

Structure/Site Information Form

IDENTIFICATION 1

Street Address: 12 ~~South Main~~ Manti, Sanpete County, Utah UTM: 12 445380 4346190
 Name of Structure: Manti Carnegie Library (Carnegie Library IR) R. S.
 Present Owner: Manti City Corporation
 Owner Address: 191 North Main, Manti, Utah 84642
 Year Built (Tax Record): Effective Age: Tax #: S-1395
 Legal Description Kind of Building:

Commencing at the NE corner of Block 56, Manti City Survey, W. 99 feet, S. 99 feet, E. 99 feet, N. 99 feet to beginning. Less than one acre.

STATUS/USE 2

Original Owner: Manti City Corporation Construction Date: 1910-11 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

DOCUMENTATION 3

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.):

Manti Messenger, 1910.
 Hepworth, Bobbee McGee. "Carnegie Libraries in Utah." Unpublished research paper, BYU, 1976. Available at University of Utah Library.

Architect/Builder: Richard C. Watkins and John F. Birch/Fredericksen & Sons

Building Materials: Masonry - Brick

Building Type/Style: Classical Revival

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

The Manti Carnegie Library is a one story tan brick square building with a raised basement and a flat roof. It was designed in the Classical Revival Style. Typical of small public buildings designed in the Classical Revival Style in Utah, the Manti Library has a symmetrical facade and a balanced arrangement of openings around the entire building, a projecting pedimented portico, brick piers and pilasters topped by simple geometric capitals, an ashlar faced raised basement, and a classical cornice with dentils on the frieze, modillions supporting the cornice, and a crowning parapet.

The simple box form of the Manti Library is defined by the pilasters attached to each corner, by the heavy cornice, and by the balanced arrangement of distinctive openings around the building. All of the openings of the building have moldings that have been stuccoed and have raised brick edges. The light brown color of the concrete contrasts with the tan brick of the mass of the building. The moldings are pediment shaped, and each window has a projecting concrete sill. There is a large panel of windows across the back of the building. Only the monumental arched opening of the entrance is framed by a brick relieving arch. That opening consists of a pair of pilasters upon which rests a large semicircular arch. There is a large keystone at the apex of the arch.
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Statement of Historical Significance:

Construction Date: 1910-11

Built in 1910-11, the Manti 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 Manti Carnegie Library was built in 1910-11 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 conditions upon which all Carnegie grants were given were that the recipient communities donate the building site and provide an annual maintenance budget of at least 10% of the grant amount.

In May 1910, soon after receiving the conditional Carnegie grant, the Manti City Council passed a resolution obligating the city to provide at least \$1,000 per year for the maintenance and operation of the library, having already designated the property occupied by the old Council House as the site for the new library. Citizens of the town, anxious to finally get a library, forced the city council to act immediately on the library issue rather than wait until it was presented for majority approval in a general election scheduled two years later.¹ A special library committee was appointed which immediately set to work to make the library a reality. In July 1910, members of the committee traveled to Eureka and Ogden to inspect the Carnegie libraries in each of those towns, and came back "favoring the Eureka building"
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Manti Carnegie Library
Description continued:

arch. Within the arched section of the opening is a multi-paneled transom. The original doors have been replaced by glass doors with a glass transom and side lights.

The only apparent alteration of the exterior of the building is the change made to the door. That type of change was common in public buildings, and does not affect the original integrity of the Manti Library.

Manti Carnegie Library
History continued:

as presenting the best appearance for the money expended."² Architect of the Eureka building, Richard C. Watkins of Watkins & Birch, had been in contact with the Manti City Council since the early part of June, as had an architectural firm from Salt Lake City, regarding the design contract for the building.³ The city council awarded the contract to Watkins & Birch in July and urged them to complete plans and specifications for the building as soon as possible in order to get the building completed by the end of the year. Fredericksen & Son, a local construction firm which bid \$8375, was awarded the construction contract in early September and began work immediately. The plumbing contract was given to Provo Foundry and Machine Company, which came in with a bid of \$1,645. Total bid price for the construction of the building was just \$20 over the \$10,000 grant amount. Destruction of the old Council House to make way for the new library spurred protests by "quite a number of people," but, nevertheless, the old building gave way "to the march of modern ideas and costumes."⁴

Although the projected completion of the building was set for December 10, 1910, it was not until January 2, 1912 that the dedication ceremony to open the building was held. The support and enthusiasm of the townspeople for the library is evidenced by the following newspaper excerpt:

Tuesday was a day long to be remembered in Manti, as marking another step in our educational development. All places of business were closed and a general holiday observed when the Carnegie library was dedicated.⁵

Over 800 people were in attendance at the dedication ceremony, which featured speeches by Utah Governor William Spry, School Superintendent A.C. Nelson, and musical selections by local talent. The library opened for business the following day with Miss Blanche Metcalf as librarian. Operating hours were from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. and from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. The Manti Carnegie Library was the first library organized in Manti,⁶ and it has continued to the present to function as the town's library.

Watkins & Birch, architects of the building, designed at least five other Carnegie libraries in Utah, the most of any single architectural firm in the state. Their design of this and other library buildings conformed to the rectangular, one-story design recommended by the Carnegie Library Board as being the most efficient and economical plan for a small town library. Other
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Manti Carnegie Library
History continued:

library buildings designed by the firm include those in Richmond, Provo, Eureka, Ephraim, Cedar City, and possibly Garland, since it closely resembles the building in Richmond. The firm consisted of Richard C. Watkins, who was best known for designing many of the public school buildings in Utah, and John F. Birch, a talented English architect who returned to his native land in 1918.

Footnotes

¹Manti Messenger, May 27, 1910, p. 1.

²Manti Messenger, July 1, 1910, p. 1.

³Manti Messenger, June 10, 1910, p. 1.

⁴Manti Messenger, September 9, 1910, p. 1.

⁵Manti Messenger, January 5, 1910, p. 1.

⁶Bobbee McGee Hepworth, "Carnegie Libraries in Utah" (unpublished report, BYU, 1976), p. 21. Manti is listed as one of five Carnegie library towns which did not have a functioning library prior to the construction of their Carnegie library.