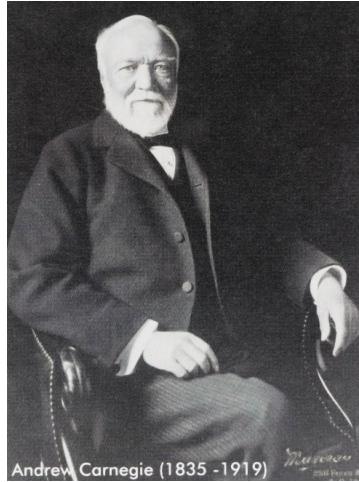


Andrew Carnegie (1835-1919) and His Philanthropy to Public and Academic Libraries in North Carolina



Andrew Carnegie (1835 -1919)
Andrew Carnegie Postcard, Image used by permission of the author.

In 1848, Andrew Carnegie, his parents, and younger brother left economically depressed Scotland for the United States. They settled in Allegheny, Pennsylvania (known today as the North Side of Pittsburgh). While working in a cotton mill for twelve hours a day for six days a week, Carnegie received his early education by reading books in the J. Anderson Library of Allegheny, set up by Colonel James Anderson, a retired manufacturer and War of 1812 veteran. Colonel Anderson gave access to his 400-volume library to local working boys, many of whom were immigrants like himself. Remembering those heady days in Allegheny in September 1887, Carnegie praised Colonel Anderson in a speech given in Grangemouth, Scotland:

“Colonel Anderson opened to me the intellectual wealth of the world. I became fond of reading. I revelled [sic] week after week in the books. My toil was light, for I got up at six o’clock in the morning, contented to work until six in the evening if there

was then a book for me to read. Can you wonder that I have thought that when I have made wealth, the noblest use to which that wealth can be placed is to imitate Colonel Anderson and set up free libraries?”

Imbued with the mindset that the rich had an obligation to give back their wealth to society, Carnegie believed that to die rich was to die disgraced. Therefore, he resolved to give away the bulk of his fortune made in the sale of his Carnegie Steel Company to financier J. P. Morgan in 1901 to found public and academic libraries throughout the United States for two reasons. First, he believed that in America residents with access to books and the desire to learn could self-educate themselves and be as successful as he had been. Second, libraries would help him and other immigrants to get cultural knowledge of their adopted country and lead them on the path to full US citizenship.¹

¹ Burton J. Hendrick, *The Life of Andrew Carnegie*, Vols. I-II (Garden City, New York: Doubleday, Doran & Company, 1932), I: 67 (quote), II: 138-139 (sale to J. P. Morgan); Theodore Jones, *Carnegie Libraries Across America: A Public Legacy* (New York: John Wiley & Sons, 1997), 4-5; Abigail A. Van Slyck, *Free to All: Carnegie Libraries & American Culture, 1890-1920* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1995), 8-9; George S. Bobinski, *Carnegie Libraries: Their History and Impact on American Public Library Development* (Chicago: American Library Association, 1969), 12; *Carnegie Grants for Library Buildings, 1890-1917*: Durand R. Miller, *A List of Library Buildings, Public And Academic, Erected With Funds Provided by Andrew Carnegie And Carnegie Corporation of New York* (New York: Carnegie Corporation of New York, 1943), 8.

Library Philanthropy Across the United States, 1886-1924

Carnegie began his library philanthropy in the United States in 1886, approximately 15 years before he ended his career as the world's wealthiest steel magnate in 1901. From 1886 to 1924, Carnegie donated public library construction grants to 1,419 US communities that resulted in the construction of 1,681 public libraries at a cost of \$41,233,853.47. Only Alaska, Rhode Island, and Delaware did not receive Carnegie public library grants.

During the period from 1886 to 1897, a period Carnegie dubbed the "retail" era of his philanthropy, he gave a total \$1,860,869 for fourteen buildings to six communities in the United States. His method for awarding gifts was informal and personal. He donated four public libraries to the communities of Allegheny (1886), Pittsburgh (1890), Braddock (1895), and Homestead (1896), all in Pennsylvania, to serve the employees of the towns in which his steel mills were found. In 1890, he donated funds to replace the Johnstown, Pennsylvania, library that was destroyed in the Johnstown Flood of 1889. In 1892, in response to a personal plea from Senator James Wilson of Iowa, he donated a public library construction grant to Fairfield, Iowa. In 1897, he donated funds for the completion of a public library in Gardiner, Maine.²

After 1897, in the period Carnegie dubbed the "wholesale" era, his library construction grants to communities were better organized and awarded not out of personal interest but due to a more rigorous process involving facts gathered in a questionnaire from both public and academic library applicants. Once the public was alerted to the fact that Carnegie was giving away money for libraries, applications began to pour in from across the United States. Carnegie and his personal secretary James Bertram

worked together to approve public library construction grants. Bertram was Carnegie's personal secretary for seventeen years from 1897 to 1914, and secretary to the Carnegie Corporation of New York from 1911 to 1934.

In 1900, Carnegie and Bertram began to accept applications from colleges and universities for the construction of library buildings. The requirements for public and academic library grants were similar. Public library construction grants required that the requesting community supply a site for the library and pledge a 10% annual maintenance fee. The amount of money donated was dependent on the population of the community according to the latest official U.S. census, the standard being about \$2 - \$3 per capita. Academic library building matching grants required that the requesting institution supply an endowment amount equal to that of the building grant.³

In 1900, when Carnegie began to donate grants for academic library buildings, only 62 U.S. colleges and universities had freestanding library buildings that were designed and built specifically to be used as libraries. From 1904 to 1917, Carnegie donated matching grants to 109 colleges and universities for library buildings, totaling \$11,781,592. These grants aided 10 percent of all institutions of higher learning in the United States.⁴

Although all United States colleges and universities were eligible to apply for academic library building grants, Carnegie was particularly interested in funding what he called "freshwater" or "small, struggling" colleges and universities rather than larger state-supported and more established institutions. Carnegie was particularly interested in funding libraries that served African American residents and students. Fourteen of the 109 grants for academic library buildings went to Historically Black Colleges

² Jones, 10-13, 103, 127-30. The Fairfield Iowa grant marked the first time Carnegie funded a library in community where he had no personal ties or investments and where there were no disasters. The grant to Johnstown was given out of guilt because Carnegie and other Pittsburgh elites in the South Fork Fishing and Hunting Club owned property on the earthen dam that collapsed causing the flood. Robert M. Lester, *Forty Years of Carnegie Giving: A Summary of the Benefactions of Andrew Carnegie and of the Work of the Philanthropic Trusts Which He Created* (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1941), 93; Miller, 7-8; Bobinkski, 13-14.

³ Bobinkski, "Appendix A: Samples of Standard Letters and Forms as Found in the Carnegie Library Correspondence," 203-206; "Appendix B: List of Communities in the United States Receiving Carnegie Grants for Public Library Buildings," 207-242.

⁴ Donna K. Cohen, "Andrew Carnegie and Academic Library Philanthropy: The Case of Rollins College, Winter Park, Florida," *Libraries & Culture*, 35, no. 3 (Summer 2000): 389, 390, 395; Shaundra Walker, "A Revisionist History of Andrew Carnegie's Library Grants to Black Colleges," Georgia College and State University, Ina Dillard Russell Library (2017): 31-51, accessed Jan. 10, 2024, <https://kb.gcsu.edu/lib/3>; Lester, 60.

and Universities (HBCUs). Over a three-year period from 1904-1907, Carnegie invested \$240,490 into the physical plants of HBCUs to incorporate central heating and electric lighting. At some colleges, particularly in the South, the new buildings prompted the hiring of the first full-time librarians. The matching endowment stipulation required by Carnegie also assured that the purchase of books occurred in a planned and organized manner.⁵

Final Years of Carnegie Library Philanthropy

In 1910, at the age of seventy-five, Carnegie was in a race with time to dispose of his wealth and to reach his goal of not dying in disgrace. Elihu Root, then US Secretary of State and President of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, suggested that Carnegie deposit the bulk of his remaining fortune in a philanthropic foundation and leave the work to others.

Carnegie took Root's advice. In November 1911, in the Music room of his Fifth Avenue mansion, Carnegie presided over the first meeting of the Carnegie Corporation of New York, which he endowed with \$125 million. Special guests included Carnegie's wife Louise and their daughter Margaret. From 1911 onward, the Corporation would administer all Carnegie programs, including the public and academic library construction grants program, which furthered the Corporation's mission "to promote the advancement of and diffusion of knowledge and understanding among the people of the United States."

