

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

For NPS use only

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

received JUL 18 1985
date entered AUG 15 1985

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

1. Name

historic Ortonville Free Library

and/or common Ortonville Public Library

2. Location

street & number 412 N.W. Second Street N/A not for publication

city, town Ortonville N/A vicinity of

state Minnesota code 22 county Big Stone code 011

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	N/A <input 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 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 Ortonville

street & number 315 Madison

city, town Ortonville N/A vicinity of state Minnesota 56278

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Big Stone County Courthouse

street & number 20 E. 2nd Street

city, town Ortonville state Minnesota 56278

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Minnesota Statewide Historic 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	date _____ N/A
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Ortonville Public Library, completed in 1915 with funds provided by the Andrew Carnegie Corporation, is located at the northeast corner of Second Street and Washington Avenue at the north end of Ortonville's business district. The building faces west and is situated on a landscaped hill two blocks east of Big Stone Lake.

Designed by prominent St. Paul architect F. W. Ellerbe, the Ortonville Public Library is a good example of the Mission Revival style and features a symmetrical design dominated by rounded arched window openings and a red ceramic tile hipped roof. The building was constructed by the Ortonville firm of Carlson-Hasslen at a cost of \$9,335. The library grounds were landscaped in 1917 by landscape architect Halmet Olson of St. Paul. The one story, seven bay library measures 64 feet wide by 22 feet deep and is faced with stretcher-bonded red pressed brick and gray stucco. The main facade is comprised of an enclosed brick entrance porch flanked by six large rounded arched double hung windows with circular muntins. The rounded arched windows, which are partially blocked by interior bookshelves, are vertically aligned above decorative stucco and brick panels and rectangular 8/8 sash basement level windows. The brick entrance porch has a gabled roof covered with ceramic tiles, a projecting triangular parapet, and a rounded arched entrance topped by a panel of polished granite quarried near Ortonville reading "Free Library". The entrance to the library is approached by a series of wide concrete steps.

The building's four bay side walls and rear facade feature rounded arched fixed sash windows which are identical to the upper sash of the windows on the main facade. There is a basement level entrance protected by a flat metal overhang with horizontal fluting on the south facade. The library is further ornamented with three layers of brick headers forming arches which outline the window openings, gray stucco covering the upper portion of the walls, brick sills, and a decorative brick watertable. The exterior of the building is in good condition. The only major exterior alteration has been the installation of a new glass and metal entrance in 1976.

The interior of the library contains a large circulation room with oak shelving and furnishings on the main floor, and a meeting room (used originally by the Ortonville City Council), a work room, storeroom, and restrooms in the basement. The main floor has been altered somewhat with a suspended ceiling, wall panelling, and new carpeting, all installed in the 1960's and 1970's.

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 1915 **Builder/Architect** F. W. Ellerbe, architect
Carlson-Hasslen, builder

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Ortonville Public Library, completed in 1915 at 412 N.W. Second Street in Ortonville, is architecturally significant as a good example of the Mission Revival style, a style uncommon in west central Minnesota, and as the work of St. Paul architect Franklin W. Ellerbe, founder of the nationally prominent firm Ellerbe Architects, and Carlson-Hasslen Construction Company, Ortonville's oldest building firm. Historically the library is significant as one of a handful of libraries built in west central Minnesota by philanthropist Andrew Carnegie, and as a public institution which originated in Ortonville in the 1880's.

Lending library services existed in the community as early as 1886 when the Ortonville Lakeside Liberal Literary Lyceum League Library was in operation on the second floor of the Orton Block. In 1903 the city council established the first library board of directors and the library was moved to a building at 224 N. W. Second Street. A city-wide effort to acquire a new library culminated in 1913 when the library board and several literary and civic groups supported the city council in raising \$1,000 through tax levies and applying to the Andrew Carnegie Corporation for \$10,000 in funds to construct the present building. After assuring that the City would pledge to provide a minimum of \$1,000 annually to maintain the library and after architectural plans drafted by F. W. Ellerbe were approved by the City and submitted to the Carnegie Corporation (a practice initiated by Carnegie circa 1908), Carnegie granted \$10,000 to Ortonville in August of 1913.

The Ortonville Library was one of about eight Carnegie libraries built in west central Minnesota between 1903 and 1915 and one of 1,679 libraries which Carnegie funded nationwide during the years 1886-1919. The library board and the city council hired the local contracting firm of Carlson-Hasslen to construct the library at a cost of \$9,335, and the building was officially opened in a ceremony held April 26, 1915. Since that time, the library has provided free and continually expanding library services to the residents of the Ortonville area. In 1977 the library joined the Western Plains regional library system, and it is now a member of the Pioneerland Library System.

Franklin W. Ellerbe (1870-1921), the architect who designed the Ortonville library, was a self-taught engineer and architect who accepted his first major commission in 1909. By 1912 Ellerbe and his partner Olin Round (1911-1914) employed eighteen draftsmen, architects, and other staff members. The firm designed many buildings in the Aberdeen, South Dakota, area during the period 1911-1920, and executed several commissions for the Kahler Hotel company of Rochester, Minnesota. Ortonville's close proximity to Aberdeen, and the fact that the Columbian Hotel in Ortonville was owned by various members of the Kahler family from 1897-1952, may have contributed to Ellerbe's success in being chosen to design the Ortonville library. The Ellerbe firm, which is still in existence today, has gained a national reputation and has designed hundreds of hospitals, industrial buildings, commercial and office buildings, and residences in the Midwest and elsewhere during its seventy-five year history.

(See continuation sheet)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bobinski, George S. Carnegie Libraries: Their History and Impact on American Public Library Development. Chicago: American Library Association, 1969.
Ellerbe, Thomas F. The Ellerbe Tradition. Bloomington, MN: Ellerbe Inc., 1980.

(See continuation sheet)

10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property Less than one

Quadrangle name Ortonville Quad.

Quadrangle scale 7.5

UTM References

A

1	4	7	0	0	8	0	5	0	2	0	1	8	0
Zone		Easting				Northing							

B

Zone		Easting				Northing							

C

Zone		Easting				Northing							

D

Zone		Easting				Northing							

E

Zone		Easting				Northing							

F

Zone		Easting				Northing							

G

Zone		Easting				Northing							

H

Zone		Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots 11-15, Block 5, Original Plat of Ortonville.

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

organization State Historic Preservation Office
Minnesota Historical Society

date May 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

title Russell W. Fridley
State Historic Preservation Officer

date 6/26/85

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date 8-15-85

for Allison Byrum
Keeper of the National Register

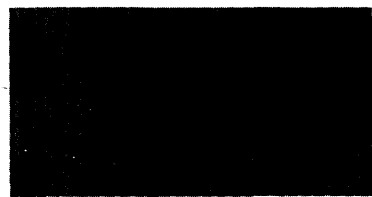
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

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



Continuation sheet Ortonville Public Library

Item number 8 & 9

Page 1

Item #8 (Significance) Continued:

Carlson-Hasslen Construction Company, which built the Ortonville Public Library, is Ortonville's oldest continuously operating family business. It was founded ca. 1898 by John Carlson and Carl Hasslen under the name John Carlson and Company, and became known as Carlson and Hasslen after 1907. Today the firm, now known as the Hasslen Construction Company, is one of western Minnesota's largest contractors. The company has built hundreds of armories, banks, houses, and commercial buildings in western Minnesota and eastern South Dakota, and is still owned and operated by the descendants of Carl Hasslen.

Item #9 (Bibliographical References) Continued:

Sparrow, Magdelene. Big Stone County, Minnesota, 1881-1981. Ortonville: Big Stone County Historical Society, 1981.

Sparrow, Magdelene. Unpublished research on Ortonville Public Library, ca. 1981.