

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

For NPS use only

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

received JUL 18 1985
date entered AUG 15 1985

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Dawson Carnegie Library

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number 677 Pine Street N/A not for publication

city, town Dawson N/A vicinity of

state Minnesota code 22 county Lac Qui Parle code 073

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

4. Owner of Property

name City of Dawson

street & number N/A

city, town Dawson N/A vicinity of state Minnesota 56232

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Lac qui Parle County Courthouse

street & number 600 Sixth Street

city, town Madison state Minnesota 56256

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Minnesota Statewide Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1983-84 federal state county local

depository for survey records State Historic Preservation Office, Fort Snelling History Center

city, town St. Paul state Minnesota 55111

7. Description

Condition
 excellent deteriorated **Check one** unaltered **Check one** original site
 good ruins altered moved date N/A
 fair unexposed

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Dawson Carnegie Library, built in 1917-18, is located one block west of main street at the southeast corner of Pine and Seventh streets in Dawson. The library sits on a large corner lot which was landscaped by the St. Paul firm of Holm and Olson, probably in the 1930's. The building was designed by Elbow Lake architect A. H. Foss and constructed by local labor under the supervision of E. E. Lang, building supervisor for contractor John Schilt of Redwood Falls. The library, which cost an estimated \$12,400 to construct, is a one story Classical Revival building with a hipped roof covered with asphalt shingles. The building is faced with textured, stretcher bonded brown brick and trimmed with smooth gray limestone. The seven bay main facade has a central pediment supported by limestone Ionic columns, with metal lettering reading "Carnegie Library" applied to the frieze. Beneath the pediment is a recessed entrance with double leaf multi-paned doors and a transom and sidelights. The outer bays of the main facade contain vertically aligned rectangular window openings divided into bays by brick pilasters with simple limestone capitals. The building has concrete steps flanked by a brick stoop, a limestone watertable and sills, and a wooden cornice. There is a small brick enclosed entrance to the basement on the east facade. The exterior of the library is essentially intact.

The interior of the library consists of a first story circulation room and a basement containing a meeting room, restrooms and storage closets. The library is furnished with oak tables and chairs, and shelving manufactured by the Library Bureau. The interior of the building has been altered somewhat with a suspended ceiling installed in 1963, tile floors, some new shelving, and a new circulation desk.

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	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1917-18 **Builder/Architect** A. H. Foss, architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) John Schilt, contractor

The Dawson Carnegie Library, completed in 1918, is historically and architecturally significant as a handsome Classical Revival building which represents the work of Elbow Lake architect A. H. Foss and illustrates the efforts of the Andrew Carnegie Corporation to provide architecturally sophisticated public library facilities to small communities across the nation. In addition, the Dawson Carnegie Library is important as the home of a public institution which has been a valuable educational and cultural resource to the residents of the community since the 1890's.

Efforts to provide library services in Dawson began in 1886 when the Dawson Literary and Debating Society led by C. J. Coghlan, the first editor of the Dawson Sentinel, started a permanent library fund comprised of profits from various social and literary functions. In 1896 these funds were used to establish a small public library in the Dawson School and, in 1898, a travelling library headquartered in H. A. Stratte's drugstore. In 1899 the newly formed Magazine and Literary Club created a reading room and circulating library in the H.A. Nelson Building. This library was supported financially by the Women's Christian Temperance Union and a community lecture series held from 1899-1901, and furnished by the Dawson Study Club.

In 1915 Dawson mayor C. O. Hill and other officials petitioned the Andrew Carnegie Corporation for funds to construct a library building. In April of 1916 Carnegie pledged \$9,000 for the building, to be matched by a City pledge of \$900 per year. The City purchased the present site for \$1,800, Elbow Lake architect A. H. Foss was chosen to design the library, and the contract for construction was awarded to bidder John Schilt of Redwood Falls. The library was constructed in 1917-18 by local labor directed by E. E. Lang, supervisor for the Schilt company. The library opened on October 1, 1918 and housed 10,000 volumes by April of 1919. Community support for the library continued for the next several years, lead by the Dawson Chautauqua Association which contributed \$1,300 to the library fund from 1918-20. Since its completion, the Dawson Library has continued to provide ever increasing free library services to residents of Dawson and the surrounding area. Since 1984, the library has been a member of the Pioneerland Regional Library System.

The Andrew Carnegie Corporation, which made construction of the Dawson Library possible, funded 1679 libraries nationwide between 1886 and 1919, many of them in small communities whose resources could not otherwise support the establishment of a public library. Minnesota communities received a large number of these libraries, and in fact ranked eighth in the nation in the number of library buildings funded by Carnegie. The Corporation usually granted library funds based on proposals made by city governments, and stipulated that each city provide a building site and an annual maintenance pledge of at least ten percent of the total amount granted. After circa 1908 the Corporation required that building plans be submitted for Carnegie approval and that photographs be sent to Carnegie at the completion of the library. Beginning in 1911, Carnegie further influenced library design by publishing "Notes on Library Buildings", a series of leaflets describing the benefactor's philosophy of library design and use of space, and containing sample floor plans.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Dawson Sentinel, April 7, 1916 and April 14, 1916.

Grant County Herald, Nov. 23, 1978.

Wendell Tribune, September 30, 1921.

Bobinski, George S. Carnegie Libraries. Chicago: American Library Association, 1969.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____ less than one

Quadrangle name Dawson Quad.

Quadrangle scale 7.5

UTM References

A

1	4	7	3	2	3	6	0	4	9	7	9	0	4	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

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D

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots 1, 2, 3, and north half of Lot 4, Block 59, Original Townsite of Dawson.

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 Susan Granger/Field Assistant

State Historic Preservation Office

organization Minnesota Historical Society

date August 1984

street & number Fort Snelling History Center

telephone (612) 726-1171

city or town St. Paul

state Minnesota 55111

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 6/26/85

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the National Register

date 8-15-85

for Alonzo Byer
Keeper of the National Register

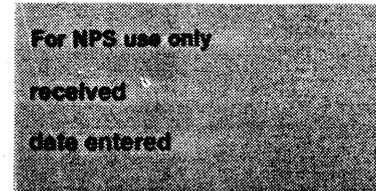
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

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



Continuation sheet Dawson Carnegie Library

Item number 8, 9

Page 1

Item #8 (Significance) continued:

Andrew H. Foss, architect of the Dawson Carnegie Library, was one of western Minnesota's few practicing architects at the turn of the century. Born in Norway in 1874, Foss moved to Elbow Lake, Minnesota in 1899. He worked as an architect in Elbow Lake from 1899-1918 when he moved his practice to St. Cloud. Joined by his son Magnus Foss in 1910, Andrew H. Foss designed hundreds of schools, churches, houses, and commercial buildings in Minnesota and North and South Dakota. After Foss's death in 1921, his son continued the firm, practicing in Minneapolis, Fergus Falls (1926-46), and Fargo-Moorhead. Today the Fargo-Moorhead firm of Foss-Engelstad-Foss, owned by Andrew Foss' grandsons, is probably western Minnesota's largest architectural firm. In addition to its Fargo-Moorhead office, the company maintains branches in Sioux City, Iowa, and Huron, South Dakota.

Item #9 (Bibliographical References) continued:

Roesch, Alta, Dawson Librarian. Unpublished research on Dawson Carnegie Library.
Dawson History: The First One Hundred Years, 1884-1984. Dawson History Book Committee,
1984.