

3-18-79

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Wisconsin	
COUNTY: Lincoln	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
JAN 2 1 1974	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON:

AND/OR HISTORIC:
T. B. Scott Free Library

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
East First Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Merrill

STATE: **Wisconsin** CODE: **55** COUNTY: **Lincoln** CODE: **069**

7th Wisconsin Congressional Dist.

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

OCT 17 1973

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
City of Merrill

STREET AND NUMBER:
717 East 2nd Street

CITY OR TOWN: **Merrill,** STATE: **Wisconsin** CODE: **55**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Lincoln County Register of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:
1110 East Main Street

CITY OR TOWN: **Merrill,** STATE: **Wisconsin** CODE: **55**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Wisconsin's Historic Preservation Plan, Vol. II: The Inventory

DATE OF SURVEY: **1973** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
State Historical Society of Wisconsin

STREET AND NUMBER:
816 State Street

CITY OR TOWN: **Madison** STATE: **Wisconsin** CODE: **55**

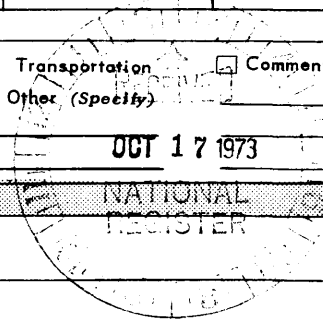
STATE: **Wisconsin**

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The T.B. Scott Free Library is a two-story (basement and main floor) Prairie School building built during 1911 from plans dated Dec. 12, 1910. In plan, the building consists mainly of a rectangular space 75 feet long by 38 feet deep. To the rear is a small projection from the long side of the rectangle measuring 16 feet deep by 26 feet wide. The foundations are concrete, and exterior walls are reddish-brown brick surmounted by an ornamental frieze under the roof. The hipped roof was and still is red tile.

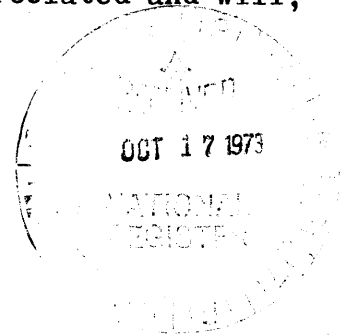
The main facade is symmetrical and horizontally disposed with a central entrance vestibule and flanking triplet windows. The terra cotta frieze is an elaborate Sullivanesque design, and the concrete foundation walls are battered to meet the face brick. From the entrance vestibule the library hall is one-half flight of stairs up, and the basement level is one-half flight down. A second entrance was constructed on the right side of the building adjacent to a second set of stairs in the right, rear corner of the building.

The original appearance and the current appearance of the exterior of the building are very much the same. However, a major new addition was built to the rear of the library and connected to it on center. The original library now serves as the children's library, and the new addition is for adults. The addition, built in 1969, utilizes brick very similar to that on the original building, and the design of it was kept purposely low and horizontal to complement the original. This addition blends with the historic structure very successfully. The only other significant exterior change from the original building was the installation of glass-and-metal-frame doors on the main and side entries.

The interior of the original building is little-changed from the original with the exception of new fluorescent lighting in the ceiling.

The building is in excellent condition. The attitude of the librarian and the community, as evidenced by the harmonious rear addition, indicate that this building is well-appreciated and will, most likely, continued to be preserved.

S E E I N S T R U C T I O N S



SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **Opened Aug., 1911. Plans dated Dec. 12, 1910.**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Library history</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE : The primary importance of the T.B. Scott Free Library is architectural. It was the foremost library design in the Prairie School manner of the Madison, Wisconsin, architectural firm of Claude (Louis Ward) and Starck (Edward F.) Louis Ward Claude (1868-1951) was a Wisconsin native who graduated from the University of Wisconsin in engineering in 1891. Nearly following in the footsteps of Frank Lloyd Wright, Claude worked first for U.W. Dean Allan D. Conover in Madison, and later for Louis Henri Sullivan in Chicago. He also worked for Burnham and Root in Chicago, and thus was in immediate contact with the dynamic 1890's architecture of the Chicago School. His architecture springs more from the work of Sullivan than that of Wright, as can be seen in the library in Merrill. Starck, who had worked with Madison architect David R. Jones, noted Milwaukee architect Edward T. Mix, and the Chicago firm of Handy and Cady, joined Claude in Madison practice in 1896. Thus it should be noted that Claude and Starck, though not a first-rate Prairie School firm in a national sense, was a major architectural firm practicing creatively and prodigiously in this style throughout Wisconsin.

Claude and Starck became very active in the design of small libraries, both privately funded and funded through the Carnegie Corporation, throughout the state during the first two decades of the twentieth century. The majority of their libraries were done in the usual eclectic styles of the day, but a few were executed in the manner of the Prairie School. These include libraries in Merrill (1911), Evansville (1908), Barron (1913), Jefferson (1911), Tomah (1916), and Reedsburg (1912). All of the firm's libraries built before and after this 1908 to 1916 period were done in eclectic designs. The firm's preponderant building type commission was houses, a characteristic universally shared with other Prairie architects. However, just as Purcell and Elmslie designed so many banks as to be a major ingredient in that firm's output, so were Claude and Starck heavily involved with libraries.

The T.B. Scott Free Library is the largest and handsomest of the firm's library projects. Similar designs were executed in Evansville and Barron, but these are inferior to the Merrill library in size and elaboration. The most striking visual feature of the building is the rich Sullivanesque frieze which surrounds the building immediately below the roof line, recalling Wright's Winslow House design of 1893 in River Forest, Illinois. The frieze for the Merrill library and similar Claude and Starck libraries, were manufactured on special order by the Chicago Architectural Decorating Company, a firm now out of existence.

(Continued)

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Wisconsin Free Library Commission, New Types of Small Library Buildings, Madison, Wisconsin (1913).
 Orr, Gordon D., Jr., Prairie Architecture in Madison, unpublished M. A. thesis, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin (1971).
 Hernandez, Ramon R., director of the T.B. Scott Free Library, numerous letters from 1971-1973. On file at the State Historical Society.
 Spencer, Brian A., chairman of the Historic Resources Committee, South-eastern Section, Wisconsin Chapter, American Institute of Architects: letter to Mr. Ramon R. Hernandez dated December 20, 1971.

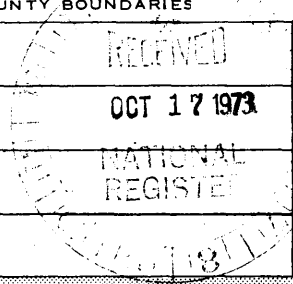
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **less than one.**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Jeffrey M. Dean

ORGANIZATION: **State Historical Society** DATE: **July 25, 1973**

STREET AND NUMBER:
816 State Street

CITY OR TOWN: **Madison** STATE: **Wisconsin** CODE: **55**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name James Morton Smith
James Morton Smith
 Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin
 Title (State Historic Preservation Officer)
 Date October 10, 1973

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

A. B. Mortensen
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 11/21/74

ATTEST:
Ronald M. Greenberg
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 11/16/74

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Wisconsin	
COUNTY Lincoln	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JAN 21 1974

(Number all entries)

T. B. Scott Free Library

[8] The T. B. Scott Free Library enjoys some historical significance as well in the development of Wisconsin's libraries. It was organized in 1889, the fifteenth library in the state, and was established through a \$10,000 gift from Thomas B. Scott. Scott, a northwoods lumberman, was a state senator from 1873 to 1882, and was the first mayor of the City of Merrill in 1883.

The library at Merrill was among the first three established in northern Wisconsin, and in its beginning it was on the state's logging frontier. To meet a need of immigrant loggers, the library formed in 1898 one of the first traveling library associations in the state. This association had a county-wide scope and took books over fifty miles into the wilderness. The first English-language classes for foreigners run by a library in Wisconsin were established by the T. B. Scott Free Library in 1905.

The 1911 library building, which is the object of this National Register nomination, was built with funds from a \$17,500 Carnegie grant given to Merrill in 1909.

Over the years the library has had a number of well-known patrons. Perhaps the most famous of these was the noted Merrill-native, journalist and broadcaster Hans V. Kaltenborn (1878-1965). Kaltenborn, in 1945, gave \$2,000 to the library "with grateful appreciation from a former patron." He left an additional \$1,000 bequest in his will.

