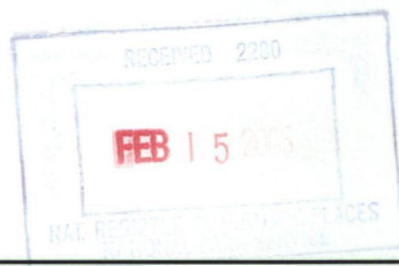


(Oct. 1990)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM



1. NAME OF PROPERTY

HISTORIC NAME: George Washington Carver Library
OTHER NAME/SITE NUMBER: N/A

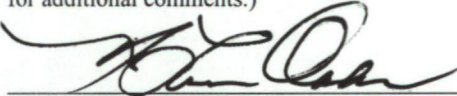
2. LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: 1165 Angelina Street
CITY OR TOWN: Austin
STATE: Texas CODE: TX COUNTY: Travis CODE: 453

NOT FOR PUBLICATION: N/A
VICINITY: N/A
ZIP CODE: 78702

3. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this (☒ nomination) (☐ request for determination of eligibility) meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property (☒ meets) (☐ does not meet) the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant (☐ nationally) (☐ statewide) (☒ locally). (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)


Signature of certifying official

February 10, 2005
Date

State Historic Preservation Officer, Texas Historical Commission
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is:

☒ entered in the National Register
See continuation sheet.

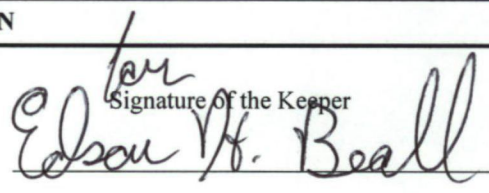
☐ determined eligible for the National Register

☐ See continuation sheet

☐ determined not eligible for the National Register

☐ removed from the National Register

☐ other (explain):


Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

3/30/05

5. CLASSIFICATION

OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY: Public-local

CATEGORY OF PROPERTY: Building

NUMBER OF RESOURCES WITHIN PROPERTY:	CONTRIBUTING	NONCONTRIBUTING
	1	0 BUILDINGS
	0	0 SITES
	0	0 STRUCTURES
	0	0 OBJECTS
	1	0 TOTAL

NUMBER OF CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES PREVIOUSLY LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER: 0

NAME OF RELATED MULTIPLE PROPERTY LISTING: *Historic and Architectural Resources of East Austin*

6. FUNCTION OR USE

HISTORIC FUNCTIONS: Education: Library

CURRENT FUNCTIONS: Recreation and Culture: Museum

7. DESCRIPTION

ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION: Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals: Colonial Revival

MATERIALS:	FOUNDATION	CONCRETE
	WALLS	BRICK
	ROOF	ASPHALT
	OTHER	WOOD

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (see continuation sheets 7-5 through 7-6).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 5

George Washington Carver Library
Austin, Travis County, Texas

Narrative Description

The George Washington Carver Library is a one-story, Colonial Revival Style brick building at 1165 Angelina Street in east Austin. The symmetrical primary façade features a central door with sidelights and a fanlight, under a broken pediment. Two sets of four wood sash windows feature a 9/9 light configuration, and are grouped symmetrically on the primary façade. The hipped roof is topped by a cupola with attic vents. The building originally served as Austin's first public library, and sat at southwest corner of Ninth and Guadalupe streets in downtown Austin. Built in 1926 by Hugo Miller, the wood-framed building served as Austin's first public library until 1933, when it was moved to its present location, and a larger building was constructed to serve as Austin's main library. Once moved, a beige brick veneer was added, and the building served as the first "colored" branch of Austin's public library system, beginning September 11, 1933. In 1977, the building received a state historical marker. In 1980, the library was transformed into the George Washington Carver Museum, as the 1,800-square-foot building was no longer capable of providing adequate space for library services. Based on the George Washington Carver archives at the Austin History Center, the building then gained distinction as the first African American neighborhood museum in Texas. A majority of the exterior of the Carver Library retains a high degree of integrity, with alterations and renovations limited to the interior spaces, exterior walkways, and entrances.

George Washington Carver Library

The George Washington Carver Library (now the George Washington Carver Museum) faces west at the southeast corner of Angelina and Hackberry streets in an historic African American neighborhood. Located behind (to the east of) the former library is the new Carver Library Branch addition, Kealing Junior High and a park.

The Carver library is a simple, one-room, Colonial Revival style building. A cupola crowns the low-pitched hipped roof. The slight eave overhang features a wide band of beige wood trim. The front door, topped with a fanlight and flanked by sidelights is set under a parapet. The primary façade faces west onto Angelina Street. A concrete walkway, stairs, and porch, lead to the front door. This entrance sits perfectly centered between ribbon windows, 4 units each on either side of the entrance. The windows are multi-pane wood sashes with 9/9 lights. A beige brick veneer covers all facades, with the wood at the roof trim, the doors, and around the windows painted a complimentary beige color.

The side elevations (north and south), feature identical, symmetrical facades. Centered on both elevations are ribbons of three windows with wood sashes. The center window on each façade is larger, and features a 6/6 light configuration, while the outer windows feature a 9/9 light configuration. The rear elevation (east) features five windows and a door. The rear entrance has a metal awning. The north window features beveled, opaque glass in a simple starburst pattern. Metal bars painted the same beige as the wood trim cover all windows on the rear elevation. A concrete, handicapped-accessible ramp addition sits on the north side of the rear door, and is mirrored by a set of concrete stairs on the south side of the door. Landscaping consists of bushes planed in raised beds on the west and south elevation, and a few small trees. The new concrete sidewalk features a multicolored rectangular pattern.

The interior of the building reflects more extensive renovation work. Upon entering the front door, there is a large gallery space, with two office units on the south side. Behind this gallery space is a sectioned-off back hallway with a display area on the south side, and a mechanical/storage room leading to a restroom on the north side. The gallery room features modern track and fluorescent lighting, ceiling panels, and gray carpet. Situated on the south side of the building are two

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 6

George Washington Carver Library
Austin, Travis County, Texas

offices. The partitions for these offices appear new, based on historic photographs of the interior. At the rear, a door that leads to a hallway, with access to electrical wiring, book storage space, and a bathroom with modern fixtures. The walls are lined with the original wood trim.

Historic and Architectural Integrity

Overall, the George Washington Carver library retains much integrity and social significance. Although the interior and the exterior walkways have undergone the most substantial renovations, the exterior elements speak of authenticity in design and detailing. The social and historical integrity expresses itself most clearly in the library's support of the African American community as its focus and function. The location of the building in a historically African-American neighborhood, and the roles and services provided at the building, bolster its significance as an important building in Austin's history and development.

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

APPLICABLE NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA

- ☒ **A** PROPERTY IS ASSOCIATED WITH EVENTS THAT HAVE MADE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE BROAD PATTERNS OF OUR HISTORY.
- ☐ **B** PROPERTY IS ASSOCIATED WITH THE LIVES OF PERSONS SIGNIFICANT IN OUR PAST.
- ☒ **C** PROPERTY EMBODIES THE DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERISTICS OF A TYPE, PERIOD, OR METHOD OF CONSTRUCTION OR REPRESENTS THE WORK OF A MASTER, OR POSSESSES HIGH ARTISTIC VALUE, OR REPRESENTS A SIGNIFICANT AND DISTINGUISHABLE ENTITY WHOSE COMPONENTS LACK INDIVIDUAL DISTINCTION.
- ☐ **D** PROPERTY HAS YIELDED, OR IS LIKELY TO YIELD, INFORMATION IMPORTANT IN PREHISTORY OR HISTORY.

CRITERIA CONSIDERATIONS: N/A

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: ETHNIC HERITAGE: BLACK, ARCHITECTURE

PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE: 1933-1955

SIGNIFICANT DATES: 1933, 1951

SIGNIFICANT PERSON: N/A

CULTURAL AFFILIATION: N/A

ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Hugo Miller

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (see continuation sheets 8-7 through 8-9).

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

BIBLIOGRAPHY (see continuation sheet 9-10)

PREVIOUS DOCUMENTATION ON FILE (NPS): N/A

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

PRIMARY LOCATION OF ADDITIONAL DATA:

- ☒ State historic preservation office (*Texas Historical Commission*)
- ☐ Other state agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☒ Other -- Specify Repository: *Austin History Center*

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 7

George Washington Carver Library
Austin, Travis County, Texas

Statement of Significance

The George Washington Carver Library, at 1165 Angelina Street, served as Austin's first public library from its construction in 1926 until it was moved in 1933 to its present location and it became Austin's first branch library for African-Americans on September 11, 1933. Designed by architect Hugo Miller, the wood-framed building originally sat at southwest corner of Ninth and Guadalupe streets in downtown Austin. Once moved, the wood-clad building was sided with a beige brick veneer. In 1980, the library was transformed into the George Washington Carver Museum, as the 1,800-square-foot building was no longer capable of providing adequate space for library services. A majority of the exterior of the Carver Library retains a high degree of integrity, with alterations and renovations limited to the interior spaces, exterior walkways, and entrances. Although architecturally simple in design, the complex cultural importance of this library is noteworthy and the building is therefore eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion A in the area of Ethnic History: Black, and Criterion C, in the area of Architecture, both at the local level of significance. The building is not required to meet Criteria Consideration B (*Moved Properties*) because the building was moved well over fifty years ago, prior to its period of significance.

Austin's First Public Library (1926-1933)

The establishment of Austin's first public library is directly tied to the tireless efforts of Mrs. Grace Delano Clark, who rallied the Austin Chapter of the American Association of University Women to join her efforts in founding a subscription public library for Austin. The initial site of the library was the second floor of 819 Congress, beginning on February 26, 1926. With the successful inception of this library, Mrs. Clark campaigned to create a larger community association that would solely represent the interests of the library. Mrs. Clark achieved this by founding and serving as first president of the Austin Library Association. Realizing the need for a larger library facility to serve the Austin community, the Austin Library Association campaigned for funding of a library building and official library site. A city loan of \$ 4,190 allowed the construction and funding of Austin's first public library at 9th and Guadalupe Streets in December 1926. This simple 1,800-square-foot building served as Austin's first public library until 1933. In 1928, A. P. Wooldridge led the charge for an even larger library facility to be constructed. Funding was secured, and the new main public library building opened its doors on March 20, 1933.

Austin's First Colored Branch Library (1931-1951)

In 1931, the Committee on the Negro Library and the Negro Citizen's Council appealed to the Library Commission for the City of Austin to help them establish a library facility on the east side of the city to meet their needs during a time of segregation. By 1931, 85 percent of the African Americans of Austin lived on the east side. This settlement pattern directly relates to city council efforts to establish a 'single Negro community' through passive segregation policies in the 1920s. According to *Austin: An Illustrated History*, "Segregation increasingly characterized Austin's residential patterns. In 1880, blacks were scattered throughout....But by 1910, black homes had become more concentrated on the eastern side of town, [which] would accelerate in the 1920's and 1930's." Not only was there residential segregation, but a 1928 city plan recommended that East Austin be designated a "Negro district" which limited services for blacks in the capital city, such as schools, libraries, and parks to this area. Interestingly, the only documented segregation statutes at state level involved public transportation, public education, and separate facilities in mines.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 8

George Washington Carver Library
Austin, Travis County, Texas

In 1933, efforts increased in the African American community to commission a branch library to serve their needs. Multiple meetings with prominent figures in Austin's African American community took place during the spring and summer of 1933 to further their initiatives in establishing a library. The City Council eventually offered to move the original wood-framed library building to its current location at 1165 Angelina Street. After the move, a brick veneer was added and necessary repairs and renovations were made. On September 12, 1933, the Colored Branch of the Austin Public Library officially opened and a commencement ceremony followed with prominent African American community leaders speaking, including E.H. Givens, U.V. Christian, Hattie Henson, Hiram Sneed, and Louis D. Lyons. An official resolution was passed on March 22, 1945 that changed the name of the "Colored Branch of the Austin Public Library" to the "George Washington Carver Library."¹

This branch of the Austin Public Library system served the African-American population solely until 1951, when the Austin's city council voted to make all library services available on a non-segregated basis. The impetus for the desegregation of the public library system in Austin can be credited to Dr. W. Astor Kirk, who worked at Tillotson College as a political science professor. By using the interlibrary services, which allowed African Americans to borrow books from the main library, Dr. Kirk set out to break down the segregated library system. Dr. Kirk accomplished this by requesting all volumes of the Harvard Classics, Encyclopedia Britannica, and the Great Books series over the course of several months. Eventually, Dr. Kirk was contacted by main library staff to "perhaps come over (to the main library) and they could provide a place when they found out what kind of volume he wanted and he could stand up and look at it...absolutely no sitting down."² Dr. Kirk's next initiative involved going to the city council and demanding that they stop denying the use of the central branch library on a restricted basis, since no state law and no city ordinance required it. Dr. Kirk's fight with the city council went on for several months, and on December 27, 1951, Austin's public library system was desegregated. The result of this ruling was not immediately apparent: the annual report issued by Main Librarian Miss Mary Rice stated that "December 27th brought the precedent-shattering decision of the city council to do away with segregation in the city library. This ruling has been in operation for four weeks, since it was effective immediately. As far as we have been able to tell, very little effect of this change has been felt at the main library."³

Indeed, the Carver library has continued to play an important role as a Black cultural center in this historically Black community. The library continued to host 'story hour' in the afternoons for neighborhood children, and many events linked to the heritage and history of African Americans. The library was located in the area that served as the historical heart of Austin's Black community, especially its educational, social, entertainment, and cultural center. The building served as a library until 1980, undergoing a major renovation in 1967. On October 5, 1980, the George Washington Carver Library became a museum, making it the first African American neighborhood museum in Texas.⁴

The building's design reflects the nationwide popularity of the Colonial Revival style for public buildings in the 1930s. The Carver Library was essentially a modern building, planned with classical symmetry and proportion, but reduced in scale and ornamentation. Typical of Colonial Revival style buildings of this era, including schools, libraries, and post offices, the Carver Library was a one-story brick building, featuring a symmetrical facade with one central entry door flanked by windows and topped by a fanlight, and a hipped roof with a central cupola.

¹ Minutes Library Commission, City of Austin, TX, Vol. III, February 1944 – October 1954

² Interview with Dr. Kirk in Biography file on Dr. Kirk at the Austin History Center

³ Library annual report archive at the Austin History Center

⁴ Austin History Center George Washington Carver Museum archives

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 9

George Washington Carver Library
Austin, Travis County, Texas

The George Washington Carver library is nominated to the National Register under Criterion A, in the area of Ethnic History: Black, and Criterion C, in the area of Architecture, at the local level of significance. The opening of this library branch to serve the needs of the African American community at a time of segregation, and its continued use as a cultural facility to the present day demonstrates its importance to the community it serves.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 9 Page 10

George Washington Carver Library
Austin, Travis County, Texas

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Humphrey, David C. and William M. Crawford Jr., *Austin: An Illustrated History*. Texas: American Historical Press, 2001.

Newspaper Sources:

Articles from the Austin American, March 19, 1933:

"Interior Views of Austin's New Library and Chief"

"Beautiful Unit of Civic Center"

"Growth of Austin Library Traced"

"20 Years' Effort Behind Library"

"Rules Set Forth for New Library"

"Austin Negro Citizens to Have a Public Library; What We Want Is a Library!" Austin Messenger, 25 February 1933.

"The Library Situation" Austin Messenger, 18 March 1933.

"What About the Library" Austin Messenger, 8 April 1933.

"Do We Want A Greater Austin? Negro Citizens' Council Holds Interesting Meeting on Tuesday" Austin Messenger, 12 August 1933.

"Negro Branch of Public Library is Opened Here" Austin Messenger, 12 September 1933.

Other Sources:

Austin Municipal Report 1933.

Austin Municipal Report 1934.

Multiple Clippings from Austin History Center lacking citation.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF PROPERTY: less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES	<u>Zone</u>	<u>Easting</u>	<u>Northing</u>
1.	14	622698	3349384

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Lot 4, Block 3, Outlot 56, Division of George L. Robertson Subdivision

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION: Nomination includes all property historical associated with the building

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE: Chantal McKenzie, student

ORGANIZATION: University of Texas at Austin

DATE: 5/18/04

STREET & NUMBER: 404 West Monroe Street

TELEPHONE: (512) 415-6461

CITY OR TOWN: Austin

STATE: Texas

ZIP CODE: 78704

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

CONTINUATION SHEETS

MAPS (See page Figure-12)

PHOTOGRAPHS (See page Photo-13 and Photo-14)

ADDITIONAL ITEMS (Historic photos, page Figure-11)

PROPERTY OWNER

NAME: City of Austin (Charlie Ardoin, Property Agent)

STREET & NUMBER: 505 Barton Springs Road, Suite 1350

TELEPHONE: (512) 974-7090

CITY OR TOWN: Austin

STATE: Texas

ZIP CODE: 78704

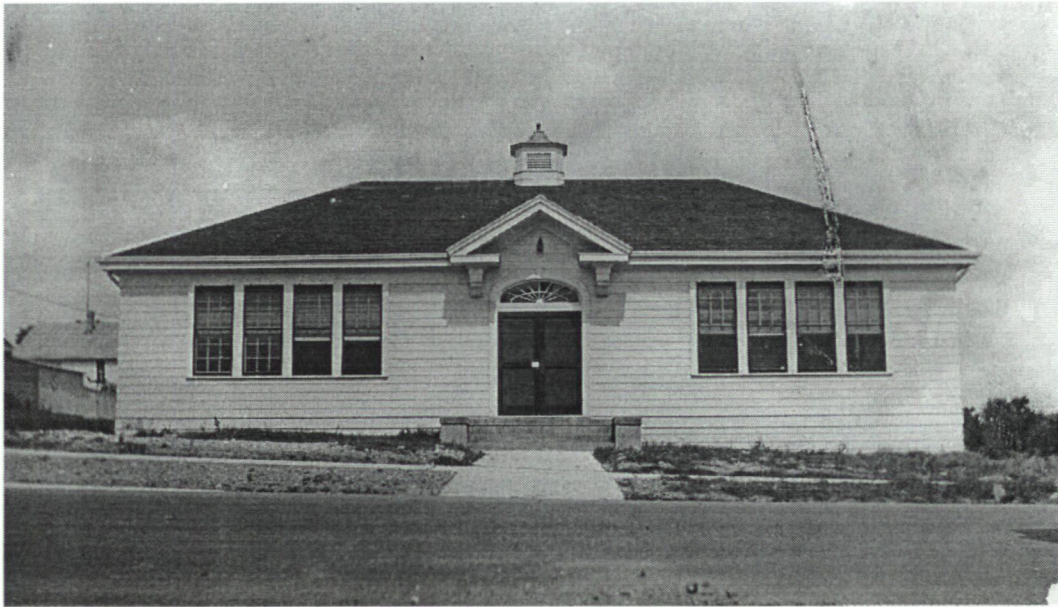
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Figure Page 11

George Washington Carver Library
Austin, Travis County, Texas

George Washington Carver Library circa 1933, west façade. *Source: Austin History Center, Austin Public Library.*



George Washington Carver Library circa 1933, northwest façade. *Source: Austin History Center, Austin Public Library.*



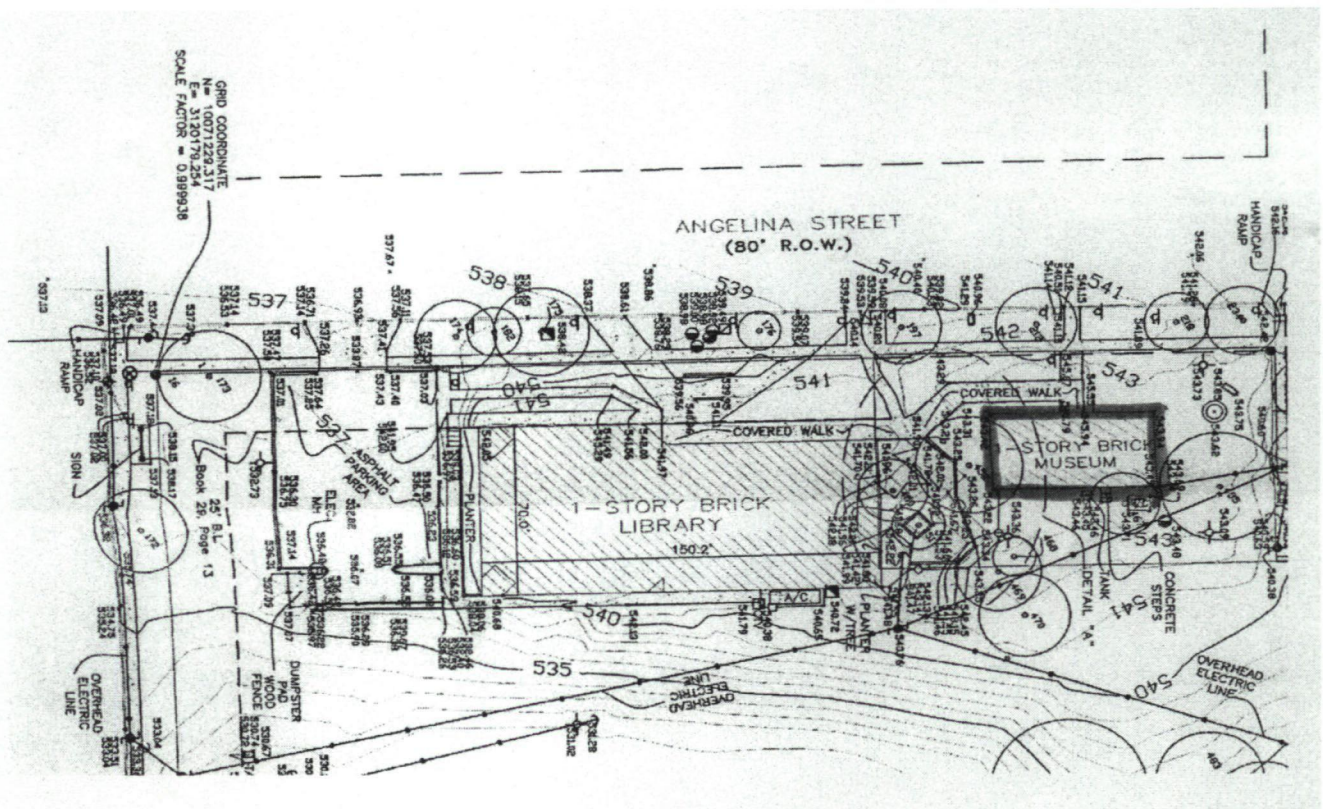
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section Figure Page 12

