

PH0355674

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAY 5 1976
DATE ENTERED	JUN 7 1976

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC *the*  
 \*\* Owatonna Free Public Library  
 AND/OR COMMON  
 Owatonna Free Public Library

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER: 105 North Elm Street  
 CITY, TOWN: Owatonna VICINITY OF: First  
 STATE: Minnesota CODE: 27 COUNTY: Steele CODE: 147

**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 type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: Library

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME: City of Owatonna  
 STREET & NUMBER: 107 West Main Street  
 CITY, TOWN: Owatonna VICINITY OF: Minnesota STATE: Minnesota

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Steele County Courthouse  
 STREET & NUMBER: 111 East Main Street  
 CITY, TOWN: Owatonna STATE: Minnesota

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE: Minnesota Statewide Historic Sites Survey  
 DATE: 1973  FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL  
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Minnesota Historical Society - Building 25, Fort Snelling  
 CITY, TOWN: St. Paul STATE: Minnesota

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Owatonna Free Public Library is located at 105 North Elm Street, one block east of Owatonna's central business district. The Neo-Classic styled library was designed in 1899 by the DesMoines, Iowa architect Frank A. Gutterson.

The two story library is constructed of buff colored brick and kasota stone. The building is executed in a modified Greek cross with projecting central bays on the east and west (front) facades. The Neo-Classic ornamentation on the exterior of the library consists of acroteria above the pediments and above the west entrance, doric pilaster strips at each corner of the building with egg and dart design on the capitals, diminutive doric columns dividing the second story windows, simple trabeated cornices above the first story windows, and symmetrically faced copper chimneys. The roof is constructed of red tile.

The library facilities are housed on the first floor of the library and in the basement; the second floor of the library is used as a meeting room and art gallery. The main reading room on the first floor is located at the intersection of the two arms of the cross. Unfluted corinthian columns in this section form an impressive colonnaded atrium. In 1954, the first floor of the library was remodeled to meet standards of lighting, arrangement, and decoration. An additional stack area was located in the basement as a result of this remodeling. The remodeling did not affect the integrity of the 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES    1900 - present

BUILDER/ARCHITECT    Hammel and Anderson/  
Frank A. Gutterson

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of the Owatonna Free Public Library lies both in the ~~role~~ that it has played in the intellectual and cultural growth of the town of Owatonna and in the architectural style which it represents.

Owatonna's Free Public Library was established in 1896 as a result of a legacy of \$5,000 from one of Owatonna's leading citizens. In 1898 and 1899 public funds were voted to make possible the erection of the library building, which established a tradition of supplementing public funds with private gifts. During the fall of 1898 the plans of the present building were perfected by Frank Alder Gutterson, of the architectural firm of Smith and Gutterson, Des Moines, Iowa. Gutterson designed a two story Neo-Classic building to serve as Owatonna's library. The Owatonna firm of Hammel and Anderson was commissioned in 1899 to construct the library. The library was officially dedicated on February 22, 1900.

The Owatonna Free Public Library continues to serve the growing Owatonna area as its primary reference facility.

### 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Curtiss-Wedge, Franklyn, History of Rice and Steele Counties, Volume II, Chicago, 1910.  
 Wesley, Edgar Bruce, Owatonna: the Social Development of a Minnesota Community, Minneapolis, 1938.  
 The Owatonna Daily Peoples Press, March, 11, 1941.  
The Story of Our Library, Owatonna, 1954.  
 Historical Records of Steele County Historical Society.  
Minnesota Libraries, September, 1947.

### 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 2 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 5	4, 8, 2, 1, 6, 0	4, 8, 8, 1, 1, 8, 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

### 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Lynne VanBrocklin - State Historic Preservation Office

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Minnesota Historical Society

16 April 1976

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

Building 25, Fort Snelling

612-726-1171

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

St. Paul

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  
State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 4-30-76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 6/9/96

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE 5-28-76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

RBR for WJM 5/28/76