1. NAME
   HISTORIC
   (Old) Emporia Public Library
   AND/OR COMMON

2. LOCATION
   STREET & NUMBER
   118 East Sixth Street
   CITY, TOWN
   Emporia
   VICINITY OF
   No. 5 Bob Whittaker
   STATE
   Kansas
   CODE
   20
   COUNTY
   Lyon
   CODE
   111

3. CLASSIFICATION
   CATEGORY
   DISTRICT
   BUILDING(S)
   STRUCTURE
   SITE
   OBJECT
   OWNERSHIP
   PUBLIC
   PRIVATE
   BOTH
   PUBLIC ACQUISITION
   IN PROCESS
   BEING CONSIDERED
   STATUS
   OCCUPIED
   UNOCCUPIED
   WORK IN PROGRESS
   ACCESSIBLE
   YES: RESTRICTED
   YES: UNRESTRICTED
   NO
   PRESENT USE
   AGRICULTURE
   COMMERICAL
   PARK
   EDUCATIONAL
   PRIVATE RESIDENCE
   ENTERTAINMENT
   RELIGIOUS
   GOVERNMENT
   SCIENTIFIC
   INDUSTRIAL
   TRANSPORTATION
   OTHER

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY
   NAME
   City of Emporia
   STREET & NUMBER
   522 Mechanic
   CITY, TOWN
   Emporia
   VICINITY OF
   STATE
   Kansas
   66801

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
   COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC
   Register of Deeds
   STREET & NUMBER
   Lyon County Courthouse
   CITY, TOWN
   Emporia
   VICINITY OF
   STATE
   Kansas
   66801

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
   TITLE
   Historic Sites Survey
   DATE
   1971
   DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
   Kansas State Historical Society
   CITY, TOWN
   Topeka
   STATE
   Kansas
   66612
The old Emporia Public Library is a one-and-a-half-story building, rectangular in plan and constructed of brick on a raised stone foundation. It is located on the northwest corner of Sixth and Market streets. The main roof is hipped with lower gable extensions on the east and west. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles.

The asymmetrical south facade and the east and west end walls are topped by stepped parapets that mask the lower roof line. There is an end chimney on the east. The parapet is continuous except for a section above the main entrance. Bay windows on both sides of the doorway are surmounted by battlements.

The basement walls and entrance steps are made of rock-faced stone. A water table rests atop the stone foundation. A narrow, projecting belt course defines the top of the first story and stone trim also caps the gable and parapet walls. Door and window openings have stone surrounds.

On the south the double wooden entrance doors and stone portal form a miter arch opening. There is a terra cotta wall ornament above the entrance in the gable, which is also crowned by a finial. Windows are grouped in banks of five on the first floor and in banks of three in the gable ends. Some of the windows are made of leaded, beveled glass.

The interior plan of the library's main floor is unaltered. The original oak woodwork is also intact.

ALTERATIONS

Alterations to the old Emporia Public Library have been minor. An outside stairway has been enclosed and a handicapped access ramp constructed in the rear. This work was done in 1980.

Inside the building on the main floor, a cork tile floor was laid in 1937 to reduce noise. Beginning in 1959, some unused basement rooms were finished to provide a children's room and an office. Closets were also remodeled for a bathroom.

Since the building has become the Lyon County Museum, the interior woodwork has been stripped and refinished. Two original fireplaces, which had been covered, were uncovered and reconstructed.
"After her schools and churches, a town's best investment is her library..." concluded the Emporia Gazette when the town's new library building, financed by a grant from the Carnegie Corporation, was formally dedicated February 22, 1906. The building, designed by one of the leading architectural firms in the region, Van Brunt and Howe of Kansas City, is associated with a period of national enthusiasm for public libraries which was stimulated by Andrew Carnegie's philanthropy.

### Chronology

Although there was a library association formed in Emporia as early as December, 1889, it was the third such organization, established by a city ordinance in December, 1884, which has continued in operation to the present. Since 1884 a free library has been supported by a portion of city tax revenues.

In 1901 Mrs. Amanda Wicks, a former librarian, proposed that the city apply to Andrew Carnegie for a building grant. The library was housed in the Masonic Building at the time. During the summer Mrs. Wicks had visited a friend in Detroit. The two librarians discussed Detroit's new public library which had been donated by the Carnegie Corporation. After returning to Emporia, Mrs. Wicks urged the mayor and city council to ask for a building for the city. Along with the official request, she sent a personal letter of support.

The Emporia Republican announced May 1, 1902, that a $20,000 gift had been offered from the Carnegie Corporation. The city had to agree to provide at least 10% of the grant annually for maintenance of the proposed building. A few days later, the city council voted unanimously to accept the donation with its stipulations. In addition to yearly maintenance costs, the city had to provide an adequate building site.

In Emporia this provision led to a controversy that lasted a year. On July 1, 1902, Mrs. Carrie S. Plumb, widow of one of the founders of the town of Emporia, offered two lots on the corner of Market and Sixth Avenue for a building site. This was accepted July 7 by the city council. Later in the month, the mayor vetoed an ordinance accepting the site. An attempt to pass the ordinance over his veto failed. On November 17, 1902, the mayor cast a tie-breaking vote in favor of a site on the corner of Fifth Avenue and Constitution Street. A building committee was appointed December 1, 1902, but supporters of the original site brought suit to force the council to honor its first decision. The district court judge agreed that the city was bound to accept the lots on Market Street and
so the council voted January 17, 1903, to use that site for the proposed Carnegie Library.

Van Brunt and Howe, a prominent Kansas City architectural firm, designed the building. The Emporia city council accepted the completed building from the Morse Construction Company October 16, 1905. An additional $2,000 was required to finish the library so the Carnegie Corporation gift eventually amounted to $22,000.

A gala public opening was held February 22, 1906. As the Emporia Gazette reported, the librarian and assistant, the mayor and former mayors, councilmen, and members of the building and library committees gathered to receive the public "in the building which has given the town more to talk about than any event, person, or thing in the past five years."

The main floor of the new building had an office, desk room, reading room, newspaper room, children's room, bound periodical room, stacks and a central lobby. There was a furnace room, fireproof vault, and storage space in the basement. The building was steam heated and had electric lights. After describing the oak floors and woodwork, the Emporia Gazette concluded that "the beauty of the interior will grow on people as they become used to it."

Even though the library served the community for many years after 1906, the building was not large enough to accommodate growth. A branch library was opened in the Grace Methodist Church in May, 1917 and another in the Mary Herbert School in 1930.

By 1958 the library board of directors desired a new facility, but they decided to remodel the basement of the original building instead. In 1979, however, a new library was built west of the old Carnegie library. The building now houses the Lyon County Historical Museum.

The old Emporia Public Library was one of the buildings constructed during the most active period of the Carnegie Corporation's philanthropic program. A few libraries were donated in the years from 1886 to 1896. There was a considerable increase in gifts from 1896 to a peak in 1903. The level of building activity then declined until all building was ended by a resolution of the Corporation trustees in 1919.
The Emporia library was built before the Corporation attempted to control the general plan of new facilities. From 1908 until 1919, James Bertram, who supervised the program, requested that local plans be submitted for approval. He wanted to prevent the use of Carnegie funds for buildings designed with expensive exteriors and insufficient, uneconomical interiors.

No particular architectural style was specified for the design of Carnegie libraries. Many of those built in Kansas, however, had monumental entrances, often with classical features. The Emporia building expressed a relatively uncommon theme for Kansas but one that was associated with education and learning.

The main facade of the library is asymmetrical. Two bays, surmounted by crenellated parapets, flank the main entrance to the west and a bank of windows light the main reading room to the east. The main doors in the form of a miter arch, the battlements, and the stepped gable edges are references to English architecture of the 16th and 17th centuries. Henry Russell Hitchcock described the use of these elements as the "Jacobethan Revival." Architectural historian Marcus Whiffen has commented that "although most Jacobethan designs may have been for houses, it was on educational architecture that the style had its greatest impact proportionally." This association may have led Van Brunt and Howe to choose this style for the Emporia Library.

Van Brunt and Howe worked in Boston for many years before C. F. Adams, president of the Union Pacific Railroad, asked Van Brunt in 1884 to design several railroad stations in the West. One year later Van Brunt, one of the leaders in American architecture during the second half of the nineteenth century, sent Frank Howe to open an office in Kansas City. Van Brunt followed and moved his family from Boston in 1887. Their partnership became the leading firm in the region according to William Coles. Their new work in the West was primarily concerned with commerce and industry. Van Brunt himself died in 1903, the year that the Emporia Public Library was designed.

"THIS STATEMENT REFLECTS CURRENT KNOWLEDGE AND MAY BE SUBJECT TO FUTURE AMENDMENT."


"Library Birth Caused City Hall Dispute," Emporia Gazette, April 17, 1967.

"Library for Emporia," Emporia Republican, May 1, 1902.


"Settled the Library Row," Emporia Gazette, January 17, 1903.

"The Library Accepted," Emporia Gazette, October 17, 1905.

Books


MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Articles

"Accepts the Offer," Emporia Republican, May 6, 1902.

"Emporia Public Library is 75 Years Old Today," Emporia Gazette, December 14, 1944.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one USGS Quadrangle Map Emporia

UTM REFERENCES

ZONE EASTING NORTHING
A 1 5 7 4 6 5 0 4 2 5 4 3 6 0
B
C
D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 87 and 89, Market Street, City of Emporia.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>CODE</th>
<th>COUNTY</th>
<th>CODE</th>
</tr>
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</table>

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Dale Nimz, Program Assistant
Julie Wortman, Architectural Historian; Nora Pat Small, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION Kansas State Historical Society

STREET & NUMBER 120 West 10th

CITY OR TOWN Topeka

DATE 8-14-81

TELEPHONE 913 296-3251

STATE Kansas

CODE 66612

HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICIAL CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ___ STATE ___ LOCAL X

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 Ex. Director, Ks. State Historical Society

DATE 9-8-81

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER