

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Kansas
COUNTY: Douglas
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE: FEB 18 1975

1. NAME

COMMON: Old Lawrence City Library (preferred name)
AND/OR HISTORIC: Lawrence City Library

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Northwest corner, Ninth and Vermont
CITY OR TOWN: Lawrence
STATE: Kansas CODE: 66044
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: No. 3, Larry Winn
COUNTY: Douglas CODE: 045

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY: Building, Structure, Object
OWNERSHIP: Public, Private, Both
STATUS: Unoccupied, Preservation work in progress
ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC: Restricted
PRESENT USE: Other (Specify) Being prepared for use as Cultural Arts Center

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: City of Lawrence
STREET AND NUMBER:
CITY OR TOWN: Lawrence
STATE: Kansas CODE: 66044

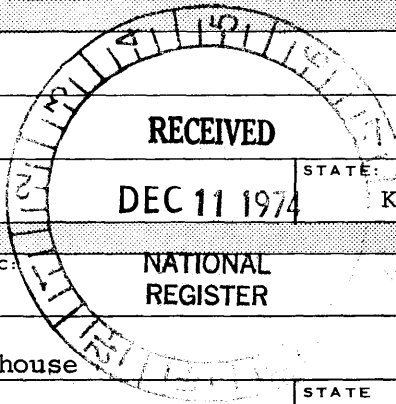
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Register of Deeds
STREET AND NUMBER: Douglas County Courthouse
CITY OR TOWN: Lawrence
STATE: Kansas CODE: 66044

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: None
DATE OF SURVEY:
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
STREET AND NUMBER:
CITY OR TOWN:
STATE:
CODE:

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The old Lawrence City Library is a rectangular one-story brick structure with a basement and a blond brick addition to the north. Facing south at the northwest corner of Vermont and Ninth streets, it is situated one block west of the town's central commercial street and is in a neighborhood of offices and businesses. A parking lot is located directly north of the building. The old library originally measured approximately 75 feet long and 35 feet wide, and the 1937 addition added another 40 feet to the width.

The south facade with its Neo-Classical style is virtually unaltered from its original form. The entrance is in a portico reached by marble steps. The portico occupies the center third of the library's front. Two Corinthian columns flank the entrance on either side.

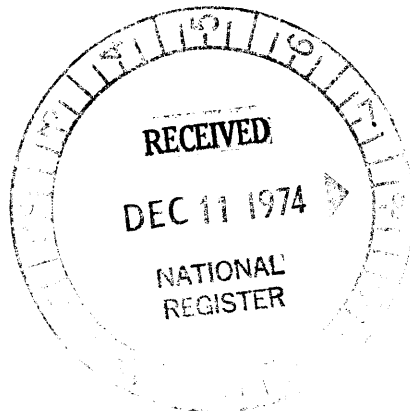
The exterior is of pressed buff brick on a five foot Warrensburg (Mo.) stone foundation. A brick parapet extends above the roof line and no part of the flat roof is visible to the viewer, a point which drew criticism from some Lawrence residents at the time of construction. The entablature is Corinthian in design. The exterior has considerably more ornamentation than is apparent at first glance. Since all materials are of the same rather dull color, the details don't always stand out.

The entrance is recessed in the portico in a stilted round arched opening. The original doors have been replaced with aluminum and glass door and windows. One large stilted round arched window opening is located on either side of the portico and one each on the east and west sides. Each contains two side by side vertical windows, and the rounded portion is filled with four by four inch glass panes. The window trim is frame and in need of maintenance. Each window sill as well as the impost, extrados, archivolt, intrados and Corinthian keystone are all of a greyish-brown terra cotta. (It was reported in contemporary newspaper accounts to be the first building in Kansas with the grey terra cotta which was manufactured by the Northwestern Terra Cotta Co. of Chicago.)

An ornate terra cotta pediment is situated on the parapet wall directly above the entrance and bears the date 1904. Beneath the pediment, carved in stone, are the words "Lawrence City Library."

The building looks much as it did originally except for the doors and glassed-in areas at the front entrance and the blond brick addition to the rear.

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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
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(Number all entries)

8.

In September, 1903, the board approved the bonds of the contractor, who had by that time acquired a partner, Peter Assenmacher, and located the site of the building. Work was expected to begin within a week or ten days. By the end of October, the basement walls were showing above the ground and the library board was requesting \$5,000 from Carnegie to pay bills incurred.

The building was not finished as quickly as had been anticipated. A variety of delays postponed the completion until late 1904. It was officially opened on December 26, 1904. The cost of the building itself was \$24,175 and the furniture, shelving, sidewalks and retaining walls raised the total to \$27,412.

Through the years the Old Lawrence City Library provided a multitude of services to the community. By the 1930's it was overcrowded, and an addition was built in 1937. The building was again outgrown by the late 1960's, and voters in 1970 approved a bond issue for a new library, which was opened in 1972.

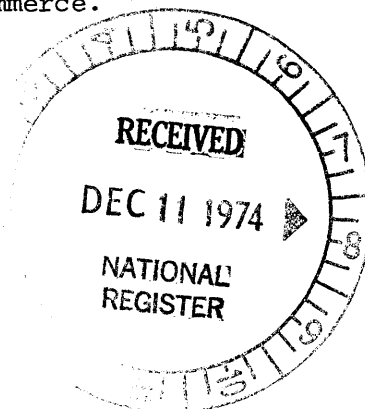
The continued use of the former library building for cultural and recreational events is being discussed by a number of Lawrence organizations. Plans are being made to have it serve as a cultural arts center, with particular attention to the performing arts and with provision for arts and crafts.

The Old Lawrence City Library is significant to the citizens of Lawrence for its 68 years of service as the public library. Architecturally, it represents a good example of the Neo-Classical style as applied to Carnegie libraries.

9.

"Minutes of the Board of Directors of the Library Board of Lawrence," on file at Lawrence City Library.

Preliminary nomination data supplied by W. Stitt Robinson, Professor of History, University of Kansas, in behalf of the History and Traditions Committee, Lawrence (Kan.) Chamber of Commerce.



B. 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) 1903-1904

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 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

Construction of the Old Lawrence City Library in 1903-1904 resulted from citizens' concerted efforts to secure an adequate library facility for their community.

Lawrence has a long tradition of literary interest; the first subscription library was established within two months after the Free-State town was founded in 1854. A private lending library was started by J. S. Boughton in 1865 after Quantrill's raid and the sacking of Lawrence in 1863 had destroyed the original library's records. In 1866 the Lawrence Library Association purchased Boughton's books and fixtures for \$600. By 1871 the city council had assumed responsibility for the operation.

The library through the years was housed where space could be rented or obtained. As the amount of holdings increased, the need for a permanent building became more and more apparent to some of the Lawrence residents. Peter Emery was the chief initiator of the movement that developed at the turn of the century, and for a time he didn't draw much response. But things began to happen when he enlisted the support of J. D. Bowersock of Lawrence, who also happened to be the U. S. Representative. Bowersock was able to obtain a quick commitment of \$25,000 in Carnegie funds.

One of Carnegie's stipulations was that each recipient city had to first have enabling laws providing ten per cent of the Carnegie gift for yearly operation of the facility. In April, 1903, the voters of Lawrence by a count of 855 to 226 approved the proposition to provide a free public library. The mayor promptly appointed a library board of directors, which included Emery and Bowersock, and planning began. The site for the new library at Ninth and Vermont was donated by Mrs. C. P. Groyenor as a memorial to her husband.

A number of architects wanted to prepare the plans for the building, and after examining the drawings of half a dozen, the board in May, 1903, selected George A. Berlinghof of Beatrice, Nebraska, as their architect. The final plans and specifications were approved in mid-June and July 7 was set as the date for receiving bids. There were some problems in obtaining bids within the available grant, but on July 30, 1903, a contract was awarded to George A. Shaul of Seneca, Kansas, for \$20,250. The contract for heating, plumbing, gas-fitting and electric wiring was let to Graeber Bros. of Lawrence for \$2,200.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"City Library Is Put to Good Use," Lawrence Journal-World, Feb. 7, 1938.
 "Free City Library Will Be Reopened," Lawrence Journal-World, Aug. 18, 1937.
 "Interest in Books from Early Days," Lawrence Journal-World, Oct. 10, 1929.
Jeffersonian Gazette (Lawrence), April 16, May 14, June 17, August 5,
 Sept. 2, Oct. 28, 1903; May 18, Sept. 27, 1904.
 "Lawrence Library Has Long History," Lawrence Journal-World, Feb. 14, 1950.
 "Library Grows from 60 Volumes," Douglas County Historical Society
Newsletter, Vol. 2, No. 1 (November, 1972), pp. 1-4.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

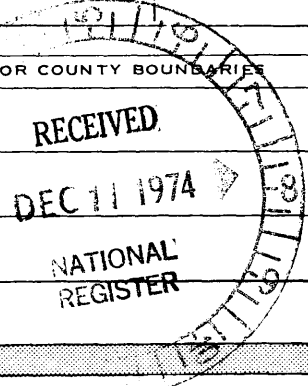
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		38	58	04
NE	° ' "	° ' "		95	14	14
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

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4315380

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **one**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Richard Pankratz, Director, Historic Sites Survey

ORGANIZATION: Kansas State Historical Society DATE: Nov. 21, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER: 120 West Tenth Street

CITY OR TOWN: Topeka STATE: Kansas 66612 CODE: 20

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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 Nyle Miller, Executive Director, Kansas State Historical Society

Title Nyle H. Miller

Date November 27, 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

A. R. Worle
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 2/18/75

ATTEST:
W. M. [Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 2-14-75