

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED NOV 2 1976

DATE ENTERED

APR 11 1977

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Mayville Public Library

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Center Avenue North (Post Office Box 846)

__ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Mayville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1

STATE

North Dakota

__ VICINITY OF

CODE
038COUNTY
TraillCODE
097**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY

 DISTRICT
 BUILDING(S)
 STRUCTURE
 SITE
 OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

 PUBLIC
 PRIVATE
 BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

 IN PROCESS
 BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

 OCCUPIED
 UNOCCUPIED
 WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
 YES: RESTRICTED
 YES: UNRESTRICTED
 NO

PRESENT USE

 AGRICULTURE
 COMMERCIAL
 EDUCATIONAL
 ENTERTAINMENT
 GOVERNMENT
 INDUSTRIAL
 MILITARY
 MUSEUM
 PARK
 PRIVATE RESIDENCE
 RELIGIOUS
 SCIENTIFIC
 TRANSPORTATION
 OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

City of Mayville

STREET & NUMBER

Post Office Box 220

CITY, TOWN

Mayville

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

North Dakota 58257

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Traill County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Post Office Box 148

CITY, TOWN

Hillsboro

STATE

North Dakota 58045

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

North Dakota Historic Sites Survey

DATE

1976

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDSState Historical Society of North Dakota
Liberty Memorial Building

CITY, TOWN

Bismarck

STATE

North Dakota 58505

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 Mayville Public Library is a 1-story structure with raised basement and a centralized cruciform plan. The foundation, water table, basement window lintels, and main floor window sills are of stone. Aluminum sash in the 1 over 1 windows on the main floor are replacements, and basement windows are glass block, with brick piers dividing those paired. A flight of concrete steps with stone and brick cheekblocks leads to the main entrance, which has an outer door with fanlight recessed within a round arch outlined by a triple course of brick headers. The 1-light, cross-panel single door was installed in 1962, replacing the double-leaf originals of the same type. Single columns of the Composite order flank the door and support an architrave. Breaking forward atop the latter is a section of the bracketed cornice which extends across the facade and around the entire building. All elements of classical derivation (columns, architrave, brackets, and cornice) are of wood painted gray. The texture of the russet-colored brick walls is enriched by quoins on pilaster shafts (a configuration extending in stone down through the basement walls) and by flat arches over the windows. Above the cornice line the quoins resolve into abbreviated pilasters capped by half-spheres and joined by a parapet of blind arches. The word Library is centered over the entrance, and date blocks with cornice and volutes and bearing the year 1900 are mounted on stone on the three principal elevations. Originally the roof terminated in a dome rising above a base featuring quoins, arched windows with keystones and drip molds, and a low, battlemented parapet. Because of leakage problems, however, the superstructure was removed in August, 1933. According to Louis DeScheneau, Mayville resident who assisted with the project, a demolition crew came from Grand Forks and dismantled the dome, hauled it to the city dumping ground, and burned it. A new roof was then installed at a cost of \$379.20.

The library is entered through a small vestibule with flooring of geometrically patterned ceramic tiles in earth tones; wainscoting; and classical trim (cornice and bead-and-reel molding) around outer and inner door openings. A rise of three steps gives access to the reception room, from which vantage point are views of the other three of the four major interior divisions: the stack area directly ahead, the children's room on the left, and the reading room on the right. The initial impact is one of exquisite craftsmanship in turned and carved oak and the skillful manipulation of what in reality are limited spatial volumes, despite a ceiling height of 14 feet. The librarian's desk in the reception room is directly across from the main entrance and placed in front of a magnificent screen based on the Palladian motif. The latter feature separates the reception room from the stack area, with communication between the two by means of doors in the flat-top side openings. Originally the librarian's desk was behind the arch of the screen, a distance made psychologically even greater by a decorative brass grille which filled the space between the paneled base and the springing line of the arch. The grille was removed presumably in 1940 following the recommendation of the North Dakota State Library Commission: "A friendly, welcoming atmosphere in a library is most desirable. It should not resemble a bank or a railroad station, where one must talk through an opening." (Letter from the Secretary and Director, North Dakota State Library Commission, in the Minutes Book of the Board of Directors, Mayville Public Library, March 18, 1940.) The grille is stored for safekeeping in a vault located in the library basement. The screen appears to be otherwise in its original form, embellished with mirrored panels, bead-and-reel molding, and pilasters with triple grooves, in the manner of fluting and terminated by incised circular stops.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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On either side of the screen where the reception room and the stack area adjoin the children's room on the north and the reading room on the south, the wallplane is executed in a double curve. Contoured glass windows originally were installed in the curved wall sections common to the stack area and the children's room, and the stack area and the reading room. Only that for the latter remains, however, a door having been cut in 1953 from the former window opening between the stack area and the children's room. (As with the brass grille noted above, the curved window glass has been preserved.) The curved walls shared by the reception room with the children's room and the reading room are, in keeping with the public functions of these spaces, more ornately treated. Each features an aperture placed high above window level and spanned on the curvature by a wooden screen reminiscent of the lyre motif. Foliate spirals are supplemented by slender spindles bearing triple rows of beads occurring in catenary curves. Decorative screens are also incorporated nearby in the soffits of the rectangular openings which permit passage from the reception room to the children's room and to the reading room. The themes are the same as those in the curved aperture screens (foliage forms and beaded spindles) but the application differs in that stylized, spear-headed leaves are arranged in a circle at the center of the design and in a half circle at either side. The connecting spindles are beaded across the top horizontally and at the bottom in a double arc which is further enhanced by a pendant at the juncture.

The lavish use of interior wood trim is continued in door and window casings (topped by cornices with bead-and-reel molding), 5-panel doors, and deep baseboards. The appeal of an almost-domestic décor still imbued with its period warmth and texture is further enhanced by the original reading room furnishings, including a rectangular table, ladder-back armchairs with cane seats, rocking chairs with cane backs and seats, bookcases, and a cabinet for bric-a-brac and books, all in golden oak. A large roll-top desk in the librarian's workroom is believed to have been purchased in 1902 (the librarian's desk now in the reception room is a recent acquisition). Green carpeting is laid in the public areas but the hardwood floor in the stacks remains uncovered. Plaster walls in the reception room, children's room, and reading room are painted yellow, pink, and green, respectively. The plaster ceiling is painted white throughout, with the former position of the dome indicated by a square-shaped recess in the ceiling over the reception room and stack area. An inside stairway north of the front entry and accessible from the reception room leads to the basement floor, which can also be entered from an outside door on the north elevation. The layout downstairs consists of a hall around which are located a storage vault (west), restroom (north), museum room of the Goose River Chapter of the Pioneer Daughters (northeast corner), and the office of the Soil Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture (south). In a 1972-73 renovation project, directed by Mrs. Hartwell Burner and enthusiastically supported by the community at large, the basement floor of the library was rather extensively rehabilitated. Since the plaster walls were ruinous, plywood paneling was installed, as was a suspended ceiling of acoustical tile and lighting fixtures. The integrity of the main floor was carefully respected, however, in such refurbishing as washing and painting walls and ceiling, and cleaning and polishing woodwork and hardware. The only structural change was the removal of a wall in a rear stockroom to enlarge the librarian's workroom and provide better communication with patrons.

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 checked="" 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 1900 BUILDER/ARCHITECT William C. Albrant

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

As an established institution, the Mayville Public Library has been locally unique in the intensity of its involvement in civic affairs during the last three-quarters of a century of the town's history. As architecture, its exterior is a refreshingly unacademic exercise in academic design, while the superb rendering of its interior could almost be termed an area characteristic since a number of homes in the vicinity feature similar finish. The library was the gift of J.L. and E.B. Grandin, Pennsylvania natives who in the 1870's acquired 75,000 acres of government land grants in the Red River Valley in exchange for bonds of the bankrupt Northern Pacific Railway. In 1878 the Grandin brothers introduced bonanza (large-scale mechanized) wheat farming on their holdings around Mayville, with the breeding of superior draft horses and shorthorn cattle also being an integral part of the enterprise. The Grandins first donated \$5000 for a library for Mayville but contributed \$3000 more when architect William C. Albrant of Fargo determined that a minimum of \$6700 would be required to build his design. The benefactors also provided \$1000 for the purchase of books, which was supplemented by \$2300 from the townspeople. The latter also purchased the site at the southeast corner of Center Avenue North and First Street Northwest. Local craftsmen employed on the project included Harry and George Gummer (father and son), who dug the basement and hauled gravel and stones for the foundation; Frank Lestie and Ludvig G. Nelson, masons; and Gulbrand Halverson, carpenter. The cornerstone was laid June 23, 1900, and work continued through the following February, at which time the lawn was graded, sodded, and sown, sidewalks constructed, and the facility formally opened to the public.

The generosity of the Grandin family continued during the early years of the library's operation, with E.B. and J.L. Grandin and J.L. Grandin, Jr., contributing \$180 in 1903 to waterproof the foundation walls with asphaltum and to lay tiles at the base of the walls. J.L. Grandin, Jr., also purchased a curtain for the vestibule to minimize heat loss. In 1908 it was necessary to make repairs to the roof, with the Fargo Cornice and Ornament Company providing new gutters, flashings, and outlets at a cost of \$230. The roof was again in poor condition by 1921, as well as the chimney, prompting the board of directors to request additional funds from the city council, which controlled library appropriations. Interior redecorating was done the same year, with the bid of Peter Dahl accepted, and in 1922 the plaster walls were repaired. Improvements during and immediately following the years of World War II included the installation of new shelving and a magazine rack and removal of "the little trees on the edge of the stone wall" (1941); repairs to the roof (1942), chimney (1943), and floors (1947); and interior painting (1947). Additional chairs and an electric clock were purchased in 1953; and in 1968 portions of the exterior wooden trim (window casings and the columns flanking the entrance) were repaired. In the overall refurbishing which took place in 1972-73, the basement museum room of the Goose River Chapter of the Pioneer Daughters was outfitted with display cases acquired from a former local jewelry shop. Cleaned and varnished, they now house the more fragile artifacts in the collection.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Burner, Mrs. Hartwell. Mayville, North Dakota. Project director, 1972-73 library renovation. Personal interview, June 17, 1976.
 Maddox, Dawn. Personal inspection, June 17 and 18, 1976.
 Mayville Public Library, Mayville, North Dakota. Files and Minutes Books of the Board of Directors, 1901-1976.
 Moen, Mrs. Margaret. Librarian, Mayville Public Library, Mayville, North Dakota. Personal interview, June 17, 1976.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	4
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6	26	09	0
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5	2	6	1	9	8	0
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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B

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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

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--	--	--	--	--	--

D

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Dawn Maddox, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

State Historical Society of North Dakota

DATE

October 18, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

Liberty Memorial Building

TELEPHONE

(701)224-2666

CITY OR TOWN

Bismarck

STATE

North Dakota 58505

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

James E. Sherry

TITLE

N.D. State Historic Preservation officer

DATE

10/21/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

CHIEF

[Signature]

DATE

4/11/99

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST

[Signature]

DATE

3/25/77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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CONTINUATION SHEET

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Over the years, the library as museum has been perhaps only the most obvious of numerous secondary uses to which the building or parts of it have been put for the public benefit. In 1905 the Women's Club and the Schumann Thursday Musical Club presumably inaugurated the tradition of such service, with both organizations being given a choice of renting for their meetings the room in the northeast corner of the basement (now the museum) or the north reading room (now the children's room). During 1906, for an appropriation of \$1000 and "provided it pays the electricity bill," the city council was given permission to meet in the library. An arrangement was made in 1921 whereby the school board obtained the use of the north reading room for a sewing class in exchange for providing a year's supply of coal. The same year, the State Normal School at Mayville embarked upon a long-term association with the library by utilizing the newly designated children's room as a laboratory for its student teachers. A series of library teas was held in 1922, with various religious and civic groups sponsoring a drive to raise money for book purchases. In the same year, rooms in the basement were made available to "responsible persons" for social gatherings at \$1.00 per evening, and in time the Commercial Club, the Bible School of the Congregational Church, and the Camp Fire Girls (and later the Bluebirds and the Boy Scouts) joined the growing list of organizations which met at the library. One of the most novel uses of its spaces must have been "Dr. Brownson's chiropractic convention" held in 1941 and in return for which favor Dr. Brownson donated a set of bookshelves.

The war years were increasingly busy ones for the library, with 1942 alone witnessing the setting up of the museum room of the Goose River Chapter of the Pioneer Daughters (at first in conjunction with the American Legion); the scheduling of ladies' sewing lessons by the welfare board and the county commissioners; and sponsorship of surgical dressing classes by the American Red Cross. In 1943 the local canning board installed its equipment in the basement for public use (it was removed in 1951 after it became apparent that the Korean War would not generate a crisis in food production comparable to that of World War II). During the remainder of the 40s the ladies of the Catholic Church held bazaars at the library, the Women's Club sponsored rummage sales, the hospital stored its records in the basement, and the board of education served hot meals there to out-of-town grade school students. A high point in the library's history occurred October 28-29, 1948, when it hosted the North Dakota State Library Convention. Community involvement continued into the 50s, 60s, and 70s, with an emphasis on educational activities (adult, extension, vocational, and veterans' benefits classes). There was also still space and time to permit a private use for the public good, as when in 1955 a local teacher was allowed to give lessons on the Women's Club piano to out-of-town pupils directly after school. In 1961 the school board reactivated its library sewing classes of 40 years before, and in 1972 a literary discussion group was organized under the auspices of the English Department of Mayville State College (the former Normal School). In 1974 the library was made a focus of Mayville's Bicentennial observance when the reconditioning of the main entrance was designated a project in the Heritage Division (preservation of historic landmarks). In July, 1975, the financial future of the institution became more secure as a result of a 4-mill tax levied by the city council, thus qualifying the library for grants under a current federal-state cooperative funding program.