

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH 0099601

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAR 6 1975
DATE ENTERED	MAY 28 1975

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Prescott Public Library

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

125 East Gurley Street

\_\_NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Prescott

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

3

STATE

Arizona

\_\_ VICINITY OF

CODE  
04

COUNTY

Yavapai

CODE

025

**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 type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> 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

City of Prescott

STREET & NUMBER

Box 2059

CITY, TOWN

Prescott

\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

Arizona

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Yavapai County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Prescott

STATE

Arizona

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

\_\_FEDERAL \_\_STATE \_\_COUNTY \_\_LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

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

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Prescott Public Library was built in 1903 by Maxwell and Sines for \$8,252. The 50'x125' lot, on the southwest corner of Marina and Gurley Streets, was purchased for \$1,000 from F. M. Murphy and E. B. Gage.

The rectangular masonry and red brick building faces east and has double doors on both the east and north, each with a carved stone pediment. The east entrance has cement stairs with a solid railing. Above the north entrance is a large arched stained glass window flanked by unfluted Ionic columns. The inscription "Public Library" is supported by the two columns with a stone bracket between. Above the inscription is an entablature and frieze. The windows of the main floor have stone lintels with labels. The windows of the lower level are unadorned.

Most of the building is smooth-dressed, cut, coursed stone. The main floor windows are set in red brick panels. There is a plinth running around the entire building.

The lower floor, which was formerly used for city offices, now houses the children's library and the library offices. The main floor is reached by an attractive staircase whose bannisters have been restored to their original finish. They had at one time been painted over. The central portion of the main floor contains the circulation desk. The north and south ends of the floor contain the stacks and reading areas.

There have been no major structural alterations to the building inside and no alterations at all to the exterior. The building is sound and could be restored to its original appearance with little difficulty.

The city plans to have the main floor restored by 1978 and to use the building as a repository for city archives and the Arizona history collection. The lower floor would be used as the sub-regional talking book library.

# 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 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		

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SPECIFIC DATES                      1903                      BUILDER/ARCHITECT                      Maxwell and Sines

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Prescott Public Library is an attractive small masonry and brick building constructed in 1903.

Soon after the founding of Prescott in 1864, several local women gathered a collection of children's books for a children's library. In 1870 the Prescott Library Association opened a public reading room with 263 volumes and 50 newspapers. The public library movement in Prescott had several ups and downs in the ensuing years since it had no regular funding but existed entirely on donations of time, space, equipment, and money.

In 1895, the Monday Literary Society was formed and took over the public library as one of its projects. The Society made an effort to secure funds from Andrew Carnegie, and in 1899 he offered \$4,000 for that purpose providing the people of Prescott would match the sum. In 1900, a fire which destroyed much of downtown Prescott also destroyed the library collection, but \$1800 was paid by the insurance company for the loss. In the next three years enough money was raised to match the Carnegie grant, and the new library was finally opened 24 November 1903 with 1300 volumes. It was the first Carnegie library in Arizona.

For the next several years, the library was supported by the Monday Club (as the Monday Literary Society came to be known), the City of Prescott, and various private contributions. By 1917, however, these sources of income proved insufficient, and the library was transferred to the city. Until 1963, several city offices were housed in the building along with the library. In 1969 the building became the center of the city-county library system.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Rothlisberg, Allen P. "Selected Reflections on the Running of a City-County Public Library System" 1972  
 \_\_\_\_\_ . "Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow - a Look at the Prescott Public Library..." 1971.  
 Sharlot Hall Museum (Prescott). A clipping file on the Prescott Public Library.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .18

UTM OK

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UTM REFERENCES

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

Marjorie Wilson, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Arizona State Parks

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

1688 West Adams

TELEPHONE

(602) 271-4174

CITY OR TOWN

Phoenix

STATE

Arizona

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

*Dennis McCarthy*

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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE DENNIS McCARTHY  
State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 2-26-75

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*R. A. Hanson*

DATE

5/28/75

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

*W. J. ...*

DATE

MAY 22 1975

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER