

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

DEC 1 8 1989

National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form

This form is for use in documenting multiple property groups relating to one or several historic contexts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900-a). Type all entries.

A. Name of Multiple Property Listing

Philanthropically Established Libraries in North Dakota

B. Associated Historic Contexts

Philanthropically Established Libraries in North Dakota 1900-1923

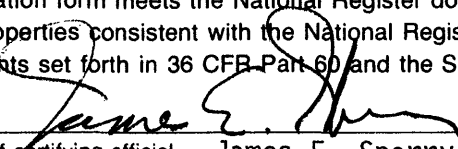
C. Geographical Data

Locations for Philanthropically Established Libraries in North Dakota are various individual sites scattered throughout North Dakota.

See continuation sheet


D. Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this documentation form meets the National Register documentation standards and sets forth requirements for the listing of related properties consistent with the National Register criteria. This submission meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60 and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Planning and Evaluation.


Signature of certifying official James E. Sperry
State Historic Preservation Officer (North Dakota)
State or Federal agency and bureau

November 21, 1989
Date

I, hereby, certify that this multiple property documentation form has been approved by the National Register as a basis for evaluating related properties for listing in the National Register.


Signature of the Keeper of the National Register

1/26/90
Date

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PHILANTHROPICALLY ESTABLISHED LIBRARIES IN NORTH DAKOTA

The subject of library philanthropy and the architectural heritage of these buildings merges two separate categories of building patronage in the United States: 1) Libraries which are products of Carnegie philanthropy. 2) Library endowments made by other private individuals. The history of library establishment in North Dakota reveals that both of these categories of philanthropy are represented in the state's inventory of libraries.

As in other states, the motives for library philanthropy in North Dakota are chiefly tied to the emerging social consciousness of communities just before and after the turn of the century, and to a tremendous building boom in the construction of libraries nationwide. The Carnegie library program touched off this movement just before the turn of the century, making over 1000 library gifts in it's first year of operation. In all, during the first two decades of this century, 650 buildings were erected for the sole purpose of housing a library.¹

Libraries became symbolic of social reform and were viewed as a means of enhancing the cultural and educational level of a community. It was often hoped that free library would reach out to underprivileged, troubled and uneducated members of the community. Throughout many library buildings, the image of social reform was reinforced by visible messages of correct behavior and scholarly pursuits. Inscriptions bearing the titles, Poetry, Music and Drama may be found on library plaques, paintings and frieze panels. Frieze tablets containing virtuous messages of sobriety, prudence, honesty or the names of esteemed literary figures such as Shakespeare were also common. Potent reminders of proper behavior, these words and names admonished casual passers-by of the impending downfall and cultural decay to all but those who entered.

The social mission of the library touched not only the less fortunate but the privileged sector as well. For women in many towns, the library became a respectable haven for proper social interaction, far removed from the unacceptable male domain of bars and taverns. Toward this end, some libraries in Iowa and Nebraska featured a "restroom" which, unlike the commonly understood meaning, referred to a room where women could congregate for literary meetings and other social activity.²

One characteristic of library philanthropy not yet observed in North Dakota is the endowment of large, lavish projects in small, remote areas. In the eastern United States it is not uncommon to find large, stylistically pretentious libraries in small communities far from major population centers. The benefactors of these libraries, having first offered the library to large, highly visible towns and cities, were often discouraged after finding that a community was already well furnished with library facilities.³ Wanting either to applaud their own achievements through visible

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memorial, or simply to make a sentimental gesture to their hometown, these philanthropists poured large sums into the erection of ambitious library buildings in small towns and other unlikely settings.

The establishment of both Carnegie and non-Carnegie libraries may also have been prompted by a desire to attract respectable new residents to a community. Libraries were attractive features that appealed to the social and educational conscious of prospective residents choosing between one fledgling town and another. A library elevated a town's status and was often one of a community's best insurances for continued growth.

This nomination is confined to the subject of building philanthropy as it relates to public libraries, and does not include buildings made possible by collective funds or local donations. Although the history of both Carnegie and non-Carnegie endowments share certain characteristics, each bear important differences that merit a separate discussion. The following begins with a profile of the Carnegie Corporation as it relates to library establishment within North Dakota, and concludes with a discussion of library endowments that are independent of the Carnegie program.

