

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

10 19 1987
25 1987

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

1. Name

historic Washburn University Carnegie Library Building

and/or common Washburn University Carnegie Building- Education Department

2. Location

street & number Washburn University of Topeka

not for publication

city, town Topeka

vicinity of

state Kansas

code 20

county Shanwee

code 177

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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	N/A 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 Washburn University of Topeka

street & number Washburn University

city, town Topeka

vicinity of

state Kansas 66621

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Shawnee County Appraiser

street & number Shawnee County Courthouse

city, town Topeka

state Kansas 66603

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Kansas State Historical Society

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1969

federal state county local

depository for survey records Kansas State Historical Society, 120 West 10th Street

city, town Topeka

state Kansas 66612

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 Washburn University Carnegie Library Building (c. 1904) is located on the Washburn University of Topeka in Topeka, Kansas (pop. 115,266). The two-story, limestone, Neo-Classical building stands on a corner lot in the northeast section of the Washburn University campus and is one of the few original University buildings which was not damaged beyond repair by the 1966 tornado which hit Topeka. Its facade orientation is south. The building measures approximately on hundred feet from east to west and thirty feet from north to south. The building is no longer used as the University library, it currently houses the Education Department.

The two-story, random laid, limestone building sits on a coursed ashlar raised limestone foundation. It is a rectangular structure with a ridge hipped roof. 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. A two-story extension projects from the rear elevation's center bay, multi-sided one-and-a-half-story stairwells abut the junction of the extension and main body. Fire escapes, hidden by free standing, one-and-a-half-story stone walls project from the side elevations. Asphalt or fiberglass shingles cover the building's roof.

The 1966 tornado hit the building's southwest side, destroying the second floor on that side and taking off the building's roof. While many of the other damaged buildings on the campus were razed following the disaster, the Carnegie Library was rebuilt. It retains its overall historic appearance and the entryway pavilion was not harmed. In the rebuilding, the damaged walls were reconstructed, the building's mortar joints were repointed, the windows, (many of which had been blown out in the storm) were replaced with compatible frames and sashes, some of the rear elevation foundation windows were blocked in, fire escapes were added to the building's side elevations, the pantiled, ridge hipped roof was replaced with a shingled, hipped roof, and the interior was largely rebuilt and modernized.

Two-random laid limestone pillars with coursed ashlar limestone bases support the projecting entryway pavilion's classical entablature and balustraded parapet. Four Doric limestone attached columns with carved shafts standing in antis project from the pavilion's coursed ashlar limestone recessed wall space, also providing "support" for the entablature and parapet.

A multiply moulded architrave, surmounted by a frieze and a multiply moulded cornice with modillion blocks form the limestone entablature. A plaque bearing the name "Carnegie" covers the inscription on the center of the frieze which reads "Carnegie Library". The entablature's architrave and frieze conform to the two depths on the facade, receding with the limestone wall space and projecting with the pillars, acting as capitals for the pillars. The cornice does not conform to the recession, rather it runs a straight course across the pavilion. The limestone parapet incorporates the three depths into its design. Two depths of panelled corner blocks adorned with large limestone balls flank a recessed, false balustrade. The balustrade concludes in a center panel adorned with two small, limestone corner balls. The entablature and parapet treatment continue on the pavilion's side elevation.

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 checked="" 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 c. 1904 **Builder/Architect** James Cuthbert and Sargent - Builders

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Washburn University Carnegie Library Building (c. 1904) 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. Washburn College, now Washburn University of Topeka, was established in 1865. The College received its \$40,000.00 Carnegie Library grant in 1904. The Washburn University Carnegie Library Building is an example of the 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

Acree of nominated property Less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Topeka

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	5	2	6	6	2	2	9	4	3	2	4	0	0	0
Zone			Easting					Northing						

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 The nominated property stands on the SW $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, S1, T12, R15E on the Washburn University of Topeka campus in Topeka, Kansas. It stands in the northeast quadrant of the campus, measuring approximately 100' x 30'. A 110' x 40' lot contains the building.

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 15, 1987

street & number 120 West 10th Street

telephone 913-296-5264

city or town Topeka

state Kansas 66612

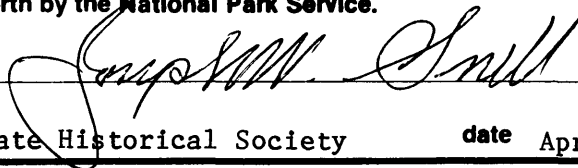
12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

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 15, 1987

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

for Beth Crovener
Keeper of the National Register

date 6/25/87

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

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date entered

Continuation sheet 1

Item number 7

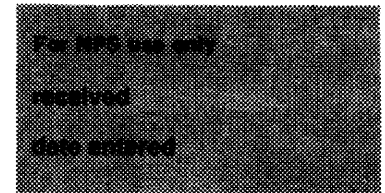
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The pavilion's recessed limestone wall is comprised of a center door on the first level flanked by two windows, three window groupings pierce the second level wall. A classically moulded beltcourse delineates the second level from the first level. The attached columns divide the space into three vertical units. An ornately carved limestone door surround delineates the replacement double doors. Transomed, single sash windows, surrounded with a keystone limestone frame flank the doorway. A transomed, single sash pair of windows with a projecting limestone sill surmounts the doorway on the second level. A transomed, single sash window with a projecting limestone sill flanks the center window on each side.

Two identical window bays with three windows on each level flank the pavilion. A transomed, single sash window with a limestone pediment and limestone sill fenestrates the center wall space on the first level. Smaller, 1/1 double hung windows surmounted by a limestone pediment and underscored by limestone panels flank this first level window. Three, 1/1 double hung windows pierce the second level and foundation level above and below the first level windows respectively. The window treatment follows this general pattern on each level of the other elevations, with five window openings on each level of the east and west elevations and eight window openings on each level of the north elevation, except the foundation, where there are fourteen window openings.

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Continuation sheet

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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.

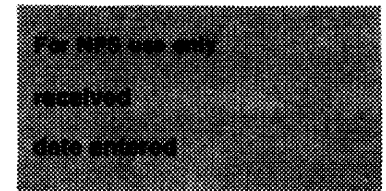
Eligibility for Carnegie Library funds rested on several factors. Firstly, the population of the community had to exceed 1,000; in Kansas this indicated at least a second class city status. This population requirement generally resulted in county seat communities applying for and receiving Carnegie Libraries. 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:

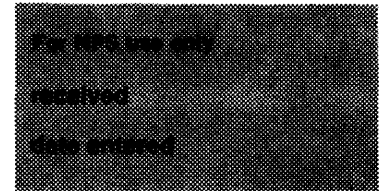
Small libraries should be pland (sic) so that one librarian can oversee the entire library from a central position.... The bilding (sic) should be devoted exclusively to: (main floor) housing of books and their issue for home use; comfortable accomodations for reading them by adults and children; (basement) 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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Continuation sheet 4

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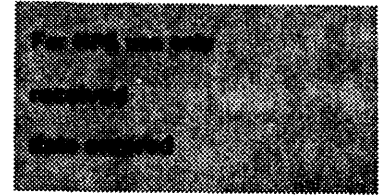
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Three architects were particularly active in the design of Kansas Carnegie Libraries: George P. Washburn of Ottawa, Kansas designed nine, A. T. Simmons of Bloomington, Illinois designed six, and William Warren Rose of Kansas City, Kansas designed four. 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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