NPS Form 10-900
(3-82)

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**United States Department of the Interior**
**National Park Service**

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received
date entered

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

## 1. Name

historic Independence Public (Carnegie) Library

and or common Same

## 2. Location

street & number 220 East Maple ___ not for publication

city, town Independence ___ vicinity of

state Kansas code 20 county Montgomery code 125

## 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 | X yes: restricted | ___ government | ___ scientific |
| | N/A being considered | ___ yes: unrestricted | ___ industrial | ___ transportation |
| | | ___ no | ___ military | ___ other: |

## 4. Owner of Property

name City of Independence

street & number City Hall - 120 North Sixth Street

city, town Independence ___ vicinity of state Kansas 67301

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery County Clerk

street & number Montgomery County Courthouse

city, town Independence state Kansas 67301

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes X no

date N/A ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town N/A state N/A

# 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 Independence Public (Carnegie) Library (c. 1907) is located at 220 East Maple in Independence, Montgomery County, Kansas (pop. 10,598). The two-story, brick and limestone, Neo-Classical building stands on a corner lot one block south and one block east of Independence's central business district. Its facade orientation is south. The building measures approximately forty-nine feet from east to west and thirty-one feet from north to south, with a center, rear projection measuring twenty-two feet from east to west and thirteen feet from north to south. The library maintains its original function and retains a high degree of architectural integrity.

The two-story, red brick and limestone building sits on a coursed ashlar, limestone block, raised foundation. It is a rectangular structure with a rear rectangular projection. A ridge hipped roof covers the main unit. A low roof, hidden by a parapet, covers the rear projection. Three bays comprise the building's facade, the main unit is one bay deep. The rear projection is one bay deep by one bay wide. A pedimented entry pavilion projects slightly from the facade's center bay. Brick chimneys with corbelled pots rise from the rear elevations of the main unit and the rear projection. The original pantile roofing and roof ornamentation has been removed, asphalt shingles now cover the roof. Access for the handicapped is provided through the basement entry on the east elevation.

A classically inspired wood and brick entablature ornaments all elevations of the main unit, a restrained entablature ornaments all the elevations of the rear projection. The building's raised limestone block foundation with a limestone watertable is continuous on both units of the building, except the west elevation of the rear projection and the northwest elevation of the main unit. Light red brick quoining defines the building's major corners and bays on the south, west, and east elevations of the main unit. The quoining projects slightly from the wall space, the darker red brick comprises the recessed wall space. A limestone stringcourse underscored by a projecting brick course delineates the second level on the recessed wall space.

The projecting pedimented pavilion contains a recessed wallspace housing the doorway and several windows. The pavilion itself is composed of two exterior brick walls which flank two Doric brick pilasters and two Ionic columns in antis. The brick pilasters and wooden columns stand on brick bases. The columns support a limestone frieze bearing the inscription "Public Library." The walls and columns support a classical pediment which incorporates the dentilled cornice moulding of the building's entablature into its eave ornamentation. A gold metal (probably bronze) double door surmounted by a wooden, dentilled pediment with consoles pierces the pavilion's recessed first level wall space centrally. Single windows surmounted by flared limestone lintels and underscored by limestone sills flank the door. A 1/1 hinged tripartite window surmounted by a flared limestone lintel with a keystone and underscored by a limestone sill pierces the wall above the door. Limestone steps lead up to the door, flanked by limestone abutments. Two cast iron light poles with milk glass bowls stand on each limestone abutment.

The two outer facade bays exhibit identical fenestration. A transomed, 1/1 hinged window pierces each first level wall. A flared limestone lintel with a keystone surmounts each window, a limestone sill with a brick panel underscores it. The original triangular pane and muntin treatment is nonextant. A pair of 1/1 hinged windows pierces the second level wall, surmounting each first level window. These windows no longer retain their original triangular panes and muntins. A limestone and brick stringcourse underscores this window set. A one-over-one, double hung window pierces the raised foundation beneath each of the first level windows.

The fenestration on the eastern elevation is composed of a tripartite window grouping in the center of the first level flanked by two single units. These are transomed, 1/1 hinged windows which do not retain their original triangular pane and muntin treatment. One-over-one hinged windows pierce the second level wall above the first level windows that they surmount. A center door pierces the foundation. The door is transomed and has a bracketed architrave above it. The door is flanked by two, 1/1 double hung windows.

Fenestration treatment on the western elevation of the main unit is less impressive although the window types and treatment remain uniform. Three windows pierce each level, with the exception of a non-original door, which replaced the second level window on the northern corner.

The rear elevation of the main unit employs the aforedescribed treatment, although not in a prolific manner. The east and west elevations of the rear projection employ a grouping of four, narrow 1/1 double hung windows on the first and second levels, separated vertically by a wooden panel. Flared limestone lintels surmount each second level window, limestone sills underscore each first level window. One central window pierces the foundation on the east elevation, one window and one door pierce the western foundation. The northern elevation is comprised of one central window group, the second level window space is a vent. Two, 1/1 double hung windows pierce the northern foundation wall.

The interior of the building retains its original floorplan and vestibule entrance, as well as the basement staircase leading from the vestibule and the vestibule staircase leading to the second floor. The foyer retains its original ceramic tiles. The interior woodwork, such as the pillars, door and window surrounds, beaming, moulding, staircases and the fireplace, is retained. Most of the woodwork retains its varnish finish although some of the woodwork has been painted. Additionally, some original light fixtures and furniture are retained.

# 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 | _X_ 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** c. 1907 **Builder/Architect** Fred C. Gunn - Architect
Frank D. Brewster - Builder

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Independence Public (Carnegie) Library (c. 1907) is being nominated to the National Register as part of the Carnegie Libraries of Kansas thematic resources nomination (NR 1987) 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.

The Ladies Library Association organized Independence's first library in 1882 and maintained it in various locations until the Carnegie Library was constructed. The Association was influential in getting the City of Independence to apply for a Carnegie Corporation grant. In 1905 the Carnegie Corporation awarded the city a $22,500 grant for the construction and furnishing of a library building.

Frank C. Gunn of Kansas City, Missouri was the architect responsible for the library's overt Neo-Classical design. The building maintains the standard three bay by one bay form with a projecting central pedimented entry pavilion and a raised foundation found in most Carnegie Libraries, although the two-story height is unusual for Kansas examples.

The building retains a high degree of integrity and is currently used as the community's public library. Please see the cover nomination for additional information.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

See attached sheet.

## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of nominated property** Less than one acre.

**Quadrangle name** Independence **Quadrangle scale** 1:24,000

**UTM References**

| | Zone | Easting | Northing |
|---|---|---|---|
| A | 15 | 260 156 | 4121290 5 |
| B | | | |
| C | | | |
| D | | | |
| E | | | |
| F | | | |
| G | | | |
| H | | | |

**Verbal boundary description and justification** The nominated property sits on the E 40', Lot 17 and all of Lot 18; Block 5 - 446 - 53 in Independence, Kansas. The rectangular tract is bounded to the south by Maple, to the east by 5th Street, and to the north and west by adjacnt 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 Hagedorn-Krass, Architectural Historian

**organization** Kansas State Historical Society **date** November 20, 1987

**street & number** 120 West 10th Street **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 X 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 W. Snell

**title** Executive Director, Kansas State Historical Society **date** November 20, 1987

**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**

GPO 911-399

Carnegie Library Bibliography:

Anderson, Florence. Carnegie Corporation Library Program, 1911-1961. (New York: Carnegie Corporation, 1963).

Bertram, James. Notes on Library Building. (New York: Carnegie Corporation, 1910).

Bobinski, George S. Carnegie Libraries: Their History and Impact on American Public Library Development. (Chicago: American Library Association, 1969).

Carnegie Corporation. Micro-film reels of correspondence between the Corporation and Kansas Carnegie Library Communities, 1902-1921. Carnegie Corporation of New York.

Gardiner, Allen. The Carnegie Legacy in Kansas: A Retrospective View of the 59 Public Libraries Built by Andrew Carnegie; A Souvenir Publication to Commemorate the Sequicentennial of Carnegie's Birth. (Topeka: Kansas State Library, 1985).

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

Koch, T.W. A Book of Carnegie Libraries. (New York: H.W. Wilson, 1917).

State of Kansas. Session Laws, 1917. Chapter 113. "Limiting Tax Levies in Cities of the Second and Third Class."

Topeka Capital Journal, 20 December 1916; 26 December 1916.

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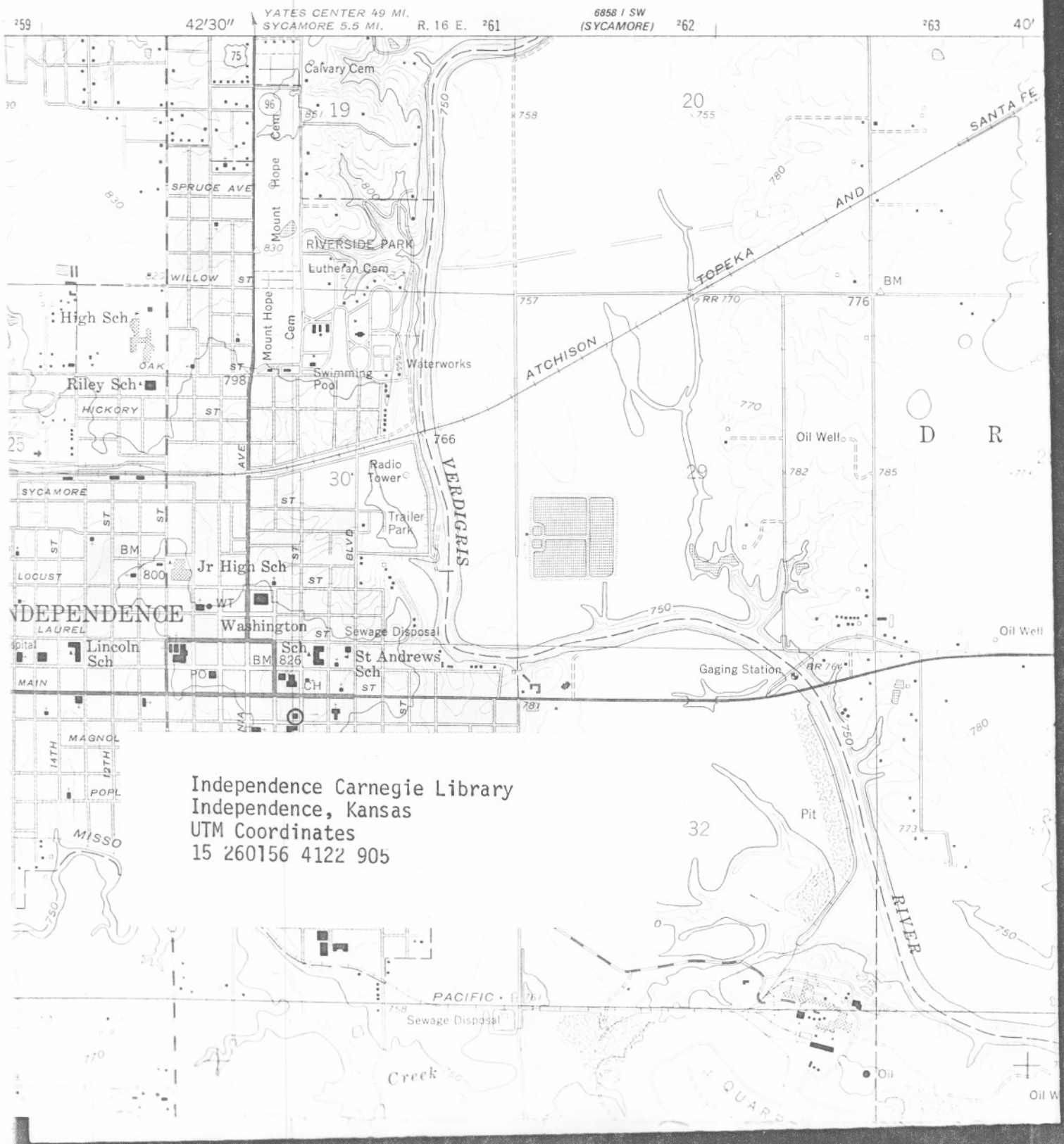
# STATE OF KANSAS




Independence Carnegie Library
Independence, Kansas
UTM Coordinates
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