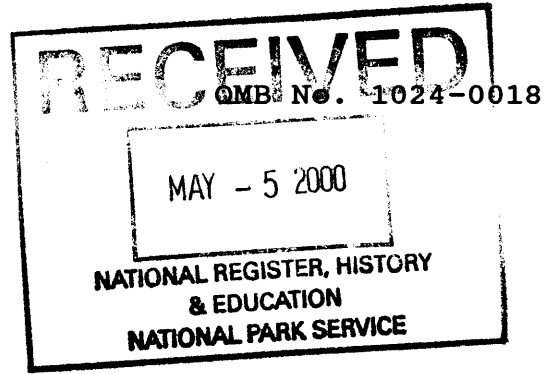


NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 10-90)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM



=====

1. Name of Property

=====

historic name Ardmore Carnegie Library

other names/site number Ardmore Garden Clubs Building

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number 511 Stanley S.W. not for publication N/A
city or town Ardmore vicinity N/A
state Oklahoma code OK county Carter code 019
zip code 73401

=====

5. Classification

=====

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u> 1 </u>	<u> 0 </u> buildings
<u> 0 </u>	<u> 0 </u> sites
<u> 0 </u>	<u> 1 </u> structures
<u> 0 </u>	<u> 0 </u> objects
<u> 1 </u>	<u> 1 </u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) N/A

=====

6. Function or Use

=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: EDUCATION Sub: library

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: SOCIAL Sub: clubhouse

=====

7. Description

=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS--
Classical Revival/Craftsman

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

roof ASPHALT--main TILE--penthouse/pent

walls CAST STONE

other _____

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

=====

8. Statement of Significance

=====

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION

Period of Significance 1905-1949

=====
8. Statement of Significance (Continued)
=====

Significant Dates 1905
1906
1926
1941

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder SMITH, S. Wemyss--architect

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

=====
9. Major Bibliographical References
=====

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS) N/A
 preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
 previously listed in the National Register
 previously determined eligible by the National Register
 designated a National Historic Landmark
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other

Name of repository: _____

=====
10. Geographical Data
=====

Acreage of Property Less than 1 (one) acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	14	671880	3782460	3	—	—
2	N/A	See continuation sheet.		4	—	—

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

=====
11. Form Prepared By
=====

name/title Dianna Everett Public Historian
organization Consultant to City of Ardmore date 31 October 1999
street & number 2510 Countrywood Lane telephone (405) 348-4272
city or town Edmond state OK zip code 73003-6433

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form
Ardmore Carnegie Library
Carter County, Oklahoma

Page 8

=====

Property Owner

=====

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name City of Ardmore

street & number 23 South Washington telephone (405)226-2100

city or town Ardmore state OK zip code 73401

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 9

Ardmore Carnegie Library
name of property
Carter, Oklahoma
county and State

=====

SUMMARY:

Constructed in 1904-05 and still in its original location at 511 Stanley S.W., southwest of downtown Ardmore, the Ardmore Carnegie Library is a brown cast-stone one-story building sited in a residential area. The surrounding neighborhood consists generally of large one- and two-story houses in a variety of late nineteenth-century styles. Originally the library was a two-story building with an imposing raised segmental pediment supported by four round Ionic columns at the main entry. Apparently, wind damage caused alarming structural problems, and in 1925 the building was condemned and later, in 1926, cut down to one story, while retaining the original first-floor fenestration and most of the building materials. This historic alteration removed the original classical pediment and cornice and added a Craftsman-style pent, with L-braces, over the windows all around the building. At this time the former portico was scaled down to match the now one-story building. Four Ionic columns support a full entablature with a plain cornice replacing the old, elaborate segmental pediment. A 1941 addition on the building's south side imitated the original stone work, continued a three-part, stone water table from the original, and also continued the 1926 pent around the perimeter. The 1926 alteration also gutted the interior and removed all decorative arches and detailing, the exact nature of which remains unknown. Nevertheless, all alterations to the 1905 building are now historic, but the present ambiance of the Ardmore Carnegie Library is different than that of the 1905 original. Once an interesting vernacular interpretation of Classical Revival influenced by Carnegie Corporation financial strictures, the building is now an unusual and interesting combination of divergent architectural styles, one reflecting traditional Classical Revival, the other adding a touch of more modern Craftsman-like detail. A noncontributing resource within the property's boundaries is a wood palisade fence that conceals an air conditioning condenser at the southeast corner of the building. The triangular-shaped lot is grassed and landscaped with trees and shrubs. The building has retained all of the necessary integrity of elements from 1941 forward, including location, setting, design, materials, craftsmanship, feeling, and association, and is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A, as representative of an important pattern in the education history of Ardmore, Oklahoma.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 10

Ardmore Carnegie Library
name of property
Carter, Oklahoma
county and State

=====

DESCRIPTION:

The Ardmore Carnegie Library is a brown, cast-stone, one-story building with Classical Revival and Craftsman detailing. Constructed in 1904-1905, it is still in its original location at 511 Stanley S.W. in Ardmore, (formerly 2nd Street), southwest of downtown Ardmore, Oklahoma. The library is sited in a residential area which began to develop prior to the library's construction and consists of large one- and two-story houses in a variety of late nineteenth-century styles. Across Stanley to the north are a Roman Catholic Church and Lincoln School, both of which pre-date the library. The library property encompasses the entirety of Block 422 of the Original Town of Ardmore; this block is a small, triangular-shaped block that encompasses the library building and associated grounds.

The Original 1905 Ardmore Carnegie Library:

The 1905 Ardmore Carnegie Library was designed in Classical Revival style by architect S. Wemyss Smith, of Fort Worth (later associated with the Oklahoma City architectural firm headed by Solomon Layton). Theodore Jones, historian of Carnegie Libraries, has identified 500 Classical Revival-style Carnegie Library buildings (of 1,689 total) and proposed a subcategory of 250 called "Carnegie Classical." In this subcategory, which encompasses most of the small- to medium-sized Carnegies, the main characteristics of a building generally included a two-story height, a flat/pedimented or hipped roof, a decorated cornice, rusticated stone foundation, brick or stone walls, large windows, and a main elevation marked by two bays of windows flanking a full-height, columned portico with a gabled pediment. The "Carnegie Classical" libraries were otherwise plain. Budgetary concerns generally dictated simplicity of decoration, with certain classical elements chosen "to reflect the importance of the building to the community." Especially in smaller communities with limited assets, the Carnegie Corporation discouraged interior and exterior architectural fripperies, preferring to invest in "useful" design elements such as big windows and practical room arrangement for reading and for shelving housing books. Judging from the images published in *Oklahoma Libraries* (1937), of the 24 Oklahoma communities that built Carnegie Libraries, only four chose to deviate from "Carnegie Classical" Revival--Collinsville (Craftsman), Cordell (Mission), Hobart (Late Gothic Revival), and Elk City (Mission).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 11

Ardmore Carnegie Library
name of property
Carter, Oklahoma
county and State

As pictured in a pre-1926 historic post-card photograph of the north and east elevations (figure 1), the original 1905 Ardmore Carnegie Library was a "Carnegie Classical" two-story edifice with a rectangular footprint. The original building, and the present building, measure approximately 60 feet east-west and 54 feet north-south. The load-bearing walls were constructed of 18-inch by 8 1/2-inch, regularly coursed, rock-faced cast-stone blocks. Although the foundation is not visible, it is apparently a post-and-beam arrangement. Three bands of smooth cast-stone blocks run around the building's perimeter, serving as a water table that extends to form plinths under four concrete Ionic round (unfluted) columns that marked a full-height entry portico. The flat, parapetted roof had (as far as can be determined from the historic photo) a hipped section in the center; this may have been over a "penthouse" room. According to newspaper descriptions, the roofing material was tile. The eaveline was moderate, elaborated all around with an entablature that featured a modillioned cornice. On the main elevation the eaveline moved outward to form a portico featuring a very heavy, somewhat over-scaled segmental pediment that projected very far above the eaveline. The tympanum of the pediment featured a cartouche shield and a leaf-and-vine motif, and between the cornice and the columns' capitals was a broad, plain frieze.

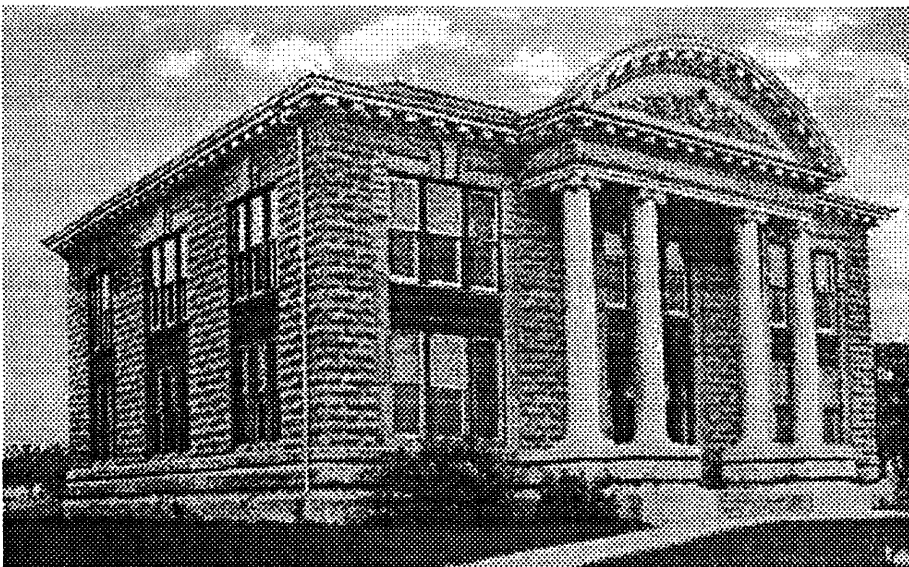


Figure 1 - Early View of Ardmore Carnegie Library

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 12

Ardmore Carnegie Library
name of property
Carter, Oklahoma
county and State

=====
The original 1905 building's fenestration was regular. It consisted of window bays that each had a set of three contiguous double-hung, 1x1 windows (separated by wood mullions), on each floor. The window cases were wood. The sets were vertically separated by a broad, horizontal panel. Each upper set had a stone label mold, with keystone lintel. Window sills on the first floor appear to have been stone, and those on the second floor, wood. In the EAST were three of these bays, and, presumably, this pattern was repeated on the WEST side. Judging from the present window arrangement, the SOUTH elevation had two bays of windows, and, on the east end, a first-floor entryway under a set of second-floor windows. The NORTH elevation sheltered the main entrance under the portico. This elevation also had three bays, consisting of two bays of windows flanking the entrance bay. Under the portico, the entrance bay had a set of three second-floor windows over a horizontal, tripartite transom atop double doors. The doors appear to have been wood-framed with a single, full-length light. The doorway and the transom were flanked by narrow, vertical side lights.

The original 1905 building's interior is reported to have been divided into nine first-floor rooms (5 measuring about 15 feet square and four measuring about 20 by 25 feet). Interior decoration (and probably structural support) included four elliptical arches and two semicircular arches, presumably marking the dividing points between reading rooms. According to a 1913 Sanborn Map there was an "office" in the building's southeast corner. The south-side entry gave access to this room. The second floor accommodated one large auditorium that had a large stage flanked by dressing rooms. Original placement of stairs is unknown. The original floor was hardwood.

The present-day (1999) location of beams and posts that support the roof may well replicate the original placement of beams and arches on the original substructure. Assuming that to be true, one can picture the original placement of arches and/or bearing walls in the 1905 original (refer to footprint). This suggests that two semicircular arches may have run east-west in the center, denoting a central delivery room/circulation desk (this was typical in Carnegie Libraries; see Theodore W. Koch, *A Book of Carnegie Libraries* [1917]). The four elliptical arches may have been placed perpendicular to this, separating the central area and four reading rooms on the east and west sides of the building. (The fifth small room would be the office, in the southeast corner.) The four 20x25 foot rooms may have been large reading rooms (there were usually two, one for adults and one for children) and stack areas (there was always at least

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 13

Ardmore Carnegie Library
name of property
Carter, Oklahoma
county and State

=====
one), along the north and south walls.

Alterations to the Original Building, 1926/1941:

A 1926 "reconstruction" of the 1905 Ardmore Carnegie Library drastically altered its exterior. The new building offered a different visual character both on the exterior and interior.

In 1925 the city manager condemned the 1905 library building because of structural deficiencies. Apparently, windstorms had lifted the roof and separated it from the walls, and the corners began to bulge outward. Some of this problem may have been caused by the prevailing southeast wind blowing constantly against the massive north pediment. According to architects who examined it, the building was in imminent danger of collapse. In 1926 the city initiated a \$30,000 repair project that involved removing the entire roof and removing the walls above the first-floor windows. The building today reflects these changes as well as a complete removal of all original interior architectural detailing and redesign of the exterior detailing. Today, with the exception of a 1941 addition on the south, the building retains its 1926 characteristics. (See below, description of present building.)

In 1941 the city obtained federal funds to construct an extension on the south side of the building. The new room measured 33 feet east-west and 25 feet north-south and used materials similar to the original. Load-bearing walls are constructed of 16-inch by 6-inch cast stone blocks that are rock faced, but less defined than the original. The window sets matched the design of the originals, with a single set of three contiguous double-hung, single-light, wood-sash windows on east, south, and west. The addition necessitated removal of the center set of original south windows to accommodate a doorway between the original library and the new wing.

The Present Ardmore Carnegie Library Building:

The present (1999) Ardmore Carnegie Library building, now called the Ardmore Garden Clubs Building, is one story in height. In the 1905/1926 section the original three-part bands of the water table remain; this element was replicated around the 1941 addition. The original 1905 window sills and original first-floor window units remain. The original placement of openings was maintained on east, west, and north. On the south are one set of original

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 14

Ardmore Carnegie Library
name of property
Carter, Oklahoma
county and State

=====
windows (on the southwest), and the original rear entry (on the southeast). The rear entry contains its (presumably) original, single-light panel door and single-light transom flanked by half side-lights. A concrete handicap access ramp was added here in 1979, and new metal railings are strategically placed.

Two major changes occurred to effect the building's visual character. First, with the removal of the original roof and second floor in 1926, the eaveline took on a different appearance with the addition of a Craftsman-style overhang. The entablature with modillioned cornice is gone, and in its place is a plain, smooth-textured concrete coping. A few feet below the coping hangs a wide pent, a shed-like structure that is positioned on the wall to shade the windows. The pent is covered with tiles, and the structural elements are concealed above a beadboard soffit. Pairs of wooden L-braces are regularly placed to support the pent, which extends around the 1941 wing as well. Beneath the pent there is a broad, plain frieze. On the south side of the building the pent's roofing material changes to composition shingles. In the center of the flat roof is a small penthouse, which is accessed through an attic stairway inside the building. A storage room, it measures approximately 16 feet square and has two windows on each wall. Its hipped, tiled roof, with wide, boxed-eave overhang, seems to make reference to the original 1905 building's roof. The roof is visible from the front and rear of the building, but the windows are concealed by the raised pediment. Beside the penthouse is a tall chimney, venting the furnace. The flat roof around the penthouse is covered with roll roofing and asphalt.

The 1926 exterior redesign re-used the four concrete Ionic columns of the original building to support a portico, one much less imposing than the over-scaled original. A new concrete porch was poured at the level of the entrance and extends to support the columns. New metal railings were placed along the steps at an unknown date (probably 1979). The portico roof is flat, and the broad entablature is undecorated. On the frieze are the words "CARNEGIE LIBRARY". Under the portico roof, however, the entry, however, took on a surprising new appearance. There is an entirely new surround; now there are fluted engaged columns between the door and the side lights. Above the door is a triangular pediment surrounded by a very fancy set of cornice moldings, frieze decorations, and architrave moldings. These consist of several levels with egg-and-dart designs, floral designs, and shields. Given the simple nature of the original 1905 entry, it seems that the addition of the complicated moldings might have been an attempt to replace some of the "Carnegie Classical"

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 15

Ardmore Carnegie Library
name of property
Carter, Oklahoma
county and State

=====

appearance that disappeared with the removal of the top and the segmental pediment.

The 1926 project basically gutted the building's interior. The wood-plank flooring was replaced, the four elliptical arches and two semicircular arches were removed, and all interior partition walls were removed. A small room was added in the northwest corner as a restroom, and a small vestibule was added at the main entrance. Otherwise, the building is a totally open floor plan, with the exception of posts that support the beams that support the roof. Nine-light, wood double doors separate the vestibule from the interior, and identical doors access the 1941 wing. Each set has a horizontal glass transom above it. In the northeast corner, a six-foot partition wall conceals a kitchen area. There are two small closets in the 1941 wing, placed in the northeast and northwest corners. Door and window facings and baseboards retain original (1905 and 1941) millwork.

A noncontributing resources within the property's boundaries is a wood palisade fence that conceals an air conditioning condenser at the southeast corner of the building. The triangular-shaped lot is grassed and landscaped with trees and shrubs.

All alterations to the 1905 building are now historic; nevertheless, the present ambiance of the Ardmore Carnegie Library is different than that of the 1905 original. Once an interesting vernacular interpretation of Classical Revival influenced by Carnegie Corporation financial stricture, the building is now an unusual and interesting combination of divergent architectural styles, one reflecting traditional Classical Revival, the other adding a touch of more modern Craftsman-like detail. Nonetheless, the building retained all of the necessary integrity of elements from 1941 forward and is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A, as representative of an important pattern in the education history of Ardmore, Oklahoma.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 16

Ardmore Carnegie Library
name of property
Carter, Oklahoma
county and State

=====

SUMMARY:

The Ardmore Carnegie Library, constructed at 511 Stanley S.W. in 1905, represents an important aspect of the education history of Ardmore, Oklahoma, 1905-1949. Public schools were constructed in the 1899-1905 period, but none had a library. The building resulted from a community effort to secure grant funding from the Carnegie Corporation of New York in 1903. This was the first Carnegie grant awarded in Indian Territory. Funding secured, construction began in 1904 and was completed in 1905. The library opened to the public on 1 October 1906. Through the years, the Ardmore community cooperated with city government to keep the library doors open. At one time high school classes met in the second-floor auditorium. By 1925 the building had fallen into disrepair and was closed for about a year. Repair work completed, the adult and juvenile general public once again used the library for their out-of-school education. Collections grew during the 1930s, and in 1941 an addition was constructed on the south side of the building. The library continued in its educational role until 1963 when citizens voted to build a larger, more modern building. The Ardmore Garden Clubs, Inc. leased the old library on a 99-year basis and have continued to use the premises for their own educational purposes. The Ardmore Carnegie Public Library is significant because of the role it played in the continuing education of the population of Ardmore and the surrounding community. Evidence of its importance came repeatedly over its sixty-year history. Citizens provided the impetus for its creation and maintenance and time after time cooperated for its preservation in spite of opportunity to tear it down. It served as an important adjunct to the town's public and private schools, housing the city's public high school classes c. 1910-1912. The Ardmore Carnegie Library was the county's only public library during its life as a functioning library, 1906-1963. The library maintains integrity of location, setting, design, materials, craftsmanship, feeling, and association from the 1926-1949 era and it is well able to visually convey its significance in the education history of Ardmore, Oklahoma. The Ardmore Carnegie Library is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A, for its ability to represent the pattern of Ardmore's education history.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 17

Ardmore Carnegie Library
name of property
Carter, Oklahoma
county and State

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

In 1880 the future site of Ardmore, Indian Territory, lay within an expanse of land called the Chickasaw Nation. In 1887, as the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad built across that nation, Ardmore became a station. Non-Indians came into the area via rail to engage in various commercial enterprises, and by the 1890s Ardmore was a bustling regional service center in a growing agricultural area. Cotton farming and cattle raising were especially important economic activities. Industrial enterprises also drove the area's economy after the opening of a coal mine and asphalt mines. Rail service connected the local market to regional and national opportunities.(1)

The city received a federal charter in 1898, and after that time city services began to expand. Earlier, an electric plant had begun furnishing power and a telephone service enhanced citizens' ability to rapidly communicate with the larger world. In the first few years of the twentieth century, Ardmore city officials provided all of the amenities of urban life, including water and sewer services, fire protection, street paving, and a public school system. At 1907 statehood, Ardmore became county seat of Carter County.(2) Shortly thereafter, an oil boom added to the economic opportunities and launched a period of prosperity, with burgeoning population, fine residential areas, downtown commercial buildings, and public buildings. In the 1920s, according to a local historian, "Ardmore's economic activity boomed with five oil refineries, a gun factory, an iron foundry, a stove factory, two candy factories, a cottonseed-oil mill, and cattle feed lots, two dairy plants, two brick plants, coal and asphalt mining, five banks, a commercial airport and pilot school, a radio station, air ambulance service, and many other services."(3)

EDUCATION CONTEXT:

Educational institutions had always been important within the Chickasaw Nation, which established academies for the instruction of their children. During its early years, Ardmore had no public schools, but citizens supported church schools and private subscription schools. In 1898 the community's Roman Catholics built St. Agnes' Academy. In 1895 the Methodists established Hargrove College, an elementary-secondary boarding school, later adding a two-year college course to the curriculum but closing in 1914.(4) Ardmore's public

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 18

Ardmore Carnegie Library
name of property
Carter, Oklahoma
county and State

=====
school system, officially established in 1899, served a population of approximately 6,200. By the time of 1907 statehood the city maintained three public school buildings, and a fourth was added soon after. These served a population that had grown to 8,759. In 1912 a high school was constructed at 215 N. Washington; while this building was being built, high school classes met in the second-floor auditorium of the Ardmore Carnegie Library. In the 1920s the town boasted a junior high as well as Franklin and Lincoln elementary schools, for white students. African American students attended separate schools, including Douglas High School Washington and Jefferson elementary schools. In the 1950s two more elementary schools were added. Development of educational institutions in Indian Territory and Oklahoma Territory coincided with the public library movement across the United States and in Oklahoma.(5)

Across Oklahoma, as the population of the Twin Territories' increased and towns grew larger, middle-class institutions began to appear. Credit for establishing the territories' libraries generally goes to the local Women's Clubs, whose activities almost always included setting up local reading rooms and collecting books to furnish those facilities with material to lend. The Women's Clubs were aided after 1900 by a library program established by famed steel magnate Andrew Carnegie, who knew the value of continuing education. The first public libraries in Oklahoma, built in Oklahoma City and Guthrie, Oklahoma Territory, were constructed with Carnegie grants.(6)

Having made his fortune in the steel industry, Andrew Carnegie retired at age 65 in 1900 and devoted his remaining years to philanthropy. In total, his Carnegie Corporation (trustee for much of his enormous fortune) provided more than \$41 million for 1,689 free public library buildings in 1,419 communities around the United States. Oklahoma communities received \$464,500 in 24 Carnegie grants between 1899 and 1916. The first two grants went to Oklahoma City and Guthrie, in 1899 and 1901, respectively. The smallest Oklahoma grant went to Ponca City, in 1908, for \$6,500, and the largest went to Oklahoma City, for \$60,000, and to Muskogee, in 1910, for \$60,000. Three Carnegie grants were made in 1903, the peak year of Carnegie awards, when 203 were made in the nation. That year, Chickasha, Ardmore, and El Reno received funding.(7) As Chickasha and El Reno were in Oklahoma Territory, Ardmore received the first Carnegie grant in Indian Territory.

The Ardmore Carnegie Library was established as a direct result of the combined efforts of Mrs. Hosea Townsend, wife of a United States district

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 19

Ardmore Carnegie Library
name of property
Carter, Oklahoma
county and State

=====

judge, C. L. Anderson, a local banker, and Dr. Charles Evans, superintendent of Ardmore public schools. In 1903 they applied for a Carnegie grant of \$15,000, which was awarded on March 20, 1903.(8) One condition of every Carnegie grant was that a community must pledge an annual amount of 10 percent of the grant, from tax monies and not from endowment or gift, to maintain the library; therefore, the City of Ardmore's pledge was for the amount of \$1,500.(9)

At that time the Carnegie Corporation did not require that a library be designed by an architect, and no stylistic criteria were attached to the building's appearance (specific interior and exterior design criteria were eventually drawn and applied in 1908 and after).(10) Ardmoreites engaged architect S. Wemyss Smith, of Fort Worth, Texas (later associated with the Oklahoma City architectural firm headed by Solomon Layton), to complete a design for the edifice. Smith planned a two-story, stone building with nine rooms on the first floor and an auditorium on the second floor.(11) The exterior was to be a restrained version of Classical Revival sometimes called "Carnegie Classical" and was chiefly notable for a heavily modillioned cornice and a massive, segmental pediment over a columned portico that sheltered an entry in the main (north) elevation.

In September of 1904 construction bids were solicited, and later in the month the city awarded the contract to A. O. Campbell, of Oklahoma City, in the amount of \$13,600.(12) Groundbreaking came soon after, and by December 1904 construction was well under way.(13) The building was completed in the autumn of 1905, but financial constraints and the failure of the city to appropriate the required maintenance funds made it impossible to open the facility to the public. Finally, by the autumn of 1906 some of these problems were resolved.(14) The Orio Club, a women's group, solicited donations of books and soon had accumulated 350 volumes to augment the library's collection of approximately 300 volumes. Various civic groups also donated collections: the Sons of the Confederacy gave a set of Southern literary works, and the Ladies of the Leaf, a library support group, gave history books. The Ardmore Carnegie Library unofficially opened its doors to the citizenry on September 23. A formal opening was held on October 1, 1906.(15)

Year by year, by one means or another, the library's supporters developed activities to raise money for more books. At one point library devotees waited tables at a local soda fountain for a part of the profits, which they applied toward the purchase of 17 new volumes. Dr. Charles Evans, superintendent of the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 20

Ardmore Carnegie Library
name of property
Carter, Oklahoma
county and State

=====

Ardmore Public Schools, donated books from his own library and urged school children to bring books from home, which they did. Until 1919 the library received no regular operating funds from the city, but in that year an appropriation insured the institution's survival. Within two years the inventory doubled, and by 1936 the shelves held 23,136 volumes.(16) Circulation in 1935 totaled more than 100,000, ample proof of the library's importance to Ardmore's educational scene, for school children and adults alike.

In 1925, however, the building began to show signs of deterioration. In October of that year the library board employed T. E. Snelson, a local architect, to examine the building's condition. He reported that the roof was "in a faulty condition, and the four corners of the building and a number of beams. . . were found to have slipped out of place."(17) His general opinion was that the roof was too heavy for the walls to support. The architect predicted that a severe wind storm would probably cause the building to collapse. Therefore, the city manager declared the library closed until repairs could be made. With no city funds available for this purpose, the building was destined to remain unused for a while. The books were moved to a vacant church building and library functions resumed there for the duration.(18)

However, realizing that the library was a very meaningful symbol for citizens interested in continuing education, city officials finally acquired the money for repairs. In the spring of 1926 the work began, under a \$30,000 contract awarded to Pritchard Brothers, of Ardmore.(19) Workers removed the building's upper story and built a new roof (flat, with a small penthouse/storage room in the center) that would place less stress on the walls. The massive pediment on the north elevation was removed (thereby making the front wall of the building less susceptible to pressure from the prevailing southeastern winds) and the columns were reinstalled to support a flat portico. The redesign also added a wide, tiled, pent-type overhang all the way around, between the parapet and the windows, and supported it with regularly placed pairs of Craftsman-style L-brackets.(20) On November 6, 1926, the library was reopened to Ardmore's citizens.(21)

By the late 1930s the library's collections had grown so large and library usage had grown so frequent that overcrowding became a problem. Unfortunately, the onset of the Great Depression had impacted the city's economy, and financial constraints prevented the budgeting of funds for library expansion. In 1940, because of the public construction programs under Franklin D.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 21

Ardmore Carnegie Library
name of property
Carter, Oklahoma
county and State

=====
Roosevelt's New Deal, the city applied for funds from the Works Progress Administration to construct a wing on the south side of the library building. These funds, in the amount of \$6,634, were appropriated March 3, 1941.(22) The addition measured 33 feet by 25 feet and in materials and form and imitates the 1926 building in the use of stone blocks and tiled pent overhang. The 1941 library project was one of about a dozen WPA projects conducted in Ardmore in that year, with a combined total of approximately \$300,000. In Oklahoma, the WPA constructed ten new libraries, reconstructed or repaired five, and built additions to two, one of which was the Ardmore Carnegie Library.(23) Interestingly, most WPA library "reconstruction" projects resulted in the total obliteration of the library's original architectural style, generally replacing it with the trendy Art Deco or Moderne styles, and "addition" projects did the same. Luckily, this did not happen in Ardmore.(24)

In Oklahoma, 24 Carnegie Libraries were constructed between 1899 and 1917. Of these, 17 still stand, in various states of alteration: Ardmore (1905), Bartlesville (1915), Collinsville (1917), Cordell (1911; NR 89001966), Elk City (1915), El Reno (1905; NR 80003257), Frederick (1915), Guthrie (1901; NR 73001564), Hobart (1912; NR 80003267), Lawton (1922), Muskogee (1908), Perry (1909), Sapulpa (1918), Shawnee (1906), Tahlequah (1905), Wagoner (1913), and Woodward 1916). Of the 17, only 8 are still libraries: Collinsville, Elk City, El Reno, Frederick, Hobart, Sapulpa, Tahlequah, Wagoner. The others serve as museums or offices, and one, the 1905 Ardmore Carnegie Library, as a meeting place for local garden clubs. (The razed buildings include Chickasha, Enid, McAlester, Miami, Oklahoma City, Ponca City, and Tulsa.(25)

From 1941 the Ardmore Carnegie Library served the city's educational program for the next twenty-three years. In the late 1960s a movement led to the construction of a larger library facility, and in 1963 citizens voted a bond to build a new building. In November 1963 the city approved a five-year lease (later extended to ninety-nine years) of the Carnegie Library to the Ardmore Garden Club Council, incorporated as Ardmore Garden Clubs, Inc. A condition of the lease was the preservation of the building and maintenance of the grounds.(26) Since that time the Garden Clubs have used the building for meetings and also for educational purposes, to teach citizens about horticulture.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 22

Ardmore Carnegie Library
name of property
Carter, Oklahoma
county and State

=====

EDUCATION SIGNIFICANCE:

The Ardmore Carnegie Public Library is significant because of the role it played in the continuing education of the population of Ardmore and the surrounding community. Evidence of its importance came repeatedly over its sixty-year history, as time after time citizens provided the impetus for its creation and maintenance and for its preservation in spite of opportunity to tear it down and built a better building. It served as an important adjunct to the town's public and private schools; in 1910s, because of overcrowding, high school classes were held in the auditorium until a new high school was built. The Ardmore Carnegie Library was the first Carnegie grant in Indian Territory and was county's only public library during its life as a functioning library, 1906-1963. The library maintains integrity of location, setting, design, materials, craftsmanship, feeling, and association from the 1926-1949 era and its well able to visually convey its significance in the education history of Ardmore, Oklahoma. The Ardmore Carnegie Library is eligible for the National Register of Historic places under Criterion A for its significance in the pattern of education history of Ardmore, Oklahoma, 1906-1949.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 23

Ardmore Carnegie Library
name of property
Carter, Oklahoma
county and State

=====

ENDNOTES

1. *The History of Carter County* (Fort Worth: Universal Supply Co., 1957), n.p.; Julia Sparger, "Young Ardmore," *The Chronicles of Oklahoma* 43 (1965-66): 396, 398, 408.
2. Paul N. Frame, "A History of Ardmore, Oklahoma" (M. A. Thesis, University of Oklahoma, 1949), passim; Sparger, "Young Ardmore," 398, 408.
3. Mac McGalliard, "Pioneer Spirit: The Centennial History of Ardmore," *The Chronicles of Oklahoma* 65 (Spring 1987), 83.
4. Frame, "History of Ardmore," 109-112.
5. Ibid., 117-19; George S. Bobinski, *Carnegie Libraries: Their History and Impact in American Public Library Development* (Chicago, Ill.: American Library Association, 1969), 96.
6. Susan Allen, "Progressive Spirit: The Oklahoma and Indian Territory Federation of Women's Clubs," *The Chronicles of Oklahoma* 66 (Spring 1988): 4-21.
7. Bobinski, *Carnegie Libraries*, 17, 135, 172, 209; Theodore Jones, *Carnegie Libraries Across America: A Public Legacy*. (New York: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 1997), 23, 53, 103, 158.
8. Bobinski, *Carnegie Libraries*, 209; Oklahoma Libraries Commission, *Oklahoma Libraries, 1900-1937* (Oklahoma City: Oklahoma Libraries Commission, 1937), 18-19; Frame, "History of Ardmore," 124-26.
9. Bobinski, *Carnegie Libraries*, 43.
10. Ibid., 57ff.
11. *Daily Ardmoreite* (Ardmore, Oklahoma), 9 January 1905.
12. Ibid., 2 September 1904, 16 September 1904.
13. Ibid., 18 December 1904.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 24

Ardmore Carnegie Library
name of property
Carter, Oklahoma
county and State

- =====
14. *Oklahoma Libraries*, 19.
 15. *Ibid.*; *Daily Ardmoreite* (Ardmore, Oklahoma), 23 September 1906.
 16. *Oklahoma Libraries*, 19.
 17. *Daily Ardmoreite* (Ardmore, Oklahoma), 4 October 1925.
 18. *Ibid.*; *Ibid.*, 22 April 1926, 8 July 1926, 22 July 1926.
 19. *Ibid.*, 22 April 1926, 22 July 1926.
 20. Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, Ardmore, Oklahoma, 1924, 1924/New Report 1941.
 21. *Daily Ardmoreite* (Ardmore, Oklahoma), 4 November 1926.
 22. WPA Project No. 165-1-65-358, "Index to Reference Cards for Work Projects Administration Project Files, 1935-1942 (Washington, D.C.: WPA, c. 1942), Micro T-935, Reel 13; Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Ardmore, Oklahoma, 1924/New Report 1941; "Architectural and Historical Reconnaissance-Level Survey of Certain Parts of the City of Ardmore [Final Report]" (Oklahoma State University/Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office. 1994), 79, 100.
 23. Work Projects Administration for Oklahoma, Final Report of Activities and Accomplishments (Typescript, 1942; Government Documents, Edmon Low Library, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater); *Daily Ardmoreite* (Ardmore, Oklahoma), January-December 1941.
 24. Jones, *Carnegie Libraries Across America*, 108.
 25. *Ibid.*, 158, augmented by data derived by personal contact by Dianna Everett with the librarians at Tahlequah, Collinsville, Bartlesville, Frederick, and Lawton, 27 October 1999; dates in parentheses indicate date of completion, derived from *Oklahoma Libraries, 1900-1937*, 173, 240.
 26. *Daily Ardmoreite* (Ardmore, Oklahoma), 10 November 1963, 30 November 1963.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 25

Ardmore Carnegie Library
name of property
Carter, Oklahoma
county and State

=====

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- "Architectural/Historic Reconnaissance-Level Survey of Certain Parts of the City of Ardmore [Final Report]." Oklahoma State University/Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office. 1994.
- "Ardmore Carnegie Library." Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory Files. State Historic Preservation office, Oklahoma Historical Society. 1982.
- Bobinski, George S. *Carnegie Libraries: Their History and Impact in American Public Library Development*. Chicago, Ill.: American Library Association, 1969.
- Daily Ardmoreite* (Ardmore, Oklahoma). 1904-1906, 1925-1926.
- Frame, Paul. "A History of Ardmore, Oklahoma, From the Earliest Beginnings to 1907." M. A. thesis, University of Oklahoma, 1949.
- "Index to Reference Cards for Work Projects Administration Project Files, 1935-1942. Washington, D.C.: WPA, c. 1942. Micro T-935, Reel 13.
- Jones, Theodore. *Carnegie Libraries Across America: A Public Legacy*. New York: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 1997.
- Koch, Theodore W. *A Book of Carnegie Libraries*. New York: Carnegie Corporation, 1917.
- McGalliard, Mac. "Pioneer Spirit: The Centennial History of Ardmore." *The Chronicles of Oklahoma* 65 (Spring 1987): 76-89.
- Oklahoma Libraries Commission. *Oklahoma Libraries, 1900-1937*. Oklahoma City: Oklahoma Libraries Commission, 1937.
- Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps. Ardmore, Indian Territory. 1903, 1907.
- Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps. Ardmore, Oklahoma. 1913, 1924, 1924/New Report 1941.
- Work Projects Administration for Oklahoma. "Final Report of Activities and Accomplishments." Typescript, 1942. Government Documents, Edmon Low Library, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 10 Page 26

Ardmore Carnegie Library
name of property
Carter, Oklahoma
county and State

=====

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The boundary of the property includes all of Lots 1 and 2, Block 422, Original Town of Ardmore.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

These are the legal boundaries as recorded in Book 65, page 348 of the Register of Deeds, County Clerk's Office, Carter County, Oklahoma.