

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

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received MAR 11 1987

date entered APR 9 1987

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Bradenton Carnegie Library

and or common Historical Records Library of Manatee County

2. Location

street & number 1405 4th Avenue West

N/A not for publication

city, town Bradenton

N/A vicinity of

state Florida

code 12

county Manatee

code 081

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 type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name City of Bradenton

street & number 500 15th Street West

city, town Bradenton

N/A vicinity of

state Florida

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Manatee County Courthouse

street & number 1115 Manatee Avenue West

city, town Bradenton

state Florida

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Bradenton Historical Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date August, 1981 federal state county local

depository for survey records Bureau of Historic Preservation

city, town Tallahassee

state Florida

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Bradenton Carnegie Library is a rectangular, two-story steel and masonry building constructed in 1918. Located in a residential section of Bradenton, Florida, the building is a good example of restrained Classical Revival design as reflected in its symmetrical elevations, pedimented porch and Tuscan columns. The building possesses good physical integrity although it does include a sizable addition made in 1959 to its rear elevation.

The Bradenton Carnegie Library is constructed of Sibley Silver brick laid in a common bond pattern. A belt course of the same brick, laid vertically, wraps around the building. A base course constructed of rock-faced granite also wraps around the structure. The building is covered by a low pitch hip roof clad in its original clay barrel tiles. The roof features an extremely wide soffit with a simple fascia. Three rectangular brick chimneys punctuate the roof.

The principle distinguishing element of the building is a classically-derived porch. Centrally located on the west elevation, the porch features a pedimented gable roof supported by two Tuscan columns set in antis between flanking brick piers. The roof retains its original clay barrel tiles, while its supporting piers are constructed of Sibley Silver brick. An original lamp fixture with a spherical globe appears on each pier. Above the columns the words "Carnegie Library" appear in a rectangular panel.

Fenestration on the west elevation is symmetrically arranged one over one, double hung wood sash. The second floor windows include rock face granite sills and enclosed wood overpanels. The ground floor windows are also one over one double hung wood sash, with wood sills, but lack the overpanels. Fenestration on the north and south elevations is symmetrical placed and continues the same one over one double hung pattern, but without the overpanels on the second story. East elevation fenestration again is symmetrically placed and continues the same configuration as the west elevation.

A single-story rectangular addition is located at the east elevation. Constructed in 1957, the addition is constructed of similar brick and corrugated metal supporting a flat roof. A garden wall wraps the south and east elevations to create a small courtyard which today houses the children's section.

In plan the second (main) floor is composed of two large rectangular reading rooms. Two rough stoned fireplaces with simple wood mantels are centrally located on the north and south elevations of the reading rooms. A main stairway is centrally located on the west elevation, with an auxiliary stairwell at the southwest corner. A stained fumed oak wain-scotting is flush with the fireplaces and continues at this seven foot height throughout the upper floor. The original circulation desk is located on axis with the main stairway. The original pine flooring as well as the wooden window blinds are intact and have been restored.

8. 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 type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1918 **Builder/Architect** T. W. Hullinger, Builder

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Bradenton Carnegie Library is significant in the areas of architecture and social and humanitarian associations at the level of local significance. Architecturally, the building represents a restrained example of Classical Revival design. The building is also significant through its association with the Carnegie Corporation Free Public Library Foundation.

Andrew Carnegie, (1835-1911), a wealthy philanthropist, donated millions of dollars to the construction of free public libraries in the United States and throughout the English-speaking world. Virtually non-existent prior to 1880, the free public library became almost as common a part of the American community as the schoolhouse or church, thanks to Carnegie's generosity.¹ Carnegie began his career as a bobbin boy at the age of thirteen. One year later he became the messenger boy for a telegraph company. From here his career progressed with rapid success. In 1861, he was instrumental in the creation of the military telegraph department of the Department of War. In 1865, Carnegie founded the Carnegie Steel Corporation and in 1901, sold his shares and interest for almost \$500,000,000. Upon his death in 1919, Carnegie had dispersed over \$300,000,000, accounting for 80 percent of his estate, for the improvement of the mind through higher education. Much of this was through the Carnegie Corporation for the construction of free public library buildings.²

