

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED MAR 3 1976

DATE ENTERED APR 14 1976

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 *Wb* Carnegie Library

\*\* AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER Northwest corner, 17th and Broadway

\_\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN Parsons VICINITY OF No. 5, Joe Skubitz

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE Kansas CODE 20 COUNTY Labette CODE 099

**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 Urban Renewal Agency

STREET & NUMBER 45-H Parsons Plaza

CITY, TOWN Parsons STATE Kansas 67357

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTER OF DEEDS, ETC. Register of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER Labette County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN Oswego STATE Kansas 67356

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE Historic Sites Survey

DATE August 8, 1970 \_\_\_ FEDERAL  STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Kansas State Historical Society

CITY, TOWN Topeka STATE Kansas 66612

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" 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 Carnegie Library in Parsons, a one story structure with a basement, is built of Carthage stone cut in the cyclopean style and backed with concrete. The building, which faces east, measures 84 feet long by 50 feet wide. It is situated in an area of institutional and government buildings. To the north is the post office, across 17th street to the east is the city hall, and across Broadway to the south is a Presbyterian church. West of the building is a parking lot.

? The style seems to be primarily derived from Beaux-Arts Classicism which has been tempered somewhat to accommodate both the local materials and craftsmen. The building is symmetrical and has a rather elaborate entrance that employs a Serliana motif with Ionic columns as the main focal point on the east facade. The Serliana motif frames another arch with dressed voussoirs and a pronounced keystone. The lintel over the double door is supported on brackets. The entranceway projects forward slightly from the building and is defined by pilasters on either side. Pronounced consoles have been substituted for capitals on the pilasters. A string course of dressed stone divides the building horizontally, beginning above the lintels of the basement floor windows. There are large triple windows centered on either side of the door. These windows on the first floor have dressed stone sills supported by consoles and run up to the entablature. The windows are aligned with those in the basement. The windows are wood framed and many have latticed panes. The corners of the building are beveled and have a centered window. The entablature of the building has an undecorated frieze and the cornice is supported by consoles. There is a limestone balustrade above the cornice line. The name "Carnegie Library" has been carved in the balustrade above the main entranceway. The roof is hipped and a melon dome rises at the crossing. The roof was originally red tile but it was later replaced with asphalt shingles.

There is a secondary entrance centered on the south facade in a wing which projects from the building. It has a double door with a fanlight encircled by accentuated voussoirs and a keystone. The cornice line of this projection is lower than that of the main building but is similarly detailed. Wide stone pilasters accent the corners of the wing. To either side of this wing are single windows.

The north facade has a configuration similar to that on the south, but a triple window on both the basement and first story has been substituted for the doorway.

The west facade has been divided into three bays by two stone chimneys. The center bay has two separate windows with counterparts in the basement, while the bays to either side have triple windows on both floors. The basement window openings on the northern side and beveled corner were boarded up for repairs to the windows at the time the accompanying photographs were taken.



# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Carnegie Library Building Now Nearing Completion," Parsons Daily Sun, Dec. 26, 19  
 "Carnegie Will Build," Parsons Daily Sun, Nov. 19, 1907.  
 Connelley, William E., A Standard History of Kansas and Kansans, (Chicago, American  
 Historical Society, Inc., 1928) pp. 1606, 1607.  
 Crispine, Mrs. Tommie J., editor, The Centennial Story of Parsons, Kansas  
 (Interstate Book Manufacturers, Inc., 1971), pp. 44, 70.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY one

UTM REFERENCES

A	<u>5</u>   1   <u>X</u>     2   9   9   7   3   0     4   1   3   4   7   4   0	B	
	ZONE EASTING NORTHING		ZONE EASTING NORTHING
C		D	
	ZONE EASTING NORTHING		ZONE EASTING NORTHING

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	Richard Pankratz Cornelia Wyma	Director, Historic Sites Survey Architectural Historian	DATE	January 30, 1976
ORGANIZATION	Kansas State Historical Society		TELEPHONE	913-296-3251
STREET & NUMBER	120 West 10th Street		STATE	Kansas 66612
CITY OR TOWN	Topeka			

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL      STATE      LOCAL X

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 Nyle H. Miller

TITLE Executive Director, Kansas State Historical Society DATE February 5, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
<b>Acting</b> DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	DATE <u>4/14/76</u>
ATTEST: <u>Charles [Signature]</u>	DATE <u>4-12-76</u>
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	

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Carnegie Library

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7.

The interior is finished with oak and Canadian walnut. The lower story was divided into an assembly room with a seating capacity of 300, a board room with an adjoining fireproof safety vault, a work room, a fuel room and toilets. The main floor is taken up by the library which is divided by book stacks into a reference room, stock room, librarian's office and adult and children's reading rooms.

The library building has been carefully maintained and its exterior appearance with the exception of the roof and a few window air conditioning units is very similar to the original.

8.

The library building has continued to serve the citizens of Parsons, but it is now inadequate to meet present library needs. In a 1975 election voters approved construction of a new facility. The Carnegie Library was at first scheduled for demolition, but enough interest was generated to retain the building, and the Urban Renewal Agency and various community groups are seeking a new public use so it can continue to serve the community.

The Carnegie Library is a significant building in Parsons and worthy of National Register listing because of the fine quality of its workmanship, pleasing design and long service to the community.

9.

"Library, Where?" Parsons Daily Sun , Dec. 20, 1907.

"Opening Reception of Carnegie Building for Parsons Free Public Library"  
(Parsons, Kan. 1909), brochure distributed at the reception on May 18, 1909.

Parsons Daily Sun, Feb. 9, 15, 16, Mar. 23, 27, Sept. 28, Dec. 12, 21, 30, 31, 1907; Jan. 3, Feb. 8, Apr. 14, 1908; Sept. 24, Oct. 8, Dec. 26, 1975.