NPS Form 10-900
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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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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

103-3020-~~0085~~ ~~0112~~ 0113

historic Leavenworth Public Library

and or common Same

2. Location

street & number 601 South 5th Street ___ not for publication

city, town Leavenworth ___ vicinity of

state Kansas code 20 county Leavenworth code 103

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Leavenworth Public Library Board of Directors

street & number 601 South 5th Street

city, town Leavenworth ___ vicinity of state Kansas 66048

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Leavenworth County Courthouse

street & number Courthouse Square

city, town Leavenworth state Kansas 66048

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Kansas Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes X no

date 1985-1986 ___ federal ___ state ___ county X local

depository for survey records Kansas State Historical Society

city, town Topeka state Kansas 66612

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
X excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	X original site
___ good	___ ruins	X altered	___ moved date _____
___ fair	___ unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Leavenworth Public Library (ca. 1900-1902) is located at 601 South 5th Street in Leavenworth, Leavenworth County, Kansas (pop. 33,656). The two-story Neo-Classical brick, limestone, and terra cotta structure stands in a commercial area bordering the city's central business district. The building maintains a high degree of external architectural integrity and a moderately high degree of internal architectural integrity.

The building is rectangular in plan; a large, two story, tan brick rectangle forms the main body of the building while a smaller, one-story, tan brick rectangle forms the building's rear. The main body of the building stands on a cut, limestone block foundation with a limestone water table and is surmounted by a parapet wall. Both rectangular units have flat roofs covered with tar and pebbles. A 1902 photograph of the building indicates that at one time the main body of the building had a hipped roof. The building is supported by load bearing brick walls, using a waffle construction system.

The building is sited on a rise, with a western facade orientation. Seventeen limestone steps lead from the sidewalk to the building's main entry. Metal railings divide the steps in the center. Limestone posts flank the stairway at the street and the entry levels, the latter projecting from curved extensions of the foundation wall. A cast iron lamp post stands on each of the upper posts, the southern lamp post retains its milk glass globe. A tooled, two and three course limestone block retaining wall surrounds the building's lot on its north, west, and east sides.

The building's three-bay facade is comprised of a center, projecting pavilion with a pedimented portico, flanked by two identical bays. The portico is slightly less wide than the pavilion. Two pairs of monumental Ionic columns support the portico's buff-colored, terra cotta entablature and pediment. The smooth shafted columns stand on a coursed limestone block extension of the building's foundation. The bays are comprised of a pair of single light, transomed wooden windows on the first level, surmounted by a round arched wooden window on the second level. A recessed brick panel separates the two levels. Doric pilasters flank the fenestration unit.

From its base, the portico's entablature is comprised of a three-course architrave, a moulded taenia, a one course frieze into which the words "PUBLIC LIBRARY" and date "AD MCM" are inscribed, and a dentilled cornice with an egg and dart moulding course directly above the dentils. An undecorated rosette projects from the frieze area above each of the Ionic columns, separating the words and date. This entablature treatment is employed for the north, west, and south elevations of the two-story unit. The rosette motif is employed above each of the pilasters which frame the fenestration units of the three elevations.

The portico's triangular pediment surmounts the entablature. It has a raking dentilled cornice with an egg and dart moulding above the dentil course. The pediment's tympanum displays a high relief sculpting of the book and torch of knowledge, framed by fronds. An antefix ornaments the pediment's apex, halved antefices ornament the base of the component.

The first level of the pavilion's face is composed of a center double door with a classically ornate surround, flanked by two narrow, single light wooden windows with flared limestone lintels and sills. The pavilion's second story is composed of a center double casement wooden window flanked by two recessed brick panels. The window's limestone surround exhibits multiple mouldings with shouldered architraves and sills. A scrolled terra cotta bas-relief ornaments the architrave's center.

The interior component of the limestone and terra cotta door surround is comprised of a multiply moulded, limestone shouldered architrave supported by multiply moulded limestone stiles. A terra cotta bundle of olive branches and leaves projects from the frieze. The exterior limestone surround is comprised of multiple moulded stiles which support the cornice and pediment. Large, classically carved limestone consoles support the limestone corona. A classical moulding runs beneath the corona. The entablature supports a terra cotta, scrolled pediment with a wreathed bas-relief in its center.

The double door contained within this classically ornate surround is a bronze colored aluminum frame with plate glass. A transom surmounts the door, this is not an original treatment as photographs from 1902 and 1939 show that the original doors took up the entire doorway space. Above the transom stands a bronze plaque into which is inscribed "Donated to the people of Leavenworth by Andrew Carnegie." The above mentioned 1902 photograph of the building shows a rolled back, striped awning projecting from above the plaque. By 1939 the awning had been removed.

The fenestration on the first level of the identical bays which flank the projecting pavilion is comprised of a centrally located, engaged pair of single light, transomed, wooden windows. A beaded mullion divides the two windows, the mullion stands on a classical base. Photographs taken in 1902 and 1939 show that the transoms had pinwheel muntins, dividing the two lights which comprised each transom into six pieces. Single panes now light the transoms. A flat, wide band of limestone forms a continous lintel above the transomed windows. The lintel is "supported" by a scrolled bracket which projects from the mullion. The wooden windows used on the first level and throughout the building are shown painted a dark color in the referenced 1902 and 1939 photographs, the window surrounds are currently painted white.

A pair of windows with wells pierces the limestone foundation of the building at grade, directly below the first story windows. A recessed brick panel surmounts the first level fenestration.

A round arch, double casement wooden window comprises the bay's second level fenestration. The double windows are divided by a beaded mullion which stands on a classical base. Three muntins divide each window. A multiply moulded, brick arch with a scrolled keystone surrounds the double casement window. It concludes into moulded brick imposts which serve visually as Doric pilasters, rising from classical bases. The

brick spandrels are recessed. The entire fenestration unit is flanked by a pair of two-story Doric pilasters; the inner pilaster is halved continuing onto the wall of the projecting pavilion.

The bays are surmounted by the classical entablature described earlier. A parapet wall stands above the entablature. It is comprised of a limestone base, a brick face, and a limestone cap. Its design follows the lines of the components below it. The outside units are dimensional extensions of the Doric pilasters which flank the fenestration unit. The wall recesses slightly, extending the width of the impost pilasters and then recesses once again, extending the width of the window units. This center recession was once balustraded, as 1902 photographs show; by 1939 the balustrades had been removed and the space had been bricked in.

The north and south elevations of the projecting pavilion are comprised of a double casement window with a flared limestone lintel and limestone sill on the first level surmounted by a recessed brick panel on the second level. A classical moulding separates the two spaces. Two-story Doric pilasters flank the unit. A pair of windows with wells pierces the limestone foundation of the building at grade, directly below the first story window.

The north and south elevations of the two-story unit which forms the main body of the building are identical. Each elevation is comprised of three identical fenestration units, each unit repeating the motif arrangement employed on the facade bays which flank the projecting pavilion. One window with a well pierces the limestone foundation of the building at grade, directly below the first story windows.

The north and south elevations of the one-story unit which projects from the main unit's rear or eastern side are identical. Six, 1/1/1 triple hung, round arched windows measuring almost the entire height of the wall comprise each elevations' fenestration. The windows are surrounded by splayed brick arches that conclude into moulded brick imposts. The imposts serve visually as Doric pilasters and rise from classical bases. A limestone water table runs directly beneath these windows, capping a corbelled brick foundation. This treatment is continued on the unit's rear or eastern elevation. The unit's brick entablature employs a four banded, polychromatic treatment, alternating bands of a light tan brick with bands of the darker tan brick used for the body of the building. The unit is attached to the main body by a recessed brick corridor, lit by one, 1/1 double hung window on each side. A metal fire escape extends from the roof of the connecting unit on the southern side.

The rear or eastern elevation of the building is comprised of two planes, a one-story plane centrally projects from a two-story plane. One corner pilaster supporting a classical entablature and rising from a classical base defines the north and south edges of the two-story plane. This grouping repeats the motifs used on the north and south elevations of the main unit. The plane then recesses, displaying a dentilled brick entablature. A 1/1 double hung window surmounted by a flat, limestone lintel and

resting on a limestone water table pierces each side of the wall on the first level of the two-story plane. Four, 1/1 double hung windows with flat limestone lintels and sills pierce the wall on the second level from its most southern side to its center. An undecorated brick chimney projects from the southern side of the two-story wall between the two most southern second level windows.

The rear plane of the one-story unit exhibits the building's simplest elevation. A pair of 1/1 double hung windows surmounted by a flat, limestone lintel and resting on the limestone water table pierce the center of the wall. These windows are separated by a narrow width of brick wall. Several courses of brick corbelling run above the windows. The wall projects slightly above the corbelling and terminates without further decorative treatment.

The main building's first floor interior plan consists of an arcaded, one-story, rectangular central space flanked on the north by a two-story rectangular space and on the south by a one-story rectangular space. A one-story wing projects off the east side of the central space. A curved staircase is located in the northwest corner of the central space, providing access to the second floor, a space which is primarily open although there is a partitioned office area along the southeast wall.

The interior of the building retains much of its original architectural features but its integrity is impacted by existing paint, lighting, and floor treatments and by the locations of the stacks and front desk. A 1911 photograph showing the central arcaded space and portions of the two reading rooms which flank it reveals that much of the Neo-Classical detailing which decorates the building's interior was enhanced by several different paint colors and stencilling. Today, the walls, ceilings, mouldings, columns, and bas-reliefs are painted with institutional colors which do nothing to enhance the ornamentation and obliterate the stencilling which originally decorated the central foyer's ceiling and the walls of the southern reading room. The same photograph also reveals that milk glass globed chandeliers hung from the ceilings in these rooms, today florescent lights of various styles hang from the ceilings. The white, hexagonal floor tiles are covered with carpeting. In addition to the above described changes, the arrangement and the increased number of stacks and the removal of the original six-sided, wooden panelled check-out desk from the rear of the central foyer also contributes to the building's dark interior appearance. The main check-out desk is now located near the vestibule entrance of the library. The Neo-Classical walnut staircase retains its clear varnish finish.

8. Significance

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

Specific dates ca. 1900-1902 **Builder/Architect** M.R. Sandquinst-Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Leavenworth Public Library (ca. 1900-1902) is being nominated to the National Register under criteria A and C for its historical association with the Carnegie Library Program and for its architectural significance. The Leavenworth Public Library was the first such project in Kansas funded by Andrew Carnegie. The Neo-Classical building exhibits the monumental massing and design characteristics common in Carnegie Libraries constructed prior to 1910, afterwhich date design guidelines encouraging austerity became effective. The Leavenworth Public Library is an example of the work of Fort Worth, Texas architect M.R. Sandquist.

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. Sixty-three of these libraries were constructed in Kansas, nine of these are listed on the National Register and nominations are pending on an additional two.

Numerous private literary societies flourished in Leavenworth since its establishment in 1854 but the impetus for a public library did not occur until 1895, when the Leavenworth Free Public Library Association was formed. By 1899, the Association had garnered enough community support for a tax levy to be approved to fund a permanent public library in Leavenworth. Carnegie's $30,000.00 grant for the construction of Leavenworth's library became effective after a first year $3,000.00 endowment fund had been established. Monies for the endowment were raised primarily by various women's civic groups active in Leavenworth at the turn of the century.

The Leavenworth Public Library maintains a high degree of architectural integrity and stands as a physical link to Leavenworth's early Twentieth Century history. Owned by the city of Leavenworth, the library building will soon be vacated, as larger facilities have been acquired to accomodate the library's increasing space needs.

9. Major Bibliographical References

SEE ATTACHED SHEET

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property .25

Quadrangle name Leavenworth

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	15	334880	4353100
B			
C			
D			
E			
F			
G			
H			

Verbal boundary description and justification The nominated property sits on a .25 acre rectangular tract bounded to the west by 5th street, to the north by Walnut, and to the South and East by adjacent property lines.

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 5-19-86

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 ___X 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 6-10-86

For NPS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration

BIBLIOGRAPHY: Leavenworth Library

Gardiner, Allen. Kansas Public Libraries from Abilene to Zenda. (Topeka, Ks.: Kansas State Library, 1982).

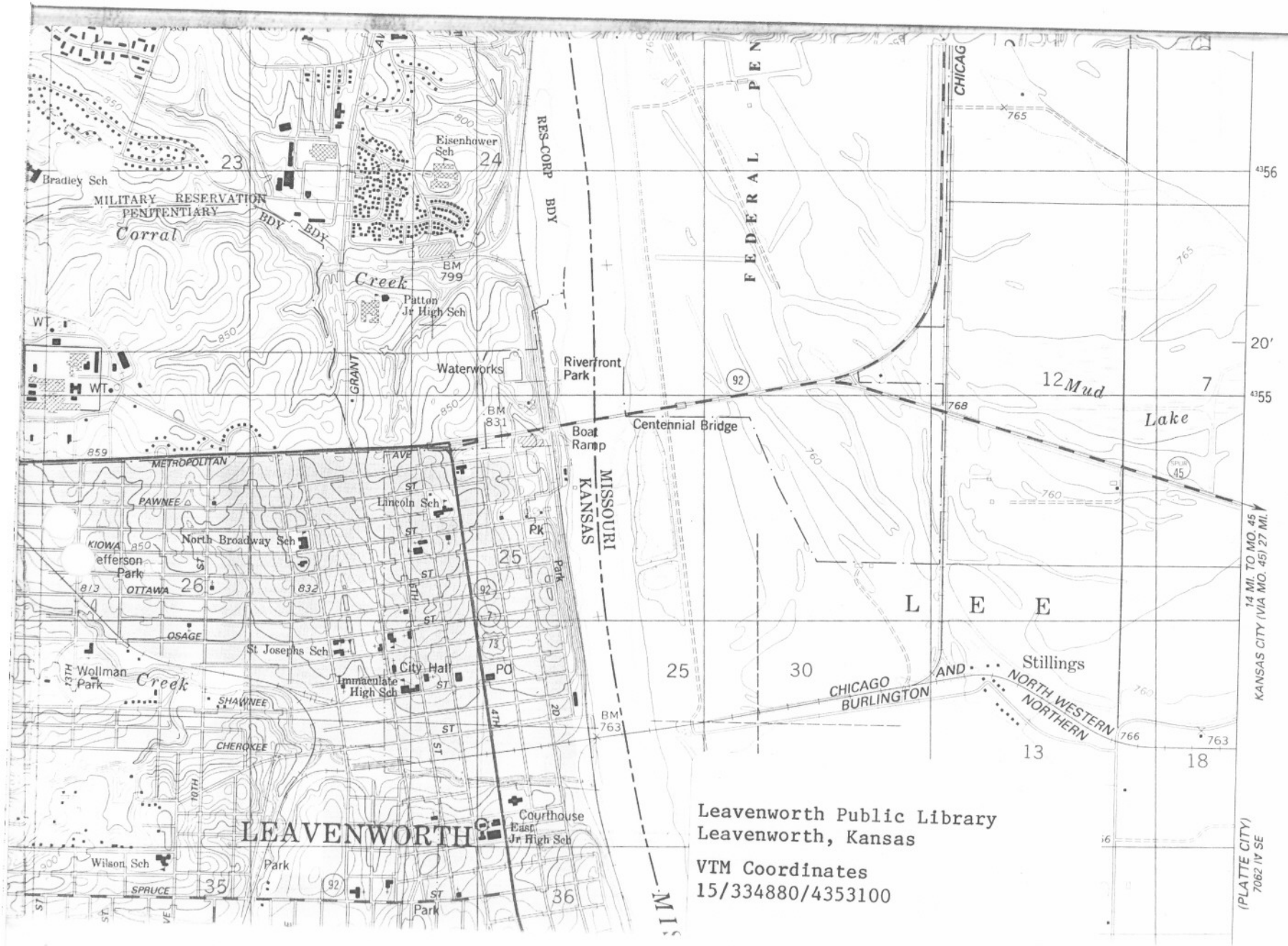
Gaiser, Bessie Frances. "A History of the Public Library of Leavenworth, Kansas. " (unpublished Master's Thesis, 1959).

Gower, Calvin W. "Lectures, Lyceums and Libraries in Early Kansas, 1854-1864," Kansas Historical Quarterly, vol. XXXVI. (1970).

Koch, Theodore Wesley. A Book of Carnegie Libraries. (NY: W. W. Wilson, 1919).

Small, Nora Pat. "Carnegie Libraries Built Throughout Kansas," Kansas Preservation, V. IV, N. 3. (March-April, 1982).

Winder, Mary Jo. "Leavenworth Public Library." (National Register nomination draft, 1985).



Leavenworth Public Library
Leavenworth, Kansas

VTM Coordinates
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