

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

For NPS use only

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

received

date entered

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

1. Name

historic Council Grove (Carnegie) Library

and or common Same

2. Location

street & number 303 W. Main

not for publication

city, town Council Grove

vicinity of

state Kansas

code 20

county Morris

code 127

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"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name City of Council Grove

street & number City Hall

city, town Council Grove

vicinity of

state Kansas 66846

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Morris County Clerk

street & number Morris County Courthouse

city, town Council Grove

state Kansas 66846

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date N/A

federal state county local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town N/A

state N/A

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		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Council Grove (Carnegie) Library (c. 1917) is located at 303 W. Main in Council Grove, Morris County, Kansas (pop. 2,381). The one-story, brick eclectic Neo-Classical building stands on a corner lot two blocks west of Council Grove's central business district. Its facade orientation is north. The building measures approximately fifty-eight feet from east to west and thirty-six feet from north to south. The building retains its original function as a library.

The one-story, red brick building sits on a raised foundation with a limestone base. It is a rectangular structure with a low roof hidden by a parapet wall. Three bays comprise the building's facade and rear, it is one bay deep. A parapetted entry pavilion projects from the facade's center bay. Chimneys project above the west and south elevations.

The projecting entryway pavilion contains its original single door with the original sidelights and is surmounted by the original arched transom. Three, rectangular, bevelled glass panes surmounted by three-square, bevelled glass panes light the oak door. A single, square, bevelled glass pane underscores the center rectangular pane. Two rectangular panes surmounted by two square panes comprise the sidelights. Wooden kickplates stand beneath the sidelights. The transom is divided into three windows, each window is comprised of three long panes surmounted by three smaller panes. A brick arch with a limestone keystone and limestone corner blocks surmounts the transom. The original steel framed canopy with seven translucent glass panes projects above the door. It is chained to the building at the limestone squares which flank the transom midway.

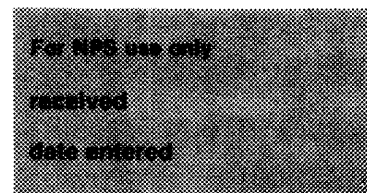
Brick quoins outline the pavilion's doorway and mark the pavilion's corners. Brick quoins mark all corners on the building and outline the two, first level facade windows. A classical wooden entablature ornaments the building with the exception of part of the rear elevation. A brick parapet with limestone capping surmounts the entablature. A limestone tablet with "Library" carved out of it stands in the pavilion's center. Small limestone blocks with "AD" and "1916" inscribed into them flank the tablet. Limestone scrolls ornament the parapet's corners. Stone steps lead up to the doorway flanked by brick and limestone abutments.

The first level fenestration retains its original rhythm but the window frames have been replaced. The basement level windows are original. A center rectangular pane underscored by a short rectangular pane and flanked by two narrow rectangular panes that are underscored by small rectangular panes comprise each of the two first level windows which flank the facade's pavilion. The small, lower windows are hinged. A flared brick lintel with a limestone keystone and limestone corner blocks surmounts these windows. They are underscored by a limestone sill. Rectangular brick and limestone panels stand beneath each window. Two, 3/1 double hung windows stand beneath each of the first level windows. The first level window openings are outlined with brick quoins which conclude in a vertical brick stretcher course which marks the building's first floor.

Two pairs of 1/1 windows with small lower hinged windows comprise the western elevations's first level outer bay fenestration. Brick lintels with limestone corner blocks surmount these windows. Projecting bricks outline the windows, concluding in the

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brick belt course. Three-over-one double hung windows stand below these windows. A chimney pent projects from the elevation's center bay.

The eastern elevation has the same fenestration treatment used on the western elevation excepting the center bay, which has a window identical to the others on the first level and a door on the basement level. The original wood door is lit with three rectangular panes surmounted by three small panes. The steel and glass paned canopy which projected above the door was replaced in 1978 with a three-sided plastic shelter. Three pairs of 1/1 windows with hinged lower windows form the first level fenestration on the rear elevation. Pairs of double hung windows pierce the foundation wall below the first level windows.

The interior of the library maintains its original floorplan and its vestibule entrance with a basement staircase. The first level retains its capitalled pillars and ceiling beams, but they have been painted. The vestibule retains its original double doors. The door and windows surrounds, the wainscotting, and the staircase retain their varnish finish. The original main desk and some shelving remain. The basement level retains its coffered, pressed metal ceiling, fireplace, and woodwork.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
..... prehistoric	..... archeology-prehistoric	..... community planning	..... landscape architecture	..... religion
..... 1400-1499	..... archeology-historic	..... conservation	..... law	..... science
..... 1500-1599	..... agriculture	..... economics	..... literature	..... sculpture
..... 1600-1699	X architecture	X education	..... military	X social/
..... 1700-1799	..... art	..... engineering	..... music	..... humanitarian
..... 1800-1899	..... commerce	..... exploration/settlement	..... philosophy	..... theater
X 1900-	..... communications	..... industry	..... politics/government	..... transportation
		..... invention		..... other (specify)

Specific dates c. 1917

Builder/Architect A.T. Simmons - Architect

Joe Axe - Builder

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Council Grove (Carnegie) Library (c. 1917) is being nominated to the National Register as part of the Carnegie Libraries of Kansas thematic resources nomination (c. 1902-1921) at the local level of significance under criteria A and C for its historical association with the Carnegie Corporation Library Building Program and for its architectural significance as a new building type. A library association was organized in Council Grove in 1876. The community received their \$10,000.00 Carnegie Library grant in 1903, library construction was completed in 1917. The Council Grove (Carnegie) Library is an example of the eclectic Neo-Classical style.

Sixty-three Carnegie funded libraries were built in Kansas during the first three decades of the Twentieth Century; four of these libraries were built on college campuses. In most cases, the Carnegie funded library represented the community's first library building although many Kansas communities had book clubs and library organizations well before the Carnegie Corporation Library Building Program was founded. In the case of the four college libraries, the building represented the first structure which was solely devoted to housing the institution's books and providing study space. Carnegie did not solicit interest in the program, with the exception of the Anderson (Carnegie) Memorial Library which was built by Carnegie as a memorial to his friend John Anderson and was the first college library nationally to receive Carnegie funding. Communities initiated contact with the corporation by letter, indicating their desire for a Carnegie funded library. If the Corporation responded favorably to the request, a firm local commitment to the program's requirements, which generally resulted in a public election in support of the library, followed. Obviously these actions represented a perceived need within the community for a library building and the Carnegie Corporation Library Building Program represented an excellent way to secure the funds to build one. Many of the Carnegie Libraries built in Kansas reflect the high space utilization design guidelines promoted by the Carnegie Corporation after 1910, underscoring the point that before the Carnegie Corporation Library Building Program, few architects and/or builders had experience designing this building type.

Twenty-eight Carnegie Libraries are included in this nomination (see inventory). Twelve Carnegie Libraries have been listed individually on the National Register: Argentine, Case Library (Baker University, Baldwin City), Caldwell, Dodge City, Emporia, Goodland, Lawrence, Leavenworth, Newton, Ottawa, Parsons, and Pittsburg. The Carnegie Library at Arkansas City is included in a downtown historic district. Thirteen Carnegie Libraries have been demolished: Great Bend, Halstead, Hays, Iola, Kansas City, McPherson, Morrison Library (Fairmont College, Wichita), Olathe, Osawatomie, Plainville, Russell, Salina, and Washington. Five Carnegie Libraries have been altered enough to make them ineligible for the National Register: Abilene, Garden City, Hiawatha, Lyons, and Stockton. (The nominations for the Concordia, Eureka, Independence, and Winfield libraries were deferred.) Twenty-two of the nominated libraries retain their original function. All of the buildings are in use or have an active use planned for them. The

9. Major Bibliographical References

See attached sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Council Grove

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A 14 718080 4281780
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification The nominated property sits on Lots 1, 2, 3; Block 19 in Council Grove, Kansas. This is a rectangular tract bounded to the north by W. Main, to the east by Mission, and to the west and south by adjacent property lines

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

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Martha Gray Hagedorn, Architectural Historian

organization Kansas State Historical Society

date April 2, 1987

street & number 120 West 10th

telephone 913-296-5264

city or town Topeka

state Kansas

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

title Executive Director, Kansas State Historical Society

date April 2, 1987

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

Keeper of the National Register

date 4/25/87

Attest:

Chief of Registration

date

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nominated libraries maintain a high to moderate degree of architectural and structural integrity.