George Washington Carver Library
Austin, Travis County, Texas

Plan, 2004 (historic library at right)



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Photo Page 13

George Washington Carver Library
Austin, Travis County, Texas



West elevation



Southwest oblique

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section Photo Page 14

George Washington Carver Library
Austin, Travis County, Texas

Photo Log

George Washington Carver Library
1165 Angelina Street
Austin, Travis County, Texas
Photographed by Chantal McKenzie
April 2004
Negatives on file with the Texas Historical Commission

Photo 1
West Elevation
Camera Facing east

Photo 2
Southwest oblique
Camera facing northeast

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: George Washington Carver Library

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: TEXAS, Travis

DATE RECEIVED: 2/15/05 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 3/10/05
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 3/25/05 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 3/31/05
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 05000241

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

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

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 3/30/05 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in the
National Register

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

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

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER LIBRARY
1165 ANGELINA ST.

AUSTIN, TRAVIS CO., TEXAS

PHOTO 1 of 2

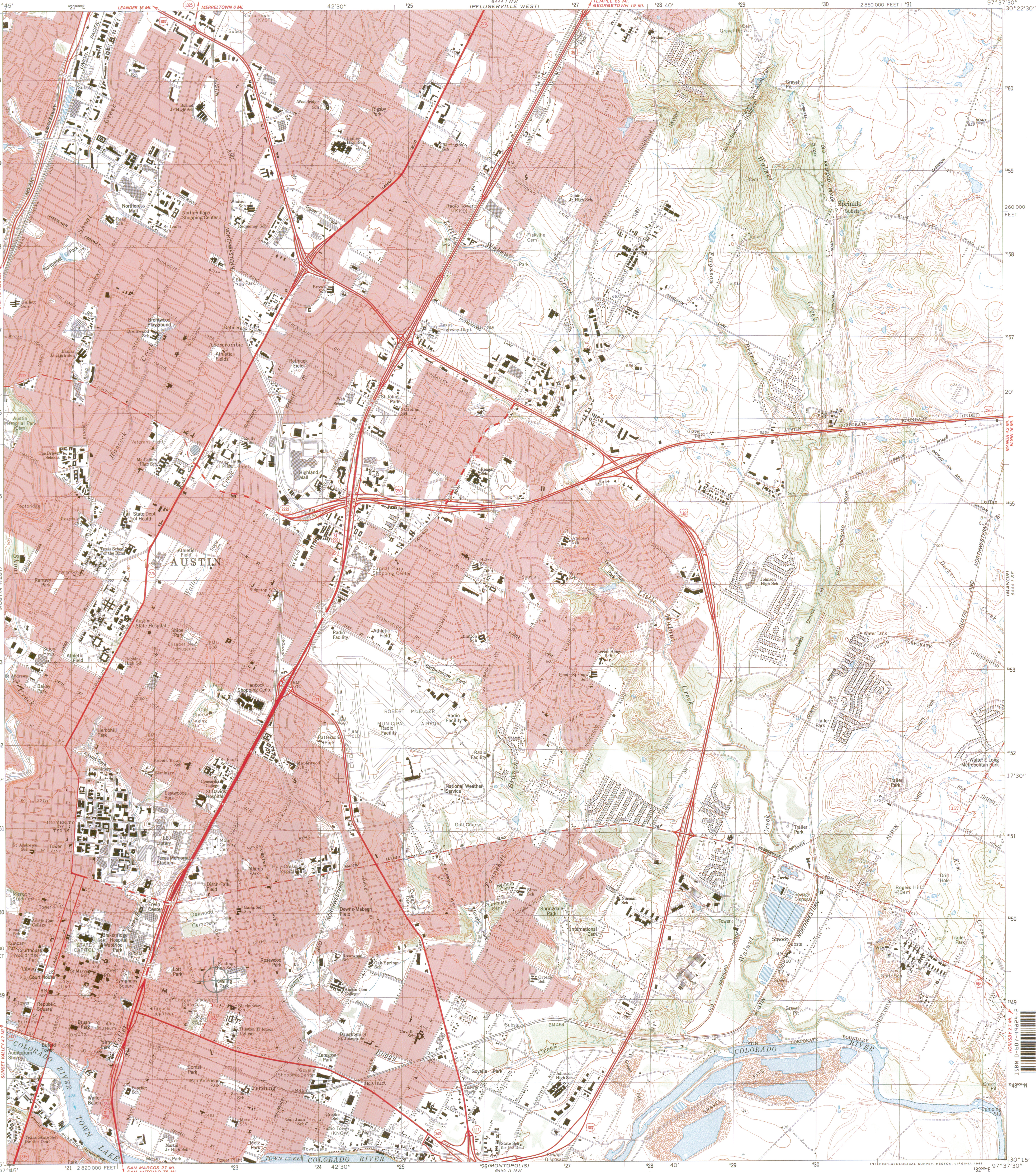


GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER LIBRARY

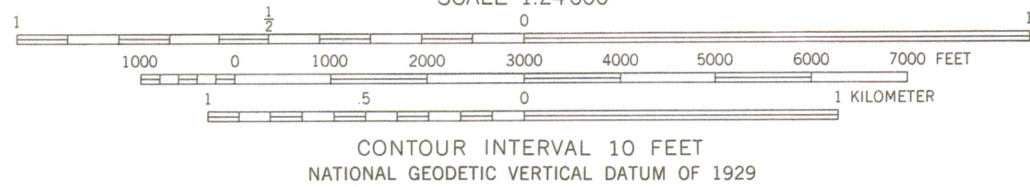
1165 ANGELINA ST.

AUSTIN, TRAVIS CO. TEXAS

PHOTO 2 of 2



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
in cooperation with City of Austin
Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1952. Field checked 1954. Revised from aerial photographs
taken 1985. Field checked 1986. Map edited 1988
Projection and 10,000-foot grid ticks: Texas
coordinate system, central zone (Lambert conformal conic)
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 14
1927 North American Datum
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983
move the projection lines 18 meters south and
28 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence lines



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



3097-242

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Primary highway, hard surface
Secondary highway, hard surface
Interstate Route
Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Unimproved road
U.S. Route
State Route

AUSTIN EAST, TEX.
30097-66-TF-024
1988
DMA 6444 1 SW-SERIES V882



TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Rick Perry • Governor

John L. Nau, III • Chairman

F. Lawrence Oaks • Executive Director

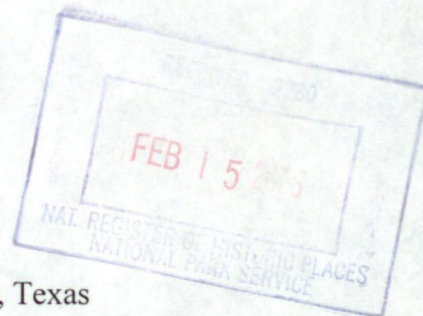
The State Agency for Historic Preservation

TO: Linda McClelland
National Register of Historic Places

FROM: Gregory W. Smith, National Register Coordinator
Texas Historical Commission

RE: George Washington Carver Library, Austin, Travis County, Texas

DATE: February 10, 2005



The following materials are submitted regarding: George Washington Carver Library

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Original National Register of Historic Places form
<input type="checkbox"/>	Resubmitted nomination
<input type="checkbox"/>	Multiple Property nomination form
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Photographs
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	USGS map
<input type="checkbox"/>	Correspondence
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:

COMMENTS:

☐ SHPO requests substantive review

☐ The enclosed owner objections (do ☐) (do not ☐) constitute a majority of property owners

☐ Other: _____