United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form  

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

1. Name  

historic  
Columbus Public (Carnegie) Library  
and or common  
Same  

2. Location  

street & number  
205 N. Kansas  

not for publication  
city, town  
Columbus  

vicinity of  

state  
Kansas  
code 20  
county  
Cherokee  
code 021  

3. Classification  

Category  
district  
X building(s)  
structure  
site  
object  
Ownership  
X public  
private  
both  
Public Acquisition  
N/A in process  
N/A being considered  

Status  
X occupied  
unoccupied  
work in progress  
Accessible  
X yes: restricted  
yes: unrestricted  
no  

Present Use  
agriculture  
commercial  
X educational  
entertainment  
government  
industrial  
military  
museum  
park  
private residence  
religious  
scientific  
transportation  
other:  

4. Owner of Property  

name  
City of Columbus  

street & number  
City Hall  

vicinity of  
state  
Kansas  
city, town  
Columbus  

state  
Kansas  
city, town  
Columbus  

5. Location of Legal Description  

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.  
Cherokee County Clerk  

street & number  
Cherokee County  

city, town  
Columbus  

state  
Kansas  
city, town  
N/A  

6. Representation in Existing Surveys  

title  
N/A  

has this property been determined eligible?  
X no  
date  
N/A  

federal  
state  
county  
local  

depository for survey records  
N/A  

city, town  
N/A  

state
Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Columbus Public (Carnegie) Library (c. 1913) is located at 205 N. Kansas in Columbus, Cherokee County, Kansas (pop. 3,426). The one-story, brick, Neo-Classical building stands on a corner lot two blocks north of Columbus' central business district. Its facade orientation is east. The building measures approximately fifty feet from north to south and thirty feet from east to west. It retains its original function as a library.

The one-story red brick building sits on a limestone block raised foundation. It is a rectangular structure with a pantiled, ridge hipped roof. Three bays comprise the building's facade and rear, it is one bay deep. A one-bay-by-one-bay addition with a pantiled, ridge hipped roof projects from the center bay of the rear elevation (c. 1979). A gable roofed, pedimented entry pavilion projects from the facade's center bay. A chimney projects from the western roof slope of the west elevation.

The projecting entryway pavilion contains a double door surmounted by a large glass transom. The transom panes are comprised of many triangles. The doorway surround is wood. A wide limestone lintel surmounts the doorway. The pediment's wooden classical entablature bears the name "Public Library", this entablature continues around the entire building. The pediment is framed with wood and has a pressed metal tympanum. Stone steps lead up to the doorway. Cast iron lightposts with milk glass bowls stand on the limestone abutments which flank the door.

The building's first level fenestration on the facade, north, and south elevations is comprised of transomed, 1/1 double hung windows surmounted by wide limestone lintels and underscored by limestone sills. Triangular panes light the transoms. Two windows pierce each facade bay and three windows pierce each elevation. Pairs of small windows with triangular panes which share a common limestone lintel that overhangs their width and are underscored by limestone sills fenestrate the outer bays of the rear elevation. Pairs of smaller transomed 1/1 double hung windows fenestrate the north and south elevation of the addition. One-over-one double hung windows pierce the foundation below the first level windows.

The interior of the library maintains its three-bay floor plan and vestibule entrance with a basement stairway. The first floor ceiling has been covered with dropped acoustic tiles. The interior woodwork, such as the door and window surrounds, remains.
8. Significance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Areas of Significance—Check and justify below</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>1400-1499</td>
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<td>1500-1599</td>
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<td>commerce</td>
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Specific dates: c. 1913

Builder/Architect: George P. Washburn and Son - Architect
L.C. Coxey - Builder

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Columbus Public (Carnegie) Library (c. 1913) is being nominated to the National Register as part of the Carnegie Libraries of Kansas thematic resources nomination (c. 1902-1921) at the local level of significance under criteria A and C for its historical association with the Carnegie Corporation Library Building Program and for its architectural significance as a new building type. A library association was organized in Columbus in 1904. The community received their $10,000.00 Carnegie Library grant in 1912, library construction was completed in 1913. The Columbus Public (Carnegie) Library is an example of the Neo-Classical style.

Sixty-three Carnegie funded libraries were built in Kansas during the first three decades of the Twentieth Century; four of these libraries were built on college campuses. In most cases, the Carnegie funded library represented the community's first library building although many Kansas communities had book clubs and library organizations well before the Carnegie Corporation Library Building Program was founded. In the case of the four college libraries, the building represented the first structure which was solely devoted to housing the institution's books and providing study space. Carnegie did not solicit interest in the program, with the exception of the Anderson (Carnegie) Memorial Library which was built by Carnegie as a memorial to his friend John Anderson and was the first college library nationally to receive Carnegie funding. Communities initiated contact with the corporation by letter, indicating their desire for a Carnegie funded library. If the Corporation responded favorably to the request, a firm local commitment to the program's requirements, which generally resulted in a public election in support of the library, followed. Obviously these actions represented a perceived need within the community for a library building and the Carnegie Corporation Library Building Program represented an excellent way to secure the funds to build one. Many of the Carnegie Libraries built in Kansas reflect the high space utilization design guidelines promoted by the Carnegie Corporation after 1910, underscoring the point that before the Carnegie Corporation Library Building Program, few architects and/or builders had experience designing this building type.

Twenty-eight Carnegie Libraries are included in this nomination (see inventory). Twelve Carnegie Libraries have been listed individually on the National Register: Argentine, Case Library (Baker University, Baldwin City), Caldwell, Dodge City, Emporia, Goodland, Lawrence, Leavenworth, Newton, Ottawa, Parsons, and Pittsburg. The Carnegie Library at Arkansas City is included in a downtown historic district. Thirteen Carnegie Libraries have been demolished: Great Bend, Halstead, Hays, Iola, Kansas City, McPherson, Morrison Library (Fairmont College, Wichita), Olath, Osawatomie, Plainville, Russell, Salina, and Washington. Five Carnegie Libraries have been altered enough to make them ineligible for the National Register: Abilene, Garden City, Hiawatha, Lyons, and Stockton. (The nominations for the Concordia, Eureka, Independence, and Winfield libraries were deferred.) Twenty-two of the nominated libraries retain their original function. All of the buildings are in use or have an active use planned for them. The
nominated libraries maintain a high to moderate degree of architectural and structural integrity.

Industrialist Andrew Carnegie (1835–1919) and the Carnegie Corporation significantly influenced the development and expansion of public library systems worldwide. Between 1886 and 1921 Carnegie funds assisted in the construction of 1,681 city and 108 college libraries in the United States. As a region, the Mid-West, Kansas included, did not have a well established public library system until the Carnegie Program and ranks highest in the number of communities which obtained Carnegie Libraries nationwide. Out of the forty-six states to participate in the library building program, Kansas ranks approximately eleventh in the number of Carnegie Libraries built. For many Kansas communities, the Carnegie Library represented its first library building, providing an environment that all members of the community could share for the purposes of reading, learning, and education.

Eligibility for Carnegie Library funds rested on several factors. Firstly, the population of the community had to exceed 1,000; in Kansas this indicated at least a second class city status. This population requirement generally resulted in county seat communities applying for and receiving Carnegie Libraries. Some communities with populations less than 1,000 banded together with neighboring communities to achieve the 1,000 mark and applied for township libraries, as in the case of the Peabody and Canton Township libraries. In the case of college libraries this constraint may not have applied, although the four Kansas colleges to receive Carnegie Libraries were located in cities which had populations in excess of 1,000 by 1900. Secondly, the applicant had to provide a site for the library. The sites tended to be one or two blocks outside of the community’s main business district. Thirdly, the applicant had to provide an annual endowment for the maintenance and improvement of the library which amounted to at least ten percent of the initial grant from the Carnegie Corporation.

This last factor contributed to the ending of the Carnegie Library Building Program in 1917, although grants for books and other improvements continued for several more decades. An inherent problem for second class cities in Kansas was the .4 mill levy restriction for libraries, making it difficult for some communities to meet the annual ten percent maintenance appropriation solely through public dollars. In 1917 the Kansas State legislature increased the library levy to .5 mill for second and third class cities, an amendment which affected most of the communities in the State that had Carnegie Libraries. In 1916, large communities such as Topeka, Wichita, Hutchinson, and Leavenworth had library mill levies of 1.06, 1.2, 1.8, and 3.5 respectively. In Kansas, the average public library grant was $12,000 and the average college library grant was $37,000. These monies covered the cost of the building, the necessary furniture and fixtures, and the architects' fees.

Prior to 1910, the Carnegie Corporation did not provide design guidelines for the libraries that it funded and because the library was a relatively new building type, few architects and/or builders had experience with its design. Many of the early libraries were expensive examples of the Beaux Arts style with little focus on floor plan and space
efficiency. In 1910, Carnegie's personal secretary James Bertram developed model specifications and floorplans for proposed libraries, entitling his work *Notes on Library Buildings*. The *Notes on Library Buildings* provided the first widely circulated guidelines for library design in this country.

Bertram wrote:

Small libraries should be planned (sic) so that one librarian can oversee the entire library from a central position.... The biding (sic) should be devoted exclusively to: (main floor) housing of books and their issue for home use; comfortable accommodations for reading them by adults and children; (basement) lecture room; necessary accommodation for heating plant; also all conveniences for the library patrons and staff. Experience seems to show (sic) that the best results for a small general library are obtained by adopting the one-story and basement rectangular type of biding (sic), with a small vestibule entering into one large room sub-divided as required by means of bookcases.... The rear and side windows may be kept about six feet from the floor, to giv (sic) continuous wall space for shelving. A rear wing can be added for stack-room (when future need demands it) at a minimum expense, and without seriously interfering with the library servis (sic) during its construction. The site chosen should be such as to admit lite (sic) on all sides, and be large enuf (sic) to allow extension, if ever such should become necessary.

The thirty-six Carnegie Libraries built in Kansas after 1910 reflect Bertram's precedents, exhibiting high space utilization, and often including full basements, although the raised basement is a design element employed in the earlier libraries as well. Most of these one-story libraries exhibit a three bay, Neo-Classical facade with a projecting central pedimented entry pavilion and are one bay deep. The use of native limestone is evident in some of the libraries but the most common material combination is brick with a limestone foundation. While there is some tendency toward a vernacular interpretation to the design ornamentation of these libraries, the general approach verges on high style.

Correspondence between the Carnegie Corporation and the library boards from the Kansas communities that received Carnegie Libraries indicates that the designs for these libraries were carefully scrutinized by Bertram and in many cases, were resubmitted several times before meeting his requirements. Upon the completion of a library, the library board was instructed to send a full set of blueprints and elevations of the building to the Corporation. However, recent correspondence between the Kansas State Historical Society and the Carnegie Corporation reveals that the Corporation does not have blueprints of the Kansas libraries. The Corporation does have some library photographs but the collection is not inclusive.
Three architects were particularly active in the design of Kansas Carnegie Libraries: George P. Washburn of Ottawa, Kansas designed nine, A. T. Simmons of Bloomington, Illinois designed six, and William Warren Rose of Kansas City, Kansas designed four. Washburn's libraries are primarily of the standard three-bay, Neo-Classical variety. His firm is credited with the Carnegie libraries in Burlington, Canton, Cherryvale, Columbus, Eureka, Halstead, Osawatomie, Ottawa, and Sterling. Simmons engaged in a more eclectic approach, designing libraries in Abilene, Chanute, Council Grove, Downs, Hays and Yates Center. Rose is credited with the classically inspired libraries in Argentine, Kansas City, Manhattan, and Newton. In Kansas, many Kansas based architects were commissioned to design Carnegie Libraries as well as architects from Illinois, Missouri, Nebraska, and Texas.

Today, many of the state's Carnegie Libraries are facing serious space shortages. The alternatives of adding on or vacating both present preservation problems. Additions to these libraries must be such that the building's original character is not altered. Vacating the library for a larger facility leaves the problem of an empty building, in some communities county historical societies have inherited the empty Carnegie Library. In any event, when these buildings are no longer recognized from a design standpoint as Carnegie Libraries, their architectural significance ceases.
# Inventory of Carnegie Libraries in Kansas

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<tr>
<th>SITE</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>INVENTORY NUMBER</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Anthony Public (Carnegie) Library (Harper County) c. 1911</td>
<td></td>
<td>77-0180-0003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>104 N. Springfield</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anthony, Kansas 67003</td>
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<tr>
<td>Owner: City of Anthony</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lots 22,23,24; Block 34</td>
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<td>2. Burlington Carnegie Free Library (Coffey County) c. 1912</td>
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<td>201 N. Third</td>
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<tr>
<td>Burlington, Kansas 66839</td>
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<td>Owner: City of Burlington</td>
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<td>3. Canton Township Carnegie Library (McPherson County) c. 1921</td>
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<td>113-0790-0001</td>
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<td>Box 336</td>
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<tr>
<td>Canton, Kansas 67428</td>
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<td>Owner: Canton Township</td>
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<td>4. Chanute Public (Carnegie) Library (Neosho County) c. 1906</td>
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<td>Chanute, Kansas 66720</td>
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<td>5. Cherryvale Public (Carnegie) Library (Montgomery County) c. 1913</td>
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<td>(Montgomery County)</td>
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<td>329 E. Main</td>
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<td>Cherryvale, Kansas 67335</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lots 7,8; Block 39</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. Clay Center Carnegie Library (Clay County) c. 1912</td>
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<td>27-0980-0008</td>
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<td>706 Sixth Street</td>
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<td>Clay Center, Kansas 67432</td>
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<td>Year</td>
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<tr>
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<td>7.</td>
<td>Coffeyville Carnegie Public Library Building (Montgomery County)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>415 West 8th</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Coffeyville, Kansas 67337</td>
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<td>Columbus Public (Carnegie) Library (Cherokee County)</td>
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<td>9.</td>
<td>Council Grove (Carnegie) Library (Morris County)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>303 W. Main Street</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Council Grove, Kansas 66846</td>
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<td>504 S. Morgan</td>
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<td>Downs, Kansas 67437</td>
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<td>Owner: City of Downs</td>
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<td>11.</td>
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<td>101 S. Star</td>
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<td>El Dorado, Kansas 67042</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Owner: Dean Seeber</td>
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<td>N 4' Lot 3, Lot 4; Block 4.</td>
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<td>12.</td>
<td>Anderson (Carnegie) Memorial Library (Lyon County)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Way College of Emporia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1300 West 12th Avenue</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Emporia, Kansas 66801</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Owner: Way College of Emporia</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Located on the Way College of Emporia campus.</td>
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<td>SW, NE1/4, Sec. 9, T19, R11, E. of the 6th p.m., running thence E. 76 rods, thence N. 80 rods, thence W. 76 rods, thence S 80 rods to the</td>
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Anderson (Carnegie) Memorial Library (Lyon County) cont.

place of beg., except a tract beg. at the S,SW1/4
Sec. 9, thence N. 670 ft., thence E. 540 ft., thence
S. 250 ft., thence W. 374 ft., thence S. 420 ft.,
thence W. 166 ft. to the point of beg. in Lyon Co., KS
and Lots Numbered 61,63,65,67,71, and the N. 30 ft. of
Lot F all in Block numbered 3, in College Hill Addition
to the City of Emporia.

13. Fort Scott Public (Carnegie) Library (Bourbon County) c. 1902 11-1830-0016
201 South National
Fort Scott, Kansas 66701
Owner: City of Fort Scott
Lots 1,(N1/2) 3; Block 123

14. Girard Carnegie Library (Crawford County) c. 1906 37-2050-0003
128 W. Prairie
Girard, Kansas 66743
Owner: City of Girard
Lots 17,18; Block 14.

15. Herington Carnegie Public Library (Dickinson County) c. 1915 41-2420-0006
102 S. Broadway
Herington, Kansas 67449
Owner: City of Herington
Lots 2,4; Block 40.

16. Hutchinson Public (Carnegie) Library Building—
Labor Temple (Reno County) c. 1903–1904 155-2660-0011
427 N. Main
Hutchinson, Kansas 67501
Owner: Hutchinson Labor Building Association
Lots 13,14,15; Block 17.

17. Kingman Carnegie Library (Kingman County) c. 1914 95-2850-0006
455 N. Main
Kingman, Kansas 67068
Owner: City of Kingman
Lots 101,103,105; Original Town.
18. Lincoln Carnegie Library (Lincoln County)  
203 S. Third  
Lincoln, Kansas 67455  
Owner: City of Lincoln  
Lot 7; Block 32.  

c. 1914  
105-3189-005

19. Lyndon Carnegie Library (Osage County)  
127 E. Sixth, P.O. Box 563  
Lyndon, Kansas 66451  
Owner: Valleybrook Township  
Lots 4-9; Block 22.  

c. 1911  
139-3360-0003

20. Manhattan Carnegie Library Building (Riley County)  
Fifth and Poyntz  
Manhattan, Kansas 66502  
Owner: Riley County Board of Commissioners  
Lot 413; Ward 2.  

c. 1904  
161-3490-0016

21. Osborne Public (Carnegie) Library (Osborne County)  
Third and Main  
Osborne, Kansas 67473  
Owner: City of Osborne  
All of Block 12.  

c. 1913  
141-4230-0006

22. Oswego Public (Carnegie) Library (Labette County)  
704 Fourth Street  
Oswego, Kansas 67356  
Owner: City of Oswego  
Lots 1,2,3,4; Block 32.  

c. 1912  
99-4250-0010

23. Peabody Township Carnegie Library (Marion County)  
214 Walnut  
Peabody, Kansas 66866  
Owner: Peabody Township  
Lots 80,82,84 on Walnut.  

c. 1914  
115-4410-0024

24. Sterling Free Public (Carnegie) Library (Rice County)  
132 N. Broadway  
Sterling, Kansas 67579  
Owner: City of Sterling  
Lots 182,184,186,188 on Broadway.  

c. 1917  
159-5225-0006
25. Washburn University Carnegie Library Building (Shawnee County) (Education Building) Topeka, Kansas 66621 Owner: Washburn University of Topeka SW1/4, NW 1/4, NE 1/4, SW1/4, S1,T12, R15E c. 1904 177-5400-0017

26. Wellington Carnegie Library (Sumner County) 121 W. Seventh Wellington, Kansas 67152 Owner: City of Wellington Lots 13,14,15,16,17; Block 53. c. 1916 191-5730-0042


28. Yates Center (Carnegie) Library (Woodson County) 218 N. Main Yates Center, Kansas 66783 Owner: City of Yates Center Lots 4,5,6; Block 27. c. 1912 207-6010-0007
9. Major Bibliographic Reference

See attached sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property: Less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name: Columbus

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

UTM References

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Verbal boundary description and justification: The nominated property sits on Lots 9, 10; Block 9 in Columbus, Kansas. This is a rectangular tract bounded to the east by North Kansas, to the south by Walnut, and by adjacent property lines to the west and north.

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

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<th>state</th>
<th>code</th>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Martha Gray Hagedorn, Architectural Historian

organization: Kansas State Historical Society

date: April 2, 1987

street & number: 120 West 10th

telephone: 913-296-5264

city or town: Topeka

state: Kansas

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: [Signature]

title: Executive Director, Kansas State Historical Society
date: April 2, 1987

For NPS use only
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: [Signature]
date

Chief of Registration
Carnegie Library Bibliography:


Topeka *Capital Journal,* 20 December 1916; 26 December 1916.
Columbus Carnegie Library
Columbus, Kansas
c. 1914
Kansas State Historical Society
East Facade, South elevation, NW view
1 of 6

Columbus Carnegie Library
Columbus, Kansas
Martha Hagedorn
April, 1986
Kansas State Historical Society
East Facade, South elevation, NW view
2 of 6

Columbus Carnegie Library
Columbus, Kansas
Martha Hagedorn
April, 1986
Kansas State Historical Society
East Facade, West view
3 of 6
Columbus Carnegie Library
Columbus, Kansas
Martha Hagedorn
April, 1986
Kansas State Historical Society
North elevation, South view
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