

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 209-2820-0107

historic Argentine Carnegie Library

and/or common Argentine Branch Library

2. Location

street & number 28th Street and Metropolitan Avenue not for publication

city, town Kansas City vicinity of

state Kansas code 020 county Wyandotte code 209

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 checked="" 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	<u>N/A</u> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<u>N/A</u> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Kansas City, Kansas Board of Education, c/o Dr. O.L. Plucker, Superintendent of Schools

street & number Library Building, 625 Minnesota Avenue

city, town Kansas City vicinity of state Kansas 66101

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County Clerk

street & number Wyandotte County Courthouse, 700 North 7th Street

city, town Kansas City state Kansas 66101

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Kansas City, Ks Historic Landmark has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date March 28, 1985 federal state county local

depository for survey records City Planning Division, City of Kansas City, Kansas

city, town Kansas City state Kansas 66101

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
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Argentine Carnegie Library (ca. 1916-1917) is located in Kansas City, Wyandotte County, Kansas (pop. 161,148). The smallish, grey-brown brick Neo-Classical structure stands on a .28 acre lot directly northeast of the Emerson School in the Argentine community. Designed by the Kansas City architectural firm of Rose and Peterson, the building is an excellent example of the smaller, less ornate Carnegie funded libraries constructed after 1910.

The building is a one-story, flat roofed, rectangular brick structure supported by a raised, roughly coursed limestone block foundation. A classically ornamented pavilion projects slightly from the center of the main facade. This houses the principal entrance to the library. A wide, coursed limestone staircase leads up to the doorway. The pavilion is flanked by two identical, four bay wings, fenestrated with transomed 6/3 double hung wooden windows on the first floor and 1/1 double hung wooden windows on the basement level.

A coursed limestone watertable, accentuated by a row of vertically laid bricks, divides the basement level from the first floor. A classically derived entablature composed of a bracketed terra cotta cornice exhibiting a wave moulding, an undecorated brick frieze, and a terra cotta bead and reel moulded architrave decorates the upper portion of the building. A brick parapet capped with a limestone course rises above the entablature. It is undecorated but for the section which caps the projecting central pavilion. This piece exhibits recessed and projecting brick panelling. A terra cotta cartouche crowns the pavilion's parapet in the center. Similar wall and window treatment is given to the sides and rear of the building although the parapet and the entablature do not fully extend around the sides of the structure and are omitted from its rear. The basement entrance on the south side is accentuated by an undecorated limestone surround.

The classical detailing on the center pavilion exhibits slightly exaggerated proportions. A transomed double door marks its center. This is accentuated by a terra cotta bead and reel moulded surround and a terra cotta bracketed anthemion lintel piece. Two ionic pilasters flank the doorway on either side, with terra cotta bases and capitals. They flank a narrow, double hung arched fanlight window. Arched terra cotta surrounds highlight these small windows. The ionic pilasters support a terra cotta frieze in which "Carnegie Library" is imprinted. Above the frieze rises the entablature and parapet previously referred to.

Few alterations have affected the exterior of the library building. The changes that have occurred are minor and include the covering of the transom lights above the first floor windows and the capping of the stone steps with concrete.

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The library's interior was severely damaged by the 1951 Kansas River flood. Much of the original detailing on the first floor was lost. The existing first floor plan of two identical reading rooms on the north and south sides of the building and closed stacks behind the circulation desk on the east wall was gutted after the flood, creating one space with open stacks. Few changes occurred on the basement level, the partitions for the auditorium and the wood trim remain intact.

The Argentine Carnegie Library maintains a high degree of external architectural integrity. Its immediate setting remains attractive and well maintained although many of the adjacent areas, such as Emerson Park and buildings which front it, have suffered the effects of urban renewal.

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 ca. 1916-1917 **Builder/Architect** William Warren Rose and David B. Peterson-Architects

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Argentine Carnegie Library (ca. 1916-1917) in Kansas City, Kansas is being nominated to the National Register under criteria A and C for its historical association with the Carnegie Corporation Library Program and for its architectural significance. One of the last libraries to be constructed with Carnegie Funds, the Argentine Carnegie Library exhibits the simplified design characteristics and vestiges of the standardized floor plan commonly seen in Carnegie libraries after 1910. The Neoclassical building is an excellent example of the smaller scale work of William Warren Rose (1864-1931) and David B. Peterson (1875- ?), prominent Kansas City architects whose firm was active from 1909 until 1926.

Industrialist Andrew Carnegie (1835-1919) and the Carnegie Corporation significantly influenced the expansion of public library systems worldwide. Between 1886 and 1921 Carnegie funds assisted in the construction of 1,681 school and city libraries in the United States. The Argentine Carnegie Library is one of the sixty-three Carnegie libraries built in Kansas. Nine of these libraries are listed on the National Register:

- Caldwell (ca. 1912; NR 1982); Dodge City (ca. 1906-1907; NR 1979), Emporia (ca. 1905; NR 1981), Goodland (ca. 1912-1913; NR 1985), Lawrence (ca. 1903-1904; NR 1974), Newton (ca. 1903-1904; NR 1973—designed by William Warren Rose), Ottawa (ca. 1903; NR 1980), Parsons (ca. 1908-1909; NR 1976), and Pittsburg (ca. 1910-1911; NR 1976).

Following the 1910 annexation of Argentine by Kansas City, efforts to develop a library for the community burgeoned. In 1914, the Seventh Ward (Argentine) Improvement Association requested a \$25,000.00 grant from the Carnegie Corporation for the construction of a library building. The Kansas City Board of Education endorsed the request and guaranteed to provide \$2,500.00 annually for the maintenance of the library. The Carnegie Corporation stipulated that at least ten percent of the amount of the Carnegie grant must be set aside annually by the recipient for operating expenses. With the guarantee from the Kansas City Board of Education, the Carnegie Corporation approved the request, making the Argentine grant Carnegie's second gift to Kansas City. Carnegie had funded the Huron Square Kansas City Carnegie Library (ca. 1902-1904, demolished), a building also designed by William Warren Rose.

The Argentine Carnegie Library is an example of the smaller, less ornate libraries funded by Carnegie through the Carnegie Corporation Library Program after its establishment in 1910. Proposed designs were reviewed by James Bertram, Carnegie's Secretary, for their accordance with the suggested specifications and floorplans developed by Bertram. The Argentine Carnegie Library maintains a high degree of architectural integrity on the exterior but its original floorplan and much of its original detailing was destroyed in the 1951 Kansas River flood and subsequently its original floorplan was changed. The Argentine Carnegie Library continues to serve the community as a main branch library, accommodating students from the nearby Emerson School and the growing Spanish speaking population.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Attached Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property .28 acres

Quadrangle name Shawnee

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	1	5
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3	5	6	3	2	0
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4	3	2	6	1	1	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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Verbal boundary description and justification The nominated property sits on a .28 acre rectangular tract bounded by Metropolitan Avenue to the south, by Strong Avenue to the north, by 28th Street to the east, and by the Emerson Park Elementary School to the west.

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

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Martha Gray Hagedorn, Architectural Historian

organization Kansas State Historical Society date 1/7/86

street & number 120 West Tenth telephone (913) 296-5264

city or town Topeka state Kansas 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 *Joseph M. Snell*

title Executive Director date 1/30/86
Kansas State Historical Society

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

date

Attest:

Chief of Registration

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Bibliography: Argentine Carnegie Library

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Cowick, Kate L. The Story of Kansas City. (Kansas City, Kansas: Kansas City Kansan, 1924).

Hancks, Larry K. "Argentine Carnegie Library." (National Register nomination draft, 1985).

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Kansas City Star, 24 May 1931.

Shutt, Edwin Dr., III. Centennial History of Argentine, 1880-1980. (Kansas City, Kansas: Simmons Funeral Home, 1980).



Argentine Carnegie Library
Kansas City (Wyandotte County) Kansas
UTM Reference 15/356320/4326110
Shawnee Quad