

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 Carnegie Library of Albany

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 215 North Jackson Street N/A not for publication

city, town Albany N/A vicinity of congressional district

state Georgia code 013 county Dougherty code 095

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 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
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input 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: Library

4. Owner of Property

name Edmund Landau, Chairman/Albany-Dougherty County Library Board

street & number 2215 Barnesdale Way

city, town Albany N/A vicinity of state Georgia 31707

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Superior Court

street & number Dougherty County

city, town Albany state Georgia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Landmark Survey Albany — Dougherty County has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1978 federal state county local

depository for survey records Albany-Dougherty Historic Area Commission

city, town Albany state Georgia

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Carnegie Library of Albany, built in 1906, is a one-story yellow-brick Neo-classical styled building. It is located in the downtown business district of Albany, Dougherty County, Georgia in one corner of a lot that also contains the 1915 Municipal Auditorium, listed on the National Register.

The library has a modified T-shaped plan and two rear additions. Its flat, parapet roof rests on a full entablature with a prominent terra-cotta cornice. Its yellow-brick walls are laid in stretcher bond and sit on a regular ashlar foundation. Granite is used for detailing. The symmetrical front facade features a central entranceway recessed behind a pair of Ionic columns set in antis. The original door was replaced with a new aluminum and glass door in 1970. Quoined pilasters with egg-and-dart molding define the entrance and the building's corners. A south side entrance features double paneled doors set in a pedimented frontispiece supported by Ionic columns. Window treatment includes stone sills and brick flat arches, with a central console above each in the front part of the building and a keystone in the rear section. The original one-over-one double hung sash were replaced with tinted plate glass aluminum frame windows in 1970 and 1980 renovations. Major additions were made to the rear of the building in 1931 and 1949. In 1931 a wing was added to the rear north side; this wing continued the design and detailing of the original building. A museum addition with its own south entrance filled in the "ell" space at the south rear and wrapped around the west end in 1949. Its lower height and modern design distinguish it from the rest of the building.

The library interior features a central reception hall containing the circulation desk, flanked by a reading room on each side at the front and smaller offices and support rooms at the rear. Beyond this section, to the west, are the original children's room, the stacks (extended in the 1931 addition) and the museum area that was added in 1949. The rather elegant interior features plaster walls and wainscoting throughout. The reception hall, which is visually divided by an elaborately detailed ceiling beam supported by fluted pilasters with Ionic capitals, has paneled wainscoting and a cove ceiling. Situated between the south reading room and what now serves as the microfilm room is a double fireplace with fine Neoclassical mantels in both rooms. Originally, these fireplaces provided the building's only heat.

The library is located in one corner of a level city-owned lot that also contains the 1915 National Register Albany Municipal Auditorium. The library is bounded on the north and west by an alley and parking area, on the east by Jackson Street and a sidewalk and on the south by a small park which leads to the Auditorium located to the library's southwest. Beds of low shrubbery flank the steps which lead to the front entrance. The library is located in the downtown business district, a church, hotel and office buildings being nearby.

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Continuation sheet Description Item number 7 Page 2

BOUNDARY

Due to the absence of any accurate maps or legal verbal descriptions, the following will be a true verbal boundary description for the Carnegie Library of Albany National Register property: The property is bounded on the east by the Jackson Street property line, on the north by the property line extending along the adjacent alley, and on the west and south by a boundary of convenience extending ten feet from the library building.

PHOTOGRAPHS

The Historic Preservation Section has determined that the photographs taken in May, 1981 still represent the character and appearance of the property. No significant changes have been made since that date.

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	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 1906 **Builder/Architect** Architect, Unknown
 Builder, W.T. Hadlow Co.

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Carnegie Library of Albany, built in 1906, is significant in the areas of architecture, education and social/humanitarian history. In terms of architecture, the library is significant as an outstanding example of an early-twentieth century Neo-classical styled public building in Albany. It is important in the history of library architecture as one of the very earliest public library facilities in Georgia, whose plan and design reflect contemporary thinking about library construction. In terms of education, the library is significant as the home of the first public library in Albany, which opened here in 1906. The building continues to serve as a library to this day. In terms of social/humanitarian history, the library is significant for its association with Andrew Carnegie, the turn-of-the-century philanthropist whose \$10,000 donation for the construction of the building made the public library possible. The above areas of significance support property eligibility under National Register criteria A, B and C.

ARCHITECTURE

The library is one of the finest Neo-Classical styled buildings in Albany, where, as in many communities across Georgia and the United States at the turn of the century, the Neoclassical style was popular for both important public buildings and residences. Its proportions, detailing and materials are of very high quality. On the exterior, the yellow brick, the symmetrical front facade, the front entranceway with Ionic columns set in antis, the quoined corner pilasters, the window treatment with the elegant consoles and oversize keystones and the prominent modillioned cornice are all typical Neo-classical elements. On the interior, the finely detailed pilasters in the reception hall, the mantels and the paneled wainscoting reflect this same style. The original plans called for an even grander building finished in Georgia marble, but costs limited the final design to brick with stone trim. Considerable research has failed to turn up the architect's name; the builder was the W.T. Hadlow Company.

The library has significance as an early example of public library architecture in Georgia and as such reflects contemporary thinking about library layout and design. Beginning in 1911, a leaflet entitled "Notes on Library Buildings [sic]" which included sample building plans was sent by Carnegie to all communities that were to receive his library funds. It was prepared by Carnegie's secretary, James Bertram in consultation with leading authorities from the library and architecture professions, in an effort to avoid repeating some of the impractical and inefficient Carnegie library designs that had been prepared previously. The Albany library was built before these directives were written, but its plan resembles the sample plans in important aspects. Most significantly, the central reception hall, flanked by reading rooms visible from this central area, is consistent with good small town library design that provided for the

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9. Major Bibliographical References

(See Continuation Sheet)

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than one-half acre

Quadrangle name Albany West, Georgia

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	6	7	7	0	1	0	0	3	4	9	7	1	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
Section 7.

Description and justification are located in

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state N/A code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Carolyn Brooks National Register Researcher
Historic Preservation Section

organization Georgia Department of Natural Resources date May 20, 1982

street & number 270 Washington Street, SW telephone 404/656-2840

city or town Atlanta state Georgia

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 Elizabeth A. Lyon
Elizabeth A. Lyon

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 6/8/82

For NPS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	Entered in the
<u>Delores Byers</u>	National Register
Keeper of the National Register	date <u>7/15/82</u>
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

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Significance

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needs of one librarian who might have to oversee the entire building. The Neo-classical style selected for the structure was a popular choice for early public libraries, no doubt because its frequent use for other public buildings such as courthouses and post offices emphasized the free "public" aspect of the facility.

EDUCATION

In the area of education, the library is significant as the first public library in Albany and one of the first in the state. It opened in 1906 with 1,500 volumes. Albany, Georgia, laid out in 1836, was by 1900 the prosperous transportation and commercial center of southwest Georgia. It was in a good position to meet the requirements for a Carnegie library building grant which required the community to provide a site for the building and annually to commit city funds amounting to ten percent of Carnegie's contribution to provide for library maintenance, staff, book acquisitions, etc. Albany had a small subscription library from 1879-1887. In 1900 the Albany Library Association was formed, and it was this organization that, after operating a small subscription library for five years, requested funds from Carnegie for the erection of a public library building. Correspondence indicates that the library association was responsible for starting the new public library on a professional footing, sending the librarian to the Library Training School in Atlanta for six weeks and purchasing the latest in library equipment from the Library Bureau. The Carnegie Library has been, since its establishment, an important educational center in Albany, sponsoring numerous programs which promoted reading and cultural activities and growing rapidly in usage and number of volumes over the years. It remained the main city library until 1966 when it became the downtown business branch.

SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN HISTORY

The Carnegie Library of Albany is significant in the area of social/humanitarian history for its associations with Andrew Carnegie, one of America's most important turn-of-the-century philanthropists. Carnegie amassed one of the world's largest private fortunes, and by the 1880's he began actively distributing his wealth for the betterment of the general populace. His writings on philanthropy and the example of his generous giving encouraged a tradition of philanthropy throughout the country. Carnegie believed that by promoting education he would help to prevent poverty and ignorance. Libraries were his special interest because he felt they were the most democratic of all roads to education. Between 1886 and 1919 he donated funds to 1412 communities throughout the United States which resulted in the erection of 1679 free public library buildings. Many historians agree that Carnegie's generosity was the most effective impetus to the then burgeoning public library movement in this country. His requirement that the local community provide adequate annual tax support for his library building reinforced the idea of local government responsibility for providing library services. Particularly in the southeast and southwest, where state library commissions and boards were late in forming, the availability of Carnegie library funds resulted in the establishment of most of the first free libraries in these states.

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Bibliography

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Montgomery, Erick. "Carnegie Free Library - Historic Property Information Form."
March, 1981. On file Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Department of
Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.

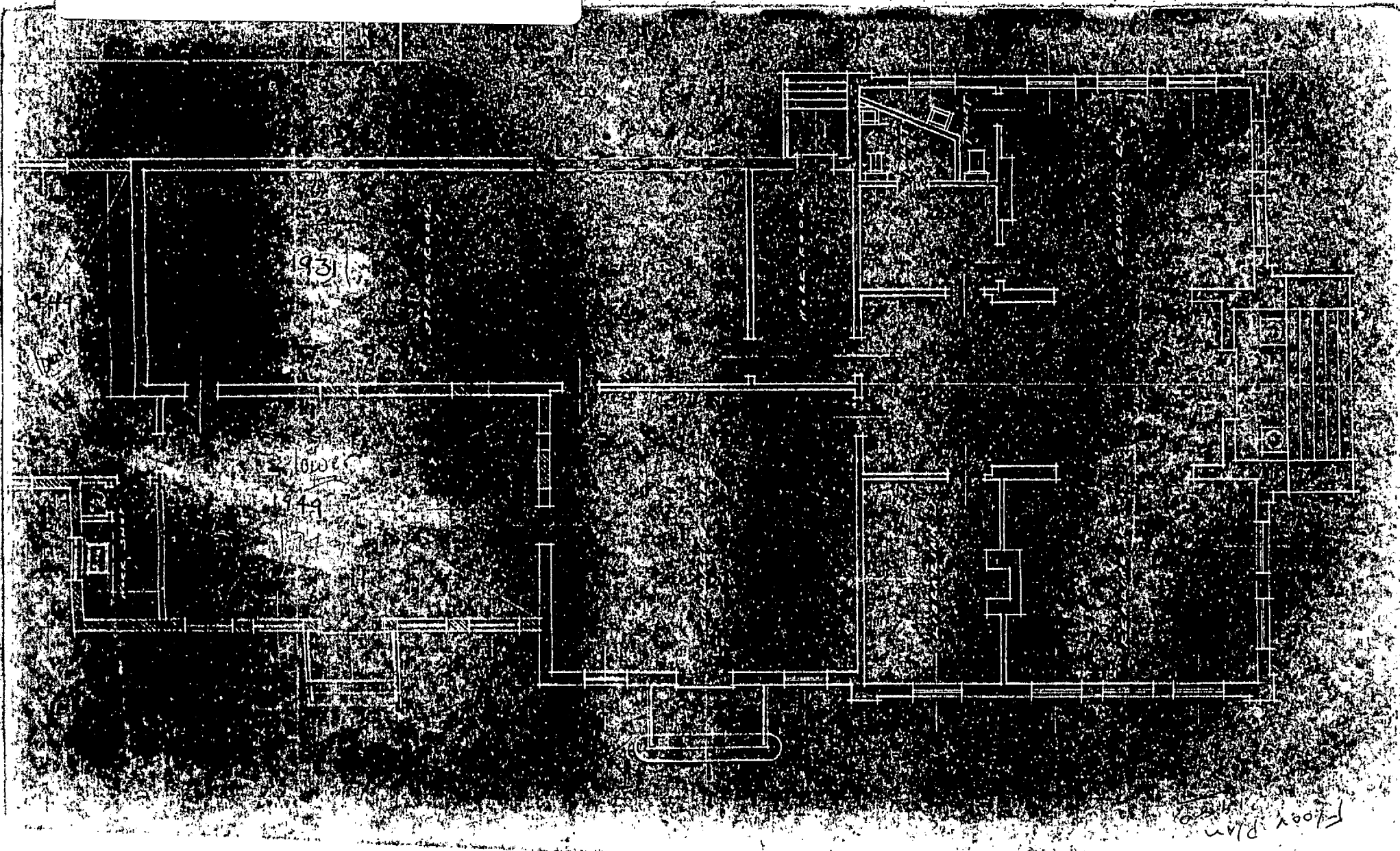
CARNEGIE LIBRARY OF ALBANY
Albany, Dougherty County, Georgia

SKETCH MAP/CURRENT FLOOR PLAN

Source: Albany Library files

Scale: Scale unknown

North: ↑



Floor Plan