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 Clay Center Carnegie Library  
and or common Same  

2. Location  

street & number 706 Sixth Street  

3. Classification  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Ownership</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Present Use</th>
<th>state</th>
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<tr>
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<td>___ work in progress</td>
<td>___ educational</td>
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<td>site</td>
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<td>___ yes: unrestricted</td>
<td>___ industrial</td>
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</table>

4. Owner of Property  

name City of Clay Center  
street & number City Hall  

5. Location of Legal Description  

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Clay County Clerk  
street & number Clay County Courthouse  

6. Representation in Existing Surveys  

title N/A  

| has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes X no |
| date N/A |
| federal ___ state ___ county ___ local |

| depository for survey records N/A |

| city, town N/A |
| state N/A |
7. Description

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Clay Center Carnegie Library (c. 1912) is located at 706 Sixth Street in Clay Center, Clay County, Kansas (pop. 4,948). The two-story, brick Neo-Classical building stands on a corner lot around the town square. Its facade orientation is west. The building measures approximately sixty-eight feet from north to south and forty-one feet from east to west. It retains its original function as a library.

The two-story, grey brick building sits on a rusticated limestone block raised foundation. It is a rectangular structure with a low roof hidden by a parapet. Three bays comprise the building's facade and rear, it is one bay deep. A parapeted entry pavilion projects from the facade's center bay. The rear elevation's center bay projects slightly, a chimney rises from it. A fire escape leads from the second level of the rear projection to the ground. Glass box ground level shelter entrances project from the rear elevation's south bay and the facade's northern bay.

The projecting entryway pavilion is supported by brick pillars with Doric limestone capitals and Ionic limestone columns in antis. The pediment's limestone frieze bears the name "Carnegie Library". A carved wreath underscored with a garland flanks the name on each side. A transomed doorway with replacement double doors pierces the pavilion's first level. It is surmounted by a limestone lintel with a center cartouche. Floor length double windows sharing a limestone shouldered architrave pierce the pavilion's second level. A limestone balcony projects from the columns at this level, it has an iron railing. The building has a multiply-moulded limestone entablature and concludes with a brick parapet wall. Stone steps lead up to the doorway, flanked by brick and limestone abutments.

Transomed, 1/1 double hung windows comprise the building's fenestration on the facade, north and south elevations. Brick lintels with limestone keystones surmount these windows, they are underscored by limestone sills. Pairs of 1/1 double hung windows surmounted by limestone shouldered lintels and underscored by limestone sills form the second level fenestration on the facade, north and south elevations. The rear elevation fenestration is 1/1 double hung with no distinguishing characteristics. The foundation windows which stand beneath many of the first level windows are 1/1 double hung. The building's original window frames have been replaced.

The interior of the library maintains its original floorplan on all levels. In 1967 and 1979 the library was remodelled. Dropped acoustic tiles cover some of the coffered ceiling on the first level. The building maintains its vestibule entrance with a staircase. Additionally, there is a basement staircase in the rear of the building. Most of the interior woodwork, such as the door and window surrounds, front stair, and pillars, remains, although there has been some alteration on the first floor. Leaded glass windows remain in the interior vestibule wall.
The Clay Center Carnegie Library (c. 1912) 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 Clay Center in 1887. The community received their $10,000.00 Carnegie Library grant in 1909, library construction was completed in 1912. The Clay Center 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), Olathe, Oawatomie, 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 building (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 building (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 give (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 services (sic) during its construction. The site chosen should be such as to admit light (sic) on all sides, and be large enough (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.
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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>
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<th>INVENTORY NUMBER</th>
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<td>1. Anthony Public (Carnegie) Library (Harper County)</td>
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<td>77-0180-0003</td>
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<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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<td>2. Burlington Carnegie Free Library (Coffey County)</td>
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<td>Burlington, Kansas 66839</td>
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<td>3. Canton Township Carnegie Library (McPherson County)</td>
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<td>Canton, Kansas 67428</td>
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7. Coffeyville Carnegie Public Library Building (Montgomery County)  
   415 West 8th  
   Coffeyville, Kansas 67337  
   Owner: City of Coffeyville  
   Lots 7,8; Block 47.  
   c. 1912  
   125-2670-0019

8. Columbus Public (Carnegie) Library (Cherokee County)  
   205 N. Kansas  
   Columbus, Kansas 66725  
   Owner: City of Columbus  
   Lots 9,10; Block 9.  
   c. 1913  
   21-1100-0008

9. Council Grove (Carnegie) Library (Morris County)  
   303 W. Main Street  
   Council Grove, Kansas 66846  
   Owner: City of Council Grove  
   Lots 1,2,3; Block 19.  
   c. 1917  
   127-1180-0074

10. Downs Carnegie Library (Osborne County)  
    504 S. Morgan  
    Downs, Kansas 67437  
    Owner: City of Downs  
    Lots 8-12; Block 28.  
    c. 1906  
    141-1400-0002

11. El Dorado Carnegie Library Building (Butler County)  
    101 S. Star  
    El Dorado, Kansas 67042  
    Owner: Dean Seeber  
    N 4' Lot 3, Lot 4; Block 4.  
    c. 1912  
    15-1540-0004

12. Anderson (Carnegie) Memorial Library (Lyon County)  
    The Way College of Emporia  
    1300 West 12th Avenue  
    Emporia, Kansas 66801  
    Owner: Way College of Emporia  
    Located on the Way College of Emporia campus. 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
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 191-5730-0012


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 Bibliographical Reference

See attached sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property: Less than 1 acre
Quadrangle name: Clay Center
Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

UTM References

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<tr>
<td>G</td>
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</table>

Verbal boundary description and justification: The nominated property sits on Lots 12, 13; Block 36 in Clay Center, Kansas. This is a rectangular tract bounded by Sixth to the west, Lincoln to the south, and adjacent property lines to the north and east.

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

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<th>N/A</th>
<th>county</th>
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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 Street
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:
Chief of Registration
Carnegie Library Bibliography:


Topeka *Capital Journal,* 20 December 1916; 26 December 1916.