

Utah State Historical Society

Property Type:

Historic Preservation Research Office

Site No. _____

Structure/Site Information Form

1 IDENTIFICATION

Street Address: 83 East Center Street- UTM: 12 405950 4291420
 Richfield, Sevier County, Utah
 Name of Structure: Richfield Carnegie Library (Carnegie Library T.7K) R. S.
 Present Owner: Richfield City Corporation
 Owner Address: 5 North 100 East, Richfield, Utah 84701
 Year Built (Tax Record): Effective Age: Tax #: 1-27-1
 Legal Description: Kind of Building:

Beginning at the SE corner of Lot 1, Block 37, Plat A, Richfield City Survey; thence North 118 feet, West 90.5 feet, South 118 feet, East 90.5 feet to beginning. Less than one acre.

2 STATUS/USE

Original Owner: Richfield City Construction Date: 1913-14 Demolition Date:
 Original Use: Education - Library Present Use: Education - Library
 Building Condition: Integrity: Preliminary Evaluation: Final Register Status:
 Excellent Site Unaltered Significant Not of the National Landmark District
 Good Ruins Minor Alterations Contributory Historic Period National Register Multi-Resource
 Deteriorated Major Alterations Not Contributory State Register Thematic

3 DOCUMENTATION

Photography: Date of Slides: 1983 Slide No.: Date of Photographs: 1983 Photo No.:
 Views: Front Side Rear Other Views: Front Side Rear Other

Research Sources:
 Abstract of Title Sanborn Maps Newspapers U of U Library
 Plat Records/Map City Directories Utah State Historical Society BYU Library
 Tax Card & Photo Biographical Encyclopedias Personal Interviews USU Library
 Building Permit Obituary Index LDS Church Archives SLC Library
 Sewer Permit County & City Histories LDS Genealogical Society Other

Bibliographical References (books, articles, records, interviews, old photographs and maps, etc.):

Architects File. Utah State Historical Society.
 Bertiam, James. Letter to H.N. Hayes, secretary of Richfield Library Board. January 6, 1911.
 Available in National Register file, Utah State Historical Society.
 Hepworth, Bobbee McGee. "Carnegie Libraries in Utah." Unpublished research paper,
 Brigham Young University, 1976.
Richfield Reaper. 1916

Architect/Builder: Probably Archibald G. Young

Building Materials: Masonry - brick

Building Type/Style: Craftsman

Description of physical appearance & significant architectural features:
(Include additions, alterations, ancillary structures, and landscaping if applicable)

The Richfield Carnegie Library, built in 1913, is a one story rectangular building with a raised basement and distinguished by Craftsman stylistic elements. Elements of the Craftsman style include the steeply pitched gable roof of the main block, the use of yellow clinker brick as the primary building material, the half timbering in the gable ends of the building, the banding of the windows, and the stick work in the front and side entrance gables, and over the small dormers.

The facade is symmetrically arranged with an entrance pavillion centered between bands of three windows. Two small gable roof dormers project from the roof, centered over each of the bands of windows. There is a prominent belt course spanning the building at the level of the window sills. The raised basement sheathed in concrete, because of its contrast with the brick, reinforces the horizontal effect created by the banding of the windows, and the concrete belt course. The entrance bay projects from the building capped by a steep gable roof hood. Into the ogee shaped opening of the bay is set a pair of double doors flanked by side lights. The ogee motif is repeated in the decorative stick work at the top of the glass doors. Monumental brackets support the overhang of the pavillion roof.

(See continuation sheet)

Statement of Historical Significance:

Construction Date: 1913-14

Completed in 1913, the Richfield Carnegie Library is significant as one of sixteen remaining Carnegie libraries of the twenty-three built in Utah. Thirteen of the sixteen library buildings maintain their original integrity and are included in the Carnegie Library Thematic Resource Nomination. In addition to making significant contributions to public education in their respective communities, these libraries are Utah's representatives of the important nation-wide Carnegie library program, and they document its unparalleled effect in the establishment of community-supported, free public libraries in Utah. The Richfield Carnegie Library is also architecturally significant as the only Carnegie library in Utah designed in the Craftsman Style and as one of very few examples of the Craftsman Style on a non-residential building in the state.

The Richfield Carnegie Library was built in 1913 with a \$10,000 grant from millionaire/philanthropist Andrew Carnegie. Carnegie funded the construction of over 1650 library buildings in the U.S., 23 of which were built in Utah communities. The major conditions upon which all Carnegie grants were given were that the recipient community donate the building site and provide an annual maintenance budget of at least 10% of the grant amount. On January 6, 1911, H.N. Hayes, Secretary of the Richfield Library Board, received a letter of response from Andrew Carnegie granting the city's request for \$10,000 for the erection of a "Free Public Library Building." The conditions of the grant were apparently somewhat difficult to meet, for it was not until May 23, 1912 that the mayor and city council, with the citizens' support, officially accepted the Carnegie offer by passing a resolution authorizing the purchase of grounds for the library and the maintenance of the building.

(See continuation sheet)

Richfield Carnegie Library
Description continued:

The Craftsman influence is also reflected on the ends of the building. Set into the gable of each end is a narrow band of lattice windows, and typical of the Craftsman influence there are exposed purlins and monumental brackets set under the gable section. There are two bands of windows on the west side, and a band of windows and a door on the east side. The east entrance, glass doors with stick work and a transom with stick work that repeats the ogee motif of the front entrance, is topped by a small steeply pitched gable roof hood accentuated by geometric stick work, and supported on brackets.

Few alterations of the building have been made, and those that can be noted are minor. An awning has been attached at the basement level on the west side (n.d.), and the entrance stairs may have been rebuilt (n.d.). These changes, however, do not affect the original integrity of the building.

Richfield Carnegie Library
History continued:

The library building was the city's first library, and it has continued in use to the present as the town's only public library. Dedication ceremonies for the building were held on May 14, 1913,¹ and Olena Christianson was appointed as the first librarian.² The building was apparently built and designed by Archibald G. Young, a local architect/builder, who is credited with constructing numerous buildings in the Richfield area, including the Sevier County Courthouse, the Piute County Courthouse, the Federal Building in Richfield, the Richfield Elementary School, the Sevier Stake Seminary Building, and the Young Block.³

The Richfield Library relied heavily on the town residents for support in obtaining books, as evidenced by the "book showers" held in 1914 and 1916, the latter yielding over 300 books which were donated to the library by individuals.⁴ The shortage of books in the Richfield Library during its early years of operation was a problem common to many Carnegie libraries in small towns, where the relatively substantial maintenance costs for the buildings left little money for the purchase of books. This problem was probably more acute in Richfield, because the collecting of books began in Richfield only with the erection of this library building, whereas other communities already had functioning libraries prior to the construction of their Carnegie libraries.⁵

Footnotes

¹Letter from James Bertram, personal secretary of Andrew Carnegie, to H.N. Hayes, January 6, 1911. Copy of the letter was provided by Julia Peterson, Richfield, Utah.

²Bobbee McGee Hepworth, "Carnegie Libraries in Utah," (unpublished research paper, BYU, 1976)p. 21.

³Architects File, Utah State Historical Society.

⁴Richfield Reaper, April 22, 1916, p. 1.

⁵Hepworth, p. 21.