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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

JUL 10 1991

OHP

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Grass Valley Public Library  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number 207 Mill Street  not for publication  
city, town Grass Valley  vicinity  
state California code CA county Nevada code 057 zip code 95945

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: California's Carnegie Libraries  
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.  
Stade R. Craig Feb 13, 1992  
Signature of certifying official Date  
California Office of Historic Preservation  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:  
 entered in the National Register. **entered in the National Register**  
 See continuation sheet. Helena Myers 3/20/92  
 determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet. \_\_\_\_\_  
 determined not eligible for the National Register. \_\_\_\_\_  
 removed from the National Register. \_\_\_\_\_  
 other, (explain): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Education/Library  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Education/Library  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

Classical Revival  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete  
walls brick  
asphalt  
roof \_\_\_\_\_  
other \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

The Grass Valley Carnegie Library, one story over a raised basement, is an example of the Classical Revival in which there is a central projecting element, with columns supporting the entablature. In this case, a cluster of pilasters frames the entrance, repeated at the corners and between the windows. A low solid parapet surrounds the building, rising slightly and moving forward at the central element. Under the cornice is a row of large rafter-like dentils. Stairs rise directly from the sidewalk to the slightly recessed entrance, under a half-round arch. Large windows on either side of the entrance and on the right side are double hung, each pane divided vertically into one wide and two narrow panes, below a many-lighted transom. Pilasters and parapet are faced with brick, and the basement with concrete blocks, all painted dark red; columns, horizontal lines, various decorative areas are white with dark red trim. The site slopes to the rear and back. The basement, which houses the children's room, is at grade level in the rear and can be reached by a stairway from the upper floor and also from two door openings on the first floor. Finishing on the left side, close to the adjacent building, does not demonstrate the detail of the front and right side.

In 1916 the basement had a 150 capacity assembly hall, a classroom or committee room seating 50, a file room, work room, women's restroom and a furnace room. Over the years all space has been taken over by the library.

The interior of the first floor is one large room with original dark wood and furniture. The building is in very good condition. The exterior was painted in July 1985 and is more attractive than at its origination because of artistic trim. In 1990 the interior was completely rewired, given new lighting and the upper area given a decorator paint job designed by the directors of the American Victorian Museum inspired by the colors in a large oil painting by R. Hill donated by pioneer Champion family. The upper area received its first carpeting and all its wood was refinished.

The building is basically unchanged. As shown in the pictures, the handicapped ramp (installed in 1982) blends into the structure and is unobtrusive.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

Social History

1916-1942

Architecture

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Architect/Builder

Mooser, William, architect

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Grass Valley Carnegie Library meets the requirements for National Register nomination as set forth in the Multiple Property nomination.

The property is located in the Historical District of the City of Grass Valley. On this site previously was born world-famous philosopher Josiah Royce, and a plaque & standing sign in front and dedicated trees with plaques at the rear memorialize him. The diary of his mother who came to Grass Valley on the Emigrant Trail is found at the library.

Grass Valley was settled in 1849. The easily accessible gold was soon gone and miners from Cornwall brought the skills of tin mines, including the Cornish pump, to start hardrock mining. The Cornish heritage is still prevalent. Hardrock mining only ceased in 1956. The Grass Valley Library is located above the Golden Center Mine. There are 367 miles of tunnels under the city of Grass Valley. The Grass Valley Library has a very valuable mining collection started in the early years of the library.

An 1860 library predated the City's incorporation by a year, but it was short lived. The Grass Valley Library Association was formed in 1869 after a local newspaper in 1868 complained that "Grass Valley has no public library which Nevada (City) has". In 1901 a new library and reading room known as the "Emmanuel Church Library" was opened. It was non-denominational and welcoming to "the Atheist and the Buddhist if such there be." The City took responsibility for the library in 1911 and paid rent for its quarters. Carnegie support was requested in 1914 and the offer of \$15,000 was received in 1915. The trustees eventually found it necessary to consult with the President of the Architects' Association in deciding between plans of William Mooser of San Francisco and W. H. Weeks (Architect for the Nevada City Library). Mooser was selected which did not set well with Weeks. His side of the ensuing correspondence with the trustees is on file. Welch Bros. and Hannemann of Oakland was the chosen contractor with a \$13,645 bid. The rest of the \$15,000 was for furnishings, lighting, floor coverings, etc. Inflation required an appropriation of \$500 more from the City Council. The building opened August 3, 1916 and still serves as a library.

All of the above information can be verified by data found in the Grass Valley Library and the Nevada County Library Headquarters files. There also is an inventory of furnishings and books dating from the opening of the library to July 1972 (when it became a part of the Nevada County Library System) compiled by the City of Grass Valley which is located in the City offices as well as in the library. Architect's sketches are also available in both places.

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Bobinski, George S. Carnegie Libraries: Their History & Impact on American Public Library Development. Chicago: American Library Association, 1969.  
Nevada County Historical Society, "The Grass Valley Public Library", V. 13, No. 3, Nov. 1959.  
The Grass Valley Union, numerous newspaper articles.  
The Board of Trustees Minutes of Meetings 1911+.

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

California Carnegie Survey

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property 0.28

UTM References

A 

1	0	6	6	7	1	6	0	4	3	4	2	3	5	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

C 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

B 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

D 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Parcel No. 08-374-03 Center of 200 block on Mill St. at Neal St. in Grass Valley

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

Boundary is city lot that has been historically associated with the library.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Madelyn Helling, Nevada County Librarian

organization Nevada County Library date July 8, 1991

street & number 211 No. Pine St. telephone (916) 265-1407

city or town Nevada City state CA zip code 95959

United States Department of the Interior  
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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

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William Mooser, Architect

Harold Kirker, in California's Architectural Frontier, says that Mooser was "the leading American-Swiss architect of the nineteenth century," from Geneva, had offices in San Francisco, and was in 1861 one of the founders of the San Francisco Architectural Society. Among the Mooser buildings mentioned by Kirker are the 1879 Inglenook Winery in St. Helena, the 1883 Beringer House (also in St. Helena and now the wine tasting and selling center), the 1893 French Hospital in San Francisco (with G. Morin Goustiaux), and the 1897 Capt. Thomas Mein House in Oakland, this last described by Kirker as imitative Colonial. The St. Helena buildings, some stone and some Eastlake, are also included in the David Gebhard et al, Architecture in San Francisco & Northern California, along with the 1939 streamline moderne San Francisco Maritime Museum (now the National Maritime Museum) designed with his son. His Spanish Colonial Revival Santa Barbara County courthouse is included in G. E. Kidder Smith's A Pictorial History of Architecture in America, in Marcus Whiffen's American Architecture since 1780, and in Leland Roth's A Concise History of American Architecture. It is pictured in Smith and in Whiffen; Whiffen and Roth date the courthouse 1929, Smith 1920.

Although the Grass Valley Library continues to be significant into the present time, the period of significance has been ended at 1942, fifty years ago, for lack of exceptional significance.