

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received JUL 23 1985
date entered AUG 23 1985

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

1. Name

historic Madison Carnegie Library

and or common N/A

2. Location

street & number 401 Sixth Avenue N/A not for publication

city, town Madison N/A vicinity of

state Minnesota code 22 county Lac qui Parle code 073

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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Library

4. Owner of Property

name City of Madison

street & number Sixth Avenue and Fourth Street

city, town Madison N/A vicinity of state Minnesota 56256

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Lac qui Parle County Courthouse

street & number 600 Sixth Street

city, town Madison state Minnesota 56256

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Minnesota Statewide Historic
title Sites Survey

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1983-84 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

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input 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
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date <u> N/A </u>

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Madison Carnegie Library, constructed in 1905-06, is located at the north-west corner of Sixth Avenue and Fourth Street in Madison. The building is situated at the north end of Madison's business district and shares the north end of Sixth Avenue with two other large Victorian public buildings, the Madison City Hall, built in 1902 across street to the east, and the Lac Qui Parle County Courthouse, built in 1899 and located two blocks to the north. Other buildings surrounding the library include turn of the century commercial buildings to the south and a number of moderately sized, somewhat altered, Victorian houses to the north.

The Madison Carnegie Library was designed by Minneapolis architect Ralph D. Church and built by prominent Madison contractor Gerhard Herriges at an estimated cost of \$6,000. The library is a good example of the Classical Revival style commonly used in the design of Carnegie libraries and other public buildings constructed throughout Minnesota in the early twentieth century. Although modest in size, the library is more interesting in design than most other Carnegie libraries built in west central Minnesota. The library is a one story, basically square building faced with stretcher bonded tan and dark brown brick manufactured by the Menomonee Hydraulic Pressed Brick Company, and trimmed with Kasota limestone. The building's most unusual feature is its low polygonal, iron-covered dome which projects from the flat roof and which is ornamented with an entablature and anthemions. The building has a projecting entrance bay on the main facade with a full pediment supported by paired four volute Ionic columns of smooth limestone, resting on a tall brick stoop. The pediment has a pressed metal floral relief design in the tympanum and metal lettering reading "Carnegie Library" applied to the frieze. Beneath the pediment is a rounded arched brick entrance with double leaf doors beneath a leaded glass transom. The building has rectangular double hung windows with geometric grillwork in the transoms and is further ornamented with brick pilasters, a galvanized iron cornice with dentils, large ball finials at the corners of the roofline, and smoothly dressed limestone sills, keystones, and a limestone watertable.

The interior of the library has white plaster walls and birch woodwork colored with mahogany stain. Set into the ceiling of the circulation room beneath the exterior dome is a large rectangular back-lit stained glass panel. The library retains original furnishings purchased from the Library Bureau Company of Minneapolis. The building presently contains a circulation room on the main floor and restrooms, storage rooms, and meeting rooms in the basement. The Madison Carnegie Library is basically intact and in good condition. In 1974 the interior was altered somewhat when a wall was removed from the main floor, the ceiling was lowered, the main floor was carpeted, and new lighting was installed. The exterior of the building has sustained no apparent alterations.

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 1905-06 **Builder/Architect** Ralph D. Church, architect
Gerhard Herriges, builder

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Madison Carnegie Library, completed in 1906, is historically and architecturally significant as one of the earliest and most stylistically unusual Carnegie libraries constructed in west central Minnesota, as an example of the work of Minneapolis architect Ralph D. Church and prominent Madison contractor Gerhard Herriges, as one of three monumental Victorian public buildings which form a visual and civic focal point in Madison, and as a building which illustrates the efforts of the Andrew Carnegie Corporation to provide architecturally sophisticated, free public library facilities to small Minnesota communities.

Madison, a small community in central Lac Qui Parle County, did not have a public library before the construction of the present library building. Efforts to establish a library began in 1904 and in February of 1905 the Andrew Carnegie Corporation approved a grant of \$8,000 for the building. Later that month the City Council made plans to purchase the present library site and approved an annual library maintenance fund of \$800 to be raised through taxation. During the spring of 1905 the first library board of directors was appointed by the mayor and city council, Ralph D. Church of Minneapolis was selected as the architect, and local builder Gerhard Herriges was awarded the contract for construction. The new library was built during the summer and fall of 1905 and opened formally on January 22, 1906 when a large dedication ceremony was held across the street at the Madison City Hall. Since 1906 the library has provided free services to the citizens of Madison and Lac Qui Parle County. The library is now a member of the Pioneerland Regional Library System.

The Andrew Carnegie Corporation approved funding for sixty-four libraries nationwide in 1905, the year the Madison library was built. Between 1886 and 1919 the Corporation made possible the establishment of 1,679 libraries across the country, many in small communities where public libraries provided essential educational and cultural resources which were previously unavailable. In addition, Carnegie encouraged cities to construct sophisticated, architect-designed buildings in which to house the libraries. In many cases, Carnegie libraries constructed during the early twentieth century continue as nearly sole providers of educational services to adults in rural Minnesota, and stand as among the most architecturally significant buildings in many small rural Minnesota communities.

The Madison Public Library was designed by Minneapolis architect Ralph D. Church. Little is known of Church's career, although he did design Carnegie libraries in St. Peter, Minnesota (1903), Litchfield, South Dakota (1904), and Milbank, South Dakota (1906). In 1906 Church reportedly moved his practice to Chicago.

The Madison Library was constructed by Madison builder Gerhard Herriges, who was appointed to the first library board in March of 1905 but then resigned to bid on the contract for the construction of the building. Herriges was born in Wisconsin in 1860 and moved to Madison in 1885 where he became a well known local contractor. His local building projects included the Madison Milling Company, Hauge Lutheran Church, St. Michael's Catholic Church and School, the National Guard Armory, and a number of residences. Herriges died in 1942.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

9. Major Bibliographical References

Architect's plans and specifications drawn by R. D. Church, Madison Carnegie Library.
Moyer and Dale. History of Chippewa and Lac Qui Parle Counties. 1916.
Library Board Meeting Minutes, 1905-06, Madison Carnegie Library.
Information received from Carole Nelson, Librarian, Madison Carnegie Library.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Madison Quad.

Quadrangle scale 7.5

UTM References

A	<u>14</u>	<u>721180</u>	<u>4987960</u>	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots 11-12, Block 24, Original Townsite of Madison.

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 Susan Granger, Field Assistant

State Historic Preservation Office

organization Minnesota Historical Society

date September 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

7/1/85

For NPS use only

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

George M. Sammons
for Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date

8/23/85

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

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

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet Madison Carnegie Library Item number 8,9

Page 1

Item #8 (Significance) continued:

The Madison Carnegie Library was included in a fifteen month historic sites survey of seven west central Minnesota counties conducted in 1983-84 by the State Historic Preservation Office. The survey staff determined that the library was one of the earliest Carnegie libraries constructed in the seven county area (preceeded by the Alexandria Public Library, built in 1903). The library is one of the most architecturally interesting of the eight Carnegie libraries standing in the seven counties, most of which are more formal and reserved in design. The Madison Carnegie Library was noted by the survey staff to be an important component of the civic and geographic center of Madison, in which also stands the Madison City Hall and the Lac Qui Parle County Courthouse.

Item #9 (Bibliographical References) continued:

Information received from Ray Herriges, son of Gerhard Herriges, Madison, Minnesota.
Bobinski, George. Carnegie Libraries. Chicago: American Library Association, 1969.
Willand, Jon. Unpublished manuscript on Lac Qui Parle County history, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Ralph D. Church File, Northwest Architectural Archives, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota.