

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received FEB 20 1986
date entered MAR 20 1986

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

1. Name

historic LeRoy Public Library

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number Luella Street and Broadway N/A not for publication

city, town LeRoy N/A vicinity of

state Minnesota code 22 county Mower code 099

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 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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input checked="" 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 LeRoy

street & number N/A

city, town LeRoy N/A vicinity of state Minnesota 55951

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds

street & number Mower County Court House

city, town Austin state Minnesota

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Statewide Survey of Historic Resources has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1984 federal state county local

depository for survey records Minnesota Historical Society-Ft. Snelling History Center

city, town St. Paul state Minnesota

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved

date N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The LeRoy Public Library faces south on the northeast corner of Luella Street at Broadway. The library is a small masonry structure of one and a half stories, counting the raised basement. It is faced in reddish, brownish, orangish rough brick with a red grout, limestone trim, and wood portico painted white. It is an intact example of the Classical Revival style.

The front facade is symmetrical. The pediment and projecting front gable is wood with dentilled molding on the frieze. Two smooth limestone columns flanking the front door have Tuscan capitals. The original oak front entry door has bevelled glass. Above the front door is a limestone header incised with "Public Library." The door transom is divided into lights with crossed muntins in the Greek mode. A plaque on the front facade reads: "This building was erected by the LeRoy Library Association with the support of the Citizens on ground donated by Judson D. Palmer." The building has excellent exterior integrity. Original windows are one-over-one double-hung. The library is intact on the exterior as originally built, no additions or egregious changes having been made.

The interior of the library building is blond-finished oak with oak chair rails, wainscot, and door and window moldings, but the library suffered a fire in November, 1965 which damaged the interior and destroyed almost 5,000 books. Nonetheless, the interior appears virtually identical to its original appearance. The basement has had, however, some alterations in new demising walls, and, possibly, new basement windows. These alterations are negligible.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

LeRoy Public Library

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet

Resource Count

Item number 7

Page 1

The LeRoy Public Library nomination contains

1 contributing building

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 1915

Builder/Architect unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The LeRoy Public Library building is the only example of the small-town intact Carnegie-type Classical Revival style library building left intact in Mower County since a similar building in Austin, the county seat, was destroyed with additions and alterations which made it all but unrecognizable.. Furthermore, the LeRoy library is not a Carnegie-funded library. It was built as a result of a grass-roots group of women in LeRoy who called their organization the "Ladies Book Club".

The Ladies Book Club was founded in 1901 with 13 members for the purpose of becoming better acquainted with the best literature of the day and for furthering the educational facilities of the village. Each member bought two books and swapped them with other members. From these small beginnings, the club continued to attract new members and more books. In 1914, the city council voted an allowance of \$10.00 per month for the up-keep of a small rented building. In 1914, after the death of Mrs. John Palmer, an ardent worker and club member, her husband donated the ground on which the library stands. A new library building was subscribed to, an effort which involved many fundraising activities on the part of the women members of the Club. With volunteer help, the building was erected in 1915, and dedicated on January 13, 1916. The club donated \$100 a year for the purchase of books until this donation was no longer needed when the city of LeRoy levied a mill tax for support of the library. The library association disbanded in 1931. After a disastrous fire in November 1965, the citizens of LeRoy once again pitched in to raise the money to repair the library and replace the almost 5,000 books destroyed in the fire. The library reopened in 1966 and joined the county library system in 1967. The library today is goverened by the LeRoy Library Board under the direction of the LeRoy City Council.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation Sheet #1

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name LeRoy, Minn.-Iowa 1965

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A 15 540120 4817500
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

E 34' of Lots 13 and 14, Block 3, Original Village of LeRoy

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 Dr. Norene A. Roberts

organization Historical Research, Inc.

date March 30, 1985

street & number 5535 Richmond Curve

telephone (612) 929-2921

city or town Minneapolis

state MN. 55410

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

 national state X 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
date 2/10/86

title Russell W. Fridley
State Historic Preservation Officer

For NPS use only

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

date 3/20/86

Joyce M. Anderson
Keeper of the National Register

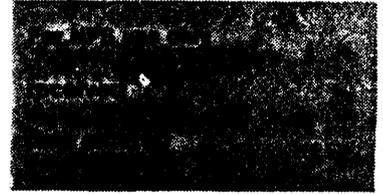
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet LeRoy Public Library, Item number #9 Page 1

Major Bibliographical References

Austin Daily Herald, November 18, 1965, p. 1; November 19, 1965, pp. 1, 9.

Clippings on "Le Roy Public Library" and "Women Launch Library Drives" , LeRoy Independent (65th Anniversary Edition), 1935. On file: LeRoy Public Library, LeRoy Minnesota.

Ladies' Club Minutes and Library Board Minutes, 1915-present, at LeRoy Public Library, LeRoy, Minnesota.

Mill on the Willow: A History of Mower County. (Printed by Graphics Publishing Co., Lake Mills, Iowa), p. 347.