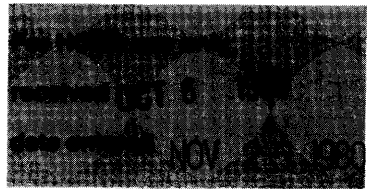


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Bemidji Public Library

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 426 Bemidji Avenue not for publication

city, town Bemidji vicinity of congressional district 7th

state Minnesota code 22 county Beltrami code 007

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: vacant

4. Owner of Property

name City of Bemidji

street & number

city, town Bemidji vicinity of state Minnesota

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Registry of Deeds -- Beltrami County Courthouse

street & number 6th and Beltrami

city, town Bemidji state Minnesota

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<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 _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Situated on a 50 by 60 feet lot at the intersection of Fifth Street and Bemidji Avenue in Bemidji, the old Bemidji Public Library is a straightforward one story brick and stone library structure. The construction of the building was made possible through a grant of \$12,500 from Andrew Carnegie, noted turn of the century steel magnate. Neo-classical in style, the building is rectangular in mass. It is covered with a low hipped roof and is set upon a high (five feet above grade) basement.

The principal facing material is a brown brick, articulated at the corners to form quoins. Decorative highlighting is provided by a Bedford limestone facing on the basement as well as by window lintels, frieze, and tympanum. The entrance portal is confined within a recessed, ionic-colonnaded portico.

The basement is the full size of the building and provides space for two work rooms, toilets, and boiler room.

The main floor is reached via a short stone staircase. The circulation desk, now removed, was situated in the center of the building, directly under a low dome. To either side of the desk were reading rooms; to the rear were stock rooms and stacks. Woodwork throughout the main floor is a varnished oak. A fireplace is located in one of the reading rooms.

The library operation was discontinued in this building on 28 November 1961. Although vacant, the building has been maintained and continues to survive in a good state of preservation. Minor interior alterations, such as a dropped acoustical ceiling and partitions, have been made but have not altered the configuration of the original plan.

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 1909

Builder/Architect W.D. Gillespie, Fargo

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The former Bemidji Public Library is locally significant as a well-preserved component part of the group of 65 libraries in Minnesota financed by Andrew Carnegie. The building was constructed in 1909 with a \$12,500 grant from Carnegie. Although no longer used as a library, the 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 Bemidji. It remains as one of the most architecturally impressive buildings in the community. Plans are currently being considered which would adapt the building for use as an arts center.

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

None

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

UTM NOT VERIFIED

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property less than 1
Quadrangle name Bemidji West Quad.

Quadrangle scale 7.5

UMT References

A

1	5	3	5	8	4	2	0	5	2	5	9	2	0	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

All of Block "B", City of Bemidji.

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

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Charles Skrief, Assistant State Historic Preservation Officer

organization Minnesota Historical Society date May 1980

street & number 240 Summit Avenue telephone 612-296-9070

city or town St. Paul 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Russell W. Fridley

Russell W. Fridley

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 9/23/80

For HCRS use only

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

W. Ray Luce

date 11/24/80

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: Sandra Shint McLelland

date 11-20-80

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

for Keeper Melvin Lyman
1/19/89

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

**Note: These changes apply to
Bemidji Public Library in Beltrami
County, Minnesota.**

REFERENCE NUMBER: 80001936

STATE: MINNESOTA

COUNTY: Beltrami

RESOURCE NAME (HISTORIC): Bemidji Carnegie Library

CITY:

VICINITY OF:

ADDRESS:

CERTIFICATION DATE:

REMOVED DATE:

COMMENTS:

Nina M. Archabal

Nina M. Archabal
State Historic Preservation Officer

JUN 17 1988

Date