

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

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

1. Name

historic Caldwell Carnegie Library

and/or common Caldwell Carnegie Library

2. Location

street & number 13 North Osage Street N/A— not for publication

city, town Caldwell N/A vicinity of

state Caldwell code 20 county Sumner code 191

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: (Library)

4. Owner of Property

name City of Caldwell

street & number

city, town Caldwell N/A vicinity of state Kansas 67022

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds

street & number Sumner County Courthouse

city, town Wellington state Kansas 67152

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date None federal state county local

depository for survey records None

city, town None state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	date N/A
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Carnegie Library in Caldwell, Kansas, is situated on a long street island and is the only structure to occupy that parcel of land. Because of its siting it has two identical entrance facades facing east and west, apparently an unusual arrangement for Carnegie libraries in Kansas. The single story brick structure sits on a raised basement. Its detailing is minimal, as was commonly the case with Carnegie libraries built after 1910. The building is in excellent condition and has a high level of integrity, having had only minor changes since its construction in 1912. To the west of the library are the high school (1916) and the junior high school (1926). A church lies to the south. The rest of the area is residential. It is notable that these three types of institutions (four if one wishes to include the family) are situated in such close proximity to each other.

The 61 foot by 30 foot Caldwell library is constructed of cement block with red brick veneer. The bricks below the first story level are all molded and project outward slightly from the surface of the wall. All of the trim--lintels, sills, string-course, water table and so on--is composed of concrete. The east and west facades both have three bays of nine over one double-hung windows to either side of the projecting entrance bay. The north and south walls have four windows of the same type. The basement windows are six over ones.

The original basement entrance was on the north facade but was closed up in 1950. A new basement entrance was constructed on the east wall next to the main entrance steps. The basement window is still intact inside the vestibule.

The entrance stairs on the east and west facades, although of continuous run, have a three-tiered wall system to either side which adds an air of monumentality. The highest tier originally had lamp posts and flower urns. Flower boxes were also situated on the middle tier. These have been removed, but the flower urns are still stored in the basement. An iron hand-railing now runs up the center of the stair.

The cornice consists of corbelled brick work. The roofline is stepped up at the corners and at the entrance bays. The top of the cornice and the roofline coping are painted white, as is the rest of the trim on the exterior.

The water table, just above the basement windows, and the sill course run around the entire building. The tiers at the second and third levels of the stair walls correspond with these courses.

So far no visual documentation for the interior of the library has come to light, but there is no evidence--physical or archival--that it has been altered in plan. The main floor is essentially one large room. The old doors

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have been replaced with aluminum ones, the floors have been recovered with carpeting and vinyl flooring and an acoustical tile ceiling installed. All woodwork has been left untouched and appears to have its original finish.

The basement is divided into several rooms. It is finished with painted concrete floors and plaster walls. The wood window surrounds are identical to those on the upper floor. In the largest room there is a lath and plaster ceiling. The ceiling of the smaller rooms are open to the first story floor joists.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1912 Builder/Architect Fred G. McCune

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The turn of the 19th century was a period of optimistic civic planning and improvement. It saw a rebirth of classicism in the arts and a new emphasis on education and culture. Public libraries were an important part of civic enrichment and a direct expression of the growing interest in scholarly and literary matters. Carnegie libraries are one manifestation of this civic movement. Fifty-eight Carnegie libraries were built in Kansas between 1900 and 1916. The Caldwell library, built in 1912, is typical of the Carnegie libraries built in this state in the second decade of this century.

Caldwell, located just north of the Oklahoma border, was one of the more infamous towns along the Chisholm trail in the early 1880's. After its brief period of lawlessness the town settled into its role as a farming community. In the manner of all such communities it had a good number of clubs and civic organizations, one of which was the Ladies Research Club. This group, established in 1889, was responsible for running the first city circulating library and for bringing a Carnegie library to Caldwell in 1912.

The first library board meeting was held on June 12, 1909, after Andrew Carnegie had agreed to provide the city with \$7,000 for the purpose of erecting a library. Carnegie stipulated two things whenever he donated money for a library--the city had to provide the site and they had to agree to spend 10% of the amount of the gift annually for maintenance of the library. The city of Caldwell agreed to this and the site was chosen by the summer of 1910.

At the library board meeting on May 28, 1911, a contract was approved with Fred G. McCune, an architect from Wichita. His plans were submitted to Mr. Carnegie's secretary, James Bertram, who, as of 1910, reviewed all projects before giving final approval.

In December of 1912, the new library was completed. The formal opening was held on January 29, 1913, and the building has served as a library ever since. As with most such structures it was much more than a receptacle for books. It became an important community center serving as the meeting place for a variety of civic groups including the school board, Red Cross, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, and the Young Business Women's Club.

Although the Carnegie libraries built in Kansas after 1910 were less elaborate than those built before that date they still adhered to basic tenets that were present in all Carnegie libraries. The Caldwell library is a good example of this simpler type. All of the Carnegie libraries in Kansas

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for which visual documentation could be found, were built on a raised basement, were of very simple rectangular massing, had a monumental stair leading to a prominent front entrance, and had clearly delineated cornices. These elements are all present at Caldwell, but in a very simple form. Rather than the elaborate pedimented and colonnaded entrances of the first libraries, the entrance is emphasized by the simple method of pulling out the centrally located entrance bays from the facade planes. The tiered stairs create suitably impressive approaches. In place of the classically inspired entablatures such as the cornices of the early libraries had, the cornice here is formed of brick corbelling and a simple stone molding. The Caldwell Carnegie Library is representative of the change in design that occurred after Mr. Carnegie's secretary started his review program in 1910.

THIS STATEMENT REFLECTS CURRENT KNOWLEDGE AND IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Letter from Fred G. McCune, Architect; Dated July 11, 1911.

Minutes of the Library Board of Caldwell, 1909-1974. This nomination is based on materials submitted by Mary Lou Woods.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Caldwell Quad

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	4	6	2	3	6	7	0	4	0	9	9	2	2	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification Outlot #14, original town of Caldwell. Nomination encompasses site for library that was donated by the city in 1911. Library and grounds are still being used for the same purpose.

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

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code
N/A			

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Nora Pat Small, Architectural Historian

organization Ks. State Historical Society--HPD date _____

street & number 120 West 10th telephone 296-3251

city or town Topeka state Ks. 66612

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 

title Ex. Director & State Historic Preservation Officer date December 29, 1982

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration