

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

1. Name of Property

historic name St. Joseph Public Library, Carnegie Branch

other names/site number Carnegie Library

2. Location

street & number 316 Massachusetts Street [n/a] not for publication

city or town St. Joseph [n/a] vicinity

state Missouri code MO county Buchanan code 021 zip code 64504

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  
 nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the  
National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my  
opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered  
significant  nationally  statewide  locally.  
( See continuation sheet for additional comments [ ] )

Signature of certifying official/Title Claire F. Blackwell/Deputy SHPO

Date 13 April 1989

Missouri Department of Natural Resources  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  
( See continuation sheet for additional comments [ ] )

Signature of certifying official/Title

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date

entered in the National Register  
See continuation sheet [ ].

determined eligible for the  
National Register  
See continuation sheet [ ].

determined not eligible for the  
National Register.

removed from the  
National Register

other, explain  
See continuation sheet [ ].

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**5. Classification**

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district		
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</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.

0

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Function

EDUCATIONAL/ library  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Current Functions

EDUCATIONAL/ library  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

Classical Revival  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Materials

foundation Brick  
 walls Brick  
Stone  
 roof Slate  
 other \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

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

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

**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 is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

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.

**Areas of Significance**

SOCIAL HISTORY

ARCHITECTURE

**Periods of Significance**

1902-1948

**Significant Dates**

1902

**Significant Person(s)**

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Eckel, Edmund J.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

**9. Major Bibliographic 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

# \_\_\_\_\_

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: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreeage of Property less than one acre

**UTM References**

A. Zone	Easting	Northing	B. Zone	Easting	Northing
15	340040	4397720			
C. Zone	Easting	Northing	D. Zone	Easting	Northing

[ ] 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 see continuation sheet

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

**Additional Items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Board of Directors, River Bluffs Regional Library

street & number 927 Felix telephone 816/232-7729

city or town St. Joseph state Missouri zip code 64501

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 1

St. Joseph Public Library, Carnegie Branch  
Buchanan County, Missouri

**SUMMARY:** The St. Joseph Public Library, Carnegie Branch, 316 Massachusetts, St. Joseph, Buchanan County, is a one story Classical Revival style building with a full, partially above ground basement. Of the nation's 2509 libraries funded by Carnegie grants, 24 percent employed the Classical Revival style.<sup>1</sup> The St. Joseph branch library displays many of the features and attributes of the style, including Ionic columns, hipped roof, centered pediment, and a long flight of stairs at the entry. The buff brick and cut limestone, slate roofed building measures approximately fifty-six by fifty-six feet and is situated in the center of Carnegie Park. The park has had some modern recreational equipment installed, such as a bicycle rack and temporary shelters; they are not related to the period or area of significance and are not significant in size or scale. The library building retains substantial integrity, despite a 1966-1967 remodeling in which the exterior was sandblasted and tuckpointed.

**NARRATIVE:** The St. Joseph Public Library, Carnegie Branch, is centered in Carnegie Park. The park is owned by the City of St. Joseph and is under the jurisdiction of the St. Joseph Department of Parks and Recreation. The Park is bordered on the north by Massachusetts Street, on the south by Michigan, on the west by Carnegie, and on the east by Gordon. The library is located in a neighborhood of middle-class residences. A shopping district called the "Junction" is located two blocks to the north, while the Stockyards Station Post Office serving the area is two blocks to the west. The St. Joseph Stockyards and Livestock Exchange Building are located within four or five blocks.

A high degree of the building's original architectural integrity remains. The Carnegie library has had a few modest alterations most of which were completed during its 1966-67 remodeling. A handrail has been placed in the center of the steps leading to the main door. Several of the windows and the fixed transoms had leaded glass with each pane being divided into four squares with lead and then each square contained two diagonal crossing strips of lead with a vertical strip of lead bisecting the "X" formed by the two diagonal strips. Many of these have been replaced with single panes of glass. A modern security light has been placed under the eave of the pediment replacing a single bulb in a goose neck fixture which was located directly above the door. Air conditioning condensers enclosed in a chain link fence have been placed on either side of the main steps, marring the once clean lines of the facade. The main entrance doors have been replaced with paired modern black aluminum frame doors each with a single large plane of plate glass. Aluminum storm sashes have been installed on all first story windows in an effort to make the building more energy efficient. Steel mesh has been placed over the basement window for security reasons. The exterior was sandblasted and tuckpointed in 1966-67.

The focal point of the main facade which faces north on Massachusetts Street is the main entrance which projects about a foot from the building. It is approached by a straight staircase with a central, steel handrail. The front portico consists of four fluted Ionic limestone column supporting a pressed metal pediment. Across the frieze of the pediment are the raised words Free Public Library. In the center of the gable of the pediment is a partial circle of ribbons with the word EDUCATION forming the top part of the circle. Inside the circle is a lamp of knowledge resting atop a stack of books, all formed in pressed metal. At the roof line a row of pressed metal dentils encircles the building. The original paired oak entrance doors each had one large pane of glass. These doors have been replaced as stated earlier. The doorway is surrounded with limestone trim which continues above the door to form a small pediment which contains the date 1901. the pediment is supported by two stone consoles. Above the main entrance is a

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<sup>1</sup>Theodore Jones, Carnegie Libraries Across America: a public legacy (New York: John Wiley & Sons Inc., 1997), p. 67

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 2

St. Joseph Public Library, Carnegie Branch  
Buchanan County, Missouri

banner stone with the words CARNEGIE LIBRARY in raised stone letters. Directly above the entrance a single plane window with limestone trim surround and supported at either bottom corner by a small stone console. This provides light to the inner foyer. At the same level as this window on either side is small double-hung one-over-one window with limestone trim. These provide light to a restroom and a storage closet. On either side of the columned portico are three long double-hung one over one windows with a fixed transom which originally contained leaded glass. The windows are separated by cut limestone pilasters. A horizontal limestone string course horizontally linking the bottom of the windows completely encircles the building. A smooth cut limestone belt course runs around the entire building, and visually separates the first floor and basement.

The east and west walls are identical with each containing two groupings of three short double hung one over one windows separated by brick pilasters which have limestone caps and bases. Originally, these windows were of leaded glass as described earlier. A few of the original leaded windows remain.

A large part of the south or rear side of the building is composed of a semi-circular bay containing six short double-hung one over one windows, some of which still contain the original leaded glass panes. These are evenly spaced around the curving bay. On either side of the semi-circular bay is one long double-hung one over one window with a transom of leaded glass. These match the windows on the front facade.

The full above ground basement gives the appearance of rustication with the use of corbelled bricks. Recessed double hung one over one windows are symmetrically placed around the basement with each having a flat brick arch. One exception is in the basement of the rounded bay where the third window from the west is replaced with a door to the boiler room. At the present time a modern flush door is in place.

At the basement level in the front portico area, a small double-hung one over one window is placed on either side of the entrance steps. These two windows are covered with a screen of metal bars.

The hipped roof is covered with slate shingles with decorative copper ridge trim. A large chimney is located near the southwest corner where the semi-circular bay adjoins the rectangular building. Brick panels decorate the four sides of the chimney. Three round ventilators are in the roof. One is located at either end of the east-west ridge. The third is in the center of the roof of the semi-circular bay. A round skylight is located in the center of the building's roof.

The interior floor plan of the first floor is essentially the same as it was originally designed and retains much of the original ceramic tiled floor. From the foyer, a door to the left provides access to the basement. Proceeding forward from the entry, four marble steps lead to the library proper. The original circulation desk has been replaced by a Formica covered counter years ago. Immediately behind the desk is a semi-circular bay which contains the main stacks. The original oak shelving is still in use. The east third of the building is a reading room and reference section while the west area, originally a children's area (see below), is now more book stacks. Much of the original interior oak trim, oak bookshelves, and steam radiators remain and are in use. Pine and modern metal shelving have been added in some areas. The plaster walls are painted. The original light fixtures have been replaced with fluorescent fixtures suspended on long pipes from the plaster ceiling. In the northeast corner of the library is a remnant of one of the original electric-gas light fixtures. Two large fans are also suspended from the

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 3

St. Joseph Public Library, Carnegie Branch  
Buchanan County, Missouri

ceiling. Directly above the circulation desk is an octagon-shaped skylight. Above the plain glass is a leaded frosted-glass window with a blue stained-glass trim. The floor has been covered with carpeting.

The basement originally contained a boiler room, restrooms, and two rooms which were used as a smoking and club room for men and boys, who originally spent many winter evenings here around checker boards and chess tables. Due to lack of funding and need for the space, these activities were curtailed.<sup>2</sup> The larger meeting room is now used to house the children's section. This room contains assorted bookcases plus four original low oak library tables and chairs that were originally in the children's section upstairs. The ceiling in this room has been lowered by means of a suspended acoustical tile ceiling.

The oak woodwork has been painted. The lower section of the walls have been paneled while part of the original plaster wall between the paneling and dropped ceiling is painted. The other rooms are used for storage, but still retain the original oak doors. A fireproof metal door has been added near the corner. This apparently leads to the furnace room. Entrance to the basement is by a set of 16 wooden steps leading off the left side of the foyer (see above).

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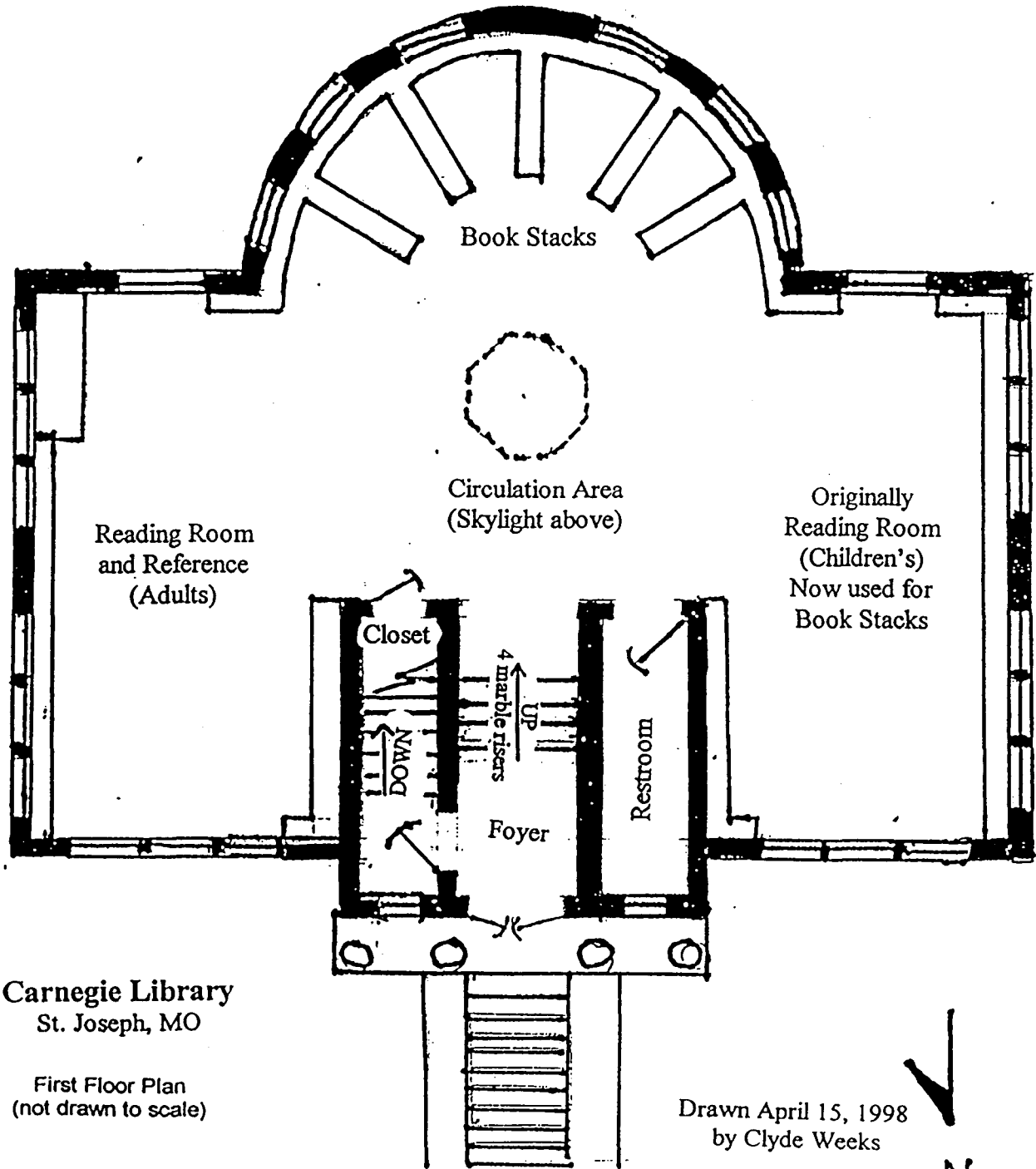
<sup>2</sup> The St. Joseph Telegraph, September 9, 1993, p. B-18

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 4

St. Joseph Public Library, Carnegie Branch  
Buchanan County, Missouri



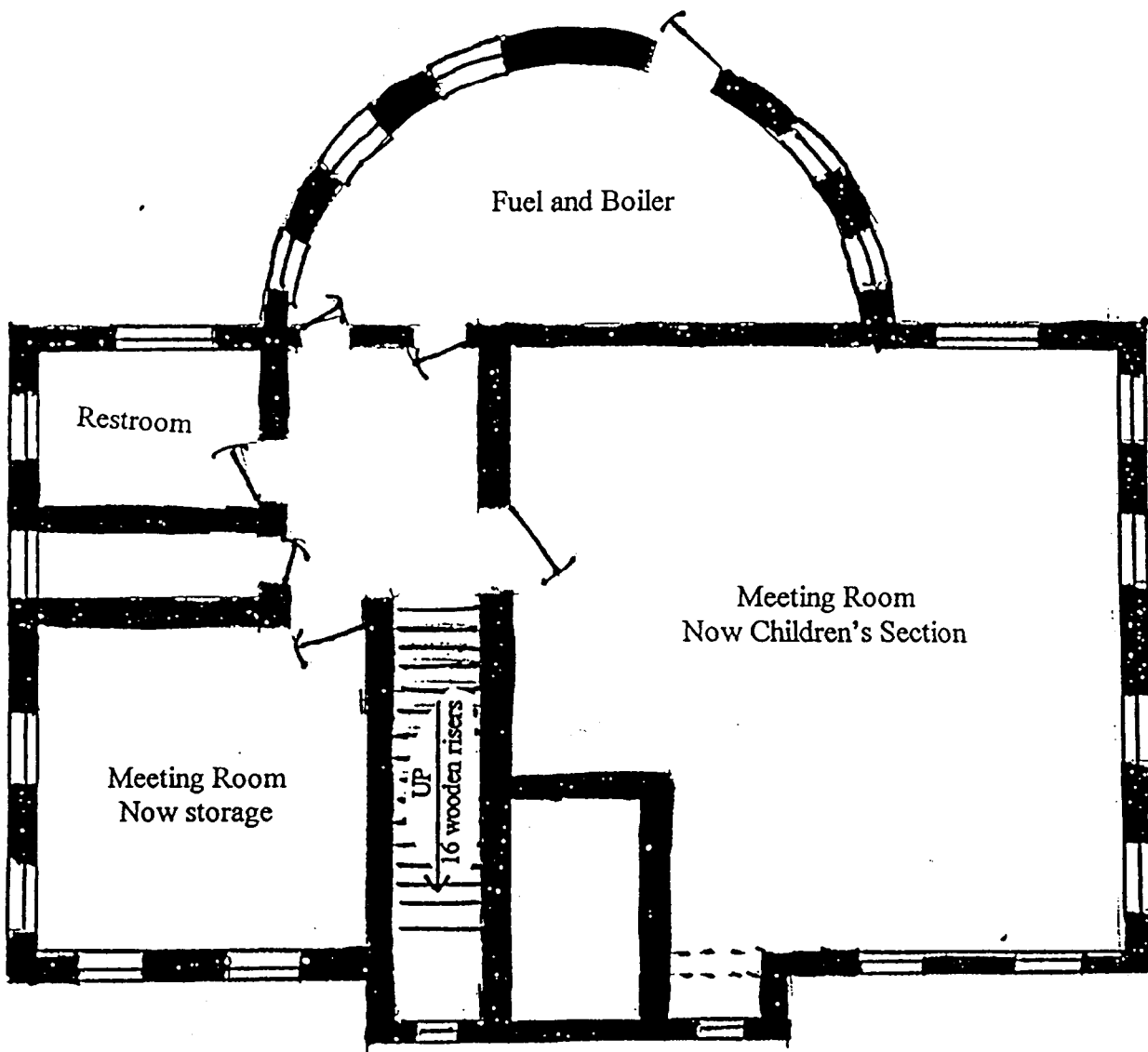


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 5

St. Joseph Public Library, Carnegie Branch  
Buchanan County, Missouri



Carnegie Library  
St. Joseph, MO

Basement Floor Plan  
(not drawn to scale)

Drawn April 15, 1998  
by Clyde Weeks

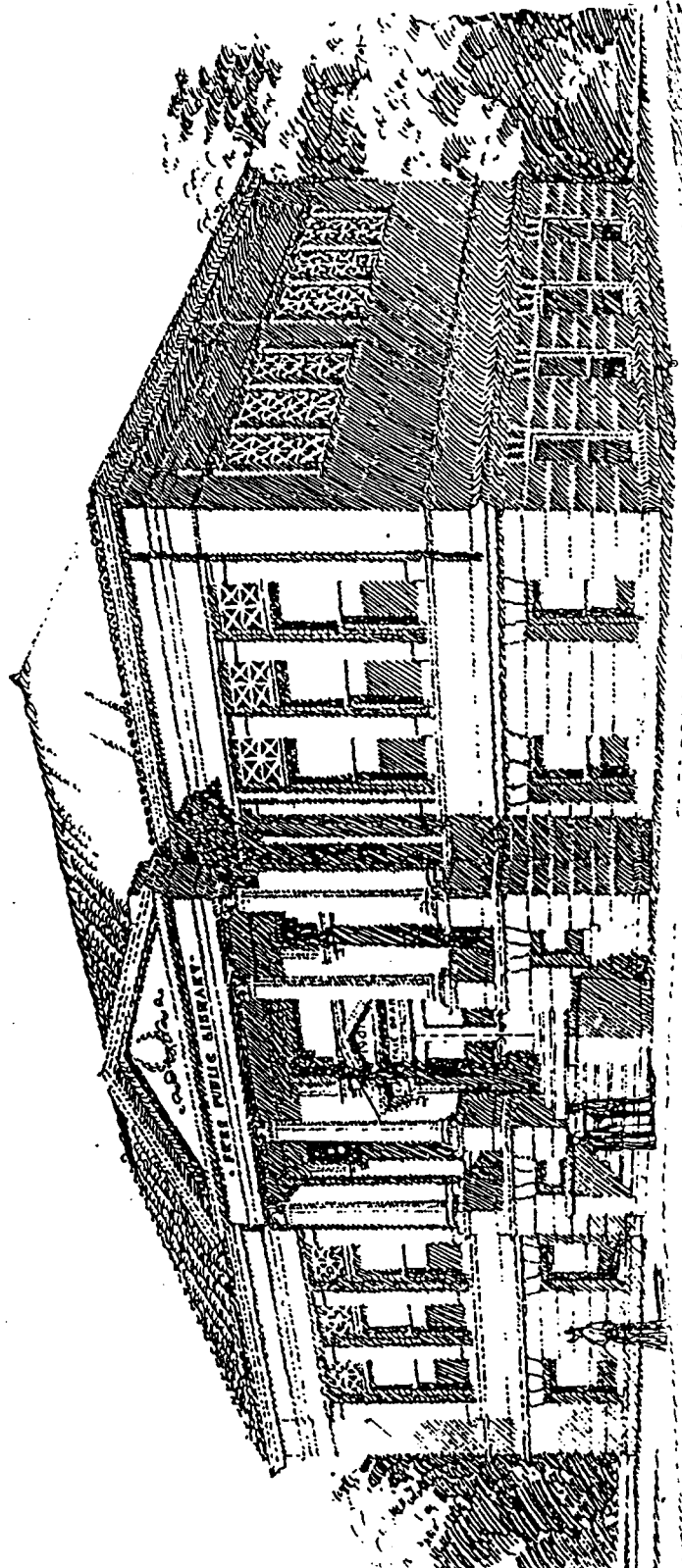


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 6

St. Joseph Public Library, Carnegie Branch  
Buchanan County, Missouri



THE NEW \$25,000.00 CARNEGIE LIBRARY, SOUTH ST. JOSEPH, MO.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 7

St. Joseph Public library, Carnegie Branch  
Buchanan County, Missouri

**SUMMARY:** The St. Joseph Public Library, Carnegie Branch, 316 Massachusetts Street, St. Joseph, Buchanan County, is significant under Criterion A in the area of social history. Constructed 1901-1902, the library served the working class and largely immigrant population of South St. Joseph, the community which had grown around the city's stock yards. The Carnegie Branch of the St. Joseph Public Library is one of only eight branch libraries constructed in the state; generally, urban libraries established branches in an effort to expand their services to their newer, usually immigrant citizens. The library was the result of the combined efforts of local entrepreneur and businessman Colonel John Donovan Jr. and philanthropist Andrew Carnegie. In addition to the general goals of social improvement set by Carnegie for the libraries he supported nationwide, this branch library was intended to provide a sense of identity and an opportunity for elevation to the citizens of the St. Joseph industrial suburb largely founded by Donovan. The library is also significant under Criterion C in the area of architecture. Designed by master architect Edmund J. Eckel, the building is an excellent example of a well designed Carnegie library building which represents both a high style of architecture and served as the focus of the community of South St. Joseph. Eckel was noted for his outstanding designs of numerous public and private buildings in the Midwest. With the South St. Joseph branch library, he created a simple, dignified building with an interior that was open, flexible, practical, and still made economical use of space. The period of significance extends from 1902, the date of completion of the library, to 1949, the arbitrary fifty year limit. The building still serves as a branch library.

**NARRATIVE:** Public libraries in the United States were a continuation and an extension of earlier proprietary and subscription libraries, or "social libraries," which were established in New England as early as 1790. These original libraries were voluntary associations of people of similar economic and social standing and were based on the ability of the user to pay for the library's services. In 1835, the enactment in New York of a state law which authorized tax-supported, free library service in each of its school districts was the first official acknowledgment of the responsibility of the state to encourage and support free libraries for the use of the public. As a public library, the school library was ineffective, offering too few volumes and insufficiently funded. Two years earlier, however, the first municipally supported, free public library was established by the town of Peterborough, New Hampshire. In 1848, Massachusetts was the first state which combined state funding with municipal administration of a public library with a law which allowed Boston to levy a tax for the creation of a public library. Three years later the law was extended to all cities and towns in the state.<sup>3</sup>

COLONEL JOHN DONOVAN AND SOUTH ST. JOSEPH

South St. Joseph owed its origins to John Donovan Jr. Born in 1854 in Easton, Maryland, Donovan was educated in Baltimore, but in 1868, he and his family moved to St. Joseph, Missouri, where his father practiced law and was involved in the real estate business. In that year, Donovan was employed as an errand boy in a shoe store. He later worked as a clerk for the Hannibal & St. Joseph Railroad, then for the contracting firm of Hastings and Saxon, where he bought ties and equipment for the St. Joseph & Denver Railroad (later the St. Joseph & Grand Island Railway). After a brief time with the Northern Kansas Land and Town Company, which laid out towns along the St. Joseph & Grand Island route, in 1871, Donovan bought cattle in northwest Missouri and drove them to Maryville, where they were sold to local farmers. Later that year, he was a messenger for the State National Bank of St. Joseph, where he remained for ten

<sup>3</sup>George S. Bobinski, Carnegie Libraries (Chicago: American Library Association, 1969), pp. 4-5.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 8

St. Joseph Public library, Carnegie Branch  
Buchanan County, Missouri

years. In 1881, he managed the Hemphill County Cattle Company in Texas, a firm founded by St. Joseph capitalists, but the business sold out in that year and he returned to St. Joseph, where he purchased a tract of swampy lowland south of St. Joseph.

Donovan began efforts to reclaim the lands by ditching and draining. In 1884, the St. Joseph Stock Yards Company was founded, with Donovan as a director. The stock yards originally consisted of Donovan's 440 acre tract, to which seventy-two acres were eventually added. A number of packing companies were induced to locate on the site and erect their own facilities through grants of land at the site. In addition, beginning in 1888, the Stock Yards Company erected plants which it leased to packing companies, such as Allerton & Company of Chicago, Anchor Packing Company, the Moran Packing Company, and Swift company. In 1890, the Stock Yards Company was reorganized as the St. Joseph Stock Yards & Terminal Company. In 1893, Donovan became vice-president and general manager of the company.

From 1895 to 1897, the stock yards company was in receivership, with Donovan appointed as one of the two receivers. The company was reorganized under its original name, the St. Joseph Stock Yards Company, and in 1897 Swift & Company purchased a major portion of its stock. Construction of packing plants continued, with Swift and Nelson Morris, also a large stock holder, erecting plants, also in 1897. In 1899, a Live Stock Exchange, which included offices for the commission, the First Stock Yards Bank, a post office, and a barber shop was constructed. By 1904, a "populous suburb" had grown around Donovan's original purchase. The name selected for the post office was Stock Yard.

In 1887, Donovan was one of the founders of the German-American Bank of St. Joseph (NRHP 1978), of which he served as president until 1893; president of the St. Joseph Railway and Light & Power Company; director of the St. Joseph and Savannah Interurban Railroad Company; and an active real estate promoter and developer. He also operated his own stock farm, the King Hill Stock Farm. In 1887, he was appointed police commissioner and served as a major in the Missouri National Guard. He died on November 18, 1913.<sup>4</sup>

On February 13, 1901, a grant in the amount of \$50,000 was awarded to St. Joseph by Andrew Carnegie for the construction of two branch libraries.<sup>5</sup> One library was to be constructed in South St. Joseph, largely due to the agitation of Colonel Donovan. The South St. Joseph Town Company donated a block of ground as a location for the new library, and the people of St. Joseph voted to provide \$2,500 per annum for the operation and maintenance of the branch library.<sup>6</sup> South St. Joseph came under the jurisdiction of the city of St. Joseph in 1899; however, because it was physically separated from the city proper by the large railroad yards and the terrain, which consisted of many hills and valleys, the sense of separation remained.

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<sup>4</sup>Chris L. Rutt, ed., History of Buchanan County and the City of St. Joseph and Representative Citizens (Chicago: Biographical Publishing Company, 1904), pp. 49, 244, and 700-701; and Sheridan A. Logan, Old Saint Jo: Gateway to the West, 1799-1932 (N.p.: John Sublett Logan Foundation, 1979), pp. 243-246.

<sup>5</sup>According to Jones, the Carnegie grant was for the construction of two branches, identified as the Carnegie branch and the Washington Bluff branch (p. 150).

<sup>6</sup>Rutt, p. 102

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 9

St. Joseph Public library, Carnegie Branch  
Buchanan County, Missouri

CARNEGIE LIBRARIES

According to his autobiography, Andrew Carnegie was inspired in his later library philanthropy by the example of Colonel James Anderson of Allegheny, who opened his personal library of four hundred volumes each Saturday afternoon to any young working boy who wished to borrow a book for the following week.<sup>7</sup> Carnegie later praised the benefits reaped by Anderson's generosity:

Books which it would have been impossible for me to obtain elsewhere were, by his wise generosity, placed within my reach; and to him I owe a taste for literature which I would not exchange for all the millions that were ever amassed by man. Life would be quite intolerable without it. Nothing contributed so much to keep my companions and myself clear of low fellowship and bad habits as the beneficence of the good Colonel.<sup>8</sup>

The experiment was so successful that Anderson added several hundred additional volumes to his collection and located the collection in its own building, "The Mechanics' and Apprentices' Library," Allegheny's first public library. An annual subscription fee of \$2.00 was required to all users with the exception of apprentices, who could use the library for free.<sup>9</sup>

Andrew Carnegie emerged as the major benefactor of public libraries in America and abroad after the turn of the century.<sup>10</sup> Carnegie was born in Dunfermline, Scotland, on November 25, 1835, the son of a weaver. In 1848, Carnegie, his parents, and his younger brother followed his mother's family to America, where the father was employed in a cotton factory, where Andrew also worked as a bobbin boy. Andrew Carnegie was subsequently employed as an engine tender, telegraph messenger boy, telegrapher, private secretary to the superintendent of the Pittsburgh Division of the Pennsylvania Railroad, and, ultimately, superintendent himself. His investment of one-eighth interest in the Woodruff Company, original holder of the patent on the Pullman sleeping car, which Carnegie introduced on the Pennsylvania Railroad, led to his interest in the American iron industry, which was enjoying a tremendous impetus from the Civil War. His next venture, the Keystone Bridge Company, led to acquaintanceship with British steel makers, most notably Henry Bessemer, and, in 1873, he transferred his interests to the creation of an American steel industry.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>7</sup>Andrew Carnegie, Autobiography of Andrew Carnegie: Popular Edition (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1924), pp. 45-47. Much of the following discussion is drawn from Linda F. Becker and Steven E. Mitchell, "Albany Public Library [Gentry County]," National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, 1990 (copy in Missouri Cultural Resource Inventory, Jefferson City, MO).

<sup>8</sup>Carnegie, p. 46-47.

<sup>9</sup>Joseph Frazier Wall, Andrew Carnegie (New York: Oxford University Press, 1970), p. 107.

<sup>10</sup>"California's Carnegie Libraries," California Office of Historic Preservation Newsletter 3 (Fall 1988): 1.

<sup>11</sup>B.J.H., "Carnegie, Andrew," in Allen Johnson and Dumas Malone, eds., Dictionary of American Biography, vol. 2, Brearly--Cushing (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1930), pp. 499-501.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 10

St. Joseph Public library, Carnegie Branch  
Buchanan County, Missouri

As noted in the Dictionary of American Biography, "Carnegie's business life for the next three decades is, in its larger outlines, the industrial history of the United States for the same period."<sup>12</sup> By 1889, the steel production of the United States exceeded that of Great Britain, and, in 1900, the profits of the Carnegie Company were \$40,000,000, Carnegie's share of which was approximately \$25,000,000. In 1901, Carnegie sold his business to the United States Steel Corporation for \$250,000,000 in five percent fifty-year gold bonds and retired.

Upon his retirement, Carnegie devoted his life to philanthropy. His decision was not unexpected; in 1873, he had made his first gift, \$25,000, for a public swimming bath to his home community of Dumfermline. Carnegie attempted to apply to his philanthropy the same rational and systematic principles which he had applied in his businesses. His program of "scientific philanthropy" was espoused in a two part essay, "Wealth," first published in the June and December 1889 issues of North American Review, but reprinted under its better known title of "Gospel of Wealth" in the British Pall Mall Gazette. In his "Gospel," Carnegie proclaimed that "The problem of our age is the proper administration of wealth."<sup>13</sup> According to Carnegie, a man of great wealth had only three ways to dispose of his wealth. His alternatives were to: 1) leave his wealth to his family, an option Carnegie considered a curse rather than a blessing; 2) bequeath it in his will for public purposes, which was more responsible socially but subject to challenges from heirs; or 3) administer it during his lifetime for public benefit. Of the three alternatives, Carnegie recommended the third as "the true antidote for the temporary unequal distribution of wealth, the reconciliation of the rich and poor--a reign of harmony."<sup>14</sup> Under the third option, the rich man would dispose of his fortune during his lifetime, and it would be expended to the benefit and advancement of society,

. . . the man of wealth thus becoming the mere trustee and agent for his poorer brethren, bringing to their service his superior wisdom, experience, and ability to administer, doing for them better than they would or could do for themselves."<sup>15</sup>

In the second part of his essay, Carnegie discussed methods of administering surplus wealth and the specific fields of philanthropy in which one might invest. The first concern, according to Carnegie, was "to take care that the purposes for which he spends [his surplus wealth] shall not have a degrading pampering tendency upon its recipients, but that his trust shall be so administered as to stimulate the best and most aspiring poor of the community to further efforts for their own improvement."<sup>16</sup> Carnegie listed seven specific fields of philanthropy in which the wealthy man should invest. They were (in order of importance): 1) universities, 2) free libraries, which was first on Carnegie's own list, 3) founding or

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<sup>12</sup>Ibid., p. 501.

<sup>13</sup>Ibid., p. 806.

<sup>14</sup>Ibid., p. 807.

<sup>15</sup>Edward C. Kirkland, ed., The Gospel of Wealth and Other Timely Essays (Cambridge, MA: N.p., 1962), p. 25, cited in Wall, p. 807.

<sup>16</sup>Wall, p. 808.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 11

St. Joseph Public library, Carnegie Branch  
Buchanan County, Missouri

extension of hospitals or other institutions devoted to the lessening of human suffering, 4) parks, 5) meeting and concert halls, 6) swimming baths, and 7) churches.<sup>17</sup>

Despite his espousal of a "scientific philanthropy," Carnegie had practiced giving before his gospel was published and his early benefices followed no set system. In addition to donating a swimming bath and a library--his first--to Dumfermline, he had also awarded a library to Braddock, Pennsylvania, and a pipe organ to the church in Allegheny which his family had attended. He had also given \$6,000 over a five year period to the Western University of Pennsylvania. As Carnegie discussed in the "Gospel," libraries were to be his speciality in the early phase of his philanthropy after the "Gospel of Wealth" was published. Carnegie believed that public libraries were essential to the development of the citizen and that the best gift which could be given to a community was a free public library "provided the community will accept and maintain it as a public institution, as much a part of the city property as its public schools, and indeed, as an adjunct to these."<sup>18</sup> Within five years after the "Gospel" was published, he presented libraries to Allegheny and Fairfield, Iowa, in the United States, and to eight communities in Scotland. His intention was only to assist those communities which were willing to help themselves: "I think that an institution has not taken root, and is scarcely worth maintaining unless the community appreciates it sufficiently to tax itself for maintenance."<sup>19</sup> Carnegie's philosophy on library giving was summed up in a letter which he wrote to a library building applicant: "I believe that it [library building] out ranks any other one thing that a community can do to benefit its people. It is the never failing spring in the desert."<sup>20</sup>

The Carnegie library building philanthropy began in 1881 with his first gift for a library building in Dunfermline, Scotland, his birth place. On November 7, 1917, the library gifts ended, and the last Carnegie endowed libraries were completed two years later. Initially, Carnegie's stipulations for the library grants were simple: "To be eligible, a community had to demonstrate the need for a public library, provide the building site, and promise to support library services and maintenance with tax funds equal to 10 percent of the grant amount annually."<sup>21</sup> During the thirty-six year period in which libraries were constructed, Carnegie donated a total of \$56,162,622 for the construction of 2509 library buildings throughout the United States and other English speaking parts of the world. "More that \$40,000,000 of this amount was given for the erection of 1,679 public buildings in 1,412 communities of the United States."<sup>22</sup> He divided his library gifts into two periods, which he referred to as his "retail" period (1886-1897) and his "wholesale" period (1898-1919). During the "retail" period, Carnegie gave a total of \$1,860,869 for fourteen buildings in six communities in the United States. His "wholesale" period saw a

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<sup>17</sup>Ibid., p. 808.

<sup>18</sup>Andrew Carnegie, "The Best Fields for Philanthropy," North American Review 149 (December 1889): 668-669, cited in Koch, p. 8.

<sup>19</sup>Ibid., p. 816.

<sup>20</sup>Andrew Carnegie to E.S. Douglas, Letterbook, 1888-92, ACUSC, cited in Wall, p. 818-819.

<sup>21</sup>Jones, p. 26.

<sup>22</sup>Bobinski, p. 3.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 12

St. Joseph Public library, Carnegie Branch  
Buchanan County, Missouri

total of \$39,172,981 donated to 1,406 communities, with 1903 the year with the largest number of communities promised libraries--204. During this period a larger number of small libraries were erected. Carnegie believed that the local/smaller libraries could better reach the masses. It is estimated that a generation after Carnegie began his library program, the size of the reading public using the Carnegie libraries was 35,000,000 persons per day.

Most of the Carnegie library grants in Missouri were to small towns. Even before Carnegie's philanthropy helped increase the number of libraries, in America's urban areas, as part of the Progressive movement to decentralize services, libraries often established branches to make books available to the working class. As early as 1887, Carnegie offered a one million dollar grant to Pittsburgh with the condition that \$300,000 be used to construct branch libraries. In 1899, he awarded five million dollars to New York City to build sixty-six branch libraries, an event which Abigail Van Slyck contended signaled an impending change in the nature of his philanthropy. Between 1899 and 1908, Carnegie grants required large cities to devote a portion of their grant for the construction of branches, and from 1908, only branch libraries in large cities were funded. Carnegie held contradictory opinions about American workers and their opportunity for self-improvement. Although Carnegie was distrustful of the working class because of his opinions regarding labor activity, he still supported the idea that branch libraries were essential to give workers the means to elevate themselves, although he believed the number who would avail themselves of the opportunity would be small.<sup>23</sup>

Initially, there were few requirements and stipulations for those requesting library grants from Carnegie.<sup>24</sup> The grants were limited to English-speaking countries and the amount of the grant was dependent upon the town's population. Each community which requested a grant was required to complete a questionnaire which provided Carnegie information on the town's population, whether or not the community already supported a library, whether a site for a new library was available, and how much the community was willing and legally able to tax itself for annual support of the library. Once a community received a grant, they were to furnish the site and provide an annual maintenance agreement of 10 percent of the total amount he donated. For communities that received their gifts prior to 1904, there were no architectural requirements for construction of the library building.<sup>25</sup>

After 1904, communities were required to submit building plans for review to Carnegie's private secretary, James Bertram, for his approval prior to construction. Finally, in 1911, a leaflet entitled "Notes on Library Building" was prepared and provided for certain standards in library architecture. From 1911 on, this guide was sent to all communities requesting grants. However, by the time these architectural controls were imposed, 916 out of 1,412 communities had been promised library funds.<sup>26</sup>

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<sup>23</sup>Abigail A. Van Slyck, *Free to All: Carnegie Libraries & American Culture, 1890-1920* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1995), pp. 101-102.

<sup>24</sup>Koch, p. 11.

<sup>25</sup>Bobinski, pp. 46-47.

<sup>26</sup>Ibid., p. 58.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 13

St. Joseph Public library, Carnegie Branch  
Buchanan County, Missouri

Missouri received \$1,460,143 of Carnegie grants for public library buildings during the period 1898-1919,<sup>27</sup> ranking ninth in the states by the total amount contributed. [New York was first with \$6,449,200.] Also, the Midwest region, which included Missouri, ranked second in the total Carnegie dollar amount contributed in a region. Nationwide, Missouri ranked seventeenth in number of libraries constructed, as well as seventeenth in number of communities which received libraries. A total of thirty-three libraries were constructed in twenty-six communities in Missouri.<sup>28</sup> In addition, eight Missouri communities were offered funds but declined to accept. Missouri ranked seventeenth in the total number of Carnegie library buildings constructed. The Midwest region with 633 had both the largest number of communities obtaining grants, as well as the largest number of buildings--698.

The earliest Carnegie pledges in Missouri were made between 1899-1903, with the later ones between 1910-1917.<sup>29</sup> The largest sum went to St. Louis in 1901, the same year of the St. Joseph award, in the amount of \$1,000,000, while the smallest amount--\$7,500--went to Monroe City in 1916. According to statistics published in 1967 and updated by Jones in 1997, of the thirty-three Carnegie public library buildings in Missouri, twenty-nine were still being used as a library and one had been demolished.<sup>30</sup> A statewide survey of Carnegie public library buildings has not been undertaken. However, there are, four Carnegie library buildings listed individually in the National Register of Historic Places (Sedalia, Joplin, Albany, and Louisiana) and seven within historic districts (one each in districts in Jefferson City, Carthage, and Fayette, and one in each of four districts in St. Louis). Carnegie library buildings in Aurora and Mexico have been determined eligible for listing.

EDMOND J. ECKEL

Edmond Jacques Eckel was born June 22, 1845, at Strasbourg, Alsace. His father, a former professor at a military institute, ran a toy manufacturing business. After attending the city's Protestant schools, at the age of fourteen, Eckel was employed by a relative who operated a contracting business and also worked for the city architect. In 1863, he entered the Atelier Paccard in Paris, and, later, joined the Atelier Vaudoyer, receiving his diploma at the École des Beaux Arts in 1868. In the same year he came to the United States, where he worked briefly before he made his way to Cleveland, where his brother was already living. With his brother's assistance, he obtained a job with the city as a draftsman, where he worked for eight months. About July 1869, the brothers left Cleveland for Kansas City, but they were detained in St. Joseph, where Edmond decided to remain.

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<sup>27</sup>A Handbook of Missouri Libraries, the Ninth Annual Report of the Missouri Library Commission for the Year 1915 (Jefferson City, MO: N.p., 1916), p. 26.

<sup>28</sup>Bobinski, pp. 19-20. Indiana was first in both number of communities and number of library buildings constructed: 155 communities received library buildings and 164 libraries were constructed.

<sup>29</sup>Durand Miller, Carnegie Grants for Library Buildings, 1890-1917 (New York: Carnegie Corporation, 1943), p. 21.

<sup>30</sup>Bobinski, pp. 172-173.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 14

St. Joseph Public library, Carnegie Branch  
Buchanan County, Missouri

Eckel first worked as a draftsman for the firm of Stigers and Boettner, as well as assisting architect P.F. Meagher. In 1873, he formed a partnership with August Meier, and in 1874 practiced independently. The following year, he returned to Stigers and Boettner as a junior partner; on Stigers's retirement in 1878, the firm became Boettner and Eckel. In 1880, Eckel formed a partnership with George Mann, who had been employed as a draftsman the previous year by Boettner and Eckel. The two men worked as partners from 1880 to 1885, from 1887 to 1891, and finally from 1903 to 1905. Eckel worked independently in 1886, from 1893 to 1902, and from 1906 to 1908. From 1908 to 1910, he was partners with Walter Boschen. Finally, in 1910, he joined with his son George R. Eckel and William S. Aldrich to form Eckel and Aldrich, and he remained with this partnership until his death in 1934.<sup>31</sup>

In was during one of his periods as an independent architect that Eckel designed both the St. Joseph Public Library at Tenth and Felix streets (NRHP 1982) and the Carnegie Branch Library. Eckel designed at least four libraries in Missouri; in addition to the above two, he also designed the Albany Carnegie Library (NRHP 1990) and the William Jewell College Library in Liberty. Within South St. Joseph, Eckel also designed the St. James Catholic Church and the Livestock Exchange Building. Many of Eckel's buildings have already been listed in the National Register, including the Corby-Forsee Building (NRHP 1980), the German American Bank Building (NRHP 1978), the Edmond Jacques Eckel House (NRHP 1980), Wholesale Row and several residences including the A.N. Schuster House, the James H. Robison House, and the Herchel Bartlett House, all within the Hall Street Historic District, St. Joseph.

In 1920, Eckel was praised as "Versatile, as well as thorough, idealistic, as well as practical, his work covers the Mississippi and Missouri Valley."<sup>32</sup> According to Leonard Eaton, "For a surprisingly long period Edmond Jacques Eckel and his partners were the dominating firm in St. Joseph, and their influence was felt throughout the entire Missouri Valley."<sup>33</sup> In addition to his work in Missouri, he also designed buildings in fifteen other states. His work in St. Joseph, however, was largely responsible for the look of the city after 1869. A partial survey of his work identified over 350 buildings in St. Joseph which he designed or influenced the designs of.

The St. Joseph Public Library, Carnegie Branch, was completed before Bertram's notes on buildings were compiled, as well as before he began his review of all library plans. There is no information on the process Eckel followed to arrive at his design, which is a muted version of the Classical Revival. After 1904, a similar, simpler version of the style, labeled Carnegie Classical, supplanted the purer revival style, probably partly at the urging of Carnegie and Bertram. In the simplified version, the starting point was the basic floorplan and revival elements and details were applied only to the extent necessary to satisfy local

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<sup>31</sup>Toni M. Prawl, "Historic Architects of Saint Joseph, Missouri [typescript]," (1989; copy in Missouri Cultural Resource Inventory), n.p.; and Leonard K. Eaton, Gateway Cities & Other Essays, Great Plains Environmental Design Series (Ames: Iowa State University Press, 1989), pp. 22-23.

<sup>32</sup>Tracy, Walter P., Men Who Made St. Joseph "The City Worthwhile" St. Joseph, Missouri Combe Printing Company, (1920) n.p.

<sup>33</sup>Eaton, p. 22.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 15

St. Joseph Public library, Carnegie Branch  
Buchanan County, Missouri

demands for a classically inspired building.<sup>34</sup> Eckel may have applied similar, functional reasoning to the development of his design for the building. The main floor, which is approximately sixteen feet high, accommodated the book stacks, circulation desk area, and space for reference and reading areas. By placing the side and most of the rear windows six to seven feet above the floor, Eckel also allowed shelving to be placed around the room. His plan sited the circulation desk near the entrance and placed it in such a way that the librarian could supervise as much of the library as possible.

ST. JOSEPH PUBLIC LIBRARY, CARNEGIE BRANCH

St. Joseph's public library system began after the Civil War when a ladies' group organized a small library in the Samuels Building at Sixth and Charles streets. In 1890, Samuel S. Douglas suggested that the city take advantage of an 1885 state law which authorized cities to establish free public libraries by a vote of the people. Douglas, joined by City Clerk Purd B. Wright promoted the measure, which carried by a vote of more than six to one. In 1891-1892, the library was moved to Tenth and Sylvania streets, and, in 1896, Wright became the city's fifth librarian. A new main library was completed in 1902 at Tenth and Felix (NRHP 1982); constructed to also house a museum, the space was utilized instead for offices for the public school system. An annex was constructed later to provide for a museum.<sup>35</sup>

The South St. Joseph branch library was completed in the same year as the main library. What was billed as an informal opening ceremony was held for the new branch library on November 26, 1902. The St. Joseph Evening Press described the ceremonies, which began with a procession by the South St. Joseph band, as "interesting if not elaborate."<sup>36</sup> Attendees included city officials, members of the library board, and businessmen. Horace Wood served as master of ceremonies, and a note of bitterness and rivalry toward St. Joseph was evident in his remarks: "This is a happy occasion for South St. Joseph but especially so because we don't have to go to St. Joseph now for library privileges."<sup>37</sup> He also noted that "With the completion of this library' . . . 'South St. Joseph has now almost every valuable facility that St. Joseph proper has. There is almost nothing now that we can wish for, except a better thoroughfare for travel between us."<sup>38</sup>

In contrast to Wood, J.C. Letis, president of the Commercial Club, pointed to the erection of the library as an opportunity to end the rivalry between St. Joseph's various sections:

". . . there should be no such thing as South St. Joseph. I believe that the time has come when North St. Joseph, East St. Joseph, and West St. Joseph should stand together for the upbuilding of St. Joseph. Let us put our shoulder to the wheel and see if we can't make something of the old town. . . ."

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<sup>34</sup>Jones, p. 69.

<sup>35</sup>Missouri River Heritage Association, Heritage of Buchanan County, Missouri (Dallas: National Share Graphics, 1984), p. 37.

<sup>36</sup>"Opening of Library," St. Joseph Evening Press, November 28, 1902, p. 2.

<sup>37</sup>"South St. Joseph's Carnegie Branch," St. Joseph Daily News, November 27, 1902, p. 7.

<sup>38</sup>"Opening of Library," St. Joseph Evening Press, November 28, 1902, p. 2.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 16

St. Joseph Public library, Carnegie Branch  
Buchanan County, Missouri

J.W. Atwill, president of the library board, offered congratulations to South St. Joseph, and Purd Wright, librarian, assured attendees that "if anything remained undone it was not the fault of the contractors or architects; if anything was amiss it was his fault."<sup>39</sup>

Most speakers acknowledged the debt South St. Joseph owed to Colonel Donovan for his efforts to secure the branch library. Letis congratulated South St. Joseph on its possession of so valuable a citizen as Donovan, and Reverend W.F. Davis of the South St. Joseph Methodist Episcopal church and J.A. McDonald credited Donovan with securing the library. Donovan dismissed the credit and proposed that the building be used for more than just a library:

"It is very little credit" . . . "that I think I am entitled to for this building and this institution. All that I did was to induce Mr. Carnegie to include South St. Joseph in his appropriations, the town company to donate a building site, and if any of you feel that I am entitled to any gratitude I beg of you that you will repay it by using your influence with the school board for the establishment of a night school in the rooms below. To use that will be the best of all. There are employed in these packing houses thousands of men and boys, who would be glad to learn if they had opportunities, and plenty of higher places are waiting for them when they have the education."<sup>40</sup>

With the successful completion of the library, Donovan was not content to rest in his efforts to improve the social conditions of the section of St. Joseph he had largely created. The space for the night school--"two well-lighted, steam-heated rooms"--existed. The only additional expense, he urged, was for a teacher, which would be furnished by the city school board. "The library is a success," he pleaded, "the night school is an experiment."<sup>41</sup> He concluded:

"I'm proud of South St. Joseph," . . . "This is the first branch library ever built in Missouri. I'm proud of anything that helps build up the city. I want the night school badly."<sup>42</sup>

On November 27, a special women's day opening was held, and on November 28, a Saturday, children's day was observed. The library was formally opened on Monday, December 1.

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<sup>39</sup>"South St. Joseph's Carnegie Branch," St. Joseph Daily News, November 27, 1902, p. 7.

<sup>40</sup>"Opening of Library," St. Joseph Evening Press, November 28, 1902, p. 2.

<sup>41</sup>"South St. Joseph's Carnegie Branch," St. Joseph Daily News, November 27, 1902, p. 7.

<sup>42</sup>Ibid.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section 9 Page 17

St. Joseph Public Library, Carnegie Branch  
Buchanan County, Missouri

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section 9. 10. 11. Page 18.

St. Joseph Public Library, Carnegie Branch  
Buchanan County, Missouri

The St. Joseph Telegraph, September 9, 1993

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Verbal Boundary Description:** The boundary of the nominated property includes Lots 1 to 32, Block 16  
and the vacated alley, South St. Joseph Town Company Addition, St. Joseph, Buchanan County.

**Boundary Justification:** The boundaries of the property include the entire city block which has been  
historically associated with the St. Joseph Public Library, Carnegie Branch.

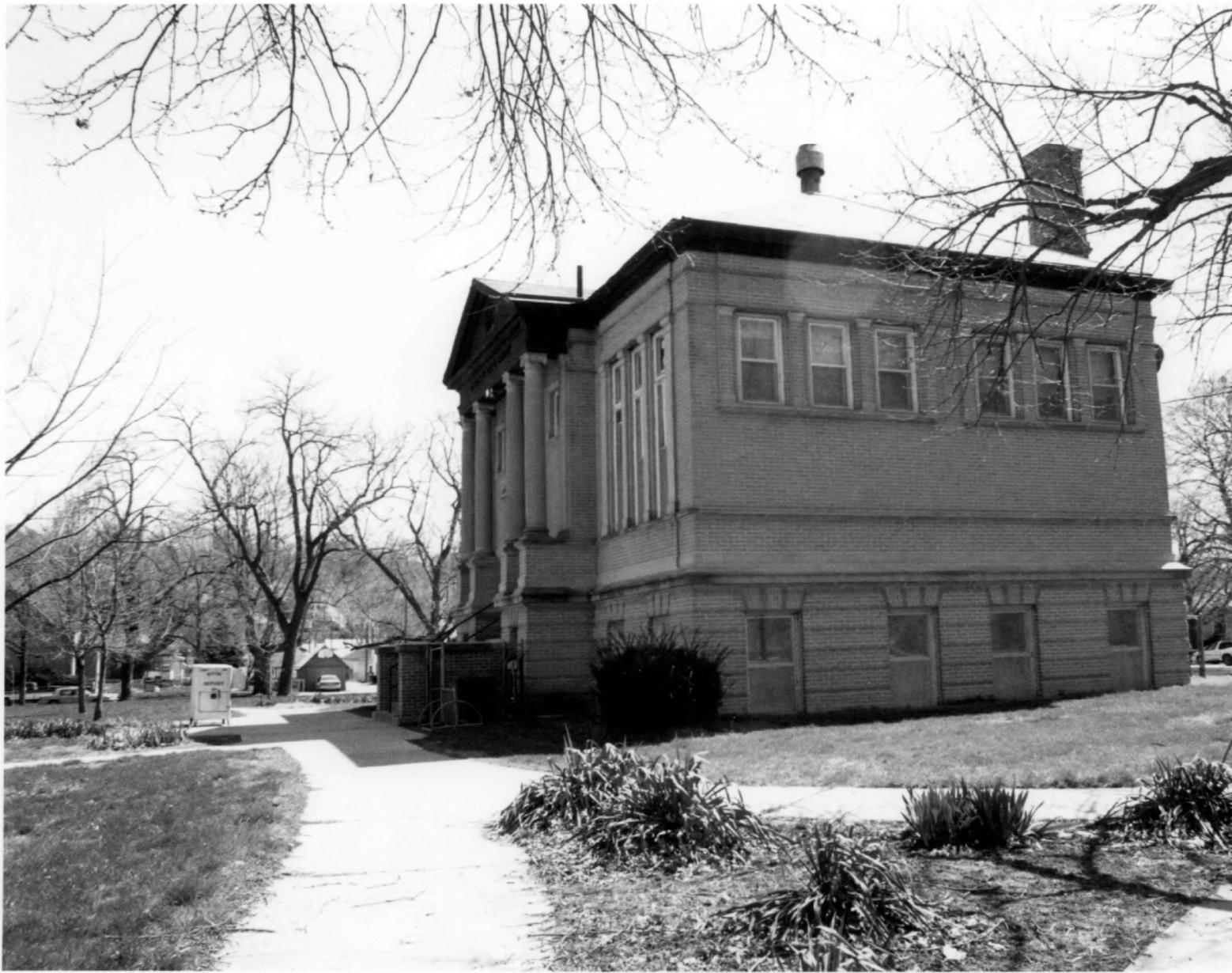
**11. Form Prepared By**

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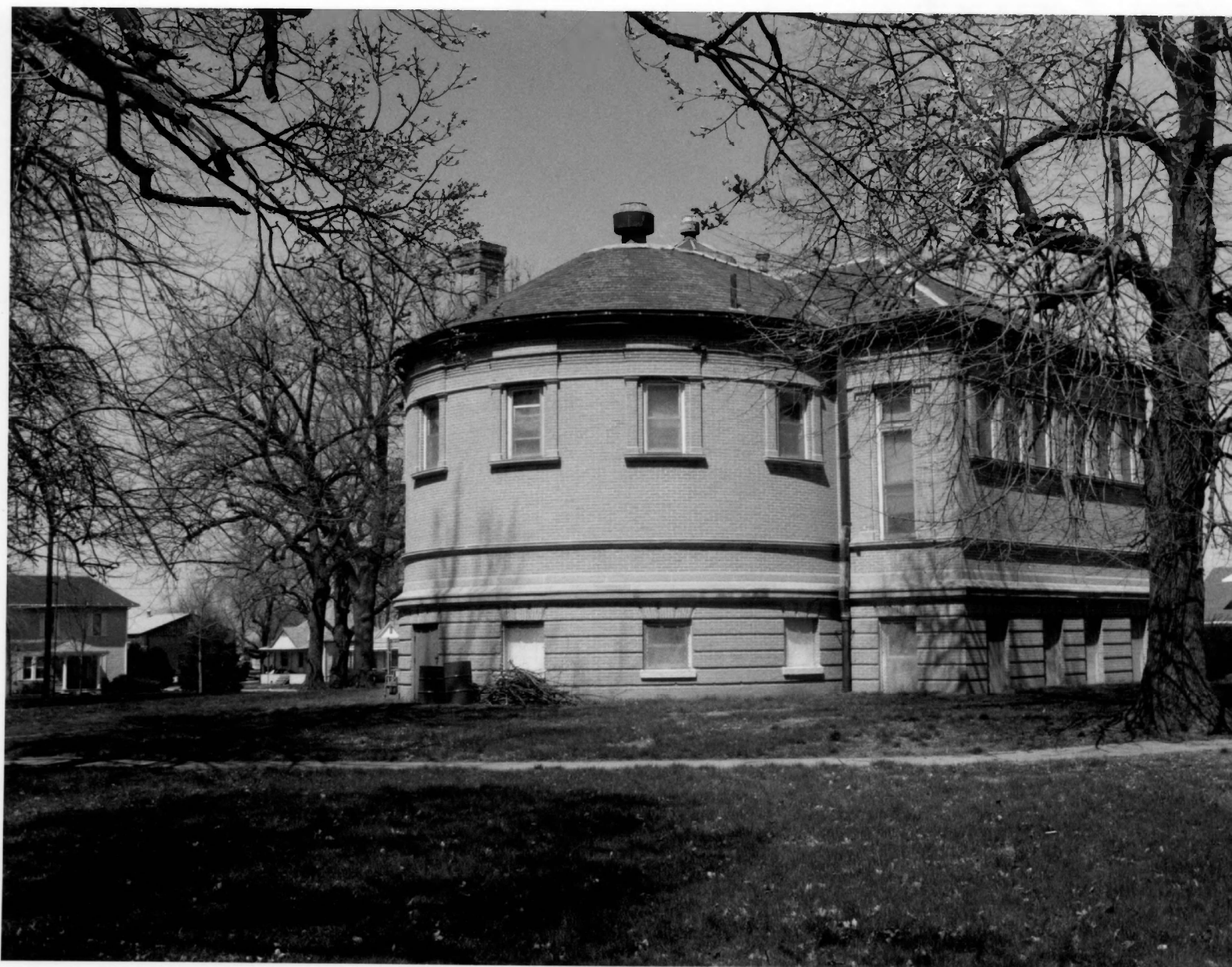


St. Joseph Public Library, Carnegie Branch  
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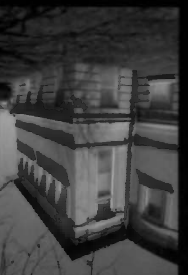
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EXTRA  
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