

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

102
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This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Devils Lake Carnegie Library
other names/site number 32RY319

2. Location

street & number 623 4th Avenue N/A not for publication
city or town Devils Lake vicinity
state North Dakota code ND county Ramsey code 071 zip code 58301

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title *Merlan E. Paaverud, Jr.* 1-17-02
Merlan E. Paaverud, Jr. Date
State Historic Preservation Officer (North Dakota)

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

- I, hereby certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Edson R. Beall 3/6/02

Devils Lake Carnegie Library
Name of Property

Ramsey, ND
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Number of Resources within Property		
Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

Philanthropically Established Libraries in North Dakota

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL: Library

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL: Library

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Classical Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK

walls BRICK

roof RUBBER

other _____

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or a grave.
- D** a cemetery
- E** a reconstructed building, object or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

Primary location of additional data:

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

EDUCATION

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1909-1910

Significant Dates

1909-1910

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Shannon, Joseph A. - Architect

Gram, Vlademar - Builder

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	14	510410	5328830	3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2				4			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Barbara McCormick, Chairperson

organization Devlis Lake Historic Preservation Commission date September 25, 2000

street & number 502 4th Street telephone (701)662-3334

city or town Devlis Lake state ND zip code 58301

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name City of Devlis Lake

street & number 423 6th Street, P. O. Box 1048 telephone (701)662-7600

city or town Devlis Lake state ND zip code 58301

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Devils Lake Carnegie Library
Ramsey County, ND

Description

The Carnegie Library is located in Devils Lake, North Dakota on the northeast corner of Block 9 in the plat of the original town site of Devils Lake at the intersection of Fourth Avenue and Seventh Street. The building, which faces east, is on its original site and occupies 40% of the site. The main block of the building is 64.5' north/south by 47.5' east/west. It is located on the central portion of the site to allow a yard to separate it from adjacent properties and streets. To the south is an alley serving all the buildings on Block 9. The building sits two blocks from the main business district and is surrounded by residential, commercial and public buildings. The City of Devils Lake, seat of Ramsey County, is situated on prairie land approximately two miles north of Devils Lake.

This Classical Revival style library was designed by Joseph A. Shannon and was built in 1909. It is a one-story brick building, cruciform in shape, and has a symmetrical front facade with projecting portico. The entrance is located at the axis articulated with a Roman arch with a decorative keystone. The parapet features recessed panels, a stone coping with three acroterions of coquillage form. A moderately projecting stone cornice wraps the building beneath which stand extended pilasters terminating with Ionic capitols. There are large double-hung windows with decorative stone trim work on the east/west facades with smaller double-hung windows on the north/south facades and the lower half level. All windows have original oak wood frames with original pulleys, sash weights and cords. Between 1950 and 1970 they were overlaid by exterior metal-framed glass storm windows.

Horizontal bands of corbelled brick meet the column capitols and continue across all facades, as does the stone windowsill. The building is constructed of cream colored brick from the Grand Forks Brick and Tile Company. The raised, rusticated, basement wall is of a darker brick; it is separated from the wall above by a dripstone course.

The Grand Forks Brick and Tile Company was established in 1905. It was the last yard of Grand Forks brickyards to merge with the City's other brick manufacturers into the Red River Valley Brick Corporation. In 1941 the corporation moved to Fertile, Minnesota, when its Grand Forks clay reserves ran out. A few years later it went out of business.

The interior of the building bears little resemblance to the original decor. The fireplaces on the North and South side remain. They are constructed of russet and greenish brick with a mantle of greenish weathered oak. All of the woodwork is weathered oak and remains intact. The original wallpaper was dark green to match the simple lines making a pretty and artistic decorative effect. Floors are hard maple but have been carpeted. The original ceiling appears to be plaster with the weathered oak trim. Glass chandeliers have been replaced by fluorescent lighting. See attached copy of the 1910 photograph.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

**Devils Lake Carnegie Library
Ramsey County, ND**

Statement of Significance

The Devils Lake Carnegie Library is a component of the state's inventory of philanthropically established libraries. It is significant under Criterion A for its contribution to the history of library building in North Dakota. The historic building conforms to the pattern of Carnegie Library endowments made for social welfare and educational benefits.

Andrew Carnegie's Library Program is the most well known of his philanthropy, which is evidenced by a library in every state except Rhode Island. Libraries were symbols of social reform enhancing the cultural and educational level of the community. The establishment of a Carnegie Library may also have been prompted by a desire to attract new residents. A library was often an insurance of cultural growth. Towns that could claim an increase in population were more likely to receive a Carnegie grant.

The first efforts to establish a public library were often visions of a local volunteer group or library society. Local initiatives and support, social and political pressure and concentrated efforts attracted the Carnegie Corporation. Devils Lake qualified under those factors. Similar circumstances were the case of the Grand Forks Carnegie Library. A group of women organized the "Grand Forks Library Association" in 1895 followed by the appointment of a Board of Library Directors in 1900. The board began a plea for donations from the Carnegie Corporation and received \$22,000 with the stipulation that the city would provide a site and an annual appropriation for maintenance.

Carnegie grants for North Dakota suggest that the leveling off of the population after the Second Dakota Boom may have meant a decline in Carnegie support. After this period the state population never increased again. World War I further halted the erection of libraries. The Carnegie program ended in 1917.

Official records of Carnegie libraries within North Dakota conform to the pattern of larger endowments to larger communities and smaller grants to the less populated areas. This is evidenced by the largest amount of \$30,000 to the University of North Dakota at Grand Forks and the smallest amount of \$ 10,000 to the city of Grafton.

Of the eleven Carnegie funded libraries in North Dakota seven buildings remain. Three have been nominated to the National Register of Historic Places: Minot, Valley City and North Dakota State University.

The need for a library to serve the community as an educational and social benefit was recognized by the ladies of the city. The Devils Lake Carnegie Library was established out of the dedication and persistent effort of two women's organizations in Devils Lake: the Library Club (later the Twentieth Century Club) and the Shakespeare Club. Around 1897 a group of women formed the Library Club which maintained a reading room of about four hundred books. These were lent out to citizens who paid one dollar for a membership card.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 3

**Devils Lake Carnegie Library
Ramsey County, ND**

Statement of Significance (continued)

To start their book collection Library Club members wrote to National Federated Women's Clubs all over the United States asking for a donation of a book. The first one came from a Sirosos Club in New York. The first club project was a tea for which a book was the cost of admission. Sixty-five books were collected that evening.

In 1893, these same women had been asked to raise \$500.00 to furnish a reading room in the North Dakota building at the Chicago World's Fair. The women agreed with the provision that the furniture be shipped back to Devils Lake to furnish a reading room. Later this furniture was donated to the new Carnegie Library.

Two efforts had been made to get a grant from the Carnegie Library Foundation to build a public library. Both were unsuccessful. At the suggestion of Mrs. John Burke (wife of the former North Dakota governor), the Shakespeare Club approached the Library Club to cooperate with them in seeking a Carnegie grant and a city mill levy. In March of 1908 the City Council agreed to put the issue on the ballot in April. There was an active campaign "to arouse public sentiment to the crying need for some responsible place where our young men and boys might spend their evenings profitably and pleasantly" wrote Mrs. Frank Stoize, a member of the Shakespeare Club and the first library board. Local papers were very interested in this vote. There was constant campaigning amounting to an almost personal canvas of all voters. The result of the citywide vote was 342 for and only 39 against.

A library board named by the public school board approached the Carnegie Foundation who agreed to a \$12,500 grant if the City Council would maintain a free public library at a cost of not less than \$1,200 a year. The council agreed to levy two mills for operation of the library and another two mills to purchase the lot. The women's clubs and interested citizen's groups held many fund raising activities to purchase books and furnishings. County officials played a benefit ball game; the Twentieth Century Club had an Easter Ball, sold cookbooks and raffled quilts. Concerts and plays were also given.

The library was finished in the fall of 1909 and opened to the public in January of 1910. The Devils Lake Journal wrote the following: "The Devils Lake new public Library building opened today. There were no public ceremonies connected with the event. The doors were simply opened and the public admitted to the elegant structure. Crowds of interested people have visited the library this afternoon, admired its beauty and availed themselves of its privileges. The opening of a public library is a great event in any city. It marks a new era in the intellectual advancement of Devils Lake."

The Devils Lake Carnegie Library has remained a constant pillar of the community serving all of Ramsey County, as well as a portion of Benson County. It continues to function in the capacity designed by the ladies' clubs and is currently funded by the city of Devils Lake and the county of Ramsey.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 4

**Devils Lake Carnegie Library
Ramsey County, ND**

Statement of Significance (continued)

Under Criterion C: Devils Lake Architect Joseph A. Shannon designed the Carnegie Library. It is architecturally significant in the context of local architecture during the Second Dakota Boom, 1898-1917. Like the Masonic Temple, across the street, it is one of the most refined architectural expressions within the boundaries of Devils Lake.

Lt. Heber N. Creel established Devils Lake, the county seat of Ramsey County, in 1882 as Creelsburgh. It was renamed Creel City in 1883 and subsequently renamed Devils Lake in 1884. In 1915-1916, Devils Lake was a thriving prosperous city of approximately 6,000 and the business hub of the Lake Region Community, a commercial area of 7,500 square miles. It was situated on the transcontinental line of the Great Northern Railway and on the Soo Line. In addition there were connections to various smaller lines combined with the fact that Devils Lake was home to the main shops of the Great Northern Railway. In 30 years there had developed a city with all modern improvements of 25 miles of paved sidewalks and 70 miles of excellent streets, a five cluster lighting system, fire department, 8 ½ miles of sewage systems, churches of every denomination, magnificent lodge homes, schools, library, hotels, theater and hospitals.

Sometime around 1900, Devils Lake acquired its first bona fide local architect, Joseph A. Shannon. Shannon's lasting influence on Devils Lake occurred between 1900 and 1920. Many of Shannon's designs were executed in the Classical Revival style, popular in the first decade of the 20th century. He designed the Bangs Block addition to the Bangs-Wineman Block, the Opera House, General Hospital, the Presbyterian and Methodist churches, the Wickert-Schultz Building, the Carnegie Library, an addition to the North Dakota School for the Deaf building, the Fire Station #1, the Lake Chevrolet dealership garage and St. Olaf Lutheran Church. He also designed many of the Farmers Grain and Shipping Company depots north of Devils Lake. A short biography in "Devils Lake Beautiful" published for the Devils Lake Commercial Club by the North American Publicity Bureau 1915-1916 states that most of Devils Lake's finest up-to-date buildings had been designed by Shannon as well as many fine homes. Of the many listed above, the Opera House and General Hospital have been razed.

Shannon was born in Edina, Missouri on March 21, 1859 where he spent his boyhood. He came to Devils Lake in 1902 where he resided until his death on January 25, 1934. Little is known of the nature of his training but it is believed he started to practice architecture in 1897. The inventory of his buildings in Devils Lake and in other regions outside the state in South Dakota and Minnesota suggest a high degree of architectural literacy and an ability to work within a variety of idioms. The Dickey Library in Jamestown documents the period of Prairie School design in vogue in the upper Midwest and demonstrates Shannon's ability to adapt the principles of his contemporaries. Though he claimed to possess no recognized certificate, in 1917 he made an application for a license to practice architecture in North Dakota.

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Devils Lake Carnegie Library
Ramsey County, ND

Statement of Significance (continued)

Two Classical Revival brick bungalows (801 and 805 5th Street) were designed by Shannon and sold to new owners when completed. He also designed a two-story house at 524 7th Street, which appears to be Colonial Revival style stucco home. Two brick bungalows of stucco lie on either side of this house and are believed to be designed by Shannon. He also is thought to have designed the row house at 802 4th Avenue. This four-unit structure is of tan and brown brick with Classical Revival style detailing. Other Shannon designed homes in Devils Lake have not been documented.

Danish contractor Vlademar Gram came to Devils Lake from Black River Falls, Wisconsin. Gram hired every Dane who asked for a job whether or not he had work for them. Gram is credited with building the Grand Opera House (razed), the Locke Block, Journal Building, Glerum Building, Biological Station at Lakewood (sold and moved to a new location), St. Joseph Catholic Church, Foundation of the Great Northern Hotel and the Library. Several years after the Opera House was built Gram left for Florida.

The contents of the Devils Lake Carnegie Library will be moved to a new location within the next two years. The present building will likely be offered for sale by the city of Devils Lake. There is a group interested in preserving the building as a historical library. The objective will be to consolidate newspapers, books and reference materials belonging to various historical organizations and private citizens. The library would be open to the public for research. To have this building on the National Register would be an enhancement for this effort.

Bibliography

Devils Lake Commercial Club, "Devils Lake Beautiful", Devils Lake, North Dakota, The North American Publicity Bureau, 1915-16

Devils Lake Daily Journal. Devils Lake, North Dakota, 7-1-83

Devils Lake Journal. Devils Lake, North Dakota, 1-10-10

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Frank, Frederick H., North Dakota Cultural Resources Survey. June 1981

McCroskey, Lauren, "Philanthropically Established Libraries in North Dakota", Ms., Bismarck, North Dakota, North Dakota Heritage Center, 11-21-89

People of Ramsey County. Ramsey County Centennial Books, Volume 1, and Page 124 Devils Lake, North Dakota Centennial Heritage Book Committee, 1983

Roberts, Norene, "National Register Reconnaissance & Intensive Survey of Devils Lake, North Dakota", Ms., Bismarck, North Dakota, North Dakota Heritage Center, 1987

Vyzralek, Frank, Brickmaking in North Dakota. State Historical Society of North Dakota, 1998

United States Department of the Interior
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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 6

Devils Lake Carnegie Library
Ramsey County, ND

Verbal Boundary Description

The property includes the building and land that occupies lots 1,2 and 3 of Block 9 of the original town site of Devils Lake, North Dakota. The boundaries that are used in this nomination are those legally accepted by the Ramsey County Register of Deeds in Devils Lake, North Dakota.

Boundary Justification

The library is centrally located on the nominated property. The north, east and south boundaries are street and alley right of ways. The west side boundary is adjacent to a private residence. The land in these lots is historically associated with the property.