80002154

HISTORIC NAME: Luverne Library   COUNTY: Rock   JAN 8 1980

CURRENT NAME: Rock County Community Library   CITY/TWP.: Luverne

LEGAL DESC.:   Lot 4, Block 15   ADDRESS: 205 N. Freeman
               Warren and Kniss Addition

CLASSIFICATION:	CONDITION:	SIGNIFICANCE:	THEME/S:
Building_X_	Excellent_X_	Local_X_	Primary_Education
Structure_____	Good_____	State_____	Secondary_____
Object_____	Fair_____	National_____	Others_____
District_____	Deteriorated__		_____

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Yes_X_ No___ Restricted___   PRESENT USE:
VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD: Yes_X_ No___
OCCUPIED: Yes_X_ No___   Library

DATE CONSTRUCTED: 1904   ORIGINAL USE: Library
                                                          W.E.E. Greene/P.N. Gillham
ORIGINAL OWNER: City of Luverne   ARCHITECT/BUILDER:

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: City of Luverne   ACREAGE: Less than one acre_X_
                          Luverne, Minnesota 56156
                                                     UTM REFERENCE:
LOCAL CONTACT/ORG.:
                                                     14 / 725040 / 4837165

FORM PREPARED BY: Thomas Harvey   Luverne, Minn.; 1:24,000
DATE: November, 1978

DESCRIPTION:

The Rock County Community Library is located on a corner lot at Lincoln Street and Freeman Avenue. The overall plan is hexagonal. The southeast facade is dominated by a Beaux Art pedimented portico. Paired Ionic columns flank double doors with an arched transom. There is a single light window on either side of the doorway. The single-story red brick library rests on a raised basement of quarry-faced Blue Mound quartzite. The quartzite is not carried around the sides of the building not visible from the street. The major treatment there is red brick.

The street-facing east and south facades have two bays. Each bay is punctuated on the main floor level by an arch transomed window and on the basement level by pair sash windows. A corbeled cornice of quartzite projects from the wall surface.

Features such as rusticated stone door and window surrounds, projecting cornice, and a general largeness and simplicity of form result in a sense of Richardsonian Romanesque style.

The well-preserved interior, including an arched quartzite fireplace and oak woodwork and reference desk, enhance the integrity of the building.

SIGNIFICANCE:

Libraries and schools reflect the early community interest in education. In 1881 Edwin H. Canfield, having just been admitted to the Minnesota bar, moved to Luverne to practice law. He took the leading role in establishing the Luverne library. He began by soliciting 25¢ per month subscriptions to a library association. For the first few years the library was located in his office, then was passed around for a few years until the city took over the operation. In 1903 the Library Association requested financial assistance for a new building from Andrew Carnegie. He agreed to give $10,000 for construction of a building if a site would be furnished and if the city would provide $1,000/year for maintenance. Mr. Canfield convinced a client to donate $2,500 for the purchase of the library site. The building, designed by local architect W.E.E. Greene, was opened Oct. 1, 1904. The excellent condition of the building, the unaltered interior, and the continued use as a library, add up to make the library an important structure of Rock County worthy of preservation.

United States Department of the Interior
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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Keeper

1/9/89

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National Park Service

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Note: These changes apply to
Luverne Library in Rock County,
Minnesota.

REFERENCE NUMBER: 80002154

STATE: MINNESOTA

COUNTY: Rock

RESOURCE NAME (HISTORIC): Luverne Carnegie Library

CITY:

VICINITY OF:

ADDRESS: 205 N. Freeman Ave.

CERTIFICATION DATE:

REMOVED DATE:

COMMENTS:

Nina M. Archabal
Nina M. Archabal
State Historic Preservation Officer

JUN 17 1988
Date