

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

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

For HCRS use only

received MAY 28 1980

date entered

JUL 3 1980

1. Name

historic

and/or common Alfred E. Dickey Free Library

2. Location

street & number 105 Third Street SE _____ not for publication

city, town Jamestown _____ vicinity of congressional district 1

state North Dakota code 38 county Stutsman code 093

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 checked="" 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 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 type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name City of Jamestown

street & number 203 1st Street West

city, town Jamestown _____ vicinity of state North Dakota 58401

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Stutsman County Register of Deeds

street & number Stutsman County Courthouse

city, town Jamestown _____ state North Dakota 58401

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title _____ has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date _____ federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town _____ state

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Executed in the Prairie School idiom of design, material and ornament, the Alfred E. Dickey Free Public Library is a rare and fine example of that influence in North Dakota.

The principal design element of the single-story brick structure is its horizontal movement. The lineality of the rectangular front facade is expressed in the running bond of the brickwork, stained glass ribbon windows, and terra cotta stringcourse and cornice on the first story level. Three brick stringcourses and corbeling at the ground level are less obvious but reinforcing elements. Characteristic of the Prairie School design, the naturalistic motif, smooth finish and buff color of the terra cotta ornament contrasts with the rough surface and dark color of the brick. An Egyptian motif runs throughout the building, the lotus flower being the main component of the design.

Structurally breaking the movement of the front facade, a central projecting vestibule rises the full height of the facade and is crowned by a decorated parapet. However, the composition of the vestibule facade and the entrance which it surrounds is well integrated and actually resumes the visual movement of the whole facade. Framed within a surround of terra cotta tile and brick, two pilasters with Egyptian terra cotta capitals are combined with a ribbon of five tall stained glass windows. Resting upon the surround is a terra cotta frieze bearing the library's name. This arrangement is punctuated by the front entry which bridges both the lower and main levels. Originally unpainted, the white wood frame and glass panel doors detract from the intended balance of the vestibule. Two large terra cotta planters grace the stair rail ends completing the design of the vestibule in Prairie School Style.

Flanking the vestibule, the long rectangular shape of the front facade is emphasized by a band of five stained glass windows in terra cotta tile surrounds. The stylized lotus pattern and deep red, green and amber color of the windows are more than ornamental and contribute to the total composition of the building. The east and west end elevations are also punctuated by ribbon windows, taller than those of the front facade but harmonious with the shape of those walls. The basement level, distinguished from the main level by a terra cotta stringcourse, carries a row of inconspicuous three-over-one double sash windows.

The original building is divided into three main spaces; the vestibule which provides access to both the main and lower levels, the library proper, and office space. The vestibule is adorned with an egg-shaped stained and leaded glass globe of yellow opaline with a stylized amber, green and red lotus flower pattern. It hangs centrally from the high ceiling of the area. The space is lighted by three of the five tall stained glass windows which punctuate the vestibule exterior. Only a straight wood handrail breaks the plain plastered walls which enclose the stairs treads of pink marble-like vinyl. The vestibule is closed from the library proper by a set of two panel wood and glass doors. Above the doors is a stained glass transom which repeats the stylized lotus flower pattern and color scheme.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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RECEIVED MAY 28 1980	
DATE ENTERED	JUL 3 1980

CONTINUATION SHEET

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The library proper is a long rectangular room lined with six foot high bookshelves, above which stained glass windows light the room. At the center of the room is a stained glass skylight set into a space delineated by an octagonal wood moulding which is recessed into a plaster ceiling relief. Below the skylight, facing the vestibule is a five sided librarian's desk. Four oak pilasters with Egyptian gorge capitols visually support the skylight area and make it the central focus of the area. Behind the library proper are two office spaces which flank a central open area containing tables and wall shelves. The west end office is now a reading room.

The basement level houses the children's library, office space and washrooms. It lacks the woodwork and stained glass of the main level. The floors are bare hardwood and the plastered walls are painted bright chartreuse. Behind the librarian's desk at the south end is a small stage built into the space beneath the stairs.

In 1972 a brick addition was built into the rear north facade behind the main floor offices extending to the basement level. Six stained glass windows were removed from that wall and the central portion removed for access to the addition. The original main floor terrazzo floor was carpeted circa 1972 when the walls were papered in light green. Acoustic tile has been installed in all but the skylight area. In an early attempt to provide more shelf space in the library area, a doorway from the east office into the library was shelved over but is still in tact. Additional shelving also rises above the bottom third of the east and west end windows, though unobtrusively. Draperies have been hung in all the exterior windows and the same windows are protected by exterior plexiglass. An elevator is presently being installed in the front east facade and should be complete by May 1980; it will be accessible from the street level and will not visually intrude on the exterior facade above the Basement level stringcourse. However, its installation on the main floor has caused removal of the southeast oak pilaster and it is not known whether the pilaster will be replaced.

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

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Alfred E. Dickey Free Library is significant both for its clear expression of an architectural style and its role in community education. The building is an excellent example of true Prairie School architecture, and is one of two known applications of that style to public buildings in North Dakota. The Egyptian decorative motif, one of many ancient stylized forms borrowed by Prairie School architects, is also a rarity in North Dakota. The building was designed in 1917 by the architectural partnership of J. H. Shannon and Henry J. Scherer, but it is believed that Scherer produced the actual design. Scherer may have been influenced by the Prairie School philosophy both in his education at St. Johns University in Minnesota and in his early employment with architectural firms in Chicago and Minneapolis.

The library was funded by and named for Alfred M. Dickey and his son, Alfred E. Dickey, who were very prominent in regional, commercial, financial, and political matters in the early settlement period of 1879-1900. The elder Dickey was a partner in the Wells-Dickey Land Company, which at one time controlled large areas in the James River Valley for speculative purposes. He also served as North Dakota's first Lieutenant Governor in 1889, and was honored by having Dickey County, North Dakota, named for him. In 1901 he pledged funds to support a permanent library in Jamestown, and after his death the same year his son renewed the pledge. The younger Dickey himself died in 1910 and willed \$30,000 for construction of a building and a library stock. The building was finally constructed in 1917, and has served as the community's only public library since that time.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Ronald Ramsey, "Early North Dakota Designers, Builders . . . Architect's?" North Dakota Horizons, Fall, 1979.

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Jamestown

Quadrangle scale 7.5'

UMT References

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

A

1	4	5	2	2	2	6	0	5	1	9	4	6	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

Lot 8 and south half of lot 7, Block 39 of the Original Townsite Plat of Jamestown, North Dakota.

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

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jackie Sluss, Historical Assistant, Kurt Schweigert, Architectural Historian

organization State Historical Society of North Dakota date March 19, 1980

street & number Liberty Memorial Building telephone (701)224-2672/2569

city or town Bismarck state North Dakota 58505

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *James E. Sherry*

title State Historic Preservation Officer, North Dakota date May 20, 1980

For HCRS use only

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

for W. Ray Luce
Keeper of the National Register

date 7/3/80

Attest: *William H. Brubham*
Chief of Registration

date 6.23.80