Charter members of the board of trustees were Elihu Root, Henry S. Pritchett, Charles L. Taylor, Robert S. Woodward, William N. Frew, and Samuel H. Church, all former associates of Carnegie. The executive committee of the Corporation, including Carnegie as president, Bertram as secretary, and Robert Franks as treasurer, met often to conduct the business of philanthropy. The annual meetings of the Corporation's board of the trustees merely approved the actions of the executive committee. In 1914, the

Carnegie Corporation set up its headquarters in offices at 576 Fifth Avenue, and Bertram continued to take care of day-to-day operations.⁶

In late 1915, Carnegie Corporation trustees were made aware of problems with the library grants program. The League of Library Commissions had reported that the 10 percent library maintenance pledge was not always enough. On November 18, 1915, Henry S. Pritchett, chair of the board of trustees, called upon Alvin S. Johnson, an economics professor at Cornell University, and authorized him to visit Carnegie-funded libraries, and draft a report on their effectiveness in promoting the mission of the Corporation.

Johnson took a ten-week tour through the Middle West to the West Coast, back through the South, up the Middle Atlantic states, and finally through New England, visiting some 100 Carnegie public libraries of many sizes. Johnson's instructions were to evaluate the buildings, maintenance pledges, community intent in asking for a library building, and the current state of academic training of librarians. Bertram aided Johnson by suggesting the libraries to be visited, a third of which were in Texas, a third in Massachusetts, and the remaining third in Oklahoma, Iowa, Nebraska, Michigan, and New York.

On November 18, 1916, Johnson sent a devastating report to the trustees of the Corporation. His report indicated that buildings in general had been poorly planned but had gotten progressively better as more control had been exerted by Bertram, particularly after 1911 when Bertram's Notes on the Erection of Library Buildings was made available to applicants. Johnson confirmed the report from the League of Library Commissions that many libraries he visited were not in compliance with the 10% maintenance pledge required by their grants.

Johnson concluded his report with the recommendation that the Corporation assist the American Library Association in projects of mutual interest, such as the collection of statistics and other general information relating to library conditions; the prepara-

⁵ David Kaser, "Andrew Carnegie and the Black College Libraries," in *For the Good of the Order: Essays in Honor of Edward G. Holley*, ed. Delmus E. Williams, John N. Budd, Robert E. Martin, Barbara Moran, and Fred Roper, Foundations in Library and Information Science, 33 (Greenwich, CT: JAI Press, 1994), 119, 131; Hendrick, II: 261; "List of Historically Black Colleges and Universities," in *Wikipedia*, accessed Jan. 10, 2024, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_historically_black_colleges_and_universities

⁶ Bobinski, 26; Jones, 99; Van Slyck, 24, includes a photograph of the attendees of the first meeting of the Carnegie Corporation in 1911.

ration of lists of books analyzed and appraised for the use of small libraries as book selection aids; and the coordination of library demand for books with a view to influencing publishers to prepare editions in paper and bindings suitable for library use. In the final analysis, Johnson concluded that the Corporation should approve no more library grants to public or academic libraries.

On November 7, 1917, almost a year from the date that Johnson's report was first sent to the Corporation, the board of trustees, chastened by Johnson's recommendations, voted to end the library building construction grants to public libraries and the matching grants to colleges and universities for library buildings. No new applications for the erection of library buildings would be considered; however, exceptions to this policy would be made for already committed funds into the 1920s.

From 1917 onward, the Carnegie Corporation would instead focus its efforts on evaluating and improving existing libraries, rather than building new ones. By 1917, two years before his death in 1919, Carnegie had given away more than \$350 million to fund projects not only for public and academic libraries, but also for world peace, education, teachers' pensions, hero funds, and other issues he held dear.⁷

Carnegie Public Library Philanthropy in North Carolina

In North Carolina, from March 12, 1902 to May 3, 1917, Andrew Carnegie funded the construction of ten Carnegie free public library buildings from nine grants totaling \$165,696. The order and year of grants were Charlotte (1901), Greensboro (1902), Winston-Salem (1903), Rutherford College (1907), Hendersonville (1911), Andrews (1914), Murphy (1916), and finally Durham and Hickory both in 1917, the same year that the Carnegie Corporation suspended its public library construction grant program. Grant amounts ranged from the smallest grant

of \$2,500 to the tiny community of Rutherford College in Burke County to the largest grant of \$40,446 to Greensboro in Guilford County.⁸

Carnegie library construction grants were donated to five Piedmont communities (Charlotte, Durham, Greensboro, Hickory, Winston-Salem) and four small communities in the Mountains (Andrews, Hendersonville, Murphy, and Rutherford College). Communities in the less populous Coastal Plain region of the state received no Carnegie library construction grants.

North Carolina received only a modest share of Carnegie funds. North Carolina ranked 34th in amount of funding for the construction of Carnegie public libraries. North Carolina ranked 35th in the number of communities receiving Carnegie grants (with 9) and 36th in number of library buildings constructed (10).⁹

All North Carolina Carnegie grants were to the segregated communities of Andrews, Charlotte, Durham, Hendersonville, Hickory, Murphy, Rutherford College, and Winston-Salem. Two libraries were constructed in Greensboro, the segregated main library, and the branch library for African Americans. Although Durham and Charlotte did not receive grants from Carnegie to construct libraries for African Americans, their grants spurred these cities to set up respectively the Durham Colored Library in Durham, and the Brevard Street Library in Charlotte.

By the early 1980s, four of the ten Carnegie public library buildings, Andrews, Charlotte, Greensboro (segregated), and Rutherford College, were demolished. Two, Durham and Hickory, are now in private hands. Two are still being used as educational facilities: the Murphy building is now the Cherokee County Historical Museum and Greensboro's library for African Americans is used as offices on the Bennett College campus. The remaining two Carnegie buildings are used as a church (Winston-Salem) and as a Chamber of Commerce (Hendersonville).¹⁰

⁷ Miller, 16; Jones, 100-102; Van Slyck, 22-24, 34-40, 44-45, 103; Bobinski, 57-63, 143-60.

⁸ Eileen McGrath, "Carnegie Libraries," in *Encyclopedia of North Carolina*, ed. by William S. Powell (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2006), accessed Jan. 10, 2024, <https://www.ncpedia.org/carnegie-libraries>

⁹ Bobinski, 17-20.

¹⁰ Patrick Valentine, "Steel, Cotton, and Tobacco: Philanthropy and Public Libraries in North Carolina, 1900-1940," *Libraries & Culture* 31, no. 2 (Spring 1996): 272-298, Table 1: Carnegie Public Library Grants in North Carolina, 279; Helen Snow, *The Greensboro Public Library: The First 100 Years* (Virginia Beach, VA: Donning Company Publishers, 2003), 19; Scott, 28.

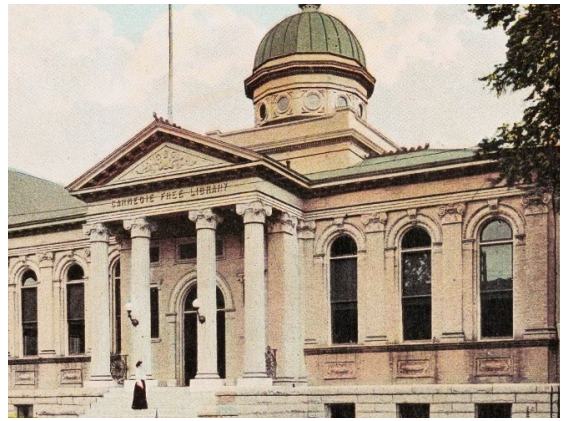
Andrews Public Library

On April 13, 1914, the small mountain community of Andrews in Cherokee County, received a \$5,000 Carnegie grant to build a public library. A brief digital file on the history of this library survives, consisting mostly of a photocopy of the *Dictionary of American Biography* entry on Carnegie, written by Carnegie biographer, Burton Jesse Hendrick (BJH). The hand-written history revealed that the library was built on June 9, 1914, and that the city board had to promise to offer a lot to build on and then to give \$500 annually for upkeep and the employment of a librarian. The history also revealed that the Carnegie grant was received because one of the residents of Andrews, a Mr. Croyard, was a long-time friend of Andrew Carnegie. This brief history proved that Carnegie was swayed by acquaintances and prominent citizens rather than strictly following the official guidelines he and Bertram had required.

The original Andrews Carnegie Public Library was demolished in 1979 to make way for the present 1979 library which is part of the Nantahala Regional Library System that serves Cherokee, Clay, and Graham counties with public libraries in Andrews, Hayesville, Murphy, and Robbinsville.¹¹

Charlotte Public Library

The first Carnegie public library construction grant in North Carolina went to Charlotte in 1901. The founding of the Charlotte Public Library can be traced back to January 1891 when a citizens group organized the Charlotte Literacy and Library Association. It was a subscription library, open to those willing to pay 50 cents per month. The library was run in rooms above the Stone and Barringer bookstore at 22 South Tryon Street for nine years under the direction of librarian Bessie Lacy Dewey. In 1900, the library's board of directors turned over management of the library to a group of upper-class women who had been the library's regular patrons. When after two months this effort did not generate enough support, the board of directors turned over library books and equipment to the City School Commissioners. The library became the Charlotte Public School Library, found in two rooms in City Hall at



Carnegie Free Library, Charlotte Postcard. Image used by permission of the author.

the corner of North Tryon and East Fifth Streets. This arrangement, lasting two and a half years under the supervision of librarian Sallie H. Adams, was supported by public taxes but stayed a segregated library.

Thomas S. Franklin, a manufacturer of cotton presses and a member of the City Board of Aldermen, heard that steel magnate Andrew Carnegie was offering communities money for public library construction. On his next business trip to New York City, Franklin met with his friend James Bertram, secretary of the Carnegie Corporation and Carnegie's righthand man, and asked for his help. Arrangements were made for Charlotte to receive a gift of \$20,000, later increased to \$25,000, and the grant was received on March 12, 1901. The grant required the city to give a building site and taxes of at least \$2,500 per year for operations. Charlotte citizens approved the tax on May 6, 1901.

The Charlotte Public Library, which opened in July 1903 at 310 N. Tryon Street, was the first free public library in Charlotte and the second one in North Carolina, the first being the Durham Public Library. Architects Oliver D. Wheeler and J. M. McMichael constructed a classically designed structure that featured a pediment, four Ionic columns, pilasters, a flight of stairs, and a domed copula. The interior was furnished in deep oak furniture and divided into five rooms: a reading room, a book room, a children's room, an office, a room holding historical materials and memorabilia, and a basement.

Despite a small collection of only 2,526 volumes, librarian Annie Smith Ross inaugurated an ambitious

¹¹ Miller, 21; "A Short History of the Andrews Carnegie Library," accessed Jan. 10, 2024, <https://lib.digitalnc.org/record/107364>; Bobinski, 163; Snow, 19; Valentine, "Steel, Cotton, and Tobacco," 277; Scott, 26.

program of events and activities, including lectures, children's book programs, and benefit concerts. Due to her initiative, the North Carolina Library Association held its first meeting at the Charlotte Public Library in 1904.

In 1915, the Carnegie Corporation granted \$15,000 to the Charlotte Public Library to build an annex at the rear of the building to house a separate Children's Department and in the lower level a meeting room with a small stage where the Little Theater of Charlotte first performed. The original grant of \$25,000, plus the \$15,000 for the annex, made the total Carnegie Corporation appropriation to Charlotte \$40,000.

Although Carnegie was happy when provisions were made for African Americans, he never attempted to foster integration with his donations. Charlotte, however, had an active African American community and soon the city built a library for Black people with their own governing board. In early 1904, the City Aldermen bought a lot at the corner of Brevard and East 2nd Streets, only six blocks from the segregated Carnegie Library. The Brevard Street Library, named for its location, never received equal funding, but it was the first free public library for African Americans in North Carolina. It received part of the city's annual appropriation of \$2,500 dollars with its share averaging around four hundred dollars. The new Brevard Street Library was a small 2,500 square-foot red-brick building in the heart of the Brooklyn neighborhood near all the Black churches and most of the Black-owned businesses and professional offices. The library opened to the public on February 2, 1906.

The Brevard Street Library was independent of the segregated 1903 Carnegie Library and overseen by a separate board of African American citizens. It stayed an independent organization until 1929 when it was placed under the administration of the Charlotte Public Library and continued its operation as a branch library and cultural center for Charlotte's African Americans. When the Charlotte Mecklen-

burg Library system integrated in 1956, the city engaged in an extensive urban renewal project in the Brooklyn/Second Ward community. These two circumstances together spelled the end for the Brevard Street Branch, which was closed in 1961.

The original 1903 building for the segregated Charlotte Public Library was remodeled around 1940 and served as a public library until April 1954. Later that same year, the library was torn down and replaced by the Public Library of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County building that was constructed on the same site. The newly remodeled library opened to the public in November 1956. Later Charlotte Public Libraries were built in 1956 and 1989 on the same site as the original 1903 Carnegie library. The Charlotte Public Library changed its name in 1945 to Public Library of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County and in 2009 the name was shortened to Charlotte Mecklenburg Library.¹²

Durham Public Library

The Durham Public Library, the first free, tax-supported public library in North Carolina, began as an idea discussed by Professor Edwin Mims of Trinity College (now Duke University) with the Canterbury Club, a local literary club, in June 1895. Lalla Ruth Carr was instrumental in getting her father Julian Shakespeare Carr, who carried the honorary title of General, to spearhead the fund-raising campaign for the library. General Carr, who had made his fortune manufacturing the famous Bull Durham chewing tobacco, along with Mrs. Thomas H. Martin, donated \$2,500 for a lot at Five Points as the building site. Local citizens then raised over \$1,300 and the city appropriated fifty dollars a month. On March 5, 1897, an act incorporating the Durham Public Library was passed by the North Carolina General Assembly. The library was finished in January 1898 and opened its door to the public the following month.

In 1905, over the objections of General Carr, the library board applied for a grant from Carnegie to build a larger library. On July 1, 1911, Lillian Baker

¹² Miller, 23; Valentine, "The Origin of College Libraries in North Carolina, 96; "Charlotte Mecklenburg Library History," accessed Jan. 10, 2024, <https://www.cmstory.org/exhibits/turn-20th-century-life-charlotte-1910-views-city/carnegie=library-charlottes-first>; Patrick M. Valentine, "Steel, Cotton, and Tobacco: Philanthropy and Public Libraries in North Carolina, 1900-1940, *Libraries & Culture*, 31, no. 2 (Spring 1996), 275-276; Jones, 59, 67-69, photograph on p. 68; Van Slyck, 57-59; Ralph Lee Scott, "The Carnegie Public Library movement in North Carolina," *North Carolina Libraries*, Fall 1981, 25, 27.

Briggs, a professionally trained librarian began her tenure as librarian of the Durham Public Library. On September 14, 1917, the library board of the segregated Durham Public Library, with the encouragement of Griggs, received a Carnegie public library construction grant of \$32,000. The entry of the United States into World War I delayed construction, but four years later, in 1921, the new Durham Public Library, designed by master library designer Edward L. Tilton of New York, opened to the public.

Library services for Durham's African American community did not begin until 1913 when Dr. Aaron McDuffie Moore set up a library of 799 donated books for African American residents in the basement of White Rock Baptist Church, where he was superintendent of the Sunday school. On August 14, 1916, the Sunday school library moved into a building owned by John Merrick at the corner of Fayetteville and Pettigrew Streets and the Durham Colored Library was set up.

In 1917, the city of Durham began granting the small library a meager monthly appropriation, but the library still relied heavily on community financial support. That same year, James E. Shepard, President of the National Training School in Durham, wrote Carnegie about the dire situation in Durham for African Americans. Despite Shepard's plea for books and operating expenses, the Durham Colored Library received no funds from Carnegie due to his policy of donating grants only for the construction of libraries and not for book purchases or operational expenses. In 1918, the library received an additional appropriation from Durham County and that same year the North Carolina General Assembly incorporated it as the Durham Colored Library. Hattie B. Wooten was hired as the librarian and only employee.

In 1940, the Durham Colored Library moved into a new building and was named the Stanford L. Warren Public Library. In 1966, the segregated library and the Durham Colored Library merged. The

Stanford L. Warren library became a branch of the Durham City-County Library. In 1973, the Durham Public Library became an agency of Durham County, and, in 1976, Durham County voters overwhelmingly approved a bond issue for the construction of a newly named Durham County Public Library, which opened on March 17, 1980. The 1917 library building was then closed and later renovated for county offices.¹³

Greensboro Public Library

On February 4, 1902, the city of Greensboro formally opened its first library, three rooms on the third floor of City Hall, located at the northwest corner of North Elm Street and Gaston Street (now Friendly Avenue). The library opened to the public one day later, February 5, with 1,490 books, thirty-two periodicals, and three daily papers. The library was open twelve hours a day. The City aldermen selected Miss Bettie Caldwell as the first librarian. The library operated in the City Hall until 1906.

In March 1902, concurrently with the opening of the library in City Hall, Mayor W. H. Osborn and Dr. C. D. McIver asked Andrew Carnegie for a grant to build a new library. On April 26, 1902, Carnegie offered Greensboro \$30,464 for the construction of a



Carnegie Public Library, Greensboro, N. C. Postcard. Image used by permission of the author.

¹³ Miller, 24; Scott, 25-26; Valentine, "Steel, Cotton, and Tobacco," 273-274; "History of the Durham County Library," accessed Jan. 10, 2024, <https://durhamcountylibrary.org/history/>; "The History of the Stanford L. Warren Library," accessed Jan. 10, 2024, <https://durhamcountylibrary.org/exhibits/slw/timeline.php>; Betty Young, "Griggs, Lillian Baker (8 Jan. 1876-11 Apr. 1955)," in *Dictionary of North Carolina*, ed. by William S. Powell (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina, 1986), accessed Jan. 1, 2024, <https://www.ncpedia.org/biography/griggs-lillian>; David Stick and Jerry L. Cross (additional research provided by Anne M. Berkley, Faye Terres Blalock Rusty Rains, and Katherine Zeisel), "Public Libraries," in *Encyclopedia of North Carolina*, ed. by William S. Powell (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina, 2006), accessed Jan. 10 2024, <https://www.ncpedia.org/public-libraries>

segregated library, with the requirement that the city provide a building site and pay for maintenance support in the amount of 10% of the gift each year. The City aldermen formally accepted Carnegie's grant on December 8, 1903. The community raised the money for a building lot on what is now Commerce Place, in the spot where the education building of West Market Street United Methodist Church currently stands.

The building, designed by architect Charles Christian (C. C.) Hook of Charlotte, opened on Easter Monday, April 16, 1906, at Library Place (now John Wesley Way) and West Gaston Street (now West Friendly Avenue). Greensboro's population at that time was 10,035 people; just over 40% (4,086) of the population were African Americans.

The segregated main library of the Greensboro Public Library had run out of space by 1939. The Richardson family of Vicks VapoRub fame offered Greensboro \$100,000 to buy the former First Presbyterian Church on Church Street (now Summit Avenue). The Richardson gift also included \$125,000 for remodeling. On May 15, 1939, Greensboro Public Library moved into the renovated facility, the Richardson Civic Center, which it shared with the Greensboro Historical Museum, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Community Chest, Art Center, and other organizations. The 1906 segregated library was razed in 1950 to allow more space for the educational program of the West Market Street Methodist Church,

which had bought the property when the library moved to the Richardson Civic Center.

On December 8, 1905, two years after the City aldermen accepted Andrew Carnegie's offer to finance a building for the segregated Greensboro Public Library, E. P. Wharton, the same man who made the largest donation for the founding of the Greensboro Public Library in 1902, informed the aldermen that he had applied to the Carnegie Corporation for funds to build a library for the community's African American population. The Corporation had responded with an offer of \$10,000. Wharton asked the aldermen to accept the offer since the Agricultural and Mechanical College (A&M College, now A&T University) would pay half of the annual amount for maintenance. On March 12, 1906, James B. Dudley, president of A&M College, came before the aldermen and asked that the city share the cost of maintaining the library for African Americans. They promised to give the matter immediate consideration. Finally, after almost ten years, Mayor J. T. Murphy asked the Carnegie Corporation to carry out the longstanding promise. The Corporation wrote a letter on September 29, 1915 promising the funds. The city had apparently never formally accepted the 1905 offer, a possible reason being that the racial climate of 1905 was extremely volatile.

Although Murphy's letter had stated that a site had been selected, a lively debate about the ideal site continued. A lot on East Market Street had many



Carnegie Negro Library, Greensboro, NC. Source: Carnegie Negro Library, Greensboro, North Carolina (1924-1963) • (blackpast.org).

supporters since it would be in the heart of the African American business district. Others favored 900 East Market Street on the Bennett College campus, where the Freedman's Aid Society, under whose authority the College then functioned, offered a lot. Those opposing this proposition considered that being on a Methodist Church-affiliated college campus might make the library a sectarian institution instead of a truly public institution. The possible site on the A&T University campus had been rejected because the library was to be for the public, not primarily for the A&T students. The supporters of the East Market Street location considered that site more conveniently located for the library's users, since Washington Street at the time was not even paved. There were many meetings as well as petitions by interested citizens and members of various churches. Protests continued even after the City Council eventually selected the East Washington Street location in 1916.

In April 1917, Mayor Murphy sent the Carnegie Corporation a copy of the resolution adopted by the Board of City Commissioners, agreeing to furnish the site and to pay for maintenance. He also sent plans and specifications as required by the Corporation and sent a bid that came in under \$10,000. Although Carnegie died in 1919, the Corporation continued to handle his donations for library buildings. Still construction did not begin. Funding was available; the city had approved the maintenance costs; plans had been drawn; a bid received; and a site selected. The reason for the delay is still not known.

Greensboro's Mayor received a letter from James Bertram, secretary of the Carnegie Corporation, on May 14, 1920, warning that if evidence of progress in construction was not provided, the promise of the Carnegie Corporation would be considered as having lapsed. With no evidence forthcoming, the Corporation in 1921 finally lost patience and canceled the offer, but fortunately renewed it in 1922, the only renewal on record, after a personal plea by Andrew Carnegie's widow, Louise.

Due to inflation, it was no longer possible to build a suitable library for \$10,000, but the Carnegie Corporation declined to increase its donation. When the branch was finally built, the \$10,000 original grant had to be supplemented by \$4,375 from the Board of Education for Negroes of the Methodist Episcopal

Church, \$250 from the City, and \$250 from E. P. Wharton and C. H. Ireland, to make up the \$4,875 necessary to build the library.

Construction began in the winter of 1923 and the library opened on October 1, 1924. It had the distinction of being North Carolina's only Carnegie library for African Americans and it was also the only library in Guilford county available for their use. The building was disappointingly small, only about 2,500 square feet. The collection too was small but carefully selected by Mrs. Martha O. Sebastian, who served as librarian from until 1948.

Although the Greensboro Public Library was opened to all users in 1957, Greensboro Public did not merge with the Carnegie Negro Library until July 1963. After many years of being entirely independent, with a governing board of African American trustees, it became the Southeast Branch of the Greensboro Public Library, governed by that library's all-white Board of Trustees. Helen Walden became the branch librarian. The Carnegie Building was used until February 20, 1966, when a new building at the corner of East Lee Street and Benbow Road made possible by a 1960 bond issue for \$100,000, was dedicated. The Carnegie building is now used for Bennett College offices.

In 1964, the City of Greensboro funded a new library to replace the Richardson Civic Center Library. On July 12, 1964, the move to the new library located at 201 North Greene Street was completed. The Greene Street Library served Greensboro until 1998 and now houses city offices. The 1964 new building began to seem outmoded as early as 1974. In 1983, the City bought a 15,000 square foot building at 211 North Greene Street, next to the Central Library, with the expectation of using the space for future library expansion. In 1988, a library planning committee recommended that a new downtown library with adequate parking be found or built as early as 1994.

In January 1996, the City Council approved the North Church Street site, ending all thought of expanding the existing library. Downtown was chosen for its accessibility to all citizens. The final cost of the building was \$14.7 million, well within budget considering the interest that the money had earned during the long period of waiting. The library opened

on Saturday, October 31, 1998 at 219 North Church Street and has served Greensboro since.

In 1963, when the city integrated its library system, the Carnegie Negro Library became the Southeast Branch of the Greensboro Public Library, with Helen Walden as its head librarian from 1963 to 1980. In 1966, the Southeast Branch moved from the Bennett College campus to its current location at 900 S. Benbow Road and in 1993 was renamed the Vance Chavis Library to honor of longtime Greensboro educator and civil rights advocate Vance Chavis.¹⁴

Hendersonville Carnegie Library

On May 2, 1911, the resort town of Hendersonville in Henderson County received a Carnegie public library construction grant although the town did not meet the requirement of 10% for annual maintenance. Carnegie saved the day by donating \$10,000 of his personal funds to build the public library as a favor for a business associate. Republicans in Hendersonville had appointed the associate, Colonel Sylvester Everette of Cleveland, Ohio, as an alternate delegate for North Carolina to the Republican National Convention. Using his influence as a fellow

Republican, Everette showed his gratitude to Hendersonville Republicans by requesting a grant from his fellow Republican, Andrew Carnegie.

Also, in 1911, a local lawyer, Charles French Toms, persuaded his father, Captain Marion Columbus Toms, to donate a site at the corner of King Street and 4th Avenue as the building site for the Carnegie public library, which opened in 1914. The Hendersonville town commissioners agreed to support the library by hiring a librarian and a janitor. The town soon requested an added five thousand dollars from Carnegie to accommodate the flood of summer visitors to Hendersonville, but the Corporation refused. The Hendersonville Public Library, designed and built by master architect Edward L. Tilton of New York, closed in 1970 to become the home of the Henderson County Partnership for Economic Development.¹⁵

Hickory Library

Hickory's first library service, a rental library, began operation in 1893 to meet the growing needs of the town. The rental library lacked a permanent space, though it was often set up on Union Square and was run by volunteers. The rental books were bought by a group of townspeople, and the added funding came from contributions and a series of ice cream suppers and theatricals.

By 1907, the Hickory Library Association was formed, which actively worked to create a permanent home for the library, and membership fees helped fund the purchase of more books. In 1915, under the leadership of J. Worth Elliott and his wife Lillie Burns Elliott, the Association started a movement to secure a grant from the Carnegie Corporation of New York. Various negotiations delayed the grant for the next couple of years while building costs continued to rise. In the spring of 1917, J. Worth Elliott and his wife pledged to contribute a lot for the Carnegie library.



Carnegie Public Library, Hendersonville, N. C. Postcard. Image used by permission of the author.

¹⁴ Miller, 27; Valentine, "Steel, Cotton, and Tobacco," 276-277; Scott, Snow, 13, 17, 31, 41-42., 47-57, 59-60, 69; Matthew Griffis, (2019 November 17), "Carnegie Negro Library, Greensboro, North Carolina (1924-1963)," accessed Jan. 10, 2024, <https://www.blackpast.org/african-american-history/institutions-african-american-history/carnegie-negro-library-greensboro-north-carolina-1924-1963/>; Bobinski, 72, 81-82; "Library's 75th Anniversary Gives Cause for Celebration/The Chavis Branch Library Has Evolved, But Its Role Remains the Same," Oct.19. 1999, accessed Jan. 10, 2024, https://Greensboro.com/libraris-75th-anniversary-gives-cause-for-celebration-the-chavis-branch-library-has-evolved-but-its/article_11bc807b-de17-5a16-a42a-fd9daa0a7da5.html

¹⁵Miller, 27; Scott, 26; Valentine, "Steel, Cotton, and Tobacco," 277; "Carnegie Library in Hendersonville, North Carolina," accessed Jan. 10, 2024, <https://www.greetingsfromthepast.com/2016/03/carnegie-library-in-hendersonville/>

Finally, on May 3, 1917, Hickory received a grant of \$13,250 from the Carnegie Corporation. After raising an added \$3,750, some of which came from a pageant event, the City of Hickory approved a tax to cover the final cost of \$17,000 for the library. Construction of the library was superintended by former city manager R.G. Henry. Worth Elliott died in 1918 and in 1919 his widow transferred the property to the city in his memory. Elliott had been a prominent member of Hickory's business community, a director of the First National Bank, an officer of Elliott Building Company after 1908, and an original stockholder of the *Hickory Daily Record* in 1915.

The Worth Elliott Memorial Library, a small one-story brick-veneered Georgian Revival/Colonial Revival style building, opened on August 15, 1922 at 415 1st Avenue NW. It was the last public library in North Carolina and the last of 2,507 facilities to receive a grant from the Carnegie Corporation, which ceased the public library construction grant program officially on November 7, 1917.



Elliott Carnegie Library, Hickory, NC. Source: Elliott Carnegie Library, Hickory, North Carolina - List of Carnegie libraries in North Carolina - Wikipedia.

The library grew in popularity and circulation reached 72,668 volumes in 1937, some of which may have been the result of the public's need for inexpensive entertainment during the Great Depression. Due to the small size of the library, the growth of the book collection was restricted until the Elbert A. Ivey Library was constructed in 1952.

In the same year, 1952, the Elliott-Carnegie Library was sold to the Catawba Valley Broadcasting Company and the building became the studio of station WHKY, which moved out in 1969. Inform Properties Inc. bought the building in 1970 to house the company's advertising public relations firm. On March 15, 1985, the original Elliott-Carnegie Library was placed on the *National Register of Historic Places*.¹⁶



Murphy NC Carnegie Library. Source: The Murphy NC Carnegie library building now houses the Cherokee County Historical Museum - List of Carnegie libraries in North Carolina - Wikipedia.

Murphy Public Library

Murphy, a larger Cherokee County town close to Andrews, received a Carnegie grant of \$7,500 on May 15, 1916. Building costs soared by the time the library was built, and the town requested an added \$2,500. Without a personal connection to Carnegie, however, Murphy had to absorb the cost overrun. The town completed the library in 1922 at a cost of \$9,500.

The original Carnegie library building located at 87 Peachtree Street survives as the Cherokee County Historical Museum. The new Murphy Public Library is part of the Nantahala Regional Library System serving Cherokee, Clay, and Graham counties with public libraries in Andrews, Hayesville, Murphy, and Robbinsville.¹⁷

¹⁶ Miller, 27; Valentine, "Steel, Cotton, and Tobacco," 277; "Elliott-Carnegie Library," accessed Jan. 10, 2024, <http://www.theclio.com/entry/90131>; "Elliott-Carnegie," accessed Jan. 10, 2024, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elliott-Carnegie_Library; Laura A.W. Phillips and Jerry L. Cross, (June 1983), "Elliott-Carnegie Library," *National Register of Historic Places-Nomination and Inventory*, North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, accessed Jan. 10, 2024, <https://files.nc.gov/ncdcr/nr/CT0177.pdf>

¹⁷ Miller, 31; Scott, 27-28; Valentine, "Steel, Cotton, and Tobacco," 277; "Cherokee County Historical Museum," accessed Jan. 10, 2024, <https://www.blueridgeheritage.com/destinations/cherokee-county-historical-museum/>

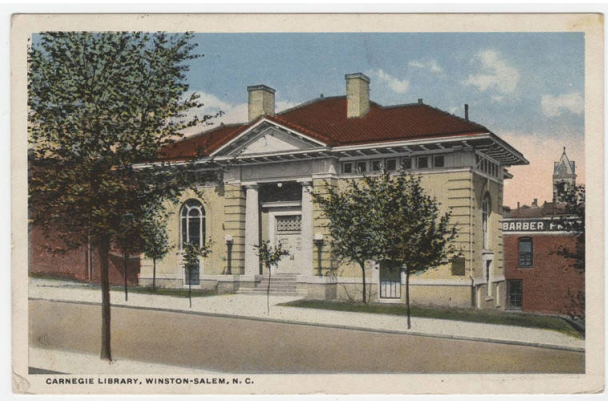
Rutherford College Public Library

The tiny community of Rutherford College in Burke County, named for the college that was founded there in the late nineteenth century, received a Carnegie grant of \$2,500 on February 21, 1907 to construct a public library serving fewer than three hundred residents in the area where the Valdese General Hospital is now found. The library was demolished in the 1950s. The last remaining college building was torn down in May 2007 for the expansion of this hospital.

Rutherford College the school ran until 1933, when the Methodist Conference was forced to merge its schools due to the Great Depression. Rutherford College merged with Weaver College in Buncombe County, North Carolina, and Brevard Institute in Brevard, North Carolina, to become Brevard College, which still operates. The town of Rutherford College was dissolved in March 1933 and reincorporated on June 1, 1977.¹⁸

Winston-Salem Public Library

On February 12, 1903, the city of Winston received a \$15,000 Carnegie grant. Three years later, in 1906, the Winston Carnegie library building opened on the corner of Cherry Street and 211 W. 3rd Street. Architect Edward L. Tilton of New York designed the building. Winston invited its twin city of Salem to share the library, but the latter declined since Salem's town officials did not feel they could meet the 10% annual maintenance obligation needed to receive the grant. In 1913, when Winston and Salem merged, li-



Winston Carnegie Library, Winston-Salem, NC. Source: Carnegie Library, Winston-Salem, N.C. :: North Carolina Postcards (unc.edu).

¹⁸ Miller, 34; Grady L. E. Carroll, Sr., "Rutherford College," in *Encyclopedia of North Carolina*, ed. by William S. Powell (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2006), accessed Jan. 10, 2024, <https://www.ncpedia.org/Rutherford-College>; Scott, 26.

¹⁹ Miller, 37; Jones, 59; Valentine, "Steel, Cotton, and Tobacco," 276; Scott, 26.

brary service was extended throughout the joint city. After the Forsyth County Public Library was built on W. Fifth Street in 1953, the old Carnegie library was bought in 1954 to serve as a church. The 1953 Forsyth County Library was demolished in 2013 and the new library was built on the same site in 2017.¹⁹

Carnegie Academic Library Philanthropy in North Carolina

From February 4, 1904 to April 30, 1908, six college and university library buildings in North Carolina were constructed using Carnegie grants at a total cost of \$127,868. Of the six libraries, five were segregated and two, Biddle University (later Johnson C. Smith University) and Livingstone College, supplied library services to African Americans at their inceptions. The largest academic library grant of \$55,000 went to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in Orange County, a state-supported university. The smallest academic library matching grant of \$9,000 went to Guilford College, a private Quaker institution, in Guilford County.

Guilford College was the only one of the six to be coeducational at its start. The State Normal and Industrial College (now UNC Greensboro) was all-female at its start. The other four (Davidson College, Livingstone College, Johnson C. Smith University, and the University of North Carolina) were all-male at their inceptions. By 1963, all six institutions were coeducational. Both Johnson C. Smith University and Livingstone College were Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), two of the eleven in North Carolina.

Despite Carnegie's bias against funding state-supported institutions, the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill and the State Normal and Industrial College (now UNC Greensboro) were granted donations. Despite his stated bias against funding church-affiliated colleges, he funded Davidson and Johnson C. Smith (Presbyterian), Livingstone (AME Zion), and Guilford (Quaker). Carnegie was biased toward funding "freshwater" colleges, a description that applied to all four church-affiliated institutions.

Four of the original Carnegie academic library buildings are now not in use as a libraries, but still survive (UNC Greensboro, UNC Chapel Hill, Johnson C. Smith, and Davidson College). The Walter Clinton Jackson Library of UNC Greensboro replaced the original Carnegie Library. The Louis Round Wilson Library and, later, the Walter Royal Davis Library at UNC Chapel Hill, replaced the 1915 Carnegie Library. The Carnegie Library at Johnson C. Smith still stands, but the James Buchanan Duke Library is the current main library. The Davidson Carnegie Library was replaced by the Grey Library and later the E. H. Little Library. The Carnegie library buildings at Livingstone College and Guilford College are still in use with renovations and additions.

bly approved changing the school's name to Biddle University. In 1891, Daniel J. Sanders became the first African American to head Biddle University. Dr. Sanders met with Booker T. Washington to discuss the need for library building. Washington in turn discussed the need with Andrew Carnegie. Fourteen years later, on December 23, 1905, President Sanders received a letter from James Bertram informing him that Carnegie had approved a gift of \$12,500 for the construction of Biddle's first library building. Carnegie's requirement that an equal amount be raised in new endowment delayed the project for years.

After the death of Dr. Sanders in 1907, Dr. Henry Lawrence McCrorey became Biddle's new president. Under his administration the University raised the



Carnegie Building, Biddle University, Charlotte, NC. Source: Carnegie-Library-Building-Old-SR.pdf (landmarkscommission.org).

Biddle Institute (Biddle University, Johnson C. Smith University)

Named in recognition of a \$1,400 gift from Philadelphia Mary Deborah Baird Biddle, widow of Union major Henry J. Biddle, Biddle Institute was founded in 1867 by the Catawba Presbytery in Mecklenburg County to help newly-freed black men to obtain an education, learn a trade, and prepare for the ministry. Colonel W. R. Myers, a former Confederate officer, donated eight acres of farmland on Beatties Ford Road, west of downtown Charlotte.

In 1876, the school's charter was amended and on March 21, 1923, the North Carolina General Assem-

added funds necessary to match Carnegie's donation. Finally, on May 12, 1910, the Presbyterian Church's Board of Missions for Freedmen informed Carnegie that it had fulfilled the matching stipulation, and construction moved ahead. The new library at Biddle University was built in 1911 at a cost of \$15,000. The rectangular brick building with a flat roof and smaller center portico with two Doric columns supporting the pediment was opened in 1912. After a tragic fire in the 1920s, Biddle University received \$720,000 from Jane Berry Smith, widow of prominent Pittsburgh pharmacist and industrialist Johnson Crayne Smith. On March 21, 1923, in response to

the Smith family's generosity, the trustees changed the name of Biddle University to Johnson C. Smith University.

The library continued to improve with more renovations in 1955 but eventually the library was no longer adequate to serve the needs of Johnson C. Smith University. In 1967, a new library was built in memory of James Buchanan Duke and continues to serve as the University's library. Although the 1911 Carnegie building is still standing, it is no longer used as a library.

Beginning as a school for black men, Johnson C. Smith was not coeducational until 1932, when the University entered into an agreement with Barber-Scotia Junior College, a historically black college for women in Concord, Cabarrus County, whereby Barber-Scotia sent its graduates to Johnson C. Smith University to complete their degrees. This arrangement lasted until 1941, when Johnson C. Smith University began admitting female first-year students.²⁰

Davidson College

Davidson College in Mecklenburg County, once the richest private college in the South, was founded in 1837 under the auspices of the Concord and Bethel Presbyteries as a manual training school for men. The college was named for General William Lee Davidson, a Pennsylvania native who was killed in the Revolutionary War Battle of Cowan's Ford near Charlotte. His son, also named William, supplied 469 acres upon which the college now stands. On April 18, 1905, Carnegie offered a matching grant of \$20,000 to build a library for Davidson College. College President Henry Louis Smith oversaw raising funds to match Carnegie's investment. Construction began in 1909, and the building was dedicated on September 12, 1910.

The new library replaced the original Union Library found in the Chambers Building. In October 1941, the old Carnegie library's growing collection and lack of space resulted in the moving of the library to the recently finished Hugh A. and Jane Parks Grey Me-



Carnegie Guest House, Davidson College, Davidson, NC. Source: [Carnegie Guest House](#) | [On the campus of Davidson College, Da...](#) | Flickr

²⁰ "Biddle University (Now Johnson C. Smith University)," accessed Jan. 10, 2024, <http://www.cmstory.org/exhibits/turn-20th-century-life-charlotte-1900-1910-schools/biddle-university-now-johnson-c-smith>; James I. Martin, rev. by SLNC Government and Heritage Library, "Johnson C. Smith University," in *Encyclopedia of North Carolina*, ed. by William S. Powell (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2023), accessed Jan. 10, 2024, <https://www.ncpedia.org/johnson-c-smith-university>; Kaser, 128; Walker, 44, 45; Patrick Valentine, "The Origin of College Libraries in North Carolina: A Social History, 1890-1920," *Information & Culture* 47, no. 1 (2012): 79-112, 96; "North Carolina's Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs)," in *NCPEDIA*, accessed Jan. 10, 2024, <https://www.ncpedia.org/education/hbcu>; "Johnson C. Smith University History," accessed Jan. 10, 2024, library.jcsu/history

morial Library. In 1972, the 1910 Carnegie building became the temporary college union until a new one was constructed. In 1976, the Carnegie library building was permanently remodeled as a guesthouse. In 1974, the \$4.2 million E. H. Little Library replaced the Grey Memorial Library and continues to serve as the main library of Davidson.²¹



Hege Library, Guilford College, Greensboro, NC. Source: Hege Library- List of Carnegie libraries in North Carolina- Wikipedia.

Guilford College

Guilford College in Greensboro, Guilford County, is affiliated with the Society of Friends. The school was opened in 1837 by the Quakers as the New Garden Boarding School. The school was a station on the Underground Railroad as well as a center of resistance to Confederate conscription during the Civil War. During Reconstruction, the school reorganized with the help of the Society of Friends and was renamed Guilford College under a charter issued in 1887.

Guilford College was at its start the oldest coeducational college in the Southeast and today is still the only Quaker school in the South. In 1902, Guilford hired a librarian and Quaker historian, Julia S. White, to catalog Guilford's approximately five thousand books, but a fire in 1908 destroyed or ruined most of them. Guilford College was later granted

a Carnegie library construction matching grant of \$9,000 on April 30, 1908. The library, which was not built until 1910, was located at 5800 W. Friendly Avenue in Greensboro where it is still in use as a functional part of the Hege Library complex.²²

Livingstone College

Livingstone College, in Salisbury, Rowan County, was founded in 1879 by the African Methodist Episcopal Zion (AME Zion) Church. Its two predecessors were the Zion Wesley Institute and Zion Wesley College. In 1880, the college was granted the right to supply post-secondary education. In 1887, the school awarded its first degrees and changed its name to Livingstone College in honor of Dr. David Livingstone (1813-1873), missionary, philanthropist, and explorer in Africa.



Andrew Carnegie Library, Livingstone College, Salisbury, NC. Source: Carnegie Library Livingstone- List of Carnegie libraries in North Carolina- Wikipedia.

In 1905, Carnegie donated a matching grant of \$12,500 for the construction of the library building at Livingstone College. Named the Andrew Carnegie Library in honor of the benefactor, the library was completed and dedicated in 1908. The fund-raising campaign for the \$12,500 matching grant was spearheaded by Dr. Booker T. Washington of the Tuskegee Institute, Dr. W. H. Goler, Livingstone College presi-

²¹ "Carnegie Library of Davidson College," accessed Jan. 10, 2024, <https://davidsonarchivesandspecialcollections.org/archives/encyclopedia/carnegie-library-of-davidson-college>; "Libraries of Davidson College," accessed Jan. 10, 2024, <https://davidsonarchivesandspecialcollections.org/archives/encyclopedia/libraries-of-davidson-college>; Valentine, "The Origin of College Libraries in North Carolina," 90-91; Joseph I. Martin, "Davidson College," in *Encyclopedia of North Carolina*, ed. by William S. Powell (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2006), accessed Jan. 10, 2024, <https://www.ncpedia.org/davidson-college>;

²² "List of Carnegie Libraries in North Carolina," accessed Jan. 10, 2024, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Carnegie_libraries_in_North_Carolina, includes a thumbnail photo of Guilford's Carnegie Library; Valentine, "The Origin of College Libraries in North Carolina," 91; "List of Earliest Coeducational Colleges and Universities in the United States," accessed Jan. 10, 2024, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_earliest_coeducational_colleges_and_universities_in_the_United_States; Julia S. White's article "The Quakers of Perquimans," was published in *The North Carolina Booklet*, vol. 7, no. 4, accessed Jan. 10, 2014, <https://digital.lib.ecu.edu/12770>

dent, and AME Zion Bishop George W. Clinton. Many of the bricks for the erection of the building were fired on the campus and laid by Livingstone students. The library was designed by Robert Robinson Taylor, the first academically trained African American architect in the United States and native North Carolinian. The Andrew Carnegie Library at Livingstone College is the only Carnegie-endowed HBCU library that remains in use today as a library. Additions have been made to the original Carnegie library using funds from three \$500,000 grants, in 2018, 2020, and 2021, from the Historically Black Colleges and Universities program of the Historic Preservation Fund managed by the National Park Service. Although not Carnegie academic library

grants, a program which was ceased by the Carnegie Corporation of New York in 1917, these grants were used to make improvements and repairs to the original Carnegie building, which is listed on the *National Register of Historic Places*. Beginning with a single building and 40 acres of land, as of 2010, Livingstone's campus has grown to 272 acres consisting of 21 brick buildings.²³

State Normal and Industrial College

(North Carolina College for Women, Woman's College of the University of North Carolina, UNC Greensboro)

On February 18, 1891, the General Assembly of North Carolina passed "An Act to Establish Normal and Industrial School for White Girls" under the



Carnegie Library, State Normal and Industrial School (now Forney Building, UNC Greensboro), Greensboro, NC. Source: [The University of North Carolina at Greensboro- Timeline of UNCG History](#).

²³ "National Park Service Awards \$8.6 Million in Preservation Grants to Historically Black Colleges and Universities," (Aug. 27, 2018), accessed Jan. 10, 2024, <https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1207/nationalpark-service-awards-8-6-million-in-preservation-grants-to-historically-black-colleges-and-universities.htm>; Valentine, "The Origin of College Libraries in North Carolina, 96-98; Kaser, 127; Walker, 43, 45; Alyssa Franz, "Livingstone College [Salisbury] (1879-)", Mar. 11, 2020), accessed Jan. 10, 2024, <https://www.blackpast.org/african-amerian-history/livingstone-colleg-1879/>; Charles W. Wadlington (additional research provided by Kelly Agan), "Livingstone College," in *Encyclopedia of North Carolina*, ed. by William S. Powell (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina, 2006, rev. 2021), accessed Jan. 10, <https://www.ncpedia.org/livingstone-college>

corporate name “The Normal and Industrial School.” This Act created the first public institution in North Carolina with the sole purpose of higher education of women. After much debate, Greensboro was chosen as the site for the school, based on its central location in the state and the more than \$30,000 in bonds pledged by the city. The site consisted of over 10 acres of cornfields bought from R.S. Pullen and R.T. Gray of Raleigh. A board of directors was selected, and Dr. Charles Duncan McIver was appointed the institution’s first president.

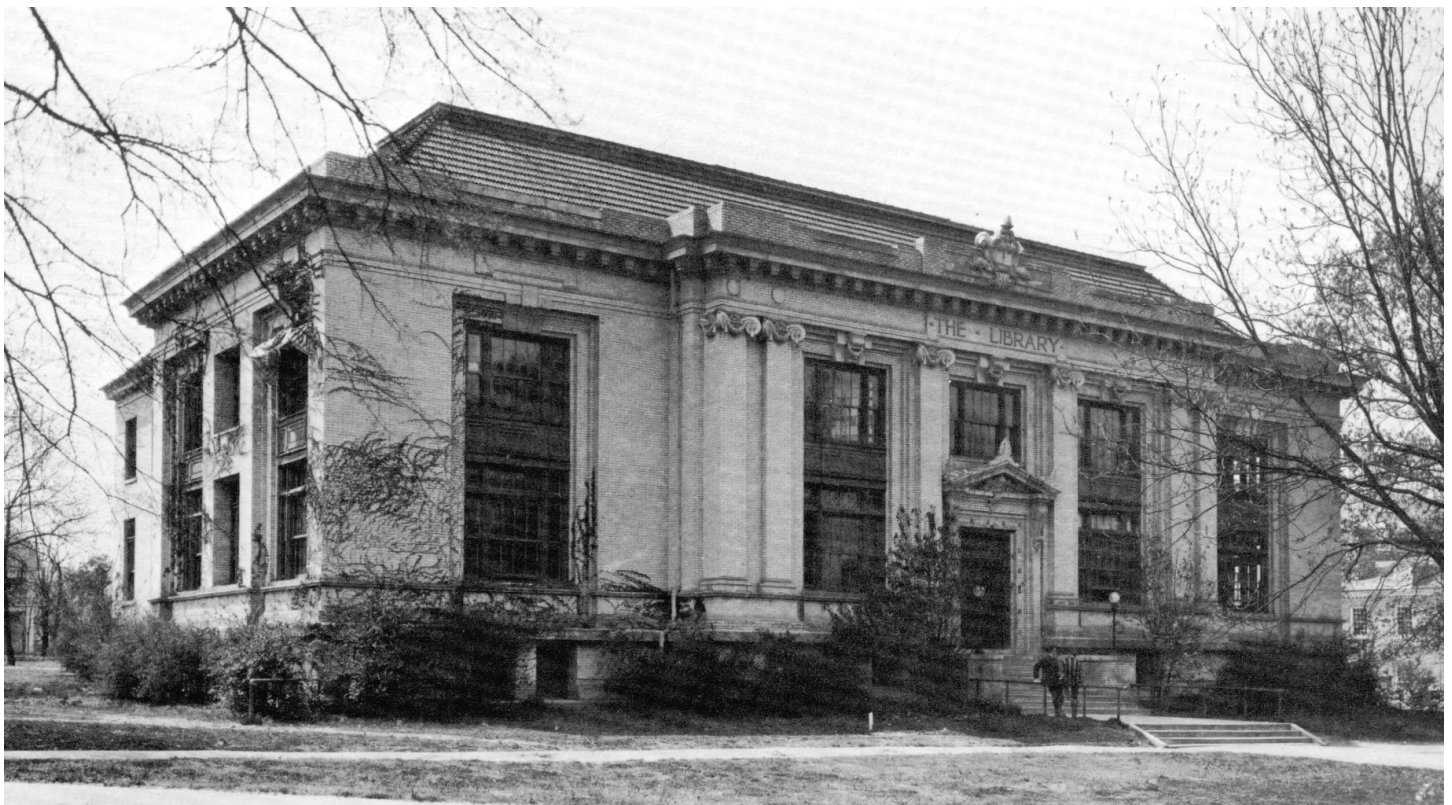
On October 5, 1892, the State Normal and Industrial School opened its doors to 176 female students. By 1896, the school was called the State Normal and Industrial College. Annie Petty, who ran the original college library, became the first trained librarian in North Carolina following a one-year leave of absence in 1898 when she studied at the Drexel Institute Library in Philadelphia. Petty was a pioneer leader in the North Carolina Library Association and, later, in the North Carolina State Library Commission.

On February 4, 1904, the State Normal and Industrial College applied for a Carnegie library construction matching grant of \$18,868 which was received on October 2, 1905. The original library

moved from a small room in the Main Building (now Foust Building) to the newly constructed Carnegie Library (now Forney Building), designed by Hook & Sawyer of Charlotte.

The Carnegie library of Woman’s College of the University of North Carolina mysteriously caught fire on September 15, 1932. The final damage to the building and its contents was estimated to be approximately \$98,000. After the fire, Charles H. Stone, the College Librarian, began the task of rebuilding the damaged library collections. The Carnegie library was rebuilt in 1933 and stayed the primary library on campus until June 1950, when more than 124,000 books were moved to the new, larger Jackson Library, named in honor of former Chancellor Walter Clinton Jackson, which was named in honor of former Chancellor Walter Clinton Jackson and which is still the main library of UNC Greensboro. In 1955, the Carnegie library building was extensively renovated for classroom use. Two years later, in 1957, the building was named for Edward Jacob Forney.

The State Normal and Industrial School (1891-1896) was succeeded by State Normal and Industrial College (1896-1919), North Carolina College for Women (1918-32), Woman’s College of the Univer-



Carnegie Library (now Hill Hall), UNC at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC. Source: [Hill Hall - Names in Brick and Stone: Histories from UNC's Built Landscape](#).

sity of North Carolina (1932-63), and, finally, UNC Greensboro (1963), when the university became coeducational.²⁴

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

The University of North Carolina (UNC) at Chapel Hill, the oldest college library in the state, was an all-male state-supported school at its start in 1795, when it became the first state institution of higher learning in the nation. On March 21, 1905, UNC received a Carnegie library building construction grants of \$55,000. The UNC Carnegie Library was built in 1907, when the University's enrollment stood at 764 male students and the library held only 45,822 volumes.

When the Carnegie Library was no longer adequate, a study to investigate options for renovation showed that an addition to the Carnegie library was not possible due to the building's design and small overall scale. This finding led to the decision to build the Louis Round Wilson Library in 1929. The old Carnegie Library became Hill Hall, named for John Sprunt Hill, who was instrumental in the building of the Wilson Library. Hill Hall serves today as the primary facility for the University's music program.

The 1929 Louis Round Wilson Library is still in use but is no longer the main library for UNC Chapel Hill. The current Walter Royal Davis Library was opened on February 6, 1984. It is the largest academic facility and state-owned building in North Carolina. In 1931, UNC at Chapel Hill, joined Woman's College at Greensboro (later UNC Greensboro) and North Carolina State College at Raleigh (later North Carolina State University) to form the consolidated University of North Carolina System.²⁵

Impact of Carnegie's Philanthropy in North Carolina

Out of 1,681 public libraries in the United States funded by Carnegie, only 10 were constructed in North Carolina. Out of 109 academic libraries funded by Carnegie matching grants, only 6 were constructed in North Carolina. It must be remembered that the right to apply for a Carnegie grant was open to all who met the 10% annual maintenance requirement for public libraries or the matching grant requirement for academic libraries. The North Carolina Library Association (NCLA) was perplexed by the lack of response from communities needing funds for the establishment of public libraries and colleges and universities needing academic library buildings. The NCLA discussed the issue at a 1921 conference, but by that time the Carnegie Corporation of New York had already ended the library construction grant program officially on November 7, 1917.²⁶

Andrew Carnegie donated a grand total of \$293,564 (\$9,698,442 in 2023 dollars) for 10 public library buildings and six academic library buildings in North Carolina. Although North Carolina's share of Carnegie philanthropy was modest in comparison with other states, Carnegie library grants both to public and academic libraries promoted cultural and educational development of residents and students who experienced self-improvement and self-education by taking advantage of increasing library services statewide, goals that Andrew Carnegie would have heartily supported.

²⁴ "Carnegie Library Fire (1932)," (Sept. 11, 2015), accessed Jan. 10, 2024, <https://encyclopedia.uncg.edu/carnegie-library-fire/>; "North Carolina State Normal and Industrial College Campus," accessed Jan. 10, 2024, <https://gateway.uncg.edu/islandora/object/mss%3A163243>; Valentine, "The Origin of College Libraries in North Carolina," 94-95; James Stewart. "The University of North Carolina at Greensboro: A Brief History to 1945," accessed Jan. 10, 2024, <https://gateway.uncg.edu/islandora/object/highlights%3A2?james%2520stewart>; "Annie Petty (1871-1962)," in *Encyclopedia of UNCG History*, accessed Jan. 2024 from <https://encyclopedia.uncg.edu/annie-petty/>

²⁵ "Names in Brick and Stone: Histories from UNC's Built Landscape," accessed Jan. 10, 2024, from <https://unchistory.web.unc.edu/building-narratives/hill-hall/>; Joe A. Hewitt. "Louis Round Wilson Library: An Enduring Monument to Learning," accessed Jan. 10, 2024, <https://library.unc.edu/wilson/about/wilsonhistory/>; Valentine, "The Origin of College Libraries in North Carolina," 83-88, 99-100; "University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill," in *Wikipedia*, accessed Jan. 10, 2024, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_of_North_Carolina_at_Chapel_Hill#Libraries

²⁶ Valentine, "Steel, Cotton, and Tobacco," 278.

**Appendix I:
Carnegie Public Libraries in North Carolina**

| Community | Date granted | Grant amount (2023 currency) | Notes |
|--|---------------------|--|--|
| Andrews | Apr. 13, 1914 | \$5,000 (\$153,510) | Demolished in 1979 |
| Charlotte | Mar. 12, 1901 | \$40,000 (\$1,443,864) | Demolished in 1954. New library building opened on the same site in 1956, a third in 1989. |
| Durham | Sept. 14, 1917 | \$32,000 (\$766,865) | Closed in 1980. Building, renovated in 1984, used for offices. |
| Greensboro ♦ Main (Segregated) ♦ Negro Library | Apr. 26, 1902 | \$40,446 (\$1,442,634) \$30,446 \$10,000 | Demolished Built 1924, now part of Bennett College campus |
| Hendersonville | May 2, 1911 | \$10,000 (\$322,891) | Closed in 1970, now Henderson County Partnership for Economic Development |
| Hickory | May 3, 1917 | \$13,250 (\$317,530) | Closed in 1952. |
| Murphy | May 15, 1916 | \$7,500 (\$211,064) | Now a museum |
| Rutherford College | Feb. 21, 1907 | \$2,500 (\$81,581) | Demolished |
| Winston-Salem | Feb. 12, 1903 | \$15,000 (\$522,863) | Closed 1954, now a Catholic church |
| TOTAL | | \$165,696 (\$5,262,311) | |

**Appendix II:
Carnegie Academic Libraries in North Carolina**

| Institution | Date granted | Amount (2023 equivalency) | Notes |
|--|---------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| Biddle University | Dec. 23, 1905 | \$12,500 (\$435,719) | Closed in 1969, now houses student services of Johnson C. Smith University |
| Davidson College | Apr. 18, 1905 | \$20,000 (\$697,150) | Built 1910, closed in 1941, now College guesthouse |
| Guilford College | Apr. 30, 1908 | \$9,000 (\$300,078) | Built in 1910 |
| Livingstone College | Mar. 15, 1905 | \$12,500 (\$435,719) | Built in 1908 |
| State Normal & Industrial College (UNC Greensboro) | Feb. 4, 1904 | \$18,868 (\$650,302) | Closed c. 1950, now Forney Building, houses IT services |
| UNC Chapel Hill | Mar. 21, 1905 | \$55,000 (\$1,917,163) | Closed in 1929, now Hill Hall, music department facilities |
| TOTAL | | \$127,868 (\$4,436,131) | |

*Original dollar amounts adjusted for 2023 inflation dollars using Consumer Price Index Inflation Calculator, <https://www.officialdata.org/>



North Carolina
Library Association