Industrialist Andrew Carnegie (1835-1919) and the Carnegie Corporation significantly influenced the development and expansion of public library systems worldwide. Between 1886 and 1921 Carnegie funds assisted in the construction of 1,681 city and 108 college libraries in the United States. As a region, the Mid-West, Kansas included, did not have a well established public library system until the Carnegie Program and ranks highest in the number of communities which obtained Carnegie Libraries nationwide. Out of the forty-six states to participate in the library building program, Kansas ranks approximately eleventh in the number of Carnegie Libraries built. For many Kansas communities, the Carnegie Library represented its first library building, providing an environment that all members of the community could share for the purposes of reading, learning, and education.

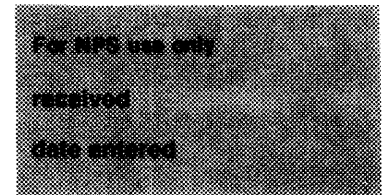
Eligibility for Carnegie Library funds rested on several factors. Firstly, the population of the community had to exceed 1,000; in Kansas this indicated at least a second class city status. This population requirement generally resulted in county seat communities applying for and receiving Carnegie Libraries. Some communities with populations less than 1,000 banded together with neighboring communities to achieve the 1,000 mark and applied for township libraries, as in the case of the Peabody and Canton Township libraries. In the case of college libraries this constraint may not have applied, although the four Kansas colleges to receive Carnegie libraries were located in cities which had populations in excess of 1,000 by 1900. Secondly, the applicant had to provide a site for the library. The sites tended to be one or two blocks outside of the community's main business district. Thirdly, the applicant had to provide an annual endowment for the maintenance and improvement of the library which amounted to at least ten percent of the initial grant from the Carnegie Corporation.

This last factor contributed to the ending of the Carnegie Library Building Program in 1917, although grants for books and other improvements continued for several more decades. An inherent problem for second class cities in Kansas was the .4 mill levy restriction for libraries, making it difficult for some communities to meet the annual ten percent maintenance appropriation solely through public dollars. In 1917 the Kansas State legislature increased the library levy to .5 mill for second and third class cities, an amendment which affected most of the communities in the State that had Carnegie Libraries. In 1916, large communities such as Topeka, Wichita, Hutchinson, and Leavenworth had library mill levies of 1.06, 1.2, 1.8, and 3.5 respectively. In Kansas, the average public library grant was \$12,000 and the average college library grant was \$37,000. These monies covered the cost of the building, the necessary furniture and fixtures, and the architects' fees.

Prior to 1910, the Carnegie Corporation did not provide design guidelines for the libraries that it funded and because the library was a relatively new building type, few architects and/or builders had experience with its design. Many of the early libraries were expensive examples of the Beaux Arts style with little focus on floor plan and space

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efficiency. In 1910, Carnegie's personal secretary James Bertram developed model specifications and floorplans for proposed libraries, entitling his work Notes on Library Buildings. The Notes on Library Buildings provided the first widely circulated guidelines for library design in this country.

Bertram wrote:

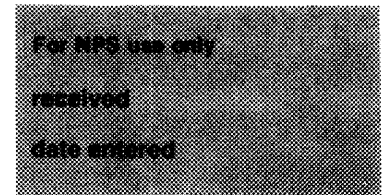
Small libraries should be pland (sic) so that one librarian can oversee the entire library from a central position.... The bilding (sic) should be devoted exclusively to: (main floor) housing of books and their issue for home use; comfortable accomo- dations for reading them by adults and children; (basement) lecture room; necessary accommodation for heating plant; also all conveniences for the library patrons and staff. Experience seems to sho (sic) that the best results for a small general library are obtained by adopting the one-story and basement rectangular type of bilding (sic), with a small vestibule entering into one large room sub-divided as required by means of bookcases.... The rear and side windows may be kept about six feet from the floor, to giv (sic) continuous wall space for shelving. A rear wing can be added for stack-room (when future need demands it) at a minimum expense, and without seriously interfering with the library servis (sic) during its construction. The site chosen should be such as to admit lite (sic) on all sides, and be large enuf (sic) to allow extension, if ever such should become necessary.

The thirty-six Carnegie Libraries built in Kansas after 1910 reflect Bertram's precedents, exhibiting high space utilization, and often including full basements, although the raised basement is a design element employed in the earlier libraries as well. Most of these one-story libraries exhibit a three bay, Neo-Classical facade with a projecting central pedimented entry pavilion and are one bay deep. The use of native limestone is evident in some of the libraries but the most common material combination is brick with a limestone foundation. While there is some tendency toward a vernacular interpretation to the design ornamentation of these libraries, the general approach verges on high style.

Correspondence between the Carnegie Corporation and the library boards from the Kansas communities that received Carnegie Libraries indicates that the designs for these libraries were carefully scrutinized by Bertram and in many cases, were resubmitted several times before meeting his requirements. Upon the completion of a library, the library board was instructed to send a full set of blueprints and elevations of the building to the Corporation. However, recent correspondence between the Kansas State Historical Society and the Carnegie Corporation reveals that the Corporation does not have blueprints of the Kansas libraries. The Corporation does have some library photographs but the collection is not inclusive.

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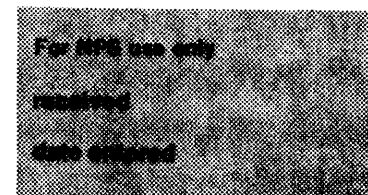
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Three architects were particularly active in the design of Kansas Carnegie Libraries: George P. Washburn of Ottawa, Kansas designed nine, A. T. Simmons of Bloomington, Illinois designed six, and William Warren Rose of Kansas City, Kansas designed four. Washburn's libraries are primarily of the standard three-bay, Neo-Classical variety. His firm is credited with the Carnegie libraries in Burlington, Canton, Cherryvale, Columbus, Eureka, Halstead, Osawatomie, Ottawa, and Sterling. Simmons engaged in a more eclectic approach, designing libraries in Abilene, Chanute, Council Grove, Downs, Hays and Yates Center. Rose is credited with the classically inspired libraries in Argentine, Kansas City, Manhattan, and Newton. In Kansas, many Kansas based architects were commissioned to design Carnegie Libraries as well as architects from Illinois, Missouri, Nebraska, and Texas.

Today, many of the state's Carnegie Libraries are facing serious space shortages. The alternatives of adding on or vacating both present preservation problems. Additions to these libraries must be such that the building's original character is not altered. Vacating the library for a larger facility leaves the problem of an empty building, in some communities county historical societies have inherited the empty Carnegie Library. In any event, when these buildings are no longer recognized from a design standpoint as Carnegie Libraries, their architectural significance ceases.

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Carnegie Library Bibliography:

Anderson, Florence. Carnegie Corporation Library Program, 1911-1961.
(New York: Carnegie Corporation, 1963).

Bertram, James. Notes on Library Building. (New York: Carnegie Corporation, 1910).

Bobinski, George S. Carnegie Libraries: Their History and Impact on American Public Library Development. (Chicago: American Library Association, 1969).

Carnegie Corporation. Micro-film reels of correspondence between the Corporation and Kansas Carnegie Library Communities, 1902-1921. Carnegie Corporation of New York.

Gardiner, Allen. The Carnegie Legacy in Kansas: A Retrospective View of the 59 Public Libraries Built by Andrew Carnegie; A Souvenir Publication to Commemorate the Sequicentennial of Carnegie's Birth. (Topeka: Kansas State Library, 1985).

_____. Kansas Public Libraries from Abilene to Zenda. (Topeka: Kansas State Library, 1982).

Koch, T. W. A Book of Carnegie Libraries. (New York: H. W. Wilson, 1917).

State of Kansas. Session Laws, 1917. Chapter 113. "Limiting Tax Levies in Cities of the Second and Third Class."

Topeka Capital Journal, 20 December 1916; 26 December 1916.