

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED NOV 14 1979  
DATE ENTERED JAN 17 1980

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

AND/OR COMMON

Jefferson Public Library

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

305 south Main Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Jefferson

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Ninth

VICINITY OF

STATE

Wisconsin

CODE

55

COUNTY

Jefferson

CODE

055

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

\_\_\_DISTRICT

BUILDING(S)

\_\_\_STRUCTURE

\_\_\_SITE

\_\_\_OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC

\_\_\_PRIVATE

\_\_\_BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

\_\_\_IN PROCESS

\_\_\_BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

OCCUPIED

\_\_\_UNOCCUPIED

\_\_\_WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

\_\_\_YES: RESTRICTED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

\_\_\_NO

PRESENT USE

\_\_\_AGRICULTURE

\_\_\_COMMERCIAL

EDUCATIONAL

\_\_\_ENTERTAINMENT

GOVERNMENT

\_\_\_INDUSTRIAL

\_\_\_MILITARY

\_\_\_MUSEUM

\_\_\_PARK

\_\_\_PRIVATE RESIDENCE

\_\_\_RELIGIOUS

\_\_\_SCIENTIFIC

\_\_\_TRANSPORTATION

\_\_\_OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

City of Jefferson

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Jefferson

VICINITY OF

STATE

Wisconsin 53549

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Jefferson County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Jefferson

STATE

Wisconsin 53549

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places

DATE

1973

\_\_\_FEDERAL  STATE \_\_\_COUNTY \_\_\_LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 816 State Street

CITY, TOWN

Madison,

STATE

Wisconsin 53706

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input 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	(slightly)	

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

The Jefferson Public Library is a rectangular, one story structure measuring 64 feet long by 35 feet wide with an "English Basement" below. The building is located on the southern edge of the commercial district on the southwest corner of South Main and East Dodge streets and its principal facade faces the Jefferson County Courthouse across Main Street to the east.

The overall composition of the building is characterized by a dominant horizontal emphasis, a principal design element of the Prairie School. This is achieved by a low pitched gabled roof with broad overhangs whose stucco soffit has inset wood trim on both the gable ends and low eaves. The dark red brick walls are laid with deeply raked joints of a dark tinted mortar. Nine windows are grouped on each gable end, whose continuous head returns to entablatures at pilasters, achieved by extending front and rear walls, and completely surrounds the building. The sill for the windows is also continuous across the end walls. The gable end above the windows is a gray stucco. The concrete foundation extending to about one third of the height of the basement windows is battered and provides a further horizontal emphasis to the building, although now screened through extensive foundation plantings.

The principal or east facade is symmetrical about a projecting entrance vestibule with a similar low pitched gabled roof, extended sidewalls forming a pilaster with similar surrounding entablature detail and stucco panel within the gable end. The entrance vestibule measuring 18 feet wide and 8 feet deep enters at an intermediate level between the basement and the first floor. This design is typical of many of Claude and Starck's small public libraries and provides light and ventilation to the basement level, where community spaces were provided for public lectures and meetings. The upper floor is raised above the entrance vestibule level. The principal entrance doors consist of a pair of wooden doors with sidelights glazed with "art glass." Outside ingress and egress from the basement is achieved through a brick vestibule enclosing stairs on the north designed in character with the rest of the building.

The main library reading rooms have tall windows with transom on the east and west above creating a vertical counterpoint within the composition. The transom windows are glazed with "art glass" in a geometric pattern typical of the Prairie School, as are the horizontal banded windows on the north and south located above book stacks. The basement level provides spaces for utilities, storage, restrooms, and now houses the children's library which originally was located on the first floor in space originally used for public lectures.

While essentially unchanged through the years some modifications have been made to the building in the interest of an improved visual and acoustical environment by the replacement of lighting with fluorescent fixtures and the addition of an acoustical tile ceiling added in 1958. Resilient floor tile was placed over the wood floors in 1960, and a modest wrought iron hand railing has been added at the front vestibule. The original slate shingles were replaced by asphalt shingles. Undoubtedly some of the handsome character of the building has been lost through these changes.

# 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 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 1911<sup>1</sup>

~~BUYER~~/ARCHITECT Claude and Starck, Architects<sup>2</sup>

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Jefferson Public Library represents the work of a regionally important architectural firm, that of Claude (Louis W.) and Starck (Edward F.) of Madison, Wisconsin and possess<sup>e</sup> artistic merit as an example of public architecture in the Prairie School style. The library is a unique example of the progressive spirit in American architecture and represents the only known example among the 39 identified libraries so clearly expressing this style.

The library was constructed in 1911 (drawings dated May 3, 1911 exist in the Louis W. Claude Collection) with the construction cost noted as \$9,500 at that time and financed with a \$10,000 gift from the Carnegie Foundation on land donated the previous year by the Jefferson Promoters Club.

While the small public libraries designed by the firm represent a broad spectrum of architectural forms and the architects indicated in their own writing the appropriateness of several stylistic forms, it was Louis W. Claude who wrote with greater conviction,

"The building of simple classic lines, while sometimes grieving the architect gifted with original ideas, will probably always be the favorite type of this class of building, but excellent designs have been made in the English Collegiate Style, also in the California Mission Style; some few upon original but logical lines, and these to my mind, are the most satisfactory of all, as they represent intelligent growing thought, not the mere knowledge of the antiquarian who reproduces intelligently, perhaps, but does not give birth to a new idea."<sup>3</sup>

This reflected the same architectural philosophy expressed by George W. Maher,<sup>4</sup> perhaps the most prolific author and influence of the Prairie School in this period of time.<sup>5</sup> The original design referenced in Claude's writing appeared in a Sullivan-esque form of design already represented in the National Register by such buildings as the T.B. Scott Free Library, Merrill, Wisconsin (NRHP-WI-1974); the Tomah Public Library, Tomah, Wisconsin (NRHP-WI-1976); the Flagg Township Library, Rochelle, Illinois (NRHP-IL-1973); the Eager Free Library, Evansville, Wisconsin (NRHP-WI-1977); and the Detroit Lakes Library, Detroit Lakes, Minnesota (NRHP-MN-1976). The earliest example of this form was 1904 in Wilmette, Illinois, now demolished. Other variations on this design appeared in a simplified form in Chatfield, Minnesota, as the sole remaining unaltered example of this type although several others were originally built at Shawano, Wisconsin and Hamilton, Illinois. Other unique original designs were built in Two Rivers, Wisconsin, and Viroqua, Wisconsin, both substantially altered today. The firm also designed other nonclassical and original types of libraries, the Kilbourn Public Library of Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin and NRHP-WI-1974) the Columbus Public Library in Columbus, Wisconsin. However, the two most original examples of a clearly

(continued)

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Continuation Sheet

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

**UTM NOT VERIFIED**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 0.2

UTM REFERENCES Quadrangle Name: Jefferson, Wis. Quadrangle Scale: 1:24000

A 16 35,26,7,0 4,7,6,2,5,6,0  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B           
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Located at the southwest corner of Main and Dodge streets. Lot 1 and an approximately 600 square foot portion of the north part of Lot 2, Block 14, Original Plat of the city of Jefferson, Wisconsin.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Gordon D. Orr, Jr., FAIA, Architect and George Brown

September 12, 1979

ORGANIZATION

American Institute of Architects

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

STREET & NUMBER

2729 Mason Street 608/263-3000

816 State Street 608/262-9504

CITY OR TOWN

Madison, WI 53705

Madison, WI 53706

## 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

*Richard Murray*

TITLE Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin

DATE

10/16/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

W. Ray Luce  
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

1/17/80

ATTEST: *Anna Jane Sajo*  
 REGIONAL COORDINATOR

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

1/16/80

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defined Prairie School tradition exist in Reedsburg and Jefferson, Wisconsin, and of these Jefferson is substantially unaltered and clearer in its representation of the form.

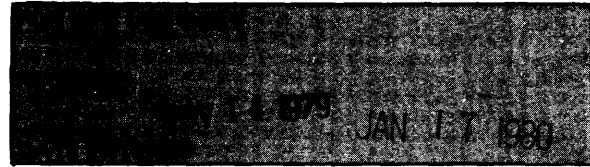
In addition to the public libraries noted above the William Collins House (NRHP-WI-1974) and the George A. Lougee House (NRHP-WI-1978) both of Madison, Wisconsin demonstrate the competence of the firm in residential designs of the Prairie School tradition.

Claude and Starck developed a strong interest and reputation in the small public library. They received commissions from 1903 to 1925 designing these buildings often financed from grants of the Carnegie Foundation. While their most innovative architectural designs were in several variations of the Prairie School, they were still most adept at small classical libraries and variations on an "English Collegiate Style" or "English Gothic Style" and "California Mission Style." The Jefferson Public Library stands as a distinguished and unique example of their public library work in the Prairie School Style.

1. Bibliographic reference (8)
2. Bibliographic references (2) and (8)
3. Bibliographic reference (9)
4. Western Architect November 1906, "The Western Spirit" and March 1910 "Art Democracy" by George W. Maher are good expressions of Maher's and Claude's, too, philosophy.
5. Brooks, H. Allen "The Prairie School," University of Toronto Press 1972, page 330, "His influence on the Midwest was profound and prolonged, and, in its time, was certainly as great as was Wright's."

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BIBLIOGRAPHY:

1. A Suggestion to State Library Commissions, by Claude and Starck, Architects, Madison, Wisconsin, privately published about 1908.
2. A Partial List of Buildings both Public and Private designed by Claude and Starck, Architects, Madison, Wisconsin published privately about 1920.
3. New Types of Small Library Buildings, Wisconsin Free Library Commission, Madison, Wisconsin 1913.
4. Obituaries of Louis W. Claude in the Wisconsin State Journal and the Capital Times, edition of August 11, 1951, and of Edward F. Starck, in the Capital Times, edition of October 28, 1947.
5. Orr, Gordon D., Jr., "The Progressive Movement in American Architecture," unpublished manuscript of August 1966.
6. Orr, Gordon D., Jr., "Prairie Architecture in Madison, Wisconsin, Influences, Forms and Form-Givers," unpublished Master's Thesis, University of Wisconsin, 1971.
7. Orr, Gordon D., Jr., "Claude and Starck, Architects", paper delivered at symposium on "American Architecture; Its Roots, Growth and Horizon", Milwaukee Art Center (the Prairie Archives), October 30, 1977, copyright 1977.
8. Drawings from the Louis W. Claude Collection, dated May 1911, privately held.
9. Wisconsin Library Bulletin, February, 1908, "Some Recent Developments in Small Library Design," p. 11.
10. Library Board Minutes
11. National Register nomination forms (10-300) for libraries in Wisconsin Dells (Orr), Durand (Orr), Merrill, Wisconsin (Dean) and Evansville, Wisconsin (Douglas).