

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JUN 10 1975
DATE ENTERED JUN 26 1975

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

Jackson Free Library

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

College and Church Streets

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Jackson

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Seventh

STATE

Tennessee

CODE

47

COUNTY

Madison

CODE

113

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<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 type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: Vacant

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

City of Jackson, Tennessee

STREET & NUMBER

City Hall

CITY, TOWN

Jackson

VICINITY OF

STATE

Tennessee

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Madison County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

Madison County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Jackson

STATE

Tennessee

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 type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Though on the northern border of downtown Jackson, the Jackson Free Library is located on a grassy plot, shaded by large old trees, giving relief to the usual concrete and asphalt of an urban site.

Neither the exterior nor the interior of the building is significantly changed from the original construction, which is still basically sound.

The facade is of two story elevation and symmetrical about the main entrance in the modified classical style that is classified as Renaissance of Italian inclination.

The impressive doorway, framed in limestone and supporting iron gates, has two large window openings at either side that are unique by the presence of a classical architrave over the center portions.

The presentation is formal to a critic's demands, yet pleasant and acceptable to the layman's eye. The front is so harmonious as to minimize the variety of materials and colors present. Brick of a light buff color is combined with compatible darker orange which, with the limestone and painted wood at openings gives an unexpected harmony with the red tile roof covering.

The plan is classically symmetrical and functional as if the architect were influenced by Viollet-le-Duc, Richardson and Sullivan at the same time.

Through the tile mosaic floored entrance foyer, with niches for statuary at each side, one faces the centroid of an octagonal area which formerly housed a librarian's central control desk and radiating book stacks. A dome skylight, ahead of its time, gave ample light along with the Monticello like windows which were carefully planned between stacks.

At either side of the foyer, which boasts a marble floor and doors of original beveled glass panels, are equal sized rooms with tall ceilings, tall windows, and ornate beams whose integrity still exists beneath the curling paint flakes. The effect of the entire main floor area is spacious and open. As a library one of these large rooms served adults and students as a reading room while the other held thrills for younger visitors with art exhibits, rock specimens, stuffed birds, and the weekly "story hour".

From the octagonal skylighted room are winding stairs of wrought-iron and marble, both to a balcony above the area and to the lower floor where five meeting rooms are located.

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Urban planning
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1901

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The State of Tennessee was only 25 years old when a town was chartered in the center of the "Western District" between the Tennessee and Mississippi Rivers. It was appropriately named "Jackson" because several of the family of Andrew and Rachel Donelson Jackson were the original settlers. They were gentle people who brought with them their love of the good things of life: books, music and art.

The adolescent little town shook with the rest of the Confederacy in the 1860's and experienced the footfall of Union soldiers on its streets and the presence of General Grant's headquarters in its midst for a time.

History records that the nurture of the mind through literature was not overlooked in those early days. Notices of the Jackson Reading Room appeared in the newspapers during the 1830's. In the 1880's there were "book entertainments" to raise money to purchase books for the library. Study groups such as the Shakespeare Circle and Mutual Improvement Club, still in existence today, were formed.

On January 4, 1900, Rev. Mark Matthews, "that far-sighted and civic-minded minister of the Presbyterian Church", appeared before the City Council asking for \$75,000 to be matched for building and equipping a library.

As a result, the building stands today on College Street at about the center of the original northern boundary of the city as laid out in 1821. Its corner stone reads "Jackson Free Library, 1901."

For almost three score and ten years, until a larger new building was opened in 1968, the picturesque and much loved building served the literary needs of the citizens of the city, county and the surrounding area.

It does not lay claim to contributing to the education and spiritual enrichment of any internationally known great name. It does not boast the likes of a Washington, Jefferson, or a Lincoln; but it does proudly boast that from the many who climbed the total of thirteen steps to enter its stately portals, there have been Congressmen, professional men, successful businessmen, writers, artists and musicians among its patrons.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Cushman, C.H. History of the Choctaw, Chickasaw, and Natchez Nations (Greenville, Texas, 1899).
 Goodspeed (Ed.) History of Tennessee, Madison County Edition (Philadelphia, 1887).
 Williams, Emma Inman, Historic Madison (Jackson, 1972).
 Jackson Daily Sun, July 12, 1900.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1

UTM REFERENCES

UTM
OK a, c / NM

A

1	6	3	3	5	4	6	0	3	9	4	2	6	8	0
ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING								

C

ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING								

B

ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING								

D

ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING								

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mrs. Ann Bradley, Executive Director

ORGANIZATION

Jackson Arts Council, Inc.

