

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0689645

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED NOV 7 1978  
DATE ENTERED DEC 22 1978

**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  
Houston Carnegie Library  
AND/OR COMMON  
Houston Carnegie Library

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
Madison and Huddleston Streets, Post Office Box 186  
CITY, TOWN  
Houston  
STATE  
Mississippi  
VICINITY OF  
Second  
COUNTY  
Chickasaw  
CODE  
28  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
Second  
CODE  
17

**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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S) | <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE           | <input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED                 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE              | <input type="checkbox"/> BOTH              | <input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SITE                   | <b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>                  | <b>ACCESSIBLE</b>                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT                 | <input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED | <input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT             |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED  | <input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED          | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL             |
|   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> NO                         | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY               |
|   |  |   | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM                 |
|   |  |   | <input type="checkbox"/> PARK                   |
|   |  |   | <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE      |
|   |  |   | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS              |
|   |  |   | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC             |
|   |  |   | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION         |
|   |  |   | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:                 |

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME  
City of Houston  
STREET & NUMBER  
City Hall, Madison Street  
CITY, TOWN  
Houston  
STATE  
Mississippi  
VICINITY OF  
38851

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
Office of the Chancery Clerk  
STREET & NUMBER  
Chickasaw County Courthouse  
CITY, TOWN  
Houston  
STATE  
Mississippi  
38851

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE  
Statewide Survey of Historic Sites  
DATE  
1975  
DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS  
Mississippi Department of Archives and History  
CITY, TOWN  
Jackson  
STATE  
Mississippi  
39205

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT

GOOD

FAIR

DETERIORATED

RUINS

UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED

ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE

MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Houston Carnegie Library is a one-story nine-by-twelve-bay brick building constructed on a cruciform plan and topped with a metal hip roof of standing seam construction. Three chimneys and a hip-roofed skylight project from the roof. The central projecting section of the front (north) elevation contains double-leaf doors with long glass panels, a bracketed door hood, and two narrow windows which flank the entrance. Other windows on the front elevation are of similar proportion but are paired and divided horizontally by transoms and vertically by mullions. The projecting section of the rear elevation is lit by a group of narrow ribbon windows. All sash are one-over-one. Lintels and sills are rectangular and concrete. A horizontal band of soldier bricks accents the area above the water table, and the side elevations are enriched with a rectangle of raised bricks. A plaque which reads "Carnegie Library" is set within a rectangle of patterned rowlock bricks above the entrance.

The most outstanding feature of the interior is the sixteen-pane skylight which is recessed in the ceiling of the center hall. Side rooms are divided from the hall by double sliding doors, and simple mantels with Ionic columns decorate each end wall. Oak baseboards and chair and plate rails are used throughout.

# 6 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 type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799        | <input type="checkbox"/> ART                     | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING            | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC                  | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899        | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE                | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY             | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS          | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY               | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT    | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)     |
|   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION              |   |  |

SPECIFIC DATES      1909

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Houston Carnegie Library is Mississippi's first Carnegie Library and the second public library in the state. Although its architect is unknown, the building is notable for its design, which effectively combines elements of the Prairie and Western Stick styles.

In 1908, L. B. Reid, superintendent of the Houston Public Schools, wrote to Andrew Carnegie about the possibility of a donation for a town library. For the purpose of establishing such libraries, Carnegie gave during his lifetime an estimated \$350,000,000 and left more to be distributed after his death. Carnegie funds were responsible for the construction of 2500 public libraries, 1700 of them in the United States. Reid's letter began a correspondence which resulted in a Carnegie gift to Houston of \$6,000 for a library building and equipment. It was stipulated that maintenance was to be the responsibility of the town.

A lot was purchased by the town from a local merchant, W. D. Atkinson (Deed Book 92: 438), and the library building was constructed in 1909. A few subscription libraries had been established earlier (the Fisk Memorial Library in Natchez in 1883 and the Clayton Library at Holly Springs in 1886), and one free public library had been established at Biloxi in 1898. Much larger than the Biloxi library, the collection of which numbered only 100 volumes, the Houston Carnegie Library was the first free public library of significant size to be established in the state.

Architecturally, the Houston Carnegie Library exhibits the horizontal emphasis characteristic of the Prairie School. The low hip roof with overhanging eaves, the double horizontal members of the door hood, and the brick enrichment all accent the horizontal. The windows, which individually are more vertical than horizontal, are emphasized horizontally in various ways: sash are one-over-one, and transoms, lintels, and sills are prominent features. The close grouping of windows on the rear elevation is particularly characteristic of the Prairie School. Although the bracketed door hood and exposed rafter tails of the building depart from the Prairie style, their curves provide a relief from the severe geometry of that style. Almost oriental in feeling, these features are typical of the Western Stick style, which was also enjoying popularity in the early twentieth century.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Calvin, Mabel. A History of the Houston Carnegie Library (typescript). Mississippi Library Association Papers. Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, Mississippi.

Chickasaw County, Mississippi. Chancery Clerk. Land Deed Record 92:438.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approximately 1/4 acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Houston West

QUADRANGLE SCALE 7.5

UTM REFERENCES

A 16 314980 3752270

B               

C               

D               

E               

F               

G               

H               

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

All of lot #4 and the west 1/2 of lot #3 in square 6 of the town of Houston as designated on the original survey by D. D. Hatfield and shown on the map of Houston, 1937, said land

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

| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Adele Cramer

Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

DATE

September 12, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

Box 571

TELEPHONE

601-354-7326

CITY OR TOWN

Jackson

STATE

Mississippi 39205

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL     

STATE X

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

*Elbert B. Hilliard*

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE November 1, 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 12-22-78

ATTEST:

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 12/21/78

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

|                  |             |
|------------------|-------------|
| FOR NPS USE ONLY |             |
| RECEIVED         | NOV 7 1978  |
| DATE ENTERED     | DEC 22 1978 |

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 & 10 PAGE 1

9 - MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Cramer, Adele, architectural historian. Personal inspection, September 8, 1978.

"First Carnegie Library in State Was in Houston." Clarion-Ledger (Jackson, Mississippi).  
February 3, 1963.

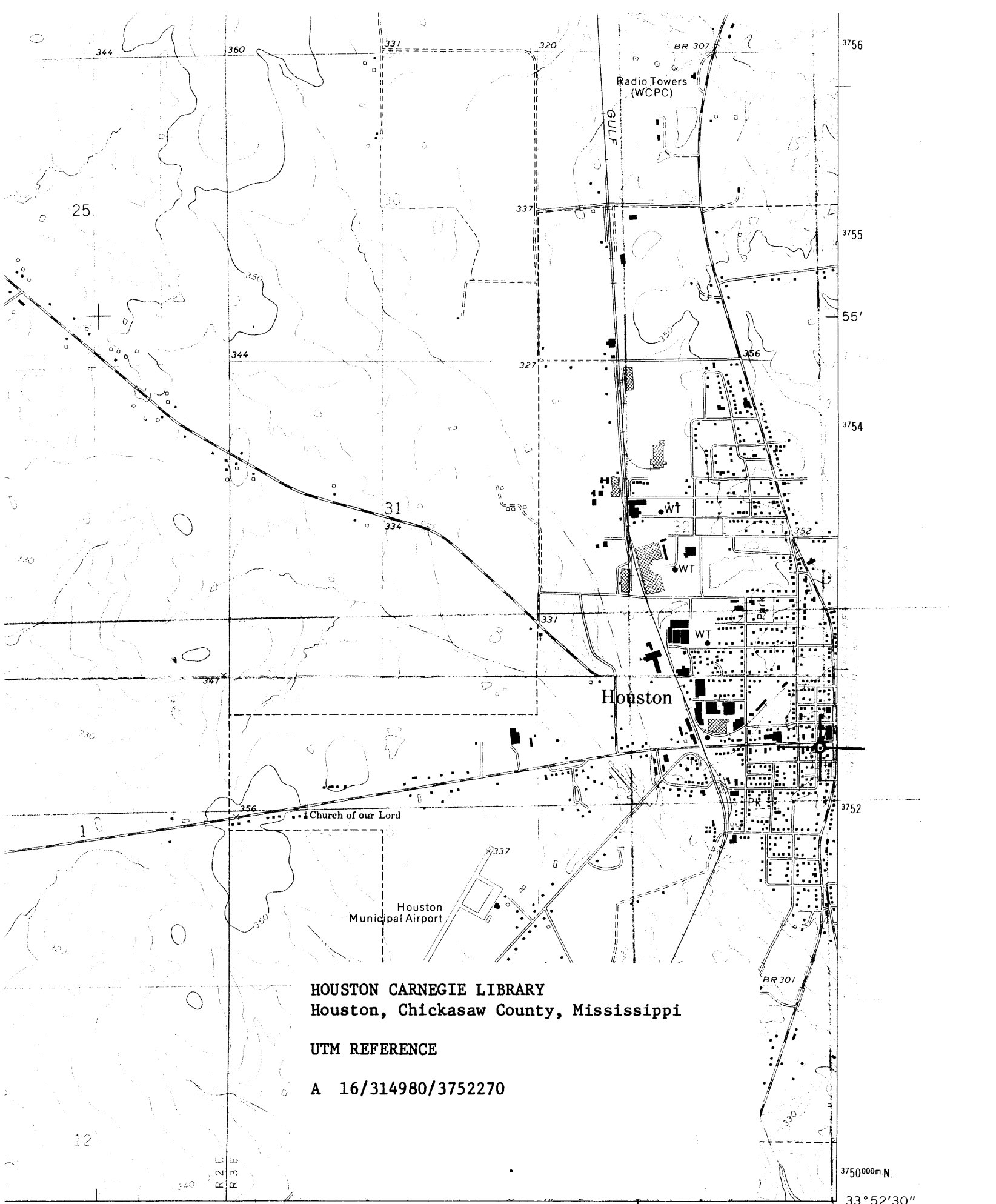
McLemore, Richard Aubrey, ed. A History of Mississippi. 2 vols. Hattiesburg,  
Mississippi: University and College Press of Mississippi, 1973.

Mississippi Department of Archives and History. Statewide Survey File. Chickasaw County.  
Carnegie Library.

Peebles, Margarete, and Howell, J. B., eds. A History of Mississippi Libraries.  
Montgomery, Alabama: Paragon Press, 1975.

10 - GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

being the land deeded to the town of Houston by W. S. Atkinson July 10, 1908. Transaction  
recorded in Book 92 page 438 of the Land Deed Records.



**HOUSTON CARNEGIE LIBRARY**  
**Houston, Chickasaw County, Mississippi**

**UTM REFERENCE**

**A 16/314980/3752270**

Houston  
Municipal Airport

Church of our Lord

Radio Towers  
(WCPC)

GULF

Houston

BR 301

BR 307

337

320

3756

3755

55'

3754

3752

3750000m.N.

33° 52' 30"

89° 00'

313000m.E.

INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA—1974

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway,

Light-duty road, hard or

1 MILE

(VAN VLE