

HISTORIC NAME:	Scoville Memorial Library	COUNTY:	Rice
CURRENT NAME:	Scoville Memorial Hall	CITY/TWP.:	Northfield
LEGAL DESC.:	Lots 1, 2, 3, Block 4, Original Town of Northfield.	ADDRESS:	First Street East and College Street
CLASSIFICATION:	CONDITION:	SIGNIFICANCE:	THEME/S:
Building <u>X</u>	Excellent _____	Local <u>X</u>	Primary <u>Education</u>
Structure _____	Good <u>X</u>	State _____	Secondary <u>Architecture</u>
Object _____	Fair _____	National _____	Others _____
District _____	Deteriorated _____		
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:	Yes <u>X</u> No _____ Restricted <u>X</u>	PRESENT USE:	
VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD:	Yes <u>X</u> No _____		Classrooms & Offices
OCCUPIED:	Yes <u>X</u> No _____		
DATE CONSTRUCTED:	1896	ORIGINAL USE:	Library
ORIGINAL OWNER:	Carleton College		Patton and Fisher, Chicago; D.H. Lord,
		ARCHITECT/BUILDER:	Northfield contractor
OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS:	Carleton College Northfield, MN 55057	ACREAGE:	Less than one acre <u>X</u>
LOCAL CONTACT/ORG.:	Northfield Historical Society, 408 Division Street, Northfield, MN 55057	UTM REFERENCE:	
FORM PREPARED BY:	Britta Bloomberg		Northfield Quad. 7.5
DATE:	April 1981		15 / 487620 / 4922760

## DESCRIPTION:

Scoville Memorial Library is situated on the northwest corner of First Street East and College Street at the west edge of the main part of the Carleton College campus in northeastern Northfield. The building faces the college chapel and the central quadrangle to the east. Willis Hall (listed on the National Register in 1975) is located to the north and a complex of dormitories are west and northwest. A residential neighborhood borders the campus on the south.

Scoville Memorial Library was designed in the Richardsonian Romanesque style by Chicago architects Patton and Fisher and was constructed in 1896. The two story building, constructed of rusticated Kasota stone, is rectangular in plan with an octagonal tower at the southeast corner and a complex gable/hip roof with coped gable ends. The front facade (east) features a low syrian arch with radiating voussoirs sheltering a double doorway with side and transom lights. A carved name stone with the Carleton shield carved at the ends is located above the entry. A group of three arched windows with colonettes and foliate capitals are located on the second floor. The corner tower, immediately south of the front entry bay, features arched windows with colonettes, a dentillated cornice, octagonal spire, and finial. Tall rectilinear windows with stone lintels and transom are located on the north and south facades. A group of three arched windows are featured in the south gable end, and an articulated chimney projects slightly from the main wall on the north gable end. A group of three-part windows with radiating voussoirs are featured on the west facade. The roof is slate with metal ridges and finials. Exterior alterations are limited to the addition of a fire escape on the west facade.

The building was constructed for library use in 1896 and originally contained bookrooms, reading rooms, seminary room and administrative offices. In 1956 the building was remodeled to classroom and office use. The original plan and many interior features remain basically intact.

## SIGNIFICANCE:

Scoville Memorial Library is significant both as one of the last survivors of Carleton College's historic core and as one of the first libraries to be constructed on the smaller college campuses in the Upper Midwest. Architecturally, the building is an excellent example of the Richardsonian Romanesque, a style popular in late nineteenth century public buildings. Scoville was the fifth major building to be constructed on the Carleton campus and the last to be constructed before the turn of

Significance - continued

the century. It was preceded by Willis Hall (1872, listed on the National Register in 1975), Williams Hall (razed in 1961), Gridley Hall (razed in 1967), and Goodsell Observatory (1882, listed in the National Register in 1975). The library was given to the college as a memorial to James W. Scoville of Chicago by his wife and their son, Charles B. Scoville. Mr. Scoville had become interested in Carleton after his association with Carleton President Strong at the Chicago Theological Institute; he had pledged a gift of \$25,000 before his death. The plans for the library were designed by Chicago architects Patton and Fisher who had previously designed Scoville Institute at Oak Park and Scoville Academy at Beloit. The 1896 construction date of the building, a year following the "banner year" for smaller libraries at college campuses, places Scoville on the forefront of the movement to construct separate buildings for library use at institutions of higher learning.<sup>1</sup> Prior to 1896, few institutions had separate library buildings and not until the turn of the century had they become very common. While no longer in use as a library, Scoville continues to be a landmark on the Carleton campus and a representative of the place of prominence given the "central laboratory of learning"<sup>2</sup> at an institution long noted for its academic excellence.

<sup>1</sup>Jerrold Orne, "Academic Library Buildings: A Century in Review", College and Research Libraries, July, 1976, 320.

<sup>2</sup>"Library Opened", Northfield News, November 14, 1896.

Bibliography:

- Carleton College Archives, Scoville file, miscellaneous notes, and clippings, Northfield.  
Curtiss-Wedge, Franklyn ed., History of Rice and Steele Counties Minnesota, Chicago: 1910.  
Jarchow, Merrill E., Donald J. Cowling, 1974.  
Northfield News, November 14, 1896.  
Northfield Independent, June 11, 1896.  
Orne, Jerrold, "Academic Library Buildings: A Century in Review", College and Research Libraries, July, 1976.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

for Keeper Melvin Lyman  
1/19/89

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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**Note: These changes apply to  
Scoville Memorial Library in  
Rice County, Minnesota.**

**REFERENCE NUMBER:** 82003030

**STATE:** MINNESOTA

**COUNTY:** Rice

**RESOURCE NAME (HISTORIC):** Scoville Memorial Library, Carlton  
College

**CITY:**

**VICINITY OF:**

**ADDRESS:**

**CERTIFICATION DATE:**

**REMOVED DATE:**

**COMMENTS:**

*Nina M. Archabal*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Nina M. Archabal**  
**State Historic Preservation Officer**

**JUN 17 1988**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**