

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED **Aug 18 1980**
DATE ENTERED **OCT 31 1980**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Hobart Public Library

AND/OR COMMON

Carnegie Library

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

200 South main Street

__ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Hobart

__ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

No. 6

STATE

Oklahoma

CODE

40

COUNTY

Kiowa

CODE

075

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

__DISTRICT

BUILDING(S)

__STRUCTURE

__SITE

__OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC

__PRIVATE

__BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

__IN PROCESS

__BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

OCCUPIED

__UNOCCUPIED

__WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

__YES: RESTRICTED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

__NO

PRESENT USE

__AGRICULTURE

__COMMERCIAL

EDUCATIONAL

__ENTERTAINMENT

__GOVERNMENT

__INDUSTRIAL

__MILITARY

__MUSEUM

__PARK

__PRIVATE RESIDEN

__RELIGIOUS

__SCIENTIFIC

__TRANSPORTATION

__OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

City of Hobart

STREET & NUMBER

City Hall

CITY, TOWN

Hobart

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

Oklahoma

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Office of the City Clerk

STREET & NUMBER

Kiowa County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Hobart

STATE

Oklahoma

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Oklahoma Comprehensive Survey

DATE

1980

__FEDERAL STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Oklahoma Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

Oklahoma City

STATE

Oklahoma

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input 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

Hobart received \$10,000 from the Carnegie Foundation for construction of the Carnegie Library on August 8, 1911. Contract for construction was let to J. R. Creasey of Hobart on January 29, 1912. Wm. McCanse was the architect. The completed building was opened for use in September 1912 - with \$500 unspent of the Carnegie grant.

The library is a one-story-and-basement structure - a rectangle approximately 58 feet wide and 32 feet deep. It faces west from a tree-shaded lot on the northwest corner of the block. Exterior is of good quality red face brick. Cut stone - Carthage #1 for the steps, the balance Bedford - is used to outline the projecting entry and basement windows, as bracketed sills for all the windows, in belt courses between basement and main floor and just beneath the bracketed terra cotta cornice, and to cap the plain parapet that partially hides the low pitched roof. A modest cartouche above the entrance carries the name CARNEGIE LIBRARY in stone.

The building is typical of small Carnegie libraries of the period. The front has attractive triple windows on either side of the entry, but plain double-sash windows on the other three sides of the first floor are short and placed six to seven feet above the floor to allow maximum wall space inside for books. All have stone sill and keystone. main entry has side lights and transom framed in stone.

The interior is functional and unornamented. Entry vestibule has a tile floor. Floors elsewhere are wood. Walls are of lath and plaster, painted. The library has changed but little over the years. Principle alteration was the covered outside stairway, added to the south wall to give alternate access to the basement and the Junior Library, when it was developed. The building has been well maintained consistently inside and out.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

PECIFIC DATES 1912 to present

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Architect: Wm. McCanse
Builder: J. R. Creasey

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Hobart Public Library - a modest red-brick structure of traditional design - is a memorial to the pioneer spirit, a gentle reminder that even on the frontier there were those dedicated to encouraging continuation of the established values of the society they had left behind. Sale of town lots in Hobart, Oklahoma Territory, started on August 6, 1901. The Hobart News for Sept. 19, 1901, reported the opening of a public reading room ... "where the best papers, periodicals and books can be found," according to an early historian, who hailed this cultural development as "one of the best ways to counteract the evil places of the city." The Hobart Republican, Vol. I, No. 1, dated August 3, 1901, three days before start of the lot sale, had declared editorially: "We don't want a boom, but if we want a good, live, healthy, successful town we must begin at the bottom of the ladder and go up." The town fathers seem to have followed the script carefully.

By October 1901 the reading room had to be moved to a new location with two ground floor rooms. An early 1903 library report boasted of 304 books. In April 1911 the first contact was made with the Carnegie Foundation, asking for help in the establishment of a proper library. The Foundation gave \$10,000 to pay for the building itself. The City of Hobart agreed to furnish a lot and contribute not less than \$1,000 a year in support money.

The new library was opened in September 1912 with the Rev. J. B. Black as first librarian. New books were purchased with the \$500 unspent from the original \$10,000 Carnegie grant. Hundreds of books were also donated by area citizens. Mrs. J. R. Dale, the second librarian, served for five years, before going on to become secretary of the State Department of Libraries. She insisted her salary go to improve the library and she began a campaign to increase a library consciousness on the part of the public. Public school cooperation was secured and county-wide use of the library was encouraged.

This expanding city/county service has continued without interruption for nearly 70 years. Since the 1930s the county has also provided regular financial support. A junior library has

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Materials collected by Librarian Ruth Freeman of the Hobart Public Library.

UTM NOT VERIFIED
ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1 acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Hobart, Oklahoma

QUADRANGLE SCALE 15 minute

UTM REFERENCES

A 14 4915, 5, 2 3, 817, 517, 5, 8

B

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 28-32, Block 16, plat of original townsite of Hobart, Oklahoma Territory.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Kent Ruth, Deputy

ORGANIZATION

Oklahoma Historical Society

DATE

April 1980

STREET & NUMBER

historical Building

TELEPHONE

405/884-5456

CITY OR TOWN

Oklahoma City

STATE

Oklahoma

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

F. Glenn Jordan

TITLE

SHPO

DATE

8/12/80

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

for Bill Grovum
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

10/31/80

ATTEST: CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

Hobart Public Library

been set up in the basement. The library now contains over 34,000 books.

Through the years the library has accommodated many community activities. Yamparika, one of Hobart's very early clubs, met in the basement until that space was needed for the junior library. The same is true of the Fortnightly Club. The library serves as repository for the records of both. The Great Books Club also met at the library for several years and its facilities were always available for occasional special meetings, mental health programs, and Indian performances. Even more significantly, perhaps, the library staff took the lead in creation of the Kiowa County Historical Society, which met there during its formative years ... and only recently published Volume IV of its continuing history of Kiowa County.

*

In sum, Hobart Public Library has been a strong traditional statement, architecturally, to Kiowa County over the years while exerting a consistently positive influence, culturally, on the community. Born almost literally with the town and housed in its present building for 68 of the town's 79 years, the library is a significant part of the local scene and one an increasing number of city/county citizens want to see preserved.