

Carnegie Library – History

Per a history of the building:

On November 1, 1903, without Carnegie funding, the city of Savannah and the Georgia Historical Society partnered to open a public library on a three year experimental basis. This was the catalyst for the African-American community to rally and debate the need for a public library of their own. The debate lasted over two years and culminated in a meeting on February 26, 1906 that established the Colored Library Association of Savannah.

A newspaper article from 1914 indicated that the association initially went by the name Savannah Library Association.

Andrew Carnegie donated \$12,000 for the construction of the library. A Savannah Tribune from July 6, 1912, also noted that "the city has promised to appropriate \$1,200 per year towards its maintenance if the colored citizens buy the lot and furnish it \$3,000." Fundraising efforts, through means such as subscriptions and formal events, were held to raise the appropriate amount of money.

By May 3, 1913, the lot for the library had been purchased. An article with that date, and published in the Savannah Tribune, provided the following information:

The struggle which the curators had in raising the money to meet Mr. Carnegie's offer was a very hard one and has been waged on for several years. The money was raised by subscription, most of which has been paid. There are many, however, who have not yet paid their pledges and the curators are very anxious to get all the money, so as to meet an indebtedness of one hundred and seventy-five dollars, still due on the purchase price of the lots.

There was an attempt to fundraise \$1,500 to purchase an additional 45' of land. One newspaper article suggested that there initially was not enough money to buy the entire amount of land that was necessary for the structure. It is unclear if the campaign was successful.

The structure was designed by J. De Bruyn Kops. There was some degree of protest about how the architect was selected, though Kops is not called out by name. On June 21, 1913, the Savannah Tribune published an article that provides the following information:

Want All Architects Given a Chance

Protest Against Action of Curators Carnegie Library

Ask that Negro Architects be Allowed to Submit Plans for Building

At a meeting of the Negro Business League last Tuesday night, a set of resolutions was adopted protesting against the action of the curators of the proposed Carnegie library in accepting the bid of one architect for plans and specifications for the proposed building.

The specific portions of the action of the board of Curators, which the league opposes are that but one architect was allowed to send in plans and specifications and that the request of a Negro architect to submit plans and specifications was ignored

The resolutions set forth the fact that almost the entire amount of the money for purchasing the site on which the library is to be built was donated by the colored people of the city and that the action of the curators in refusing to allow a Negro to submit plans and specifications shows unfair and unjust discrimination against the Negro.

The resolutions, which were unanimously adopted, ask that Mr. Andrew Carnegie refuse to accept any plans and specifications that have not been awarded in open competition, and are as follows:

"Whereas, almost entirely through the donations of the colored people of the city of Savannah, a site for the proposed Carnegie Library has been purchased in this city and a building can now be erected through the generosity of Mr. Andrew Carnegie, and

"Whereas, it is currently reported that the Board of Curators for said Library has refused to allow any Negro architect to submit plans for said building, and has selected a white architect to draw plans and specifications for said building without competition from white or colored architects, and believing that such action on the part of the Board of Curators is unfair and unjust discrimination against Negro worth and ability, therefore, Be it

"Resolved, By The Negro Business League of the City of Savannah, Ga., that said Board of Curators be requested to call for plans and specifications from all architects who care to enter into an open competition for said building and that said Board of Curators allow Negro architects to compete in the said drawing of plans and specifications without prejudice on account of color, Be it further

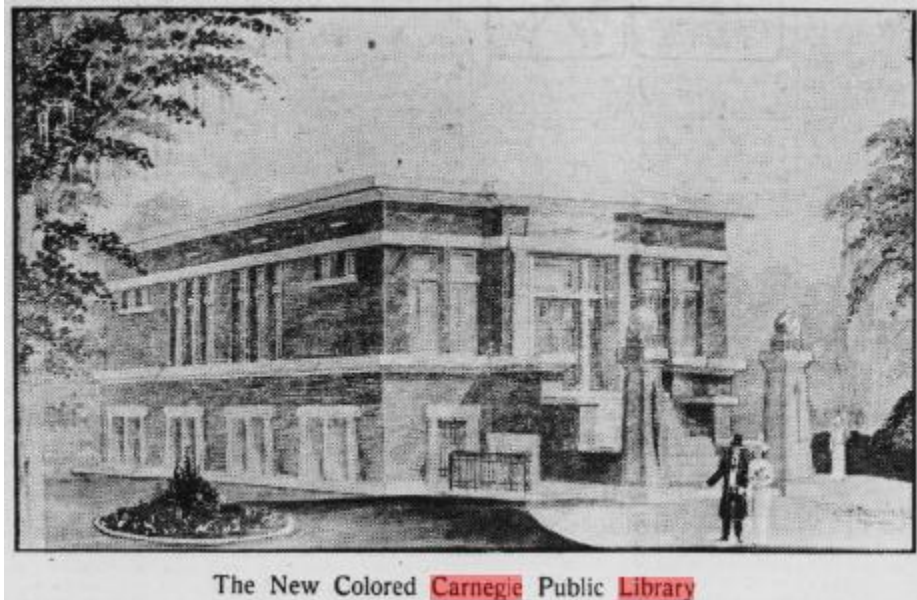
"Resolved, That, a copy of these resolutions be forwarded to Mr. Andrew Carnegie and that he be requested, on behalf of the Colored people of Savannah to refuse to accept any plans and specifications [Sic] that have not been awarded in open competition.

Signed

"A. B. Singfield, President

W. W. Hill, Secretary."

The library opened on August 14, 1914, and was dedicated on August 13, 1914. An article in the Savannah Tribune on August 8, 1914, provided the image below and provided a description of the building:



The building is a two story structure being 60 feet by 35. On the first floor is a lecture room 32 1/2 feet by 41 fitted with movable folding chairs and having a capacity of about 175 persons. This room may be used for fairs, entertainments and other purposes. The furnace room and lavatories are also on this floor.

On the second floor is the library room proper. This room is admirably ventilated and the light is excellent.

The building is constructed of red 1/2 inch brick raked joint with black mortar. The interior wood work is of pine and cypress and the floors of the first story are of cement, those up stairs being of rift pine. The outside wood work is of bronze color and the inside of modern English oak. The walls are of a beautiful bluish tint.

The book cases extend to the rear end of the hall, and the librarians's [sic] desk is near the front entrance. The table and chairs are of fumed oak.

The library would join the Savannah Public Library System in 1963 with desegregation.

By 2000, the building fell into disrepair and had to be temporarily closed. In 2001, the Live Oak Public Libraries and Live Oak Public Libraries Foundation began a capital campaign to renovate and expand the library. Hansen Architects aided with the rehabilitation and with the design of the additions. The library reopened around the 90th anniversary of the library's opening.

A full history from the Live Oaks Public Library can be found [here](#) while a history by the University of Southern Mississippi can be found [here](#). The HABS documentation and history can be found [here](#).

Transcripts of a handful of newspaper articles related to the library have been attached.

Additional Photos and Information



GHS Photo, Undated

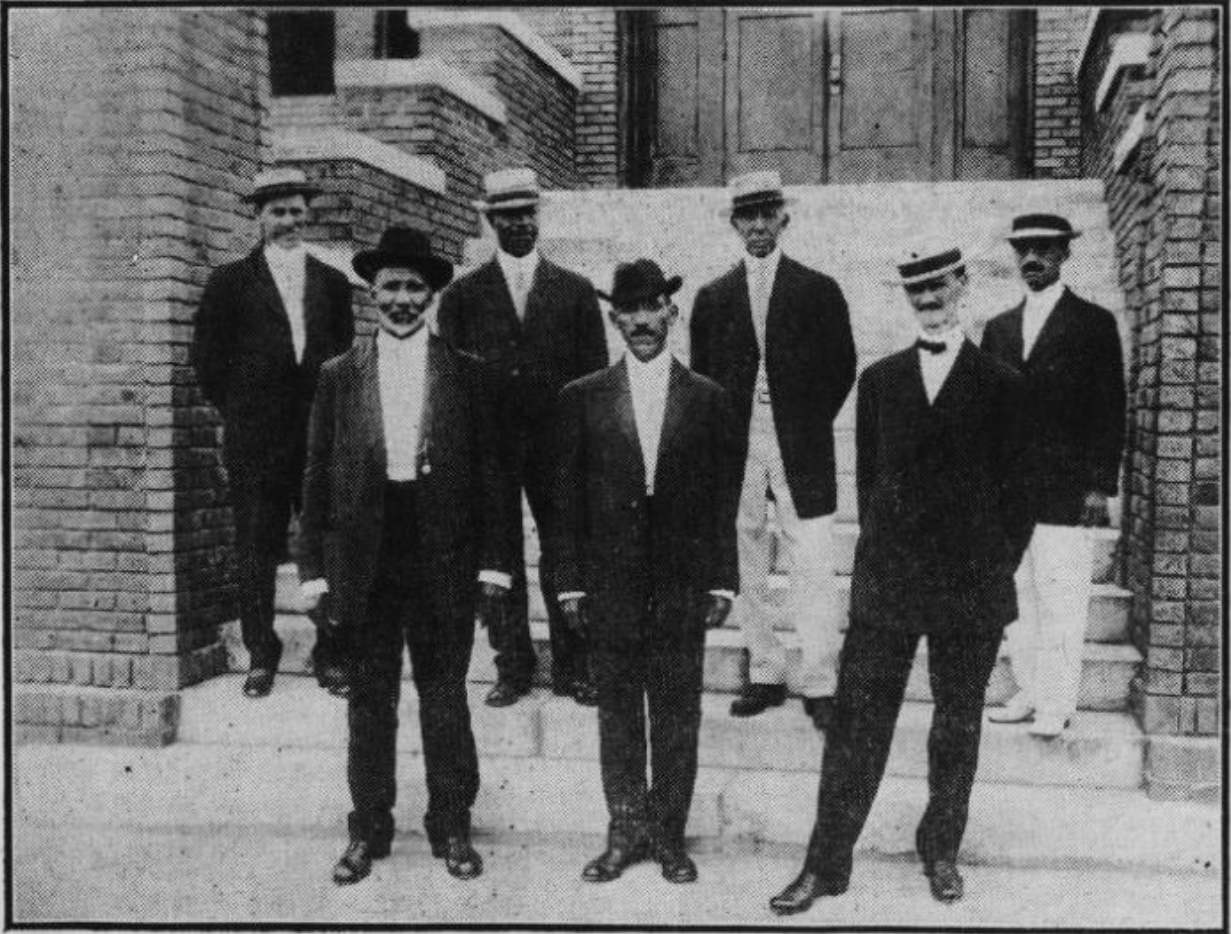
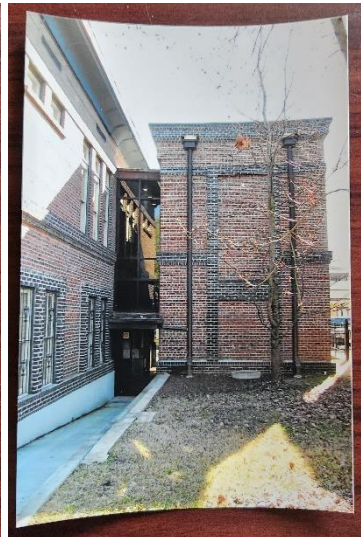
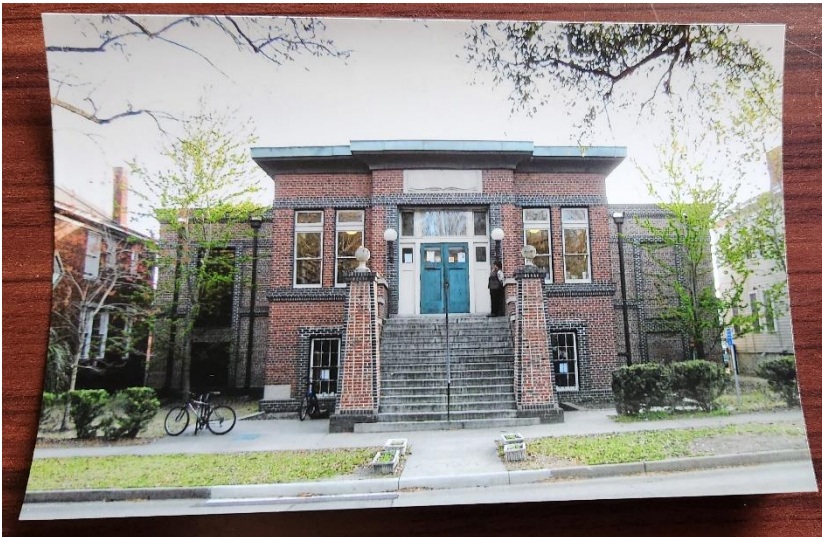


Photo by Johnston

Curators of the **Carnegie Colored Library.**

October 3, 1914, Savannah Tribune



MPC Archives Photos

2014 = 535 E. HENRY ST.

WARD: WARING

NR 2.52

COUNTY: CHATHAM

GEORGIA ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORIC PROPERTIES SURVEY-INVENTORY FORM

I. IDENTIFICATION

PROPERTY NAME: Carnegie Library
STREET ADDRESS: 537 East Henry Street

HISTORIC NAME:
CITY: SAVANNAH

PRESENT OWNER:

MAILING ADDRESS:

CITY:

STATE: ZIP CODE:

CURRENT USE: LIBRARY

ACREAGE:

U.S.G.S. QUADRANGLE

U.T.M. REFERENCE:

V.B.D. OR TAX MAP NUMBER:

LOT NUMBER: 37, 38, 39 Waring

II. DESCRIPTION

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION AND PRESENT CONDITION:

Two story brick structure with low horizontal roof. Entrance approached by long flight of steps. Prairie School style very unusual for the Victorian District.

III. HISTORY

ORIGINAL OWNER: City of Savannah

ORIGINAL USE:

ARCHITECT/BUILDER: J. DeBruyn Kops

HISTORIC ACREAGE:

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1914

DATE(S) OF ALTERATIONS:

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE (FROM ORIGINS TO PRESENT):

Kops was the son of the Consul Netherlands in Savannah and was city engineer.

IV. SIGNIFICANCE

N.R. AREA(S) OF SIGNIFICANCE:

LEVEL:

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL):

This is a significant library built for the Black population of Savannah by the Carnegie Foundation. It is a focal point in the Victorian District today. It faces Dixon Park. Kops needs more research but he also designed structures in Statesboro, Georgia.

V. SOURCES

FORM PREPARED BY: Beth Lattimore Reiter
ADDRESS: P. O. Box 8301
Savannah, Ga. 31412

ORGANIZATION: Historic Preservation Planner
TELEPHONE NUMBER: (912) 232-4403

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS:

SOURCES OF INFORMATION: 1915 New Improvement Book



PHOTOGRAPHER:

DATE:

ROLL NO. V FRAME NO. 4

NEGATIVES FILED:

DIRECTION PHOTOGRAPHER FACING:

USE SPACE BELOW FOR CONTINUATION FROM FRONT, SKETCH PLANS OR MAPS, ADDITIONAL COMMENTS, ETC.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE: NATIONAL STATE COMMUNITY

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE AS TO AN EXAMPLE OF STYLE: EXCEPTIONAL EXCELLENT GOOD FAIR POOR

IMPORTANCE TO NEIGHBORHOOD: GREAT MODERATE MINOR

DESECRATION OF ORIGINAL DESIGN: NONE OR LITTLE MODERATE AMOUNT CONSIDERABLE

PHYSICAL CONDITIONS:

STRUCTURES:	<u>GOOD</u>	FAIR	POOR
GROUNDS:	<u>GOOD</u>	FAIR	POOR
NEIGHBORHOOD:	<u>GOOD</u>	FAIR	POOR
RELATION TO GREEN:	<u>GOOD</u>	FAIR	POOR

43

2014 = 535 E. Henry St.



GEORGIA HISTORIC RESOURCES

Historic Preservation Division
Georgia Department of Natural Resources
57 Forsyth Street, Suite 500
Atlanta, Georgia 30303
404/656-2840

Resource No. CH-S-4845
County Chatham

For instructions, see the Georgia Historic Resources Survey Manual

1 Name(s) of resource

Carnegie Library

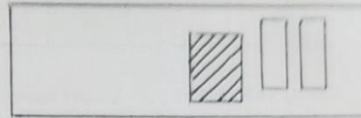
3 Address/location

*537 East Henry Street
Savannah, 31401*

4 Owner's name and mailing address

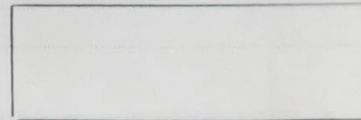
2 Location map with North at top

Henry Street



Price

East Road



Anderson Street

5 Building

Structure

Site

Object

Landscape feature

6 Representative example of building type

Number represented

7 Use, current *library*

original *library*

8 Date of construction (or estimate)

CA. 1914

9 Major changes & date (explain in No.25)

Altered

Moved

Addition

Destroyed

10 Architect/engineer/designer

J. DeBruyn Kops

11 Contractor/builder/craftsman

Unknown

12 Style

Prairie Style - clements

13 Building type

Unknown (insufficient information)

14 Original Floor Plan

irregular - more than two rooms deep

15 Plan shape

rectangular

16 Number of stories

Two

17 Facade symmetry & front door(s)

symmetrical, one door

18 Roof type & material

flat - built-up/tar & gravel

19 Chimney placement & material

no chimney observed - unknown material

20 Type of construction

brick bearing

21 Exterior material(s)

common/American

22 Foundation material(s)

brick continuous

23 Porch(es)

24 Windows

double-hung sash (flat-headed, 1/1, rectangular)

25 Additional physical description

Two story brick structure with low horizontal roof. A projecting entry foyer with non-traditional transom and sidelight door surround is raised on the top level and is approached by a long flight of stairs. Transom over windows.

26 Negatives: roll # *19* frames # *26*



Civic Buildings:

Telfair Hospital (1886):
17 E. Park St.

The Telfair Hospital for women opened in 1886. The building, which was begun in 1884 and completed in 1185 at a cost of \$30,000, was designed by architects Fay and Eichberg. The contractor was B. R. Armstrong.¹¹

National Guard Armory (1913)
1108 Bull St.

Now used by the American Legion, the National Guard Armory building was constructed in 1913 to house the Chatham Artillery.

Carnegie Library (1914):
537 E. Henry St.

The Carnegie public library was built in 1914 to serve the African American community in Savannah using funds from a Carnegie grant. The architect was Julian De Bruyn Kops, who designed the library in the Prairie Style.¹²

Savannah Fire Station #5 (1946):
6 W. Henry St.

The fire house located on Henry Street was constructed in 1946, and is the second oldest fire house in the Savannah Fire Department. It was designed by Walter P. Marshall, AIA of Savannah, Georgia in 1945.¹³

7. **Landscape characteristics of the district**, including streetscapes; front, side, and rear yards; parks and squares; recreation grounds; fields, wooded areas, hedgerows, etc.; and the relationship of these landscape characteristics to the natural terrain and the pattern of land subdivision:

The area now known as the Forsyth Park Extension was originally a military parade ground. The area was added to Forsyth Park in 1867. Originally an un-landscaped sandlot, it exists today as a large, manicured green-space surrounded by large oak trees.

Located on the eastern-most edge of the District, between Duffy Street and Henry Street, is Dixon Park. The original development pattern designed by Oglethorpe, in which each ward has a public square in the center, did not continue south of Gwinnett Street, so the Victorian District does not have the squares that are usually associated with the Landmark District to the north. Other than the Forsyth Park Extension, Dixon Park is the only public green space within the District. The Park, which was created in 1906, is characterized by large shade trees and a children's playground.

¹¹ Jones, Camie S. *Historic Savannah: A Survey of Significant Buildings in the Historic Districts of Savannah*. 3rd Ed. Canada: Historic Savannah Foundation, 2005.

¹² Vertical File: "Carnegie Library."
Savannah morning News. "Carnegie Library: the History." August 2004.

¹³ City of Savannah Research Library & Municipal Archives. Savannah, Georgia. Engineering Department – Retrospective Plans Collection. Item #29.7. "Fire Station No. 5 for City of Savannah, Georgia."

WRITTEN
MAY, 2011

2014 =
535 E. HENRY

GHS MARKER TEXT
(WRITTEN BY GHS IN 2014)

Colored Library Association of Savannah

In 1906, eleven African-American men formed the Colored Library Association of Savannah and established the Library for Colored Citizens. They acquired the original collection from personal libraries and public donations of books and periodicals. In 1913 the Association successfully petitioned the Carnegie Corporation of New York for funds to build a permanent home for the collection. The Carnegie grant program funded construction of thousands of public libraries worldwide. Dedicated in 1914 and completed in 1915, the library was designed by local architect Julian deBruyn Kops and is one of Savannah's few examples of Prairie School architecture. One of only two Carnegie library projects for African Americans in Georgia, this was the home library to James Alan McPherson, Pulitzer Prize-winning short story writer and essayist and Clarence Thomas, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.

TWO SIDE ADDITIONS

- WERE COMPLETED IN 2003.
- RECEIVED A COA IN 2002 (FILE NO. N-020805-487D-2)

Savannah Tribune, May 4, 1912

Carnegie to Build Library for Negroes

Savannah, Ga.-Within the next few days it is expected that the directors of the Savannah colored library will conclude negotiations for a valuable piece of property upon which a Carnegie library building, costing \$12,000, will be erected. The custodians of the Carnegie fund have consented to erect the building under certain conditions. All of these conditions, except obtaining the site, have been complied with. There are a number of prominent white people of Savannah interested in the movement and a sufficient amount to make the purchase of the property will be obtained, it is expected."

Savannah Tribune, July 6, 1912

"This meeting was in interest of the Library Fund. Mr. Carnegie has given \$12,000 for a colored library, and the city has promised to appropriate \$1,200 per year towards its maintenance if the colored citizens buy the lot and furnish it \$3,000. The colored population is enthusiastic over the prospects."

Savannah Tribune, May 3, 1913

Carnegie Library Is Assured

Building Lot Already Purchased

Balance of \$175 00 Due on Lot — Plans for Library Accepted By Curators — All Subscribers Asked to Pay Pledges

The fight to raise a sufficient amount of money among the Negroes of the city to buy a lot on which the Carnegie library will be erected has been won by the curators of the library and it is now but a short time before active work on the building will begin. The library will be erected on Henry street, east, just opposite Dixon park. The lots were purchased sometime ago and is in one of the most desirable neighborhoods in the city.

The struggle which the curators had in raising the money to meet Mr. Carnegie's offer was a very hard one and has been waged on for several years. The money was raised by subscription, most of which has been paid. There are many, however, who have not yet paid their pledges and the curators are very anxious to get all the money, so as to meet an indebtedness of one hundred and seventy-five dollars, still due on the purchase price of the lots.

The following is a letter from Mr. A. L. Tucker, chairman of the board of curators:

Savannah, Ga., Apr. 30, 1913.

Editor Savannah Tribune:

Savannah, Ga.

Dear Sir: Permit me to state through the columns of your paper that the Carnegie library for the Colored citizens of Savannah is an assured fact.

The lot has been purchased, paid for and deeded to the city. The plans for the library building as having been drawn by architect. J. De Bruyn Kops have been accepted by the curators and approved by Mr. Carnegie's representative and now the next thing, which will be done as soon as Mr. Kops can do it, is to draw plans and specifications and call for bids which he informs me that he will proceed to do immediately.

I desire further to state that there is a balance due on the purchase of these lots of \$175.00 which the curators have borrowed individually and paid. Sufficient money has been pledged by the citizens of Savannah to more than make up this deficiency. This statement then, is to inform these good people who have pledged this money that it is needed now to refund this indebtedness of \$175.00.

Trusting that you will see that we need this money and will willingly make good your pledges, I am,

Respectfully,

A. L. Tucker, Chairman.

Board of Curators

Savannah Tribune, June 21, 1913

Want All Architects Given a Chance

Protest Against Action of Curators Carnegie Library

Ask that Negro Architects be Allowed to Submit Plans for Building

At a meeting of the Negro Business League last Tuesday night, a set of resolutions was adopted protesting against the action of the curators of the proposed Carnegie library in accepting the bid of one architect for plans and specifications for the proposed building.

The specific portions of the action of the board of Curators, which the league opposes are that but one architect was allowed to send in plans and specifications and that the request of a Negro architect to submit plans and specifications was ignored

The resolutions set forth the fact that almost the entire amount of the money for purchasing the site on which the library is to be built was donated by the colored people of the city and that the action of the curators in refusing to allow a Negro to submit plans and specifications shows unfair and unjust discrimination against the Negro.

The resolutions, which were unanimously adopted, ask that Mr. Andrew Carnegie refuse to accept any plans and specifications that have not been awarded in open competition, and are as follows:

"Whereas, almost entirely through the donations of the colored people of the city of Savannah, a site for the proposed Carnegie Library has been purchased in this city and a building can now be erected through the generosity of Mr. Andrew Carnegie, and

"Whereas, it is currently reported that the Board of Curators for said Library has refused to allow any Negro architect to submit plans for said building, and has selected a white architect to draw plans and specifications for said building without competition from white or colored architects, and believing that such action on the part of the Board of Curators is unfair and unjust discrimination against Negro worth and ability, therefore, Be it

"Resolved, By The Negro Business League of the City of Savannah, Ga., that said Board of Curators be requested to call for plans and specifications from all architects who care to enter into an open competition for said building and that said Board of Curators allow Negro architects to compete in the said drawing of plans and specifications without prejudice on account of color, Be it further

“Resolved, That, a copy of these resolutions be forwarded to Mr. Andrew Carnegie and that he be requested, on behalf of the Colored people of Savannah to refuse to accept any plans and specifications [Sic] that have not been awarded in open competition.

Signed

"A. B. Singfield, President

W. W. Hill, Secretary.”

Savannah Tribune, July 12, 1913

Carnegie Library Curators Make Appeal

Wish to Raise Additional Fifteen Hundred Dollars

Want 1500 Persons to Give One Dollar Each — Drawing of Building on Exhibition — Bids For Construction of Building To be Called for Soon.

In a letter to the public by the curators of Carnegie library, signed by the chairman, Mr. A. L. Tucker, an appeal is made for fifteen hundred dollars to purchase an additional forty-five feet of ground on which the proposed Carnegie Library may be built.

The campaign for funds for this institution was begun a little over two years ago and the curators of the library have succeeded in raising a sufficient amount of money to pay for just half the number of feet of land on which it was hoped to erect the building, which will be the gift of Mr. Andrew Carnegie.

The site chosen by the board of curators for the erection of the building is on the south side of Henry street, just opposite Dixon Park, and is an admirable spot for an institution of this kind.

It was, and is still, the hope of the curators to purchase ninety feet of land, and have the library erected just midway of this plot, with sufficient space on either side of the building to allow the

building to show up well, to have adequate light from all sides and to be sufficiently far removed from any other building to insure the patrons of the library perfect quiet.

In order to have this aim carried out, the curators would have to raise approximately \$3,000, but to date they have been able to secure only half this amount, and, therefore, the appeal which is made in the following letter is in behalf of the raising of the additional money that is needed by the curators to carry out this original plan.

The drawings, of the building have been on exhibition in Scott Bros', window, West Broad and Gwinnett streets, since Wednesday and have attracted much attention, and it is expected that many who have not yet given any thing to the purchasing of the site for the building will do so shortly. The letter from the chairman of the board of curators reads:

To The Colored Citizens of Savannah.

Please note the drawing of the Colored Public Library in the window of the store of Scott Brothers. That it is creditable it cannot be denied. The plans and specifications have been sent to Mr. Carnegie's representative. As soon as they are approved and returned, bids for actual construction of this building will be called for and it is sincerely hoped that before the Christmas of 1913 the Colored citizens of Savannah will be in the full possession and enjoyment of the facilities of this splendid library building.

But listen: The curators have purchased and paid for 45 feet. The other 45 feet — 22 1/2 feet each on the east and west sides of the building — have not been bought or paid for. It is the desire of the curators that \$1,500 more be raised to purchase these additional 45 feet.

Now after you know the building is a surety and after you know and see what kind of a building it is, will not at least 1,500 Colored citizens, men, women and children—pledge right now and contribute \$1.00 each toward this amount.

This is what the curators desire and this is what the Colored citizens of Savannah ought to do. Will you not do this right now so that this ground can be purchased? You may give your contributions or your pledges to any one of the curators.

I start the movement by pledging \$25.00.

Sincerely,

A. L. Tucker, Chairman.

Savannah Tribune, November 8, 1913

Editor of The Tribune,

Dear Sir; Please, allow me space to say that Mr. E. W. Houstoun has been selected by the Board of Curators of the Carnegie Library to collect sufficient funds to pay for the two strips, 22 1/2 feet each on both sides of the site on which the library is to be erected.

Mr. Houstoun is too well known in Savannah to need any introduction. He is already succeeding admirably. The Curators ask for him the most cordial, courteous and liberal treatment. Again in behalf of the Curators thanking those who have already contributed,

I am respectfully,

H. Pearson, Sec'y

Board of Curators.

Savannah Tribune, January 24, 1914

Carnegie Library Building To Be Ready July 1

Contract for Building Given Monday

Building to be Erected on Henry street, Opposite Dixon Park —Campaign for Additional Fund of Fifteen Hundred Dollars Still on

Information of much importance to the Negroes of the city was given out this week when it was learned that the contract for the Carnegie Library for Negroes was given out and that the building is to be ready for occupancy by July first.

It was through the liberal donation of \$12000.00 by Mr. Andrew Carnegie that the library was made possible. This amount is to be expended for the erection of the building.

The library will be situated on the south side of Henry street, opposite Dixon Park. The land on which the building is to be erected was purchased by subscriptions among the Negroes and kindly disposed whites of the city.

The curators of the library have already purchased 45 feet of land, which is in the center of three lots, and are hoping to secure \$1500.00 more with which to buy the additional 45 feet, upon which they have an option.

The placing of the building the center of the 90 feet of land will allow the library a very advantageous position both from the stand point of light and beauty.

Savannah Tribune, March 7, 1914

Carnegie Library Ready July 1st

Work On Foundation of Building Finished Last Week

Will be One Best Appointed Negro Library Buildings in the Country—Much Interest

Being Manifested in Erection Of Building

About July first the Negroes of this city will be in possession of one of the best appointed public libraries in the country, the Carnegie Library, for the erection of which Mr. Andrew Carnegie gave \$12,000.00.

For the maintenance of the library the city will appropriate \$12,000.00 a year.

The foundation of the library was completed last week and the framing for the basement windows was being placed in yesterday.

Much interest is being manifested in the erection of the library and the building when completed will fill a much needed place in the community.

Savannah Tribune, August 8, 1914

Carnegie Library Dedication Thursday Afternoon

Professor S. A. GRANT To Deliver Address

New Library Was Turned Over to Curators This Week — Many Visitors Inspect Building— Building Very Conveniently Appointed.

The new Colored Carnegie Library, which is located on Henry street, east, opposite Dixon park, is completed and has been turned over to the curators.

The building is one of the most beautiful and best appointed edifices of the kind which Negroes have at their disposal in any portion of the South. It was made possible by a gift of \$12,000.00 from Mr. Andrew Carnegie, the land having been purchased with money raised by popular subscription from Negroes and charitable white friends in the city.

The building is a two story structure being 60 feet by 35. On the first floor is a lecture room 32 1/2 feet by 41 fitted with movable folding chairs and having a capacity of about 175 persons. This room may be used for fairs, entertainments and other purposes. The furnace room and lavatories are also on this floor.

On the second floor is the library room proper. This room is admirably ventilated and the light is excellent.

The building is constructed of red 1/2 inch brick raked joint with black mortar. The interior wood work is of pine and cypress and the floors of the first story are of cement, those up stairs being of rift pine. The outside wood work is of bronze color and the inside of modern English oak. The walls are of a beautiful bluish tint.

The book cases extend to the rear end of the hall, and the librarians's [sic] desk is near the front entrance. The table and chairs are of fumed oak.

The dedicatory exercises will take place on Thursday afternoon August 13th at 5:30 o'clock, Prof. S. A. Grant of Georgia State College, delivering the address.

Savannah Tribune, August 15, 1914

Colored Carnegie Library Dedication Draws Large Crowd

The dedicatory exercises of the Colored Carnegie Library, Henry street, east, were attended by a very large and representative crowd. The principal address of the afternoon was delivered by Prof. S. A. Grant and was very commendable. Music for the occasion was rendered by the First

Congregational Church choir. Mr. A. L. Tucker, chairman of the board of curators for the library, presided at the exercises. The board was very much pleased with the attendance at the opening exercises and wishes to thank the public for their generous support of the movement [sic] which made the library possible.

Savannah Tribune, October 13, 1914

History of the Carnegie Colored Library

The Library Association was organized February 26th, 1906, at 22 State street, west, under the name of the Savannah Library Association.

The board of curators was composed of A. L. Tucker, Dr. F. S. Belcher, J. W. Armstrong, E. E. DesVerney, G. W. Jacobs, R. W. Gadsden and H. Pearson.

Officers, A. L. Tucker, president ; E. E. Des Verney, vice-president ; C. A. R. McDowell, secretary ; J. W. Armstrong, treasurer.

The following changes have occurred in the personnel of the board. In 1906 Mr. Gadsden resigned and was succeeded by Dr. S. P. Lloyd. In 1907 Mr Armstrong died and was succeed as curator by Mr. McDowell, the secretary and librarian and as treasurer by Mr. DesVerney. In 1908, H. Pearson was elected secretary. Dr. J. H. Bugg, Messrs S. C. Johnson and D. J. Scott, appointed by the mayor to represent the city, were added to the board.

In 1909, Dr. Lloyd died and Dr. Bugg removed to Virginia, thus making two vacancies in the board. The curators selected Mr. L. G. Middleton to succeed Dr. Lloyd. The mayor has not appointed Dr. Bugg's successor.

In 1908 Mr. Andrew Carnegie of New York City, agreed to give \$12,000.00 to erect the library building, if a suitable site was purchased and the city council agreed to appropriate \$1,200 per annum for the maintenance of the library. Both conditions were complied with and the building was erected in 1914 and dedicated August 13.

In 1914 Mr. McDowell resigned as curator and librarian, Mr. Deserney was chosen to succeed him as librarian.

Present board: A. L. Tucker, president; Dr. F. S. Belcher, vice president; H. Pearson, secretary; E. E. Des Verney, treasurer and librarian ; L. G. Middleton, G. W. Jacobs, S. C. Johnson, D. J. Scott.

Savannah Tribune, November 28, 1914

Carnegie Library's Many Readers

New Building a Stimulus to Institution

Those Who Have Donated Books —Parents and Teachers Asked To Urge Children to Patronize Library.

Since the occupation of the Carnegie Library building, located on Henry street near East Broad, by the Carnegie Colored Library Association, much interest has been shown by the people in calling for good reading matter. This was particularly noticeable among the children who compose 60 per cent of the patronage.

Books have been donated by the following, Mrs. Lydia Sheppard, of Boston Mass.; Mr. John Carr, Miss Lucile Tucker, Mr. Charlton Miller, Mrs. Emily Me Fall Warren, Master Edward DesVerney, Jr., Mrs. Lila Jones, Mr. Meldrim Tucker, Mr. Sylvester Jefferson, Mrs. J. Bryant and Master Merritt Cohen and a number of our good white friends.

Last week the White Public Library very generously donated some 300 of their best books which are now much in demand. For all of these donations the curators, through Mr. E. E. Des Verney, wish to extend their hearty thanks.

The following is the record of the institution since going into the new building:

Cards issued in August 80, books drawn 113, total visitors 422 of which were 269 children, cards issued in September 130, books drawn 368, total visitors 807 of which children 469, cards issued in October 44, books drawn 203, total visitors 576, of which children 352, total cards issued 254, total books drawn 684, total visitors 1805, total children 1090.

The secretary is making every effort to secure a number of books for children and begs the cooperation of the teachers in directing their children to secure such reading matter as will be helpful to them.

Secretary Des Verney is particularly pleased with the way the public is patronizing the institution and through the Tribune will keep them informed of the new books as they come in.