

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED MAR 2 1977  
DATE ENTERED JUL 29 1977

**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  \*  
Winona Free Public Library

AND/OR COMMON  
Winona Public Library

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
151 West Fifth Street

CITY, TOWN  
Winona  VICINITY OF 1 st

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE  
Minnesota 27 Winona 169

**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	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<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:

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME  
City of Winona

STREET & NUMBER  
City Hall

CITY, TOWN  
Winona  VICINITY OF Minnesota

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Winona County Courthouse - Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER  
CITY, TOWN  
Winona Minnesota

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE  
Statewide Historic Sites Survey

DATE  
1975  FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS  
Minnesota Historical Society, Building 25, Fort Snelling

CITY, TOWN  
St. Paul 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		

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Winona Public Library is situated on a corner lot in the central business district of Winona. It is a one storey structure on a high basement. Executed in the Neo-classic mode, principal facades are symmetrical in arrangement with projecting central bays flanked by arcaded windows. The projecting bays are embellished with non-fluted doric columns and pilasters and capped by parapets. The entire cornice line is decorated with modillions; this treatment is also applied to the pediment above the main entry. The building is crowned by a low dome placed at the intersection of the axes described by the central projecting bays.

The building today, appears as it did when built in 1899, with the exception of a small stack area added to the rear of the structure in 1913 (2,962 sq. ft.). Outside dimensions are 85 feet front and 64 feet at the side, with 30 feet additional depth in the stack wing. The top of the outer dome is 56 feet above street level.

The walls of the building are brick, faced with Bedford stone; the entrance steps of native Winona limestone; the columns on the North and East sides are of Georgia Creole marble. The interior woodwork is of quartered oak.

The interior of the building retains original integrity with marble, wood carvings, fresco mural and stained glass dome and roof lites. The main exchange room ceiling rises 30 feet into an inner dome of stained glass by Otto Heinigke. Due to leakage problems, the outer surface of this dome has been covered with tin, preventing light from reaching the inner stained glass surface.

The interior fresco mural, above the main desk in the exchange room, is called the "Light of Learning" and was executed in 1912 by Kenyon Cox as a memorial to Charlotte Prentiss Hayes of Winona lumbering family fame.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input 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 January 21, 1899 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Warren Powers Laird,  
Edgar V. Seeler, Cass Gilbert

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Winona Public Library was built and presented to the City of Winona through the generosity of William Harris Laird, one of Winona's affluent and progressive lumber baron-philanthropists. In design it represents a high degree of academicism, an influence on the development of public architecture as promoted through the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893. One such academic trend took the form of Neo-classicism as seen in the Winona Public Library through the interpretation of three prominent architects; Warren Powers Laird, (then dean at the school of Architecture at the University of Pennsylvania), Edgar V. Seeler, and Cass Gilbert.

The Winona Public Library has long been considered as not only an architecturally significant building in the city, but also as a cultural center for the community. This function is enhanced by the provision in the original design for a special gallery for the display of art works, as well as the integretion of murals, statuary, and art glass into the design fabric of the building itself.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Pamphlet entitled "Laird Library Building", Publishers Jones & Kroger, Winona, Minn. 1899.  
 "History of Winona County", H.C. Cooper Jr. & Co., Chicago, Illinois, 1913, p. 1047.  
 "Arts of the United States; A pictorial survey", Wm. H. Pierson & Martha Davidson,  
 Publisher McGraw Hill, 1960, p. 303.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1  
 UTM REFERENCES

A	1,5	6,0,8,9,0,0	4,8,7,8,2,4,0	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
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

William D. Gernes, Director/Charles W. Nelson, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Winona County Historical Society/Minnesota Historical Society

DATE

3 December 1976

STREET & NUMBER

160 Johnson Street/Building 25, Fort Snelling

TELEPHONE

507/545-2723/612/726-1171

CITY OR TOWN

Winona/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 Office

DATE

2-7-77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*W. Monte*

DATE

2/29/77

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

*Charles G. ...*

DATE

6.15.77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER