

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

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

For NPS use only
received APR 22 1983
date entered

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

1. Name

historic St. Peter Public Library

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number 429 South Minnesota Avenue N/A not for publication

city, town St. Peter N/A vicinity of

state Minnesota code 22 county Nicollet code 103

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<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
	N/A	<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 St. Peter

street & number P.O. Box 270

city, town St. Peter N/A vicinity of state Minnesota

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Nicollet County Courthouse

street & number Minnesota Avenue

city, town St. Peter state Minnesota

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Minnesota Statewide Historic
title Sites Survey

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date July 1982 federal state county local

depository for survey records Minnesota Historical Society -- Fort Snelling History Center

city, town St. Paul state Minnesota

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input 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 St. Peter Public Library is a simple brick and stone structure executed in the Neo-Classic mode and situated on the northeast corner of Minnesota Avenue and Mulberry Street. It is one story in height and is set on a high basement. The principal entry is placed at the inner face of the intersection of the "L" plan and is reached via a flight of stairs.

Architectural detailing includes brick quoins, simple moulded brackets and capitals which support the architrave, and a dentillated cornice. The primary feature is the pedimented entry supported by non-fluted Ionic columns and pilasters.

Fenestration and the "LIBRARY" plaque above the entrance are original. The original steps and portico deck, however, have been replaced.

The St. Peter Public Library continues to serve its original function as a community library.

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		library

Specific dates 1904 **Builder/Architect** R.D. Church, Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Ole Frederickson, Builder

The St. Peter Public Library is significant as a modest example of a Neo-Classic style public library constructed in 1903 which continues to serve in its original capacity.

A library was first formed in St. Peter in 1869 when annual fees charged to its 50 shareholders and paying members allowed them to use the reading and circulating facilities. In 1875 the library counted 900 volumes. In 1896, the library became a tax supported facility and by 1901, realizing to what extent the city had grown, a library board formed and Andrew Carnegie was approached for the standard \$10,000 library construction grant. In January 1903, through the efforts of 3rd District Congressman James T. McCleary, the money was conditionally promised to the city on its guarantee to purchase a lot and provide for the library's future maintenance.

A lot was chosen for the library which was the site of the Gorman Building built in 1856 by R.L. Gorman, son of territorial Governor Willis A. Gorman, in anticipation of the removal of the state capitol from St. Paul to St. Peter. When this did not occur, the building was used for a variety of purposes, including a refuge for victims of the 1862 Indian Uprising, before being razed.

The contract for the library construction was awarded to St. Peter contractor Ole Frederickson, whose bid of \$9,836.00 was the only bid to come in under \$10,000.00. Construction began in the fall of 1903 and was completed in January of 1904. The building opened to the public the following month.

The St. Peter Public Library continues in its original use. The library's interior reference and reading areas and exterior facades are virtually unaltered and the library retains its prominent position on what is considered to be one of the earliest developed sites in the city.

9. Major Bibliographical References

- "Carnegie Listens," St. Peter Herald, 16 January 1903, p.1.
- "Contract is Awarded," St. Peter Herald, 28 August 1903, p.1.
- Gresham, William G., ed. History of Nicollet and LeSueur Counties, Minnesota. Indianapolis: B.F. Bowen, 1916.
- "St. Peter Public Library," St. Peter Herald, 22 January 1904.

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property less than 1
 Quadrangle name St. Peter Quad., Minnesota Quadrangle scale 7.5

UTM References

A	<u>15</u>	<u>423620</u>	<u>4907920</u>	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

S55½' of Lot 4 Block 201
 Amended Plat St. Peter

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 Roth, Research Historian and Charles Nelson, Historical Architect
 organization Minnesota Historical Society date February 1983
 street & number Fort Snelling History Center telephone 612-726-1171
 city or town St. Paul state Minnesota

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
 title Russell W. Fridley date 4/7/83
State Historic Preservation Officer

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
 National Register

date 5/9/83

for Delores Byers
 Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

**Note: These changes apply to
St. Peter Public Library in
Nicollet County, Minnesota.**

REFERENCE NUMBER: 83000920

STATE: MINNESOTA

COUNTY: Nicollet

RESOURCE NAME (HISTORIC): St. Peter Carnegie Library

CITY:

VICINITY OF:

ADDRESS:

CERTIFICATION DATE:

REMOVED DATE:

COMMENTS:

Nina M. Archabal

**Nina M. Archabal
State Historic Preservation Officer**

JUN 17 1988

Date