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 Yates Center (Carnegie) Library
and or common Same

2. Location

street & number 218 N. Main ___ not for publication
city, town Yates Center ___ vicinity of
state Kansas code 20 county Woodson code 207

3. Classification

<table>
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<th>Category</th>
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<th>Status</th>
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<td>X occupied</td>
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<tr>
<td>building</td>
<td>_ private</td>
<td>_ unoccupied</td>
<td>commercial</td>
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<td>both</td>
<td>_ work in progress</td>
<td>educational</td>
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<td>object</td>
<td>Public Acquisition</td>
<td>Accessible</td>
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<td>_ yes: restricted</td>
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<td>N/A being considered</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>_ no</td>
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4. Owner of Property

name City of Yates Center
street & number City Hall

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Woodson County Clerk

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Kansas State Historical Society has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes X no
date 1970 ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local
depository for survey records Kansas State Historical Society, 120 W. 10th
city, town Topeka state Kansas 66612
7. Description

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<td><em>X</em> unaltered</td>
<td><em>X</em> original site</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>X</em> good</td>
<td><em>X</em> altered</td>
<td><em>X</em> moved date</td>
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<td><em>X</em> fair</td>
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Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Yates Center Carnegie Library (c. 1912) is located at 218 N. Main in Yates Center, Woodson County, Kansas (pop. 1,998). The one-story, brick, Eclectic building stands on a corner lot one block north of the Yates Center Courthouse Square. Its facade orientation is west. The building measures approximately fifty-two feet from north to south and thirty-two from east to west. It retains its original function as a library.

The one-story, red brick building sits on a raised foundation with a limestone water table and limestone base. It is a rectangular structure with a ridge hipped roof. Three bays comprise the building's facade and rear; it is one bay deep. An entry pavilion projects from the facade's center bay. This pavilion stands on a limestone raised foundation. A gable roofed, basement entry projects from the northeast corner of the rear elevation. A limestone cornerstone stands below the building's water table in the southwest corner of the facade. Brick chimneys rise from the rear and north elevations.

The projecting pavilion is comprised of five sides and a recessed entryway. The recessed door space contains an aluminum frame and glass double door with a transom. This treatment replaces the original wood and glass door and pinwheel transom. A brick jack arch with limestone corner blocks surmounts the doorway. Angling out of the recession above the doorway is an oversized limestone arch made of voussoirs with corner blocks. Two boarded over small windows with limestone sills and lintels stand in the angled wall space of the entryway, sconces hang from them. A limestone tablet bearing the carving "Library" stands above the doorway, flanked by two limestone corner blocks. Limestone caps the pavilion on all sides. A dentilled limestone entablature with a curved pediment concludes the pavilion's facade elevation.

Four, small fixed windows pierce the narrow walls, which angle out from the pavilion's facade at forty-five degrees. Two windows stand in line with the limestone door arch, these are surmounted by limestone lintels and underscored by limestone sills. Two windows stand beneath the entablature, they are underscored by limestone sills. A small fixed window pierces the limestone foundation below these windows on each wall. Concrete steps lead up to the doorway.

In its original form, two polygonal dormers flanking a center shed roof dormer stood above the pavilion, giving the building a more imposing stature. However, these dormers and the roof pantiles were removed in the 1930s due to water damage and the pavilion was reconstructed.

Two identical windows flank the pavilion. Each group is comprised of four, 4/2 double hung windows with 2/2 fixed transoms. Vertical limestone blocks separate the windows, they share continuous limestone lintels, sills, and lintel transoms. The original fenestration treatment appears to have been 2/2 double windows with 2/2 transoms. The upper window sash was very small. Four vertical recessed brick panels stand beneath each window in the quad grouping. Two, 3/1 double hung windows with limestone lintels pierce the facade's foundation below each window grouping.
The first level fenestration on the north, east, and south elevations is comprised of groups of three, 4/2 double hung windows with 2/2 transoms. Vertical limestone blocks separate the windows. The windows share continuous limestone sill, lintels, and transoms lintels. A vertical recessed brick panel stands beneath each window. Two, 3/1 double hung windows with limestone lintels pierce the foundation below each window grouping. Two such groupings pierce the north and south elevations, three such groupings pierce the east elevation.

The interior of the building maintains its original floorplan and vestibule entrance. The first floor ceiling has been covered with dropped acoustic tiles. The interior woodwork, such as the door and window surrounds, doors, and staircase, are retained, although the window surrounds and frames have been painted.
8. Significance

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The Yates 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 Yates Center in 1904. The community received their $7,500.00 Carnegie Library grant in 1910, library construction was completed in 1912. The Yates Center Carnegie Library is an example of the Eclectic 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, 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 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 servis (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.
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.
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<tr>
<th>SITE</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. Anthony Public (Carnegie) Library (Harper County)</td>
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<td>77-0180-0063</td>
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<td>104 N. Springfield</td>
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<td>Anthony, Kansas 67003</td>
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<td>2. Burlington Carnegie Free Library (Coffey County)</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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<td>133-0870-0067</td>
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<td>102 S. Lincoln</td>
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<td>Chanute, Kansas 66720</td>
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<td>Cherryvale, Kansas 67335</td>
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<td>6. Clay Center Carnegie Library (Clay County)</td>
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<td>Clay Center, Kansas 67432</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.

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

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.

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

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.

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.

1904
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.
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| 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 191-5730-0612

27. Wichita City (Carnegie) Library Building  
    (Sedgwick County)  
    220 S. Main Street  
    Wichita, Kansas 67202  
    Owner: City of Wichita  
    Lots 24,26,28,30,32,34,36 & 1/2 Vac. Alley Adj.  
    on E. & Vac. Alley Ly. N. Lot 24 Exc. Beg. SE Cor.  
    Lot 34 W 33.98 Ft. N. 100.56 Ft. W. 16.75 Ft. N. 9 Ft.  
    NWly. 15.36 Ft. W. 6.5 Ft. N. 10 Ft. W. 49 Ft. S. 25  
    on E. Th. S. 115.56 Ft. W. 8 Ft. to SE Cor. Lot 30 S.  
    to Beg. Main St. Greiffenstein's Add.  
   c. 1915 173-5880-0004

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
10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property: Less than 1 acre
Quad range name: Yates Center

UTM References

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Verbal boundary description and justification: The nominated property stands on Lots 4, 5, 6; Block 27 in Yates Center, Kansas. The rectangular tract is bounded to the west by N. Main, to south by an alley, and to the north and east by adjacent property lines.

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

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</tbody>
</table>

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Martha Gray Hagedorn, Architectural Historian

Organization: Kansas State Historical Society

Date: April 16, 1987

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

Title: Executive Director, Kansas State Historical Society

Date: April 16, 1987

For NPS use only

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

Chief of Registration

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

Date
Carnegie Library Bibliography:


_____________ *Kansas Public Libraries from Abilene to Zenda.* (Topeka: Kansas State Library, 1982).


Topeka *Capital Journal,* 20 December 1916; 26 December 1916.
Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey in cooperation with State of Kansas agencies

Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1967. Field checked 1969

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Kansas coordinate system, south zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 15, shown in blue

Red tint indicates area in which only landmark buildings are shown

To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983, move the projection lines 23 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks

Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs taken 1981 and other sources. This information not field checked. Map edited 1984