

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Jennings Carnegie Public Library

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 303 Cary Avenue _____ not for publication

city, town Jennings _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district 7th - John Breaux

state Louisiana code 22 Parish Jefferson Davis Parish code 053

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 (library) <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<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 Jennings

street & number P. O. Drawer 1249

city, town Jennings _____ vicinity of _____ state LA 70546

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Jefferson Davis Parish Courthouse

street & number

city, town Jennings _____ state LA

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title LA Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1981 _____ federal state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records State Historic Preservation Office

city, town Baton Rouge _____ state LA

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Jennings Carnegie Public Library is located on a corner lot on the outskirts of the Jennings central business district. It is constructed of buff brick with white painted wood trim.

The 1908 Palladian style building has a "V" shaped plan. One enters at the bottom of the "V" into an octagonal domed rotunda which contains the circulation desk. Connected to the rotunda are a pair of three-bay arched wings set at 45° to the entrance. These wings contain the stacks.

The specific features of the building were derived from the sixteenth century Italian Renaissance. The entrance facade consists of a Serlian motif encompassed by a set of four free-standing Corinthian columns which are surmounted by a full entablature, a parapet, and the aforementioned dome. Both the upper surfaces of the dome and the two pitched roofs are covered in red tile. The rotunda is defined by an octagonal arcade with a Composite column engaged against each pier.

The interiors of the wings were remodeled in 1952. As a result, the round arch windows are the only 1908 interior features that remain. Also at this time the south wing was extended by four bays. The original brickwork and articulation were duplicated in the addition.

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 type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates	1908	Builder/Architect	Whitfield & King, Architects New York, N. Y.
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Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)
 Criterion C

The Jennings Carnegie Public Library is significant in the area of architecture as a landmark in the architectural heritage of the city of Jennings. Most of the buldings in the downtown area are more or less standard early twentieth century commercial buildings. They have shallow arch windows, brick cornices, parapets, and brick pilasters. By contrast, the library has a dome, a rotunda, free-standing Corinthian columns, and a Serlian motif entrance. It is one of the smaller buildings in the central business district, but it is easily the most "high style."

Historical sketch:

The movement for a public library in Jennings can be traced to the year 1885, when several women in the town formed an organization which would soon be known as the Ladies Library Association. In 1889 the group purchased a house and lot on Main Street and set up Jennings' first public library. The ladies relied upon donations of books, money, and furnishings as well as funds they raised themselves. This building burned in 1901, and in the following year, the Ladies Library Association purchased the site of the present building. The organization then began negotiations with Andrew Carnegie for a gift for a new library in Jennings. The ladies were successful, and on February 5, 1907, the city voted to accept Carnegie's offer to donate \$10,000 for a library building to be erected on the site donated by the Ladies Library Association. The city also voted to appropriate \$1,000 per year for maintaining the library. The structure was completed in 1903.

The State Review Committee requested that it be noted that the building's V-shaped plan is an unusual and creative solution to the problem of a prominent corner lot.

9. Major Bibliographical References

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

UTM NOT VERIFIED
ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property approx. .12 acres

Quadrangle name Jennings, La.

Quadrangle scale 1=62500

UMT References

A

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

OK 10/23/83

B

Zone			Easting				Northing				

C

Zone			Easting				Northing				

D

Zone			Easting				Northing				

E

Zone			Easting				Northing				

F

Zone			Easting				Northing				

G

Zone			Easting				Northing				

H

Zone			Easting				Northing				

Verbal boundary description and justification

Please refer to sketch map.

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 Elizabeth Cagnon

organization date September 1981

street & number 406 E. Norwood Drive telephone 318-824-3494

city or town Jennings state LA 70546

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Robert B. DeBlieux*
Robert B. DeBlieux

title State Historic Preservation Officer date November 16, 1981

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<i>BeH Crowna</i>	date 1/8/82
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

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Continuation sheet Jennings Carnegie Public
Library

Item number 9

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9. Bibliography

Conveyance Records

Minutes, February 5, 1907, Jennings Board of Aldermen.

Act of Incorporation, Ladies Library Society of Jennings, September 19, 1889.

Hildebrand, Franklin. As I Remember. Creative Publishing, November 1977 and March 1978.

Morse, Walter D. Birth of Jennings. Tribune Printing Company of Lafayette, Louisiana, June 1963.

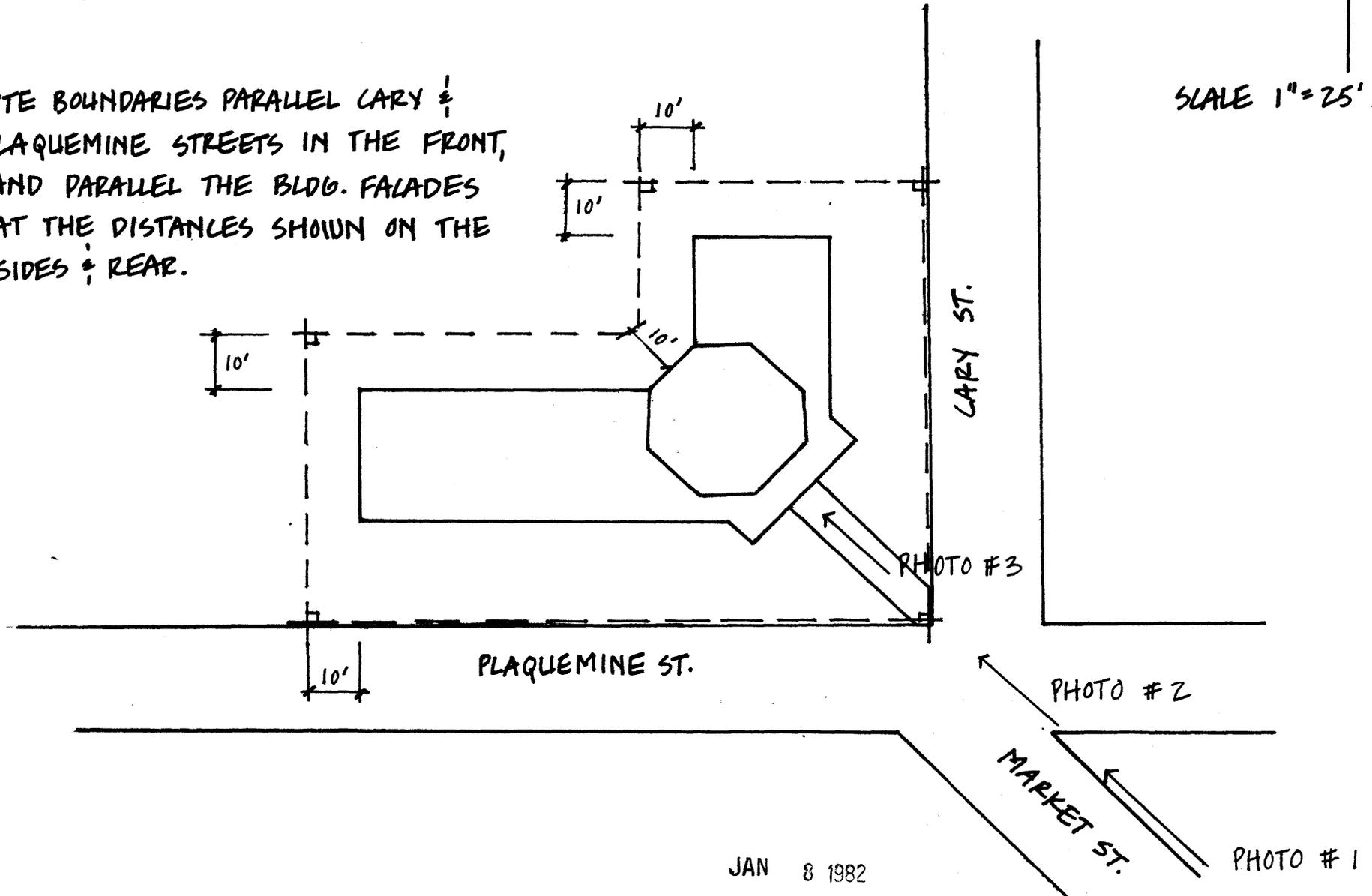
Specifications for Jennings Carnegie Public Library. Originals in possession of Jennings Carnegie Public Library.

JENNINGS CARNEGIE PUBLIC LIBRARY

JENNINGS, LOUISIANA

SITE BOUNDARIES PARALLEL CARY & PLAQUEMINE STREETS IN THE FRONT, AND PARALLEL THE BLDG. FACADES AT THE DISTANCES SHOWN ON THE SIDES & REAR.

N
SCALE 1" = 25' APPROX.



JAN 8 1982