

**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. Name

historic Brainerd Public Library

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 206 North Seventh Street not for publication

city, town Brainerd vicinity of congressional district 7th

state Minnesota code 22 county Crow Wing code 035

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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name City of Brainerd

street & number City Hall

city, town Brainerd vicinity of state Minnesota

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Crow Wing County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Brainerd state Minnesota

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Historic Sites Survey 1971

title Statewide Survey of Historic Resources has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1971/1979 federal state county local

depository for survey records Minnesota Historical Society -- 240 Summit Avenue-Hill House

city, town St. Paul state Minnesota 55102

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

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

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/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> 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."¹ 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 today in its original function as Brainerd's sole public library, perpetuating a system in existence since 1882.

¹George S. Bobinski, Carnegie Libraries: Their History and Impact on American Public Library Development (Chicago: American Library Association, 1969), p. 175.

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 9 PAGE 1

Bibliography:

Bobinski, George S. Carnegie Libraries: Their History and Impact on American 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. Brainerd's Half Century. 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.