

PH0509515

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED NOV 29 1977
DATE ENTERED MAY 5 1978

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

DULUTH PUBLIC LIBRARY

AND/OR COMMON

Duluth Public Library

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

101 West Second Street

—NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Duluth

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

8th

STATE

Minnesota

CODE

22

COUNTY

St. Louis

CODE

137

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

City of Duluth

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Duluth

STATE

Minnesota

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

St. Louis County Courthouse - Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

Fifth Avenue West at First Street

CITY, TOWN

Duluth

STATE

Minnesota

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Statewide Historic Sites Survey

DATE

1977

—FEDERAL STATE —COUNTY —LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Minnesota Historical Society - Building 25, Fort Snelling

CITY, TOWN

St. Paul

STATE

Minnesota

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Duluth Public Library is situated on a steeply sloping site at the northwest corner of the intersection of First Avenue West and Second Street in the central business district of Duluth. It is a two storey sandstone and brick building executed in the Ionic mode of the Neo-Classic style. Designed and constructed in 1902 according to designs submitted by local architect Adolph F. Rudolph, the building cost approximately \$75,000 and was made possible through a generous grant by philanthropist Andrew Carnegie.

The First Avenue facade is symmetrical in arrangement and is dominated by a two storey four column Ionic portico set upon a rusticated base. The principal entry to the building is at the basement level of the portico and is shielded by a trabeated cornice supported by foliate brackets. The pediment above the columns is devoid of sculpture, the only decorative features being the bold lettering "DULUTH PUBLIC LIBRARY" in the frieze and acroteria surmounting the ends and ridge of the gable. Immediately behind the pediment is a parapet. The remainder of the cornice line is embellished with a stone piercework balustrade. Sections which flank the central portico are comprised of three bays each, the central bay of which is occupied by a stained glass window.

The center of the building is crowned by a low circular dome with oculus. Structural/design deficiencies early in the life of the building necessitated this to be sheathed-over and modified, although the original design concept remains.

Due to increased demands for space, an addition was made to the rear of the library building in 1927 at a cost of \$47,890. This provided additional space for stacks and facilities which had originally been cramped into the original building. The addition is constructed of similar red sandstone and is in accordance to the original facade design complete with balustrade.

Upon entering the library, two rooms open off of a central stairhall. The room to the right is devoted to childrens' books and activities, whereas the room to the left houses periodicals. To the rear of the basement level are rooms for stacks, workshops, and book mending, as well as public toilets.

The second level is reached via a white marble staircase with bronze filligree balustrades. The central portion of this level is situated directly beneath the dome and serves the function of circulation desk and card catalogue. It is octagonal in shape (measuring approximately thirty-two feet across) and opens into reference, reading, and stack rooms through an archway supported by two marbelized ionic columns.

The reading and reference rooms are identical in shape and are placed symmetrically with respect to the staircase. These rooms measure approximately thirty-two feet in width by thirty-four feet six inches in length. The principal difference is that the reading room has a monumental carved sandstone fireplace in its southwest corner. The central window of the First Avenue facade is of stained glass, each designed by Mrs. J.B. Weston, artist and wife of a Duluth physician. The window in the reference room is earliest, being exhibited first in the Minnesota Building of the Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893. This window depicts "Minnehaha" of Longfellow's poem standing in full regalia in front of the waterfall named in her honor. The window in the reading room was presented to the Library in 1904 in honor of Daniel Greysolon Sieur DuLuht and depicts

(see continuation sheet)

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Duluth Public Library

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the later town of Duluth. Originally included in the composition for the window was a figure of DuLuht, however this was omitted in the final design. Both windows were manufactured by Louis C. Tiffany Studios of New York.

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/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1902

~~BUILDER~~/ARCHITECT Adolph F. Rudolph

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The idea of a free public library to serve the people of Duluth began in 1869 when a small group of pioneer businessmen organized a reading room and subscription library which was housed in an upstairs room in a store building. After two subsequent moves, the library was destroyed by fire and a search was undertaken for a new facility which would be centrally located. In April of 1890 quarters were obtained on the second floor of the old Masonic Temple Building at Second Avenue East and Superior Street; these quarters were rented on a five-year lease for the sum of \$1,000 per year. A month later 3,200 books had been selected and Olin S. Davis of Topeka, Kansas, was hired as librarian. For several months, Davis selected and catalogued books as well as kept open a reading room equipped only with a few newspapers and books acquired as gifts. Under Davis' management, the first free public library books were lent to the people of Duluth in October of 1890.

Increasing demands for space and items such as newspaper racks, bookcases, and tables necessitated the library board to look for larger quarters, preferably in a building designed for the sole purpose of a library. A gift of \$50,000 supplemented by an additional gift of \$25,000 both by Mr. Andrew Carnegie made possible the construction of a new facility in 1902. Local architect Adolph F. Rudolph was chosen to complete the design.

Today the Duluth Public Library stands as a representation of the efforts of pioneer Duluthians to provide educational services to the community through the availability of reading materials. The Neo-Classic design of the building itself is among the finest of Duluth's public buildings.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Duluth's Legacy: Architecture (Vol.1), Duluth, Minnesota, 1974.

Nylander, Enid Pearce, A History of The Duluth Public Library System, 1962.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1

UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 5	5, 6, 8, 5, 4, 0	5, 1, 8, 1, 7, 0, 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Charles W. Nelson, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Minnesota Historical Society

DATE

11 July 1977

STREET & NUMBER

Building 25, Fort Snelling

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

Russell W. Fridley
State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

11/19/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST

Walter
Walter
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

KEEPER

DATE

5/15/78
4-26-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER