

PH 004464

Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Arizona
COUNTY:	Maricopa
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	NOV 19 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Phoenix Carnegie Library and Library Park

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
1101 West Washington

CITY OR TOWN:
Phoenix

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

STATE: **Arizona** CODE: **04** COUNTY: **Maricopa** CODE: **013**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)

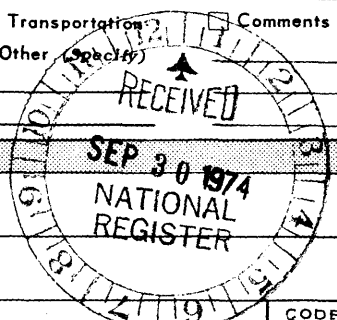
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
City of Phoenix

STREET AND NUMBER:
251 West Washington

CITY OR TOWN:
Phoenix

STATE: **Az** CODE: **04**



5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Maricopa County Recorders Office

STREET AND NUMBER:
111 South Third Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
Phoenix

STATE: **Arizona** CODE: **04**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Arizona State Historic Preservation Plan Inventory

DATE OF SURVEY: **1-15-74** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Arizona State Parks Board

STREET AND NUMBER:
1688 West Adams

CITY OR TOWN:
Phoenix

STATE: **Arizona** CODE: **04**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Arizona

COUNTY: Maricopa

ENTRY NUMBER: NOV 19 1974

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)						
<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed	
(Check One)			(Check One)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered			<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	
					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Phoenix Carnegie Library was constructed of red brick with 12-inch walls. The imposing entrance is approached by ten cement steps and flanked by two large columns. Inside, to the right and left of the entrance, are two rectangular offices. The main floor is roughly circular with two wings and a decorative circular skylight. The wings, which were used as reading rooms, are each marked by a double archway divided by a column. A wide uncolumned archway denotes the entrance to the large semi-circular area at the back of the building which boasts two tiers of eight windows. This room was occupied by the stacks which were arranged like spokes. The stack room is flanked on the west by a kitchen and on the east by the lounge and rest-rooms. In the lounge is a closet safe and beneath it in the basement is a closet with 12-inch brick walls which was used to store especially valuable documents during the time when the library was the state depository for government documents.

The main floor has oak paneling throughout to a height of 46 inches, plaster walls and ceilings, and hardwood floors. Both walls and paneling are painted, but the paneling was formerly oiled. The walls were cream-colored. The original bookshelves were olive green, about seven feet high, with adjustable shelves and are still in use at the main library.

The library opened in 1908 with 7000 books and a shelf capacity of 15,000. A large solid oak circulation desk was given to the Fine Arts Association in 1952. It was then painted and used for several years. In the Carnegie building it had been located on the east side of the foyer.

There is a full finished basement with cement floor and plastered walls. It was formerly used for storage of government documents, the large circular portion being used as a children's library. Most of the basement is now empty but some of it is used for the activities of a drama group. The building was originally heated by a coal furnace which is still in the basement. Two gas heaters are now in use on the main floor. In the summertime, evaporative coolers are used. Hanging overhead fluorescent lights have been installed.

The building is surrounded by a cement walk and has outside as well as inside access to the basement. A wheelchair ramp provides access to the library on the east. The park surrounding the library is still attractive. Formerly, people often gathered under the huge walnut tree in the southeast corner of the park to eat box lunches and listen to lectures. The grounds

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7. Description - Phoenix Carnegie Library and Library Park

were used as an experimental station by the city to discover what types of trees and shrubs would grow in this climate. There was a bandshell in the park where concerts and speeches were given. The building is now much in need of paint and minor repairs, but these have not yet been budgeted by the city. No major alterations have been made to the original structure.

One part of the original equipment of the library was a zinc-lined closet which was kept in one of the offices. Since it was widely believed that the books of a circulating library were carriers of disease, the books were "fumigated" for twelve hours in the zinc closet before being returned to the shelf. The closet was used until sometime in the 1920s when it was discovered that the treatment was superfluous. The present location of the zinc closet is unknown. It was not built into the building.



6. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1908**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | osophy | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The first Phoenix public library opened in the spring of 1898 as a result of the efforts of the Friday Club, whose members collected books and secured two rooms on the second floor of the Fleming Block on the northwest corner of Washington and First Avenues. This venture was so well received that the following spring a Phoenix Library Association was formed and the expanded library moved (15 September 1899) into a room in the City Hall which had formerly been occupied by the legislative assembly. The removal of the legislature to the new capitol building made the rooms available for other purposes. The books of the library were now for the first time catalogued by the Dewey system.

The success of the library made necessary a more permanent and structured arrangement, and the Library Association consequently endeavored to transfer the project to the city. However, this could not be accomplished until March 1901 after the territorial statutes were amended slightly. The library at this time contained 1350 volumes.

Since 1899 the Library Association had been unsuccessfully attempting to secure a grant from Andrew Carnegie, and in December of 1901 the Phoenix Woman's Club joined the campaign. Some progress was made in March of 1902 when the city agreed to put up the required 10% of the anticipated \$25,000 grant and to levy an annual tax of 5 mills on the dollar. In June, the city agreed to furnish the site if the grant was received.

Negotiations with Carnegie hit a snag when he saw the 1900 census report giving Phoenix a population of 5500 and decided that a grant of \$15,000 would be sufficient. However, by the fall of 1903 a committee had gathered evidence to show that additions of land and population to Phoenix since 1900 had resulted in a population of 14,000. The committee also pointed out that the nearest public libraries were in Tucson and

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(Attached)

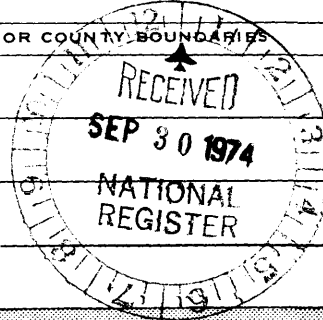
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		112°	05'	10"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		33°	26'	52"
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **4 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



UTW
12/39900
370124
CD

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Marjorie H. Wilson, Historian

ORGANIZATION: **Arizona State Parks Board** DATE: **9-16-74**

STREET AND NUMBER:
1688 West Adams

CITY OR TOWN: **Phoenix** STATE: **Arizona** CODE: **04**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name **Dennis McCarthy**
DENNIS MCCARTHY

Title **State Parks Director**
State Historic Preservation Officer

Date **September 25, 1974**

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

W. R. M. ...
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date **11/19/74**

ATTEST:

W. R. M. ...
Keeper of The National Register

Date **11/18/74**

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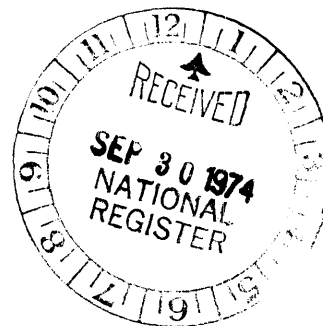
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8. Significance - Phoenix Carnegie Library and Library Park

Prescott, leaving the entire Salt River Valley in need of this public service. Carnegie was convinced and agreed to the original sum of \$25,000.

In July of 1904, the city accepted this offer and set about selecting a suitable site. The first site chosen was on Central Avenue north of Van Buren, but the money for the lots had to be donated within 45 days and when this could not be accomplished a second site was chosen. This site was then known as Neahr's Park and covered two blocks on West Washington between 10th Avenue and 12th Avenue, half way between the court house and the capitol. The land was donated to the city by Mr. Neahr. In the spring of 1905 the city approved the plans for the new building as drawn up by W. R. Norton and amended by W. H. Reeves. A board of trustees was appointed in August.

The red brick building was completed and opened for business 14 February 1908 and continued in use as a library until the new main library was built in 1952. Since that time it has been used as an adult recreation center.



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Arizona Days and Ways, 3 May 1959, pp. 54-55.

Cayhill, B. F. Interview. 15 January 1974.

Downing, Andrew. History of the Carnegie Public Library
of Phoenix, Arizona. 1914

Hudgins, Jane. Interview. 16 January 1974.

Miller, Joseph. "History of Phoenix Public Library."

Typescript of newspaper clippings. 1960.

Phoenix City Clerk's Office

Phoenix Public Library. Reference Desk.

