

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only  
received **JAN 1 1983**  
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

## 1. Name

historic Buhl Public Library

and/or common N/A

## 2. Location

street & number Jones Avenue at Frantz Street N/A not for publication

city, town Buhl N/A vicinity of

state Minnesota code 22 county St. Louis code 137

## 3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: library

## 4. Owner of Property

name City of Buhl

street & number P.O. Box 704

city, town Buhl N/A vicinity of state Minnesota

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Registry of Deeds - St. Louis County Courthouse

street & number Fifth Avenue West and First Street

city, town Duluth state Minnesota

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date N/A N/A federal N/A state N/A county N/A local

depository for survey records Minnesota Historical Society -- Fort Snelling History Center

city, town St. Paul state Minnesota 55111

## 7. Description

**Condition**

excellent

~~good~~  ~~fair~~

fair

deteriorated

ruins

unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered

altered

**Check one**

original site

moved

date \_\_\_\_\_

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

Erected in 1917, the Buhl Public Library is a simple one story brick structure set upon a high basement. It is constructed of red brick with stone trim. It is rectangular in plan with the principal facade being partitioned into five bays and the width (sides) being three bays. The front facade is symmetrical in design.

Architectural detailing is in the form of integral brick patterns. The brick in the lower or basement level is representative of quoins or coursed masonry and that on the side walls is panelized below the three groups of windows. Emphasis is placed on the front entrance to the Library through a slight projection of the central bay wherein a pair of Doric columns support an entablature complete with triglyphs and metopes. Immediately above the slightly projecting cornice is a stepped parapet bearing the inscription "Public Library" and surmounted by an eagle with outstretched wings.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1917-1918 **Builder/Architect** Holstead and Sullivan, Duluth

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)** Contractor: Hugh Faucet, Duluth

The Buhl Public Library is significant in the role it played in the intellectual, cultural and social growth of the mining community of Buhl.

Buhl, a mining company town, was platted in 1900 by the Sharon Ore Company, and the prospect of steady employment in the area's mines attracted numerous ethnic groups who settled in the community. As a result of mine expansion, the population had reached over 1,000 by 1910, and city officials were quick to use mining company revenues for city projects. From 1910 to 1917, mine tax dollars were used for numerous city-wide improvements and public buildings (among them the Buhl City Hall which is also being nominated to the National Register). One of the more notable projects undertaken by the city was the construction of a library. Unlike other libraries located throughout the state, the Buhl Public Library was not constructed with funds from the Carnegie Foundation. City Council minutes indicated that this funding source was never considered by the council and it is evident that the construction of the library, like other civic improvements, was financed from local revenues.

Citizen requests for the construction of a library first appeared in the local newspaper, and, in 1916, the city council authorized the construction of a separate library building (Prior to this, the library was located in the public school). An architect was chosen and a notice for bids published. However, as a result of the 1916 city election, the city council membership changed and the original library plan was abandoned. New architects were chosen and the library was constructed on the site of the city park by Duluth contractor Hugh Faucet, from the architectural plans of Holstead and Sullivan of Duluth. The library was completed in the spring of 1918 at an estimated total cost of \$60,000.

The library opened with a collection of 4,000 volumes. Interior decorations included two fireplaces, oak furniture, stained and leaded glass windows, painted plaster cove mouldings, two oil paintings depicting an Indian and a classic literary scene, and a basement auditorium with theatre stage, kitchen and club rooms. Edwards and Rosenkranz of Duluth were responsible for the interior design.

Not restricted for use solely by Buhl residents (who by 1920 held 1,156 library cards out of a city population of 2,007), the library provided services to the community of Kinny and to two smaller crossroad communities of Sharon and Spina (no longer extant). In addition to providing much needed meeting space for fraternal organizations and social gatherings, it was claimed that the library was "accomplishing great Americanization work among the children of foreign born parents."

(see continuation sheet - page 1)

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet - page 2

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Buhl, Minn

Quadrangle scale 7.5

UTM References

A 

1	5	5	1	6	8	7	0	5	2	6	0	1	0	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots 12-21, Block 4, First Addition to Buhl, City of St. Paul.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan Roth, Research Historian and Charles Nelson, Historical Architect

organization Minnesota Historical Society date 15 November 1982

street & number Fort Snelling History Center telephone 612-726-1171

city or town St. Paul state Minnesota

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Russell W. Fridley

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 12/27/82

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the National Register

date 2/10/83

J. Allouez Byers  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

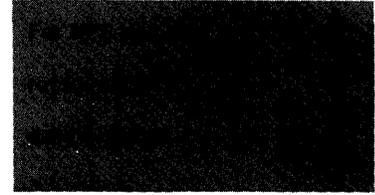
date

Chief of Registration

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

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Buhl Public Library, Buhl, MN; St. Louis County



Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 1

Although restrained in design, the Buhl Public Library is significant as a public building conceived and built solely through the efforts of the City of Buhl from tax revenues generated through the rapidly developing mining operations. It stands as a symbol of the city's achievements in providing a public educational and social focus for a multi-ethnic community. The library continues in its original function and will celebrate 65 years of service to the community in 1983.

<sup>1</sup>Walter Van Brunt, ed. Duluth and St. Louis County, Minnesota, Vol. 1, Am. Historical Society (Chicago & New York, 1921), p.475.

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Continuation sheet

Item number 9

Page 2

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

- Buhl City Council. City Council Minute Book. 1916-1917.
- Hecimovich, Steve. A Town is Born - A Historical and Pictorial Review of Buhl, Minnesota. Place of Publication (?), 1974?.
- Van Brunt, Walter, ed. Duluth and St. Louis County, Minnesota. Chicago & New York: Am. Historical Soc., 1921.
- Writers' Program, Minnesota. The Minnesota Arrowhead Country. Chicago: Albert Whitman & Co., 1941.
- Woodbridge, Dwight E. History of Duluth and St. Louis County. Vol. II. Chicago: C.F. Cooper and Company, 1916.