

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

JUL 9 1979

DATE ENTERED

NOV 28 1979

**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

*Old Library Building*  
University of Arizona Old Library Building

AND/OR COMMON

Arizona State Museum, Building #26, University of Arizona

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

University of Arizona *campus*

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Tucson

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2

STATE

Arizona

VICINITY OF

CODE  
04

COUNTY

Pima

CODE  
019

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

**PRESENT USE**

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME State of Arizona

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Pima County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

115 N. Church

CITY, TOWN

Tucson

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED (see text)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input 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 Old Main Library is located on the University of Arizona campus just inside the main gate east of Park Avenue and north of University Street. The structure is set back from the street about 190 feet.

The main entry into the building faces south towards University Street. A broad, tiled and terraced walkway, 40 feet wide, leads from University Street to the main entry of the building. Flower beds are located in the center of this walkway which is flanked by cast iron lamp posts, three on each side.

The original three story building is modified renaissance in design and is steel framed with English bonded red, rug-faced brick walls with terra cotta trim. The brick work reflects the high quality of masonry craftsmanship in the 1920s. The patterning of the bricks, especially on the south facade, is particularly notable. Consequently, this brick work served as a model for subsequent buildings on the University campus. In addition, the terra cotta embellishments are notable for their variety and correctness of detail.

The original, E-shaped, building covered a ground space of 110 x 195 feet. A basement under the main part of the building was left unfinished except for three small rooms and a fireproof vault.

Large arched wood framed windows dominate the south, west, and east facades.

Public access to the building is through the main entry, south facade, which consists of three doorways set in arches with receding vousoirs.

Of the numerous rooms in the original structure, two are worthy of special note. The most interesting room on the first floor is the lobby. The side walls of the lobby are finished in Italian Tavernille claire marble with rose base. The floor and stairway are of pink tennessee marble. The stairway splits to the left and right as it leads to the second floor. The ceiling has a classical cornice-frieze decoration in molded plaster.

The second floor reading room which remains intact was considered the finest room in the library. It is 40 x 125 feet in size. The walls are paneled to the spring line of the window arches in dark Mexican amapa wood. A beamed ceiling effect is created by the framed in structural members. These beams are decorated in a classical motif with stencil painted dull, rich colors after the manner of an Italian courtroom of the sixteenth century.

With the exception of some interior remodeling and the obscuring of the north facade by the 1962 additions, the structure appears as it did in 1925.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

## PERIOD

<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		

## AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

SPECIFIC DATES 1924-1927

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Lyman and Place

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

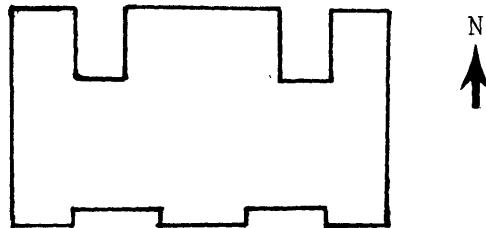
The University of Arizona, Old Main Library was conceived and planned by Miss Estelle Lutrell, University Librarian, beginning in 1917. She single handedly studied the most modern library facilities around the country, borrowing from each, in order to create a modern functional library for the university. Mainly through her efforts construction began on the facility in 1924 and was finally completed in 1927. Occupation began in 1925. The cost of the building, including decorations, installation of two elevators, stacks, and other specialized equipment, was about \$475,000.

The building was the first used exclusively as a library on the campus. The two earlier libraries occupied buildings constructed primarily for other purposes.

The architects were Lyman and Place of Tucson, Arizona who appear to have been influenced by the concept, character, and the basic plan of certain buildings at Stanford University by Shepley, Rutan, and Coolidge and the Boston Public Library by McKim, Mead, and White.

Interior decorations for the first floor lobby, halls, and second floor reading room were carried out under the direction of Bert Mason and Bernard Fisher, both of Los Angeles, California. Fisher, a specialist in the Italian Renaissance period, acted as advisor to Mason. This detailed and sensitive work was done in 1927.

The original library building, as it stood in 1927, contained 63,250 square feet in a uniform, three-story building, as shown below.



In 1948, the decision was made to install the library's first air conditioning equipment. To install this equipment it was necessary to cut into the reading room ceiling and through floors to install the duct work.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

College of Architecture

1976 An adaptive use proposal for the University Main Library Building.  
Proposal for the Arizona State Museum.

Files of the Special Collections Department, Library, University of Arizona  
Individuals: Ms. Phyllis Ball, Mr. Gordon Heck

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY ca. 3 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME TUCSON 1957 NW $\frac{1}{4}$

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 12 510,424,0 3,566,00,0  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B           
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C         

D         

E         

F         

G         

H         

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Old Main Library is situated on the University of Arizona campus between University Street and North Drive just east of Park Avenue.

## 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

James E. Ayres

ORGANIZATION

Arizona State Museum

DATE

13 April, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

University of Arizona

TELEPHONE

626-1761

CITY OR TOWN

Tucson

STATE

Arizona, 85721

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL   

STATE X

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

*James E. Ayres*

TITLE Acting Arizona State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 27 JUN 79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*Carol D. Skell*  
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 11-28-79

ATTEST: *[Signature]*  
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 11-26-79

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

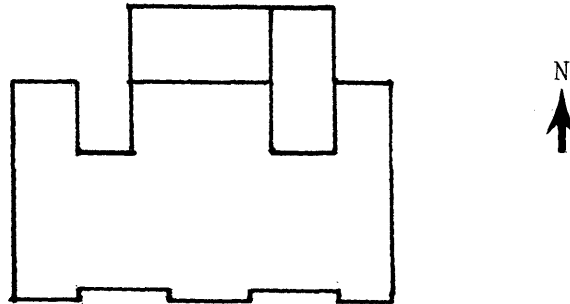
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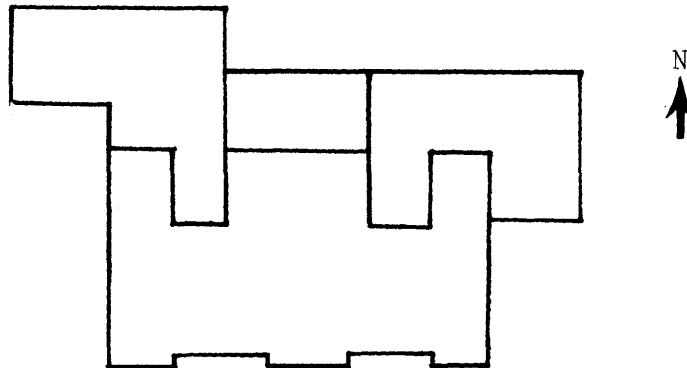
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

In 1951, with an increasing demand for additional stack space, a new stack was added directly north of the previous one, and a new one story reserve book room addition filled in between two of the arms of the "E" in plan. This brought the building area up to 81,780 square feet. At the same time fluorescent lighting was installed throughout.



Finally, in 1962, the building was brought to its present state with the addition of the one story portions to the east and west, and the three story portion between the other two arms of the "E" in plan. Thus, the present area of the building is some 114,600 square feet. The sketch below indicates the present form of the building in plan.



It is fortunate that, in the course of all the additions, the south, east, and west facades of the library have remained virtually undisturbed, preserving the character and quality of detail. Of exceptional interest in the interior

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 3

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is the main reading room on the second floor with its 30 foot ceiling. Spatially and decoratively unique among all of the buildings on campus, this room has been a hub of university life ever since it was built in 1927.

Since 1977 the building has been occupied and used for offices and library by the Arizona State Museum. No changes to the basic structure or to the lobby or reading room are anticipated.

FHR-8-300A  
(11/78)

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HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 3

is the main reading room on the second floor with its 30 foot ceiling. Spatially and decoratively unique among all of the buildings on campus, this room has been a hub of university life ever since it was built in 1927.

This building served students, staff and faculty as the main library for the University of Arizona from 1927 until December 1976, when a new main library containing over 300,000 square feet opened to serve the educational needs of the university community. It was the focal point for all academic activities and contained essential research material in all disciplines except for law and medicine, which developed their own support facilities.

Since 1977, the building has been occupied and used for offices and library by the Arizona State Museum. No changes to the basic structure or to the lobby or reading room are anticipated.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 2

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Building No. 26 of the University of Arizona Main Campus Complex is defined as the area south of North Drive and north of University Street, beginning 130 feet east of the centerline of Park Avenue, then proceeding eastward to a point 40 feet east of the easternmost portion of the building.