

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

For NPS use only

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

received JUL 29 1987  
date entered AUG 29 1988

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

**1. Name**

historic Shaw Memorial Library

and/or common Cloquet Public Library

**2. Location**

street & number 406 Cloquet Avenue N/A not for publication

city, town Cloquet N/A vicinity of

state Minnesota code 22 county Carlton code 017

**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 type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Library

**4. Owner of Property**

name City of Cloquet

street & number 508 Cloquet Avenue

city, town Cloquet N/A vicinity of state Minnesota

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Carlton County Courthouse

street & number 3rd Street and Walnut Avenue

city, town Carlton state Minnesota

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Minnesota Statewide Historic Sites Survey

has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1984  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records State Historic Preservation Office, Fort Snelling History Center

city, town St. Paul state Minnesota 55111

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Shaw Memorial Library, completed in 1920, is located at 406 Cloquet Avenue, in the heart of the Cloquet business district, overlooking the St. Louis River. Designed by the Duluth architectural firm of Kelly and Shefchik, the structure is a one story square brick building trimmed with white Bedford stone. An elevated basement is separated from the first story by a stone watertable. The first floor windows are arched with brick surrounds, decorative stone keystones and stone sills. The windows on the front facade run the length of the facade; a decorative stone panel is found under the shorter side windows. The arched stone surround front entrance with keystone is flanked on each side by two stone Doric pilasters. The words SHAW MEMORIAL LIBRARY are carved into the stone freize. A balustrade highlights the flat roof. Arched window openings, rounded recessed entry, and a balustrade all speak of the Renaissance Revival elements found in this structure.

Originally the east side of the library houses the children's reading room and offices and the west wing had a reading room for adults, a reference room and fireplace. The basement has two lecture rooms -- one fitted with a stage and the other equipped with a fireplace. These rooms were also used for club meetings. A kitchen and small packing room were also located in the basement.

The Shaw Memorial Library is in good condition. Exterior alterations have included replacing some windows and the addition of a new glass and metal doorway entry. A small aluminum and metal shed has been installed on the right side of the stone stairway main entrance, leading down to the lower entrance. It serves as an enclosed entrance to the children's library. The interior has been remodeled over the years but the oak woodwork, bookshelves, furniture, and check out counter are still intact.

## 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/	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)	

Specific dates 1919–1920

Builder/Architect Kelly and Shefchik

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Shaw Memorial Library now known as the Cloquet Public Library, is historically significant as the home of a public institution that has served the community of Cloquet since its construction in 1920, and as the only public library building erected in Carlton County. Architecturally the building is important as an accomplished design by notable Duluth architectural firm of Kelly and Shefchik and as one of the group of permanent public buildings constructed after the fire of October 12, 1918 destroyed the city of Cloquet along with a majority of Carlton County and southern St. Louis County.

In 1895, the Cloquet Public Library was first housed in one room on the second floor of the Nelson House, located on the site where the former City Hall now stands. In 1901 the Cloquet Lumber Co. donated the present site to the city for the purpose of construction of a library. The first library, a stone and brick structure, was built at a cost of \$6,353.00 by the contracting firm of Connors and Redfield in June 1901. On March 29, 1902 the library was opened, and in 1918 was remodeled and enlarged. Shortly after remodeling was completed, the building burned to the ground on October 12, 1918 when fire devastated a majority of Carlton County and southern St. Louis County. The library was reopened four months later in temporary quarters on 7th Street.

Funds for a new building were donated to the city by Mrs. J.E. Lynds and Mrs. J.J. DeLescaille, daughters of George S. Shaw, a prominent local lumberman. Shaw was instrumental in establishing lumbering interests in Cloquet. In 1875 he helped form Renwick, Shaw, and Crossett Lumber Co., a predecessor of the Cloquet Lumber Co. He later became president of the Weyerhaeuser owned Cloquet Lumber Co. Shaw was an important figure in Cloquet's lumbering industry, the main basis for the city's early economic survival. He died at the age of seventy-five in 1897. As a memorial to their father, Shaw's daughters donated \$15,000.00 each to the library fund. An additional \$10,000.00 came from the insurance on the building that burned in the 1918 fire. Constructed on the foundation of the former library, the building was begun in 1919 and completed June 29, 1920.

The library was designed by Duluth architects Kelly & Shefchik and was built at the cost of \$40,000.00. In 1928 Thomas J. Shefchik designed the Duluth City Hall (plan by D.H. Burnham and Co.) and also is credited with the design of the Ordean Junior High School (1956) and the First American National Bank (1958). The Shaw Memorial Library's brick and stone construction marked it as one of the first public buildings built according to an ordinance passed by the Cloquet City Council in 1918–1919 designating the character of construction of buildings. The library is one of few brick structures of this period that retains good design integrity.

Since its inception in 1895 the city library has provided vital library services to Cloquet and the surrounding area. In 1983 there were 5,920 registered borrowers with a circulation of 95,841. The Cloquet library is currently a member of the Arrowhead Library System.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Cloquet Pine Knot. July 4, 1919, October 12, 1919, June 25, 1920, June 30, 1920, October 15, 1920.  
 "Cloquet History" Vol. 3, on file at the Cloquet Public Library.  
 Information provided by the Carlton Co. Historical Society and the Cloquet Public Library.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Less than one

Quadrangle name Cloquet Quad.

Quadrangle scale 7.5

### UTM References

A 

1	5	5	4	1	3	6	0	5	1	7	4	1	4	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

Lots 1 & 2, Block D, Original Plat City of Cloquet

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

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Liz Holum - Field Assistant

organization State Historic Preservation Office  
Minnesota Historical Society

date December 1984

street & number Fort Snelling History Center

telephone (612) 726-1171

city or town St. Paul

state Minnesota 55111

# 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

Russell W. Fridley

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 7/5/85

### For NPS use only

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

for Melissa Byer  
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the National Register

date 8/29/85

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration