

MINNESOTA HISTORIC PROPERTIES INVENTORY FORM

HISTORIC NAME: Chatfield Public Library

COUNTY: Fillmore **MAR 15 1982**

CURRENT NAME:

CITY/TWP.: Chatfield City

LEGAL DESC.:

ADDRESS: Main Street

Lots 7-8, Block 11, Original Plat

CLASSIFICATION:

Building X
 Structure _____
 Object _____
 District _____

CONDITION:

Excellent _____
 Good X
 Fair _____
 Deteriorated _____

SIGNIFICANCE:

Local X
 State _____
 National _____

THEME/S:

Primary Architecture
 Secondary Education
 Others _____

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

Yes X No _____ Restricted X

PRESENT USE:

Public library and city
 historical society

VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD:

Yes X No _____

OCCUPIED:

Yes X No _____

DATE CONSTRUCTED: 1913

ORIGINAL USE: public library

ORIGINAL OWNER: City of Chatfield

ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Claude & Starck, Madison, WI.

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: City of Chatfield
 Chatfield, MN 55923

ACREAGE: Less than one acre X

LOCAL CONTACT/ORG.: Fillmore County Historical Society,
 Box 193, Preston, MN

UTM REFERENCE:

Chatfield Quad.

FORM PREPARED BY: Robert M. Frame III, Ph.D.

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DATE: February, 10, 1981

DESCRIPTION:

The Chatfield Public Library is located on Main Street, at the edge of Chatfield's commercial district and across from the public square and park. The library building is a simple, one story, brick rectangle, in Prairie School style, 25 x 45 feet, on a raised basement. A projecting brick entryway with prominent cornice is centered on the primary (Main Street) facade. It has a low hipped roof with wide eaves. The brick exterior is worked into decorative panelling and within the panels all windows (one-over-one double-hung sash) are arranged in groups or rows of three.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The library is significant as an example of a Carnegie-funded public library designed in Prairie School style by the Madison, Wisconsin, architectural firm of Claude and Starck. Louis W. Claude (1868-1951) was employed by the firms of Burnham and Root, and Adler and Sullivan. In 1896 he formed a partnership with Edward F. Starck (1868-1947). Together they designed a wide variety of buildings, including a considerable number of library buildings, of which five were in Minnesota. In 1913 they received the Chatfield commission which was funded by a \$6,000 gift from the Carnegie Commission. The modest Prairie School design which Claude and Starck prepared for the library proved to be an appropriate and economical accommodation and also was in keeping with Carnegie's wishes that the buildings not become elaborate Greek temples. The building today continues to serve as the community library as well as the office of the Chatfield Historical Society.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Our First 100 Years: Chatfield, Minnesota, July 2-5, 1953, Centennial Souvenir. Pp. 23-24.
Centennial Bugle. Chatfield: Root River State Bank, 1977. P. 12.