

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received APR 10 1984  
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Crookston Carnegie Public Library

and/or common Crookston Public Library

**2. Location**

street & number N. Ash Street at Second Ave.

<sup>N/A</sup>  
 not for publication  
called Mr. Simonsstad  
4/10/84

city, town Crookston N/Avicinity of

state Minnesota code 22 county Polk code 119

**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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
			<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name City of Crookston

street & number City Hall, Broadway at Second

city, town Crookston N/Avicinity of state Minnesota

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Polk County Courthouse - Registrar of Deeds

street & number 600 N. Broadway Ave.

city, town Crookston state Minnesota

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

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

date 1981  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Minn. Historical Society - Ft. Snelling History Center

city, town Crookston state Minnesota

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## 7. Description

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<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

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### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Crookston Carnegie Library is an essentially rectangular structure with a shallow rear projection and front entry. The single-story library is constructed of buff-colored pressed brick set upon a high raised basement of dressed stone.

The Neo-Classic style building has a centrally located entry contained within a pedimented portico with four Ionic columns. The tympanum of the pediment is decorated with a round window in a garland surround. The roof line is marked with carved stone ornamentation. The parapet roof has a modest cornice with dart-and-egg molding, a motif carried over in the column capitals. A central dome has been removed.

Windows in the raised basement are large and square. On the main floor, rectangular windows with stained glass transoms are separated by raised brick pilasters. A stone belt course encircles the building above the window lintels. A double-door front entry is centered between narrow rectangular windows. Large stained glass windows are located above the outer and inner doors of a front vestibule. Interior rooms are divided by their original dark oak Ionic columns.

# 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1907-08      **Builder/Architect** Bert D. Keck, architect  
 Charles Ross, builder

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Crookston Carnegie Public Library is significant for the role it has played in the intellectual and cultural growth of the city, for its architectural contribution, and for the use of plans by Bert Keck, a Crookston architect. It is a well preserved example of the 65 libraries in Minnesota financed by Andrew Carnegie. The Crookston library had its origin in a reading room established in 1879. In 1882 a circulating library was established. The first library was located in a school and, in 1902, moved to rooms in the Odd Fellows Hall. The library board sought a permanent site and appealed to Andrew Carnegie for funds in 1903. He offered a \$12,500 contribution, but little happened until 1907. That year a grant of \$17,500 was made on the condition that the city provide a site and \$1750 per year for library maintenance. Crookston architect Bert D. Keck designed the library, a rare incidence of local design of a Carnegie library in the state. The building was formally dedicated in 1908 and was used until 1983 when a new library was built nearby. The Neo-Classic style structure remains on its site, an important contribution to Crookston's architectural heritage.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

"Footprints of Yesteryear: Crookston Centennial, 1879-1979." Crookston, 1979, pp.93.

Crookston Times, 1906-1908.

"City Ordinances, No. 35 (1904) and No. 75 (1907)!"

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Crookston, Minn.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A 

1	4	6	7	9	4	6	5	5	2	9	3	7	1	5
Zone			Easting					Northing						

B 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

C 

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D 

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Verbal boundary description and justification

South 35' of Lot 4 and all of Lots 5 and 6, Block 1, E.C. Loring Addition to Crookston.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Thomas Harvey, Contract Historian

organization N/A

date 12 December 1983

street & number 1916 Drew Ave. S.

telephone (612) 920-6917

city or town Minneapolis

state Minnesota

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Russell W. Fridley  
Russell W. Fridley

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 4/6/84

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

J. Allore Byron  
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the  
National Register

date 5/10/84

Attest:

Chief of Registration

date