

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For HCRS use only

received 4 SEP 1979

date entered OCT 18 1979

## 1. Name

historic Valley City Carnegie Library

and/or common Valley City Public Library

## 2. Location

street & number 413 Central Ave. \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Valley City \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ congressional district 1

state North Dakota code 32 county Barnes code 003

## 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	<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 type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" 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

## 4. Owner of Property

name City of Valley City

street & number 220 NE 3rd P.O. Box 390

city, town Valley City \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state North Dakota

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Barnes County Courthouse, Register of Deeds

street & number

city, town Valley City \_\_\_\_\_ state North Dakota

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None \_\_\_\_\_ has this property been determined eligible? \_\_\_\_\_ yes \_\_\_\_\_ no

date \_\_\_\_\_ federal \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ county \_\_\_\_\_ local

depository for survey records

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ state

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<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		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Valley City Library emulates Jeffersonian design concepts in its balanced configuration, contrasting building materials and detail, including plain Tuscan columns, white gable-end triangular pediments punctuated by central windows, a fanlight above the main entrance and a centrally unifying cupola. Clearly, Jefferson's philosophy that a proper public building be Roman in stature and republican in nature is represented in this building.

The main focus of the building is the front portico with its white moulded metal pediment and boxed and bracketed cornice, all of which is supported by four pink sandstone columns. The portico overshadows a pair of four-panel and glass doors, the doors crowned by a recessed stained glass fanlight. The entry is surrounded by a radiating brick arch, which is visually supported by brick pilasters and accented by keystones and pilaster capitols in pink sandstone. Three adjoining one-over-one windows with upper sashes of rectilinear tracery flank the entrance while plain one-over-one windows flank the portico on the north and south wing elevations. All of the roof gables end in the same pressed metal pediment and cornice and all but the rear tympanum are decorated with an open-ended laurel wreath which encompasses an oval window. Each gable peak is decorated by a metal antefix. All four gables are unified by a small metal cupola.

The foyer exhibits a variety of building materials: a grey, white and salmon terra-cotta floor, pink and grey marble stair treads and baseboards above which rises oak wainscoting. Another set of two-panel glass and oak doors open onto the main floor of the library. The main floor is divided into four main areas by four sets of Tuscan columns on raised bases (about four feet high) which set off a central area in the floor and rise to connecting ceiling beams which further accentuate the room order. Within the square area defined by these columns at the ceiling, was once a moulded metal ceiling vault, now covered by painted wallboard for energy conservation. Directly facing the front entrance, between the easternmost columns, stands the librarian's desk. Behind the desk is a set of five oak bookstacks with ornamental bead-and-reel trim. Above these stacks, light filters through a stained glass Palladian window with heavy oak frame. Throughout the library are oak reading tables, chairs, magazine racks, files and shelving, most original to the library. All windows have ornamental brass hardware and wooden venetian blinds hang in each of the windows. The floor is now carpeted for warmth and noise control.

On either side of the front entrance is a reading room and a cloak hall with brass coat-hooks and oak wainscoting. From the clockhall, an oak staircase, complete with wainscoting, turned ballusters, and carved newel post with copper decorative plates, leads to the basement level children's library. Here the plastered walls are painted yellow as is the pressed tin ceiling.

# 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 checked="" 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

Builder/Architect

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Valley City Carnegie Library was the second of three prominent libraries constructed between 1900 and 1905 from designs of Fargo Architect William C. Albrandt. In 1900 Albrandt's Mayville Public Library was constructed as the first public library building in North Dakota. The style and configuration of the Mayville Library is clearly remembered in the 1903 Valley City Carnegie Library, although the latter is somewhat heavier in posture and detail. Albrandt's third library, also a Carnegie library, was built in 1905 on the campus of North Dakota Agricultural College, and was Albrandt's finest rendition of themes and styles carried through all three library structures.

The Valley City library was one of eleven Carnegie libraries built in North Dakota, and is one of only three Carnegie libraries which remain essentially unaltered in the state. Andrew Carnegie made donations for public and academic libraries between 1898 and 1917, and he endorsed a functional building plan for the structures but left variety and detail to the individual architect. The Valley City Library conforms to the Carnegie prescriptions, except for the "wasteful" window placement. The Valley City Carnegie Library therefore stands as a lasting symbol of Gilded Age philanthropy and a continuing community dedication to the faith of that era in universal public education.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

- 1.) A Manual of the Public Benefactions of Andrew Carnegie published by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Washington 1919.
- 2.) Public Libraries in North Dakota, the Formative Years, 1880-1920 master's thesis, Glen Lowell Brudvig, 1962, University of Minnesota, Mpls.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Valley City West

Quadrangle scale 7.5

UMT References

A 

1	4
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5	7	5	8	9	5
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5	1	9	7	2	6	0
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Zone

Easting

Northing

B 

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Zone

Easting

Northing

C 

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H 

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Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated property is located on Lot 4 of Block 4 of the Original Townsite Plat of Valley City, an area of 100 by 150 feet.

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 Jacqueline Sluss, Historical Assistant; Kurt Schweigert, Architectural Historian

organization State Historical Society of North Dakota date August 22, 1979

street & number Liberty Memorial Building telephone (701)224-2672

city or town Bismarck state North Dakota 58505

## 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*James E. Henry*

title State Historic Preservation Officer (North Dakota)

date 8/27/1979

For HCRS use only

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

Keeper of the National Register

date 10-18-79

Attest: *William H. Krueger*  
Chief of Registration

date 10-17-79