

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Albany Carnegie Public Library
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 101 W. Clay Street n/a not for publication
city, town Albany n/a vicinity
state Missouri code MO county Gentry code 075 zip code 64402

3. Classification

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

Name of related multiple property listing: n/a Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official G. Tracy Mehan III, Director Date 1/5/90
Department of Natural Resources and State Historic Preservation Officer
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

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:) _____

Signature of the Keeper _____ Date of Action _____

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Education - Library

Education - Library

Government - City Hall

Other - Extension Office

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th Century and 20th Century

foundation Concrete

Revivals

walls Brick

Other: The Second Renaissance Revival

Limestone

roof Asphalt

other Terra Cotta

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Carnegie Public Library, Albany, Missouri, is a one-story building with full aboveground basement executed in the Second Renaissance Revival mode of architecture. This red brick and cut limestone building, measuring approximately 52' X 40 1/2', is situated on the northwest corner of West Clay Street and Missouri State Highway No. 85 in the Central Business District of Albany. The library is located one block from the northeast corner of the Courthouse Square, diagonally across the street from the U.S. Post Office, directly east of a small commercial building owned by the Gentry County Historical Society and directly south of the Christian Church. The building evokes Second Renaissance Revival detailing that is characterized by the rusticated ground story, simple symmetrical elevations, smooth and plain wall surface and the distinct horizontal divisions imparted by pronounced belt and string courses. The Carnegie Public Library in Albany has received few exterior alterations, the most noticeable being the enclosure of the basement window on the main facade. A high degree of the building's original architectural integrity has been retained.

The facade (West Clay Street) faces south and is divided into five bays with the central bay housing the main entrance. The inverted T-shape building, of masonry wall construction, has both a composition shingle hip roof and a tar and gravel flat roof. Smooth-faced cut limestone and running bond pattern No. 1 Coffeyville face brick are used as surface materials.¹ The full aboveground basement level gives the appearance of rustication with the use of corbelled bricks. Recessed square hinged windows with two vertical lights are in place in all but the central bay. A continuous smooth course cut-limestone water table runs below these windows and across the entire south, east and west elevations. A wide cut limestone belt course runs along these same elevations, visually separating the basement level from the first story and creating a visual base for the first story.

Brick pilasters, symmetrically placed across the facade, rise from cut-limestone plinths which rest on the wide belt coursing. The interior four pilasters are topped with cut limestone trim. Below the trim are terra cotta

¹Minutes of the Board of Director's Meeting, November 25, 1904, Carnegie Library, Albany, Missouri (in the files of the Library).

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Brick pilasters, symmetrically placed across the facade, rise from cut-limestone plinths which rest on the wide belt coursing. The interior four pilasters are topped with cut limestone trim. Below the trim are terra cotta interlocking geometric motifs. A limestone string course horizontally linking the windows runs below the terra cotta motif. This same coursing is repeated at the east and west elevations. The corner pilasters are coupled. A buff brick projecting "T"-shape panel with a projecting cut stone trim is used as a decorative motif in the corner pilasters. This same motif is used on all four elevations.

Fenestration on the facade consists of two vertical light, single-hung, sash windows with multi-light flat transoms. The windows are symmetrically placed in recessed areas between the pilasters. Cut limestone lugsills and flat brick arches with voussoirs and stone keystone decorate the windows. Directly above the window arches is a plain stucco frieze with the words "CARNEGIE PUBLIC LIBRARY" evenly spaced between the central three bays.

Paired block modillions support a plain cornice on all four elevations. The building is capped with a composition shingled hip roof with metal cresting.

The focal point of the facade is the main entrance which is located on the first story and is approached by a straight staircase with an open, steel railing. The entrance--paired doors, with a single light beveled glass upper panel and a wooden lower panel with a circular motif--is placed in a recessed porch. The doors are placed within a brick segmental arch. The entire entrance is topped with a cut limestone flat door head with keystone.

The east elevation employs many of the same architectural features as the facade. The full aboveground basement is the same design with the exception of three windows which are grouped closer together. A secondary entrance is placed off center at basement level. The entrance, a single door with a single light upper panel and wooden lower panel is placed in a plain wooden door surround. A wooden door hood is supported by triangular brackets. On the first story, tripartite windows identical in design to those on the facade, with the exception of the lugsill coursing, are located in the recessed area between the double pilasters. The remainder of the east elevation is identical to the facade except for the following: a rounded arched louvered dormer with keystone and the addition of a flat roofed bay at the northern end. A single sash window with four vertical lights, decorative lugsills and a flat arch with brick voussoirs and stone keystone is placed on the first story on this unit.

The main section of the north (rear) elevation projects about eleven feet from the main wall and has a flat roof. Fenestration consists of one-over-one, double-hung sash windows placed within brick segmental arches and cut stone sills. The windows are symmetrically placed along the first story and the

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eastern end of the basement level. The openings on the western end are also evenly spaced while the westernmost window is a smaller two vertical light, square window and the third opening from the west is a square, three vertical light window. Directly above this window is a brick segmental arch. Above the arch is another segmental arch even with the other window arches, attesting to an alteration at an unknown date. At the west end of the elevation on the main wall is an exterior brick chimney. Brick corbelling is used as decoration on the chimney stack. Cut stone coursing returns as well as pilasters, identical in design to those on the facade, are located on the east and west end of the main wall of the north elevation. Aluminium storm windows have been added to this elevation. However, this alteration is reversible and its effect on the elevation is minimal.

With the exception of the secondary entry on the east elevation, the west and east elevations are identical.

INTERIOR

The interior floor plan of the first floor of the Carnegie Public Library, Albany, Missouri is the same as its original design and retains much of its original integrity. (See floor plan A.) The original circulation desk, the steel shelving and bookcases, bathroom and some of the library tables are still being used today. Much of the oak trim is visible. However, some interior alterations did occur, ca. 1982-86.² These included covering the stucco walls with wood paneling, dropping the ceiling using acoustical tiles, covering some of the oak beams, installing ceiling fans and covering the windows on the north (rear) wall. Although these alterations were made to make the library more energy efficient, they are reversible and do not affect the arrangement of the original interior space.

When the University of Missouri Extension Offices opened in the basement of the library ca. 1964-65 the right interior staircase going to the basement was enclosed. While the basement level has undergone extensive alterations, these changes do not affect the overall significance of the building. Originally, the basement was designed to house bathrooms, a work/meeting room and a boiler/fuel room. When the University moved in, additional partition paneled walls were added to make offices, as well as a long counter and ramp from the east entrance.

²Personal Interview with Deborah Stevens, April, 1989 and The Albany Ledger, February 1, 1984, p. 1.

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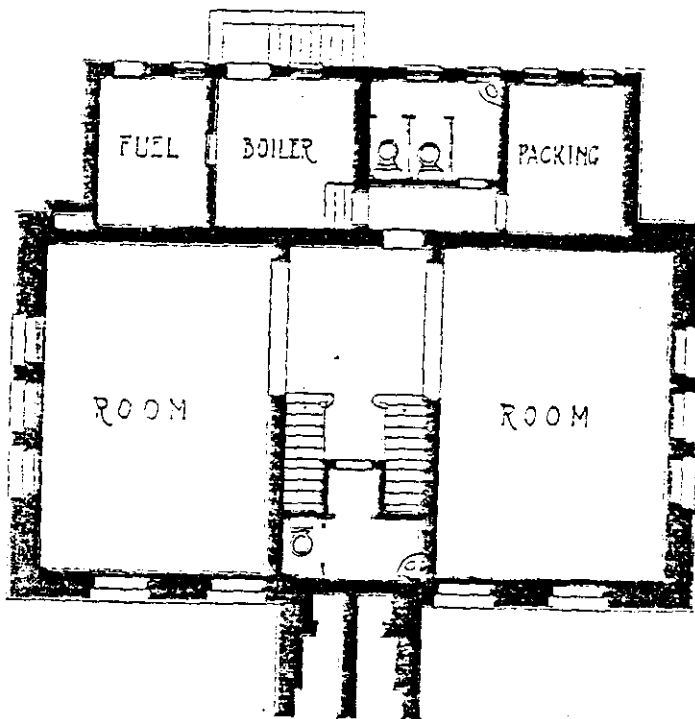
Currently there are proposed plans for the installation of an elevator and an interior handicap access ramp. (See floor plan B). The proposed plans were sent to the Missouri State Historic Preservation Office for their review. That office has reviewed the proposed project and has determined that such action would have "no adverse effect" on the fabric of the library, provided that the Secretary of Interior's Standard's for Rehabilitation and Guidelines for Rehabilitation of Historic Buildings are followed and that the Missouri Historic Preservation Program review and approve the final plans.³

³Letter from Michael S. Weichman, Senior Archaeologist, Department of Natural Resources, Jefferson City, Missouri, July 6, 1988.

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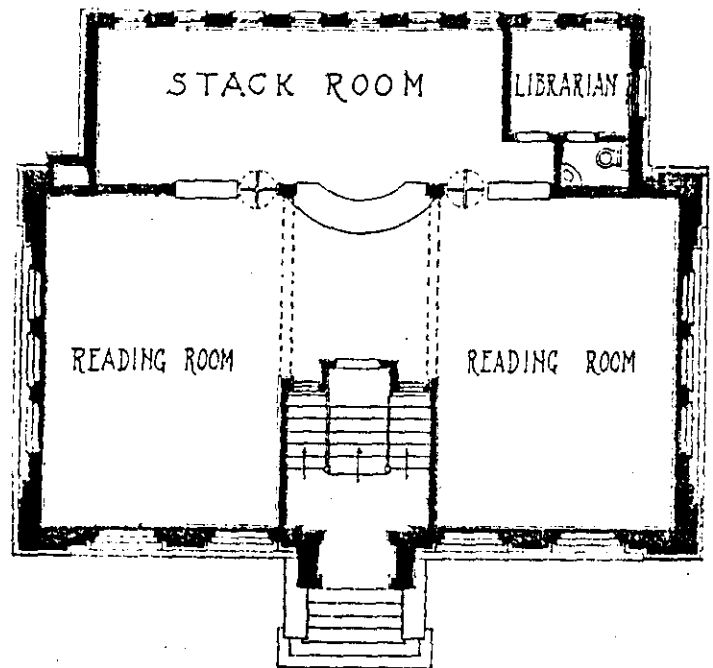
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GROUND FLOOR PLAN
SCALE $\frac{1}{8}$ INCH = 1 FOOT

CARNEGIE LIBRARY
ALBANY-MO-
ECKEL & ALDRICH
ARCHITECTS
ST-JOSEPH-MO-



FIRST FLOOR PLAN
SCALE $\frac{1}{8}$ INCH = 1 FOOT

CARNEGIE LIBRARY
ALBANY-MO-
ECKEL & ALDRICH
ARCHITECTS
ST-JOSEPH-MO-

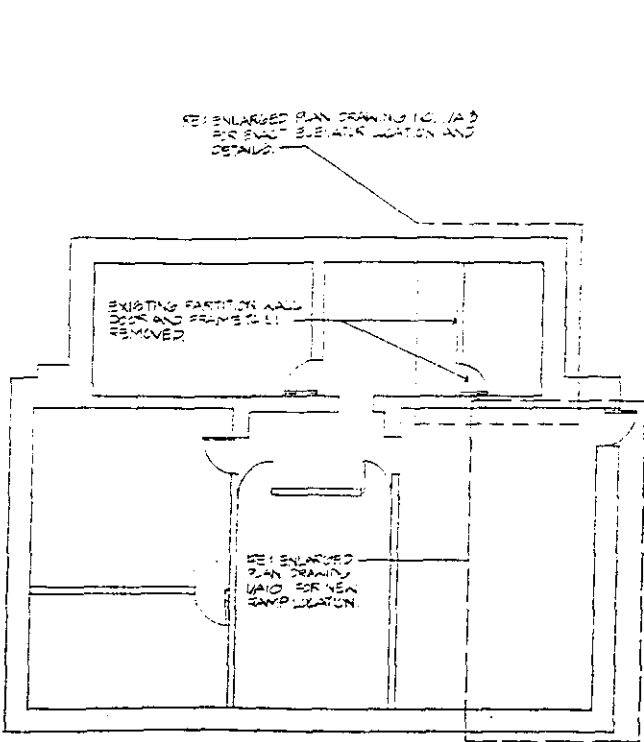
FLOOR PLAN A

Source: The Ninth Annual Report of Missouri Library Commission for the year 1915
(Jefferson City: n.p., 1916), p. 28-29.

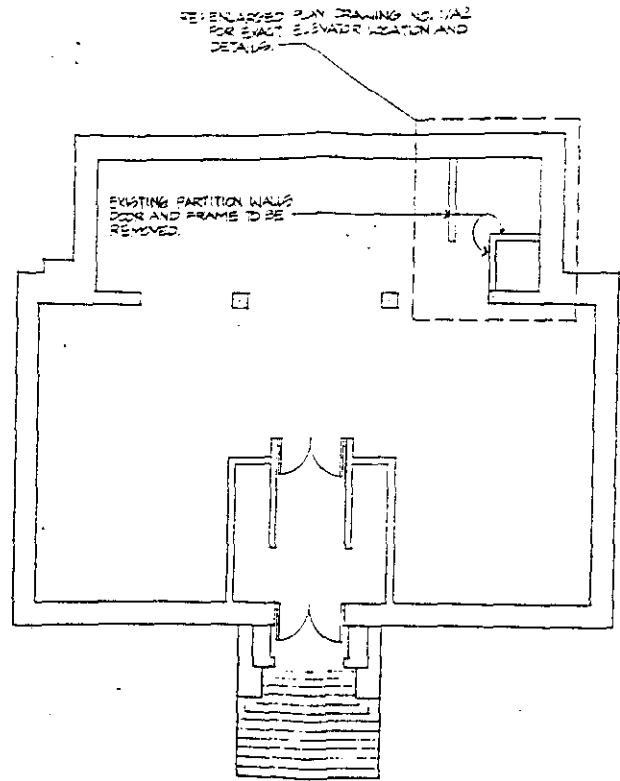
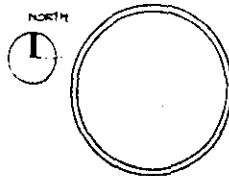
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2 LOCATION DIAGRAM
BASEMENT LEVEL PLAN
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"



1 LOCATION DIAGRAM
MAIN LEVEL PLAN
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: LOT 6 BLOCK 1
LOT 6, BLD ORIGINAL TOWN OF ALBANY



A1

FLOOR PLAN B

Source: Architectural Plans prepared by Stuart M. Hutchinson, Kansas City, Missouri for "New Elevator and Improved Access to the Albany Carnegie Public Library Building", 1988.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Social History _____
Architecture _____

Period of Significance

1906-1939 _____

Significant Dates

1906 _____

Cultural Affiliation

n/a _____

Significant Person

n/a _____

Architect/Builder

Eckel, Edmond Jacques/Walin, Louis _____

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

SUMMARY: The Carnegie Public Library, Albany, Missouri, is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in the area of SOCIAL HISTORY. In 1903, Carnegie pledged \$10,000 to the City of Albany for a public library, which was completed by March 1906. The period of significance for this building is 1906-1939, the end date established by the arbitrary fifty year limit. Still in use as a public library, the Albany Library is an early example of a representative type of small Carnegie library building that pre-dates the Carnegie "Notes on Library Buildings" [sic]. Andrew Carnegie's library building program (1898-1919) greatly influenced the development of libraries and library buildings in American library history. According to historian Theodore Wesley Koch, Carnegie, through his library gift giving, stimulated public spirit, raised standards, and provided social betterment.¹ Carnegie's gift provided Albany with an impressive, useful, and lasting landmark. The Carnegie Public Library, Albany, Missouri, is also eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C in the area of architecture. The library is an outstanding example of a well designed small Carnegie library building, representing both a "high" style of architecture and a focal point for the small community. Edmond J. Eckel, architect for the Albany Library created a design of simplicity yet dignity on the exterior, while achieving an interior design of openness, flexibility, practicality, and economic use of space. Furthermore, the Albany Library is a distinguished work of the prominent Missouri architect, Eckel, who during his career is noted for his outstanding designs of numerous public buildings in the Midwest.

ELABORATION: Libraries have been in existence since ancient times. During the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries there was a desperate need in the

¹Theodore Wesley Koch, A Book of Carnegie Libraries (White Plains, N.Y.: H.W. Wilson Company, 1917), pp. i-iii.

See continuation sheet

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United States for new library buildings. Libraries in the United States first consisted of private collections of books by individuals, institutions, and schools which were available by subscriptions to a limited few. It wasn't until 1833 that the first free public library opened in the United States.

ANDREW CARNEGIE'S PHILOSOPHY

Andrew Carnegie emerged as the major benefactor of public libraries in America and abroad after the turn of the century.² Upon his retirement, at the age of 66, he devoted his life to philanthropy which included library grants to local communities. He 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, an adjunct to these."³ Carnegie believed that his philanthropic practices were like those of his business, which were based upon rational, systematic principles. He thought of himself as a pioneer in "scientific philanthropy," or as one of the first to analyze the problem and distribution of great wealth and to state specifically the best fields of philanthropy.⁴ It was in his two-part essay entitled "Gospel of Wealth," delivered in 1889, that he made this analysis and discussed his philosophy on philanthropy.

In his "Gospel," Carnegie explained that "the problem of our age was the proper administration of wealth."⁵ According to Carnegie, a man of great wealth had only three ways to dispose of his wealth. His alternatives were: 1) a person could leave his wealth to his family, 2) he could bequeath it in his will for public purposes, or 3) he could administer it during his lifetime for public benefit. Of the three alternatives, Carnegie believed the third to be "the true antidote for the temporary unequal distribution of wealth, the

²"California's Carnegie Libraries," California Office of Historic Preservation Newsletter 3 (Fall 1988), p. 1.

³Andrew Carnegie, "The Best Fields for Philanthropy," North American Review 149 (December 1889): 668-669, cited in Koch, p. 8.

⁴Joseph Frazier Wall, Andrew Carnegie (New York: Oxford University Press, 1970), p. 806.

⁵Ibid., p. 806.

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reconciliation of the rich and poor--a reign of harmony."⁶ He further stated that the rich man should spend his fortune during his lifetime and it should be spent in such a way as to benefit and advance 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."⁷

In the second part of his essay, Carnegie discussed methods of administering surplus wealth and the specific fields of philanthropy one might invest in. His credo was that the wealthy man should stimulate the best and most aspiring poor of the community to further efforts for their own improvement and to help the industrious and ambitious to help themselves.

Carnegie listed seven specific fields of philanthropy for a wealthy man to invest in. They were (in order of importance): 1) universities, 2) free libraries (Carnegie himself would place this first), 3) founding or extension of hospitals, 4) parks, 5) meeting and concert halls, 6) swimming baths, and 7) church buildings.⁸

As Carnegie discussed in the "Gospel," libraries were to be his speciality in his early phase of philanthropy. He thought "that an institution [a library] has not taken root, and is scarcely worth maintaining unless the community appreciates it sufficiently to try itself for maintenance."⁹ Carnegie's philanthropic philosophy on library giving can be 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."¹⁰

⁶Ibid., p. 807.

⁷Edward C. Kirkland, ed., The Gospel of Wealth and Other Timely Essays (Cambridge, Mass.: N.p., 1962), p. 25, cited in Wall, p. 807.

⁸Wall, p. 808.

⁹Ibid., p. 816.

¹⁰Andrew Carnegie to E.S. Douglas, Letterbook, 1888-92, ACUSC, cited in Wall, p. 819.

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ANDREW CARNEGIE LIBRARIES

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. During this 36 year period, 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 than \$40,000,000 of this amount was given for the erection of 1,679 public library buildings in 1,412 communities of the United States."¹¹ He divided his library gifts into two periods, which he referred to as his "retail" period (1886-1896), and his "wholesale" period, (1898-1919). During the "retail" period Carnegie gave a total of \$1,860,869 for 14 buildings in six communities in the United States. His "wholesale" period saw a total of \$39,172,981 donated to 1,406 communities, with 1903 being the year with the largest number of communities promised - 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.

There were only a few requirements and stipulations for those requesting library grants from Carnegie.¹² The grants were limited to English-speaking countries and the amount of the grant was dependent upon the town's population. Each community requesting grants was required to complete a questionnaire which provided Carnegie the information on the town's population, if there was already a library, if a site 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. These stipulations were required in writing. The communities that received their gifts prior to 1908 had no other stipulations other than to build the library any way they wished.¹³ After 1908, communities were

¹¹George Bobinski, Carnegie Libraries: Their History and Impact on American Public Library Development (Chicago: American Library Association, 1969), p. 3.

¹²Koch, p. 11.

¹³Bobinski, pp. 46-47.

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required to submit building plans to Carnegie's private secretary, James Bertram, for his approval prior to construction.

Shortly after this additional requirement, a leaflet entitled "Notes on Library Bilding" was prepared and provided for certain standards in library architecture. From 1911 on, this guide was sent to all communities requesting grants. Unfortunately, this architectural control came too late. By 1911, 916 out of 1,412 communities had been promised library funds.¹⁴

Missouri received \$1,460,143 of Carnegie grants for public library buildings during the period 1898-1919,¹⁵ ranking ninth in the states by the total amount contributed. Also, the Midwest region, which included Missouri, ranked second in the total Carnegie dollar amount contributed in a region. A total of twenty-six communities in Missouri received Carnegie's grants with a total of thirty-three buildings being constructed in these communities.¹⁶ 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 1910-1917.¹⁷ The largest sum went to St. Louis in the amount of \$1,000,000, while the smallest amount--\$7,500--went to Monroe City. According to statistics published in 1967, of the thirty-three Carnegie public library buildings in Missouri, twenty-nine were still being used as a library

¹⁴Ibid., p. 58.

¹⁵A Handbook of Missouri Libraries, the Ninth Annual Report of the Missouri Library Commission for the Year 1915 (Jefferson City, Missouri: N.p., 1916), p. 26.

¹⁶Bobinski, pp. 19-20.

¹⁷Durand Miller, Carnegie Grants for Library Buildings, 1890-1917 (New York: Carnegie Corporation, 1943), p. 21.

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and one had been demolished.¹⁸ Presently, a statewide survey of Carnegie public library buildings has not been undertaken. There are however, two Carnegie Library buildings listed individually in the National Register of Historic Places (Sedalia, Joplin) and six within historic districts (one each in districts in Jefferson City and Carthage, and one in each of four districts in St. Louis).

CARNEGIE PUBLIC LIBRARY, ALBANY, MISSOURI

The Carnegie Public Library in Albany was one of the first ten Carnegie Library buildings pledged in the State of Missouri. Prior to the Carnegie Public Library, Albany had a subscription library that opened in 1885 and closed five years later.

By 1903, there was a revived interest by the City of Albany for a public library and a request was made to Andrew Carnegie for a grant for a free public library. Carnegie pledged a library donation to Albany on June 2, 1903, the peak year of his library pledges. Almost a year later a petition was signed by 100 Albany residents requesting "a special election to vote on an annual tax of one and one-fourth mills on \$100 valuation to establish and maintain a library."¹⁹ The election was held on July 5, 1904 and the vote passed. Shortly after, a Library Board was formed and their first task was to fulfill one of Carnegie's stipulations, which was to obtain a site for the library. The site was to be no more than two blocks from the Courthouse Square and to measure no less than 66' X 93'.

The lot on which the present library is situated was purchased in July of 1904 from James Ganor for \$1,325. A telegram dated June 2, 1904 from James Bertram, Carnegie's private secretary, states that Carnegie "will be pleased to furnish Ten Thousand Dollars to erect a free public library building for Albany," if the City of Albany met the conditions of a resolution of the council to maintain a free public library at a cost not less than one thousand dollars and provide a suitable site for the building.²⁰ A certified copy of the resolution which included all of Carnegie's stipulations was sent to him on September 10, 1904. Correspondence from Bertram on October 25, 1904, stated that "Mr. Carnegie will now authorize his cashier, Mr. R.A. Franks, Home Trust Company, Hoboken, N.J. to honor your calls for money to pay for the library

¹⁴Ibid., p. 58.

¹⁵A Handbook of Missouri Libraries, the Ninth Annual Report of the Missouri Library Commission for the Year 1915 (Jefferson City, Missouri: N.p., 1916), p. 26.

¹⁶Bobinski, pp. 19-20.

¹⁷Durand Miller, Carnegie Grants for Library Buildings, 1890-1917 (New York: Carnegie Corporation, 1943), p. 21.

¹⁸Bobinski, pp. 172-173.

¹⁹Pat Manning and Joan Phillips, Albany Family/Community Book (Albany, Missouri: The Printery, 1982), p. 8.

²⁰Letter from James Bertram, Secretary, June 2, 1904.

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building to the extent of ten thousand dollars."²¹ A letter dated November 23, 1904, from the Trust Company stated that the money would be given in installments of \$2,000 or \$3,000 during the construction of the building. This was typical of the Carnegie donations. The gift money was never sent in advance nor in one large sum, but rather in small amounts as the work on the building progressed.

The plans for the new library building were designed by the St. Joseph architect, Edmond J. Eckel for \$200.00. Advertisements for construction bids went out and on November 25, 1905, the Library Board accepted the bid of Louis Walin from Stanberry, Missouri. Walin's original bid was for \$8,976.00, but the Library Board made a few changes, increasing the bid to \$9,071.00. With these changes it then became necessary to request an additional \$2,000 from Carnegie to complete the library building. This request for additional money happened frequently to Carnegie and was one of the reasons for preparing the "Notes on Library Bilding". The additional request was granted bringing Carnegie's donation to \$12,500.

On March 1, 1906, the Carnegie Public Library was opened to the public. In August of the same year, the Ladies Literary Club presented the library with a bust of William Shakespeare, which is still in the library today. From its opening to the present, the Carnegie Public Library has been used as a library. Over the years the library has been updated with the addition of the Dewey Decimal Classification in 1930 and the housing of the public high school books from 1938-1953.

The original concept by the Library Board for the basement was to provide a meeting room for the City Council and a "waiting room" for ladies and children. The "waiting room" was an important issue and the local newspaper wrote at the time that it was "urgently needed for 25-30 years." A place "where people from the country can feel at home, leave their packages, eat their lunch, arrange their toilet and in a general way feel like they had ... rights somewhere in town."²²

In 1939, the City Hall was moved into the basement of the library. It remained in this location until the mid-1960's when the University of Missouri Extension Office moved in.

²¹Idem, October 25, 1904.

²²The Albany, Missouri, Ledger, April 20, 1906, p. 1.

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Eckel's plan for the Carnegie Public Library is a well designed library building. The exterior of the building is plain yet dignified. Eckel provided the small community with a "high" style of architecture. Although Eckel's design of the library preceded the "Notes on Library Building," his design followed many of the guidelines specified in the leaflet. His interior layout achieved the greatest and most economic use of space. The rectangular (or variation) shape with a basement and one story was the best shape for a small library building according to the "notes."²³ The main floor, which is approximately 12-15 feet high accommodates the bookstacks, circulation desk area and space for adult and children's reading area. Eckel 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. In fact, this layout is similar to the type plan in the "notes" called "Control by Central Desk: Carnegie Rectangle: Right Left Plan".²⁴

The placement of the rear and side windows approximately 6-7 feet from the floor, to allow shelving all around the room, is another example of Eckel's good library planning. His inverted "T"-plan provided for a small stackroom and the availability of an addition. Eckel's overall design for the Carnegie Public Library in Albany was one of openness, flexibility, practicality, and economics.

EDMOND J. ECKEL (1845-1934)

Edmond J. Eckel (1845-1934) was an architect in St. Joseph, Missouri for over sixty-five years. "Versatile, as well as thorough, idealistic, as well as practical, his work covers the Mississippi and Missouri valley..."²⁵ Mr. Eckel was not only one of the oldest but also the most successful and respected architects in the Midwest. He developed a varied architectural practice, designing both public and private buildings, as well as residences.

²³Bobinski, p. 58.

²⁴Joseph L. Wheeler and Alfred Morton Githens, The American Public Library Building: Its Planning and Design with Special Reference to Its Administration and Service (Chicago: American Library Association, n.d.), p. 215.

²⁵Walter P. Tracy, Men Who Make St. Joseph "The City Worth While" (St. Joseph, Missouri: Combe Printing Company, 1920), n.p.

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Mr. Eckel was born in Strasbourg, Alsace, France on June 22, 1845. His early schooling began in Strasbourg with architectural studies under the city architect. In 1864 he entered the L'Ecole des Beaux Arts and studied there until the fall of 1868. After leaving the L'Ecole he came back to America, living in New York and Cleveland until 1869 when he left for Kansas City. During a layover in St. Joseph on the way to Kansas City, Mr. Eckel decided to remain in St. Joseph.

Besides developing a varied architectural practice, he also had a varied number of partners. He began in St. Joseph with P.F. Meagher and soon went with Steiger and Boettner.²⁶ From 1872-1880 the firm was Boettner and Eckel. Then from 1880-1892 he associated with George Mann and the firm became Eckel and Mann. From 1892-1908 Eckel practiced alone. Then in 1908 he formed a two year partnership with Walter Boschen, Eckel and Boschen. Finally in 1910 he associated with his son, George R. Eckel and Will S. Aldrich, from New York and the firm became Eckel and Aldrich.

There is conflicting information as to whether the Carnegie Library in Albany was designed solely by Edmond J. Eckel or by the firms of Eckel and Mann or Eckel and Aldrich. The conclusion from available research is that the library was designed by Eckel, rather than the firms, for the following reasons: First, the firm of Eckel and Mann was dissolved in 1892, eleven years before the Albany Carnegie Library was designed, and, second, the firm of Eckel and Aldrich was not formed until 1910, the same year Aldrich came to St. Joseph from New York.

"The list of both public and private buildings designed by Mr. Eckel and his associates is a list of not only most of the outstanding structures of St. Joseph, but some of the finest architectural work in this part of the country."²⁷ Some notable works in St. Joseph include: The Live Stock Exchange Building, American National Bank Building, the residences of J.W. McAlister and J.B. Moss, the Auditorium, and St. Joseph Union Station. Some of his out of town works include the courthouses at Council Bluffs (Iowa), Maryville, Maysville, Rockport and Albany, Missouri; Union Station, Hannibal, Missouri; and St. Louis City Hall.

²⁶For sources on Eckel's life and career, see "Architect Edmond Jacques Eckel 70 Years Old," Western Contractor, June 30, 1915, p. 9; John Abury Bryan, Missouri's Contribution to American Architecture (St. Louis: St. Louis Architectural Club, 1928); and Chris L. Ruth, History of Buchanan County and City of St. Joseph and Representative Citizens (Chicago: Biographical Publishing Company, 1904), pp. 717-718.

²⁷St. Joseph, Missouri, News-Press, December 12, 1934, p. 1.

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Maysville, Rockport and Albany, Missouri; Union Station, Hannibal, Missouri;
and St. Louis City Hall.

In addition to the Carnegie Public Library in Albany, Eckel and his associates
designed other libraries including: the Free Public Library and St. Joseph
Carnegie Branch Library, St. Joseph, Missouri, and the Library at William
Jewell College, Liberty, Missouri.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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 # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property less than one acre

UTM References

A

1	5	3	8	6	9	2	7	4	4	5	5	7	4	0
Zone					Easting					Northing				

B

Zone					Easting					Northing				

C

Zone					Easting					Northing				

D

Zone					Easting					Northing				

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Lot 6, Block 1, Original City of Albany, Gentry County, Missouri

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the property include the entire city lot which has been historically associated with the property.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Linda F. Becker, Preservation Consultant date May 30, 1989
organization _____ telephone 816/531-2176
street & number 816 Gleed Terrace state MO zip code 64109
city or town Kansas City

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National Park Service

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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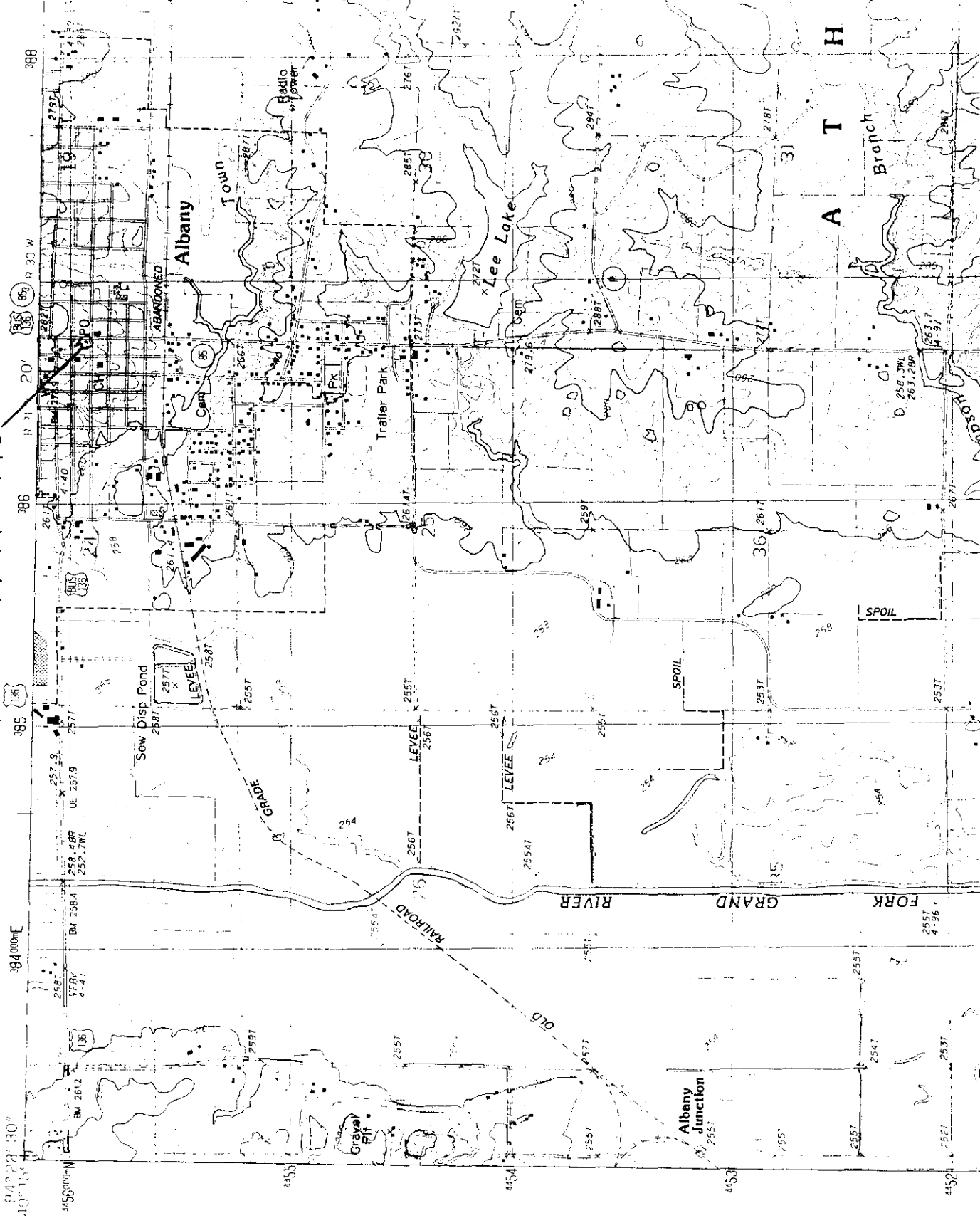
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2. Steven Mitchell
National Register Historian
and State Contact Person
Department of Natural Resources
Division of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
Historic Preservation Program
P. O. Box 176
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102
Date: September 26, 1989
Telephone: 314/751-5376

Albany Carnegie Public Library
101 West Clay Street
Albany, Gentry County, Missouri
15 / 386927 / 4455740



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



Albany, Mo. Carney - Public Library
Albany, Missouri

LINDA BECKER

4-88

LINDA BECKER

816 GLEED TERR.

KANSAS CITY, MO 64119

SOUTH FUTURE, Looking NORTH

1-6



Albany, Mo. University Public Library

Albany, Missouri

UNIV. PRESS

196

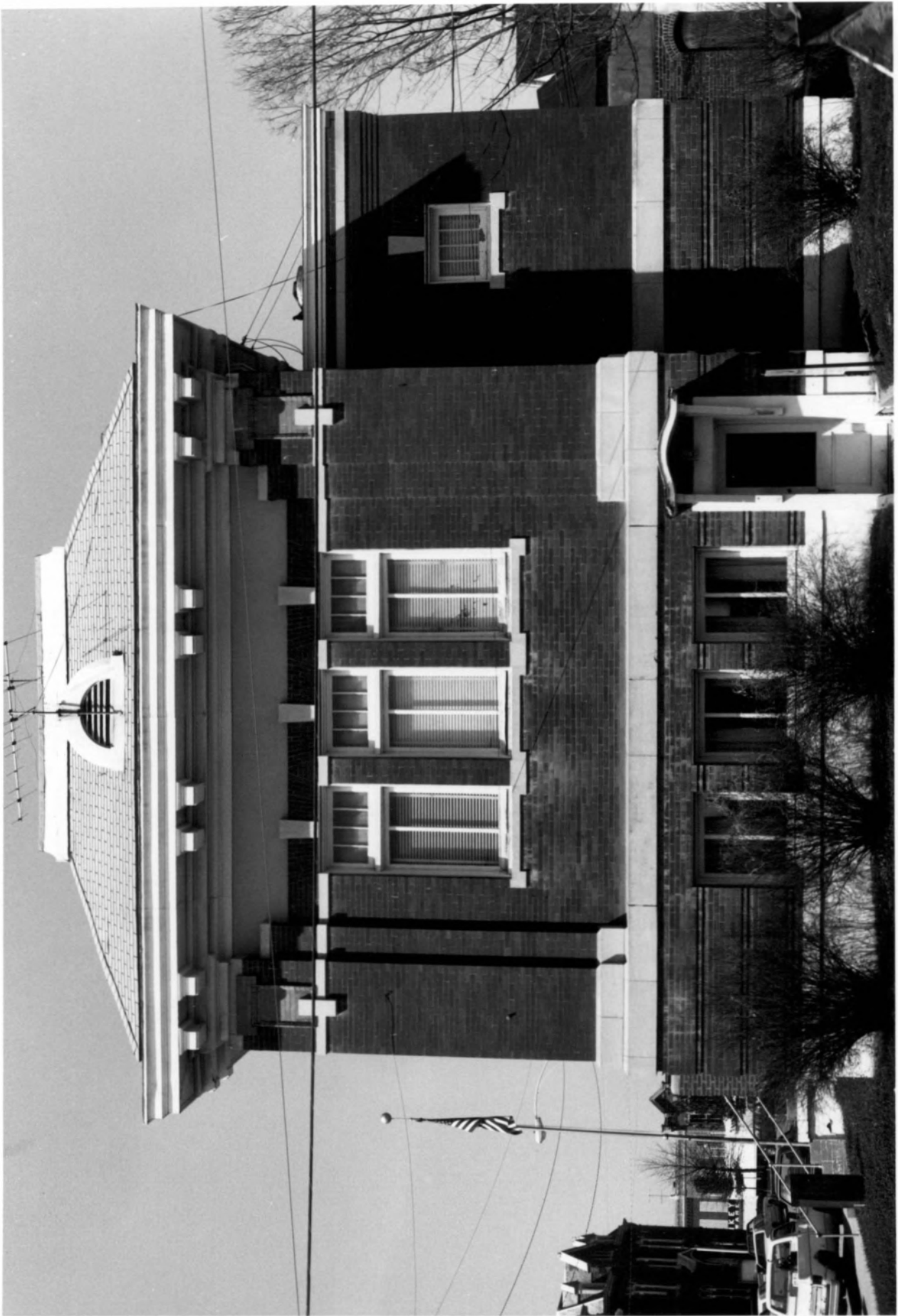
LINDA MELLER

916 GLEED TRAC

KANSAS CITY MO 64117

East facade, looking west

2-6



Albany, Mo. Carnegie Public Library

Albany, Missouri

LINDA BECKER

4-88

LINDA BECKER

816 GLEED TERR

KE MO. 64109

North facade, looking south

3-6



Albany, Missouri Carnegie Public Library

Albany, Missouri

LINDA BECKER

4-88

LINDA BECKER
816 GLEED TERR.

KC MO.

64109

Southwest Corner, looking Northwest

4-6



1. Albany, Mo. CARNEGIE Public Library

2. Albany, Mo.

3. Priscilla JACKSON - EVANS

4. 7-88

5. JACKSON - EVANS

6/106 Charlotte

Kansas City, Mo. 64110

6. Entry, library, looking southeast

7. Picture No. 5-6



1. Albany, Mo. Carnegie Public Library
2. Albany, Mo
3. Priscilla JACKSON - EVANS
4. 7-88
5. JACKSON - EVANS
6106 Charlotte
K.C., Mo. 64110
6. Original circulation desk + shelving,
looking northwest
7. Picture No. 6-6

