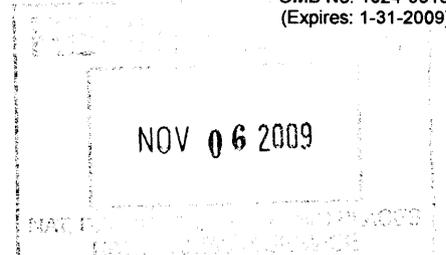


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

1097



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Mapleton Public Library

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 104 First Avenue NE not for publication N/A

city or town Mapleton vicinity

state Minnesota code MN county Blue Earth code 013 zip code 56065

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.)

Britta L. Bloomberg 10/27/09
Signature of certifying official Date

Britta L. Bloomberg, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

State or Federal agency and bureau Minnesota Historical Society

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

Signature of certifying official/Title 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

Edson H. Beall 12-18-09
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structure
		objects
1		Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Education/library _____

Social/meeting hall _____

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Education/library _____

Social/meeting hall _____

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals: _____

Classical Revival _____

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete _____

walls Brick _____

roof Asphalt _____

other _____

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- 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 values, 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

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or a grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Social History

Period of Significance

1910

Significant Dates

1910

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Claude, Louis and Starck, Edward

Ruh, George (builder)

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- 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
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Mapleton Public Library

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property less than one acre

Mapleton, Minn 1967

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1.	<u>1</u> <u>5</u>	<u>4</u> <u>2</u> <u>3</u> <u>1</u> <u>4</u> <u>5</u>	<u>4</u> <u>8</u> <u>6</u> <u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u> <u>6</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2.	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>
3.	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4.	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	<u>David C. Anderson</u>	date	<u>May 2009</u>
organization	<u> </u>	telephone	<u>563-382-3079</u>
street and number	<u>169 Lundry Bridge Drive</u>	city or town	<u>Waukon</u>
city or town	<u>Waukon</u>	state	<u>Iowa</u>
		zip code	<u>52172</u>

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name	<u> </u>
street & number	<u> </u>
city or town	<u> </u>
state	<u> </u>
telephone	<u> </u>
zip code	<u> </u>

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.). A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to range from approximately 18 to 36 hours depending on several factors including, but not limited to, how much documentation may already exist on the type of property being nominated and whether the property is being nominated as part of a Multiple Property Documentation Form. In most cases, it is estimated to average 36 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form to meet minimum National Register documentation requirements. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, 1849 C St., Washington, DC 20240.

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Continuation Sheet**

Mapleton Public Library

Name of property

Blue Earth County, Minnesota

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DESCRIPTION

The Mapleton Public Library is a single story building on a raised basement with exterior dimensions of 26 by 51 feet. It is located in Mapleton, Minnesota, a city of about 1800 residents in the south central part of the state. The library occupies three lots in a mixed residential/commercial area that contains mainly one and two story buildings.

The landscape around the library was redone in 2002 after drainage tile was installed around the building's perimeter at the basement level. In 2007 a steel and vinyl electrified sign resting on a brick and concrete base was installed on the lawn to the right of the entrance.

The main body of the library is a simple rectangle but there is a substantial portico projecting out from the south side. This includes a Classical Revival pediment with raking cornices plus frieze, entablature, and a narrow architrave on the horizontal segment. These elements are also present at the wall/roof junction on all sides of the building, except that the architrave is interrupted by four banks of three windows each at the front and sides of the building. The pediment is supported by lateral extensions of the basement walls. A pair of Kasota stone Tuscan columns with bases and capitals stands on brick pedestals from which handrails extend down to shorter walls on either side of a concrete staircase leading to the ground level sidewalk.

The walls of the library are of concrete block construction faced with brick and there is a clear distinction between the larger size, reddish hue, and wider mortar joints used in the basement level, and the narrower and buff colored pressed brick on the main body of the building. This distinction corresponds to the fact that the first floor walls are set inside the basement perimeter walls and are placed on a Kasota stone water table. Kasota stone is a dolomitic limestone and it is also used at other locations on the building, e.g. for the window sills, a slab over the entrance incised with the words PUBLIC LIBRARY, and in the aforementioned columns that flank the entrance.

The original wooden entrance doors and a lattice transom were replaced with steel and glass units in 1993. The simple round portico light on the pediment ceiling appears to be original.

The portico intersects a hipped roof on the main body of the library that was originally clad in ceramic tile and included an antefix at the portico roof peak that is clearly visible on historic photos. This roof was replaced by asphalt shingles in about 1980.

The principal windows, originally of wood construction painted white, were replaced in 1993 with dark steel framed insulating (and light reflecting) glass in sets of three vertical units on the end walls and flanking the entrance portico. There is also a small single unit in the middle of the back (west) wall. By contrast, the back basement wall includes three sets of two windows, each pair separated by a narrow segment of the brick wall. The end walls and front wall on each side of the portico also contain a set of two windows.

The portico has small narrow windows on each side lighting a vestibule with a short flight of stairs to the entrance of the library reading room. Documentation in the library's archive indicates that ceramic tile set in concrete was the original floor surface from the vestibule to the front desk, and that the wood floor in the library interior was covered with cork. At present the entire floor is carpeted with modern material.

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Mapleton Public Library

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Notable historic features on the library main floor interior include the original plaster ceiling, recently restored following the removal of a lower acoustical tile ceiling. The original red oak shelving, window trim, and other woodwork is in place and finished with clear varnish. The oak shelving is built into much of the wall space including that under the windows.

The main floor plan is basically symmetrical with tables and bookshelves flanking the centrally located librarian's desk.

Entry to the basement level is gained by a stairway on the north side of the vestibule. There are meeting rooms at both the north and south ends of the basement with several small rooms positioned along a centrally located hall running north-south between the meeting rooms. These include utility and washrooms on the east side and a closet and storage room to the west. Most of the original pine woodwork except for the windows, which have been replaced with insulating glass in steel frames, appears to be in place and painted pale green. The floor is ceramic tile set in concrete and covered with carpeting in the two meeting rooms.

It is not clear when the basement was finished. The original architect's plans, a set of which is located at the Northwest Architectural Archives at the University of Minnesota show "dirt floor" for the basement.

In 1993, all exterior trim including the pediment, cornice, frieze, etc. were painted black to match the steel window and door frames and the door itself. Originally, all these elements were wood painted white as was the no longer extant lattice window over the entrance.

The building continues to function as a library.

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Mapleton Public Library

Name of property

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SIGNIFICANCE

The Mapleton Public Library is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its local significance in the area of Social History. It is associated with the public library movement in Minnesota, in particular the phase closely linked to the library philanthropy of Andrew Carnegie. The completion of the building in 1910 as a tax-supported municipal institution that began with its founding as a "social library" in 1902 represents the efforts of local citizens to promote the social welfare of both the residents of Mapleton and farm families for whom the city was a commercial and social center. The property also relates to the Minnesota statewide context, Railroads and Agricultural Development, 1870-1940.

Mapleton

Located in Mapleton Township in south central Blue Earth County about 16 miles south of Mankato, the county seat, the Village of Mapleton was platted in 1871 to coincide with plans of the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific Railway to extend its route from Albert Lea, Minnesota to Mankato. It was initially known as Mapleton Station to distinguish it from a predecessor by the same name, historically known as "Old Mapleton," that had been platted in 1859 about four miles to the southwest and located on the Maple River, hence its name. The railroad decided that a route bypassing existing Mapleton was more advantageous and the consequences for Old Mapleton were predictably devastating. In 1875, the plat was officially vacated. (Newell, 12-15, 91)

Euro-American settlement in south central Minnesota had begun in the 1850s, initially by land seekers and entrepreneurs of diverse origins, some emigrating directly from European locations including Germany, the Scandinavian countries, the British Isles, and in particular Scotland in the Mapleton area. Many of the first settlers had initially taken up residence elsewhere in the United States before moving into the Midwest, where land was only available for purchase after the Treaties of Mendota and Traverse des Sioux were negotiated with the Dakota Indians in 1851.

The deep prairie soils and relatively flat topography of south central Minnesota made it highly desirable for farming, and the advent of railroad transportation both accelerated population growth and provided the means of access to national and international markets for the locally produced wheat that became the first important cash crop. Agriculture remains the most important industry here but corn and soybeans are now the leading cash crops.

"New" Mapleton grew slowly until after it was incorporated in 1878. In 1880 the population numbered 351 (Mapleton Township was 586) and ten years later the figures were Mapleton 607 and Mapleton Township 610. The rural population of Mapleton Township and its neighbors reached an all time high in the 1880s and began a more or less steady decline that continues today. In 1890 the City of Mapleton reached its first peak at 1008, followed by a decline until the 1920s and 1930s after which it rose to 1070 in 1940. Today it is approximately 1800. Population figures are from the federal census compendia beginning with the 10th Census (1880).

Andrew Carnegie and the American Public Library Movement

In 1886 when Carnegie made his first grant for a public library in the United States (to Allegheny, Pennsylvania) the public library as it is known today--libraries supported by local tax levies and open free of charge to all

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Mapleton Public Library

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citizens--was uncommon, especially in the Midwest. The first public libraries were established in Massachusetts beginning in 1851 when that state authorized all cities and townships to levy taxes for library purposes. Until then and beginning in the colonial period, many communities had private libraries, institutions set up by voluntary associations that were self-supporting via subscription. They were often succeeded by public institutions after local government funding mechanisms were established.

In 1896, before Carnegie's library philanthropy had really gotten started, there were 971 public libraries in the U.S. with 1000 volumes or more. 474 of these were in the five New England states. Subsequently, Carnegie funded only 73 libraries in these states, and in the Midwest he funded 698 buildings out of a total of 1679, far more than any other region of the country. (Bobinski, 7, 22, Table 8)

The first Carnegie library grant in the Midwest went to Fairfield, Iowa in 1893, his fourth in the U.S., and although his library philanthropy program was terminated in 1917, money promised by then continued to flow into the 1920s. The total amount dispersed by Carnegie for libraries in this country was \$41,748,689, and this funded 1689 libraries in 1419 communities. (Jones, 102-103) Most Carnegie libraries were built in relatively small communities, that is, with populations of less than 7,500. Most grants were for at least \$5000 but 16 came to less than that amount. (Bobinski, Appendix B) And while the money Carnegie gave for libraries was only about 10% of the fortune he dispersed, according to historian George Bobinsky,

it was perhaps the most dramatic and influential in that it affected millions of people. It also captured the imaginations of Americans everywhere so that at even in this day the public is still generally aware of Carnegie's library philanthropy. (Bobinski, 4)

Carnegie's philanthropic philosophy is articulated in his second book, *The Gospel of Wealth* (1900), but he had publicly expressed his ideas in 1889 in two essays published by the *North American Review*, i.e. "Wealth" (June 1889) and "The Best Fields for Philanthropy" (December 1889). The principals of his philanthropy as manifest in the library donation program include "fighting poverty, crime, and ignorance" by "uplifting man's intelligence and character." According to Carnegie, the wealthy individual should promote these goals by gifts that would assist those who demonstrated that they could and would help themselves. Among the fields that he regarded as suitable for receiving monetary grants, libraries ranked very high, in fact second after universities. His grants would not be gifts outright but would depend on the community's willingness to "maintain (the library) as a public institution, as much a part of the city property as its public schools, and, indeed, an adjunct to these." (Bobinski, 11) That truly public libraries would need local public support through property tax levies in order to get started and survive had been recognized by individuals, organizations and public servants who had been promoting public libraries before Carnegie began his funding program. Moreover, other wealthy individuals gave money for libraries, but no one did so on a scale anywhere near the Carnegie program. Another indication of his high regard for public libraries was demonstrated by the fact that his first gift of one went to his home town of Dunfermline, Scotland in 1881. The combination of Carnegie money for buildings and public funding for their operation and maintenance was a formula for success for the American public library movement and it accelerated the establishment of libraries all across the country.

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The Public Library Movement in Minnesota

Carnegie money was of vital importance in Minnesota beginning in 1899 with its funding of the State's first Carnegie library at Duluth (built in 1902 and listed in the NRHP), and by the time he terminated his library philanthropy in 1917, 58 communities in the state had built 65 library buildings with grants totaling nearly \$1 million. (Bobinski, Tables 5 and 6) The first public library enabling legislation in Minnesota was enacted in 1879 and bore the title, "An Act to Provide for the Establishment and Maintenance of Free Public Libraries and Reading Rooms." (Ostendorf, 123) The next landmark in state public library history was set in 1899 when the legislature created a system of traveling libraries and set up a commission "to assist public librarians," the Minnesota Public Library Commission. The Minnesota State Library Association had been organized in 1891. Bobinski summarized the importance of these bodies:

State library associations and state library commissions were guiding forces helping to build library services. . . . (They) spurred library development and applications for Carnegie grants by means of publications, meetings, and constant intercommunication. (Bobinski, 22)

When the library commission set to work in 1900 there were 30 public libraries organized under the state's enabling laws, five association libraries open to the public, and 14 subscription libraries. (Baldwin, 384)

Libraries established by voluntary associations were also known as "social libraries" and many of these were operated by subscription. Some admitted members only and others were public in the sense of being open to everyone at no charge (e.g. YMCA reading rooms). Often, their general objective was to provide "cultural uplift" and most tax supported public libraries began as social libraries. In Minnesota the first social libraries were organized in the 1850s. Examples include Duluth in 1869 and Mapleton in 1902. Library historian John Paul Ostendorf cites the "library law" of 1899 and the work of the commission it created as the most important factors in the history of the public library movement in Minnesota. He also identifies the Minnesota Federation of Women's Clubs, organized in 1895 as important because of the work of women in this movement:

Women were influential in the library movement just as they were elsewhere but they provided almost all the leadership for the public library movement from the 1890s and served in key positions of power. (Ostendorf, 488 and Chapter Nine)

Two women in particular were important in Minnesota, Gratia Countryman and Clara Baldwin. Countryman was chief of the Minneapolis Public Library from 1904 to 1936 and a leading figure in the public library movement nationwide (Granger, Section 8: 5) She was a leading figure in establishing the Public Library Commission and one of its five original members. The legislature not only created the library commission, it provided funding to hire staff, purchase books for the traveling libraries, and to issue publications. One of the first staff persons to be hired was Clara Baldwin, who had a long tenure there until it was merged into the Minnesota Department of Education in 1919:

Of all the factors that have been considered, the most enduring positive factor . . . is the work of women. Soon after some men formed an association for a library, it was often handed over to

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women to maintain. Women lobbied for the Public Library Act of 1899 . . . Women were the leaders in many communities in founding libraries, especially through club activities. Women were librarians from the earliest times. The creation of libraries in the state is definitely the work of women. (Ostendorf, 68)

Other historians have made the same points, for example Abigail A. Van Slyck (See Bibliography). And while the local W.C.T.U. was instrumental in the creation of Mapleton's public library, it was not until about 1930 that a woman was appointed to the local library board. (Taylor)

Clara Baldwin was the person who directed all operations of the Commission's work and directed a staff of eight women. She also did field work and by 1909 was in active contact with every one of the 101 public libraries in existence in 1916. (Ostendorf, 256) "The work of the Commission through its energetic staff cannot be overemphasized," according to Ostendorf, and one of its important publications was "The Hand Book of Library Organization," a seven page practical guide for library boards and librarians (1902). It included lists of recommended books, suggested bylaws, practical suggestions for the library buildings and equipment, including cork carpets (sic) on the floors, and suggestions for pictures to hang on the walls. In December 1904 the Commission began publishing a periodical, *Notes and News*, albeit at irregular intervals until September 1908 when it became a quarterly. The Commission intended that

it was to be the medium for circulating the library news of the state, . . . giving an opportunity for (the) interchange of ideas, and thereby establishing an *esprit de corps* among Minnesota library workers." (Ostendorf, 268)

The most important period in the public library movement in Minnesota was from 1899 to about 1917. The Carnegie Corporation terminated its library grant program that year. World War I had begun, Carnegie had decided to spend more of his fortune on peace efforts, and local governments were looking for ways to curtail property taxes. (Ostendorf, 487) Another factor was that the public school library movement was growing. The Public Library Commission Board was terminated in 1919 and its functions were transferred to the newly created State Board of Education. (Baldwin, 384)

As important as the Carnegie grants were the laws passed by the legislature permitting local tax levies for library purposes. The amount allowed grew from one mill in 1899 to three mills in 1913. However, library supporters often found it difficult to persuade village and city councils to approve these tax levies, although it could also be done with a local referendum that required a two-thirds majority of the votes cast. Carnegie's general rule for the amount local governments had to raise was a sum equal to 10% of the grant per year. Moreover, the amount of the grant was based on the population of the community requesting money. His rule of thumb was about \$2 per capita, and small towns, especially those with fewer than 1000 inhabitants were not ordinarily eligible. Carnegie encouraged such small locales to join with area townships in requesting a grant, but he was also willing to adjust his guidelines as in Mapleton, for example, where he initially refused a grant but after eight years sent that community \$5000. Most of the 58 grants in Minnesota went to small towns, including 20 with populations of between 1000 to 1999. Two communities with fewer than 1000 citizens receiving grants were Graceville (population 856) and Walker (population 652). (Ostendorf, 163) Without the Carnegie grants, many of these small towns would never have been able to fund buildings of comparable size and quality to the Carnegie standard, not to mention support them.

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The Mapleton Public Library

The City of Mapleton received the first of four \$5000 library grants issued to communities in Minnesota by Andrew Carnegie. The history of the Mapleton Public Library illustrates major elements of the contexts already discussed as well as certain major features of the state and national public library movements. Moreover, the history of each of the hundreds of libraries funded by Carnegie is unique. This is evident in many ways and among the primary sources for every Carnegie library is a microform data bank at Columbia University that includes all the correspondence between Mr. Carnegie's secretary for the library program plus other documentation relevant to each library. See Section 9 for complete bibliographic references.

The institution that was to become Mapleton's Public Library was organized in February 1902 by an association of local citizens who were strongly committed to the temperance movement. The name of this association was "The Mapleton Reading and Rest Rooms." The purpose of this institution is spelled out in Article II of its Constitution:

to give to the public of Mapleton and vicinity, the free use of---

First – A Rest-Room where especially women and children from the country may find temporary accommodation during the incidents (sic) of trading.

Second – A Reading and game room with the literature and appliances necessary for the proper equipment of same.

Third – A Library.

Fourth – Any other accommodations that may be deemed necessary and wise.

In a short history of the library published in the local paper in 1932, the President of the library board at the time wrote:

The need of a library was stressed by many of our people and especially by our pastors and the W.C.T.U. previous to February 1, 1902 when the board met and organized. (Taylor)

The importance of temperance in general and the Women's Christian Temperance Union in particular was spelled out in the Constitution in that three of the five members of the Board of Trustees "shall be members of the local W.C.T.U." Moreover, the President of the Board of Trustees "shall be the President of the local W.C.T.U.." This person was Mr. Herbert C. Hotaling, who owned and operated the local newspaper, *The Blue Earth County Enterprise*, until his death in 1938. A biographical sketch in a history of Mapleton notes that Mr. Hotaling was "very prominent in prohibition work." (Newell, 41) It appears that this forerunner to the Mapleton Public Library was operated by subscriptions and donations until it became officially public in March 1903 when the city council appointed the first library board. (Newell, 100) Mapleton voters had passed a referendum calling for a one mill tax for library purposes in February 1903. (Ostendorf, 178)

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Ostendorf notes that prohibition was an important factor in the Minnesota public library movement:

In Minnesota, many reading rooms were free because their social purpose was to provide a suitable haunt for young men who might be inclined to frequent the saloon. The libraries and reading rooms of temperance societies often had a religious emphasis. (Ostendorf, 86)

And in some locations establishing a public library became involved in local controversies over the "liquor question" and the "saloon question" in that they were seen as signs of progress in locations where liquor was allowed. (ibid., 180)

The Mapleton Reading and Rest Rooms' first quarters were on the second floor of the Martin Schimmele Meat Market, and records in the Carnegie archive indicate that H. C. Hotaling first contacted Carnegie and applied for a library grant on July 22, 1902. (ibid., 530) At first the request was denied on the grounds that, with a population of 1004 Mapleton was too small to support a library. This decision was appealed by James Ellis of Mapleton who had been born in Carnegie's home town in Scotland. Ellis wrote that his sister had been a playmate of Carnegie's mother and that his brother had once received a book from Carnegie. Ellis also cited the "large Scottish element" in Mapleton in his appeal. (ibid., 170) Two important elected officials also sent appeals to Carnegie on behalf of Mapleton---United States Senator Moses Clapp and Governor Samuel R. Van Sant. (ibid.)

This campaign had no immediate effect but in 1905 a grant of \$5000 was promised if the city provided a building site and levied a property tax that would provide ongoing maintenance and operating costs. The \$500 annual proceeds of the already established one mill tax was regarded as insufficient by both the city council and the Minnesota Library Commission. (Ostendorf., 178) What followed was a period of controversy until September 1908 when a two mill tax was levied for support of the new library. (Newell, 100) Carnegie authorized payment of the promised grant on Nov. 4, 1908. (Ostendorf, 530) The city had purchased three lots at First and Main Streets and the library was dedicated and opened to the public on February 11, 1910.

The dedication of the library was a major event in Mapleton and it was reported on in great detail in the February 18, 1910 issue of the *Blue Earth County Enterprise*. The general theme was self-congratulation, and the list of speakers included the mayor, Minnesota State Treasurer Clarence Dinehart, and Clara Baldwin, Secretary of the State Library Commission. The speakers made comments that indicate what the library meant or could mean to the city and its surrounding area.

Major James H. Dobie reminded the crowd that the people of Mapleton had demonstrated their "great liberality" in offering to pay for the most desirable building site when several offers of free land had been made. He pointed out that the library was a product of "home labor," built from materials obtained from local merchants, "and that the library board was to be commended for its work on the plans and material specifications. Further, the library "belongs to the people of Mapleton and is their school from the youngest to the oldest. It is an educational institution in the broadest sense of the word, open, not only to the people of the village but also the surrounding country." Clara Baldwin congratulated Mapleton on this policy indicating that "this library had been cited as an example for emulation of many larger libraries in the state" in this regard. She also quoted Andrew Carnegie on the value of libraries as opening to all the "chief treasures of the world ----those stored up in books. A taste for reading drives out lower tastes." The remarks of Mr. Dinehart included the observation that "The dedication of a

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library is as significant as the dedication of a church or school. The highest type of civilization, the highest type of manhood and womanhood are to found where such institutions exist.”

What was said at the dedication of Mapleton’s library is consistent with the views of Carnegie library historian Theodore Jones on what the Carnegie public library meant to small towns across the U.S.

A public library was also considered the civic center, a repository of a community’s history and culture. As such, a public library in its own building was visual proof of a town’s commitment to education, and to the community’s history and future. A public library gave a town the appearance of stability usually only seen in big cities. This was especially important to young towns trying to distinguish themselves from surrounding communities. A public library on Main Street was brick-and-stone proof of civic superiority, concern for education and high-minded culture, and the commercial vigor to support it. Communities put the images of their public libraries on china and sterling silver souvenirs and on thousands of postcards. (Jones, 17)

The Mapleton Library Building

A committee led by Dr. Louis. W. Kreuger, Secretary of the library board, worked on developing plans and selecting an architect to design the exterior and interior details. “Local Architect and Contractor” George Ruh was responsible for the floor plans and the firm of Claude and Starck of Madison, Wisconsin was engaged “to design the exterior of the building and make the necessary specifications.” This firm was well known for its public library designs and was responsible for 25 library designs in Minnesota and Wisconsin. They had been “highly recommended by the State Library Commission.” (Quotations from “Architects Engaged,” *Blue Earth County Enterprise* (hereafter *Enterprise*), 1-15-09) According to Jones, the firm had designed at least 17 libraries in Wisconsin and “several scattered as far as Washington State. (Jones, 59)

The committee was concerned that it obtain an impressive and distinctive building but “without extras.” They specified that Kasota stone be used and that the building have a tile roof. Kasota stone was a local product in that it was quarried about 25 miles from Mapleton and could be shipped at minimal expense. The tile roof was relatively expensive but arguably cheaper in the long run than either wood or steel, the more conventional roofing materials of the time. On the other hand, they substituted a cheaper line of hardware than specified by the architects. The committee was particularly proud of the ceramic tile roof, which made the library “different from anything else in town.” (“Bids Are Asked For.” *Enterprise*, 4-23-09) The very tight budget required that the basement remain unfinished for the time being and it is not clear when it was finished. A set of plans by Claude and Starck is on file at the Northwest Architectural Archive at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis and nothing is delineated on the basement level.

Claude and Starck designed six libraries in Minnesota, the only firm to design more than one public library in the state. (Ostendorf, 192) In general stylistic terms the Mapleton library is a simplified “Carnegie Classical” version of the Classical Revival, itself a version of a still larger category, the Beaux-Arts style. The Carnegie Classical had evolved from the larger and more elaborately detailed Classical Revival buildings that had gained attention and prominence for public buildings following the 1893 World’s Columbian Exposition (World’s Fair) in Chicago. The “white city” or Court of Honor was the centerpiece and it consisted of several large, mainly Classical Revival buildings lined up around an artificial lake. Libraries in the Classical Revival style and its

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subgroup Carnegie Classical comprise about half (about 25% each) of all Carnegie libraries built in the U.S. (Jones, 61)

The Carnegie classical style evolved in designs for small libraries, where important features of the ancient Greek and Roman styles would be retained and recognized but reduced in scale and simplified for reasons of cost and utility, for example omitting a dome and limiting the number of columns and choosing the simplest architectural orders, i.e. the Greek Doric and Roman Tuscan. Carnegie and his secretary James Bertram developed a set of model floor plans for libraries and reviewed the blueprints of prospective grantees in order to eliminate extravagance and waste. Most important to the evolution of the Carnegie Classical style, according to Jones, was the advice provided by state library associations and commissions that restraint be exercised with convenience and functionality given preference over architectural effect, and that local design committees start with floor plans and work from these in subsequent design decisions. (Jones, 69) This practical and frugal approach was compatible with Carnegie's ideas but Jones credits the state library commissions, local design committees, and the architects charged with designing libraries for small communities (e.g., Mapleton) working together as having created the Carnegie Classical style. And Mapleton's library is more restrained and simple than certain other Claude and Starck designs in Minnesota, such as the library for Aitkin (1911).

According to historian Abigail A. Van Slyck, selecting the location of libraries in small towns was a deliberate process that embodied specific values. Moreover, certain patterns can be found across the country with local variations. For example, in another twist to the liquor question, many library supporters asked if libraries should be located in the proximity of saloons, or not?

If the library were to act as a potent antidote to the commercial values of the town, it needed to be at some distance from the saloons themselves, both to remove single men from the tempting avenues of vice and to allow respectable citizens to use the library as well. At the same time, the library needed to be close enough to the saloons that its presence could remind single men that it existed as a wholesome alternative to commercialized leisure. (Van Slyck, 137-138)

Van Slyck also notes that libraries tended to be located between the city's commercial and residential zones, as in Mapleton. (Van Slyck, 139)

Since members of the W.C.T.U. organized the institution that was to become Mapleton's public library it would be safe to assume that they regarded alcohol and saloons as important moral hazards, although this is nowhere explicitly stated. Their goals as outlined in The Mapleton Reading and Rest-Rooms constitution addressed a variety of social needs including a library and spaces for socializing, recreation, holding public meetings and whatever other needs that might arise. It was to be a social center, which idea of a public library in Minnesota was "ushered in" by Gratia Countryman in 1905 when she was President of the Minnesota Library Association. "The library should become the social club of the community." (Ostendorf. 239-240)

Space for this broad social function of the libraries funded by Andrew Carnegie was usually provided in the basement, accessible via stairs off the entrance vestibule (as in Mapleton) or elsewhere in the plan so as to "prevent disturbance to readers if the basement rooms are in use during open hours," according to architect Louis W. Claude of the firm Claude and Starck. (Claude, 216)

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When the library was dedicated in 1910 the basement was not finished, presumably for reasons of cost, but by 1917 it was at least partly done since the Red Cross requested its use. (Newell, 101) Mr. Newell also reports:

The (American) Legion and Legion auxiliary asked to finish a room in the basement in 1920 for use as a meeting room. In 1932 the Commercial Club and city council asked to finish the other side of the basement and use it for meeting rooms. Others using the library basement have been the Women's Study Club, a nursery school, . . . the Public School and Sunday Schools (ibid.)

Significance Summary

The Mapleton Public Library is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its local significance in the area of Social History. Its dedication in 1910 culminated an important local effort to promote the social welfare of Mapleton and its surrounding rural population, namely to establish a public library. The history of the library campaign illustrates several key elements of the Minnesota statewide public library movement. The initial steps in its creation were taken by a women's social group dedicated to providing cultural uplift and wholesome alternatives to consuming alcohol and the saloon environment. Over time this project became broadly based, and by the time of its dedication the library was considered to be a social asset equal to churches and schools by local social and business leaders. Library supporters used provisions of Minnesota's Public Library Act of 1899 and additional legislation in 1903 to mobilize community support for a property tax levy dedicated to maintaining and operating a library building. The City also purchased three lots for a building site in a preferred location, even though certain citizens had offered to donate land elsewhere for this purpose. The Mapleton library story also demonstrates the importance of steel magnate Andrew Carnegie's library philanthropy as it relates to small towns in the Midwest. With a population of about 1000 in 1908, Mapleton was the smallest municipality in Minnesota to receive a Carnegie grant. State library officials cited Mapleton as an example for other small towns to follow in making its facility open to rural residents in the area at no charge. While initially Carnegie rejected grant applications from towns the size of Mapleton and other municipalities he considered too small to support a library, he made an exception for Mapleton, since despite its small size it was able to demonstrate a commitment to supporting a library over the long term. There is ample evidence the people of Mapleton were proud in having obtained a library designed by prominent architects known for their successful library designs and built with local labor and with local materials, so far as possible. Without both Carnegie's money and the local support his grant program required, Mapleton would have been hard pressed to build and maintain a library building of equal size and quality.

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

Lots 5, 6, and 7, Block 1, Original Plat of Mapleton

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the nominated property includes all the land historically associated with the library.