**Project Name:** Littleton Historic Buildings  
Survey 1997 (#97-01-082)

**Current Building Name:** Melting Pot Restaurant

**Address:** 2707 W Main ST  
Littleton, CO 80120

**Historic Name:** Carnegie Library

**District Name:**

**Film Roll No.:** 97-7  
**By:** Roger Whitacre  
**Negative No.:** 36

**Location of Negatives:** Littleton Hist. Mus.

**County:** Arapahoe  
**City:** Littleton

**State ID No.:** 5AH234

**Temporary No.:** 2077-17-4-00-026

**Owner:** DAVIS, LERUTH G 55.556%, ET AL  
ROI DAVIS  
6600 E EXPOSITION AVE  
DENVER CO 80224

**Township:** 5S  
**Range:** 6W  
**Section:** 17  
**NE:** 1/4  
**SE:** 1/4

**U.S.G.S. Quad Name:** Littleton, Colo.  
**Year:** 1965 (r. 1994) X 7.5' 15'

**Block:** 1  
**Lot(s):** M&B

**Addition:** LITTLETON ORIG. TOWN  
**Yr. of Addition:** 1872

**Date of Construction:** Estimate: 1916-17  
**Actual:** 1916-17

**Source:** Lit. Independ., 7-22-38

**Use:** Present: Restaurant  
**Historic:** Library

**Condition:** Excellent  
**X** Good  
**Fair**  
**Deteriorating**

**Extent of Alterations:**  
**Minor**  
**Moderate**  
**Major**  
**Describe:** Large addition obscuring original design on south and west. Interior remodeled.

**Original Site: X** Moved  
**Date(s) of Move:**

**National Register Eligibility:**  
**Individual:** Yes  
**X** No

**Contributing to District:**  
**Yes**  
**X** No

**Local Landmark Designation:**  
**Name:**  
**Date:**

**Associated Buildings:** Yes  
**X** No  
**Type:**

**Architectural Description:**  
One-story, rectangular, hipped roof brick library which stands at the western terminus of Main Street facing east toward the courthouse. Widely overhanging eaves shelters frieze with classical motif. Symmetrical facade with central arched entrance flanked by rectangular multi-light windows between columns supporting entablature and arched windows of size equal to entrance and with cast stone arched hood molds with keystones; brick panels beneath windows. Engaged Ionic columns at entrance and flanking windows. Entrance has deep reveal with paneled walls of cast stone and ornamented ceiling with suspended lantern; plaque above door inscribed "PUBLIC LIBRARY." Polychromatic terra cotta insets between arches. In front of building is stone memorial to "Pioneer of the Upper Platte Valley" (1929) and rose garden. To south is fountain and memorial tree.

**Continued:** Yes  
**X** No

**Additional Pages:** Yes  
**X** No
Historical Background:
The drive for a public library in Littleton began in the 1890s, with support from such groups as the Littleton volunteer firemen and the Woman's Club. In 1915, the citizens of Littleton voted to issue bonds to purchase land to construct a Carnegie Library. Much discussion ensued over the proper site for the library, with this location at the foot of Main Street finally purchased on 4 January 1916. The Carnegie Foundation provided an $8,000 grant for construction of the building. Carnegie funded over 2,000 public libraries in towns throughout the United States. Littleton committed funds to hire a librarian and janitor for the building. In 1916, architect J.J.B. Benedict, who would four years later design the Town Hall, was selected to design the library after he agreed to reduce his fee. Apparently Benedict's original design was of a somewhat more elaborate and was rejected by the Carnegie Foundation as unsuitable. When the final design was approved, work began in September, and the cornerstone was laid on 14 November 1916. The building was completed in 1917 and served as the Littleton library until 1965, when the Edwin A. Demis Library on S. Datura Street opened. The Littleton Woman's Club held its meetings in the basement of the library building. This building was remodeled in 1965-66, and housed the Littleton Police Department until 1977. Since then, a number of restaurants have operated in the building.

Significance:
Architectural Significance:
- Represents the work of a master
- Possesses high artistic values

Historical Significance:
- Associated with significant persons
- Associated with significant events or patterns

Statement of Significance:
This building is representative of the work of architect J.J.B. Benedict; it is associated with the cultural history of Littleton, having been erected in 1916-17 as the Carnegie Library; and possesses high artistic values in its design, which includes multiple columns, cast stone ornaments and terra cotta, a frieze with classical motif, and large arched windows. The building reflects the Italian Renaissance Revival/Beaux Arts style through its hipped roof, arched entrance and windows, columns, and symmetrical facade.

References:

Surveyed by: R.L. Simmons/T.H. Simmons
Date: October 1997