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

OMB No. 1024-0018

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JUL 5 1994
INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Carnegie Public Library

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number 219 West Liberty Street not for publication ___
city or town Sumter vicinity ___
state South Carolina code SC county Sumter code 085
zip code

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ___ nationally ___ statewide X locally.
(___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Mary W. Edmonds 7/1/94
Signature of certifying official Date

Mary W. Edmonds, Deputy SHPO, S.C. Department of Archives & History, Columbia, S.C.
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.
(___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. 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):

Entered in the National Register

Guy M. Lapsley 8/5/94
for Signature of Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- X private
- ___ public-local
- ___ public-State
- ___ public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	___	buildings
___	___	sites
___	___	structures
___	___	objects
1	___	Total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: EDUCATION Sub: Library

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: EDUCATION Sub: Research Facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals; Beaux Arts

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Terra Cotta
roof Metal/Aluminum
walls Brick
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)

- X **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.
- X **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 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
ARCHITECTURE

Significant Dates
1917

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Period of Significance
1917-1944

Architect/Builder
Johnson, J. Herbert
Walker, N. Gaillard

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

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 #

Primary Location of Additional Data
___ State Historic Preservation Office
___ Other State agency
___ Federal agency
___ Local government
___ University
X Other
Name of repository: Sumter County Museum, Sumter, S.C.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	17	560420	3753360	3			
2				4			

___ See continuation sheet.

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 Katherine H. Richardson

organization Heritage Preservation Associates date 23 November 1993

street & number 26 Harby Avenue telephone (803) 775-6682

city or town Sumter state SC zip code 29150

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps
A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs
Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

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

name Sumter County Museum

street & number 122 North Washington Street telephone (803) 775-0908

city or town Sumter state SC zip code 29150

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

The Carnegie Public Library is a two-story, flat-roofed Beaux Arts building constructed 1916-1917. It is built with terra cotta tile bricks and the exterior is covered with brick veneer. The facade is punctuated by four arched windows with limestone surrounds, two on each side of the centrally-placed front door. The front door, which is the entrance to the main, or second, floor, is crowned by an arched window and is flanked by two limestone columns with Ionic capitals topped by a limestone arch. A limestone beltcourse marks the second story; the first story is partially below ground level and four paired sash windows are placed at ground level below the second story windows. The flat metal roof is disguised by a parapet which wraps around the western, southern, and eastern elevations of the building. The parapet has a simple but handsome limestone cornice supported by limestone modillions, beneath which are diamond-shaped and rectangular limestone insets and a limestone stringcourse. The building has brick quoins at the corners and the brick on the first floor is rusticated.

The rear, or northern, elevation exhibits four symmetrically placed semi-circular windows. A new second floor rear entrance was added during a 1993 renovation to allow handicapped access and toilet facilities. This gable-end addition has a panelled door reached by a flight of brick step. It has a metal roof and is supported by simple wooden posts. The western and eastern elevations each have three semi-circular windows like those on the northern elevation.

The interior of the library is arranged to accomodate office and storage space on the first floor, with a reading room and stack areas intended for the main, or second, floor. The second floor stucco walls display decorative plaster molding depicting shields, swags, and torches near the top of the walls. A running molding of acanthus leaves and ribbons decorates the ceiling of the library approximately one foot from the cornice. The foyer walls are partially sheathed in gray marble and the foyer has a vaulted ceiling.

The library was renovated in 1993 and restored as closely as possible to its original condition. New interior walls were added on the first floor to create offices and secured stacks. The second floor appears much as it must have in 1917, when the Carnegie Public Library first opened. The library retains its architectural and historical integrity. Landscaping will also follow the original plan, with no shrubbery or plantings in the small front lawn.

The Carnegie Public Library served as Sumter's first and only public library from 1917 to 1968, was one of 1,679 public libraries built in the United States with funding from the Carnegie Corporation, and represents the trend towards the establishment of public libraries in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. It is a well-loved landmark in Sumter. This simple Beaux Arts building was designed by local architects J. Herbert Johnson and N. Gaillard Walker, in conjunction with Secretary James Bertram of the Carnegie Corporation. This building represents the progressive and civic-minded nature of the citizens of Sumter during the first decade of the twentieth century, as well as the social responsibility displayed by Andrew Carnegie, who made his fortune in the steel industry and became one of the country's wealthiest men by the turn of the century. Though the $10,000 cost of construction was funded by the Carnegie Corporation, the operation and maintenance of the the library was the financial responsibility of the city of Sumter. The Sumter Civic League raised money to purchase books. The library opened on December 4, 1917, with over 2,000 volumes on the shelves. The building was a center of learning for the citizens of the city for a large part of the twentieth century. The Carnegie Public Library is a symbol of education and progress in Sumter and stands as a testament to the Carnegie Corporation's support for the advancement of learning in the United States in an era when public libraries were the exception rather than the rule.[1]

Andrew Carnegie was born in Scotland and emigrated to America in 1845 with his parents. At age thirteen, he went to work as a bobbin boy in a Pittsburgh textile mill for $2.50 per week. By 1901, he was one of the wealthiest men in America and owner of the Carnegie Steel Corporation, which he sold to J.P. Morgan for nearly $500 million in 1901. In 1868, when he was thirty-three years of age, he began plans to distribute his wealth. He wrote,

> Thirty-three and an income of $550,000 per annum! By this time two years I can so arrange all my business as to secure at least $550,000 per annum. Beyond this never earn--make no effort to increase fortune but spend the surplus each year for benevolent purposes. Cast aside business forever except for others.[2]

Carnegie's philosophy of wealth was published in an article entitled "Wealth" in The North American Review in 1889. Carnegie believed that those with fortunes do not have a moral right to their wealth, rather that they should set aside enough to support their families and use the rest for the public good. He chose to use his wealth in establishing libraries among other causes. He wrote, "The taste for reading is one of the most precious posessions of life . . . I would much rather be instrumental in bringing to the working man or woman this taste than mere dollars."[3]

In an era when there were very few tax-supported public libraries in the United States, the Carnegie Corporation funded the construction of 1,679 libraries. Carnegie funds were granted only where city officials agreed to fund the operations, collections, and maintenance of the libraries. Fourteen South Carolina towns received Carnegie funds for libraries. These buildings were designed by local architects but modified by Secretary James Bertram of the Carnegie Corporation. Bertram had definite ideas on the efficient utilization of space in library buildings, and though each building was designed according to local tastes, he left his

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[1]For an excellent history of the Carnegie Public Library, see Ruth J. Edens, "'A Substantial and Attractive Building': The Carnegie Public Library, Sumter, South Carolina," South Carolina Historical Magazine 94:1 (January 1993), 34-50.

[2]George Bobinski, Carnegie Libraries: Their History and Impact on American Public Library Development (Chicago: American Library Association, 1969), pp. 9-10.

[3]Burton J. Hendrick, ed., Miscellaneous Writings of Andrew Carnegie, Volume Two (Garden City: Doubleday Doan and Company, 1933), p. 125.

mark on each one before the planning process was complete. The South Carolina libraries ranged in price from $5,000 to $18,700. Sumter's $10,000 library contained 1,500 square feet.[4]

The need for a public library in Sumter had long been promoted by Superintendent of Schools Dr. Samuel H. Edmunds. From 1890 to 1915, he championed the necessity of building a separate facility for a library. As early as 1902, there had been discussion among the members of the Sumter City School Board in regards to applying for a Carnegie Library grant, but it was not until 1915 that the application was actually made.[5]

On April 23, 1915, Dr. Edmunds wrote Andrew Carnegie, "I am taking advantage of Shakespeare's birthday to write to you with reference to a public library for Sumter in connection with our system of public schools."[6] The City Board of Education, Mayor, and City Council, as well as the ladies of the Civic League, banded together to provide the necessary community support to receive the Carnegie grant. The Board of Education provided a lot for the library on the city block it had purchased and upon which they built three public schools. The City Council voted to provide, in perpetuity, $1,000 per year for the support of the library. The Civic League agreed to provide the books housed in the library.[7] In October 1915, the Carnegie Corporation granted $10,000 for the Sumter Library.[8] Extensive negotiations regarding the plans for the library ensued between Bertram and the architects, J. Herbert Johnson of Sumter and his partner, N. Gaillard Walker of Rock Hill.[9]

J.M. Harby of Sumter submitted the lowest bid for construction of the building. His $7,774.41 bid designated that the library would be constructed of hollow terra cotta tile bricks with brick veneer, and limestone columns and trim.[10] The Carnegie Public Library at Sumter was completed in August 1917 and opened its doors on 4 December 1917.[11]

The Sumter Daily Item wrote of the building upon its official opening:

> It is a substantial and attractive building, without ornamentation, its beauty being in the simplicity and symmetry of its architecture. In planning the building, the architects had the benefit of the experience the Carnegie Board has gained in supervising the erection of several thousand

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[4]Florence Anderson, Carnegie Corporation Library Programs (New York: Carnegie Corporation, 1963), pp. 25-86.

[5]"Minutes: City Board of Education, 1894-1915," 2 October 1902, Archives of Sumter School District 17, Sumter, S.C.; Samuel H. Edmunds to Andrew Carnegie, 23 April 1915, Carnegie Corporation Papers, Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University, New York, N.Y. (hereafter cited as Carnegie Papers).

[6]Edmunds to Carnegie, 23 April 1915, Carnegie Papers.

[7]Edmunds to James Bertram, 14 July 1915, Carnegie Papers.

[8]"Minutes, Sumter City Council," 7 October 1915, City Council Offices, Sumter, S.C.

[9]J. Herbert Johnson to Edmunds, 16 January 1916, Carnegie Papers.

[10]Ibid.; "Minutes, City Board of Education," 29 May 1916, Archives of Sumter School District 17, Sumter, S.C.

[11]Report made to City Board of Education and City Council by S.H. Edmunds, 16 September 1917, Sumter Library Papers, Sumter, S.C.; Sumter Daily Item (Sumter, S.C.), 4 December 1917.

libraries, and it is well arranged, as convenient and as well adapted to the purpose for which it was designed as it possibly could be.[12]

The Carnegie Public Library is located on what has been traditionally called Monument Square (the Confederate Monument is located nearby) or Academy Square. Three of Sumter's public schools shared this city block with the library building until they were torn down in the mid-twentieth century. The library was thus located to facilitate easy use by the teachers and students of the public schools. The library faces West Liberty Street, one of the main thoroughfares of the city, and stands two city blocks from the main business corridor of Main Street. It is also conveniently located near the locally-designated Hampton Park Historic District, which was a prominent residential section developed from ca. 1870 into the twentieth century.

The Carnegie Public Library served in its original capacity until a new, larger public library was built in 1968. The Sumter County Museum purchased the library in 1989 with funds raised by a major developmental campaign. The Carnegie Library was renovated in 1993 to serve as the Genealogical and Historical Research Center, an annex of the Sumter County Museum, and houses both the museum archives and the Sumter County Genealogical Society. The library's recent renovation by the museum and its return to use as an educational facility continues the tradition of learning which has taken place in this facility for much of the twentieth century.

[12] Sumter Daily Item, 4 December 1917.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Unpublished Sources

Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University, New York, N.Y.
Carnegie Corporation Papers
Sumter City Council, Sumter, S.C.
City Council Minutes
Genealogical and Historical Research Center, Sumter County Museum, Sumter, S.C.
Sumter Library Papers
Sumter School District 17, Sumter, S.C.
"Minutes: City Board of Education, 1894-1915"

Published Sources

Anderson, Florence. Carnegie Corporation Library Programs. New York: Carnegie Corporation, 1963.

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

Edens, Ruth J. "'A Substantial and Attractive Building': The Carnegie Public Library, Sumter, South Carolina." South Carolina Historical Magazine 94:1 (January 1993).

Hendrick, Burton J., ed. Miscellaneous Writings of Andrew Carnegie, Volume Two. Garden City: Doubleday Doan and Company, 1933.

Sumter Daily Item (Sumter, S.C.), 4 December 1917.

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is shown as the pencil line on the accompanying section of a Sumter County Tax Map, Section 2, Parcel 4, with a scale of 1" = 100'.

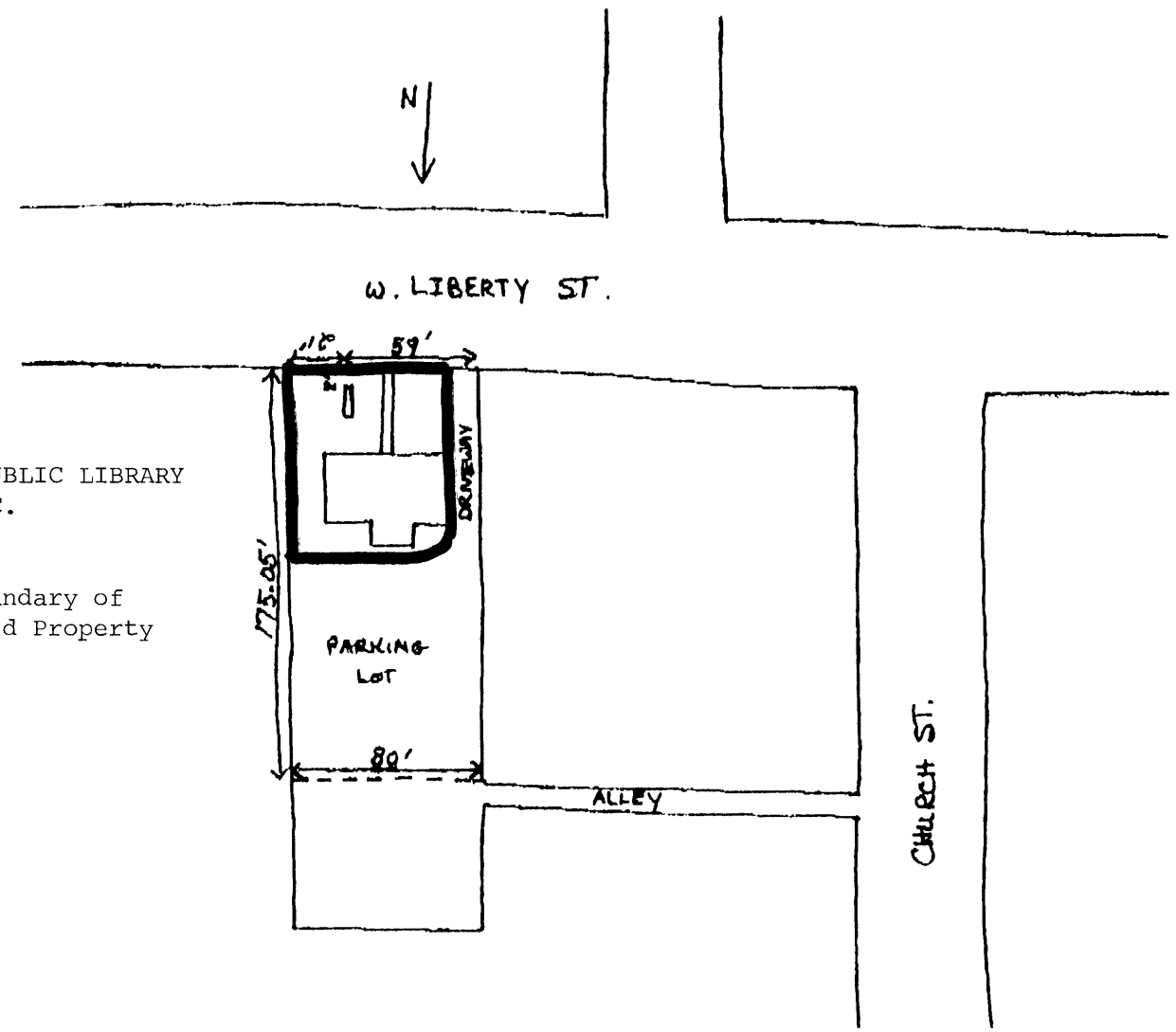
Verbal Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the Carnegie Public Library and its immediate setting.

The following information is the same for each photograph:

Name of Property:	Carnegie Public Library
Location:	Sumter, Sumter County, South Carolina
Name of Photographer:	Katherine H. Richardson Heritage Preservation Associates
Date of Photographs:	February 1994
Location of Original Negatives:	Sumter County Museum, Sumter, S.C.

1. Principal (south) facade, facing north.
2. Rear (north) elevation, facing south.
3. Principal facade and left elevation, facing northeast.
4. Principal facade and right elevation, facing northwest.
5. Detail of interior plaster molding
6. Research Room
7. Detail of foyer
8. Detail of main door, facing north.

CARNEGIE PUBLIC LIBRARY
Sumter, S.C.

Boundary of
Nominated Property