

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED JUN 11 1980
DATE ENTERED AUG 29 1980

**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

Carnegie Library

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

215 East Wade St.

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

El Reno

___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

No. 6

STATE

Oklahoma

CODE

40

COUNTY

Canadian

CODE

017

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

___ COMMERCIAL

___ EDUCATIONAL

___ ENTERTAINMENT

___ GOVERNMENT

___ INDUSTRIAL

___ MILITARY

___ MUSEUM

___ PARK

___ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

___ RELIGIOUS

___ SCIENTIFIC

___ TRANSPORTATION

OTHER: Library

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

City of El Reno

STREET & NUMBER

City hall

CITY, TOWN

El Reno

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

Oklahoma

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Office of the County Clerk

STREET & NUMBER

Canadian County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

El Reno

STATE

Oklahoma

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Oklahoma Comprehensive Survey

DATE

1980

___ FEDERAL STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Oklahoma Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

Oklahoma City

STATE

Oklahoma

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 (one	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED	small addition)	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Carnegie Library is a two-story structure of cream colored brick with a classic portico supported by four massive ionic columns. The pedimented entry, with transom, is flanked by single columns. Ornamentation is limited to white stone cornices and panels that separate first and second story windows to emphasize the building's height. The two front window pairs, in addition, have a full architrave trim or surround of stone to offset and complement the portico.

The building is basically a well-proportioned rectangle, 57 feet east-west, 42 feet north-south. It faces Wade Street on the south. In 1964 when the fire-proof Archives Room was added, it was carefully wrapped around the northwest corner of the building so as to make it relatively unobtrusive from both streets, thus preserving the library's essentially classic lines. This one-story addition provides space for a small (11 x 15 feet) office, restroom, and storage area, as well as for the 16 x 40-foot Archives Room itself. Otherwise the interior was not changed.

As noted in No. 8, the only real change in the library over the years came in 1927 when it was decided the original second floor auditorium was no longer needed. The stage area was walled off for storage. The auditorium proper became the children's library. Downstairs there have been virtually no changes. The lobby and stairway have their original marble. The embossed metal ceilings with their florentine design (cf. Photo No. 5) are those originally installed in 1905. The handsome terra cotta decorative work (cf. Photo No. 4) is also original. As for the charging desk, still the main desk, it was added in 1909. The library throughout has been well maintained over the years.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1905 to present

BUILDER/ARCHITECT architect: Smith and Moore
Contractor: A. C. Kreipke

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

El Reno's Carnegie Library was built in 1904-1905 and dedicated on March 5, 1905, the 4th Carnegie Library in then 16-year-old Oklahoma Territory. The oldest still in use today as a library, it has served El Reno and Canadian County in a continually expanding number of ways for nearly 75 years. The addition of an Archives Room in 1964 to the left rear of the two-story structure - accomplished without seriously marring a simple classic design - has enabled the library to serve an increasing number of students and scholars from well beyond the El Reno area. All the time the building itself has been well maintained, with a minimum of interior changes, thus letting it stand today as a still rather handsome model for the concept of community service and enrichment Andrew Carnegie undoubtedly intended for his library building program.

*

El Reno began in 1889 with opening to settlement of Old Oklahoma. In 1902 citizens petitioned the City Council for "a Public Library and Reading Room as provided by the laws of Oklahoma Territory." The petition was promptly acted upon and rooms were rented from the YMCA to house it. A Professor E. D. Cave was hired May 5, 1902, as librarian - at \$25 per month - and the solicitation of funds and books was begun.

On Jan. 28, 1904, the City Council approved the Carnegie proposal for a library building. In return for \$12,500 the city agreed to maintain the library at an expense of not less than \$1,250 a year. Ground for the library was donated by a local citizen. The completed building was accepted by the Library Board May 5, 1905, dedicated on June 14. One Miss Anna Hall was hired as librarian, albeit on 30 days trial ... and after the board had cast 23 ballots!

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Materials researched by Edna May Arnold, long-time librarian and archivist at the Carnegie Library.

UTM NOT VERIFIED

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1 acre

QUADRANGLE NAME El Reno, Oklahoma

QUADRANGLE SCALE 7.5 minute

UTM REFERENCES

A 14 5951065 3913121915
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 6-10, Block 105, original plat of Town of El Reno

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Kent Ruth, Deputy

DATE

ORGANIZATION

Oklahoma Historical Society

March 1980

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

Historical Building

405/884-5456

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Oklahoma City

Oklahoma

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

DATE

[Handwritten Signature]

6/3/80

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

[Handwritten Signature]
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

8/29/80

ATTEST: *[Handwritten Signature]*

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

8/28/80

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

Carnegie Library

The two-story structure immediately filled a variety of needs in the young town. The first floor accommodated the library itself. The second floor was an auditorium, with stage. It was used for El Reno Highschool graduation exercises until 1912 - when the school built a larger facility - and for many other community entertainments. But after 1912 Library Auditorium was used less and less frequently, while the library itself continued to grow. In 1927 it was decided to remodel the building so that it might better serve the community.

The stage was walled off for use as storage. The auditorium became the children's library, which had been established downstairs in 1912. At this time a full-time children's librarian was hired. Story hour programs were continued even during the depression years, although with a diminished staff. Then and through the war years that followed the building was consistently well maintained.

By 1962 the decision was made to call for a bond issue to build an Archives Room, add air conditioning and other physical plant improvements. It was approved by the largest majority of any bond issue in El Reno history. The project was completed in 1964 and the fire-proof Archives Room (officially the Edna May Arnold Archives Room, for the longtime librarian/archivist who established it) now contains several thousand Canadian County pictures of historic significance, a good collection of rare books on Oklahoma, complete files of The Chronicles of Oklahoma and other materials pertaining to all periods of Oklahoma history. Its resources have in recent years attracted an increasing number of serious researchers.

One program, started in 1972, deserves special mention. It brought together one day a week, in an informal noon-time meeting, local citizens interested in all aspects of early-day life in Canadian County. For the most part the speakers were oldtimers with first hand knowledge of such things as barbering in 1900, pre-World War I farm butchering, and life at nearby Fort Reno and Darlington. These programs were of course recorded.

The Archives Room served the Canadian County writers group for many years, continues to accommodate county genealogists. Today the library itself has 6,422 active readers, three full-time and two part-time librarians. It is open 50 hours a week.