## United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received SEP 1 5 1988

date entered

See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms Type all entries—complete applicable sections

## 1. Name

nistoric	Palestine Carne	gie Libra	ary					
and/or comm	non Carnegie	Building	g					
2. Lo	cation						1.2	-
street & num	nber 502 Nort	h Queen s	Street			N/A_not	for publication	n
city, town	Palestine		N/Av	icinity of				
state	Texas	code	048	county	Anderson		code 001	
3. Cla	assificati	on						
Category district X building structur site object			Accessib X yes: r	cupied in progress le	Present Use agriculture commercial X educational entertainme X government industrial military	ent	museum park private resider religious scientific transportation other:	
4. Ov	vner of P	opert	y			4 A		
name	City of Palesti	ne				1. 3 . A. A.	1355	
street & num			reet		1. A		2	
city, town	Palestine			icinity of	S	tate Te	exas 75801	
5. Lo	cation of	Lega	I Des	criptio	n			
courthouse	registry of deeds, etc	Anders	son Count	ty Courthou	ise		3 - 1	
street & num	Courth	ouse Squa		-			14	
city, town	Palest	ine			s	tate Texa	IS	
	presenta	tion i	n Exi	sting S	urveys			
	ed Texas Histor				erty been determin	ed eligible?	yes	X no
date 1970		ic handline	IIK	nus uns prop		state	100	local
	or survey records	Texas H	istorical	l Commissio				

Austin

# 7. Description

Condition		Check one	Che
excellent	deteriorated	unaltered	X
_X good	ruins	_X_altered	
fair	unexposed		

Check one X original site moved date N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Palestine Carnegie Library is prominently sited at the edge of the central business district of the East Texas city of Palestine. The structure is on a large, flat, wooded lot and faces west. The Library's brick exterior features elements of classical and Prairie School influences, and has retained its historic integrity to an unusual degree. The interior maintains its Palladian motifs in varnished wood and high ceilings clad in decorative pressed metal.

The Carnegie Library is a T-plan, 1-story building constructed on a raised basement. The entrance facade is five bays wide. The central front doors are modern, but are surmounted by a wide architrave and round-arch transom in corbelled brick. The flanking four window bays extend the detailing of the central bay. Each window is double hung, and the major panes of glass have a border of smaller panes on the sides and rounded tops. A central stuccoed stairway leads to the front door, and has side stairs descending to the basement. Basement windows (some blocked) with surrounds now faced with concrete are placed below the main floor windows; the surrounds continue as a band at ground level around the perimeter of the structure.

The north and south elevations of the building are mirror images. Single windows similar to those in front are found at the outside ends and west faces of the main block. The sides of the back wing, however, have four small versions of the large windows on what reads from the exterior as a second floor, and complimentary rectangular windows below. The east end has a single large window. Basement windows generally are found at the same intervals as the upper windows. The Library is surmounted by a very low-pitched hip roof which terminates in an unusually wide, bracketed overhang. The soffits are detailed with X-patterns in stripwood between decorative sawn brackets.

The interior of the main block is divided into three rooms, a center entrance hall and two large, square-plan reading rooms at each side. These rooms, each the equivalent of a full two stories in height, feature handsome round-headed doorways of wood, which are aligned with and are the same size as the the north and south round-headed windows. The doorway arches supported by wooden doric columns on pedestals below form a modified Palladian arch, perhaps adapted from Palladio's Basilica (1549) at Vicenza. A corresponding wooden entablature continues around the perimeter of the rooms, contrasting with light plastered walls. Handsome pressed metal ceilings are found throughout the main floor.

The rear wing is entered from the entrance hall through a small hallway flanked by a three-run staircase leading to the basement on the north and a

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small office on the south. A smaller 2-story reading room is found at the east end of the rear wing; the two-tiered windows hint that a second level of stacks might have been intended for the space, but none were ever built. Original doors on the ground floor generally have five horizontal panels, although double 6-panel doors are found between the back hall and east reading room.

A large lecture room fills the basement of the main block; the typical Texas public library of the period had a second floor lecture room instead. Its shallow stage is at the west end of the rear wing. Stair and service facilities are found in the remainder of this portion of the building.

The grounds of the Library are well-landscaped and have fully mature trees. Two English red cedar, three Southern red oak, two water oak and four pecan trees are apparently those planted at the direction of the City Council in 1913. **United States Department of the Interior** National Park Service For NPS use only **National Register of Historic Places** received **Inventory**—Nomination Form date entered 7 2 Item number Page Continuation sheet From A Survey of Texas' Carnegie Libraries by John D. Sebastian (1981) 5 3 5 Legend Anteroom 1 2 Clubroom 3 Entry foyer . 4 Lecture room . **1st Floor** 5 . Main reading room 6 Minor reading room . 7 Restroom 8 . . Staff room 9 . Stage 10 . . Stage-related room 11 . . Stairhall 12 . Storage ( Spaces not measured (sometimes spaces have been remodeled into smaller rooms not detailed) 12 Original Structure 8 Additions 9 25 ..... 0 5 10 15

Basement

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OMB NO. 1024-0018 Expires 10-31-87

# 8. Significance

prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 1700–1799 1800–1899 X 1900–	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric archeology-historic agriculture X architecture art commerce communications		landscape architecture law literature military music philosophy politics/government	religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)
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Specific dates 1913-1914

Builder/Architect J.F. Rountree/C.C. McKim

#### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Palestine Carnegie Library is one of the most architecturally distinctive historic libraries in Texas, and it fulfilled its original purpose for almost three-quarters of a century. It is one of 12 remaining Carnegie Library buildings in Texas out of the 32 or so once standing. Most other early 20th century libraries in Texas were designed in Beaux Arts-influenced styles, but the Palestine library design manipulated those influences into in a notable Prairie School mode. The building now houses Chamber of Commerce, Main Street and Economic Development offices, but it nonetheless retains its integrity to an unusual degree.

The antecedents of the Palestine Carnegie Library go back to the early days of Palestine. The city was founded in 1846 as county seat of Anderson County and named by the Parker family (of whom Indian captive Cynthia Ann was the most famous member) for their earlier home, Palestine, Illinois. By 1852, Mr. John Graham Gooch had made his personal library, then housed in a room in the Masonic School, available to friends, neighbors and the public at large. A marble cornerstone found during the demolition of an old building in 1956 notes the formal incorporation date of a Palestine Public Library as April 13, 1882. But the most direct forbear of the Palestine Carnegie Library appears to be the Self-Culture Club of Palestine, which began sponsoring the public library in the 1890s. This and other Palestine women's clubs soon became part of the Texas Federation of Women's Clubs, which strongly supported the creation of a free library system in Texas. In 1900, the city gave the ladies permission to use two rooms in City Hall for a library, and by 1910 a library association was formed and funded with a \$300 annual appropriation from the City.

Shortly thereafter, the Carnegie Corporation of New York was contacted for a grant for the construction of a new library building in Palestine. In December, 1912, the Palestine City Council agreed to purchase a 100' x 154' lot at the corner of Queen and Crawford Streets,

...upon which is to be erected and constructed the Carnegie Library Building and to appropriate a certain sum of money out of the general revenue of the said city for the maintenance and support of said library and improvement to be made thereon...to be named, designated, and known as the Carnegie Public Library provided the Carnegie Library Corporation of New York donates, contributes and pays to the City of Palestine

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

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

(see continuation sheet)

10. Geographical Data	I	
Acreage of nominated property <u>less than on</u> Quadrangle name <u>Northwest Palestine</u> , Te UTM References	e X. Qu	adrangle scale <u>1:24000</u>
A 1 14 2 5 10 5 12 10 3 15 1 17 0 12 10 Zone Easting Northing	B L L L L L L L L L L L L L L L L L L L	Northing
Verbal boundary description and justification Beginning at the north margin of Craw thence east with the north margin of List all states and counties for properties over	ford Street with the east Crawford Street 154 ft. t (s	o a stake for corner; ee continuation sheet)
	county	code
N/A	No. March 1997	Contraction and the
11. Form Prepared By	county	code
street & number Route 4, Box 119A	telephone 2	14/584-3225
city or town Palestine	state T	exas
<b>12. State Historic Pres</b>	servation Office	er Certification
The evaluated significance of this property within the	e state is:	
national state	<u>X</u> local	
As the designated State Historic Preservation Office 665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in according to the criteria and procedures set forth by State Historic Preservation Officer signature	the National Register and certify t	
itle State Historic Preservation Offi	cer	date 95ept, 1988
For NPS use only		
I hereby certify that this property is included in	n the National Register	
- unda McClellard		date 10/17/88
Keeper of the National Register (		. / '
Attest:		date
Chief of Registration		

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### United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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or some person or committee designated by the City Council... \$15,000. [City Council Minutes, 10 December 1912]

The City thus met the Carnegie Corporation's requirements for land acquisition and a promise of maintenance. Accordingly the Corporation's donation of \$15,000 was made and formally accepted by the City on May 26, 1913. The construction of the Library began shortly thereafter.

The design of the Palestine Carnegie Library is unusual in Texas. Most other Carnegie libraries in the state were designed in variants of the Beaux Arts style, sometimes in rather ponderous interpretations. The Palestine Library and that in Franklin (70 miles to the southwest), however, were among the most progressive designs, certainly of the 12 or so remaining Carnegie libraries. Both follow loosely the design formula employed by famed New York architect Cass Gilbert at the 1910 University of Texas Library (now Battle Hall, National Register, 1970) in Austin, designed two years earlier. The prototype of the Austin library was likely McKim, Mead & White's Public Library in Boston, Massachusetts (1887-1893), which in turn was derived from the Henri Labrouste Bibliotheque Ste. Genevieve in Paris (1845-50). All are symmetrical with oversized, round-headed windows, a piano nobile, and of course a library function. The three Texas libraries differ principally with their distinctive and exceptionally wide overhangs, considered a proper response to a brighter climate. The Palestine and Franklin libraries, however, demonstrate stronger Prairie School influence, particularly in their brick window surrounds, stronger horizontal lines, and general architectural simplicity. The architect of the Franklin Carnegie Library may have been Wayne Patterson of Temple, who apparently had also made a similar schematic design for the Palestine Carnegie Library.

The architect at Palestine, C.C. McKim, was in later years said by Mrs. Theodore Moffitt, the wife of a prominent Palestine architect, to have been from New York. Biographical information on McKim is unfortunately very sketchy; he is not known to have any connection with Charles Follen McKim of McKim, Mead & White fame. He did, however, design a handsome American Foursquare house, still extant, in Palestine for Reagan and Lelia Ferguson in 1914 when he was in town to work on the Library.

The Palestine Carnegie Library was dedicated on 21 October 1914, and in December of that year an ordinance was passed creating a Library Board for the management and supervision of the library. As stipulated in the ordinance, there would be five lady members of the Board appointed to two year terms. All Board

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members were female for 50 years, until the ladies themselves requested the city to change the ordinance to allow the appointment of men.

Prominent citizens connected with the administration of the library include authoress and clubwoman Mrs. Percy V. (Anna Hardwick) Pennybacker (1861-1938) and Miss Mary Kate Hunter (1866-1945), who donated a large collection of Texas books and papers to the library and established a small endowment. Additional benefactions of note were made by or in honor of Congressman Alexander White Gregg (1854-1919) of Palestine, Lt. Col. William St. John Blackshear (1893-1973) of Santa Barbara, California, and the Fort Houston Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

The Palestine Carnegie Library fulfilled its intended purpose for 72 years. The population of Palestine, which had jumped from 2,997 in 1880 to 10,482 in 1910, thereafter grew slowly but steadily to a 1980 figure of 15,948. A consequence is that the Carnegie Library served the needs of the city until overcrowding finally made a replacement facility desirable in the late 1970s. A new library was dedicated in 1986, and the Old Carnegie Library is now used to house the Palestine Chamber of Commerce, the City's Main Street Program and the Economic Development Board. Fortunately, the 1914 library has had few alterations in its long history. The major spaces are largely intact, and even 95% of the original window glass is said to remain. The building has been used continuously for civic, cultural and educational purposes, and while it is no longer used as a library, it retained its historic use longer than most other Carnegie libraries in Texas. The building remains a source of pride and continued enjoyment to the people of Palestine and Anderson County.

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Bibliography continued -

Culp, Paul M., Jr., "Carnegie Libraries of Texas: The Past Still Present", pp. 81-95, Texas Libraries, 1981, v. 43. Ibid., "Carnegie Libraries: The Past No Longer Present", v. 43, pp. 132-144. Dedication of Three Official Texas Historical Markers: Palestine Carnegie Library, September 10, 1970; Sacred Heart Catholic Church and the McClure-McReynolds-Fowler Home, September 13, 1970. Deed Books, 1846-1986, Anderson County Courthouse, Palestine, Texas. Franklin, Drew to Peter Flagg Maxson, letter dated September 25, 1987. Scrapbooks, Ft. Houston Chapter, Daughters of the Republic of Texas, Palestine. Chapter was organized 1927 with Mary Kate Hunter as President; contains miscellaneous clippings. Currently in possession of Mrs. Henry Averitte, State President, D.R.T., 901 Cedar, Palestine. Hunter, Mary Kate, unpublished ms containing historical material on Palestine and Anderson County, Palestine Public Library, Palestine. Interviews: Mrs. Fred E. Felder and other membes of the Palestine Carnegie Library Board from 1940's-1960's; made during 1986-87 by Mrs. Harmon Watts, 204 Juniper Drive, Palestine. Mrs. Harold Woodard, part-time librarian and native of Anderson County, 1953-62; made July 24, 1986 by Mrs. Harmon Watts. Lester, Robert M., Forty Years of Carnegie Giving, Charles Scribners', New York, 1941. Minute Books, Palestine City Council, 1871-1986, City Hall, Palestine. Palestine Daily Herald, July 13, 1926, "Carnegie Library and its History", Palestine, Texas. Palestine Herald Press, June 6, 1953, "History of Carnegie Public Library", Palestine, Texas; April 21, 1982 "Palestine Carnegie Library: 100 Years of Service". Ibid., October 29, 1972, "Magnificent Collection Given Palestine's Carnegie Library", Palestine, Texas. Radoff, Leonard and David Henington, "Community Analysis with Recommendations for Library Development: City of Palestine" (Houston: Library Consultants' Study, 1979). Sebastian, John D., "A Survey of Texas' Carnegie Libraries", 1980-81, Texas Historical Resources Fellowship, Texas Architectural Foundation, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas. Vertical files, Palestine Public Library, Palestine, Texas.

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Verbal Boundary Description continued -

thence north parallel with the east margin of Queen Street 100 ft. to a stake for corner; thence west parallel with the north margin of Crawford Street 154 ft. to a stake in the east margin of Queen Street; thence south with the east margin of Queen Street 100 ft. to the place of beginning.

This site has been associated with the Palestine Carnegie Library since 1913.

#### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Palestine Carnegie Library NAME:

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: TEXAS, Anderson

 
 DATE RECEIVED:
 9/15/88
 DATE OF PENDING LIST:
 9/27/88

 DATE OF 16TH DAY:
 10/13/88
 DATE OF 45TH DAY:
 10/30/88
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 88001944

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N REQUEST: N SAMPLE: Y SLR DRAFT: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N X ACCEPT \_\_\_\_\_RETURN \_\_\_\_\_REJECT \_\_\_\_\_/0/17/88\_DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Out of approximately 32 Carnegie Libraries once existing in Texas, the Palestine Carnegie Library is one of only 12 which remain. Unlike most early 20th century Texas libraries which were ordinarily designed in Beaux Arts -influenced styles, the Palestine Library is significant and unique because of its Prairie School design style.

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept - C REVIEWER Noble REVIEWER Noble DISCIPLINE Historian DATE 10/14/88

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

#### CLASSIFICATION

count \_\_\_\_\_resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

historic current

DESCRIPTION

\_\_\_architectural classification \_\_\_materials \_\_\_descriptive text

SIGNIFICANCE

Period Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

- \_\_\_\_summary paragraph \_\_\_\_completeness
- clarity
- \_\_\_\_applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

BIBLIOGRAPHY	Distant Picture -
GEOGRAPHICAL DATA	<u>14 () 644 6455 6 517</u> 5
acreageverbal boundary d UTMsboundary justific	
ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTAT	
OTHER COMMENTS	Heest - C
Questions concerning this nomination	may be directed to
	Phone
Signed	Date



Photo by Larry Lamely, May 1987; negative on file at Texas Historical Commission, Austin

Front view of entrance and entrance to basement (city hall in background)

Photo 1 of 14



Photo by Larry Lamely, May 1987; negative on file at Texas Historical Commission, Austin

Front steps leading to basement entrance; camera facing north

Photo 2 of 14

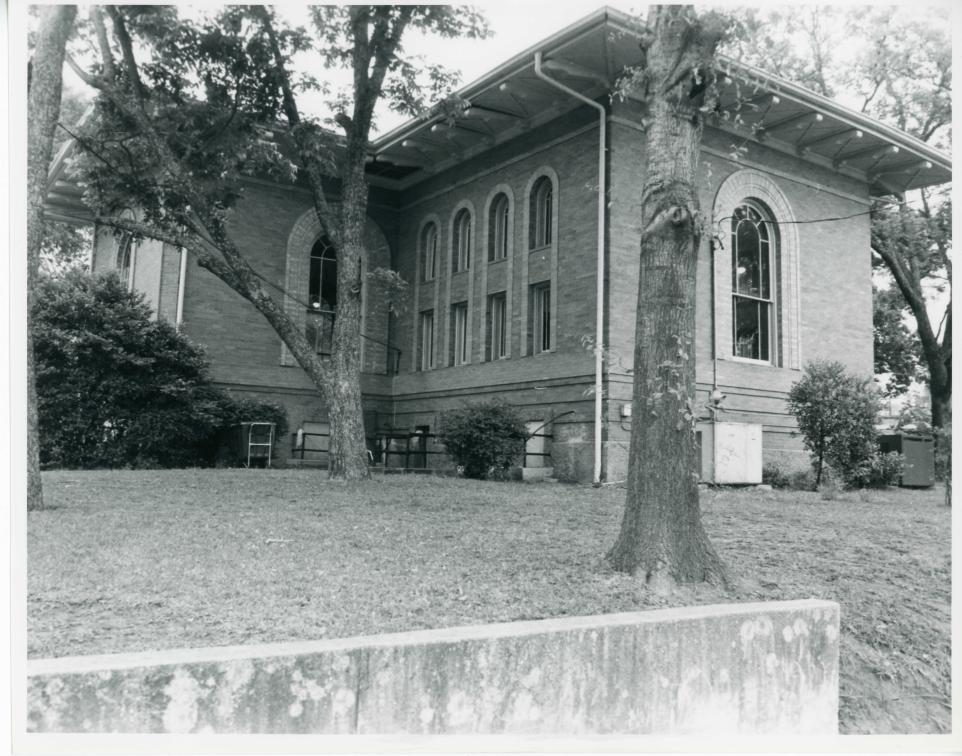


Photo by Larry Lamely, May 1987; negative on file at Texas Historical Commission, Austin

Southeast corner of building; camera facing west Photo 3 of 14



DAX 4

Photo by Larry Lamely, May 1987; negative on file at Texas Historical Commission, Austin

South wall of back room; camera facing north

Photo 4 of 14



Photo by Larry Lamely, May 1987; negative on file at Texas Historical Commission, Austin

North walls of building; camera facing north

Photo 5 of 14



Photo by Larry Lamely, May 1987; negative on file at Texas Historical Commission, Austin

North corner of building; adj. Redlands Hotel (1914) and Sacred Heart Cath. Church (NR): camera facing south/southeast

Photo 6 of 14



Photo by Larry Lamely, May 1987; negative on file at Texas Historical Commission, Austin

Large window on south wall with original glass (72 yrs.); camera facing north Photo 7 of 14



Photo by Larry Lamely, May 1987; negative on file at Texas Historical Commission, Austin

Interior of south wall showing window woodwork and height of ceilings

Photo 8 of 14

# ARNEGIE LIBRARY PALESTINE, TEXAS 1914

BUILDING COMMITTEE A.G.GREENWOOD CHAIRMAN MISS KATE LACEY, SECY.J.C.SILLIMAN MIRS. WM. BRANAGAN G.E. DILLEY MIRS. P. H. HUGHES A.L. HATHCOCK

> ARCHITECT CONTRACTOR C.C.MºKIM J.B.ROUNTREE

A.L.BOWERS, MAYOR HETURNER, R.A.GARNER, JOHN F.WATTS COMMISSIONERS

VITA SINE LITTERIS MORS EST

Photo by Larry Lamely, May 1987; negative on file at Texas Historical Commission, Austin

Bronze plaque (30"x42"), inside wall to right of front door; camera facing south Photo 9 of 14



Photo by Larry Lamely, May 1987; negative on file at Texas Historical Commission, Austin

Looking north across large front rooms and foyer

Photo 10 of 14



Photo by Larry Lamely, May 1987; negative on file at Texas Historical Commission, Austin

Closeup of wooden arches and tops of columns and entry ceiling

Photo 11 of 14



Photo by Larry Lamely, May 1987; negative on file at Texas Historical Commission, Austin

Closeup of pressed metal ceiling in one of front rooms

Photo 12 of 14



Photo by Larry Lamely, May 1987; negative on file at Texas Historical Commission, Austin

Looking down stairwell with outside window at landing; notice wood newel posts

Photo 13 of 14

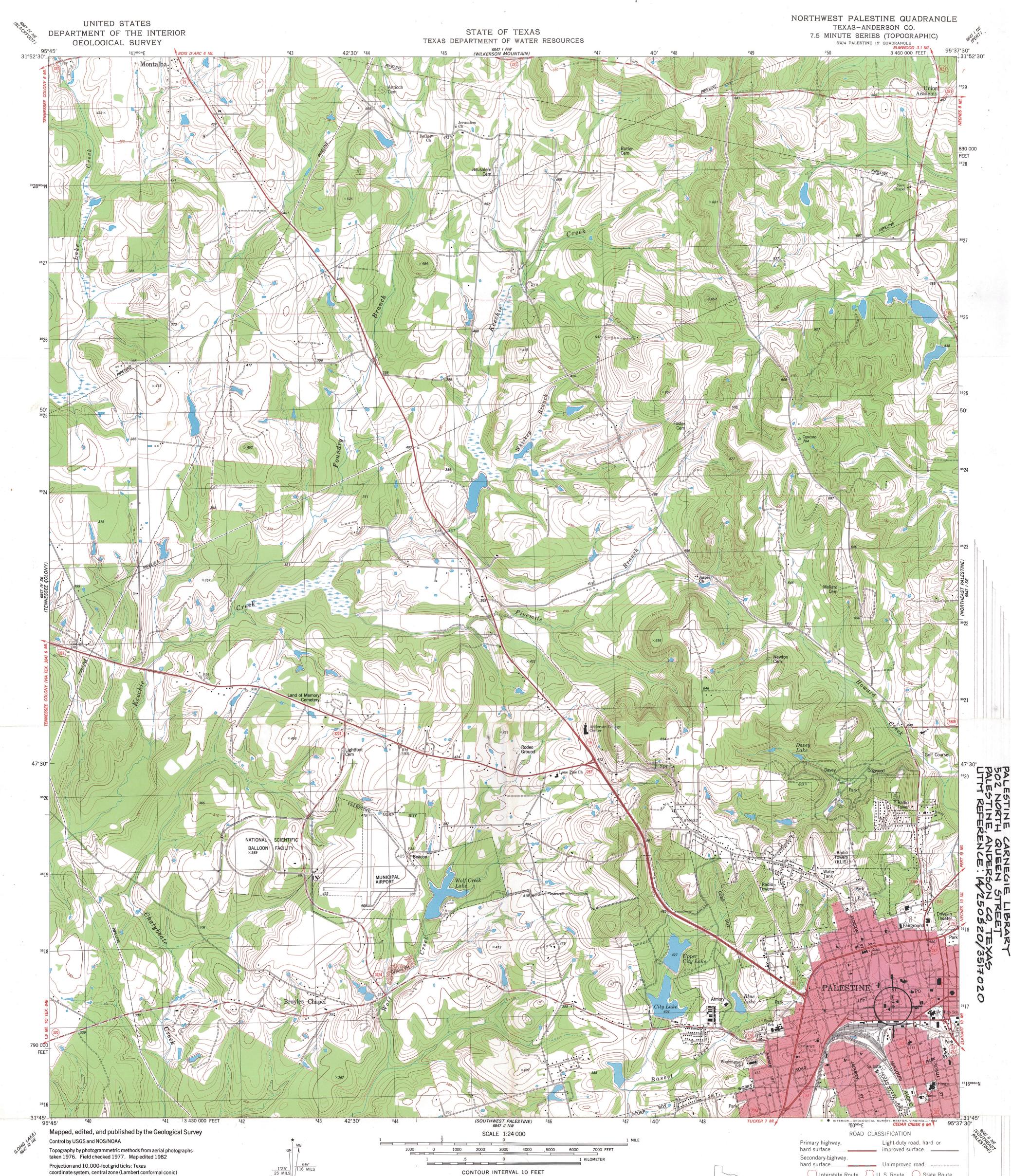


SEP 1 5 1988

Palestine Carnegie Library 502 North Queen Street Palestine, Anderson County, Texas

Photo by Larry Lamely, May 1987; negative on file at Texas Historical Commission, Austin

Looking from back room through foyer toward front door; shows new temporary wall; not attached to ceiling Photo 14 of 14



coordinate system, central zone (Lambert conformal conic) 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 15 1927 North American datum To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983 move the projction lines  $14\,meters\,south\,and$ 23 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks

Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence lines

UTM GRID AND 1982 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

