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

1. Nam				
II ITAIII			•	
historic	Brainerd Public	Library		
and/or common				
2. Loca	ation			
street & number	206 North Seven	nth Street		not for publication
city, town	Brainerd	vicinity of	congressional district	7th
state	Minnesota coc	le 22 county	Crow Wing	code 035
3. Clas	sification			
Category district _X_ building(s) structure site object	Ownership _X_ public private both Public Acquisition in process being considered	Status _X_ occupied unoccupied work in progress Accessible _X_ yes: restricted yes: unrestricted no	Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	museum park private residence religious scientific transportation other:
4. Own	er of Prope	rty	·	
name	City of Braine	rđ		
street & number	City Hall	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
city, town	Brainerd	vicinity of	state	Minnesota
5. Loca	ation of Leg	al Descripti	on	
courthouse, regis	stry of deeds, etc. Cro	w Wing County Courtl	nouse	
street & number			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
city, town	Bra	inerd	state	Minnesota
6. Repi	esentation	in Existing	Surveys	
Historic	Sites Survey 1971	c Resources has this pro		legible? yes n
date 1971/197	9		federalX sta	te county loca
depository for su	rvey records Minneson	ta Historical Socie	ty 240 Summit Av	enue-Hill House
city, town St.	Pau1		state	Minnesota 55102

O		Ohash sus	Ohaalaana	
Condition X excellent good fair	deteriorated ruins unexposed	Check one unaltered _X altered	Check one X original site moved date	

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

7. Description

The Brainerd Public Library is located at the intersection of Washington and North Seventh Streets in Brainerd. It is a Neo-Classical rectangular building approximately 50 ft. x 20 ft. x one story, constructed of beige brick masonry with brick corner quoins, on a foundation of rusticated pink granite rough ashlar stone. It has a simple pediment roof with two slopes of gentle pitch, and a prominent white octagonal dome. Centered on the front facade is a large entrance portico in the Ionic Order with four smooth pink granite columns. Fenestration consists of 1/1-light double-hung sash at the basement level. The main entrance has a modern aluminum and glass door with transom. A modern addition of matching brick masonry, not visible from the building's front, has been added to the rear facade. At the front entrance is a metal plaque acknowledging the library's debt to Andrew Carnegie. With the exception of the rear addition the building retains complete exterior integrity including original cast iron street lights flanking the front sidewalk. The interior has been remodeled.

8. Significance

1400–1499 1500–1599	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric agricultureX architecture art commerce communications	community planning conservation economics X education engineering exploration/settlement	Iandscape architecture Iaw Iiterature Indicates Indicate	e religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)
Specific dates	1904	Builder/Architect		

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Brainerd Public Library is locally significant as a well-preserved component part of the group of 65 libraries in Minnesota financed by Andrew Carnegie. Built in 1904 with a \$12,000 grant from Carnegie, the Brainerd Public Library building has fared better than some Carnegie-funded structures in that exterior alterations have been relatively minor and inconspicuous. Carnegie library historian George S. Bobinski notes that many libraries have been totally altered if not demolished as community library systems undergo expansion. "These buildings are being replaced," he notes, "and their number will continue to diminish in the future." Architecturally the building is significant as a prominent, well-preserved and-maintained example of public Neo-Classical design in the city of Brainerd. Often, the imposing, locally distinctive prescence of a Carnegie library survives as a particularly visible example of philanthropic contributions by wealthy, turn-of-the-century industrialists. The Brainerd library continues todayin its original function as Brainerd's sole public library, perpetuating a system in existence since 1882.

George S. Bobinski, <u>Carnegie Libraries: Their History and Impact on American Public Library Development</u> (Chicago: American Library Association, 1969), p. 175.

9. Major Bibliographical References

see continuation sheet - page 1

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10.	Geograp	hical Data	, UIM NUT VE	RIFIFD	
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E			F		
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<u> </u>	/ 				
The no	ominated propert	on and justification y consists of lot: Town of Brainerd			
List all	states and countie	s for properties overl	apping state or count	ty boundaries	
state		code	county		code
state		code	county		code
11.	Form Pre	pared By			
		:			
name/titl	e Robert	M. Frame III, Arc	hitectural Histor:	Lan/Research E	Historian-Survey
organiza	tion Minneso	ta Historical Soc	iety date	March 19, 19	980
street &	number 240 Sum	mit Avenue-Hill H	ouse telep h	one 612-296-9	9074
city or to	wn St. Pau	i1	state	Minnesota	
12.	State His	toric Prese	ervation Of	ficer Ce	rtification
The evalu	uated significance of	this property within the s	state is:		
	national	state	X local		
665), I he	esignated State Histor reby nominate this pr	ric Preservation Officer for operty for inclusion in the rocedures set forth by the	or the National Historic I ne Nationa <u>l Register</u> and	certify that it has I	oeen evaluated
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	Russell W. Fridl		and the	15000	7 3 5 5 00
title	State Historic P	reservation Offic	er	date	3-25-80
	RS use only ereby certify that this	property is included in the	ne National Register	**************************************	/ /
1 1	J. Ray	Luce		date	5/23/80
Keeper	of the National Regis	ter			
Attest:	Mustin 3	70 Connell	- Vision - Adding -	date 5	1/21/80
Chief o	PRegistration				

Form No. 10-300a (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED APR 15 1980 MAY 23 1980

DATE ENTERED

Brainerd Public Library

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

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Bibliography:

- Bobinski, George S. <u>Carnegie Libraries: Their History and Impact on American</u>
 Public Library Development. Chicago: American Library Assoc., 1969. Page 175.
- Brainerd Minnesota 1871-1971. Reproduced from the CENTENNIAL EDITION of the BRAINERD DAILY DISPATCH. Brainerd: Bang Printing, n.d. Page 25.
- Cillan, Ingolf. <u>Brainerd's Half Century</u>. Minneapolis: General Printing Company, 1923. Page 34.
- Gebhard, David, and Tom Martinson. A Guide to the Architecture of Minnesota. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1977. Page 184.