

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

10/22/90

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Lompoc Public Library
other names/site number The Lompoc Museum; Old Carnegie Library

2. Location

street & number 200 S. H St. n/a not for publication
city, town Lompoc n/a vicinity
state California code CA county Santa Barbara code 083 zip code 93436

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u> </u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: California Carnegie Libraries
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Kathryn Guatieri Signature of certifying official 10/22/90 Date

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain): _____

Melissa Beyer Interested in the National Register 12/10/90

fr Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/library

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Classical Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concretewalls BrickConcreteroof other WoodMetal

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

CALIFORNIA CARNEGIE LIBRARIES: LOMPOC MUSEUM

RECEIVED

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OHP

Section number 7 Page 1

The Lompoc Carnegie building, brick, one story over a raised basement, is an example of Classical Revival in which there is a projecting pedimented central element supported by columns and pilasters. Here there are tall paired columns on each side of the entrance portico. A low parapet which encircles the building rises high behind the pediment where it is topped with a decorative band. The color of the brick is almost apricot with cream accenting the columns, pilasters, band around the parapet, pediment, cornice, quoins, door and window frames, baseline, and basement facade. The building is essentially unchanged since its construction, except for interior reorganization to accommodate museum display. Early pictures show a basement door that was added to the front and which has since been removed. The building demonstrates excellent workmanship and its integrity has been maintained. It establishes its public presence from adjacent "Centennial Park" and two churches, and benefits too from its setting on residential H Street, a tree-lined avenue. Landscaping around the building itself is parklike and shaded by very old olive trees.

Lompoc's Carnegie building, with its prominent "Greek temple" portico, to many exemplifies "Carnegie Library." The tall paired columns support a decorous pediment, which is in turn framed by the tall brick parapet edged with a decorative band executed in wood. The low parapet surrounding the building is also brick and is topped by a plain wooden band; both trims are painted a cream color in contrast with the apricot brick. The pediment itself, with an ornament at its peak, is deeply recessed with small egg and dart detailing framing a medallion at the center. The egg and dart is repeated around the building just under the cornice. Below, the entablature is undecorated except for stepped horizontal bands and, at the entrance, the words "Lompoc Museum."

Stairs rise almost directly from the sidewalk to the pedimented portico. They are wide, flanked by wide low solid rails of cast concrete, on the lower ends of which are placed cast iron light standards. The stairs narrow between the paired fluted Doric columns of pressed metal, with several more steps before the arched entrance is reached. The wood framed entrance is recessed under the portico, with a wide new aluminum framed glass door under a half-round transom with vertical panes. Within is a second lobby, panelled in wood, and another door leading into the museum itself.

Tall wide windows flanking the portico are slightly recessed, wood framed, and separated vertically into three parts by wide mullions under one wide transom. The upper edges of the windows, recessed just below the cornice, are trimmed with egg and dart motif. Below the windows, a wide sill projects slightly and extends a little beyond the width of the windows. None of the side and rear windows extend as low as do the front windows. Side windows near the front are trimmed in the same manner as the front windows, but otherwise windows vary. On the street side there are two wide windows similar to the front windows, and two smaller windows that are double hung with wide lintel and sill. On the other side, there is an outside chimney with stepped shoulders, and three windows similar to the front windows but narrower. Across

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

CALIFORNIA CARNEGIE LIBRARIES: LOMPOC MUSEUM

Section number 7 Page 2

the back is a row of narrow double hung windows, again with prominent sill. Also in the back there is a basement door. Basement windows are recessed in the foundation; they appear to be double hung two by two with union jack above, obscured behind a metal framework painted to match the basement facade. Quoins, basement facade and stair rail all appear to be cast concrete.

Alterations have been few and minor. A basement door added to the front at some time in the past has been covered over so that it appears like a small flat platform near the front stairs. Aluminum doors were added at the front entrance and a plain pipe handrail, in the center of the wide stairs, has been provided. Interior changes are apparently limited to non-structural room arrangement for display purposes. A sign apart from the building identifies its museum function, and an adjacent plaque on a granite stone notes the library's history. The integrity of the building as demonstrated by its style, scale, and craftsmanship has been maintained.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Social History
Architecture

Period of Significance

1911-1921

Significant Dates

1911

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Significant Person

n/a

Architect/Builder

Weeks, William H.

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- 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 # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

California Carnegie Survey

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Less than one acre

UTM References

A

1	0	7	3	3	1	4	0
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3	8	3	5	5	4	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

AP# 85-202-15, .32 acres, at the southeast corner of South H Street and Cypress St., City of Lompoc.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the entire city lot that has historically been associated with the property.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title <u>Lucy Kortum</u>	date <u>11/89 (rev.4/90)</u>
organization <u>(Sonoma State University)</u>	telephone <u>707/762-6219</u>
street & number <u>180 Ely Rd.</u>	state <u>CA</u> zip code <u>94954</u>
city or town <u>Petaluma</u>	

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

LOMPOC MUSEUM; CARNEGIE LIBRARY

Section number 8 Page 1

Lompoc's old Carnegie Library building is now Lompoc Historical Landmark No. 1 and the home of the Lompoc Museum. Located in a valley where the path north from Santa Barbara of necessity headed inland, Lompoc was a logical site for a mission; later, sheep ranching prevailed. In 1874 a temperance colony was established; small farms were auctioned to settlers recruited from nearby Santa Cruz, San Jose, and Monterey counties. The town's best known products were diatomaceous silica, discovered in 1896, and seeds from its acres of flowers. Lompoc incorporated in 1888 and in 1890 there were 1015 residents. Reports of an 1880 library are undocumented but may refer to early activities of the Alpha Club or Lompoc Woman's Book Club; the women were instrumental in 1909 negotiations for Carnegie funding. \$10,000 was received, and the Classical Revival building designed by W.H. Weeks was completed in 1911. When a new library was completed in 1969, the Carnegie building became an historical museum.

During the Carnegie period there were just three incorporated cities in Santa Barbara County, and each built a notable Carnegie Library. The earliest and largest city, Santa Barbara was incorporated in 1850 and had a 1910 population of 11,659. Santa Barbara constructed a building for its library in 1892, one of the few cities to do so. Remodelled in 1907, it served until 1914 when the city received a Carnegie grant of \$50,000, matched by an equal contribution from the city. The Santa Barbara Carnegie, completed in 1917, has been substantially changed over the years following earthquake restoration, additions, and renovations. It remains an outstanding example of Spanish Revival architecture and continues to serve as a library.

Meanwhile, Lompoc was incorporated in 1888 and Santa Maria in 1905, but Santa Maria outpaced Lompoc in population; in 1910 there were 2260 Santa Maria residents compared to Lompoc's 1482. Santa Maria received a \$10,000 Carnegie grant in 1908; F.P. Burnham, architect of many Carnegies in the Los Angeles area, designed the building which was completed in 1909. Lompoc received a \$10,000 Carnegie grant in 1909, and that building, designed by W.H. Weeks, was completed in 1911. Both were Classical Revival in the Greek temple mode. In 1969 the Santa Maria Carnegie was demolished and the Lompoc Carnegie became a museum.

The Lompoc area is rich in archeology and history of the Indian period, which is a central focus of the Lompoc Museum. The Mission La Purisima Concepcion de Maria Santisima, founded in 1787, was destroyed by earthquake and mudslide in 1812 and was rebuilt five miles away. The second site was reconstructed beginning in the 1930's and, with later guidance from state and national park historians, is regarded as one of the more authentic mission restorations.

During the rancho period, seven grants were given in the Lompoc area, two in the valley itself to brothers Jose and Joaquin Carrillo. After several separate purchases between the early 1850's and 1863, these lands became large sheep operations owned by partnerships. Next,

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

CALIFORNIA CARNEGIE LIBRARIES: LOMPOC MUSEUM

Section number 8 Page 2

W.W. Broughton of Santa Cruz came to the valley with the goal of establishing a colony where settlers could operate small farms and raise sheep and cattle; he also planned that the colony would be dedicated to temperance. He organized one hundred farmers, ranchers, and businessmen into the Lompoc Valley Land Company which on October 19, 1874, bought 46,500 acres for \$500,000. Land was set aside for schools, churches and fraternal organizations, and a cemetery. Potential settlers were recruited by newspaper ads in Santa Cruz, Santa Clara, and Monterey counties, and parcels of five, ten, twenty, forty, and eighty acres were auctioned. After the success of the first auction, advertising was conducted on a wider scale. The second auction, in April 1875, attracted potential colonists from Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, and Missouri, although two thirds came from California. The generally benign weather of the area was soon broken by a storm that destroyed the wharf built to export agricultural products, and then by several years of drought; however, the settlement endured and eventually prospered. When Lompoc incorporated in 1888, it had a population of 1015. A deposit of pure diatomaceous silica discovered in 1896 was the largest deposit found worldwide up to that time. This and flower seed production became Lompoc's two major industries. The vast acres of flowers grown in the Lompoc Valley are probably its most famous attraction, and flower seeds its most famous crop.

In 1941, the U.S. Army purchased 86,000 acres just north of Lompoc and established Camp Cooke, which in 1956 became Vandenberg Air Force Base. In approximately eighty years after the establishment of the Lompoc Colony the population had reached 5000; thirteen years after the coming of Vandenberg the population was 20,000 and growing.

Even before it was incorporated Lompoc began its first library, although virtually nothing is known about this 1880 effort. The Alpha Literary and Improvement Club was established before 1908 and continues to play an important community role and, incidentally, owns its own building. A municipal library was established before December 14, 1908, because on that date the town board of trustees requested that a committee of library trustees, along with the Alpha Library and Improvement Club and the Woman's Book Club, investigate the possibility of Carnegie funding for a library building. The grant of \$10,000 was offered on December 13, 1909, conditional upon the town maintaining the library with at least \$1000 per year, and providing the site. On December 27 a resolution was passed guaranteeing support and indicating ownership of lots. The newspaper reported in February, 1910, that W.H. Weeks "of Watsonville and San Francisco" was coming "to confer in reference to style of architecture desired for the building. [and] also to submit proposed plans and specifications." It was hoped that Andrew Carnegie, visiting in Santa Barbara, might visit Lompoc, but it seems unlikely that he did. Weeks' plans were approved by James Bertram in September with no changes required; explanations in response to Bertram's questions were apparently sufficient. The bid of local contractor A.D. Burke was just over \$9000, provided that the basement was left unfinished for

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

CALIFORNIA CARNEGIE LIBRARIES: LOMPOC MUSEUM
Section number 8 Page 3

the time being. The Woman's Book Club held bazaars and musicals and provided over 200 books, electric light pillars, and money for binding magazines. The building opened to the public on August 14, 1911.

Designed to accommodate 8000 volumes for a future population of 4000, the library was straining to give good service by the 1950's, and the problem was compounded by the development of Vandenberg Air Force Base. There was interior rearrangement: more shelving was crowded in to hold the 20,000 volumes in its collection, the children's book room moved to the basement, and still more space was needed for an expanded reference section and for new library services such as record collections. A new library was completed in 1969 and in that same year the city of Lompoc was given the Clarence Ruth archaeological and ethnographic collection documenting regional prehistory, and Ruth's pioneering research in the Lompoc area. The old Carnegie building was converted into a museum to house the collection. In addition to its archaeological resources, the museum maintains an historical exhibit and a research library, sponsors public programs, and mounts special exhibits of regional history and archeology.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

CALIFORNIA CARNEGIE LIBRARIES: LOMPOC MUSEUM

Section number 9 Page 1

Bobinski, George S. Carnegie Libraries: Their History and Impact on American Public Library Development. Chicago: American Library Association, 1969.

Held, Ray E. The Rise of the Public Library in California. Chicago: American Library Association, 1973.

Van Slyck, Abigail A. "Free to All: California Libraries and the Transformation of American Culture, 1886-1917." Ph.D. diss., University of California at Berkeley, 1989.

California Carnegie Library Survey form: Roger H. Colten, Director, Lompoc Museum
Materials from Roger Colton:

"History of Lompoc." Mimeographed, no date

Calvert, Anne S. "Lompoc Carnegie Library History." Mimeographed. 1968

From "Andrew Carnegie and the Lompoc Library," materials compiled by Alan D. Davidson and found in the files of Constance Glenn, Director, University Art Gallery, CSU Long Beach:
Minutes of the Board of Trustees - Town of Lopoc (excerpts 12/14/08-8/19/12)
Minutes of the Lompoc Library Board of Trustees (excerpts 5/17/10-11/6/11)
Chronology of Acquisition of Lompoc Library Building
Lompoc Public Library (possibly by Robert Hart, 1965)

CALIFORNIA CARNEGIE LIBRARIES: LOMPOC MUSEUM
PHOTOGRAPHS

1. Lompoc Museum
- 200 S. H St.
2. Lompoc CA 93436

3. Lucy Kortum
4. June 1918
5. California Carnegie Survey
6. Right side and front, with grounds, view to north northeast
7. Photo #1

3. Jane Kimball
4. c. 1987
5. Photo made from slide; negative, California Carnegie Survey
6. Entrance detail, view to northeast
7. Photo #2

3. Lucy Kortum
4. June 1989
5. California Carnegie Survey
6. Entrance, view to east
7. Photo #3

6. Detail, view to southeast
7. Photo #4

6. Left side, view to south
7. Photo #5

6. Rear, view to west
7. Photo #6

Lompoc Public Library
200 S. H Street
Lompoc, CA
Santa Barbara County

