

PH 0014150
2/12/72

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

STATE: KENTUCKY	
COUNTY: KENTON	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
OCT 31 1972	

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)



1. NAME

COMMON:
Kenton County Library

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Carnegie Library & Auditorium Building

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
1028 Scott Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Covington

STATE: Kentucky CODE: 21 COUNTY: Kenton CODE: 117

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Library</u> <u>auditorium</u>

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
City Of Covington, Kentucky

STREET AND NUMBER:
Covington City-County Building - 3rd & Court Streets

CITY OR TOWN: Covington STATE: Kentucky CODE: 21

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Covington City-County Building - Assessor's Office

STREET AND NUMBER:
Third & Court Streets

CITY OR TOWN: Covington STATE: Kentucky CODE: 21

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:
COUNTY:
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

OCT 31 1972

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Carnegie Library and Auditorium Building in Covington, Kentucky, is divided into two sections sharing a common exterior wall:

1) The library, fronting on Scott Street, approximately 80' x 80' with a center rotunda, balcony and basement is in sound physical condition and good repair.

2) The auditorium, fronting on Robbins Street, seating approximately 700 people in orchestra and balconies. This section of the building has been closed approximately fifteen (15) years and is in some dis-repair, but is structurally sound and can be renovated.

The building was erected and occupied in 1902 and is in the Neo-classic style of the French Renaissance Revival, typical of the Ecole des Beaux art international taste of the era.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1902

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Theater | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

THE CARNEGIE LIBRARY
AND AUDITORIUM

Between 1886 and 1911, Andrew Carnegie personally gave away some \$40,000,000 to cities in the United States for the construction of public libraries. One of these cities was Covington, Kentucky, whose Carnegie Library and Auditorium Building has served the community unflinchingly since its opening in 1903. The civic and cultural spirit of Covington that was so instrumental in acquiring the library near the turn of the century supported and patronized the library complex for the subsequent 68 years, is now attempting to preserve the usefulness and beauty of the building for the future. The library building has in the past 68 years made an important cultural contribution to the community, not only as an 80,000 volume library but as a gathering and meeting place for every kind of activity, ranging from local productions of Gilbert & Sullivan plays, political rallies, lectures, speeches and church meetings. Its auditorium has heard many great names in history, from the moving dedicatory address by the eloquent W.C.P. Breckinridge in 1903, through William Jennings Bryant and Harry Lee Waterfield, Kentucky's two-time Lieutenant Governor, who was the last person to speak in the auditorium before its closing in 1955.

A new library building is now under construction on another site and the Carnegie Library and Auditorium is threatened with abandonment and demolition.

In an effort to preserve the building as a viable part of the city's cultural life, several citizens have formed the Northern Kentucky Arts Council, which is heading a movement to restore the auditorium and library building for future use as an Arts Center. This proposed center would provide a modernized theatre facility to be used for local and traveling dramatic performances and lecture series, an exhibition hall and museum wherein local artists may display their work, as well as many culturally oriented exhibitions that are available from outside the immediate community at little or no cost, and a centrally located facility for various types of local arts and

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bobinski, George S. - Carnegie Libraries - Chicago: American Library Association, 1969.

(many of the facts in this nomination have been gathered through contact with eye-witnesses and can therefore not be properly documented)

FIELD NO. 21102 2180

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0' 0" 0"	0' 0" 0"		39°	4'	50"
NE	0' 0" 0"	0' 0" 0"		84°	30'	25"
SE	0' 0" 0"	0' 0" 0"				
SW	0' 0" 0"	0' 0" 0"				

UTM
16/715620/
4328410

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than ten

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS
CD

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Ralph B. Grieme, Jr.

ORGANIZATION: The Northern Kentucky Arts Council DATE: 5/26/72

STREET AND NUMBER: 1506 Kavanaugh Street

CITY OR TOWN: Covington STATE: Kentucky CODE: 21

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: [Signature]

Title: State Liaison Officer

Date: July 6, 1972

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

[Signature]
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 10/31/72

ATTEST:

[Signature]
Keeper of The National Register

Date: 10-30-72

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE		KENTUCKY
COUNTY		KENTON
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	
OCT 31 1972		

(Number all entries)

#8 - Statement Of Significance (cont'd)

crafts workshops for the citizens of Covington.

The Northern Kentucky Arts Council, working closely with the Kentucky Arts Commission and other agencies, has initiated an investigation into possible funding sources for this endeavor and preliminary indications are promising.

The library auditorium building is located with the jurisdiction of the Covington Model Cities Program area, and the Model Cities Program has already financed a Feasibility Study for the necessary renovation and also paid for roof repairs in the auditorium to prevent further deterioration.

Since the proposed Art Center would have great cultural impact within the Model Neighborhood, there may be additional monies available from this program in the future.

There are many architectural features that also speak for the preservation of this Carnegie Library Building. The following remarks by architect, Edward J. Beiting, Jr., President, Northern Kentucky Section, American Institute of Architects:

"The Carnegie Library and Auditorium Building in Covington has been a long and faithful servant to the people of the community. The building is capable of giving many more years of service in its new role as an Arts Center. It's demise would represent not only a great historical and architectural loss to the city, but a detriment to the continued cultural growth of its people."

(See the attached narrative)

Also see the attached narrative of George F. Roth, Jr., AIA.



ARCHITECT'S NARRATIVE
ON THE
CARNEGIE LIBRARY - AUDITORIUM BUILDING
Covington, Kentucky
Prepared by Edward J. Beiting, Jr., A.I.A.

The Carnegie Library-Auditorium Building, dedicated in 1903, was authorized by a Carnegie Grant in the amount of \$85,000.00 on January 15, 1900, and designed by local architects, Bohl and Taylor of Cincinnati, Ohio.

This was one of the early grants made personally by Andrew Carnegie, and was one of only 12 made in that year. From the inception of the Carnegie grants in 1886 to 1900, there were only 36 libraries authorized. By 1919, the year of the last grant, there were 1,679 Carnegie Libraries erected throughout the United States. By 1911, the Carnegie Foundation made the grants and the plans were strictly controlled, based on James Bertram's "Notes on Library Buildings", who administered the program. These "Notes" did not permit any auxiliary uses or structure to be incorporated into the Library building.

The Carnegie Library for Covington is unique in this respect, as it has a full scale auditorium designed for the cultural uses of the Community.

The architecture of the building is an excellent example of late American Renaissance, which incorporated the central domed rotunda, Ionic colonnades, pedimented entranceways, and architraves containing sculptured figures. Its heavy dentiled cornice, ornate Ionic column capitols and framed windows are probably most reminiscent of the English Renaissance period of architecture.

The library section of the building has been well maintained and kept in continual use since its dedication in 1903. Structurally, it is in excellent condition and should remain so for many years. /

The Auditorium section has not been in use since 1955, and is in great need of repairs and restoration. It, too, is crowned with a dome, but of lesser architectural importance than the dome and rotunda of the Library. The balconies are framed by huge ornamental elliptical plaster arches, which clearly define the three seating areas. Seating on the ground floor accommodates 500, while the balconies seat 280 persons. Acoustically, this auditorium rates as one of the best in the area. This has been certified to by Mr. Peter Wingate, New York theater consultant, retained recently to evaluate the Auditorium's future use.

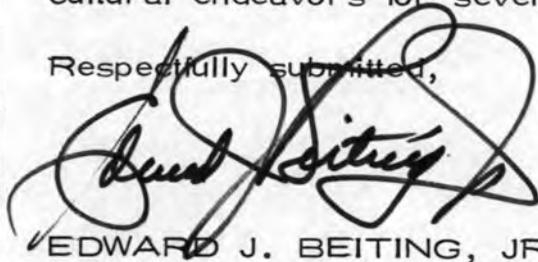


Architect's Narrative
on the
Carnegie Library-Auditorium Building
Covington, Kentucky

Page 2.

In summary, it is my recommendation that the building is most worthy to be preserved as an historical and architectural monument of the early Carnegie Library era and is well suited to serve the community for its cultural endeavors for several generations to come.

Respectfully submitted,



EDWARD J. BEITING, JR.



ARCHITECT'S NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION AND STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This Library and Auditorium Building of Covington, Kentucky is one of the better design examples of the great cultural and humanitarian projects of the Carnegie Foundation which, in the earlier years of the program, obtained architectural design services from well trained practitioners of the regions where the structures were located. This building is the work of Bohl and Taylor, Architects of Cincinnati, Ohio and one of the designers was Albert Kuball whose delineation of the original concept is attached hereto.

In both plan and exterior facades the design is an excellent example of the Neo-French Renaissance which came to America via the Ecole des Beaux Arts to which school many of our young architects looked for design concepts and architectural taste. It remains the only complete and good example of this type of design and cultural reflection in this area of Northern Kentucky and Southern Ohio. It is safe to assert that many other Carnegie projects do not enjoy the same clarity of plan and structural integration, such controlled refinement of details and sculptural ornamentation.

The Library unit, domical with supporting piers placed to permit well formed galleries and entrance areas; a second level which permits the full spatial experience of the building; has been for years the cultural center of the community it has served, and continues in this capacity even with the later concepts of decentralization of library facilities to school buildings. The Auditorium is typically French in its positioning of spectator and stage. The interior provides a comfortable intimacy with the proscenium, and acoustically has been judged superior. Renovation is intended but loss of original character is not necessary. Seven hundred and eighty seats are placed in this auditorium, a capacity which will upon completion of repairs be most effective in contemporary community service.

It is the writer's opinion that this building must not be lost and should be registered as a historic landmark of considerable cultural and artistic importance in the history of Northern Kentucky.

George F. Roth, Jr. AIA
Registered in Kentucky No. 271
NCARB No. 0466



PROPERTY (Carnegie) KENTON COUNTY LIBRARY STATE Ky.



Working number 7.17.72.1069

TECH REVIEW
Photos 4 7
Maps 1

REVIEW *The information requested on the resubmission sheet has been sent by the SLO.*

10/27/72

HISTORIAN

OK Chamberlain 9/27/72

ARCHEOLOGIST

ARCHITECT

OK Chamberlain 9-27-72

BRANCH CHIEF

OK Chamberlain 10/30/72

EDITORIAL REVIEW *Shouldn't we have at least one recent photo? no title or date for SLO.*

Rowland 9-28-72

KEEPER

10/30

National Register write-up _____
Federal Register entry 12-5-72

Acknowledge 7/27/72
Send-back _____
Re-submit _____
Register no. OCT 31 1972

The attached National Register Inventory-Nomination form is being returned to your office for clarification of the information indicated below.

- 1. Name. _____
- 2. Location. _____
- 3. Classification. _____
- 4. Owner of Property. _____
- 5. Location of Legal Description. _____
- 6. Representation in Existing Surveys. _____
- 7. Description. _____
- 8. Statement of Significance. _____
- 9. Bibliography. _____
- 10. Geographical Data.
 - a. Longitude and Latitude Coordinates. _____
 - b. Acreage. _____
- 11. Form Prepared By. _____
- 12. Certification. Type in Mr. True's title and the date of his signature.
- Photographic Coverage. We need one or more photos showing the present situation of the bldg -- with photo frames
- Map Coverage. _____
- Other. #12 cont. Do not use the name of the new S&O unless you redo the entire farm.

Clarification or correction of the above items must be made prior to the initiation of our professional review. Correction of these technical errors does not necessarily insure that the nomination will then satisfy National Register criteria in full.

Thank you for your attention to the above items checked.

SIGNED: [Signature]















NPS Number Oct 31 1972

Title: Covington City Library

The Andrew Carnegie Lib. & Aud

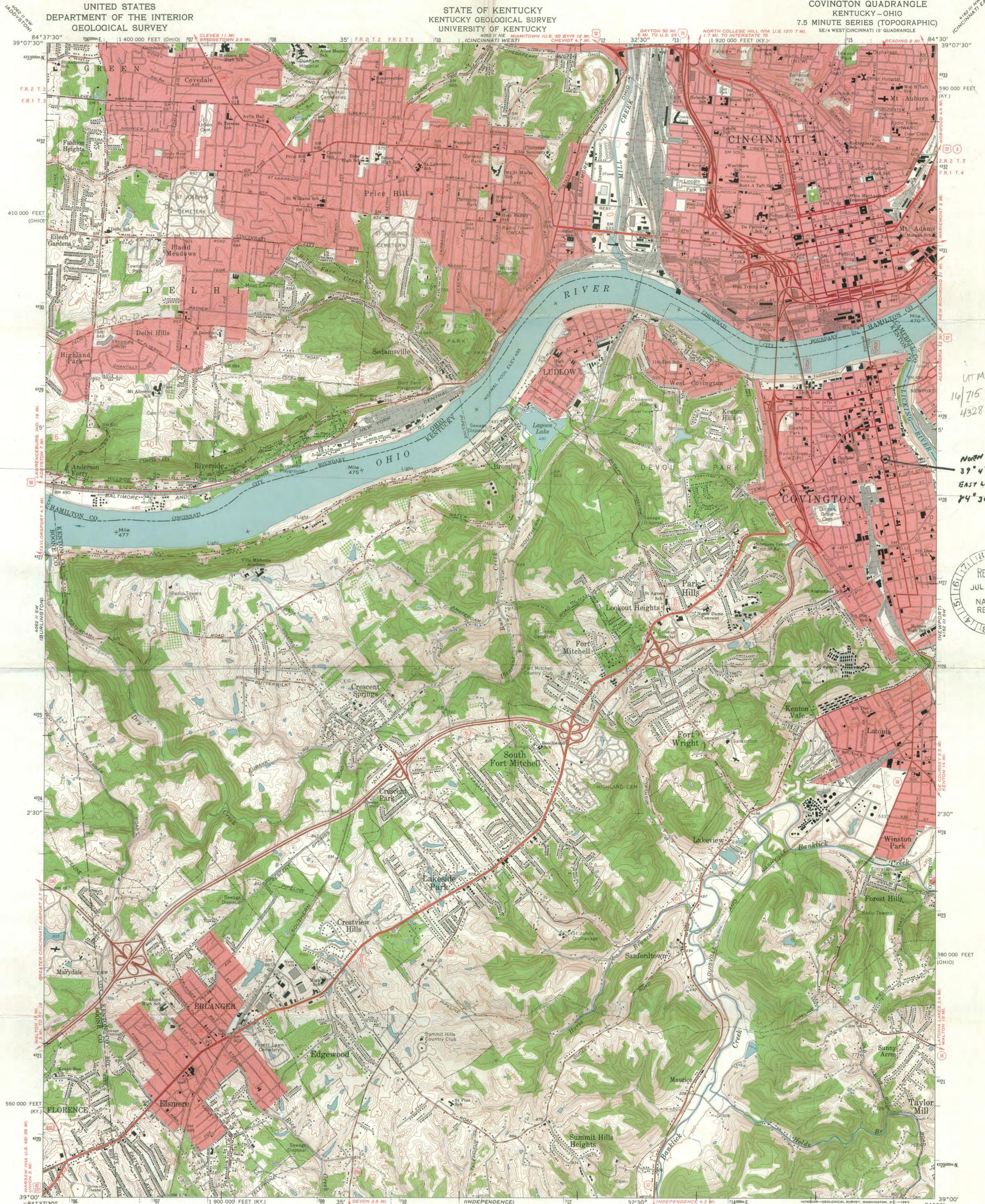
Loc. Covington, Kentucky (4)

Scott
bud



CARNEGIE LIBRARY AND AUDITORIUM OF COVINGTON

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

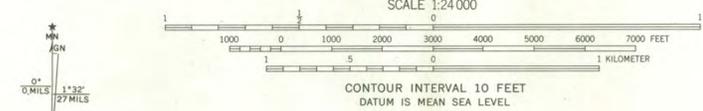


UTM
16/715 620/
4328 410
CD

NORTH LATITUDE
39° 4' 50"
EAST LONGITUDE
84° 30' 25"



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USCGS, USCE, and the City of Cincinnati
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1949, and in part by the City of Cincinnati
Field checked 1950 and 1953. Revised 1961
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grids based on Kentucky coordinate system,
north zone, and Ohio coordinate system, south zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 16, shown in blue
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked
The state boundary as shown represents the approximate position of the
low water line as determined from U.S. Corps of Engineers
Ohio River charts, surveyed 1913 and 1914, and supplementary information
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
Ohio area lies within the Between the Miamis. Land lines based on the
Great Miami River Base. Dotted land lines established by private
subdivision of the Symmes Purchase



SCALE 1:24,000
CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON 25, D. C.,
KENTUCKY GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY,
AND KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt - - - - -
Interstate Route U.S. Route State Route

COVINGTON, KY.—OHIO
SE 1/4 WEST CINCINNATI 15' QUADRANGLE
N3900—W8430/7.5
1961
AMS 4062 II SE—SERIES V853



Kentucky
Program Development Office
The Capitol
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

Wendell H. Ford
Governor

July 6, 1972

Dr. William J. Murtagh, Keeper
National Register of Historic Places
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
1100 L Street, N.W.
Room 3209
Washington, D. C. 20005



Dear Dr. Murtagh:

I am pleased to transmit National Register Nomination Forms for the Kenton County (Carnegie) Library, Covington, Kentucky. This nomination has the unanimous approval of the Kentucky Historic Preservation Review Board, and as State Liaison Officer, I recommend that it be placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

An early approval of this nomination will be appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

L. W. True
Administrator

Enclosure





Kentucky Heritage Commission

401 Wapping Street

Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

Mr. Jerry Rogers
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
United States Department of the Interior
1100 L Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20005



Dear Mr. Rogers:

We are pleased to return the National Register Nomination Forms for the Kenton County Library, Covington, Kentucky, and to provide the information requested by you. Mr. True's title and the date have been typed in at number twelve on the form. A current photograph of the building is enclosed on top of the material we are returning.

We trust that this nomination can now be expediently approved. If we can be of further help, please let us know.

Sincerely,

Charles E. Parrish
Assistant Director

October 10, 1972

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE KENTUCKY

Date Entered OCT 31 1972

Name

Location

Kenton County Library

Covington
Kenton County

Also Notified

Hon. John Sherman Cooper
Hon. Marlow W. Cook
Hon. Marion G. Snyder

Director, Southeast Region

PHR NRowland:mm 10/31/72

State Liaison Officer
Mrs. Simeon Willis
Executive Director
Kentucky Heritage Commission
Office of the Governor
Room 157, Capitol Building
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

Mr. Beiting's Credentials include:

- Past Director - Kentucky Society of Architects
- Former Chairman - Northern Kentucky Area Planning Commission
- Member - Kentucky Historical Society
- Recipient - First Honor Design Award of American Institute of Architects

