

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

For NPS use only

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

received **OCT 30 1985**

date entered

DEC 2 1985

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic D.R. Moon Memorial Library

and or common -

2. Location

street & number E. Fourth Avenue not for publication

city, town Stanley vicinity of

state WI code 55 county Chippewa 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name City of Stanley, Library Board of Trustees, Mrs. Ruth Mathwig, Pres.

street & number 116 Third Avenue

city, town Stanley vicinity of state WI 54768

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Chippewa County Courthouse

street & number 711 N. Bridge Street

city, town Chippewa Falls state WI 54729

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1985 federal state county local

depository for survey records State Historical Society of Wisconsin

city, town Madison state WI 53706

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input 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		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The D.R. Moon Memorial Library, located on the southwest corner of E. Fourth Avenue and Emery Street, is a compact and simply outlined Neoclassical structure, standing one story above a raised stone basement. A hip roof (The ridge lines are marked by roof tiles) covers the T-shaped brick building which features, as its dominant element, a projecting entrance area distinguished by a compound round arched opening. Smooth Doric columns support the stone trimmed arch that is echoed within the enclosure by the entry itself and by niches to either side. The paneled door, which leads to a small vestibule, is accented by paired Doric pilasters, a transom light, and side lights. An arched opening, also with transom, opens to the library's central room. Flanking the entrance area are large rectangular windows*(original features), highlighted by stone lintels and sills. Similar openings, though varying in size, are found on the structure's east, west, and south facades. Additional features are a denticulated entablature, which unifies the composition and provides a strong horizontal line,**and a corbeled chimney that rises above the building's east wing. Alterations to the library's exterior are few: the enclosing of a window and the addition of a basement entrance on the west wing in the 1950s, and a new "public library" sign, which replaces the original stone plaque.

Similarly, the building's interior, composed of three rooms and a central open space, is largely unaltered. Dark antique oak ceiling beams, classical window moldings, and columns (These are Doric columns which stand on pedestals) distinguish the reading rooms and stack areas, with the same wood used to highlight the large fireplace in the east wing. The brick fireplace is a prominent interior detail, characterized by a rectangular opening with an architrave surround, Doric colonettes, frieze, and cornice supported by consoles. A bronze plaque commemorating the Moon family's donation is located above the fireplace opening.

* Detailed with Roman screen motifs.

** Capped by a copper cornice.

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
Period of historical significance		1901–1935		Associated with the
Specific dates	1901 ¹	Builder/Architect	W. Channing Whitney ²	development of a
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)				Locality

The D.R. Moon Memorial Library, located in the Chippewa County community of Stanley, is both an architecturally and historically significant resource. Designed by Minneapolis architect W. Channing Whitney, the well-preserved brick structure is recognized locally as a fine expression of the Neoclassical style. Moreover, since its construction in 1901, the library has served as Stanley's cultural and social center, providing an array of special programs and events in addition to the usual offerings of a public library.

Architecture

Situated on a small corner lot in a residential section of Stanley, the D.R. Moon Memorial Library, constructed in 1901, is a simple yet effective Neoclassical design, inspired by Roman rather than Greek precedents. W. Channing Whitney, a Minnesota architect, was selected by Sallie F. Moon to design the library as a memorial to her husband DeLos R. Moon, an Eau Claire lumberman, who, as president of the Northwestern Lumber Company, was responsible for Stanley's development as a lumber center. Whitney (1851–1945), a native of Massachusetts, practiced (from 1880 to 1925) in Minneapolis where he designed several residences ranging in style from the Richardsonian Romanesque to the Tudor Revival.³ In Stanley, Whitney's design for the memorial library includes a hip roof, prominent stone lintels and sills, a denticulated entablature, and, as the dominant element, a projecting entrance area incorporating a compound round arched opening supported by Doric columns. The building's interior, too, is distinguished, featuring fine oak woodwork and massive brick fireplace. In the community the structure nicely complements the other public buildings, most notably the city hall, a Romanesque building also constructed in 1901, and the high school, a Georgian Revival composition, built in 1905.

The library was formally dedicated on December 17, 1901, at which time it was described by visiting dignitaries as being "superior to anything ... seen in a city of this size".⁴ Largely unaltered since this comment was made, the D.R. Moon Memorial Library remains one of the city's most valued architectural assets.

Development of a Locality

In anticipation of the arrival of the Wisconsin Central Railroad, the community of Stanley, located in the northeast corner of Chippewa County, was platted by W.P. Bartlett of Eau Claire and L.C. Stanley, a Chippewa Falls merchant and railroad investor, who gave his name to the new settlement. The area was already known for its valuable tracts of pine and hardwood forest with a sawmill constructed on the nearby Wolf River as early as 1863–64. Despite this early activity, development proceeded slowly until the 1880s when the railroad provided access at the same time lumber interests in the Chippewa River Valley were searching

9. Major Bibliographical References

Chippewa County Wisconsin. Chicago: S.J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1913.

Stanley: Our Town, 1881-1981. Stanley: Stanley Republican, 1981.

Stanley Republican, 21 December 1901.

10. Geographical Data

Acres of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name Stanley, WI

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	5	6	6	2	8	4	0	4	9	8	0	6	2	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

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D

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification A piece of land described as follows: commencing at a point across the alley from the northeast corner of Lot 9, Block 5 of the Original Plat of the City of Stanley, said point being at the intersection of the northerly boundary of said alley with the westerly boundary of Emery Street; thence in a northerly direction along

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

(continued)

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mary E. Taylor/Consultant

organization

date August 1985

street & number 8269 Doolittle Rd.

telephone (715)356-2555

city or town Minocqua

state WI. 54548

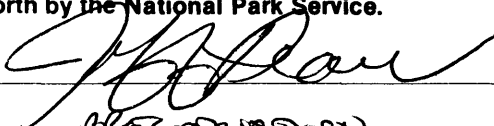
12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

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



title DIRECTOR OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

date OCT. 22, 1985

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date 12-2-85

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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D.R. Moon Memorial Library, Chippewa County,
Continuation sheet Wisconsin

Item number 8

Page 1

for additional timber resources. One of these interests was the Northwestern Lumber Company, which had originated in 1867 as the partnership of Gilbert Porter and DeLos R. Moon. S.T. McKnight, who operated a lumberyard at Hannibal, Missouri, was added as a partner in 1870; three years later the entire operation was organized as the Northwestern Lumber Company. Porter served as the firm's first president, succeeded upon his death in 1880 by Moon who brought the company into Stanley in the late 1880s. Under Moon's direction land was cleared for a large mill operation in 1888 and in 1890 a dam on the Wolf River, which created a mill pond, was constructed. The first log was sawed at the new facility on December 31, 1891. In the following years the Northwestern Lumber Company became the dominant industry in Stanley. Hundreds of new residents, many of them of Norwegian descent, settled in the community and found work at the mill and in the surrounding forests. In 1893 the organization of the Stanley, Merrill & Philipps Railroad, a subsidiary of the Northwestern Lumber Company, provided additional employment and the means for transporting large quantities of lumber from the company's camps.⁵

As the settlement grew and prospered (It was incorporated as a city in 1898), members of the citizenry began thinking about the creation of a public library. Reflecting this interest, the city council in March 1900 passed a resolution establishing a free public library. The same resolution created a library board, including two of the institution's primary advocates, Dr. E.F. Burns and W.H. Bridgman who edited the Stanley Republican. Additional support for the library was generated by an address entitled "Stanley's Greatest Need - A Library" presented by Miss L.E. Stearns of the State Library Commission at a meeting of the newly-appointed library board. Within the next months S.T. McKnight, president of the Northwestern Lumber Company following DeLos Moon's death in 1898, offered to build a library, either a separate building or a part of the city hall planned for construction in 1901. Although McKnight's offer was readily accepted, it was later superseded by the donation of Mrs. Sallie F. Moon, the widow of DeLos Moon. Requesting that the library be a memorial to her husband whose company had played such an important role in Stanley's development and who himself had great affection for the city and its residents, Mrs. Moon provided funds for the building and for library materials. On December 17, 1901, the DeLos Moon Memorial Library was formally dedicated in a ceremony that included a speech by Sumner G. Moon, son of DeLos Moon, and brief remarks by F.A. Hutchins, Secretary of the State Library Commission and Senator J.H. Stout of Menomonie, president of the State Library Commission. As reported in the Stanley Republican, Secretary Hutchins "declared that for a building of its size, it had no equal in the state, and that the selection of books was the best he had seen".⁶

Once established, the library assumed a prominent role in the community's cultural and social development. The selection of books praised by Secretary Hutchins was immediately enlarged through the donation of 500 volumes by S.J. McKnight, who, as mentioned previously, had offered to construct the library. Reference books, books on history, travel, and science, illustrated children's books, and books in Norwegian (These were especially important in a city with a large Norwegian population) were the lumberman's gift to Stanley. This combination of a fine book collection and a pleasing environment in which to read drew Stanley residents of all ages to the library, where within three years the number of "borrowers" totaled 913 from a population of 2387.⁷ School children especially enjoyed the library

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Inventory—Nomination Form

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D.R. Moon Memorial Library, Chippewa County,
Continuation sheet Wisconsin

Item number 8

Page 2

and the librarian who organized special activities and events (including a story hour) for them. Testifying to the strong bond between the librarian and the local children, the funeral of Martha Dunn, the second librarian to serve Stanley, was held at the library with all the children of the community attending.

Programs and activities for adults were also offered at the library. In 1902 Stanley's first librarian Hannah Ellis initiated a series of public lectures on subjects such as history, poetry, and travel. The following year the library board contracted with the Lyceum Bureau of Minneapolis to provide "three programs of popular entertainment for winter". Other library sponsored events included a reception for teachers at the beginning of each school year and, during World War I, the collection of reading material for the "boys in camp".⁸

Today, the building, constructed through the generosity of the Moon family, continues to serve as a public library and as an important community focal point.

¹Some Wisconsin Library Buildings (Madison: Wisconsin Free Library Commission, 1904).

²Ibid.

³David Gebhard and Tom Martinson, A Guide to the Architecture of Minnesota (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1977), p. 12; Henry F. Withey and Elsie Withey, eds., Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased) (Los Angeles: Hennessey & Ingalls, Inc., 1970), p. 655.

⁴Stanley Republican, 21 December 1901.

⁵Stanley: Our Town, 1881-1981 (Stanley: Stanley Republican, 1981), pp. 29-30, 39.

⁶Stanley Republican, 21 December 1901.

⁷Some Wisconsin Library Buildings.

⁸Library Board of Trustee Minutes, D.R. Moon Memorial Library. (Available at City Hall)

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

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

D.R. Moon Memorial Library, Chippewa County,

Continuation sheet Wisconsin

Item number 10

Page 1

For NPS use only
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Verbal Boundary Description continued: Emery Street to Second Avenue; thence west along Second Avenue 90 feet; thence south to the alley; thence in an easterly direction along the alley to the point of beginning, it being a part of the southeast quarter of the southwest quarter of Section 25 of Township 29 north, Range 5 west.