### 1. NAME

**HISTORIC**

Sedalia Public Library

**AND/OR COMMON**

Sedalia Public Library

### 2. LOCATION

#### STREET & NUMBER

311 West Third Street

#### CITY, TOWN

Sedalia

#### STATE

Missouri

### 3. CLASSIFICATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>OWNERSHIP</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
<th>PRESENT USE</th>
<th>MISSOURI CODE</th>
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<td>COMMERCIAL</td>
<td>Pettis 159</td>
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<td>WORK IN PROGRESS</td>
<td>EDUCATIONAL</td>
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<td>ENTERTAINMENT</td>
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<td>BEING CONSIDERED</td>
<td>YES UNRESTRICTED</td>
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<td>OTHER</td>
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### 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

**NAME**

Sedalia Public Library

**STREET & NUMBER**

311 West Third Street

**CITY, TOWN**

Sedalia

**STATE**

Missouri 65301

### 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

**COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.**

Recorder of Deeds, Pettis County Courthouse

**STREET & NUMBER**

Ohio Street

**CITY, TOWN**

Sedalia

**STATE**

Missouri 65301

### 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

**TITLE**

1. A Tour of Historical Sites

**DATE**

1977

**DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS**

Pettis County Historical Society

**CITY, TOWN**

Sedalia

**STATE**

Missouri 65301
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

EDALIA PUBLIC LIBRARY

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 11  PAGE 1

2. Missouri State Historical Survey
   Office of Historic Preservation
   Department of Natural Resources
   P.O. Box 176
   Jefferson City

   Donald G. Morton, Director
   Sedalia Public Library
   311 West Third Street
   Sedalia

   November 8, 1978
   316/826-1314
   Missouri 65301
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 Sedalia Public Library, located amid spacious lawns on a wooded site in downtown Sedalia, Missouri, is a two story Greek Revival Building constructed on a cruciform plan measuring 100' along its north and south sides. Along the east and west axes it measures 36' through each wing and 75' through the rear section and portico (see plan). This plan conforms to one of the several ideal schemes which later came to be recommended for Carnegie Libraries (Dobinski, p. 59). The library is constructed of brick bearing walls faced with cream-colored terra cotta over a combination of wood and steel framing on a foundation of concrete with a damp course of two-ply Rubercoid placed 6" above the basement floor. Exterior walls are faced with grey Carthage limestone from 2" below grade to the water table to give the appearance of a stone foundation. The roofs of the central portico and two wings were originally faced with shingle tile but are now covered with a combination of composition shingles and built-up sections. That on the one-story portion to the rear is covered with five plys of tar and gravel (Shepley, et.al.).

Notable design features of the library include its seven-bayed primary facade (ABACABA rhythm) which is punctuated by an open tetrastyle Ionic portico in its central bay. The columns here are constructed of limestone drums and each terra cotta capital is composed of 4 distinct volutes rather than 2 balusters with volute ends. The remaining entablature, pediment, cornices, acroteria, ornamental door surround conches with coquillage embellishment and other decorative features are of cream-colored terra cotta.

The remaining bays on the primary and secondary facades of the library are set off by hybrid surface applied pilasters of vigorous form supporting a fasciated architrave edged with a series of anthemion acroteria. Decorative moldings include water leaf and enriched water leaf which cap the architrave and cornice dentils and the egg and dart on the echini of the capitals and pilasters and edging the coffered ceiling of the portico.

Inside, the basement is the location of the Children's Department, two adult stacks, newspaper and periodical storage, staff lounge, boiler room and restroom. The first floor lobby features floor of Italian white and pink Tennessee marbles with thresholds of American black marble. The main desk and all woodwork, including the columns, conventional Ionic capitals and entablature are of solid stained oak. The enlarged oculus above the lobby gives a view through the second floor to the galvanized iron and glass skylight above. East and west of the lobby, the Reference and Reading and the Magazine Rooms feature ornate mantels faced with intricately designed terra cotta. A closed string oak stairway with turned balusters capped with Ionic capitals similar to those on the Ionic portico, leads to the second floor. Here the lobby is flanked by four pairs of Tuscan columns, and an Ionic balustrade surrounds the central oculus. Above, the architrave is capped with a running spiral which is echoed on the edges of the skylight and elsewhere. All wooden floor surfaces of the first and second stories are of pine, and the library is capped with a partial, unfinished attic.
Major alterations to the Library include the installation of an independent heating plant (ca. 1920), the replacement of the tile roof with composition shingles (1933) and the removal and resetting of a section of wall in the east wing (1933). In addition, in 1955 a $60,000 bond issue was passed to repair cracks in the front wall, to support the foundation under the west wing, to raise one of the three ton columns of the portico which had settled 6" below grade and to complete minor interior repairs. In the 1960's air conditioning was installed, and in 1970-1971 major, but primarily cosmetic, remodeling was carried out inside. In 1974 a burglar alarm system was installed and the foundations further repaired. In July 1976 the exterior of the Library was waterproofed with two applications of an epoxy coating. All joints were cut and filled prior to these applications. At the same time, the foundations and the columns were waterproofed with a silicone solution. In July, 1978 the shingle roofing on the south wing was replaced with the built-up variety.

This building has been in continuous use as a public library since its construction. There are no plans to alter this situation or any part of the building in the foreseeable future.
PERIOD
---PREHISTORIC——ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC
1400-1499——ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC
1500-1699——AGRICULTURE
1600-1699——ARCHITECTURE
1700-1799——ART
1800-1899——COMMERCE
1900——COMMUNICATIONS

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

COMMUNITY PLANNING—LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
CONSERVATION—LAW
ECONOMICS—LITERATURE
ART—ARCHITECTURE
ARCHITECTURE—EDUCATION
ART—ENGINEERING
ARCHITECTURE—EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT
ART—INDUSTRY
COMMUNICATIONS—INVENTION

* 1900—COMMUNITY PLANNING

SOLDIER

ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC—COMMUNICATIONS

SPECIFIC DATES

1900 — BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Shepley, Rutan and Coolidge

STANDARDIZATION

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Sedalia Public Library is significant as the first public library in the State of Missouri to receive a Carnegie grant for construction of a library building (Bobinski, Appendix). In addition, the building subsequently constructed is an outstanding example in this state of the Greek Revival Style and was designed by the noted architectural firm of Shepley, Rutan and Coolidge.

After sporadic attempts at founding subscription libraries and reading rooms, a group of civic-minded individuals, led by Miss Smith and Mrs. Cotton, daughters of the founder of Sedalia, Gen. George R. Smith, conceived the idea of a free public library. The issue was brought before the voters in 1894, but was defeated. In 1895, a second attempt was made and passed this time, making the Sedalia library the fifth oldest public library in Missouri. From 1895-1901 the library was located in the Court House on Ohio Street, where it shared quarters in the basement with the Sedalia Natural History Society. By 1899, the Society complained of being interfered with in their operation. The County Court also became dissatisfied, and asked the Library to move. At this point, D.H. Smith (owner of D.H. Smith Hardware Co., and Director of the Third National Bank) undertook to contact Andrew Carnegie, with whom he had had some business contact. Carnegie agreed to donate $50,000 for the construction of the building, on the conditions that Sedalia would provide a suitable site and an annual maintenance of 8 percent, or $4,000. Sedalia was especially favored because Carnegie usually required an annual maintenance equal to 10 percent of the original grant, which in itself was fairly large for a city the size of Sedalia. A special election was held in February, 1900, to increase the tax levy from one-half mill to one mill, in order to meet the annual maintenance requirement. This levy passed by an overwhelming majority.

The present site was selected from a list of nine, on property owned by Emil and George Bichsel and Frederick W. Phipps. Property owners in the neighborhood contributed $2,500 of the $8,000 purchase price, and on April 1900 the deed was presented to the Library Board. The noted architectural firm of Shepley, Rutan and Coolidge of Boston, successors to the office of H.H. Richardson, was employed, along with their associate, John Lawrence Mauhan of St. Louis. The plans were drawn up in consultation with F.M. Cruden, noted librarian of St. Louis Public Library. On June 14, 1900, the plans were adopted by the Library Board. At the suggestion of Carnegie, the plans were submitted to E.H. Anderson, Librarian at the Carnegie Library in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He suggested free
access to the book stacks, but his suggestion was not adopted for several years. On August 23, 1900 the construction contract for the building was awarded to a local firm, Hurley and Noyer, for $42,333. By cutting expenses to the minimum, the building was erected for the original contract price and dedicated on July 30, 1901. Shortly after its dedication the Sedalia Public Library was noted as an example of the embodiment of the ideals of dignity and refinement as symbolized by the Carnegie Library movement (Morton, nn. 3-10; D.H. Smith, p. 7; McGruder, 233; Koch, pp. 180-181).

Through the years the library has served as a center for community cultural activities and as a meeting place for groups such as the local Garden Club, D.A.R., Sorosis, Historical Society and the Missouri Library Association.
MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES


GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than one

QUADRANGLE NAME: "Sedalia, East"

ZONE EASTING

ZONE NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at the intersection of the South line of Third Street with the East line of Moniteau Avenue, both being streets in the City of Sedalia, thence South along the East line of said Moniteau Avenue one hundred and twenty-two feet and six inches

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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.
from the point of beginning, then East parallel with the South line of said Third
Street Two hundred and seventy eight feet and five inches to the West line of
Kentucky Street, a street in said City, to a point One hundred and twenty-two
feet and six inches South of the intersection of the West line of Kentucky
Street and the South line of Third Street, thence North to the said last named
point of intersection thence West along the South line of Third Street Two
hundred and seventy eight feet and five inches to the point of beginning (north
part of Block 3 of Sarah E. Smith's and Martha E. Martin's First Addition to the
City of Sedalia.
COUNTY: Pettis
LOCATION: 311 West Third St.
Sedalia
OWNER: Sedalia Public Library
ADDRESS: 311 West Third St.
Sedalia 65301
DATE APPROVED BY A.C.: November 9, 1979
DATE SENT TO D.C.: November 26, 1979
DATE OF REC. IN D.C.: December 4, 1979
DATE PLACED ON NATIONAL REGISTER: January 10, 1980
DATE CERTIFICATE AWARDED (AND PRESENTER):
DATE FILE REVIEWED:
Sedalia Public Library is significant as the first public library in the State of Missouri to receive a Carnegie grant for construction of a library building (Bobinski, Appendix). In addition, the building subsequently constructed is an outstanding example in this state of the Greek Revival Style and was designed by the noted architectural firm of Shepley, Rutan and Coolidge.
311 West Third Street, Sedalia, Pettis County, Mo.
Photographer: Sedalia Public Library
July, 1978
311 West Third Street, Sedalia, Mo. 65301
View to southeast of primary facade.
North facade, central bay.
311 West Third Street, Sedalia, Pettis County, Mo.
Photographer: Sedalia Public Library
July, 1978
311 West Third Street, Sedalia, Mo. 65301
North facade, central bay detail.
North facade, central bay, detail of Ionic capital.
Northwest corner of north facade, cornice detail.
View to northeast of rear (south) side.
Interior, first floor, lobby, view to north toward front door from behind desk.

Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, Mo. 65102

Interior, first floor, lobby, view to north toward front door from behind desk.
Interior, view to south of lobby from landing between first and second floors.
Interior, lobby, interior Ionics in northeast corner.
View to east from Magazine Room through Lobby to Reference Room.
August, 1979
Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, Mo. 65102
Interior, second floor, view to east of Lobby and skylight.