The first semblance of a library in Bradenton was a book lending service began by Mrs. Julia Fuller in 1898. By charging a rental fee of 5 cents a week, Mrs. Fuller was able to collect a few dollars with which to purchase more books, at a cost of one dollar apiece. The newly formed Village Improvement Association took up the cause when an enlarged circulation required more space, and more volumes. In December, 1904, a small library with several hundred books, opened its doors to the public for a few hours each day.³ Eventually this library also became too small for the city, and new quarters were required. As the Carnegie Corporation was at the time contributing funds for the construction of libraries, it was decided to approach the Foundation.⁴ An agreement was easily reached and on March 8, 1917, the Foundation and the City of Bradenton entered into a contract to build a new free public library.⁵ The sum of \$10,000 was dispersed by James Bertram, secretary of the Carnegie Corporation.⁶

The contract was in compliance with terms established by the Foundation which included the following stipulations: (1) Resolution of Council to maintain a Free Public Library at a cost of not less than \$1,200 per year; (2) the provision of a suitable site free of

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than 1

Quadrangle name Bradenton

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	7	3	4	4	3	4	0	3	0	4	2	2	0	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot 3, Block 6 Upham Addition 21-45. This area includes all contributing resources associated with the Bradenton Carnegie Library.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Margaret Moore, Vicki Welcher, Michael Zimny

organization Bureau of Historic Preservation

date February, 1987

street & number Department of State

telephone (904) 487-2333

city or town Tallahassee

state Florida

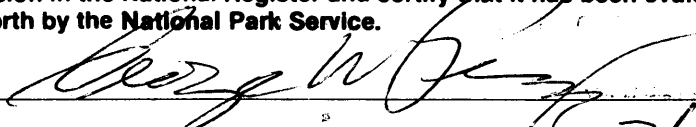
12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature



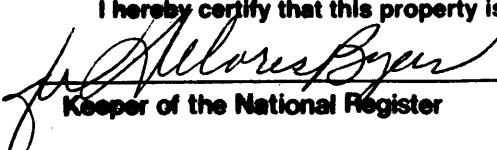
title State Historic Preservation Officer

date

3/3/87

For NPS use only

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



Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date

4/9/87

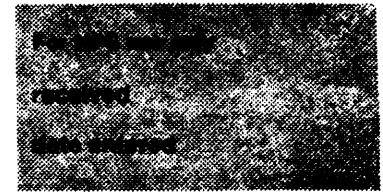
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Continuation sheet 1

Item number 7

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The ground floor contains a large rectangular lecture room. Its original bi-color crescent cement tile floor is in place. Original details such as mother-of-pearl push buttons on brass light plates have been retained. The library received an award from the Florida Trust for its restoration of the building in 1984.

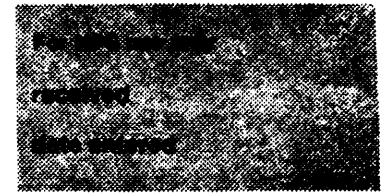
Resources Inventory

Contributing resources: 1 Building

Non-contributing resources: 0

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Continuation sheet 2

Item number 8

Page 1

encumbrance by the city; (3) the provision of \$2,000 by the city (the appraised real estate value of the present library site); (4) Corporation approval of building and plans; and (5) a two year period of compliance with these stipulations. At that time, the Carnegie Corporation reserved the right to review the grant and its subsequent dispersal.⁷ The items of the contract were met on February 25, 1918, and the funds for the library released by the Foundation.⁸

The Bradenton Carnegie Library is one of the last libraries constructed with funds from the Carnegie Corporation. The last funds for public library buildings were provided by the Foundation on November 7, 1917.⁹ Ironically, this is the same day the Bradenton City Council purchased the site for their library "so as not to delay the beginning of construction work on the library..."¹⁰ Local funds had been previously allocated by the City on February 3, 1917.¹¹ In April, 1918, two months after the allocation of Foundation funds, the doors of the Carnegie Public Library were opened to the public.¹²

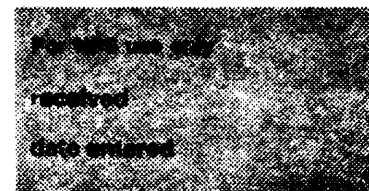
Following the library's opening, the books from the former library, new volumes purchased through city appropriations and volumes donated by citizens were catalogued by two librarians, Miss Lucie Strong and Miss Lillian Arnold.¹³ The library was used extensively by the public through the 1920's. By the mid 1930's, however, a problem had arisen with the children's volumes. Up until this time, both adult and children's books were circulated through the desk on the main floor. In July, 1937, a separate children's division was established in the basement.¹⁴

This arrangement suited the population until the 1950's. The influx of new residents and winter visitors to the area after the war dramatically increased circulation and forced the city to expand the library. By 1953, the library boasted more than 27,000 volumes.¹⁵ In 1956, the city constructed an addition to the building. The addition was placed to the rear of the historic building and was constructed of materials designed to complement the original style. By July, 1957, the facility had been completed and the books from the second floor were moved to the new addition.¹⁶ In 1962, the city joined the State County Library System and further increased the library's accessibility to the public.¹⁷ In 1978, the facility became the Historical Records Library for Manatee County.

The Bradenton Carnegie Library is one of 10 Carnegie libraries constructed by the Foundation in Florida, eight of which presently remain intact.¹⁸ Like the majority of the Carnegie Libraries, the Bradenton facility is a good example of the Classical Revival style. The building is distinguished by a pedimented porch supported by two Tuscan columns, a hip roof with original barrel tiles, original double hung windows and an especially fine Sibley Silver face brick work.

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Continuation sheet 3

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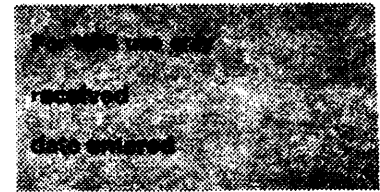
The building was constructed following Carnegie Library Plans #205 and was built by local contractor T. W. Hullinger and Son.

NOTES

- ¹Wall, p. 28.
- ²Bobinski, pp. 9-10.
- ³Letter Mrs. Julia Easterling, p. 1.
- ⁴ibid, p. 2.
- ⁵Ibid, p. 3.
- ⁶Letter James Bertram, to R. A. Franks, February 25, 1918.
- ⁷Letter Carnegie Corporation, February 3, 1917.
- ⁸Letter Carnegie Corporation, February 25.
- ⁹Letter Frank Perkins, February 12, 1979.
- ¹⁰ibid, p. 159.
- ¹¹Minutes City Council Meeting, November 7, 1917.
- ¹²Letter Carnegie Corporation, February 3, 1917.
- ¹³Easterling, p. 3.
- ¹⁴Ibid, p. 3.
- ¹⁵ibid.
- ¹⁶ibid.
- ¹⁷Address Mrs. Paul Meyers.
- ¹⁸Ibid.

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Continuation sheet 4

Item number 9

Page 1

Published Material:

Alderson, Bernard. Andrew Carnegie: The Man and His Work. New York: Doubleday, Page & Co., 1902.

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

Sanborn Maps. City of Bradenton. 1911, p.4; 1926, p.5.

Wall, Joseph Frazier. Andrew Carnegie. New York: Oxford University Press, 1970.

Non-published Material:

Bertram, James; Secretary of Carnegie Corporation. Letter to R. A. Franks, February 25, 1918.

Carnegie Corporation of New York. Letter to Mrs. P. J. Bachman, February 3, 1917.

City of Bradenton. Certification of Resolution. November 14, 1917.

_____. Letter to James Bertram, December 28, 1916.

_____. Minutes of City Council, February 27, 1917.

_____. Minutes of City Council, November 7, 1917.

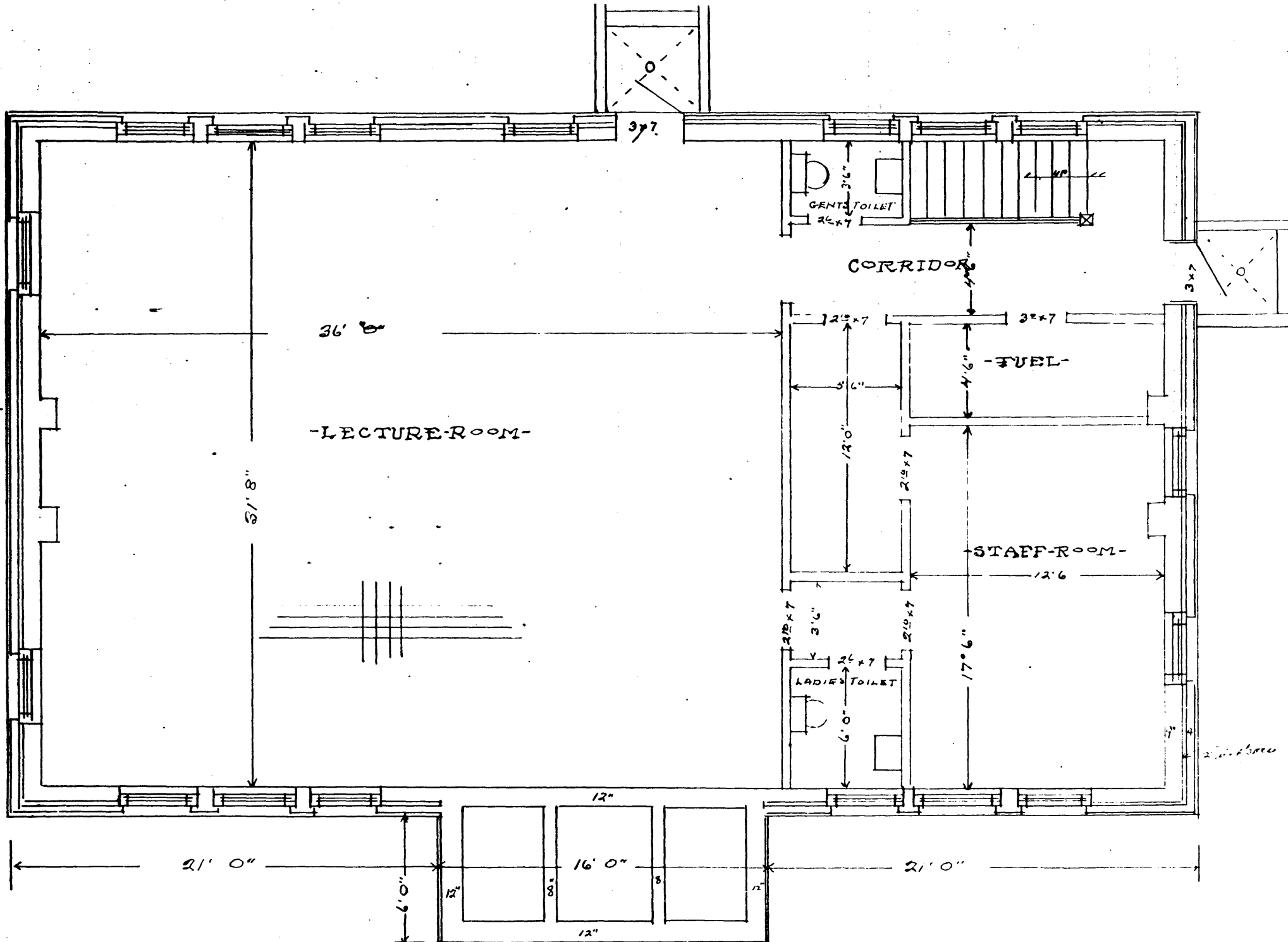
_____. Resolution of City Council, March 16, 1917.

Easterling, Mrs. Julia. "Carnegie Library History." Bradenton County Library, July, 1953.

Manatee County. Deed Book 51. December 7, 1917.

