

# Register of Historic Kansas Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating individual properties and districts. The format is similar to the National Register of Historic Places form. 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 an 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. Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

## 1. Name of Property

Historic name Paola Free Library  
Other name/site number Paola Free Library; 121-4320-0002

## 2. Location

Street & number 101 East Peoria Street  not for publication  
City or town Paola  vicinity  
State Kansas Code Ks County Miami Code 121 Zip code 66071

## 3.,4. Certification

I hereby certify that this property is listed in the Register of Historic Kansas Places.  
Patrick Zollner 8/21/08  
Patrick Zollner, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer Date

## 5. Classification

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

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

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
<u>1</u>		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**

N/A

## 6. Function or Use

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter Categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/ Library

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/ Library

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN/ Romanesque

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation: STONE/ Limestone  
Walls: BRICK

Roof: ASPHALT SHINGLE & RUBBER MEMBRANE

Other:

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable Criteria**

(Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for the State Register)

- 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.
- 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 likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or 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

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

**Period of Significance**

1906

**Significant Dates**

1906

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Washburn, George P. (architect)

Fordyce Bros. (builder)

**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 #KS-52
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Kansas State Historical Society

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreege of Property** Less than one acre

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1   5	3   3   6   5   3   5	4   2   0   7   7   7   0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			
3			
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 Sarah C. Hammontree  
Organization Treanor Architects P.A. Date 4-15-2008  
Street & number 1715 SW Topeka Blvd. Telephone 785-235-0012  
City or town Topeka State KS Zip code 66612

**Property Owner**

Name Jay Wieland, Paola City Manager, City of Paola  
Street & number 19 E. Peoria Street Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
City or town Paola State KS Zip code 66071

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Paola Free Library  
Paola, Miami, Kansas

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**NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION**

The Paola Free Library is located at 101 East Peoria Street, in Paola, Miami County, Kansas. It is a two-story stone and brick building with a distinctive northeast tower accenting its entrance. The library was constructed from 1905-1906, and was designed by prominent Kansas architect George P. Washburn. The Paola Free Library can be categorized within the Richardson Romanesque architectural style, which the building's architect, George P. Washburn, frequently utilized. The overall shape (excluding the 1985 east addition) is rectangular with a round tower on the northeast corner. The entrance of the building is oriented to the north and the overall dimensions of the structure (excluding the east addition) are 32' by 70'. The building materials are primarily St. Louis grey bricks laid in a common bond with every sixth course recessed by a half inch. Slightly darker bricks have been placed around the building corners and fenestrations to give the illusion of coining. The base of the building is rusticated limestone blocks that are battered to give the base a sound, fortified appearance. The same limestone has been used to accent the north entrance by way of a Romanesque arch held up by squatted granite columns, which is seen frequently in the Richardson Romanesque architectural style.

The windows of the building are double hung and single paned with the upper stories decorated with limestone lintels and sills. The gabled space of the west façade displays an arched opening trimmed in limestone, which used to have a window similar to a fan light, but is now used for ventilation purposes. The north façade is broken up into two parts, the entrance and the northeast tower. The entrance, which is recessed behind an arched portal, has original double doors flanked by beveled windows on each side and a stained-glass transom window that says: Paola Free Library. The northeast tower has four double-hung, single-paned windows that follow the curve of the tower wall. It is hard to determine much about the original windows on the east side of the building, due to a 1985 addition that runs the entire length of the building. (When inside, one could assume that there were six windows which have since turned into access points to enter the new addition, [three on each level]).

The roof of the library is crossed gabled with the front being hipped as to not intrude with the conical roof over the northeast tower. The original roofing material was terra cotta tiles, but has since been replaced with asphalt shingles. The eaves of the roofline are held up with decorated brackets grouped in sets of three at each corner, while equally spaced brackets adorn the tower and west gabled end. There are two chimneys, one that serves two fireplaces on the east side of the building and the other, which is located on the south end. The north tower's conical roof is flared at the ends and topped off with a decorative metal finial.

The library floor plan is a split level with half or less of the basement above grade. The entrance to the library leads into a vestibule between the first and basement floor levels. There are three main paths of direction. To the east is a space that use to be a set of stairs leading down into the lady's lounge, but has since been closed off and turned into a small space that holds information on upcoming events. Straight ahead, and up five stairs, is the main library room, and to the west is a formal stair leading into the basement. There is an attic space that can be accessed directly to the west of the entrance of the northeast tower room.

The main room of the library is a grand space divided by four large wood columns running north to south. To the south of the space are the bookshelves, and to the west, the administrative desks and office. The view to the east showcases the main, highly ornate fireplace, which displays a plaque

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Paola Free Library  
Paola, Miami, Kansas

honoring the library's beneficiaries. The walls are plaster which curve at the top, into the flat ceiling. The floors are covered with carpet, but underneath is the original wood flooring. The majority of the Red Oak woodwork is said to be original and is in good condition. Door and window hardware also appear to be original and in good condition. The northeast tower, called the Kansas Room, has custom shelving that follows the round curve of the walls. The east side of the main room has two passages into a new addition to the library, which was added on in 1985. The passageways appear to be the east facades original windows.

The basement level is laid out in a similar fashion as the floor above. There is a door leading to the northeast tower room, presently used as a private office and storage room but was originally the lady's lounge and restroom. The main room houses the children's book section and non-fiction collections. There is another decorative fireplace in the same location as the floor above. The walls are plaster and the floors are carpeted and there are two small rooms to the very south of the space used for mechanical and storage purposes. The east wall once had windows, which are now where you enter the 1985 addition, similar to the upper level.

In 1984 a fire started in the basement of the Baptist church located directly east of the library. The fire reached portions of the building on the east side. Areas of the roof and attic insulation were damaged and most of the windows located on the east side were not salvageable.

In 1985 the library bought the lot to the east, which was where the Baptist church sat before it burned down. A one-story, rectangular addition was constructed using care to abide by the Secretary of the Interiors Standards for New Additions to Historic Structures. The addition is set back from the primary façade, and was not designed to mimic the exact look of the library's architecture. However, the addition's materials match the library's in color and type. Great care was taken to find the same "buff" colored brick as was used to build the library, and similar limestone carries the base line of the library's battered foundation onto the new additions facades (which are not battered). The roof is flat and does not intrude with the building's height.

The overall condition of the building is good. Little has changed on the exterior and interior, with the exception of the 1985 addition to the east façade. The Paola Free Library retains the integrity of its location and function as well as architectural merit. It continues to serve the Paola community with free educational services, as it's done since its erection in 1906. Listing the building on the Register of Historic Kansas Places will allow the citizens of Paola the opportunity to apply for grants or tax incentives should the need for restoration arise.

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Paola Free Library  
Paola, Miami, Kansas

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**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The Paola Free Library is being nominated for the Register of Historic Kansas Places under criterion C for its architectural significance as a prime example of its architect, George P. Washburn's adaptation of the Richardson Romanesque architectural style. The Richardson Romanesque architectural style is characterized by low round arched openings, squat columns, two contrasting colors of stone or brick with stone trim, carved terra-cotta or stone elements used for decorative effect and most notably, the presence of a tower.<sup>1</sup> The Paola Free Library has all of the above – listed features incorporated into its design. It is one of the best examples of Washburn's ability to design a small-scale building using his adaptation of the Richardson Romanesque architectural style.

Paola is situated south of Olathe, and west of the Kansas-Missouri border. Native American tribes settled here well before the 1500s. Over the next few centuries, the Spanish and French explorers made their way to the area followed by American explorers and settlers on the Santa Fe and Oregon Trails. In 1827 the Indian tribes of the Kaskaskia, Peoria, Wea and Piankishaw were forced to resettle in the area. These tribes formed the Confederate Allied Tribes and were led by one of Paola's most influential citizens, Baptiste Peoria. Baptiste Peoria, a full-blooded Indian, who could speak six Indian languages as well as English and French, was one of the founders of the Paola Town Company in 1855. Baptiste Peoria gave the Paola Park Square to the Town Company after he and the local Indian tribes were again forced into exile in Oklahoma. The town company gave the square to the city with the provision that no building could ever stand on it.<sup>2</sup>

In 1861 Kansas was admitted to the Union and saw a great deal of turmoil between the pro-slavery supporters and abolitionists fighting over the territory between Paola and the Missouri border. John Brown and William Quantrill had ties to the surrounding area and were frequently passing through Paola. Quantrill was actually jailed in Paola in 1861 for grand larceny.<sup>3</sup>

In 1886 an oil well was sunk six miles south of Paola and was followed shortly after between 1887-1888 by the Independence Kansas oil firm of McBride and Bloom, who drilled a number of oil wells south east of Paola.<sup>4</sup> In 1870 the Kansas City, Fort Scott and Gulf Railroad changed Paola's way of life by connecting the small town to bigger cities such as Kansas City and Fort Scott.<sup>5</sup> Since then, the city has continued to grow and now has a population in the range of 5,500.

The layout of Paola has changed little over the years. The main downtown is still situated around the green square that Baptiste Peoria donated to the city before his forced exile to Oklahoma. Many of the historic building in down town Paola are still in use or undergoing restorations.

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<sup>1</sup> Allen Gardiner. Historical American Building Survey "Paola Free Library", (HABS No. KS-52). On File at the Miami County Genealogy and Historical Society, Paola Kansas.

<sup>2</sup> Thomas H. Kinsella, "The History of our Cradle Land". The Casey Printing Co., Kansas City., 1921. Available at <http://skyways.lib.ks.us/genweb/miami/kinsella/index.html>

<sup>3</sup> Paola Chamber of Commerce, "History of Paola". Available at <http://www.paolachamber.org/history.htm> .

<sup>4</sup> William E. Connelley, "A standard History of Kansas and Kansans", (Oil and Gas Industries of Kansas). Transcribed by Carolyn Ward, Columbus Ks., 2000. Available at <http://skyways.lib.ks.us/genweb/archives/1918ks/v2/996.html>

<sup>5</sup> Paola Chamber of Commerce, "History of Paola". Available at <http://www.paolachamber.org/history.htm> .

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Continuation SheetSection Number 8 Page 4Paola Free Library  
Paola, Miami, Kansas

The history of the Paola Free Library begins in 1872 when a stock company was formed called the Miami County Teachers Library and was located on the north side of the downtown square in a hall. The Library was open Thursdays from 4-6pm and Saturday afternoons. The first Librarian was Mrs. M.C. McLaughlin. In 1876 the name was changed to the Paola Library Association. Two years later, in 1878, Mayor J.W. Sponable placed the library in a room above the Miami County Bank. Then, two years later the library was moved to two rooms on the second story of the old city hall building.<sup>6</sup> In 1892 the plot of land where the present library sits was sold to J.W. Sponable for \$800. That same year Sponable sold the lot to the city of Paola for \$1.00. At the time there was an old frame building on the plot, which Sponable indicated should be held in trust for the public library. In 1893 the library moved into the building, which had recently been expanded by adding a one-story addition.<sup>7</sup> In 1902 the will of Martha Smith bequeathed \$10,000 of her estate for the construction of a library in her late husband's memory. Mrs. Smith was born in England and had the advantage of an early education. The date is not known when she came to America, but she married J.U. Smith shortly after she arrived and they both headed west and settled in Marysville Township in 1869. They managed to accumulate a sum of money and after Mr. Smith's death, Martha Smith moved to Paola. Having no near relatives, Smith conversed with her physician on what she should do with her small fortune after her death, and he gave her the idea of the erection of the library. June 30, 1905 the plans of architect George P. Washburn of Ottawa were adopted for the present library building.<sup>8</sup> The frame building was sold and moved in 30 days so construction could start on the new facility. The dedication and formal opening was held on April 10, 1906.<sup>9</sup>

It is documented in the building committee minutes from September 11, 1905 that the library's architect, George P. Washburn, charged \$200.00 for the design of the library and \$15.00 to cover three trips made to Paola during the course of the library's construction.<sup>10</sup> Two of these trips to Paola are documented in his personal journal as well as his progress on the plans for the library.

In 1984 a fire started in the basement of the Baptist church directly to the east of the library. The fire destroyed the church and severely damaged portions of the east façade of the library. The windows on the east side of the building could not be salvaged and portions of the attic insulation had to be replaced.<sup>11</sup> The following year, the City of Paola bought the lot of the Baptist church to be used for an addition to the library.<sup>12</sup> The addition was designed to blend into the historical context of the original building, but not to mimic the exact look of the historic library. The new space allowed the library to expand their collection as well as make the building ADA accessible with the installation of a ramp. The east windows, that were not salvageable in the fire, were removed and the fenestrations are now how you access the new addition from the original building.

<sup>6</sup> "A Chronology of The Paola Free Library Observing National Library Week", *The Western Spirit* 13 April 1970: B1.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> Paola Free Library Website, "History". On Line; <http://skyways.lib.ks.us/library/paola/history.htm> .

<sup>9</sup> "A Chronology of the Paola Free Library Observing National Library week", B1.

<sup>10</sup> Sarah Maloney. "Paola Free Library Building to Mark 100 Years", *Miami County Republic* 20 April 2005: 6A.

<sup>11</sup> "Fire Changed Addition Plans for the Better", *The Miami Republican* 30 October 1985: 4D

<sup>12</sup> Ibid.

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Paola Free Library  
Paola, Miami, Kansas

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*History of George P. Washburn*

Washburn practiced from the 1880s until about 1912.<sup>13</sup> He is best recognized for his courthouses, 13 of which are located around Kansas. His fondness and adaptation of the Richardson Romanesque architectural style can be seen in a majority of his work particularly his courthouse designs. The Miami County Courthouse is located in Paola, which Washburn designed in 1898.<sup>14</sup> Other Washburn buildings in Paola include the Paola City Hall, (1909), the Mallory Opera House, (1896) (razed), the D.O. Sellars Building, (1901), the J.F. Donahye Building, (1905), the Ahrens Building, (1908), the Jackson Hotel, (1921), the Miami County Bank, (date unknown) and the gazebo in the Town Square.<sup>15</sup> He allegedly completed many residences and other projects in the area, but further research has not been done at this time. Washburn's retirement came shortly after the sudden death of his wife sometime between 1907-1912.<sup>16</sup> Sources say he spent most of his time building furniture until his death in 1922, but his daily journal entries prove he was still active in the architecture field and continued to work on various projects.<sup>17</sup>

The architectural styles Washburn frequently used in his building designs were the highly ornate and detailed, - Richardson Romanesque and Victorian-era architectural styles. His adaptation of the Richardson Romanesque style can be seen in all most all of his courthouse designs, as well as the Paola Free Library. He is also known for adapting the Free Classical style and Revival styles popular in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The Paola City Hall, which sits across the street from the library, is a good example of Washburn's use of Colonial and Classical Revival styles. The contrast in architectural design displayed by the library and buildings like the Paola City Hall showcase Washburn's versatility with architectural styles.

For Washburn, the library in Paola was his second known library commission. In 1903 he had designed the Carnegie library in Ottawa that is now the town's cultural center.<sup>18</sup> The architectural style of this Library is known as Free Classical, which Washburn experimented with frequently. Even though the styles of the Paola and Ottawa libraries are different there are some similarities that can be found between the two: single-paned, double-hung windows accented with stone, yellow or buff colored brick materials, bases of rusticated limestone topped with smooth-cut water tables and a similar attention to details. Other characteristics that are seen in Washburn buildings, but not necessarily in the above comparison of the libraries, are terracotta tiled roofs and Classical columns.

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<sup>13</sup> George P. Washburn, "Papers, 1879-1921 Noted Ottawa, KS Architect's Papers", Accessed at the Kansas State Historical Society; MS 1176.

<sup>14</sup> Doug Loyd, "Phone Interviews", Ottawa Ks. November 2007-February 2008.

<sup>15</sup> Doug Loyd, "Historic Photographs, Postcards, and list of buildings by Washburn", Ottawa Ks. November 2007.

<sup>16</sup> Doug Loyd, "Phone Interviews".

<sup>17</sup> George P. Washburn, "Papers, 1879-1921 Noted Ottawa, KS Architect's Papers", Accessed at the Kansas State Historical Society; MS 1176.

<sup>18</sup> Allen Gardiner, "The Carnegie Legacy in Kansas", Kansas State Library, KS., 1985. Pgs. 127-130.



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Paola Free Library  
Paola, Miami, Kansas

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Continuation Sheet

Section Number 10 & Photos Page 7

Paola Free Library  
Paola, Miami County, KS

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**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

The Paola Free Library is located in Miami County, Paola Kansas.

Property Description: Parcel # 135-16-0-20-41-004.000 Lot 5 and west 39' of Lot 4, Block 18. The property is bounded on the north by Peoria Street, on the east by residential lots, on the south by an alley and on the east by Agate Street.

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The nominated property includes the parcel historically associated with the Paola Free Library.

**PHOTOGRAPIC INFORMATION**

Property Name: Paola Free Library  
Location: 101 East Peoria St. Paola Ks. 66071  
Photographer: Sarah Martin  
Date: June 24, 2008

Photo 1: North (front) elevation, facing S  
Photo 2: North (front) elevation, close-up of tower, facing S  
Photo 3: West (side) elevation, facing NE  
Photo 4: South (rear) elevation also showing 1985 addition on east elevation, facing N  
Photo 5: Main entrance on north elevation, detail of door hardware  
Photo 6: Interior, view from main reading room into entrance and vestibule, facing N  
Photo 7: Interior, view from stairway looking into main Reading Room, facing S  
Photo 8: Interior, main entrance vestibule and staircase, facing SE  
Photo 9: Interior, round library reading room, facing N  
Photo 10: Interior, main library Reading Room, detail of column capital  
Photo 11: View of main Reading Room fireplace  
Photo 12: View of basement fireplace in children's library