

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICEPH0689645
FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

NOV 7 1978

DATE ENTERED

DEC 22 1978

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Houston Carnegie Library

AND/OR COMMON

Houston Carnegie Library

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Madison and Huddleston Streets, Post Office Box 186

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Houston

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Second

STATE

Mississippi

VICINITY OF

CODE

28

COUNTY

Chickasaw

CODE

17

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☒ PUBLIC☐ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☒ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

City of Houston

STREET & NUMBER

City Hall, Madison Street

CITY, TOWN

Houston

STATE

Mississippi 38851

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Office of the Chancery Clerk

STREET & NUMBER

Chickasaw County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Houston

STATE

Mississippi 38851

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Statewide Survey of Historic Sites

DATE

1975

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

CITY, TOWN

Jackson

STATE

Mississippi 39205

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT

☒ GOOD

☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED

☐ RUINS

☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☒ UNALTERED

☐ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE

☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Houston Carnegie Library is a one-story nine-by-twelve-bay brick building constructed on a cruciform plan and topped with a metal hip roof of standing seam construction. Three chimneys and a hip-roofed skylight project from the roof. The central projecting section of the front (north) elevation contains double-leaf doors with long glass panels, a bracketed door hood, and two narrow windows which flank the entrance. Other windows on the front elevation are of similar proportion but are paired and divided horizontally by transoms and vertically by mullions. The projecting section of the rear elevation is lit by a group of narrow ribbon windows. All sash are one-over-one. Lintels and sills are rectangular and concrete. A horizontal band of soldier bricks accents the area above the water table, and the side elevations are enriched with a rectangle of raised bricks. A plaque which reads "Carnegie Library" is set within a rectangle of patterned rowlock bricks above the entrance.

The most outstanding feature of the interior is the sixteen-pane skylight which is recessed in the ceiling of the center hall. Side rooms are divided from the hall by double sliding doors, and simple mantels with Ionic columns decorate each end wall. Oak baseboards and chair and plate rails are used throughout.

6 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

1909

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Houston Carnegie Library is Mississippi's first Carnegie Library and the second public library in the state. Although its architect is unknown, the building is notable for its design, which effectively combines elements of the Prairie and Western Stick styles.

In 1908, L. B. Reid, superintendent of the Houston Public Schools, wrote to Andrew Carnegie about the possibility of a donation for a town library. For the purpose of establishing such libraries, Carnegie gave during his lifetime an estimated \$350,000,000 and left more to be distributed after his death. Carnegie funds were responsible for the construction of 2500 public libraries, 1700 of them in the United States. Reid's letter began a correspondence which resulted in a Carnegie gift to Houston of \$6,000 for a library building and equipment. It was stipulated that maintenance was to be the responsibility of the town.

A lot was purchased by the town from a local merchant, W. D. Atkinson (Deed Book 92: 438), and the library building was constructed in 1909. A few subscription libraries had been established earlier (the Fisk Memorial Library in Natchez in 1883 and the Clayton Library at Holly Springs in 1886), and one free public library had been established at Biloxi in 1898. Much larger than the Biloxi library, the collection of which numbered only 100 volumes, the Houston Carnegie Library was the first free public library of significant size to be established in the state.

Architecturally, the Houston Carnegie Library exhibits the horizontal emphasis characteristic of the Prairie School. The low hip roof with overhanging eaves, the double horizontal members of the door hood, and the brick enrichment all accent the horizontal. The windows, which individually are more vertical than horizontal, are emphasized horizontally in various ways: sash are one-over-one, and transoms, lintels, and sills are prominent features. The close grouping of windows on the rear elevation is particularly characteristic of the Prairie School. Although the bracketed door hood and exposed rafter tails of the building depart from the Prairie style, their curves provide a relief from the severe geometry of that style. Almost oriental in feeling, these features are typical of the Western Stick style, which was also enjoying popularity in the early twentieth century.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Calvin, Mabel. A History of the Houston Carnegie Library (typescript). Mississippi Library Association Papers. Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, Mississippi.

Chickasaw County, Mississippi. Chancery Clerk. Land Deed Record 92:438.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approximately 1/4 acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Houston West

QUADRANGLE SCALE 7.5

UTM REFERENCES

A 16 314980 3752270

B

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

All of lot #4 and the west 1/2 of lot #3 in square 6 of the town of Houston as designated on the original survey by D. D. Hatfield and shown on the map of Houston, 1937, said land

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
-------	------	--------	------

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
-------	------	--------	------

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Adele Cramer

Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

DATE

September 12, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

Box 571

TELEPHONE

601-354-7326

CITY OR TOWN

Jackson

STATE

Mississippi 39205

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE X

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Elmer B. Hilliard

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE November 1, 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 12-22-78

ATTEST:

DATE 12/21/85

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	NOV 7 1978
DATE ENTERED	DEC 22 1978

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 & 10 PAGE 1

9 - MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Cramer, Adele, architectural historian. Personal inspection, September 8, 1978.

"First Carnegie Library in State Was in Houston." Clarion-Ledger (Jackson, Mississippi).
February 3, 1963.

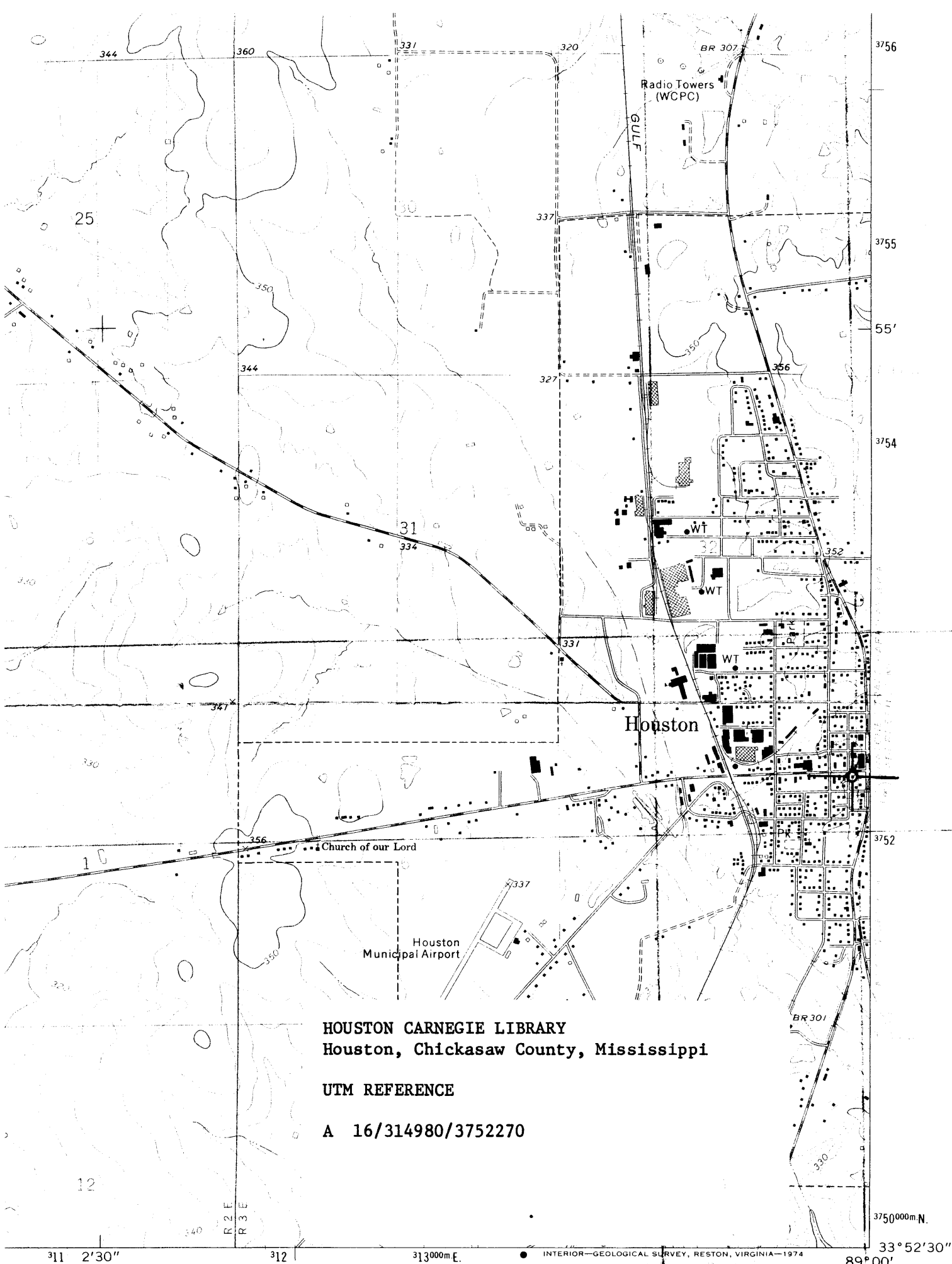
McLemore, Richard Aubrey, ed. A History of Mississippi. 2 vols. Hattiesburg,
Mississippi: University and College Press of Mississippi, 1973.

Mississippi Department of Archives and History. Statewide Survey File. Chickasaw County.
Carnegie Library.

Peebles, Margarete, and Howell, J. B., eds. A History of Mississippi Libraries.
Montgomery, Alabama: Paragon Press, 1975.

10 - GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

being the land deeded to the town of Houston by W. S. Atkinson July 10, 1908. Transaction
recorded in Book 92 page 438 of the Land Deed Records.



HOUSTON CARNEGIE LIBRARY
Houston, Chickasaw County, Mississippi

UTM REFERENCE

A 16/314980/3752270

1 Mile

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway,

Light-duty road, hard or

(VAN VLE



HOUSTON CARNEGIE LIBRARY

Houston, Chickasaw County, Mississippi

Adele Cramer

September 8, 1978

Mississippi Department of Archives and
History

Front (north) elevation, looking south.

Photo 1 of 4

DEC 22 1978

NOV 7 1978

CARNEGIE LIBRARY

103

LIBRARY HOURS

MON.	9:00 - 4:00
TUE.	9:00 - 4:00
WED.	9:00 - 4:00
THU.	9:00 - 4:00
FRI.	9:00 - 4:00
SAT.	9:00 - 12:00
SUN.	CLOSED

HOUSTON CARNEGIE LIBRARY

Houston, Chickasaw County, Mississippi

Adele Cramer

September 8, 1978

DEC 22 1978

Mississippi Department of Archives and
History

Detail of facade (north elevation) entrance,
looking southwest.

Photo 2 of 4

NOV 7 1978



HOUSTON CARNEGIE LIBRARY

Houston, Chickasaw County, Mississippi

Adele Cramer

September 8, 1978

Mississippi Department of Archives and
History

Rear (south) and west elevations, looking
northeast.

Photo 3 of 4

DEC 22 1978

NOV 7 1978



HOUSTON CARNEGIE LIBRARY

Houston, Chickasaw County, Mississippi

Adele Cramer

September 8, 1978

Mississippi Department of Archives and
History

Interior: mantel on east wall of east room.

Photo 4 of 4

DEC 22 1978 NOV 7 1978