

CITY OF SAN JOSÉ, CALIFORNIA
Department of Planning, Building and Code Enforcement
200 E. Santa Clara St., San José, California 95113

Hearing Date/Agenda Number
H.L.C.: 07/11/07 Item 4.a.

File Number: HP07-005

Application Type
Historic Preservation Permit

Council District: 3

Planning Area
Central

Assessor's Parcel Number(s)
467-58-001 and -002

STAFF REPORT

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Completed by: Darren McBain

Location: Southeast corner of E. Santa Clara Street and S. 23rd Street (1102 E. Santa Clara Street)

Gross Acreage: 0.6

Net Acreage: 0.6

Net Density: N/A

Existing Zoning: CG Commercial General and RM Multi-Family Res.

Existing Use: Public library

Proposed Zoning: No change

Proposed Use: Historic Preservation Permit to allow demolition of the existing approximately 3,500-square-foot 1980s-era addition, and construction of a new approximately 8,500-square-foot addition to the circa-1907 East San Jose Carnegie Branch Library (City Landmark Structure no. HL77-010).

GENERAL PLAN

Completed by: DM

Land Use/Transportation Diagram Designation
Public/Quasi-Public

Project Conformance:
 Yes No
 See Analysis and Recommendations

SURROUNDING ZONING AND LAND USES

Completed by: DM

North: CG Commercial General

Offices

East: CG Commercial General

Retail

South: A(PD) Planned Development

Townhouses

West: CG Commercial General & A(PD) Planned Development

Social club

CEQA

Completed by: DM

Environmental Impact Report found complete
 Negative Declaration circulated on
 Negative Declaration adopted on

Exempt
 Environmental Review Incomplete

FILE HISTORY

Completed by: DM

Annexation Title: East San Jose

Date: December 1, 1911

PLANNING DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommend Approval
 Recommend Approval with Conditions
 Recommend Denial

Date: _____

Approved by: _____

APPLICANT

City of San Jose Department of Public Works
200 E. Santa Clara Street, 6th floor
San Jose, CA 95113

PUBLIC AGENCY COMMENTS RECEIVED

Completed by: DM

Other Departments and Agencies

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

BACKGROUND

The proposed project is an approximately 8,500-square-foot addition to the side and rear of the historic 1908 East San Jose Carnegie Branch Library. The project includes rehabilitation of the original building and demolition of the existing circa-1981 addition on the rear of the original library. The historic library is proposed to be preserved. A Historic Preservation Permit is required because the original building is a designated City Landmark Structure (no. HL77-010).

Historic Resource Description

The original, circa-1908 East San Jose Carnegie Branch Library is an approximately 1,650-square-foot building. The library exhibits a Classic Revival style typical of Carnegie libraries, with a simple, symmetrical rectangular form and a “Greek temple”-style front portico. An approximately 3,500-square-foot addition was constructed on the south side of the original building in 1980-81. A detailed discussion of the historic resource is included on pp. 27-33 of the historic report prepared for the project by Page & Turnbull, Inc., dated June 19, 2007, which is attached to this staff report.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS

The proposed project includes three primary components: Demolition of the existing circa-1981 building addition, construction of a new addition to the historic building, and rehabilitation of the historic building.

1. *Demolition of existing addition:* In 1981, an addition was constructed on the south elevation (rear) of the original library. The addition resulted in removal of a central portion of the wall, which included three windows on the first floor and an exterior door at the basement level. Although the 1981 addition is listed as a compatible addition to the historic Carnegie Library in the library’s National Register nomination, it is not considered to be a character-defining element and is not significant within its own right. Therefore, the 1981 addition does not contribute to the historic status of the East San Jose Carnegie Library.

2. *Construction of new addition:* The proposed addition is located on the east side and south (rear) of the historic library. The proposed new construction has a similar footprint to the 1981 addition, but would also include the street frontage on E. Santa Clara Street, in the currently vacant area between the library and the adjacent commercial building. Most of the addition would be slightly lower in height than the historic library. The design of the proposed addition includes a raised floor to align with, and establish an improved functional relationship, with the existing building. The building materials of the new construction include tempered glass, a lightly sandblasted concrete base, stainless steel trim and detailing, and aluminum-sash windows.

The new building massing is proposed to be set apart from the historic Carnegie by means of a glass and metal connection to the original building, creating an open and transparent connection. The new addition would not affect the majority of the original library's historic materials, features or spatial relationships. The majority of the existing building, including the two primary historic facades along E. Santa Clara Street and 23rd Street, would be retained and preserved. However, the project would result in two relatively minor impacts to the building's exterior historic fabric in order to accommodate the new addition: Removal of one window on the south façade and removal of approximately five inches of the cornice. These impacts, as discussed on pp. 50-51 of the historic report, would not adversely affect the building's overall historic significance and integrity. Apart from these two impacts, the proposed project would preserve all of the building's exterior character-defining features, including the building's massing, parapet, roofline, roof profile, chimneys, exterior stucco cladding, exterior wood molding and details, front porch, wood-sash windows, and transoms.

3. *Rehabilitation of existing historic Carnegie Library:* The project includes rehabilitation of the historic East San Jose Carnegie Library in compliance with to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Rehabilitation. The openings on the north, west, and east façades will be retained and preserved, windows will be preserved and rehabilitated, and a new door will be added to the front entry to replace the existing non-historic door. The proposed project will preserve and rehabilitate elements that have been identified as character-defining features. As noted above, the exterior character-defining elements include the stucco cladding, wood molding and details such as the cornice, dentils, modillion blocks, friezes, and ornamental grilles, front porch (columns, pediment, beadboard ceiling, and front steps), and wood-sash windows and transom.

The primary focus of the analysis, with regard to the approval of a Historic Preservation Permit, is conformance to the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for Preserving, Rehabilitating, Restoring & Reconstructing Historic Buildings*. As described in detail on pp. 47-52 of the historic report, qualified historic consultants Page & Turnbull, Inc. have concluded that the project is consistent with the Secretary's Standards, in that the project would maintain the building's exterior character-defining features, would not adversely impact the significance or integrity of a historic resource, and would not negate the building's eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or California Register of Historical Resources. Planning staff concurs with this analysis.

GENERAL PLAN CONFORMANCE

The project can be found to be consistent with the applicable goals and policies of the General Plan; in particular, Historic, Archaeological and Cultural Resources goals #1, 2, and 5:

1. Because historically or archaeologically significant sites, structures and districts are irreplaceable resources, their preservation should be a key consideration in the development review process.
2. The City should use the Area of Historic Sensitivity overlay and the landmark designation process of the Historical Preservation Ordinance to promote and enhance the preservation of historically or architecturally significant sites and structures.
5. New development in proximity to designated historic landmark structures and sites should be designed to be compatible with the character of the designated historic resource. In particular, development proposals located within the Areas of Historic Sensitivity designation should be reviewed for such design sensitivity.

Preservation of the existing historic Carnegie library has been a key consideration in the design of the proposed addition. The current permit implements the provisions of the Historic Preservation Ordinance that require issuance of a Historic Preservation Permit for work performed on a City Landmark. As discussed in the Project Description and Analysis section above, the new addition has been designed to be compatible with the historic library in terms of its location, proportions, and differentiation from the existing historic resource. In addition, the proposed project, a public library, is consistent with the site's General Plan Land Use/Transportation Diagram designation of Public/Quasi-Public.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Under the provisions of Section 15331 of the State Guidelines for Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Director of Planning has determined this project to be exempt from further environmental review.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Community meetings were held for the proposed project in March, May, and October of 2006. A public hearing notice for the project was posted at the site, published in a local newspaper, and mailed to all property owners and tenants within 500 feet of the subject site. The staff report and the Historic Landmarks Commission and Planning Director Hearing agendas are posted on the "Hearings and Meetings" section of the Planning Division web page, and staff has been available to discuss the proposal with members of the public.

RECOMMENDATION

Planning staff recommends that the Historic Landmarks Commission find that the proposal conforms to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and recommend approval of the proposed Historic Preservation Permit to the Director of Planning.



Historic Report

Final

East San Jose Carnegie Library

1102 East Santa Clara Street
San José, California

June 19, 2007

Prepared for
Gould Evans Associates
San Francisco, California

Prepared by
PAGE & TURNBULL, INC.
724 Pine Street, San Francisco, California 94108
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I. INTRODUCTION

Purpose and Scope

This Historic Report has been completed for Gould Evans Associates as part of the planning process for the East San Jose Carnegie Library Branch Expansion. The East San Jose Carnegie Library (Library) is located at 1102 East Santa Clara Street in San Jose, California at the southeast corner of the intersection of East Santa Clara and 23rd Streets (APN 467-58-001). It was constructed between 1907 and 1908 with a \$7,000 grant received from Andrew Carnegie. An addition was completed at the rear of the building in 1981. The building is currently used as a branch library for the San Jose Public Library system. Gould Evans has been retained by the City of San Jose to design plans for an expansion of the current library branch. Under the current proposal, the 1981 addition will be demolished and replaced with a new addition. The original portion of the library would be retained, rehabilitated, and seismically strengthened. The East San Jose Carnegie Library is currently listed in the City of San Jose Historic Resources Inventory as “CLS,” indicating that it is listed as a City Landmark Site/Structure. The Library is also listed in the National Register of Historic Places. This report serves to address the impacts of the proposed project on the historic library and to fulfill the requirements outlined by the City of San Jose for Historic Reports.¹

Methodology

Utilizing standards established by the State of California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP), Page & Turnbull prepared an assessment of the East San Jose Carnegie Library. The conclusions in this report are based on fieldwork and archival research led by architectural historians Richard Sucré and Eileen Wilde of Page & Turnbull between February 2006 and June 2007. The principal on this project was Tom Dufurrena of Page & Turnbull.

Research was completed at repositories including the San Jose Public Library California Room; the Bancroft Library; and the University of California, Berkeley Environmental Design Archives. Page & Turnbull also examined files from the City of San Jose Department of Public Works.

¹ City of San Jose, *Guidelines for Historic Reports* (October 27, 1998)
<http://www.sanjoseca.gov/planning/Historic/pdf/Historic_Report_Guides.pdf>, accessed 29 August 2006.



Figure 1. Location Map of East San Jose Carnegie Library at 1102 East Santa Clara Street, San Jose, CA (Source: Google Earth; Altered by author).

II. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Spanish/Mexican Periods

El Pueblo de San José de Guadalupe was established in 1777 on the banks of the Guadalupe River by José Joaquín Moraga. This first civilian settlement in Alta California was chartered by the King of Spain and platted on the eastern banks of the Guadalupe River, adjacent to the lands of Mission Santa Clara. As a civilian pueblo, San José's primary function was to grow crops and supply other provisions to the military presidios at Monterey and San Francisco. After being destroyed by floodwaters on several occasions, the pueblo was moved approximately one mile south to higher ground in 1791, to a site corresponding with Plaza de César Chávez.

For more than eighty years under Spanish and Mexican rule, San José grew slowly, despite the discovery that crops flourished in the area because of extremely rich soils and ideal climactic conditions. Gradually, the settlement became a center of trade for the sparsely populated hinterlands located between San Francisco and Monterey. Although some agricultural production did exist, the mainstays of the local economy were cattle hides and tallow.

Following Mexican independence in 1821, the secularization of the missions in 1834, and the relaxation of immigration restrictions, an influx of American immigrants began slowly making their way over the Sierra Nevada Mountains into California. Within a decade, their numbers began to transform the demographic makeup of San José and the rest of Alta California. As local agricultural production expanded beyond the traditional focus on hides and tallow to the more lucrative crops of wheat and wine grapes, San José began to evolve into a commercial settlement of adobe residences and wood-frame stores, saloons, and hotels. The annexation of California by the United States in 1849 and the ensuing Gold Rush further transformed San José, and it soon became the primary supply center for miners taking the overland route to the gold fields. Many erstwhile miners, recognizing the rich soil and beneficial climate of the Santa Clara Valley, returned to San José to settle after exhausting their luck in the Sierras.

Early American Period

John Burton, the first American alcalde, commissioned a survey of the pueblo of San José not long before California was annexed by the United States. In 1848, surveyor Chester Lyman overlaid a gridiron of streets not far to the east of the original Spanish/Mexican pueblo. It was in this area—bounded by St. John Street to the north, Fourth Street to the east, San Fernando Street to the south and Market Street to the west—that the new commercial and retail district developed. The first

businesses were located close to the Mexican pueblo along Post and Market Streets. The designation of San José as California's first state capital in 1850 caused the newly incorporated city to grow at a feverish clip. Although the state capital was relocated in 1852, the growth of San José was given continued impetus in 1864 with the completion of the railroad line between San Francisco and San José. Five years later, San José was connected by rail to the rest of the United States by a trunk Central Pacific line running from Niles. As a result of these developments, San José became connected to the greater national and world economies through the shipment of local agricultural products worldwide.

Horticultural Expansion

The half-century between 1870 and 1918, the period in which the majority of downtown San José was constructed, corresponded with the most important era of horticultural expansion in the Santa Clara Valley. Although pioneer nurserymen had planted orchards as early as 1852, it was not until the 1870s that vast sections of the Valley floor in San José and the surrounding areas of Santa Clara, Los Gatos, Saratoga, Campbell, Evergreen, Milpitas and elsewhere were planted in groves of plums, cherries and apricots. By the late 1870s, fruit production had come to dominate the regional economy. Promotional literature published in eastern newspapers extolled the benefits of what was truly the most ideal fruit-growing region in the world. Other industries related to horticultural production, such as canneries, box and can makers, and machine shops, grew up alongside the orchards and helped to balance the local economy. Fruit production, which consisted largely of apricots and prunes, peaked in the 1920s in the Valley of Heart's Delight, as the Santa Clara Valley was known, and remained a mainstay of the regional economy until the Second World War.

Downtown Development: 1870-1890

The rapid development of downtown San José during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries was largely the result of the growing wealth of the local horticultural economy. The burgeoning economy required the construction of supporting businesses such as banks, hardware stores, restaurants, saloons, and large hotels to accommodate visiting ranchers. Between the late 1860s and the early 1890s, commercial development crept eastward along Santa Clara and San Fernando Streets to Third and Fourth Streets.

The pioneering development of modern infrastructure and transportation systems further enabled San José's rapid growth. Electrical service came to San José in 1881; during that same year, the famous San José Light Tower was erected over the intersection of Market and Santa Clara Streets. In

1887, Samuel Bishop built the first electrical streetcar line in America when he began running cars between San José and Santa Clara.

San José Becomes a Regional Financial and Commercial Center

By 1905, local streetcar lines and interurban lines connected downtown San José with vast sections of the agricultural and suburban hinterlands. Every day, thousands of customers flocked downtown for most of their major banking, shopping, entertainment, and government needs. As the population of San José grew to almost 50,000 in the early twentieth century, the city began to change in character from a semi-rural market town to an urban center in its own right. During the first three decades of the twentieth century, commercial development spread north of Santa Clara Street, east of Third Street, and south of San Fernando Street. The size of buildings also increased as the development of escalating steel-frame and concrete enabled speculators to construct early skyscrapers, the most notable of which included the first San José skyscraper, the seven-story Garden City Bank (1908), at South First and East San Fernando Streets; the ten-story First National Bank Building (1910), at 20 West Santa Clara Street; and the thirteen-story Bank of America Building (1927), at 12 South First Street.

San José after World War II

Following the Second World War, San José's pro-development government actively recruited non-agricultural businesses to the city, especially high technology and aerospace companies such as General Electric, Lockheed, and IBM. The high-tech boom attracted thousands of new residents to the city, giving the Santa Clara Valley its "Silicon Valley" nickname. Between 1950 and 1975, the population of San José expanded from 95,000 to 500,000. Meanwhile, under the aggressively annexationist policies of City Manager Dutch Hamann, the city expanded in size from seventeen square miles to 120 square miles. Thousands of acres of orchards were plowed under for residential subdivisions and shopping centers.

Libraries in San José

Libraries were established in San Jose during the nineteenth century. In 1850, the first library in San Jose was established: the California State Library. This library was moved shortly thereafter when the State Capitol moved out of San Jose to Sacramento in 1852. During the 1850s and 1860s, at least three reading rooms operated in San Jose, including one opened by the YMCA in 1867.² As was the case with many libraries during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the YMCA reading

² Robert D. Hook. "History of the San Jose Public Library: 1903-1937." A research paper presented to the faculty of the Department of Librarianship, San Jose State College, in partial fulfillment for M.A. (June 1968): 5.

room provided a place for men to congregate or read a newspaper without being in a saloon. In 1872, the San Jose Library Association incorporated and opened a library in rooms on the Knox Block at the corner of First and Santa Clara Streets.

In 1880, the City Council passed a resolution to establish a public library under the provisions of the Rodgers Act (1878). This legislature allowed municipalities to create a tax to support public libraries and spurred the development of free libraries throughout California.³ San Jose residents had voted against the library tax three times before the City Council passed the resolution. The new public library was located on Santa Clara Street between Market and First Streets; in 1889, it moved to the second-floor of the new City Hall.⁴

The rapidly expanding city quickly outgrew the library space in City Hall. In November 1900, the Mayor wrote to Andrew Carnegie asking for a library grant, but received no answer. Spurred to action, leading San Jose businessman O.A. Hale traveled to Pittsburgh to meet with Carnegie in person. As a result, Carnegie offered a \$50,000 library grant with the usual stipulation that the City had to commit to a 10% (\$5,000) yearly support fee. On July 15, 1901, the City accepted the grant, and in early 1902, awarded construction contracts to F.A. Curtis. The architect chosen was William Binder. Binder designed several other buildings in downtown San Jose, including the Twohy Building (1917) at 200-210 South First Street, and the Montgomery Hotel (1911) at 211 South First Street. He later designed the Carnegie Library in Hollister, completed in 1912.

The new library was located on the grounds of the State Normal School (now San Jose State University) and was constructed of pressed brick, terra cotta, and San Jose sandstone. The cornerstone of the building was laid on February 16, 1902, and the library opened on June 1, 1903. The *San Jose Daily Mercury* described the opening ceremonies:

No city in the whole country, the size of San Jose, has such a well built, well arranged, well managed and thoroughly up-to-date public library... The graceful lines of the exterior of the building, the soft blending in shade of sandstone and terra cotta, the ample entrance way and terraced grounds, the noble portico with the name of Carnegie engraved on its frieze constitute the features of an artistic picture brought into strong relief by the spreading elms of Normal Park... Our citizens will ever hold in kindly remembrance the name of Andrew Carnegie for his generous gift. As we enter its portal, his name inscribed on frieze above will remind us of his

³ Ray E. Held, *The Rise of the Public Library in California* (Chicago: American Library Association, 1973), 1.

⁴ San Jose Public Library, "Early Years of San José Public Library, 1849-1970," n.d. Accessed at: http://www.sjlibrary.org/about/history/early_sjpl.htm.

desire by diffusing knowledge to help our young men and women to help themselves.⁵

East San José

The section of San José that would ultimately become the City of East San José was first surveyed in 1869, when the East San José Homestead Association was surveyed by A.T. Herrmann. By 1876, East San Jose had 250 residents.⁶ During the late nineteenth century, the Lendrum Tract and Beach addition were added to the neighborhood.⁷

In 1906, prominent members of this part of San José began clamoring for incorporation of a separate town. These residents included Frank H. Moon, a lumberman; C.A. Bates, a builder; Jackson Hatch, an attorney; and T.M. Wright, owner of a print shop. The most publicly spoken reason was that several saloons has opened up along Alum Rock Avenue (now East Santa Clara Street), and the neighbors wanted to have more control over their operation. T.M. Wright would ultimately go on to write the anti-liquor Volstead Act (also known as the National Prohibition Act) while serving in the California Assembly.⁸ In order to gain support for incorporation, the leaders of the movement said they didn't plan on eliminating liquor in East San Jose, but just wanted to regulate it; in fact, they ultimately banned alcohol sales in the town.⁹

A second, less vocal reason came about as a result of the 1906 Earthquake that devastated San Francisco and much of the Bay Area. After the earthquake, the streets of East San José were heavily damaged, and this motivated the residents to want to incorporate. The area had no town sewer, another perk offered through incorporation. A *San Jose Daily Mercury* article from July 20, 1906 stated that residents wanted “a central body that would attend to the health and sewage conditions...”¹⁰

The new City Attorney, Jackson Hatch, described the election in a July 27, 1906 letter:

There was some contest at the election, but it was mainly by the liquor interests, and one of the main purposes which those who urged the incorporation of the community had in view was to have the power to regulate the liquor traffic in the

⁵ *San Jose Daily Mercury*, 7 June 1903, 3.

⁶ Lucy Kortum, “East San Jose Carnegie Library,” (National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, November 1989, revised April 1990), 8:1.

⁷ Jack Douglas, “East San Jose: City of 200 Days.” *Historical Footnotes of Santa Clara Valley* (May 1988): 7.

⁸ *Ibid.*

⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁰ *San Jose Daily Mercury*, 20 July 1906, 8.

community and also to take every step that the laws would justify and sustain in beautifying the town.¹¹

The separatists won the election by two votes. On July 20, 1906, East San José was officially incorporated as the City of East San José. The form of government was a five-member Board of Trustees: the Chairman of the Board was F.H. Moon, the Clerk was D.L. Schaaf, the Recorder was J.M. Robinson, the Treasurer was John R. Cunan, and the Attorney was Jackson Hatch. The new town had a population of approximately 1,400 residents.¹²

The new town of East San Jose was centered on East Santa Clara Street (then known as Alum Rock), and was roughly bounded by 17th Street, King Road, McKee Road, and San Antonio Street.¹³ The streets were originally named for historical American figures—for example, 23rd Street was known as Adams Street—but their names were changed when San Jose annexed East San Jose in 1911.

Just one week after incorporation, on July 27, City Attorney Jackson Hatch wrote to Carnegie requesting a library grant for the newly formed municipality. Hatch led the effort to establish a library in the new town.¹⁴ In his letter, Hatch described the formation of the town and the organization of town government. Hatch then praised Carnegie’s grant program and asked for assistance, stating: “Among the utilities we need most is a library building.”¹⁵ This statement was quite remarkable, given that the town had barely been organized. It was possible that East San Jose wanted a Carnegie library to give them the same civic pride as had been given to the City of San Jose a few years earlier. Hatch mentioned the \$50,000 grant to San José in his letter to Carnegie and seemed to be very familiar with the process of obtaining a grant, suggesting that he may have been involved in the San José grant. For instance, Hatch mentions in his letter that East San José was in the process of passing an ordinance “for the construction and maintenance of a public library... [we] feel ourselves most sadly crippled in our desire to have our library properly house.”¹⁶ Basically, only one week after the City of East San José incorporated, the town had lined up all of the requirements to receive a Carnegie grant - quite a remarkable achievement and one that was likely in the works for some time.

¹¹ Jackson Hatch to Andrew Carnegie, 27 July 1906, Carnegie Collection.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Tom Gilson, “Reprieve for a piece of history,” *East San Jose Sun*, 15 February 1978.

¹⁴ Joelle Mellon, *My Heart Will Always Be with the Library: A History of the East San Jose Public Library’s First Years* ([San Jose, California: n.p.], 1995), 1.

¹⁵ Jackson Hatch to Andrew Carnegie, 27 July 1906, Carnegie Collection.

¹⁶ Ibid.

In December 1906, the *San Jose Mercury* reported that East San Jose wanted a library: “After some books have been collected, it is planned to ask Andres Carnegie for \$5000 for a building.”¹⁷ This statement was somewhat odd, because the letter to Carnegie had already been sent. In addition the *News Notes of California Libraries* reported in April 1907 that the “East San Jose [Free] Public Library” had been established on August 7, 1906, although the library was not yet open and had no employees.¹⁸

In March 1907, the Town Trustees appointed five members to the Board of Trustees of the East San Jose Public Library. Remarkably, all of the library trustees were women. Four of the women were married to town leaders: Mrs. F.H. Moon, Mrs. C.A. Bates, Mrs. T.M. Wright, and Mrs. Jackson Hatch. Mrs. Moon was appointed as President and Mrs. Hatch as Vice-President. The fifth woman, Miss Lola Balis, was appointed Secretary of the Board and temporary librarian.¹⁹

At their first meeting on March 15, 1907, the new Board completed a certificate for the State Librarian in Sacramento, stating that the East San Jose Library had been official established on March 15.²⁰ The Board was responsible for compiling annual reports and presenting them to the Town Trustees and the state library.²¹ They set up three committees to manage the library: the library, finance, and rooms committees. The library committee was charged with acquiring materials for the library and the administrative duties. The finance committee handled all the financial aspects of library management, while the rooms committee was tasked with furnishing the rooms and maintenance.²²

At the April 17, 1907 meeting, the Board established the rules and regulations for the library. The library rules stated that both residents and non-residents could apply for library cards. As part of the new progressive library movement, the library was to have open stacks and provide books for children.

On the same day, several affidavits were signed to show that East San José was ready for its library grant. Lola Balis, the acting Secretary of the Board of Trustees of the Public Library of the Town of East San José, certified the following:

¹⁷ *News Notes of California Libraries* 2 (January 1907): 23.

¹⁸ *News Notes of California Libraries* 2 (April 1907): 134-135.

¹⁹ Mrs. J. Hatch in Mellon, 6.

²⁰ Hook, 35.

²¹ Mellon, 6 and 7.

²² Mellon, 6.

That the public library of the Town of East San Jose is located in the hall and premises used by the Town Trustees of the said Town, and the town officers, and occupies a space in a room in said building, which said space is about fifteen feet one way and eighteen feet the other way; and that there are two suitable and proper cases of book shelves and that the floor is covered with a suitable cork flooring, and that there is suitable furniture in said space, and that there are between four and five hundred carefully selected books, all the property of said library, and that the said library has been examined by a representative from the State Librarian of the State of California, and the said books inspected and arranged and classified in accordance with the usual rules regulating such matters, and that a suitable lot for the construction of a library building is available and has been secured. And that the said library in the premises above mentioned is now practically ready for the use of the citizens of the said Town of East San Jose.²³

Balis sent another affidavit reading: “On the 15th day of March, 1907, the Trustees of the Public Library of the Town of East San Jose met, all five members being present, and duly organized by the election of a President and a Secretary and that the said Trustees have duly and regularly adopted rules and regulations for the management and direction of the Public Library of the Town of East San Jose.”²⁴ On the same day, the Town Clerk, H.B. Worcester, certified that the Board of Trustees of the East San José Public Library had been appointed in March 1907.

The April 1907 issue of *News Notes of California Libraries* reported that the library had gathered between 200 and 300 books through donations and planned to open once they had twice that number of books. The \$500 annual income was to come from taxes; this amount was raised to \$700 by October 1907. It was further stated: “Negotiations are being made for the purchase of a lot, after which Mr. Carnegie will be asked for money for a building. Immediate funds for necessary expenses will be forthcoming, but tax levy can not be made until Fall.”²⁵

On May 2, 1907, James Bertram, Carnegie’s personal secretary, finally responded to Jackson Hatch’s request for a library grant. In his commonly brusque reply, he wrote:

If the City agree [sic] by Resolution of Council to maintain a Free Public Library, at a cost of not less than Seven Hundred Dollars a year, and provides a suitable site for the building, Mr. Carnegie will be glad to give Seven Thousand Dollars to erect a Free Public Library Building for East San Jose.²⁶

²³ Lola Balis, 17 April 1907, Carnegie Collection.

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ California State Library. *News Notes of California Libraries* 2 (April 1907): 134-135.

²⁶ P. Secretary [James Bertram] to Jackson Hatch, 2 May 1907, Carnegie Collection.

According to a newspaper clipping from an unknown newspaper, the town appointed a committee to coordinate the construction project directly after Hatch read Bertram's letter at a town council meeting.²⁷

The library temporarily opened in a room in the town hall on May 17, 1907. This was a fairly common arrangement for burgeoning libraries in western towns. At its opening, the library had 417 books.²⁸ The library was open on Friday afternoons from 3pm to 5pm.²⁹ Support came from book and periodical donations, and fundraising events like concerts and lectures.

The July 1907 issue of *News Notes of California Libraries* reported that the East San Jose library was open on Fridays from 3:00pm to 5:00pm and had only about 300 books. Lola Balis had resigned as a Trustee and been replaced by Mrs. T.H. Lawson; Mrs. Jackson Hatch was now acting as Secretary. In addition: "A \$7000 Carnegie building is under consideration."³⁰

Construction of the East San Jose Carnegie Library

As required under the provisions of the Carnegie grant, the town of East San Jose had to provide a site for the new library. The site was part of the East San Jose Homestead Association. On September 5, 1907, the Town of East San Jose purchased a parcel for ten dollars in gold coin from Mrs. Stella O. Moon, C.A. Bates, Jackson Hatch, C.L. Burdick, T.M. Wright, and J.W. Holland. The parcel was described as follows:

Commencing at the Northeast corner of South Twenty-third Street, formerly Adams Street, and East Santa Clara Street, formerly Alum Rock Avenue, and running thence in a Southerly direction and along the Easterly line of South Twenty-third Street, 73 feet; thence at a right angle Easterly 65 feet to a point on the dividing line between Lots 1 and 2 of Block 7 of the East San Jose Homestead Association, according to the Map and Survey of lands made by A.T. Herrmann Survey, May 31st, and June 7th, 1869 and which said Map is now on file in the Recorder's Office in said County of Santa Clara, and thence Northerly 64.63 feet, along said dividing line between said Lots 1 and 2 of Block 7, to the Southern line of East Santa Clara Street; and thence Westerly and along said line of East Santa Clara Street, 65.52 feet to the Place of Beginning, and being a portion of Lot No. 1 in Block 7 of the East San Jose Homestead Association hereinbefore referred to.³¹

²⁷ Mellon, 10.

²⁸ Mrs. J. Hatch in Mellon, 5.

²⁹ Mellon, 8.

³⁰ California State Library. *News Notes of California Libraries* 2 (July 1907): 230.

³¹ Santa Clara County, Office of the Clerk-Recorder, Book 321 of Deeds, p. 592.

The deed was dated May 8, 1907—just a few days after Bertram had approved the Carnegie grant—but was not filed until September. A condition was attached to the sale, which read:

This conveyance is made upon the express condition that the property hereby conveyed to the Grantee shall be used exclusively by the Grantee as a site for the construction and maintenance thereon of a building and its necessary appurtenances to be used for the maintenance therein of a free public library.³²

On September 6, 1907, a building contract was filed, and the groundbreaking was held on September 7.

The site of the new Carnegie library was at the heart of East San Jose. The firehouse was located behind the library on the site of the current addition, and other buildings including the City Hall, the jail, and the East San Jose Grammar School were also very close (**Figure 2**). The East San Jose Grammar School was constructed around 1888 at the corner of 23rd and East San Fernando (formerly Jefferson) Streets. The school was renamed the Hawthorne School around 1912. In 1917, a new school was constructed on the site and the grounds enlarged to encompass the entire block with the exception of the Carnegie Library. In 1940, it was renamed the Selma Olinder School. The structure was demolished in 1971 because of seismic concerns.³³



**Figure 2. Firehouse located behind East San Jose Carnegie Library, ca. 1895.
(Source: History San Jose)**

The architect chosen to construct the East San Jose Carnegie Library was locally prominent architect Jacob Lenzen. An elevation of the proposed building appeared in a September 11, 1907 article in the *San Jose Daily Mercury*, and appears to be the only surviving original drawing. The drawing shows a simple, symmetrical, one-story building designed in the Classical Revival style with an entry portico surmounted by a pediment. The article stated in part: “The plans call for a building on lines similar to

³² Santa Clara County, Book 321 of Deeds, p. 593.

³³ Tom King, typewritten text on Selma Olinder Grammar School, 17 November 1994. Located in the East San Jose Carnegie Library files of the City of San Jose Department of Public Works.

those of the San Jose structure, and the contractors have promised to have the house ready for occupancy the first of December.”³⁴

Architect Jacob Lenzen

Jacob Lenzen was born in Germany around 1832 and moved with his family to Chicago in 1856. While in Chicago, Lenzen worked in the building trade, and developed skills as a carpenter. In 1862, he moved with his family to San Jose. One year later, he married German native Kathrina Heckenroth, and they had two children: a son named Theodore and a daughter named Nettie. Lenzen had two brothers that also became prominent in San Jose: Theodore Lenzen, who was also an architect and designed Santa Clara College, the new City Hall at Market and San Fernando Streets, San Jose Sanitarium, and the first Normal School in San Jose; and Michael Lenzen, who was a painter, and considered in 1888 “the most prominent pioneer painting contractor in [San Jose].”³⁵

In 1884, Jacob Lenzen started a firm with his son Theodore called “Jacob Lenzen & Son, Architects,” located at 75 East Santa Clara Street in San Jose.³⁶ At one time, he served as the Building Inspector for the City of San Jose and also served on the San Jose City Council for two years after being elected in 1874. Lenzen died in San Jose on February 25, 1910.³⁷ An obituary in 1910 in *The Architect and Engineer* states:

He designed practically all of the early business buildings in the Garden City, many of which are still standing. His work included the old State Insane Asylum at Agnews, Hotel del Paso Robles at Paso Robles, County Hall of Records, St. Joseph’s College, the Dougherty, Alice, Letitia, Archer, Rucker, Rea, Sweigert and Theater buildings, all in San Jose; the Park hotel at Alameda, the Flood residence at Menlo Park and the Bank of Hollister.³⁸

Lenzen’s other buildings including the Auzerais House, the City Courthouses at Salinas and Redwood City, the Flood Mansion in Menlo Park, and the Masonic Halls in Watsonville and Hollister. Lenzen also designed the Carnegie Library in Salinas. The \$10,000 grant for the Salinas Carnegie Library (demolished 1961) was awarded in 1907. The building was a Classical Revival structure and opened on September 5, 1909.

³⁴ “Work on East San Jose Library Begins,” *San Jose Daily Mercury*, 11 September 1907, 9.

³⁵ H.S. Foote, ed. *Pen Pictures from the Garden of the World or Santa Clara County, California* (Chicago: The Lewis Pub. Co., 1888), 363.

³⁶ *Ibid.*

³⁷ “Jacob Lenzen,” *The Architect and Engineer* 20 (March 1910): 99.

³⁸ *Ibid.*

Construction

Construction started in September and the contractor was M.D. Green. The library was dedicated on January 17, 1908. The building had five rooms (in the basement and first floor) and could hold 20,000 volumes. The final cost was \$5,640 for the building and \$1,000 for furniture, meaning the building actually came in \$360 under budget.³⁹ “The building’s wood frame is covered with metallic lathing and plaster inside and out; the architect stressed its fire resistant qualities, noting particularly that the basement area directly under the entrance stairs would be a fire-proof vault for valuable manuscripts and documents.” (Figure 3)⁴⁰



Figure 3. East San Jose Library, n.d.
(Source: San Jose Public Library)

The 1915 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map shows the library as a one-story concrete structure with a composition roof, a lath and plaster exterior, a one-story front porch with a composition roof, electric lights, and a furnace for heat (Figure 4). At the rear of the lot was a one-story storage shed. Adjacent to the lot on the remainder of the block were six dwellings with associated outbuildings and three structures composing the Hawthorn School at the southeast end of the block.

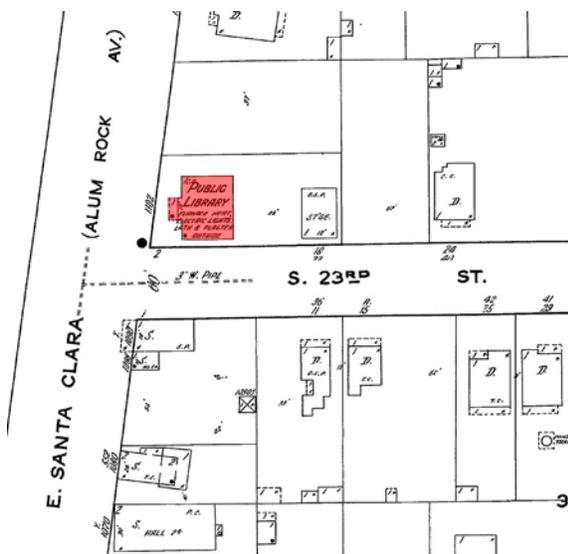


Figure 4. 1915 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map,
Vol. 1, No. 1 (Altered by author)

The building had repair problems from the start, a problem exacerbated from the lack of funding. The budget for the fiscal year running from July 1908 to June 1909 was cut almost in half,

³⁹ Hook, 37.

⁴⁰ Lucy Kortum, “East San Jose Carnegie Library,” (National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, November 1989, revised April 1990), 7:1.

necessitating the lowering of the librarian's salary from \$25 to \$20 per month.⁴¹ By July 1909, the library had 1,001 books and had started a children's corner for pictures and games.

Just before the library opened, the Board of Trustees of the East San Jose Public Library voted on January 6, 1908 to allow the town to use the basement space since the library did not need the basement:

That this Board does hereby tender to the town of East San Jose, and its Board of Trustees, the use of its basement and vault of the building for usual town purposes for such period of time as may be needed, subject only to the obligation of said Town to bear its reasonable proportion of the heating and lighting of the building, and such other expenses or repairs as may be made necessary by the occupancy of the basement.⁴²

This decision went counter to Carnegie policy, which did not allow for other uses of the building aside from the library. It was likely that the Trustees voted to allow the Town to use the space to help them defray the maintenance costs, and to pay them back for giving them space in the town hall.

The librarian for the new building, Nellie Lawson, had been hired by the board in October 1907. Lawson was a resident of East San Jose, and may have been related to Library Board member Mrs. T.H. Lawson. The librarian was paid \$20 per month plus funds for professional development.⁴³ Other employees included a part-time janitor and someone who took care of the lawn. Lawson was appointed to be Secretary of the Library Board on February 11, 1908, and, according to her resignation letter, also appeared to be employed by a school: "Owing to my school duties and other work which calls upon my time, I deem it necessary and admirable to submit my resignation as Librarian of the East San Jose Library to take effect December 15, 1909."⁴⁴

The new library appeared to be quite successful. Lawson told the Board in May 1908 that she had checked out 448 books in twelve days.⁴⁵ The library was open six days a week and closed on Sundays and holidays. The library hours were increased in February 1908 and again in October 1910, at which point it was opened on Sundays. In November 1911, the hours were again increased, testimony to the success of the library.

⁴¹ Hook, 37-38.

⁴² Mellon, 6.

⁴³ Mellon, 12.

⁴⁴ N.M. Lawson, 14 December 1909, in Mellon, 13.

⁴⁵ Mellon, 12.

Annexation

After a few years of acting as a separate town, the citizens of East San Jose began thinking about annexation to San Jose. The East San Jose government had accomplished what they had set out to do, and began to find the day-to-day running of government cumbersome. The reform in the City of San Jose's government prompted the town council to encourage annexation.⁴⁶ In December 1911, the citizens of the Town of East San Jose voted ten to one for annexation by the City of San Jose. As part of the annexation, the East San Jose Carnegie Library became the second branch of the San Jose Public Library system and the Library Board disbanded after a final meeting on December 5 of that same year. The City placed a maintenance fee of \$296.63 in the library budget for the East San Jose Carnegie Library, and it appears they retained the existing staff members.⁴⁷

In 1912, the East Branch library underwent repairs to its lighting system and received its first telephone. The basement room was utilized by the Improvement Club, and other groups, including churches.⁴⁸

However, earlier funding problems continued to plague the entire library system. In 1917, the first San Jose branch library closed because of a lack of funding, and the third branch library closed in 1918; therefore, leaving the East San Jose as the oldest extant library in the system. Around the end of World War I, the San Jose Public Library system was running out of storage space, and storage stacks were constructed in the basement of the East Branch library to alleviate overcrowding in the system.⁴⁹ During this time period of financial failure, the East San Jose Carnegie Library continued its operations and services to the San Jose community.

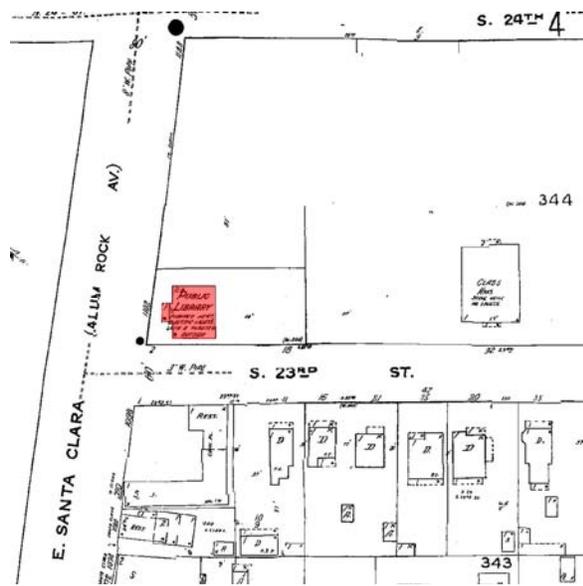


Figure 5. 1950 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map

⁴⁶ Jack Douglas, "East San Jose: City of 200 Days." *Historical Footnotes of Santa Clara Valley* (May 1988): 7.

⁴⁷ Hook, 39.

⁴⁸ Hook, 41.

⁴⁹ Hook, 47.

The 1950 Sanborn Fire Insurance map shows the library building as it had appeared on the 1915 map (**Figure 5**). However, the remainder of the block had been cleared aside from the Selma Olinder School at the southeast part of the block to a classroom building approximately midway on the block along South 23rd Street.

Addition and Restoration

By the late 1970s, the tiny East San Jose Carnegie Library was no longer adequate to serve the needs of its surrounding neighborhoods. Photographs from the 1970s show the basement and first floor of the library crowded with shelving and book carts. When a proposal was floated to demolish the library for a new structure, a group of residents banded together to save the Carnegie, resulting in its listing as a San Jose City Landmark. The library was saved and the decision was made to construct a one-story, wood-frame addition on the rear of the historic building on a parcel of land that was vacant. Ground was broken in December 1979 for a 3,500 square-foot addition, which was projected to cost \$335,000. This new structure became the main part of the library and included the circulation desk and restrooms, as well as the new main entrance to the library. The historic building was to be converted for use as a reading room, and for story hour and library programs; the basement was to be used for staff room, workrooms, and storage rooms. The addition became the “first city building to be designed with a passive solar heating system.”⁵⁰

The historic portion of the library was funded by \$300,000 from the city library department, and \$63,000 from a community block grant program.⁵¹ The partitions within the Carnegie library were removed. These were likely original to the building, as photographs from the late 1970s shows the wood trim and doorframes in these partition walls were similar to the historic finishes that remain today.

Carnegie Libraries

Andrew Carnegie donated over \$40 million to construct 1,679 libraries in the United States.⁵² Carnegie would ultimately spend about 90% of his money on philanthropic causes.⁵³ Carnegie chose to fund libraries because he wanted to support motivated individuals to educate themselves much as he had as an immigrant. Contrary to common belief, Carnegie did not donate libraries; instead he

⁵⁰ Leland Joachim, “Library addition ground broken,” *San Jose Mercury News*, 8 January 1980.

⁵¹ Gilsenan.

⁵² George S. Bobinski, *Carnegie Libraries: Their History and Impact on American Public Library Development* (Chicago, IL: American Library Association, 1969), 3.

⁵³ George S. Bobinski, *Carnegie Libraries: Their History and Impact on American Public Library Development* (Chicago, IL: American Library Association, 1969), 3.

gave grants to construct buildings that would be occupied by libraries.⁵⁴ The municipality was responsible for establishing the library, collecting books, hiring employees, providing a site for the library building, and raising tax money for its maintenance and support. Carnegie only supported free public libraries (as opposed to subscription libraries, which charged a fee) and did not give money to state libraries or state historical society libraries.⁵⁵ This has resulted in criticism for the Carnegie program; basically, Carnegie gave money for buildings before a library had the funding for books and staff, and requiring that the 10% go to building maintenance, resulting in a municipality being saddled with a building before having the means to establish the library.⁵⁶

The Carnegie grant program spread through publicity and word-of-mouth, and was never officially declared. States with state library commissions often encouraged communities to apply for grants by sending out representatives.⁵⁷ Another type of group that led the movement was women's clubs. A study undertaken by the American Library Association in 1933 "credited women's clubs with initiating 75 percent of the public libraries then in existence."⁵⁸ Libraries were seen as part of the female sphere, and women often were the motivating factor behind applying for Carnegie grants. Unfortunately, the same women who got the library were blocked from voting on the library site—because they still did not have the right to vote—and were not allowed to handle much of the grant details—because they were not elected officials.⁵⁹

The first typical Carnegie library grant was given to Fairfield, Iowa for the Fairfield Public Library in 1893. Prior to this, Carnegie had given grants to other towns, most notably in Pennsylvania, but these towns were all connected to him personally either through the location of a factory, etc. The peak of library grants occurred in 1903.⁶⁰ The Carnegie Corporation was officially chartered in 1911, and was set up to manage the administration of the library grants. Carnegie's personal secretary, James Bertram, was appointed as Secretary of the Carnegie Corporation, continuing his work of running the grant program.

⁵⁴ Bobinski, 39.

⁵⁵ Bobinski, 39

⁵⁶ Bobinski, 106.

⁵⁷ Jones, 22.

⁵⁸ Abigail A. Van Slyck, *Free to All: Carnegie Libraries & American Culture, 1890-1920* (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1995), 125.

⁵⁹ Abigail A. Van Slyck, *Free to All: Carnegie Libraries & American Culture, 1890-1920* (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1995), 134.

⁶⁰ Bobinski, 187.

Carnegie Grant Requirements

Carnegie set up some ground rules for his grants. He liked to get approval from the city instead of from the library board, because he wanted to guarantee that the city itself wanted a library and would provide financial support.⁶¹ The main requirement was that the city had to provide the site for the library and an annual maintenance fee that was to be no less than 10% of the grant given; in other words, towns that were given \$10,000 grants were required to provide a \$1,000 annual maintenance fund. This did not mean that towns could pledge a certain amount and receive ten times that sum for their libraries. This appropriation was intended for maintenance, but the towns often spent the money to finish the libraries by purchasing furniture or books, or simply never gave the libraries the money. California, however, had a good track record of providing the maintenance fee, probably because it had a very strong state library commission.⁶²

As the process became more formalized, Bertram began sending out questionnaires that asked for information including the size of the town; availability of a site for the library; how much was the town willing and able to raise for library support through taxes; and whether a library already existed, and if so, how large was the library, how many books did it have, what was the circulation, and what were the receipts and expenditures for the previous years.⁶³ Towns had to have a population of at least 1,000 residents; these towns were encouraged to band together with other small communities to share a single library. Finally, the Carnegie buildings were to be used solely for libraries and no other town purpose, but they were often used for town offices, club meeting rooms, classrooms, etc.

Carnegie did not require that his name be used on the libraries, and preferred that municipalities use the name of the town followed by “Free Public Library” (i.e., East San Jose Free Public Library). About 27% of Carnegie libraries used his name, but many more used it informally, as did the East San Jose Carnegie Library.⁶⁴

Money

78% of the Carnegie communities had a library that cost less than \$20,000, and these libraries made up two-thirds of all Carnegie libraries.⁶⁵

⁶¹ Bobinski, 38.

⁶² Bobinski, 99.

⁶³ Bobinski, 38-39.

⁶⁴ Bobinski, 105.

⁶⁵ Bobinski, 16.

The grants were generally based on the population of the town, and these population numbers were eventually checked through census figures to prevent inflated counts resulting in high grants. The grants averaged out to about \$2 per resident.⁶⁶

Building Plans for Libraries

During the mid-to-late nineteenth century, few architects had experience in designing libraries. Purpose-built libraries were scarce before legislature was enacted during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries that allowed municipalities to create taxes to support public libraries.⁶⁷ Although major libraries began to be designed in the post-Civil War period, led by architect Henry Hobson Richardson, these libraries tended to be in cities or in the northeast. Concurrently, the American Library Association (ALA) was established in 1876, giving a greater degree of professionalism to librarians in the United States, who subsequently began demanding better design layouts.⁶⁸ Some librarians particularly disliked the closed stack system by which books were stored out of reach of the patrons, meaning the librarian had to retrieve all of the books. The closed stack system was intimidating to patrons; potentially damaging to the books because they were often stored at a higher level where heat rose; and physically tiring for the library staff.⁶⁹

The Carnegie grant program changed the design of American libraries. These libraries were often built in small towns and were intended to bring literacy to working class citizens. The fact that municipalities financially supported the libraries meant that the costs were judged by the citizens; ostentatious temples built to honor wealthy donors did not fit into this model.⁷⁰ This did not mean, however, that new libraries were always designed in a practical manner. In the early Carnegie grants, towns could build the libraries as they pleased. This resulted in several libraries with elaborate exterior detailing that were either ill-suited as libraries because of their plans, or who spent so much money on elaboration that there was little left for the library. Bertram became frustrated with this waste, and around 1908, he began requiring that plans be approved for all Carnegie grants.⁷¹

In addition, during the 1890s, the closed stack system began to be replaced with open stacks that allowed patrons to browse. Children were also encouraged to visit the library by the inclusion of

⁶⁶ Bobinski, 45.

⁶⁷ Abigail A. Van Slyck, *Free to All: Carnegie Libraries & American Culture, 1890-1920* (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1995), 1.

⁶⁸ *Ibid.*, 5.

⁶⁹ *Ibid.*, 7.

⁷⁰ *Ibid.*, 25.

⁷¹ Bobinski states that Bertram began reviewing plans in 1908. Jones believes it was after 1904. Bobinski, 47; Jones, 54.

children's areas and story hours. Carnegie libraries seemed to spur or at least support this trend; more Carnegie libraries had children's rooms and open stacks than non-Carnegies.⁷²

As the Carnegie grant program became established, a wave of articles on library design and planning began. In 1902, two hefty articles were written on library design in *Architectural Review* (January 1902) and *Architects' and Builders' Magazine* (December 1902). The latter wrote:

The recent increased demand for this class of structures has called the attention of the architect and the public more particularly to the matter of library architecture. This has been especially the case in the last two or three years on account of the number of buildings being designed and erected in consequence of the liberal gifts in this direction by Mr. Carnegie...⁷³

The libraries shown in these articles were generally Beaux-Arts or Classical Revival structures, influenced by the City Beautiful movement that swept the country following the World's Columbia Exposition held in Chicago in 1893. The Exposition, also known as the "White City," was an early example of Beaux-Arts planning and architecture in the United States and impacted the course of architecture and design during the turn of the century. As a clean and orderly microcosm of an ideal city, with grand buildings, lagoons, and ample open space, the Chicago Exposition provided a tangible example to the rest of the country of what the chaotic American city could become. About 79% of Carnegie libraries were designed in a Beaux-Arts derived architectural style, which included Classical Revival.⁷⁴ 24% of Carnegies were Classical Revival structures, generally distinguished by evenly spaced columns, a dome, a hip roof, a pediment, stone construction, a long set of entry steps, and a rectangular plan with a projecting central pediment.⁷⁵ Smaller towns often substituted brick for stone construction. In East San Jose, a wood frame covered in stucco was used to mimic stone. This was somewhat unusual; very few Carnegie libraries were wood-frame buildings.⁷⁶

For a small municipality with few, if any, public buildings, the library became the symbol of culture and respectability, and were often the fanciest building in the town. Library designed included Classical details to establish a connection with the past, "to show that here was a place where the past was honored, where humankind's rich heritage of ideas were preserved and venerated."⁷⁷ This symbolism of stability and security was also used on bank architecture during the early twentieth

⁷² Abigail A. Van Slyck, *Free to All: Carnegie Libraries & American Culture, 1890-1920* (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1995), 34.

⁷³ "Some Recent American Libraries," *Architects' and Builders' Magazine* 4 (December 1902): 312.

⁷⁴ Jones, 61.

⁷⁵ Jones, 67.

⁷⁶ Bobinski, 63.

century, imprinting on the minds of Americans that “an important civic building must feature columns supporting a pediment.”⁷⁸ Libraries were seen as “visual proof of a town’s commitment to education, and to the community’s history and future”; a symbol generally associated with larger cities, the library in a small town could establish the community as one that was stable and respectable, and thus, worthy of economic growth.⁷⁹ The library was in contrast to the town saloon, where young men, brought to communities with the promise of jobs, often congregated since there were few other options; libraries, it was thought, could have a positive influence on their character and development.

In 1911, Carnegie Corporation Secretary James Bertram composed a guide called “Notes on Library Buildings [sic],” and began sending them to communities.⁸⁰ His mission was to help communities plan more efficient libraries, rather than spending excess money on architectural detailing. The “Notes” included sample plans and encouraged that small libraries should be one-story buildings with basements and rectangular floor plans. The main floor was to hold the book stacks, the circulation desk, and reading space for adults and children, and could be subdivided by the addition of bookshelves. It was to be 12 to 15 feet high and have windows at least 6 feet from the floor to allow for bookshelves. The basement was to be 9 to 10 feet high and be about 4 feet below grade. It was to contain storage, lecture, and workrooms, the heating plant, and the restrooms. The “Notes” stated that minimal space was to be used for coatrooms, toilets, and stairs. The exterior of the building was to be plain and not contain a lot of frivolous ornamentation; they were supposed to be libraries, not Greek temples.⁸¹ Bertram also disapproved of fireplaces, although they were common features in early twentieth-century libraries. Seen by most as symbols of domesticity, Bertram viewed them as inefficient means of heating the building and a wasteful inclusion that took the place of shelving.

Although the East San Jose Carnegie was constructed before the “Notes” were published, it was largely similar to the suggested plan. One element that Bertram would have disapproved of was the large windows on the first floor, which prevent high bookshelves being placed at the windows. Also, although the East San Jose Carnegie is very small, a fireplace was included. The fireplace was originally part of a wall, rather than the freestanding structure that it is currently. Fireplaces were often seen as domestic features of the library, connecting the wholesome influence of the home. To

⁷⁷ Karal Ann Marling, Foreword, in Theodore Jones, *Carnegie Libraries Across America: A Public Legacy* (New York: Preservation Press and John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 1997), xi.

⁷⁸ Jones, 3.

⁷⁹ Jones, 17.

⁸⁰ Bertram and Carnegie were proponents of the simplified spelling system, which used words like “bilding” instead of “building.”

⁸¹ Bobinski, 58; 62.

underscore this, they were usually in the children's area. The location of the fireplace, which was often on the wall separating the children's rooms from the librarian's office, identified the librarian as an idealized middle-class mother, providing a role model for the working class children that visited the library.⁸²

Carnegie Grants End

In 1915, the Carnegie Corporation hired economist Alvin Johnson to report on the existing Carnegie libraries and the grant program. Johnson traveled to libraries around the country and reported back. His main finding was that the 10% maintenance fee was insufficient and left no money to purchase books or periodicals. With the onset of World War I and the resulting restrictions on materials and labor, the Carnegie Corporation suspended new library grants. The program was never resumed after the war, although some towns received money for grants that had been approved before the war.

Carnegies in Santa Clara County

Originally five Carnegie libraries were located in Santa Clara County: Los Gatos, San Jose, Palo Alto, East San Jose, and Gilroy. The three libraries at Los Gatos, San Jose, and Palo Alto have been demolished, while the Gilroy library (1910) is now is museum. Therefore, the East San Jose library is the only remaining Carnegie library still being used in its original capacity.

The other Carnegie libraries in Santa Clara County received larger Carnegie grants. For example, Los Gatos and Palo Alto got \$10,000 grants. Gilroy originally got a grant in 1906, but did not finish until two years after East San Jose. The San Jose library was sold to San Jose State College in 1936, and the library moved to the remodeled post office building (**Figure 6**). The Carnegie library became the student union but was demolished in 1960 to allow for college library expansion.



**Figure 6. San Jose Carnegie Library, n.d.
(Source: San Jose Public Library)**

⁸² Abigail A. Van Slyck, *Free to All: Carnegie Libraries & American Culture, 1890-1920* (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1995), 157; 187; 190-191.

1981 Addition and Renovation

In 1981, an addition was constructed at the rear of the library. As a result, the east façade of the existing building was heavily modified, including the removal of the central portion of the east wall, which included three windows on the first floor and an exterior door at the basement level. On the interior, the existing partition walls were also removed, as was a portion of the floor on the first floor level to accommodate the construction of a new stairway.

On the first floor level, the primary historic features retained were the original windows, the closet doors flanking the main entrance, the main entrance surround and transom, the original brass door and window hardware, the fireplace, and the bookshelves. On the basement level, the primary historic features retained were the original windows, the original brass window hardware (in part), the chimney base, and the existing columns.

Although the 1981 addition is listed as a compatible addition to the historic Carnegie Library in the National Register nomination, it is not considered to be a character-defining element and is not significant within its own right. Therefore, the 1981 addition does not contribute to the historic status of the East San Jose Carnegie Library.

III. DESCRIPTION OF THE HISTORIC RESOURCE

Site

The East San Jose Carnegie library is a one-story wood-frame building with a reinforced concrete basement, located at the southeast corner of E. Santa Clara Avenue and E. 23rd Street in San Jose. Located on the northwest corner of the site, the existing library complex consists of the one-story 1908-library building and the 1981 addition. Also located on the site, adjacent to the library complex, are an open green space to the east and a parking lot to the south (**Figure 7**). The surrounding neighborhood is characterized by a collection of residential and commercial buildings. Along E. Santa Clara Avenue, the East San Jose Carnegie Library is a freestanding building sited behind the street edge (**Figure 8**). The nearby commercial structures along E. Santa Clara Avenue are one-and-two-stories tall, of contemporary construction, and sited directly on the sidewalk line. To the south of the library, along 23rd Avenue, are residential buildings consisting of one-and-two-story multi-unit and single-family homes.



Figure 7. Parking lot located on south portion of site.



Figure 8. Surrounding site along E. Santa Clara Avenue



Figure 9. Classical portico, north façade.

Classical Revival Style

The East San Jose Carnegie Library is rendered in a Classical Revival style that was typical among Carnegie libraries. More specifically, the East San Jose Carnegie Library was considered to be of the “Greek Temple” type.⁸³ The building’s stylistic vocabulary is best expressed in its usage of a Classical portico, paired Doric columns, ornate cornice line, and triangular pediment on the exterior (Figure 9). The National Register Multiple Property Documentation Form for California Carnegie Libraries discusses Classical Revival style and Greek Temple Carnegie libraries in the following:

...the Classical Revival style as represented in California Carnegie library building achieves a monumental effect, but in most cases the buildings are surprisingly small. The size may help to demonstrate the prosperity of the community, while its classicism demonstrates its cultural achievement. Symmetrical, with few angles or projections, their roof lines are generally level, or slightly hipped, and mostly unadorned. Greek orders are used more than Roman, and pedimented porticoes are frequent.⁸⁴

Type B: “The central pavilion was dominated by a temple front, that is with a triangular pediment above the entablature. Here, there were even more variations than there were in the first category. [Some] temple fronted libraries... had centrally placed domes, although this was a practice condemned by Bertram as an extravagance, and which did not continue past 1908 when Bertram began approving plans. Whether they had domes or not, temple fronted libraries could have either four or more free-standing columns in antis... or two or more engaged columns in antis... As in the first category, the central pavilion could step out in front of the building or it could be subsumed within it... in a less common variation on this theme, the entablature and pediment were not supported by columns as all, but either by piers or with an arched opening.⁸⁵

The East San Jose Carnegie Library appears to be a prime example of a Type B, Classical Revival Carnegie Library.

⁸³ Noted as Classical Revival Type B (Greek Temple).

⁸⁴ National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, “California Carnegie Libraries” (December 5, 1989) Section F, Page 6.

⁸⁵ National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, “California Carnegie Libraries” (December 5, 1989) Section F, Page 8.

Structural Analysis

Umerani Associates, the structural engineers for the proposed project, undertook field tests to ascertain the construction system of the 1908 Carnegie library. According to their report entitled “East San Jose Carnegie Branch Library, Seismic Analysis:”

Based on field investigation and our review of available documents to date, we expect the building structure includes the following: Above the main first floor level the building is a timber framed structure. The roof is framed using 2 x 8 rafters and the first floor ceiling is similarly framed with 2 x 8 joists. Both the roof and the ceiling framing are supported by a single line of timber beams near the center of the building and exterior bearing wall,[sic] This line of beams extends from east to west and beams are supported by exterior walls, the chimney and at two interior columns. First floor timber framing is not known, but is expected to be of similar 2x framing supported by similar east/west beams. Both roof and first floor diaphragms consist of 1x8 straight tongue and groove sheathing. Exterior walls include 2x8 stud construction covered with 1x8 exterior diagonal tongue and groove sheathing and a stucco finish. Exterior timber framed walls bear on 12 inch thick poured in place concrete walls which extend to the first floor level. The top of this wall is about 5 feet above exterior grade. Concrete perimeter walls are expected to be supported on poured in place concrete strip footing at the perimeter of the building and presumably isolated spread footing below two columns at the interior. The base slab is a concrete slab-on-grade.⁸⁶

Exterior

The East San Jose Carnegie Library measures 36-ft by 46-ft. The building’s massing is simple in form and is identified by a symmetrical rectangular mass with a Classical temple-front portico on the north façade and the 1981 addition on the south façade (**Figure 10**). The triangular pediment of the temple-front portico is covered with a standing seam metal gable roof. The building’s other prominent features include a water table at the base, wood-sash fenestration, and an ornate cornice with an entablature, dentil molding, and modillion block details (**Figure 11**). The building is clad with stucco and has painted wood ornamentation. Capping the entire building is a tall stucco parapet with metal flashing.



Figure 10. North façade.

⁸⁶ Umerani Associates, *East San Jose Carnegie Branch Library, Seismic Analysis Report* (August 5, 2006).

Along the north façade is an exterior concrete staircase leading down to the basement level entry located underneath the Classical portico. At the base, the water table is punctuated by paired, wood-sash, casement windows with metal screens. Located in the center of the building, the Classical portico features a concrete stair and handrail, paired Doric columns, an entablature with signage that reads “East San Jose Carnegie Library,” and a triangular pediment adorned with modillion blocks and dentil molding. The portico provides access to the former main entry, which consists of a contemporary wood door, original wood molding, and a large transom. Flanking on either side of the portico on the first floor level are large wood-sash plate-glass windows with operable three-light transoms. Above each window in the wood entablature is a decorative metal screen, which covers ventilation openings.



Figure 11. Cornice (typical), north facade



Figure 12. East façade.

The west and east façades are identical in configuration (**Figures 12 and 13**). Both façades feature a water table with two windows at the base, two plate glass windows with three-light transoms at the first floor level, and an ornate cornice and parapet.



Figure 13. West façade.

The south façade of the 1908 Carnegie library is largely obscured by the 1981 addition (**Figure 14**). A square mass with fenestration on the south and east façades projects out from the center of the façade and connects to the 1981 addition. Flanking on either side of this mass are

two narrow, double-hung, wood-sash windows at the first floor level and a smaller square fixed window at the basement level. Like the other façades, the south façade is also capped by the ornate cornice and simple parapet.

Interior

The interior of the Carnegie library is divided into two areas: first floor and basement.

The first floor functions as a combination of shelving/stacks, children's room, and reading room. It has an open plan with carpet flooring, plaster walls, and a plaster ceiling (**Figure 15**). It is entered through a staircase on the south wall, which leads down to the 1981 addition and the basement level. Near this staircase are two freestanding columns, which were added at a later date. In the southeast corner of the room is the freestanding chimney, which is obscured by contemporary wood paneling and shelving. The only original doors are located on the north wall at the two closets that flank the main entry. These doors consist of five-panel wood doors with wood surrounds and entablatures (**Figure 16**). The main door is a contemporary wood door with a push-bar handle, original wood surround, and a large plate-glass transom. The windows on the north, west, and east walls are identical and consist of large plate-glass windows with operable three-light transoms (**Figure 17**). The windows on the south wall consist of narrow, double-hung, wood-sash windows with wood surrounds and entablatures. The entire room is adorned with wood base molding and picture rail. The perimeter of the first floor features original wood shelving and casework.

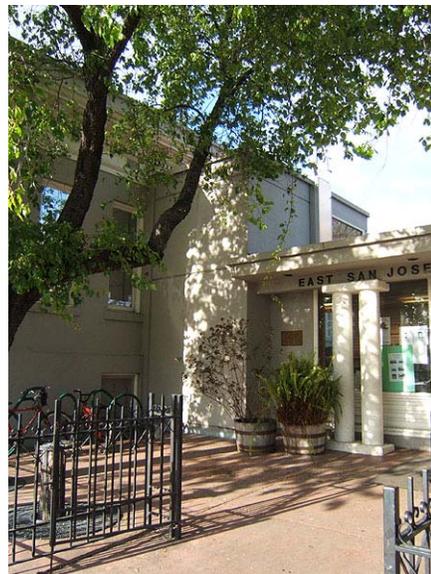


Figure 14. South facade

The basement is used as storage and office space. It is accessed through two staircases: one located on the exterior and the other located in the interior on the south wall. The basement has vinyl flooring, concrete and plaster walls, and a low plaster ceiling (**Figure 18**). It is divided into a large storage room/reading area with a small vestibule along the north wall, and a break room/kitchen to the south. All of the doors in this room are contemporary in origin. The windows located on each façade consist of paired, wood-sash casement windows with simple wood surrounds. One of the unique features of this room is the two turned wood posts located at the entry to the hallway leading to the break room (**Figure 19**).



Figure 15. First floor.



Figure 18. Basement



Figure 16. Main entry and closet doors,
first floor.



Figure 19. Turned wood posts, basement.



Figure 17. Window (typical),
first floor.

National Register Nomination Description

According to the National Register nomination prepared by Lucy Kortum, the East San Jose Carnegie Library was described in the following:

The East San Jose Carnegie Library, a 36' by 46' rectangle, one story over a raised basement, of plaster with wood trim, is an example of the Classical Revival in which there is a projecting central portico, pedimented under a gable roof. Here the portico is supported by pairs of simple turned wooden columns. The building was constructed in 1907; in 1981 a new wing was added to the rear, separated from the main building by a low section, set well back, which serves both to disassociate the new wing from the old and to provide a ground level entrance lobby for both buildings. These additions have not detracted from the integrity of the original building. Its corner site, its height over a raised basement, and its well maintained classical ornamentation, emphasize the unique character of this historic public building in a neighborhood of small commercial and residential structures.

Viewed from the front, the original building is surrounded by a low parapet which steps up to behind the gabled projecting portico. Below, the wooden cornice extends over carved rafters and small dentils, all of wood. These are now painted dark brown and contrast with the light beige of the stucco façade, and the light chocolate of the foundation. The frieze is plain, broken only by a vent, covered with ornamental grill, above each window; above the portico it bears the words "East San Jose Carnegie Library." Under the extended portico, the entrance projects slightly from the building façade. Paired Doric columns, rising from the floor, support the portico. Stairs rise directly from the sidewalk to the portico and are flanked by low, wide solid concrete rails.

On either side of the central portico is a wide and single paned window with transom, simply framed above a small slightly projecting sill. There are two windows of the same size and shape, widely spaced, on each side of the building. The foundation projects only slightly and at ground level there is a rather large window under each of the first floor windows. The building's wood frame is covered with metallic lathing and plaster inside and out; the architect stressed its fire resistant qualities, noting particularly that the basement area directly under the entrance stairs would be a fire-proof vault for valuable manuscripts and documents.

When the library was to be replaced by a more modern building, neighborhood groups succeeded saving the old building; plans for a new addition, plus restoration of the old building, were eventually substituted. The addition, consisting of a separate building and a connecting lobby, was constructed in 1981, and some of the renovation has been completed. A new standing seam metal roof was provided for the portico and original trim and doors were painted. A simple pipe hand rail down the center of the stairs, and wrought iron fencing at the sides of the porch, have also been added. In the interior of the old building's first floor, partitions and bathrooms were removed and it is now one large Children's Room. Plans to restore the fireplace were abandoned when it was found to be non-functional. The high ceiling and stained wooden window moldings around the tall windows remain, and new lighting was installed. The full size basement of the old building, formerly the

Children's Room, now houses a bank of computers for the use of the children's program, plus magazine storage and, in the "vault" area, the local history collection.

The lobby and new building are located at grade level, placing them at a level somewhat lower than the first floor of the old building, and higher than its basement. Access to the old building's first floor and basement from the new lobby is provided by means of stairs and an elevator enclosed in a slightly taller portion of the lobby against the back of the old building. Restrooms accessible from the lobby replace those removed from the old building. Beyond the lobby, the new addition is somewhat longer and wider than the old building, and is proportioned to be compatible. Simple trim on the new wing suggests but does not compete with the classical detailing of the old building.

At the entrance lobby, a pair of simple narrow cement columns on each side of the door, and the words "East San Jose Carnegie Library," suggest central features of the old entrance. The new wing and lobby are de-emphasized visually, positioned well behind the old building and set back from the street, along which trees are planted. Care has been taken that the new construction does not detract from the integrity of the old building as reflected in its style, proportion, and visibility as the community's unique historic civic building.

The building is located on the southeast corner of a full block that is otherwise vacant, the former site of a school that has been relocated a few blocks away. The remainder of the block is privately owned, but the neighborhood groups which saved the library from destruction carefully scrutinize various new uses contemplated for it by the owner. A San Jose library bond issue scheduled for election soon will include money to purchase 5000 square feet of that block for expansion of the library grounds. The new property would be adjacent to a grove of shade trees planted along the side the building on the eastern side of the library.⁸⁷

⁸⁷ Excerpted from Lucy Kortum, "National Register Nomination for East San Jose Carnegie Library" (November 1989), Section 7, Pages 1-2.

IV. EVALUATION FOR SIGNIFICANCE

The following section examines the East San Jose Carnegie Library's current historic status and provides an evaluation of the building's significance according to the National Register of Historic Places, California Register of Historical Resources, and the guidelines established by the City of San Jose.

National Register of Historic Places

The National Register of Historic Places is the nation's most comprehensive inventory of historic resources. The National Register is administered by the National Park Service and includes buildings, structures, sites, objects and districts that possess historic, architectural, engineering, archaeological, or cultural significance at the national, state, or local level. Typically, determination of eligibility for listing in the National Register applies to resources over fifty years of age; however, resources under fifty years of age can be eligible if it can be demonstrated that they are of "exceptional importance," or if they are contributors to a potential historic district. According to the *National Register Bulletin Number 15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*, a property qualifies for the National Register by: 1) "Being associated with an important historic context"; and 2) "Retaining historic integrity of those features necessary to convey its significance."⁸⁸ There are four criteria under which a structure, site, building, district, or object can be considered eligible for listing in the National Register. The four criteria are as follows:

Criterion A (Event): Resources associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history;

Criterion B (Person): Resources associated with the lives of persons significant in our past;

Criterion C (Design/Construction): Resources that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction; and

Criterion D (Information Potential): Resources that have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

In addition to qualifying for listing under at least one of the National Register criteria, a property must be shown to have sufficient historic integrity. The concept of integrity is essential to identifying the important physical characteristics of historical resources and hence, in evaluating adverse changes

⁸⁸ *National Register Bulletin Number 15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation* (Washington, DC: National Park Service, 1998), 3.

to them. Integrity is defined as “the authenticity of an historical resource’s physical identity evidenced by the survival of characteristics that existed during the resource’s period of significance.”⁸⁹

According to the *National Register Bulletin: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*, the seven characteristics that define integrity are as follows:

- *Location* is the place where the historic property was constructed.
- *Design* is the combination of elements that create the form, plans, space, structure and style of the property.
- *Setting* addresses the physical environment of the historic property inclusive of the landscape and spatial relationships of the building(s).
- *Materials* refer to the physical elements that were combined or deposited during a particular period of time and in a particular pattern of configuration to form the historic property.
- *Workmanship* is the physical evidence of the crafts of a particular culture or people during any given period in history.
- *Feeling* is the property’s expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period of time.
- *Association* is the direct link between an important historic event or person and a historic property.

The East San José Carnegie Library is currently listed in the National Register as an individual resource and as part of a multiple property listing completed for all California Carnegie Libraries. The East San José Carnegie nomination was completed in 1989 and revised in 1990. The building was found eligible under Criterion A and C within the areas of significance of social history, architecture, and community planning with a period of significance of 1907-1940. As stated in the National Register nomination for the East San Jose Carnegie Library:

The East San Jose Carnegie Library is the oldest public library in service in Santa, is also one of the only tangible reminders of the brief existence, between 1906 and 1911, of the City of East San Jose. Application for Carnegie funding was made just seven days after voter approval of the incorporation of East San Jose. The community was offered \$7000 for a library building, and in accordance with terms of Carnegie giving regarding a site and library, the city provided a site near other civic buildings then planned, and committed \$700 annually to maintain the building and the collection. Many Carnegie libraries reflected the community pride in public buildings stimulated by Chicago’s 1893 Columbian Exposition; the East San Jose Carnegie is an example of the Classical Revival in a building of modest proportions,

⁸⁹ California Code of Regulations Title 14, Chapter 11.5

and in a community which soon afterward lost its political identity. The library opened in January 1908. In 1974, faced with the loss of their Carnegie building, the community succeeded in saving, renovating, and expanding it, and in having the East San Jose Carnegie Library designated a local Historical Landmark.⁹⁰

A copy of the National Register nomination is included in the Appendix.

California Register of Historical Resources

The California Register of Historical Resources (California Register) is an inventory of significant architectural, archaeological, and historical resources in the State of California. Resources can be listed in the California Register through a number of methods. State Historical Landmarks and National Register-eligible properties are automatically listed in the California Register.⁹¹ Properties can also be nominated to the California Register by local governments, private organizations, or citizens. This includes properties identified in historical resource surveys with Status Codes of “1” to “5,” and resources designated as local landmarks through city or county ordinances. The evaluative criteria used by the California Register for determining eligibility are closely based on those developed by the National Park Service for the National Register of Historic Places. Resources eligible for the National Register are automatically listed in the California Register of Historical Resources. Like the National Register, a property must be found significant within a historic context and retain sufficient historic integrity. In order for a property to be eligible for listing in the California Register, it must be found significant under one or more of the following criteria:

- *Criterion 1 (Events):* Resources that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of local or regional history, or the cultural heritage of California or the United States.
- *Criterion 2 (Persons):* Resources that are associated with the lives of persons important to local, California, or national history.
- *Criterion 3 (Architecture):* Resources that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, or represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic values.
- *Criterion 4 (Information Potential):* Resources or sites that have yielded or have the potential to yield information important to the prehistory or history of the local area, California, or the nation.

⁹⁰ Lucy Kortum, National Register of Historic Places nomination “East San Jose Carnegie Library,” November 1989: Section 8, Page 1.

⁹¹ National Register-eligible properties include properties that have been listed on the National Register and properties that have formally been found eligible for listing.

The process of determining integrity is similar for both the California Register and the National Register. As specific above, the same seven variables or aspects that define integrity are location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. The critical distinction between the two registers, however, and that is the degree of integrity that a property can retain and still be considered eligible for listing. According to the California Office of Historic Preservation:

It is possible that historical resources may not retain sufficient integrity to meet the criteria for listing in the National Register, but they may still be eligible for listing in the California Register. A resource that has lost its historic character or appearance may still have sufficient integrity for the California Register if it maintains the potential to yield significant or historical information or specific data.⁹²

As a property listed on the National Register, the East San Jose Carnegie Library is also listed in the California Register of Historical Resources.

San Jose Historic Preservation Planning and Regulation

The preservation of historic structures and districts in San José is accomplished through its planning documents and municipal code. The *San José 2020 General Plan*, which represents the city's official land use policy, identifies historic preservation as a principal objective of land use planning. According to the plan, "historically and archaeologically significant structures, sites, districts and artifacts" should be preserved "in order to promote a greater sense of historic awareness and community identity and to enhance the quality of urban life."⁹³ The plan sets out a number of specific policies for achieving the goal of historic preservation, including designating historic structures and districts, promoting the retention of historic resources through a variety of incentives, and ensuring the new construction is designed to be compatible with existing historic resources.⁹⁴

The preservation policies set forth in the general plan are implemented through the city's Historic Preservation Ordinance, which was initially adopted in 1975.⁹⁵ A seven-member Historic Landmarks Commission advises the City Council and the City Manager regarding matters related to historic preservation. Pursuant to the ordinance, the City Council may designate individual historic landmarks or historic districts. A Historic Preservation Permit is required to alter the exteriors of historic landmarks and for the erection of new structures within a historic district. The application for the

⁹² California Office of Historic Preservation, *Technical Assistance Series No. 6, California Register and National Register: A Comparison* (Sacramento, CA: California Office of State Publishing, November 2004)

⁹³ *San José 2020 General Plan* (1994, updated July 2005), 103.

⁹⁴ *Ibid.*, 103-104.

⁹⁵ San José Municipal Code, Chapter 13.48.

permit must be reviewed in accordance with established standards and guidelines, and is approved or denied by the planning department, with recommendations by the Historic Landmarks Commission. Designated landmarks and districts are eligible for local tax incentives and may use the State Historic Building Code. Currently, the City Council has designated approximately 135 resources as historic landmarks and four areas as historic districts.⁹⁶

San Jose City Landmark

The East San José Carnegie Library was designated a San José City Landmark in 1977. The nomination form stated the following reasons for its significance:

1. The East San Jose Branch Library is the last remaining library in continuous service in Santa Clara Valley, constructed with funds from the Andrew Carnegie Foundation.
2. With its erection in 1907, it has the distinction of being the oldest extant Carnegie Library in the Santa Clara Valley and therefore has value to the region's history.
3. The building was designed by Jacob Lenzen, a prominent San Jose architect, whose individual work has greatly influenced the City.

A copy of documents related to the designation of the East San Jose Carnegie Library to the San Jose City Landmark lists is included in the Appendix.

San Jose Historic Districts

The East San Jose Carnegie Library does not appear to be a contributor to any existing national, state, or local historic district.

⁹⁶ The four city-designated historic districts are the Alameda, River Street, Hensley, and St. James Park areas.

V. IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT

The following section provides a description of the proposed project and an analysis of the effects of the proposed project impacts upon the historic resource.

Proposed Project

The proposed project for the East San Jose Carnegie Library includes the rehabilitation of the 1907 East San Jose Carnegie Library building, demolition of the 1981 addition (approximately 3,595 sq. ft.), and the new construction of an expanded library addition designed by the project architects Gould Evans Architects. The project sponsors intend to rehabilitate the historic East San Jose Carnegie Library in compliance with to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Rehabilitation (Standards). The openings on the north, west, and east façades will be retained and preserved; windows will be preserved and rehabilitated, while a new door will be added to the front entry. The existing door on the north façade is not original; only the door frame and transom appear historic. These features will be preserved in place. On the south façade of the Carnegie Library, the 1981 addition will be removed. The existing building will connect to the addition through the staircase opening. All historic portions of the wall and windows will be retained in place.

As described by Gould Evans Architects, the proposed project is as follows:

The program for this East San Jose Carnegie branch library is approximately 12,000 square foot of space, inclusive of the renovation of the approximately 3700 s.f. historic Carnegie building and replacement of an existing 1979-80 addition. The schedule remains as originally proposed, with occupancy in 2009. One of the many constraints of the projects is that the existing library struggles to function effectively on three levels: the basement of the historic Carnegie, the ground floor level of the 1979-80 addition, and the raised floor level (+5 ft.) of the Carnegie. This functional issue, combined with the costs of schemes, which attempted to meet the planned parking goals in a half-sunken parking garage, led primarily to the consensus conceptual design direction.

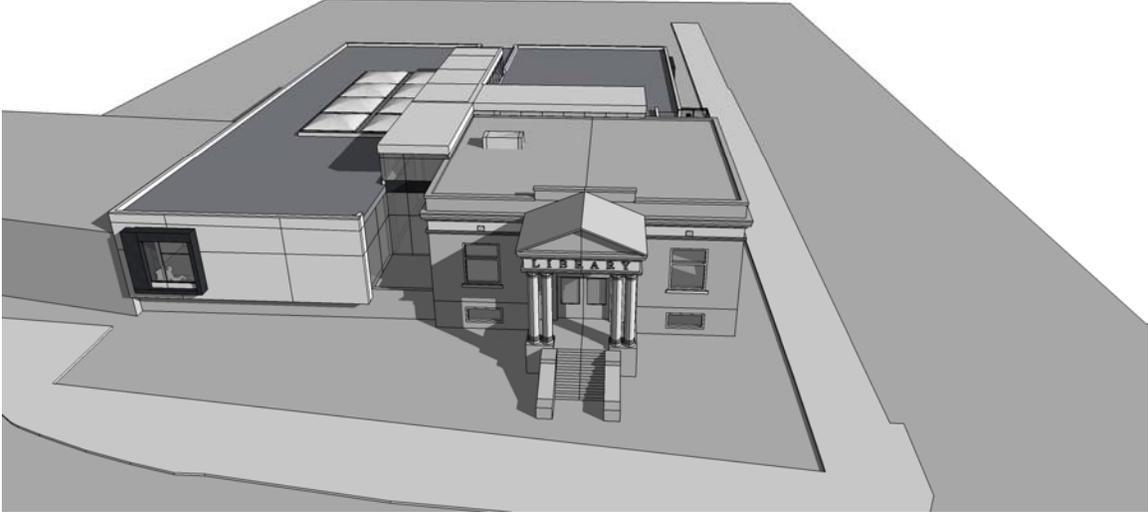
The initial Task 1 design process began with the exploration of two basic approaches: the first with a half-sunken garage accommodating approximately 30 parking spaces on-site, and the second option, with approximately 21 spaces on-site, but on grade level only. Both schemes allowed for 10 parking spaces off-site adjacent to the site. This first scheme kept all library public functions on the raised (+5 ft.) floor level to match the main floor of the existing Carnegie, and relegated non- public functions to the existing basement level, with the addition of the new garage level entry and vertical circulation core. The second scheme maintained what was perceived as possibly the least expensive, straightforward slab-on-grade approach for the new addition at the ground floor level. While the first scheme was clearly more expensive, it did address one of the primary issues to the efficient functioning of the library—that of putting the main library functions all on one level.

In response to this, Gould Evans has developed a scheme that is the basis for the final design. This scheme benefits from raising the floor level of the new addition to align with the floor level of the existing historic Carnegie to allow for the new library to function better as a whole. This alignment will also establish a consistent line on the exterior, creating a datum that is shared by both the existing Carnegie building and the new addition. Whereas the existing building uses this line to ground the building in a classical sense, the intention for the new addition is to establish a plinth or platform from which the remaining of the new building sets lightly on. The new building overhangs this line to establish a contemporary condition of how a building meets the ground, creating an illusion of a light connection to the ground in contrast to the heavier connection of the Carnegie to the ground.

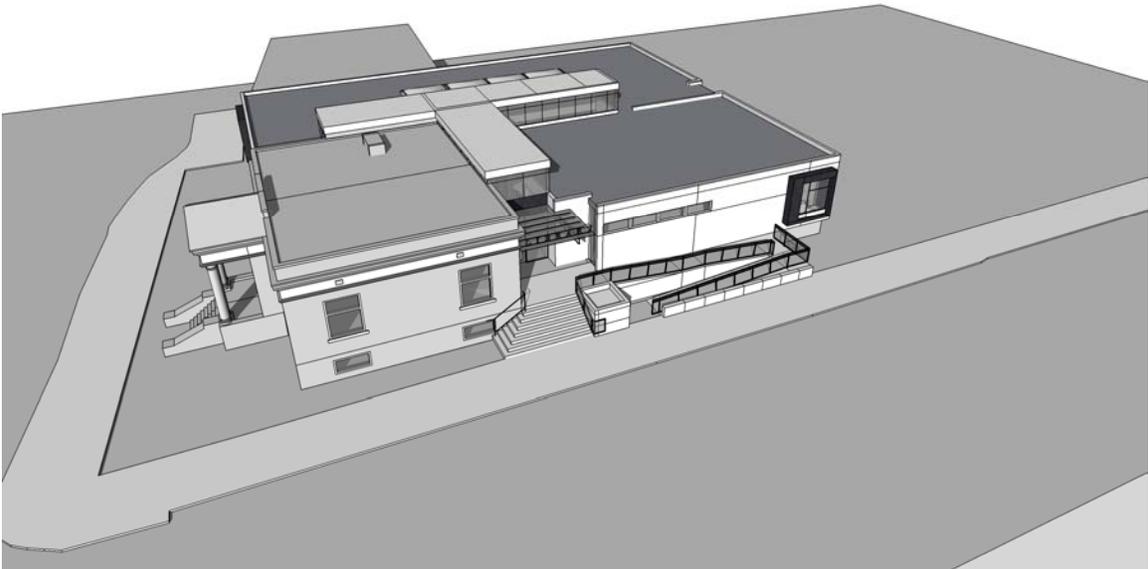
The new building massing will be set apart from the historic Carnegie, established by a glass and metal connection to that building, creating an open, transparent connection. This is further emphasized by the use of a continuous skylight along the edge of the Carnegie allowing sunlight to wash the exterior of the building with light during the daytime. At night this exterior wall will be washed with artificial light to allow for the existing Carnegie to be displayed as a jewel within the fabric of the overall Library. The new building exterior will not compete with the scale of the Carnegie. It will use materials and building strategies that are contemporary and that do not compete with the detailing of the existing building.

The interior of the Historic Carnegie will be programmed to house the community room and the Family Learning Center. The new programmatic components established the need for partitions in this volume. The idea is to establish a small new volume within the existing volume of the Carnegie. The partitions added to this volume of space will not meet the walls or ceiling with solid materials, clearly delineating the existing volume.

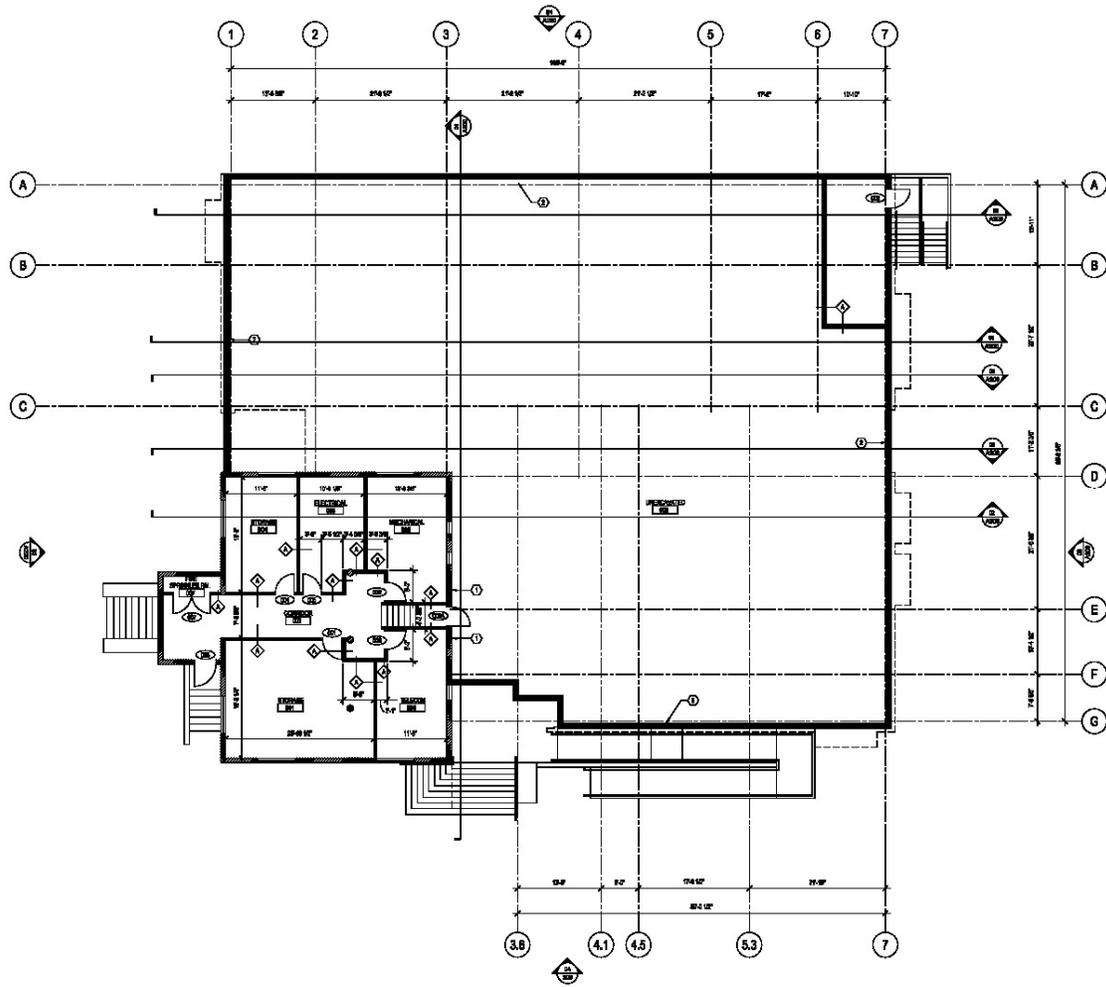
Page & Turnbull has been provided with architectural drawings of the site, elevations, floor plans, and general massing diagrams.



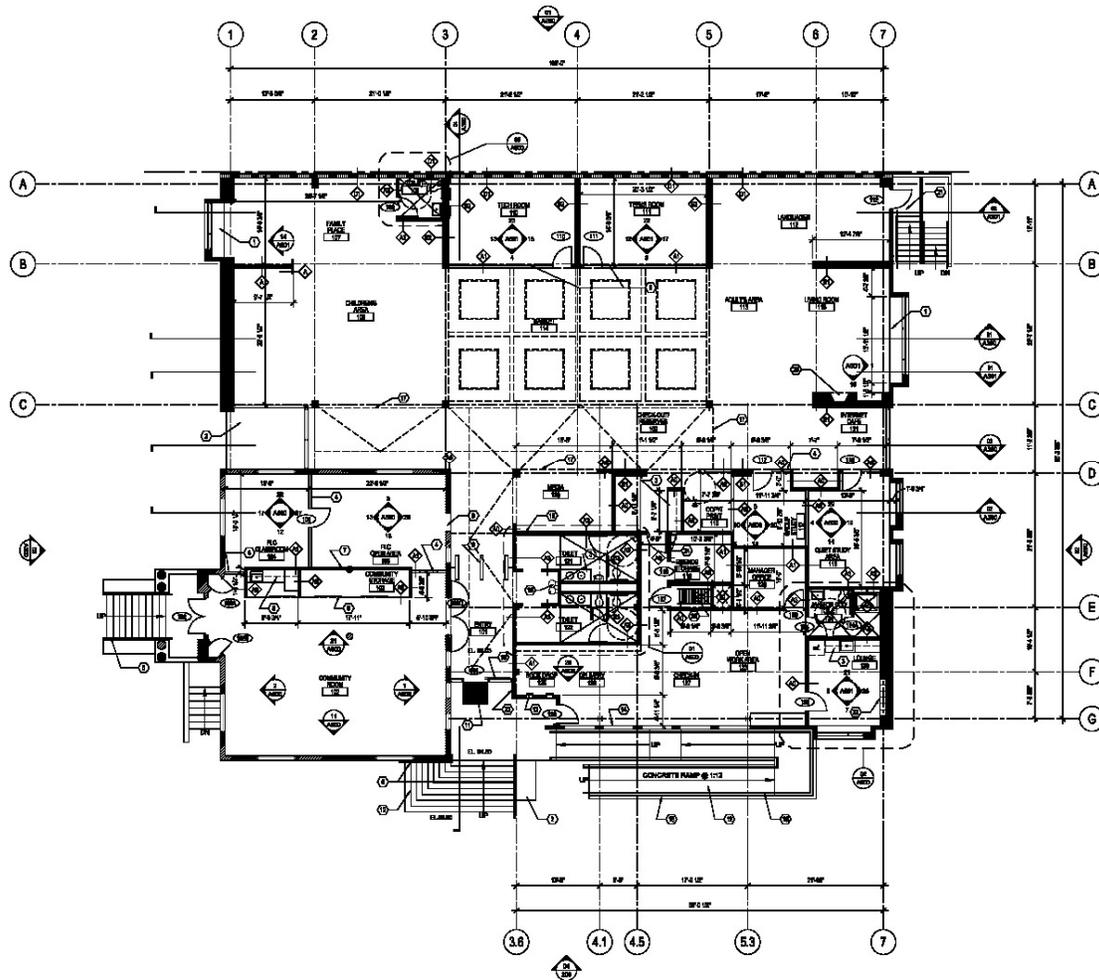
**Massing model of proposed project, January 19, 2007
(Source: Gould Evans Architects)**



**Massing model of proposed project, January 19, 2007
(Source: Gould Evans Architects)**



Basement floor plan of proposed project, January 19, 2007
(Source: Gould Evans Architects)



First floor plan of proposed project, January 19, 2007
(Source: Gould Evans Architects)

Character-Defining Features

In order to assess the impacts of the proposed project upon the historic East San Jose Carnegie Library, Page & Turnbull compiled a list of character-defining features. Character-defining features are those physical portions of the building that express the building's history and character. The character-defining features of the East San Jose Carnegie Library include:

- Building's massing, parapet, roofline, and roof profile, inclusive of chimneys
- Exterior stucco cladding
- Exterior wood molding and details, including cornice, dentils, modillion blocks, frieze, and ornamental grilles
- Front porch inclusive of columns, pediment, beadboard ceiling, and front steps (the metal balustrade and railings are non-historic and do not need to be retained)
- Wood-sash windows and transoms
- Original front door frame and transom (the door is non-historic and should be replaced with something more historically appropriate)
- First-floor interior:
 - Wood-sash windows and transoms (inclusive of frames, trim, hardware, etc.)
 - Original five-panel wood doors and brass hardware (inclusive of frames, trim, etc.)
 - Original transom above main door and main door surround (but not the door itself)
 - Plaster walls (where extant)
 - Ceiling beam on first floor
 - Wood trim—including picture rail and original baseboard
 - Wood bookcases with beadboard backing (with the exclusion of the contemporary, non-historic wood bookcases)
- Basement interior:
 - Wood-sash windows (inclusive of frames, trim, original brass hardware, etc.)
 - Plaster walls (exterior)
 - Turned columns

Non-historic features include the decoratively painted columns on the first floor, the interior stairway between the original building and the addition, and the partition walls in the basement.

Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation

When a project is proposed that may affect a historic resource, *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation & Illustrated Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings* (Standards) are often used to provide guidance to review the potential impacts to the historic structure.⁹⁷ The Standards are used

⁹⁷ Morton, W. Brown III, Gary L. Hume, Kay D. Weeks, and H. Ward Jandl, *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation & Illustrated Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings* (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park

by Federal agencies in evaluating work on historic properties and have also been adopted by local government bodies across the country for reviewing proposed rehabilitation work on historic properties under local preservation ordinances. The Standards are a useful analytic tool for understanding and describing the potential impacts of substantial alterations to historic resources. In general, the Standards are weighted towards an analysis of exterior building features, rather than interior features.

The Standards provide for the preservation, rehabilitation, restoration or reconstruction of a historic property. In this case, the Standards for Rehabilitation are the most appropriate treatment to apply to the proposed project because they are generally used when a building is undergoing alterations or additions. The National Park Service defines Rehabilitation as “the act or process of making possible a compatible use for a property through repair, alterations, and additions while preserving those portions or features which convey its historical, cultural, or architectural values.”⁹⁸

The following provides an evaluation of the proposed project pursuant to the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation:

1. A property will be used as it was historically or be given a new use that requires minimal change to its distinctive materials, features, spaces, and spatial relationships.

As identified above, the East San Jose Carnegie Library will continue its function as a library facility. The historic portions of the East San Jose Carnegie Library will be incorporated into the design of a new library facility. According to the current scheme, the historic Carnegie Library will be partitioned and will function as a Community Room, FLC Open Area, FLC Classroom, Storage, and Mechanical, Electrical, and Telecom areas. New construction will occur to the east and south of the existing building. Those features identified as character defining, including the exterior ornamentation, wood-sash windows, and trim, and significant interior elements, will be retained and rehabilitated. The building’s existing spatial relationships will also be maintained and/or re-established. The proposed

Service, Cultural Resources, Preservation Assistance Division, 1992). The *Standards*, revised in 1992, were codified as 36 CFR Part 68.3 in the July 12, 1995 Federal Register (Vol. 60, No. 133). The revision replaces the 1978 and 1983 versions of 36 CFR 68 entitled *The Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Historic Preservation Projects*. The 36 CFR 68.3 *Standards* are applied to all grant-in-aid development projects assisted through the National Historic Preservation Fund. Another set of *Standards*, 36 CFR 67.7, focuses on “certified historic structures” as defined by the IRS Code of 1986. *The Standards* in 36 CFR 67.7 are used primarily when property owners are seeking certification for Federal tax benefits. The two sets of *Standards* vary slightly, but the differences are primarily technical and are not substantive in nature. The *Guidelines*, however, are not codified in the Federal Register.

⁹⁸ <http://www.cr.nps.gov/hps/tps/standguide/>

project will maintain the existing entry along E. Santa Clara Avenue, and will restore the building's original double-leaf door configuration. Therefore, the proposed project is in accordance with Rehabilitation Standard #1.

2. The historic character of a property will be retained and preserved. The removal of distinctive materials or alteration of features, spaces, and spatial relationships that characterize a property will be avoided.

The proposed project will retain and preserve the historic character of the East San Jose Carnegie Library. Only those materials that have been deemed non-contributing, including the existing fireplace, staircase, and 1981 addition, will be removed. The exterior character-defining features of the historic East San Jose Carnegie Library will be preserved, including the exterior stucco, Classical Revival ornamentation, and front porch on E. Santa Clara Avenue. The current scheme intends to sub-divide the interior of the library, which will alter the spatial relationship of this space. However, these new partitions will be clearly differentiated from the existing space and all historic materials, including the wood trim, bookshelves and plaster walls. Additionally, the proposed project will retain all interior character-defining features of the historic East San Jose Carnegie Library, including the wood-sash windows, original five-panel wood doors, and plaster walls. The new partition walls will still allow for a sense of the building's original open plan spatial character. Additionally, the construction of these partitions can be considered reversible should future generations deem it necessary. Therefore, the proposed project is in accordance with Rehabilitation Standard #2.

3. Each property will be recognized as a physical record of its time, place, and use. Changes that create a false sense of historical development, such as adding conjectural features or elements from other historic properties, will not be undertaken.

According to the project architects, the proposed project will not include elements that may create a sense of false historicism. The new addition will be rendered in contemporary materials, including steel and glass, which will differentiate the new portions of the building from the historic portions. Therefore, the proposed project is in accordance with Rehabilitation Standard #3.

4. Changes to a property that have acquired historic significance in their own right will be retained and preserved.

The East San Jose Carnegie Library has not had any significant alterations that have acquired significance in their own right. Even though the National Register nomination of the East San Jose Carnegie Library deemed the 1981 addition to be "compatible," it is not considered to be a contributing and character-defining element of the building, and therefore will be demolished. The

demolition of this portion of the existing building will not affect the building's historic significance or eligibility for listing in the National Register or its status as a San Jose City Landmark. Therefore, the proposed project is in accordance with Rehabilitation Standard #4.

5. Distinctive materials, features, finishes, and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize a property will be preserved.

The proposed project will preserve and rehabilitate those elements that have been identified as character-defining features. On the exterior, these elements include the exterior stucco cladding, exterior wood molding and details (such as the cornice, dentils, modillion blocks, friezes, and ornamental grilles), front porch (inclusive of the columns, pediment, beadboard ceiling, and front steps), and wood-sash windows and transom. On the interior, these elements include the wood-sash windows and transoms (inclusive of frames, trim, hardware, etc.); original five-panel wood doors and brass hardware (inclusive of frames, trim, etc.); original transom above main door and main door surround (but not the door itself); plaster walls (where extant); first floor ceiling beam; wood trim—including picture rail and original baseboard; wood bookcases with beadboard backing (with the exclusion of the contemporary, non-historic wood bookcases); and turned columns. Overall, the building's form, massing and historic characteristics have been maintained as part of the proposed project. Those elements that are distinctive to the historic building and its historic significance will in large part be preserved in the proposed project. Generally speaking, the preservation and rehabilitation of these features will adhere to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for the Treatment of Historic Properties. Therefore, the proposed project is in accordance with Rehabilitation Standard #5.

6. Deteriorated historic features will be repaired rather than replaced. Where the severity of deterioration requires replacement of a distinctive feature, the new feature will match the old in design, color, texture, and, where possible, materials. Replacement of missing features will be substantiated by documentary and physical evidence.

The proposed project will seek to repair rather than replace distinctive historic materials and features. Should the severity of deterioration require replacement, then the new feature will match the old, in kind. Therefore, the proposed project is in accordance with Rehabilitation Standard #7.

7. Chemical or physical treatments, if appropriate, will be undertaken using the gentlest means possible. Treatments that cause damage to historic materials will not be used.

If chemical or physical treatments are necessary, the project sponsor will use the gentlest treatment available. Treatments that cause damage to historic materials will not be used. Therefore, the proposed project is in accordance with Rehabilitation Standard #7.

8. Archeological resources will be protected and preserved in place. If such resources must be disturbed, mitigation measures will be undertaken.

The proposed project will require the foundation to be strengthened and additional excavation around the historic building. If any archeological material is encountered, construction would be halted and a proper analysis will be undertaken by qualified specialists. Therefore, the proposed project is in accordance with Rehabilitation Standard #8.

9. New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction will not destroy historic materials, features, and spatial relationships that characterize the property. The new work shall be differentiated from the old and will be compatible with the historic materials, features, size, scale and proportion, and massing to protect the integrity of the property and its environment.

The new addition to the East San Jose Carnegie Library will be located to the south and east of the existing building and will connect to the building's interior through the south façade. Overall, the new addition will not affect the majority of the historic materials, features or spatial relationships since the building's character-defining features will be preserved and rehabilitated. The proposed project will preserve the building's exterior character-defining features, including the building's massing, parapet, roofline, roof profile, chimneys, exterior stucco cladding, exterior wood molding and details, including cornice, dentils, modillion blocks, frieze, ornamental grilles, front porch (inclusive of columns, pediment, beadboard ceiling, and front steps), wood-sash windows and transoms. The majority of the existing building, including the two primary historic facades along E. Santa Clara Avenue and 23rd Street, will be retained, preserved, and prominently figured in the proposed project.

The only impacts upon historic fabric include:

- Removal of a single window on the south façade - According to the current scheme, a historic wood-sash double-hung window located on the south façade would be removed to accommodate an additional entry into the new building from the new main entry hall into the room entitled "FLC Open Area." The removal of this window would not impact the significance or eligibility of Carnegie Library for listing in any national, state, or local historical register. The south façade has already been heavily altered by the addition

completed in 1981. The 1981 alterations to the south façade include the removal of portions of the exterior wall to provide for a connection into the new structure and the removal of a single window on the first floor. The removal of this one element does not constitute a loss of significance or historic integrity. Prior to removal, the project sponsors will document the existing window, opening and materials. Additionally the window and frame will be stored on site, so that future generations may restore this feature if deemed necessary in the future.

- Removal of a portion of the west façade's cornice – In order to accommodate the new construction to the east, approximately five (5) inches of the historic cornice will be removed from the existing building. The removal of this amount of the cornice is considered to be minimal, and will not affect the building's historic significance or integrity. The new construction in this area consists of a new glass storefront window system, which will be clearly differentiated from and compatible with the historic Carnegie Library. This new storefront will allow the historic cornice and rear portion of the building to still be visible from E. Santa Clara Avenue and 23rd Street.

Overall, these two alterations are minimal and will not adversely affect the building's overall historic significance and integrity.

The new construction will be clearly differentiated from the old and will be compatible with the historic materials, features, size, scale and proportion, and massing of the historic East San Jose Carnegie Library. The overall scale and proportion of the new building provides for a clear reading of the historic library, and is consistent with the existing building's simple box massing. Although larger than the 1981 addition, the new construction will encompass a similar footprint to the 1981 addition, and will infill the street face along E. Santa Clara Avenue, thus providing for a stronger continuity with the surrounding neighborhood. The materials of the new construction will be contemporary in character, and will consist of tempered glass, a lightly-sandblasted concrete base, stainless steel trim and detailing, aluminum-sash windows, and cement plaster assemblies. These materials are clearly differentiated from the material character of the historic library, which is primarily characterized by stucco.

Therefore, the proposed project is in accordance with Rehabilitation Standard #9.

10. New additions and adjacent or related new construction will be undertaken in such a manner that, if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired.

The new addition to the East San Jose Carnegie Library will be constructed in a manner that if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the character-defining features will be unimpaired. As stated previously, these features will be preserved or rehabilitated; only those features identified as non-contributing will be removed or demolished from the historic building. The new addition will utilize existing openings and will minimally impact the historic building. From the major street elevations on E. Santa Clara Avenue and 23rd Avenue, the new addition is sensitive to the scale and massing of the historic library and does not overpower the existing building. All interior alterations, such as the construction of new partition walls and installation of new finishes, can be classified as reversible. Therefore, the proposed project is in accordance with Rehabilitation Standard #10.

Conclusion

According to the above analysis, the proposed project complies with all of the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation because the project maintain the building's exterior character-defining features, does not adversely impact the significance or integrity of a historic resources, and does not negate the building's eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or California Register of Historical Resources.

VI. MITIGATION

As identified in the proposed project analysis, the proposed project does not cause any significant impacts upon the historic building, therefore mitigation measures are not required to avoid or reduce the impacts of the proposed project. The proposed project is compliant with the Secretary's Standards and the project architects have expressed that they will adhere to the Secretary's Guidelines for Rehabilitation for the work involving the historic building.

Although mitigation measures are not required, the project sponsors will be maintaining the minimal amounts of historic materials that they are removing from the historic East San Jose Carnegie Library. As stated previously, the proposed project will remove one historic wood-sash double-hung window from the south façade. The removed window will be fully-documented and stored for future use. The removal of the five-inch portion of the historic Carnegie cornice will be fully-documented and also stored, should future uses call for the restoration of this feature.

VII. APPENDICES

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Significant Documentation

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.

RECEIVED

1. Name of Property

historic name East San Jose Carnegie Library
other names/site number East San Jose Branch of the San Jose Public Library

DEC 10 1989

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2. Location

street & number 1102 E. Santa Clara St. n/a not for publication
city, town San Jose n/a vicinity
state California code CA county Santa Clara code 085 zip code 95116

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> </u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> objects
			<u> </u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: _____

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register _____

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 _____ Date _____

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

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

Classical Revival

foundation Concrete

walls Stucco

Metal lathe

roof

other Wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

CALIFORNIA CARNEGIE LIBRARIES: EAST SAN JOSE CARNEGIE LIBRARY

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The East San Jose Carnegie Library, a 36' by 46' rectangle, one story over a raised basement, of plaster with wood trim, is an example of the Classical Revival in which there is a projecting central portico, pedimented under a gable roof. Here the portico is supported by pairs of simple turned wooden columns. The building was constructed in 1907; in 1981 a new wing was added to the rear, separated from the main building by a low section, set well back, which serves both to disassociate the new wing from the old and to provide a ground level entrance lobby for both buildings. These additions have not detracted from the integrity of the original building. Its corner site, its height over a raised basement, and its well maintained classical ornamentation, emphasize the unique character of this historic public building in a neighborhood of small commercial and residential structures.

Viewed from the front, the original building is surrounded by a low parapet which steps up to behind the gabled projecting portico. Below, the wooden cornice extends over carved rafters and small dentils, all of wood. These are now painted dark brown and contrast with the light beige of the stucco facade, and the light chocolate of the foundation. The frieze is plain, broken only by a vent, covered with ornamental grill, above each window; above the portico it bears the words "East San Jose Carnegie Library." Under the extended portico, the entrance projects slightly from the building facade. Paired Doric columns, rising from the floor, support the portico. Stairs rise directly from the sidewalk to the portico and are flanked by low, wide solid concrete rails.

On either side of the central portico is a wide and single paned window with transom, simply framed above a small slightly projecting sill. There are two windows of the same size and shape, widely spaced, on each side of the building. The foundation projects only slightly and at ground level there is a rather large window under each of the first floor windows. The building's wood frame is covered with metallic lathing and plaster inside and out; the architect stressed its fire resistant qualities, noting particularly that the basement area directly under the entrance stairs would be a fire-proof vault for valuable manuscripts and documents.

When the library was to be replaced by a more modern building, neighborhood groups succeeded saving the old building; plans for a new addition, plus restoration of the old building, were eventually substituted. The addition, consisting of an a separate building and a connecting lobby, was constructed in 1981, and some of the renovation has been completed. A new standing seam metal roof was provided for the portico and original trim and doors were painted. A simple pipe hand rail down the center of the stairs, and wrought iron fencing at the sides of the porch, have also been added. In the interior of the old building's first floor, partitions and bathrooms were removed and it is now one large Children's Room. Plans to restore the fireplace were abandoned when it was found to be non-functional. The high ceiling and stained wooden window moldings

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Section number 7 Page 2

around the tall windows remain, and new lighting was installed. The full size basement of the old building, formerly the Children's Room, now houses a bank of computers for the use of the children's program, plus magazine storage and, in the "vault" area, the local history collection.

The lobby and new building are located at grade level, placing them at a level somewhat lower than the first floor of the old building, and higher than its basement. Access to the old building's first floor and basement from the new lobby is provided by means of stairs and an elevator enclosed in a slightly taller portion of the lobby against the back of the old building. Restrooms accessible from the lobby replace those removed from the old building. Beyond the lobby, the new addition is somewhat longer and wider than the old building, and is proportioned to be compatible. Simple trim on the new wing suggests but does not compete with the classical detailing of the old building.

At the entrance lobby, a pair of simple narrow cement columns on each side of the door, and the words "East San Jose Carnegie Library," suggest central features of the old entrance. The new wing and lobby are de-emphasized visually, positioned well behind the old building and set back from the street, along which trees are planted. Care has been taken that the new construction does not detract from the integrity of the old building as reflected in its style, proportion, and visibility as the community's unique historic civic building.

The building is located on the southeast corner of a full block that is otherwise vacant, the former site of a school that has been relocated a few blocks away. The remainder of the block is privately owned, but the neighborhood groups which saved the library from destruction carefully scrutinize various new uses contemplated for it by the owner. A San Jose library bond issue scheduled for election soon will include money to purchase 5000 square feet of that block for expansion of the library grounds. The new property would be adjacent to a grove of shade trees planted along the side the building on the eastern side of the library.

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
Community Planning

Period of Significance

1906-1940

Significant Dates

1907-8

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Significant Person

Architect/Builder

Lenzen, Jacob
Lenzen, Theodore

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

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CALIFORNIA CARNEGIE LIBRARIES: EAST SAN JOSE CARNEGIE LIBRARY
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The East San Jose Carnegie Library, the oldest public library in service in Santa Clara County, is also one of the only tangible reminders of the brief existence, between 1906 and 1911, of the City of East San Jose. Application for Carnegie funding was made just seven days after voter approval of the incorporation of East San Jose. The community was offered \$7000 for a library building, and in accordance with terms of Carnegie giving regarding a site and library maintenance, the city provided a site near other civic buildings then planned, and committed \$700 annually to maintain the building and the collection. Many Carnegie libraries reflected the community pride in public buildings stimulated by Chicago's 1893 Columbian Exposition; the East San Jose Carnegie is an example of the Classical Revival in a building of modest proportions, and in a community which soon afterward lost its political identity. The library opened in January 1908. In 1974, faced with the loss of their Carnegie building, the community succeeded in saving, renovating, and expanding it, and in having the East San Jose Carnegie Library designated a local Historical Landmark.

Five Carnegie libraries were built in Santa Clara County. In the Santa Clara Valley itself, Los Gatos, San Jose, Palo Alto and East San Jose were constructed between 1903 and 1907; only East San Jose remains and it continues to serve the community as a public library. The fifth Carnegie is located further south at Gilroy. That building, constructed in 1910 and now a museum, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The area that was to become East San Jose began as a rural settlement across Coyote Creek from San Jose. The East San Jose Homestead Association had been surveyed in 1869; by 1876 there were 250 residents. Neighbor San Jose, incorporated in 1859, was by far the largest community in Santa Clara County. The 1900 census showed San Jose's population as 21,500, while the smaller communities of Gilroy, Los Gatos, Palo Alto, and Santa Clara averaged about 2000. East San Jose's growth was slow but steady and when it incorporated in 1906 it estimated its population at 1400; it appeared on the 1910 census with a population of 1661.

Prohibitionist sentiment was locally strong; the most prominent reason given for incorporation was concern that saloons were moving out from San Jose along Alum Rock Avenue (now E. Santa Clara St.) and county law enforcement was not meeting the attendant problems. The promise of better roads and police and fire protection were also influential. The election was held on July 20, 1906 and incorporation won by two votes.

Just seven days later Jackson Hatch, the new city attorney, wrote Andrew Carnegie requesting funds for a library, which he stated was "among the utilities that we need most." City trustees had already set up a library in "the room occupied by the Town officials, i.e. The Board of Trustees, Marshal, Clerk and Recorder." The room is described, in supplementary answers to the Carnegie questionnaire, as 15' x 18' in size, "very neat and well selected." No funds had been allocated; all furnishings and books had been donated by the trustees. Fear of fire, lack of

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CALIFORNIA CARNEGIE LIBRARIES: EAST SAN JOSE CARNEGIE LIBRARY

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privacy for city business, and expectation of receipt of many more donated books dictated the need for larger, permanent quarters. The May 2, 1907, Carnegie offer of \$7000 was readily accepted; on May 9, 1907, Hatch notified Carnegie treasurer R.A. Franks that a site had been provided and an ordinance passed establishing annual \$700 support for the library. Ground was broken on September 7, 1907 and the building opened on January 14, 1908.

A volunteer fire department was established just across Adams (now E. 23rd) from the site of the Carnegie library, and the City Hall, jail, and East San Jose School were all nearby. Of these, only the Carnegie library remains. By 1911 saloons had been banished, leaders had tired of the responsibility of running a small city, and San Jose, with a reform government and a professional city manager, no longer seemed so threatening. An election to consolidate with San Jose carried by a 10-1 vote.

During the short life of East San Jose, concern for fire was evidenced in many city and library trustee actions. Besides its proximity to the fire house, the new building, with its metallic lathing and plastering, was said by the architects, Jacob and Theodore Lenzen, to be as fireproof as more expensive brick.

Both Lenzens are mentioned, but not together, as architects of the East San Jose Library, giving rise to some confusion. In California's Architectural Frontier, Fricker mentions Jacob and Theodore Lenzen as among those German nationals who were prominent builders in the 1850's and 1860's, the Lenzens having settled in San Jose in 1861. Several newspaper articles mention the "Lenzen Brothers." But it appears that Jacob and Theodore did not practice together, though each is credited with buildings built between 1860 and 1900. Jacob had a son, Theodore, with whom he practiced between 1884 and 1900. The Theodore who had arrived in 1861 formed a partnership with his own son, probably Louis, in 1901. Among the San Jose buildings credited to one or both Lenzens are the City Hall, Lenzen Building, Hall of Records, Odd Fellows Hall, Sweigert Building, and the Letitia Building. No mention is made of the East San Jose Carnegie, or of the Salinas Carnegie, also attributed to a Lenzen.

In Santa Clara County, the larger 1902 San Jose Carnegie, constructed with a \$50,000 Carnegie grant, featured a massive projecting and columned portico and a dome. Los Gatos and Palo Alto each received \$10,000 in 1901 and 1903 respectively; their libraries strongly incorporated Spanish elements with classical form. Gilroy's \$10,000 building, funded in 1906, is a more elegant example of the Classical Revival with pedimented portico. Only the East San Jose and Gilroy Carnegies remain. The East San Jose building, though funded later, was completed two years before Gilroy, making East San Jose the oldest remaining Carnegie as well as the oldest public library in service in Santa Clara County.

Over the years the neighborhood of East San Jose has become home to a number of ethnic groups. Portuguese dairymen settled early. There is a Black population of long standing, several

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CALIFORNIA CARNEGIE LIBRARIES: EAST SAN JOSE CARNEGIE LIBRARY

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families having lived in the area for three generations. More recently the Hispanic and Southeast Asian populations have increased. This diversity is illustrated by the signs in the nearby businesses as well as in the library itself which maintains Spanish, Vietnamese, Cambodian and Portuguese language collections, plus an adult new-reader section. Neighborhood groups are numerous: the 24th Street Association, Olinder Residents, Northside Homeowners Association, Five Wounds Parents Group, to name a few.

In 1974 a report was issued by the city's library administration documenting the reasons why the East San Jose Branch Library should be replaced. The neighborhood groups joined together as Friends of the East San Jose Carnegie Library, and in 1979 succeeded in saving the building and secured funds to renovate it and to build an addition. Also, the group objected to their library being unofficially termed "East Branch," as well as to a move to officially change its name to "East San Jose Branch." Due to their efforts, the name will remain as it is written below the pediment at both the old and new entrances, "East San Jose Carnegie Library." The building was declared a San Jose historical landmark in 1977.

The period of significance for the East San Jose Carnegie building has been ended arbitrarily at 1940 since exceptional significance beyond that date has not been shown.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

CALIFORNIA CARNEGIE LIBRARIES: EAST SAN JOSE CARNEGIE LIBRARY

Section number 9 Page 1

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

Douglas, Jack. "East San Jose: City of 2000 Days." San Jose Historical Museum Association News, May 1988.

Guinn, J.M. History of the State of California and Biographical Record of Coast Counties. Chicago: Chapman, 1904.

Held, Ray E. The Rise of the Public Library in California. Chicago: American Library Association, 1973.

Hook, Robert D. "History of the San Jose Public Library: 1903-1937." MA Thesis, San Jose State University, 1968.

Joachim, Leland. "Aging Carnegie Library to get new life, new face." San Jose Mercury East, September 13, 1978.

Kirker, Harold. California's Architectural Frontier. New York: Russell & Russell, 1960.

"Lenzen Brothers Left their Mark on San Jose." San Jose News, June 18, 1954.

"Work on East San Jose Carnegie Library to Start Today." San Jose Mercury, September 7, 1907.

City of San Jose. San Jose Historic Landmark Nomination No. 10, November 2, 1977.

City of San Jose. Resolution # 49547 of the Council of the City of San Jose designating East San Jose Carnegie Library as a Landmark of Special Historical, Architectural, Cultural, or Aesthetic Value or Interest. Dated November 15, 1977.

City of San Jose. "East Branch Carnegie Library: Renovation and Addition," January 2, 1980.

Carnegie Corporation Correspondence on microfilm.

Conversation with Wendy Kay, Librarian, East San Jose Carnegie Library.

California Carnegie survey form completed by Wendy Kay.

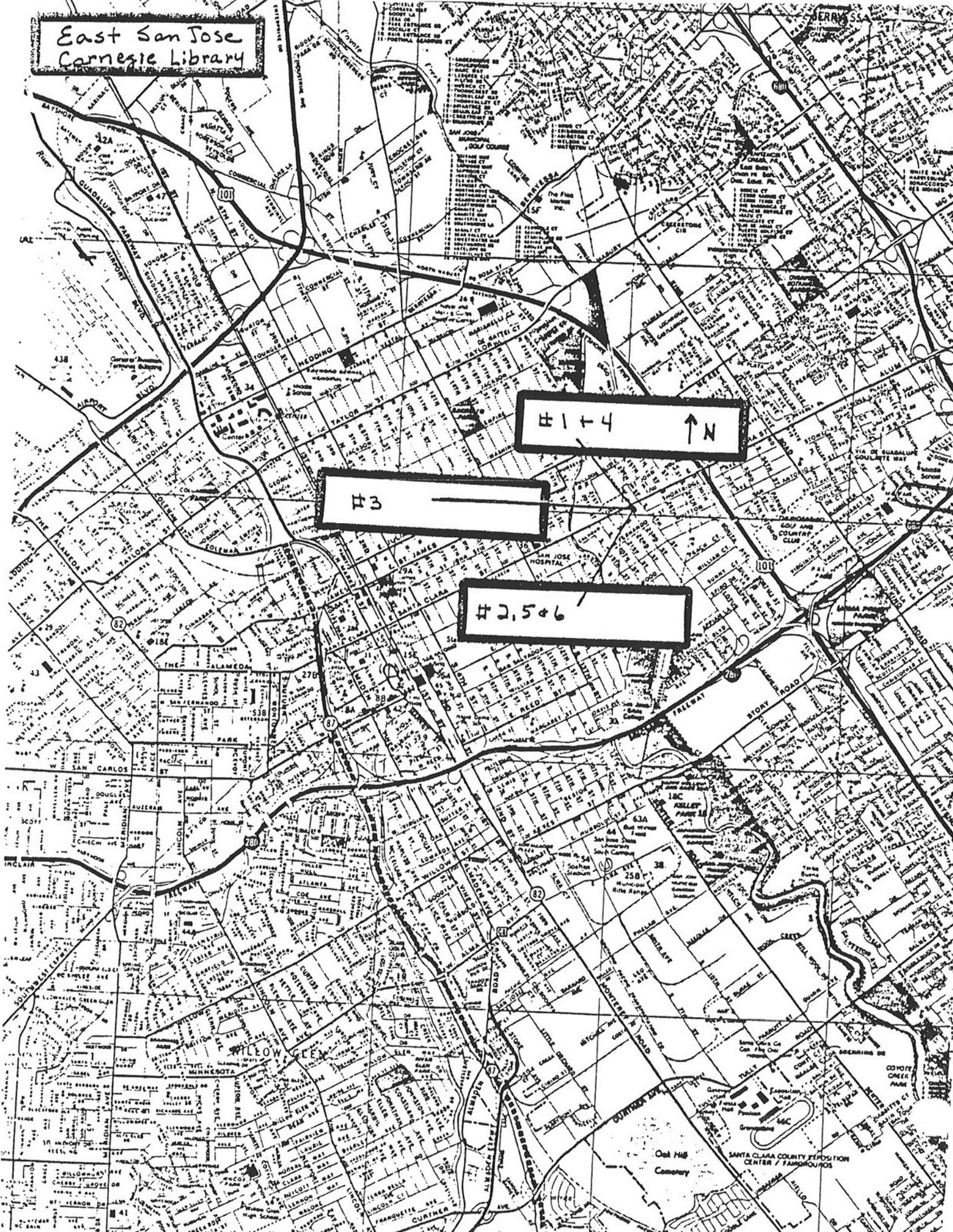
East San Jose
Carnegie Library

H I T L



#3

#2,506



State Historic Resource Documentation Form

State of California — The Resources Agency
 DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
PRIMARY RECORD

Primary # _____
 HRI # _____
 Trinomial _____
 NRHP Status Code _____

Other Listings _____
 Review Code _____ Reviewer _____ Date _____

Page 1 of 2 Resource name(s) or number (assigned by recorder) East San Jose Carnegie Library

P1. Other Identifier: East San Jose Branch of the San Jose Public Library

***P2. Location:** Not for Publication Unrestricted

***a. County** San Francisco

***b. USGS 7.5' Quad** San Francisco North, Calif. **Date:** 1995

***c. Address** 1102 E. Santa Clara St.

City San Jose

Zip 95116

***e. Other Locational Data:** APN 467-58-001

***P3a. Description:** (Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries.)

The East San Jose Carnegie library is a one-story wood-frame building with a reinforced concrete basement, located at the southeast corner of E. Santa Clara Avenue and E. 23rd Street in San Jose. Located on the northwest corner of the site, the existing library complex consists of the one-story 1908-library building and the 1981 addition. Also located on the site, adjacent to the library complex, are an open green space to the east and a parking lot to the south. The building measures 36-ft by 46-ft. The building's massing is simple in form and is identified by a symmetrical rectangular mass with a Classical temple-front portico on the north façade and the 1981 addition on the south façade. The triangular pediment of the temple-front portico is covered with a standing seam metal gable roof. The building's other prominent features include a water table at the base, wood-sash fenestration, and an ornate cornice with an entablature, dentil molding, and modillion block details. The building is clad with stucco and has painted wood ornamentation. Capping the entire building is a tall stucco parapet with metal flashing. The interior of the Carnegie library is divided into two areas: first floor and basement. The first floor functions as a combination of shelving/stacks, children's room, and reading room. It has an open plan with carpet flooring, plaster walls, and a plaster ceiling. The basement is used as storage and office space. It is accessed through two staircases: one located on the exterior and the other located in the interior on the south wall. The basement has vinyl flooring, concrete and plaster walls, and a low plaster ceiling. This building appears to be in good condition.

***P3b. Resource Attributes:** (list attributes and codes) HP15. Educational Building

***P4. Resources Present:** Building Structure Object Site District Element of District Other

P5a. Photo



P5b. Photo: (view and date)

View of north façade
 (March 14, 2006)

***P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources:** 1908, National Register Registration Forms historic

***P7. Owner and Address:**
 City of San Jose

***P8. Recorded by:**
 Richard Sucre
 Page & Turnbull, Inc.
 724 Pine Street
 San Francisco, CA 94108

***P9. Date Recorded:**
 March 14, 2006

***P10. Survey Type:**
 Intensive

***P11. Report Citation:** (Cite survey report and other sources, or enter "none")

***Attachments:** None Location Map Sketch Map Continuation Sheet Building, Structure, and Object Record
 Archaeological Record District Record Linear Feature Record Milling Station Record Rock Art Record
 Artifact Record Photograph Record Other (list)

City of San Jose Evaluation Form

City of San Jose Evaluation Form was not completed for the San Jose Carnegie Library since the property is already listed as a San Jose City Landmark.

A NEW PERSPECTIVE IN PRESERVATION

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