

Approved
N Nick
2/8/10

2/2/2010

Fort Worth Monument Company
5811 Jacksboro Hwy
Fort Worth, TX 76114
Fax Number: (817) 624-8428

James,

Please remit proofs to 903-531-1170.
We are expecting to have our ceremony on February 25th
Please let me know when these will be ready for shipment.

Note: We have new shipping instructions.
Deliver to Gallery Main Street, 110 W. Erwin, Tyler, Texas
Phone: (903) 593-6905 or (My direct line) 903-531-1174
Deliver between 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

TYLER CARNEGIE LIBRARY

Built in 1904

It served as the City's library for 75 years, until a new one was opened in 1979. It was financed by a \$15,000 gift from Andrew Carnegie and by citizens who raised \$2,000 to buy the land.

Thanks,
Heather
Senior Planner
903-531-1174

Heather Nick

From: Heather Nick
Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2009 11:57 AM
To: Heather Nick
Subject: Half Mile of History Ceremony Proposed date

Their address was BCC

Congratulations! Your nomination was approved by City Council this morning.

The proposed ceremony date is Friday, December 3rd, 2009.

I will send the HMH Stone Language at a later date for your approval.

Thanks,
Heather

Heather Nick

Senior Planner
Historic Preservation Officer
Metropolitan Planning Organization

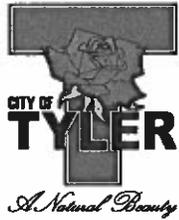
City of Tyler

✉ hnick@tylertexas.com

☎ 903.531.1174

🌐 www.tylerpz.org

🌐 www.tyler21plan.com



**CITY OF TYLER, TEXAS
CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION**



Agenda Number:

Date: August 12, 2009

Subject: Request that the City Council consider designating Carnegie Library as a Half Mile of History recipient.

Page: 1 of 2

Item Reference: Half Mile of History Preservation Program

The Half Mile of History is a cultural and historic landmark program paying tribute to people, places and events that have contributed to the City of Tyler and/or Smith County. The Half Mile of History is a permanent, outdoor walk-around loop that covers an approximate one-half mile stretch of sidewalk surrounding the square in the heart of downtown Tyler. People, places and events chosen for the Half Mile of History are honored with a commemorative plaque placed in the sidewalk.

One of the responsibilities of the Tyler Historical Preservation Board is to recommend people, places and events to be included in the Half Mile of History Preservation Program. On July 1, 2009, the Tyler Historical Preservation Board voted unanimously to recommend Carnegie Library for inclusion in the Half Mile of History Preservation Program. A narrative taken from the application follows:

When the doors opened to Tyler's new Carnegie library in 1904, the steps were not worn as they are today. This unevenness at the entrance is a testament to the history of community impact the building has had over the one hundred and five years since it was erected. The Tyler Carnegie Library was the fifteenth library built in Texas through the financial generosity of steel magnate and philanthropist Andrew Carnegie. It was a goal of Mr. Carnegie to give away all his fortune by the time he had passed from this world, as he had no direct heirs. He chose to do this in part by giving donations to build libraries all over the country. In 1903, Andrew Carnegie agreed to give \$15,000 for a free library if the city would provide the lot and \$1,500 a year for its upkeep.

On May 29, 1903, the trustees of Tyler Public Free Library (contributed to by 172 citizens) bought a lot from Annie Regina McMahon for \$2,000 upon which to erect the library building.

Agenda Number:

Page: 2 of 2

After the land purchase was made a "Circus Day Benefaction" was held on November 13, 1903 and many gifts to the library foundation were collected. Some of these included: flowers, seeds, vines and trees for the grounds. An unusual gift was the use of one telephone (value of \$3 per month) for 120 months which was given by the Tyler Telephone Company. The Mollie Moore Davis Chapter of the united Daughters of the Confederacy donated a portrait of Robert E. Lee that can still be seen in the Victorian room of the now Carnegie History Museum.

Tyler's Carnegie Library became the resource for students from all over the country. Every day at three o'clock the librarians had to be ready for the floods of children that would walk through the doors after school. This prompted the library to extend the hours for some evenings which proved very popular. Regular story hours were added on Saturdays and Tuesdays to accommodate the active interests of the children. Many prominent businessmen of Tyler got a great addition to their early education through the books and materials available at the Carnegie Library.

Mr. Carnegie required that all his libraries have an auditorium and that it be open for public use. For over hundred years, the second floor auditorium which was originally named "Carnegie Hall" has hosted many music and dance recitals, civic group meetings and programs, and of course theatre productions. The hall was rented to the Lutheran congregation each Sunday for many years until they could acquire their own building. The Tyler Little Theater (now known as The Tyler Civic Theatre) held their productions in the auditorium for about the first ten years of their existence. Thus the Carnegie Library provided not only the literary arts to the curious public, but also exposed them to the performing fine arts as well.

After the new Tyler Public Library was built in 1979, the Carnegie building was remodeled and began housing a free museum and archives now run by the Smith County Historical Society. People from all over the country climb those same uneven worn steps to learn about Smith County history and the impact the county has had on the state and nation. Volunteers field emails, letters and phone calls from people looking for information about some aspect of Smith County history. The second floor hall that is now called Payne Auditorium (in honor of Bryan W. Payne and Elsie G. Payne) continues to frequently be used for performances and meetings.

The building was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1978 and included as a Tyler Historic Landmark in 1985. Tyler's Carnegie Library has played a significant role in Tyler's civic and cultural development for more than 100 years.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Tyler Historical Preservation Board, by a unanimous vote, request that the City Council approve the designation of Carnegie Library as a Half Mile of History recipient.

Barbara Holly

Drafted/Recommended By: Barbara Holly
Department Leader

Edited/Submitted By:
City Manager

When the doors opened to Tyler's new Carnegie Library in 1904, the steps were not worn as they are today. This unevenness at the entrance is a testament to the history of community impact the building has had over the one hundred and five years since it was erected. The Tyler Carnegie Library was the fifteenth library built in Texas through the financial generosity of steel magnate and philanthropist Andrew Carnegie. It was a goal of Mr. Carnegie to give away all his fortune by the time he had passed from this world, as he had no direct heirs. He chose to do this in part by giving donations to build libraries all over the country. This way the modern man could educate himself in whatever subject he saw fit, just as he had done over the years with the help of his father's friends' private libraries. In a letter of March 20, 1903, Andrew Carnegie agreed to give \$15,000 for a free library if the city would provide the lot and \$1,500 a year for its upkeep.

In prior years the first small library was started in the late eighteen hundreds; the books were held in several private homes or businesses and the library was of use to the public through a small fee. While this arrangement was not perfect, it certainly served its purpose as a service organization and filled the needs of people wanting to expand their knowledge.

On May 29, 1903, the trustees of Tyler Public Free Library (contributed to by 172 citizens) bought a lot from Annie Regina McMahon for \$2,000 upon which to erect the library building. After the land purchase was made a "Circus Day Benefaction" was held on November 13, 1903 and many gifts to the library foundation were collected. Some of these included: flowers, seeds, vines and trees for the grounds. An unusual gift was the use of one telephone (value of \$3 per month) for 120 months which was given by the Tyler Telephone Company. Also a gift that can still be seen in the Victorian room of the now Carnegie History Museum is a portrait of Robert E. Lee given by the Mollie Moore Davis Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy.

At this time in American history before the turn of the century, some areas of the country did not have organized schools often did not have a library. The Carnegie Library in Tyler became the resource for students from all over the county. Everyday at three o'clock the librarians had to be ready for the floods of children that would walk through the doors after school let out. This prompted the library to extend the hours for some evenings which proved very popular. Regular story hours were added on Saturdays and Tuesdays to accommodate the active interests of the children.

Many prominent businessmen of Tyler got a great addition to their early education through the books and materials available at the Carnegie Library. Also important were the services provided over the years to the many different social, church, school and literary groups of Tyler that kept close ties to the library staff-- working out courses of study and special interest. Even if you were never a member of any special club or social group; you could always be a member of Tyler Carnegie Library.

It was a requirement of Mr. Carnegie that all his libraries have an auditorium also open for public use. Over the one hundred plus years since the building has been in use, the second floor auditorium which was originally named "Carnegie Hall" has hosted many music and dance recitals, civic group meetings and programs, and of course theatre productions. The hall was rented to the Lutheran congregation on each Sunday for many years until they could acquire their own building for a place of worship. The Tyler Little Theater (now known as The Tyler Civic Theatre) held their productions in the auditorium for about the first ten years of their existence. Thus the Carnegie Library provided not

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Honors Received

1978 National Register of Historic Places

1985 Tyler Historic Landmark

References

National Register of Historic Places Inventory Nomination Form, prepared by Patty Andrews November 11, 1977—her sources are the Handbook of TX Libraries, Deed Records of Smith County, and the American Library Directory

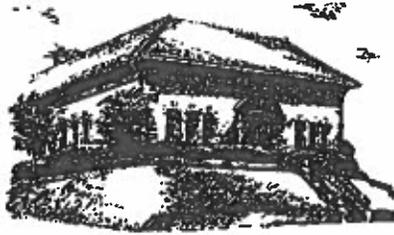
Tyler Courier Times, September 26, 1937

Carnegie Library vertical file in Smith County Historical Society archives

S. C. H. S. vertical file in Smith County Historical Society archives

TexasEscapes.com All Things Historical column The Carnegie Libraries by Bob Bowman

First hand accounts from Miss Mary Jane McNamara, former library employee



SMITH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.
ORGANIZED 1969

RECEIVED

JUN 23 2009

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

June 20, 2009

City of Tyler Historical Preservation Board
Attn: Half Mile of History
P.O. Box 2039
Tyler, TX 75710

Dear Sir or Madam:

Smith County Historical Society hereby respectfully submits for your consideration, an application for inclusion of the Carnegie Library Building in your "Half Mile of History" program.

As you know, this building has been a vital part of Tyler's civic and cultural development for over 100 years. During that time, it could be argued more different people have entered this magnificent building than any other single building in Smith County.

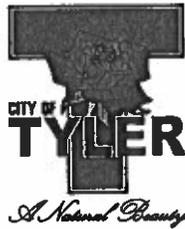
For additional information, feel free to contact Tiffany Wright, Mary Jane McNamara, Robert Reed or myself at this address.

Sincerely,

Sam Kidd
Sam C. Kidd
Treasurer &
Office Manager

Tiffany Wright
Tiffany Wright
Research Volunteer

Mary Jane McNamara
Mary Jane McNamara
Marker Chairman



**NOMINATION FORM
HALF MILE OF HISTORY**

Section A: Nomination Information

Name of Nominated person, place or event:

CARNEGIE LIBRARY BUILDING

The nominee is being honored for outstanding contributions in the area(s) of (please check all that apply):

<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment/Media	<input type="checkbox"/> Philanthropy
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Government/Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Arts and Culture	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science
<input type="checkbox"/> Aviation	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention/Innovation	<input type="checkbox"/> Sports
<input type="checkbox"/> Business/Corporate Leadership	<input type="checkbox"/> Law	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community Service	<input type="checkbox"/> Medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Oil/Gas	

Section B: Nominator's Information

Name of person making nomination: SMITH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

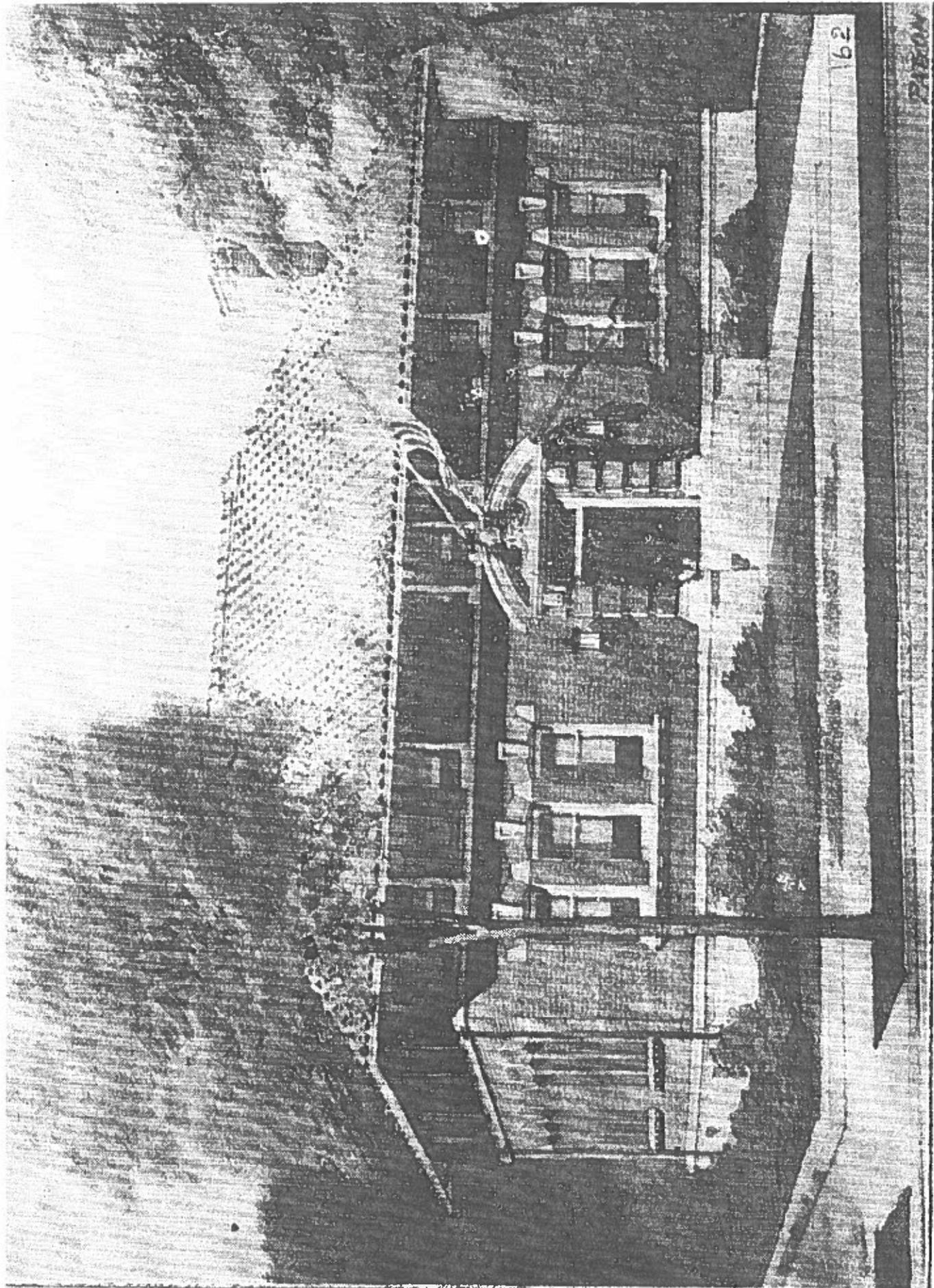
Address: 125 S COLLEGE

City: TYLER State: TX Zip: 75702

Daytime telephone: 903-592-5993 Email: info@smithcountyhistoricalsociety.org

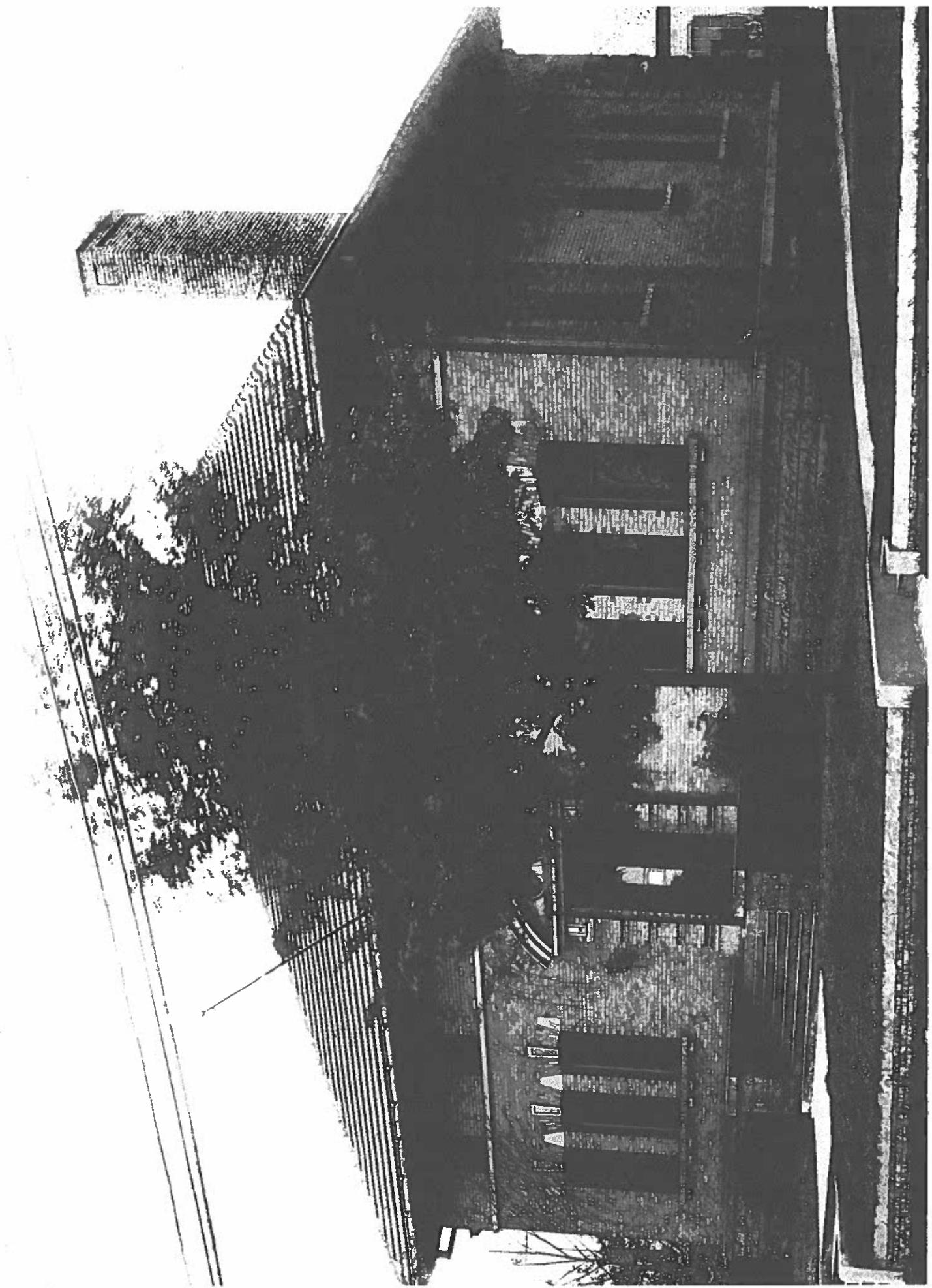
Relationship to nominated individual: _____

Nominated Individual's year of death: _____



TYLER PUBLIC LIBRARY.
Gift of Andrew Carnegie.

NUKWA EASI CORNER VIEW





CORNERSTONE LOCATED SOUTH EAST

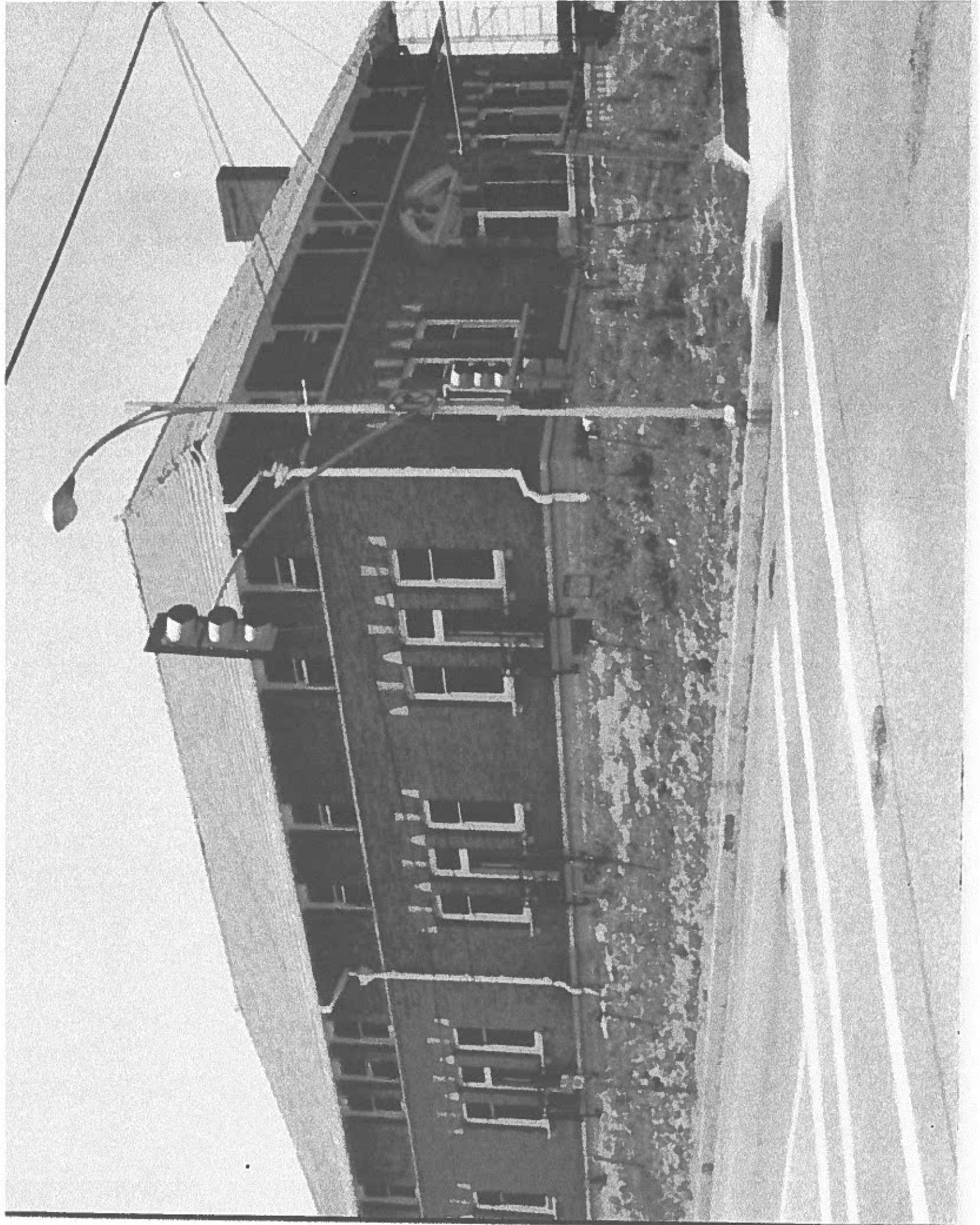
ORIGINAL CHILDRENS ROOM N.EAST



VIEW OF ROBERT E. LEE PORTRAIT (MENTIONED IN NARRATIVE)



SIDEVIEW W/ FLIN STREET ADDITION SPECIFIED IN 1950S





SMITH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

ORGANIZED 1969
April 7, 2010

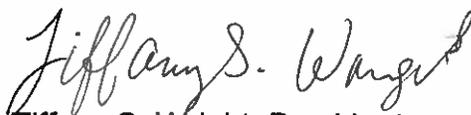
The Honorable Barbara Bass
City of Tyler
212 North Bonner Avenue
Tyler, Texas 75702-5521

Dear Mayor Bass:

It is with deep appreciation the Smith County Historical Society writes to thank you, the City of Tyler, and the Historical Preservation Board, for the Thursday, February 25th presentation of the Half-Mile of History Historical Preservation Marker in honor of the Carnegie Library Building. We are indeed fortunate to have this treasure of Tyler history, as well as our nation's history, preserved. This meaningful marker appropriately honors the building's significance.

We look forward to continuing to have the Smith County Historical Society's Museum and Archives housed in the Carnegie History Center. Please convey our gratitude to all involved with the City's efforts in providing this marker.

Sincerely,


Tiffany S. Wright, President

cc: Ms. Heather Nick, Chairman
Historic Preservation Board
City of Tyler
212 North Bonner Avenue
Tyler, Texas 75702-5521

RECEIVED

APR 9 2010