

MINNESOTA HISTORIC PROPERTIES INVENTORY FORM

MAR 15 1982

HISTORIC NAME: Aitkin Public Library

COUNTY: Aitkin

CURRENT NAME:

CITY/TWP.: Aitkin City

LEGAL DESC.: Commencing at the NW corner of Block 14 in the Original plat of the Village of Aitkin and thence running S 50' along the west line of said block, thence east 75', thence north 50', and thence west 75' to point of beginning."

ADDRESS:

121 2nd Street NW

CLASSIFICATION:	CONDITION:	SIGNIFICANCE:	THEME/S:
Building <u> X </u>	Excellent <u> X </u>	Local <u> X </u>	Primary <u> Education </u>
Structure <u> </u>	Good <u> </u>	State <u> </u>	Secondary <u> Architecture </u>
Object <u> </u>	Fair <u> </u>	National <u> </u>	Others <u> </u>
District <u> </u>	Deteriorated <u> </u>		

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Yes X No Restricted X
 VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD: Yes X No
 OCCUPIED: Yes X No

PRESENT USE:
Library

DATE CONSTRUCTED: 1911

ORIGINAL USE: Library

ORIGINAL OWNER: Village of Aitkin

ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Claude & Stark

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: City of Aitkin
Aitkin, MN 56431

ACREAGE: Less than one acre X

LOCAL CONTACT/ORG.: Aitkin County Historical Society; 316
1st Ave. NE; Aitkin, MN 56431

UTM REFERENCE:
Aitkin MN Quad. 7.5
15 / 445620 / 5153320

FORM PREPARED BY: Mark Haidet
DATE: February 1981

DESCRIPTION:

The Aitkin Public Library occupies a prominent corner location on Second Street NW (St. 210) adjacent to the Aitkin County Courthouse. The library was constructed in 1911 from plans prepared by the Madison architectural firm Claude & Stark.

The library, constructed of buff colored brick, is a one story rectangular structure with an elevated basement defined by a stone watertable. It rests on a concrete foundation and is covered by a low-pitched, hipped, red tile roof with ornamental hip knobs. The symmetrical design features a central classical pedimented portico with recessed entry, flanked by two sets of three double-hung windows. A similar set of windows is located on the side facades with a single double-hung window situated in the rear of the structure.

Library facilities are housed on the main floor. A large meeting room, rest rooms, and furnace room occupy the basement. The building is in an excellent state of preservation and continues to serve its original function as a community library.

SIGNIFICANCE

The Aitkin Public Library is significant both for its role in the intellectual and cultural development of Aitkin and as a well-preserved example of the Minnesota small-town library structures financed by Andrew Carnegie, noted turn-of-the-century steel magnate. Aitkin citizens organized a free public library in 1904. The library collection was temporarily housed in the village council chamber until the present structure's construction in 1911 with a \$6,500 grant from the Carnegie Foundation. The library, unlike many Carnegie-funded libraries which have been demolished or altered as community library systems have expanded, retains its original design integrity while continuing to serve the community in its intended educational role. Architecturally, the library is a notable local example of public Neo-classical design.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Aitkin Age, 1908, 1910.
Aitkin Independent, 1910-1911.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

for Keeper Melvin Lynn
11/19/89

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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**Note: These changes apply to
Aitkin Public Library in Aitkin
County, Minnesota.**

REFERENCE NUMBER: 82002924

STATE: MINNESOTA

COUNTY: Aitkin

RESOURCE NAME (HISTORIC): Aitkin 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