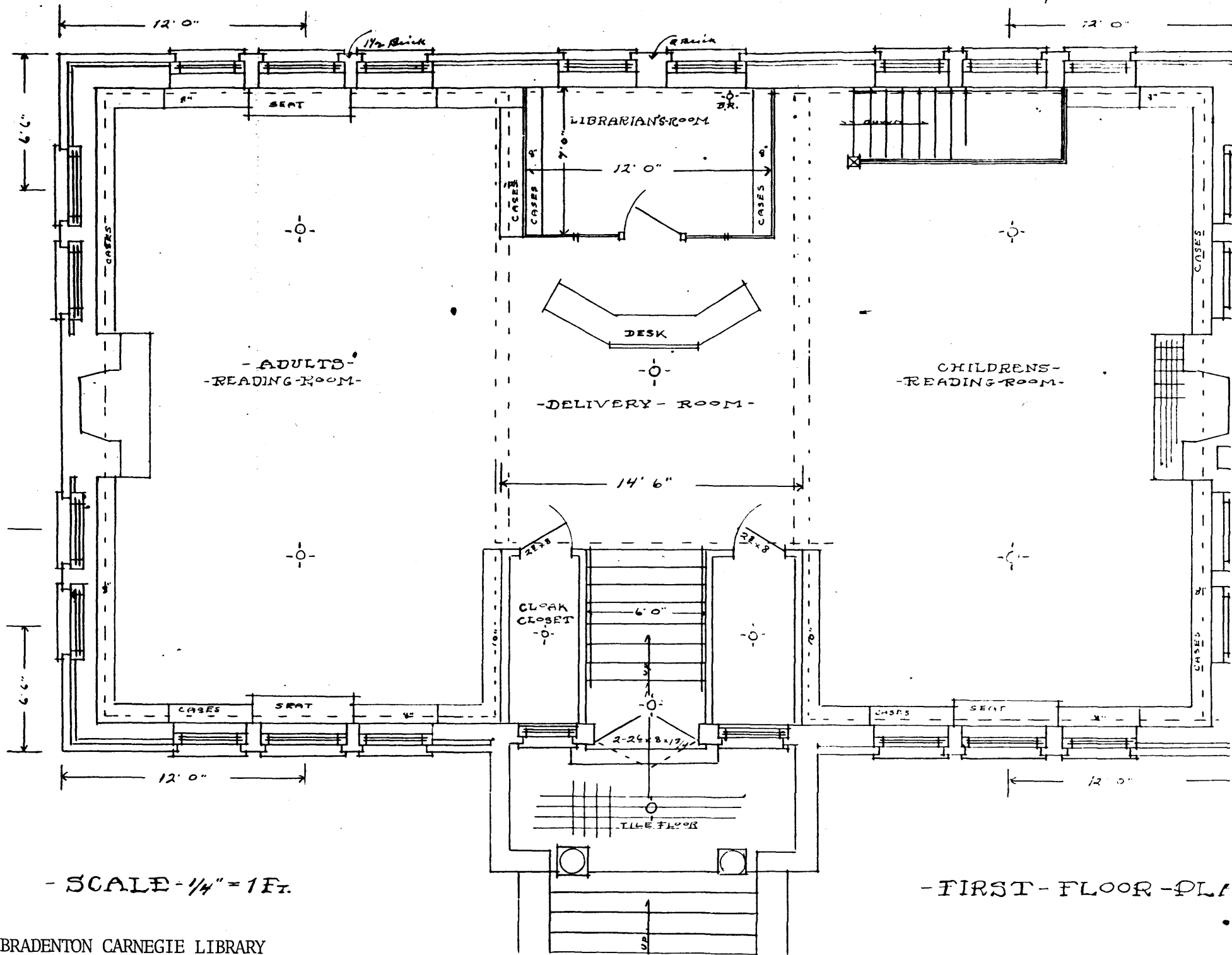
Meyers, Mrs. Paul. "The Bradenton and County Library Systems." November 19, 1969. Address given to Manatee County Historical Society. Bradenton County Library.

Perkins, Frank; Supervisor Historical Records Library. Letter to Joyce A. DeGroot, February 12, 1979.



BRADENTON CARNEGIE LIBRARY

BRADENTON CARNEGIE LIBRARY



- SCALE - 1/4" = 1 FT.

- FIRST FLOOR PLAN

BRADENTON CARNEGIE LIBRARY