

Attachment A

The Lincoln Library in Medicine Lodge, Kansas is historically important to this legendary frontier town. Many of Barber County and Kansas' most famous citizens were involved in its conception.

The Lincoln Library began in February of 1898. Honorable Chester I. Long, State Senator, announced that 500 "choice and elegant" books had been donated by William K. Palmer of the Century Publishing Company of New York. Palmer, originally from Kansas, was a friend of Long. The only condition of the gift of books was that the use of the library shall be free, the association shall be a chartered body, and that the name shall be "Lincoln Library".

A temporary library was opened April 2, 1899, first in the courthouse and later in the Opera House. The Monday Afternoon Club members took turns serving as librarians, three hours each Saturday afternoon.

Over the next fourteen years, numerous fund-raising efforts were conducted in order to build a permanent library building. The single largest cash contributor was Dr. Henry Wisner of Sharon, Kansas who donated \$400. Dr. Wisner also gave the Wisner Memorial Fountain to be placed in front of the library. It is recorded that the land was donated by Field and Tincher. J. N. "Poley" Tincher was a lawyer whose most famous case was a divorce suit in 1901 between Medicine Lodge residents David and Carry Nation. David filed for divorce from Carry because "Mrs. Nation persisted in traveling over the country." Carry contested the divorce but Tincher won the case.

Construction began in August 1911 on a 30' X 30' building to house the Lincoln Library and was completed January 1912. The Library opened on January 31, 1912. The actual cost of the building was not recorded, but is estimated at approximately \$1,250. The city then took over the operation and provided a full-time librarian. The Library was used 54 years until the city passed a bond for construction of a new building to be located across the street. The new Library was completed in October 1966. The books were moved from the old building to the new by a "book brigade". On a nice Saturday afternoon, volunteers formed a line across the street between the two buildings. In less than two hours, all the books had been passed through the brigade.

Attachment B

The Original Lincoln Library built in August 1911 was a 30' X 30' square free-standing building. The brick structure featured a fireplace, tongue and groove pine floors, 12' tin ceiling, beveled glass windows, and a gable front porch.

In 1927-1928 an addition to the east of the building connected the library with the (then) Medicine Lodge High School. Some time after that the front porch was enclosed.

In front of the Lincoln Library stands the Wisner Memorial Fountain, donated by Dr. Henry Wisner of Sharon, Kansas in April 1912. The fountain provided a public watering place for both man and beast for over 45 years.

Another historical monument is located south of the library. In February 1929, appropriation from the Federal Government in the amount of \$2,500 was provided for a monument commemorating the signing of the 1867 Peace Treaty. The treaty signed near Medicine Lodge, between the U.S. Government and 5 Indian Tribes called for a cease to the hostility on the great plains. The impressive memorial on the Lincoln Library depicts a white soldier and an Indian warrior clasping hands in friendship.

Attachment C

Renovation is in progress at the Lincoln Library by owner, Rick Pyle. Mr. Pyle has repaired the deteriorating walls, floor joist, and pine floors. He has also repaired the tin ceiling, and painted the walls and ceiling. Numerous hours were spent scraping, sanding and refinishing the beautiful pine floors. A bathroom and electrical heating has also been installed.

Future plans include restoring the original porch, painting the exterior wood and trim, and installing a fire place mantel.

Attachment D

The historic "Original" Lincoln Library building is endangered by its location adjacent and connecting to the old High School Building (now the Middle School). The USD #254 Board of Education has announced the need for a new Middle School. They have stated that "the current Middle School building has served its purpose and is too old and not dependable as a future educational facility in its condition", and "it is not feasible to renovate the present facility". A brochure was prepared in October of 1994 listing 20 deficiencies in the building and a list of conclusions including "the building is old and in drastic need of repair". A bond issue was voted on in November of 1994 to build a \$8.5 Middle School at a new location. The voter's did not pass the issue and the board is now preparing a new one for the next election.

If the Middle School building is torn down, the concern is that the Lincoln Library will be threatened by Immanent Domain and could also be torn down. National Register status could be the salvation of this historical building.

Attachment E

In the past, Medicine Lodge had many historically and architecturally impressive buildings. As modern society has advanced, many of the buildings have been destroyed. By preserving the Lincoln Library, perhaps it will set a precedent for others to research and preserve the few remaining historical buildings.