornice and simple brick parapet. Windows on the three finished sides are long, narrow, one-over-one double-hung sash grouped in threes. Solid transoms with a geometric Roman motif appear above the window and main entrance doors. The essentially utilitarian rear of the building has a central projection lighted by five narrow two-over-two windows and two basement entrances protected by shed roofs.

The interior, on the main floor, is one large room entered from a vestibule. Walls and ceilings are plaster, with dark, stained-pine woodwork and oak floors. Many of the original bookshelves line the walls and project out into the room, and early lighting fixtures remain in place. In the southeast corner of the room are a bathroom, a storage area and a stairway leading to the lower level. The basement, divided into two rooms, contained an auditorium with a stage and dressing room and a boiler room.

The building, which was converted from a library to a museum in 1976, is largely unaltered. An interior bracing system was added in one area in 1980 to help support the sagging ceiling. The library lot is landscaped with grass, low shrubs, palms, and other trees.

# 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/ 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
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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** 1913

**Builder/Architect**

Architect: Lloyd Greer

Contractors: Little and Phillips

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Carnegie Library of Valdosta, built in 1913, is significant in the areas of architecture, education, and social/humanitarian history. In terms of architecture, the library is significant as a good example of an early-twentieth-century Neoclassical-styled public building in Valdosta. It is important in the history of library architecture as one of the early library facilities in Georgia, whose plan and design reflect contemporary thinking about library construction. In terms of education, the library is significant as the home of Valdosta's public library from 1914 to 1976. In terms of social/humanitarian history, the library is significant for its association with Andrew Carnegie, the turn-of-the-century philanthropist whose \$15,000 donation for the construction of the building made the public library possible. The above areas of significance support property eligibility under National Register criteria A, B, and C.

Architecture

Architecturally, the Carnegie Library of Valdosta is an excellent example of a small-scale, early-twentieth-century Neoclassical-style structure in south Georgia. This style, found in many communities across Georgia and the United States at the turn of the century, was popular for both important public buildings and residences. The Valdosta Library is distinguished by its symmetrical front facade with pedimented central pavilion, its front entrance with Ionic columns set in antis, a raised basement, a pronounced cornice topped with a simple parapet, and, on the interior, dark, stained-pine woodwork and high ceilings. The library was designed by Lloyd Barton Greer (1885–1952), a locally and regionally prominent architect who designed many houses, churches, and other buildings in the area. Greer graduated from architecture school at Georgia Institute of Technology in 1903. The library is one of the earliest buildings he designed in Valdosta, before he moved there permanently in 1915 and opened an architectural practice.

The library has significance as an early example of public-library architecture in Georgia and as such reflects contemporary thinking about library layout and design. Beginning in 1911, a leaflet entitled "Notes on Library Buildings" [sic], which included sample building plans, was sent by Carnegie to all communities that were to receive his library funds. It was prepared by Carnegie's secretary, James Bertram, in consultation with leading authorities from the library and architecture professions, in an effort to avoid repeating some of the impractical and inefficient Carnegie library designs that had been prepared previously. The Valdosta

[continued]

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Blanchard, Haley. "Draft National Register Nomination: Valdosta Carnegie Library," November, 1982. On file at State Historic Preservation Office, Atlanta. (This National Register nomination is based largely on the information contained in this document.

[See Continuation Sheet.]

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than one-half acre

Quadrangle name Valdosta, Georgia

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UTM References

A 

1	7
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2	8	1	6	5	0
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3	4	1	2	8	6	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B 

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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated property, outlined with a heavy black line on the enclosed tax map, constitutes the historic acreage associated with the library and coincides with the current legal description of the property.

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

state	N/A	code	county	code
state		code	county	code

state		code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Carolyn Brooks, National Register Researcher

Historic Preservation Section

organization Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources

date December 5, 1983

street & number 270 Washington Street, S.W.

telephone (404) 656-2840

city or town Atlanta

state Georgia

## 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

*Elizabeth A. Lyon*  
Elizabeth A. Lyon, Ph.D.

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 12/9/83

### For NPS use only

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

Entered in the  
National Register

date

1/12/84

*J. Moore Byers*  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
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library reflects the sample plans in major respects. Most significantly, the open-space plan, originally subdivided by bookshelves, is consistent with good small-town library design that provides for the needs of one librarian who might have to oversee the entire building. The Neoclassical style selected for the structure was a popular choice for early public libraries, no doubt because its frequent use for other public buildings such as courthouses and post offices emphasized the free "public" aspect of the facility.

Education

In the area of education, the library is significant as the first public library in Valdosta and as its home from 1914 to 1976. Valdosta, Georgia, incorporated in 1860, was by the early-twentieth century an extremely prosperous regional center. It was in an excellent position to meet the requirements for a Carnegie library building grant, which required the community to provide a site for the building and annually to commit city funds amounting to ten percent of Carnegie's contribution to provide for library maintenance, staff, book acquisitions, etc. The library's approximately \$41,000 cost was largely raised from community efforts: \$15,000 from the Carnegie Foundation, matched by \$750 from the city, \$1,000 from the county, and \$25,000 from community fund-raising efforts. The Carnegie Library has been, since its establishment, an important educational center in Valdosta, serving, in addition to its primary function as a library, as a location for Little Theater plays and civic meetings. For many years, it was the focal point of an educational complex that included a grammar school and public high school, both now demolished. As the home of the Lowndes County Historical Society Museum, the building continues to serve a role in community education.

Social/Humanitarian History

The Carnegie Library of Valdosta is significant in the area of social/humanitarian history for its associations with Andrew Carnegie, one of America's most important turn-of-the-century philanthropists. Carnegie amassed one of the world's largest private fortunes, and by the 1880s, he began actively distributing his wealth for the betterment of the general populace. His writings on philanthropy and the example of his generous giving encouraged a tradition of philanthropy throughout the country. Carnegie believed that by promoting education, he would help to prevent poverty and ignorance. Libraries were his special interest because he felt they were the most democratic of all roads to education. Between 1886 and 1919, he denoted funds to 1,412 communities throughout the United States, which resulted in the erection of 1,679 free-public-library buildings. Many historians agree that Carnegie's generosity was the most effective impetus to the

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then-burgeoning public-library movement in this country. His requirement that the local community provide adequate annual tax support for his library building reinforced the idea of local government responsibility for providing library services. Particularly in the Southeast and Southwest, where state library commissions and boards were late in forming, the availability of Carnegie library funds resulted in the establishment of most of the first free libraries in these states.

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Bibliography

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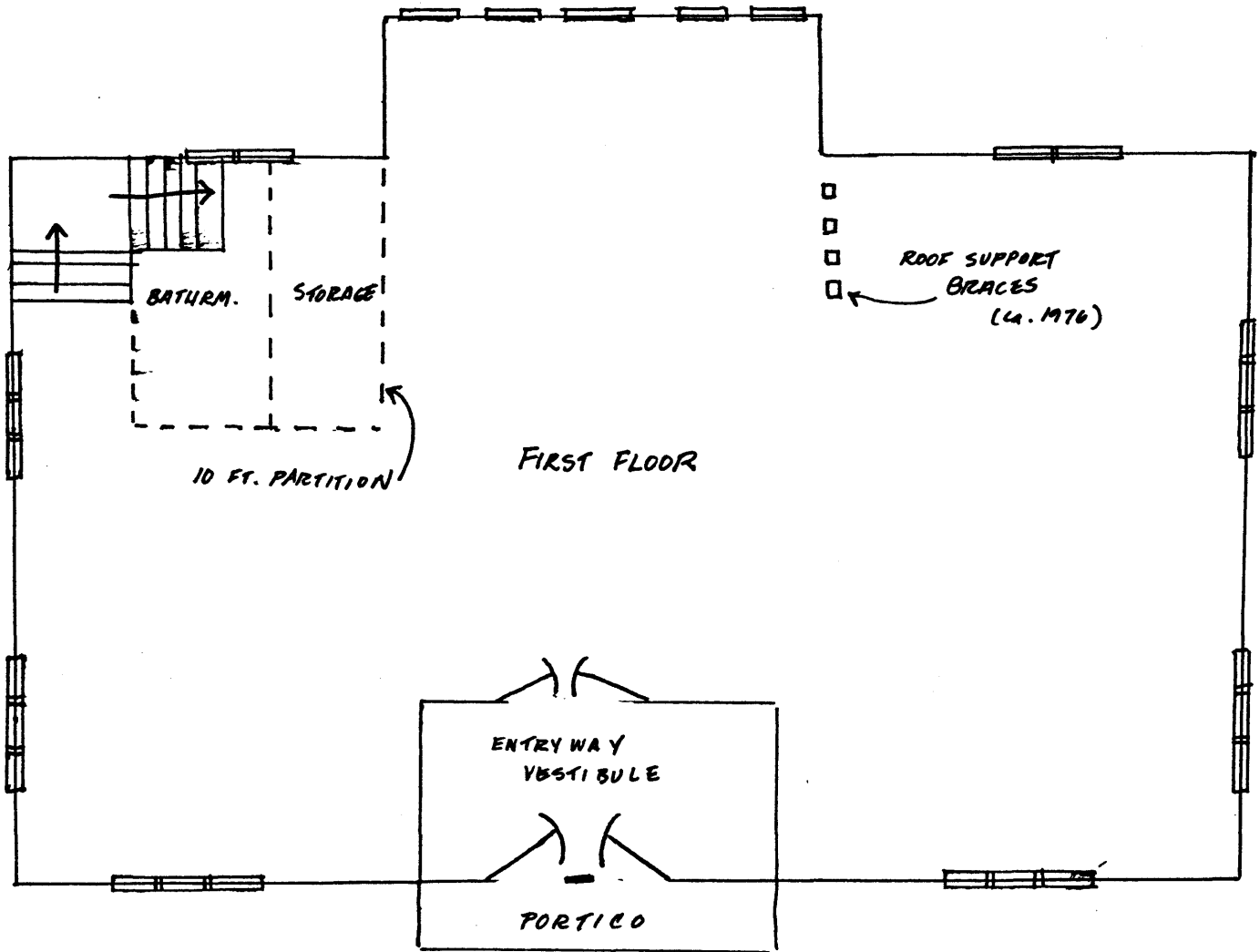
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Major Bibliographical References

"The Museum." Lowndes County Historical Society Newsletter, Vol. VI, No. 3, January 25, 1977, Valdosta.

Valdosta Daily Times, October 30, 1913

Williams, Natalie, and Tom Shelton. Interviews conducted by Haley Blanchard in Valdosta.

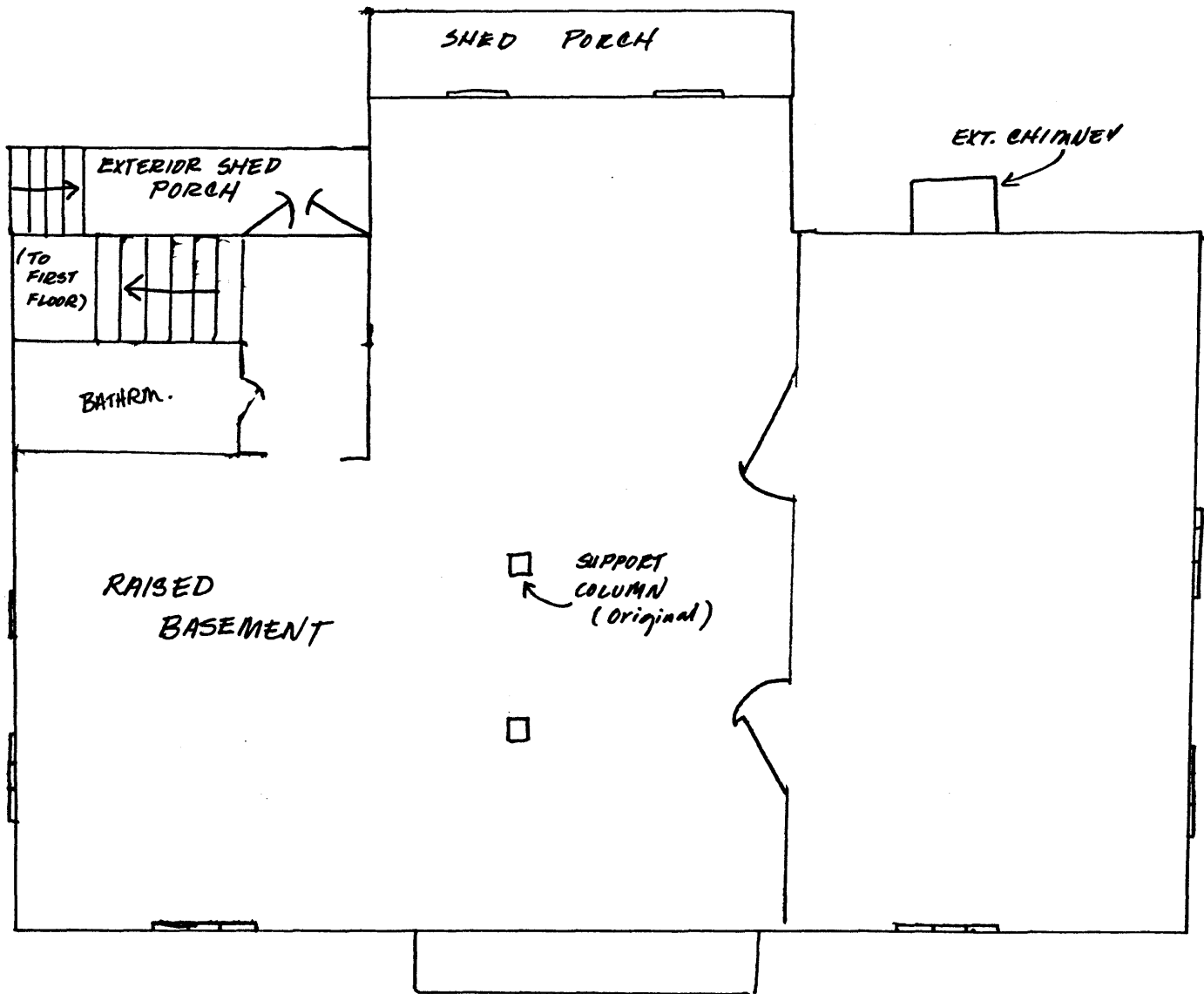


CARNEGIE LIBRARY OF VALDOSTA  
 Valdosta, Lowndes County, Georgia

FLOOR PLAN - FIRST FLOOR

Scale: Not to scale  
 North: ↓





CARNEGIE LIBRARY OF VALDOSTA  
Valdosta, Lowndes County, Georgia

FLOOR PLAN - BASEMENT

Scale: Not to scale

North: ↓