DATE

March 13, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 3235

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Jackson

STATE

Tennessee

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

Lauren [Signature] 6/6/75

TITLE

Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

AK [Signature]

DATE

6/26/75

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

George [Signature]

DATE

June 25, 1975

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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RECEIVED JUN 10 1975

DATE ENTERED

JUN 26 1975

CONTINUATION SHEET

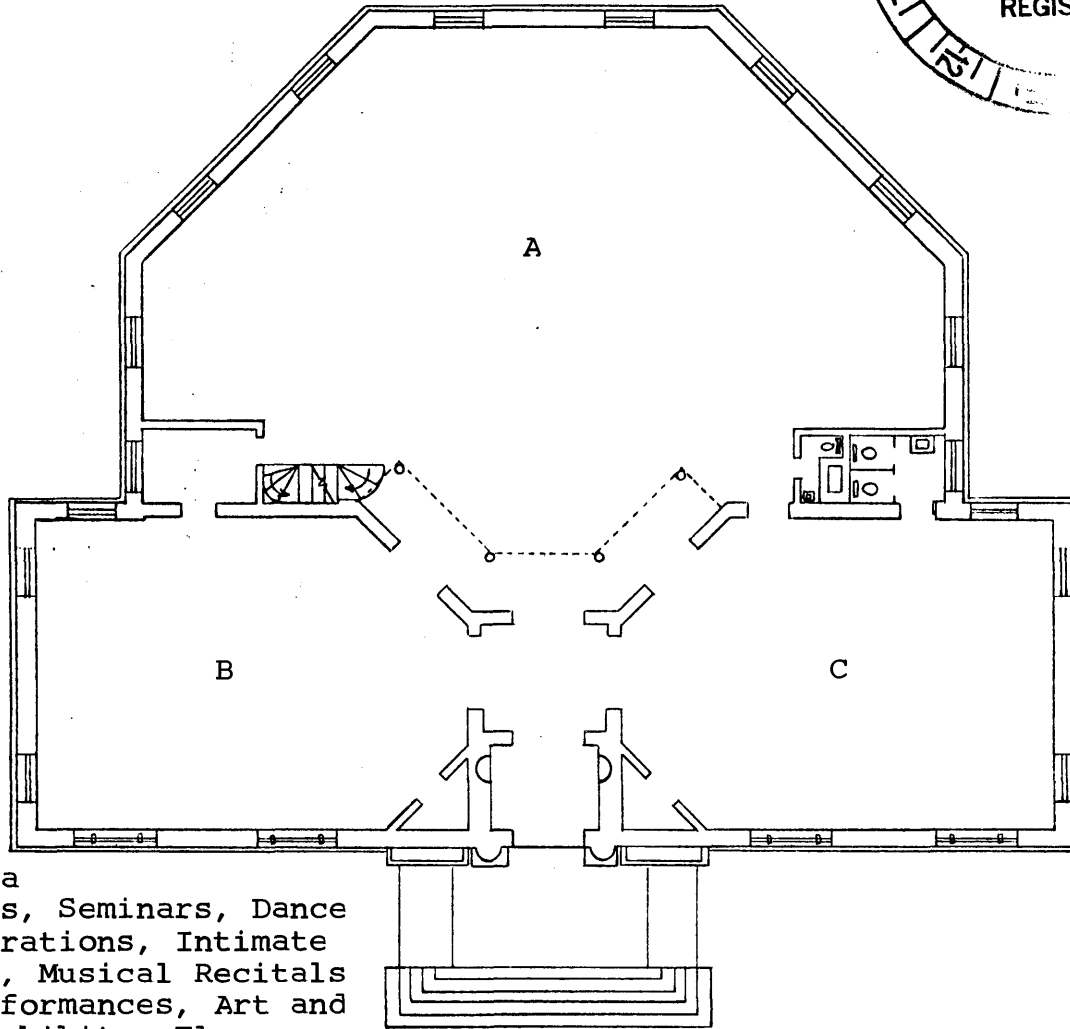
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This adult city, nearing classification as a metropolis, does not have too many historic buildings left. Most of the old pre-war residences and public buildings including the old opera house and vaudeville theaters have given way to the new through demolition, fire, or simply time.

The unique Jackson Free Library still proudly stands within a thousand yards of the original Courthouse Square where Davy Crockett, smarting from defeat at the polls, called the citizens together for a "speech" and announced, "You can go to hell, but I'm going to Texas."

Possessing architectural significance in a city that has lost most of its buildings of architectural value, this old library building of 1901 vintage lends itself with little change to the needs and desired uses of the Jackson Arts Council; as a permanent art display, a museum, space for small concerts, recitals and intimate theater, as well as meeting rooms for member organizations. Put to such uses, this now empty building would attract many people to utilize and enjoy the nostalgic past as well as the ever changing present.

PROPOSED USE



FIRST FLOOR

A. Rotunda

Meetings, Seminars, Dance Demonstrations, Intimate Theater, Musical Recitals and Performances, Art and Craft exhibits, Flower Shows, Poetry Readings and Literary Reviews, Rehearsal Hall and Headquarters for Bicentennial in 1976.

B. Permanent Art Gallery & Museum.

C. Exhibition Area for local and area artists as well as travelling shows.

PROPOSED	
FOR	
PREPARED BY	
SCALE: 1/16" = 1'0"	RECOMMENDED BY:
DATE: 12/12/74	
DRAWN BY: J.D.H.	