Carnegie Libraries in North Dakota:

The story of Andrew Carnegie is part of the lore of industrial history and free enterprise in America. An immigrant from Scotland, Carnegie arrived in the United States in 1848 to begin a career as a laborer in a cotton factory in Pennsylvania. He eventually aspired to one of the largest fortunes in the history of this country, the wealth and leisure of which allowed him to participate in one of the great social pasttimes of the wealthy, philanthropy. Much criticism has been given to the motive of Carnegie's philanthropy. Some claim it was an attempt to assuage a gnawing guilt for ill-gotten wealth, while others insist he was motivated by purely humanitarian forces. Perhaps the former claim is more credible in view of a statement he once made, "the amassing of wealth is one of the worst species of idolatry."⁴ Whatever the reason, Carnegie held reading and education in the highest regard and was himself an avid reader, journalist and scholar. His ardently acclaimed first gift in Scotland prompted him to expand his library giving by way of a formalized program targeted at the United States and all English-speaking countries.

The theme of building patronage has been nowhere more resonant than in the philanthropy of Andrew Carnegie. Of his efforts, the Library Program is the most well known and one which left an indelible mark of 2509 free public libraries constructed throughout the world between 1881 and 1917. In the United States, the broad impact of the Carnegie Program is evidenced by a library in every state except Rhode Island.⁵ State and local census and proximity to large population centers figured prominently in the plotting of

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Carnegie libraries, but other factors such as local initiative and support, social and political pressure and a concentrated effort also attracted the Corporation.

Carnegie's first libraries in the East were an attempt to provide self-contained worlds of culture and amusement for steel workers in his Pennsylvania factories. His most lavish facilities contained not only library facilities but recreational features such as a gyms and indoor pools.⁶ This duality of function for rooms within the library was a hallmark of many Carnegie buildings and persisted to some degree as his buildings were put up across the country.

In many communities, the first efforts to establish a public library were often inspired by the vision of a local volunteer group or literary society. Toward the turn of the century, it was reported that 43 state public libraries in North Dakota were the results of the fervent efforts of a women's literary or library organization.⁷ Library Comm) Typically, a women's cultural group began to acquire books as an incentive to construct a library building in which to house them. In the case of the Grand Forks (Carnegie) Library, a group of women organized the "Grand Forks Library Association" in 1895, an effort that was followed by the appointment of a Board of Library Directors in 1900. Still without an actual facility, the board engaged the local chapter of the Odd Fellows for use of their meeting hall. The following year, apparent that the city should secure a library building of their own, the Board began a plea for donations from the Carnegie Corporation. The reply was a sum of \$20,000, the only stipulations being that the city furnish a site for the building and make an annual appropriation for maintenance.⁸ In many attempts to establish Carnegie libraries, this sequence of events was repeated with only slight variation.

Early Carnegie grants across the country were quite generous and many eastern communities garnered endowments of \$50,000 and even \$200,200. Smaller towns, of course, received lesser sums in the range of \$7000-\$15,000. Communities wishing to receive Carnegie libraries were asked to fill out a "Schedule of Questions" designed to uncover the specific needs of each town.⁹ Necessary information included the community size, and the floor space, circulation figures and numbers of volumes in existing libraries. The size of the gift was gauged by population factors, the current growth rate of a community and an overall assessment of local needs, although Carnegie was predisposed to make gifts to friends and political allies. Towns that could claim substantial and on-going increases in population were more likely to receive a Carnegie, since a swelling census usually meant a greater need for cultural facilities such as libraries, opera houses and universities. Carnegie declined to award grants to private universities or subscription libraries buttressed by other private endowments. He felt that his gifts should not be made available to privileged organization and those persons already enlightened.¹⁰

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Carnegie figures for North Dakota suggest that the leveling off of the population after the Second Dakota Boom may have meant a decline in Carnegie support. After this period, the state's population never increased again. Because library appropriations hinged on a demonstrated increase in population, there was little justification for the Corporation to make further gifts to the state. World War I further halted the erection of libraries funded during the final year of the Carnegie program in 1917. As communities adjusted their priorities to meet the pressures of a war time economy, many grants were suspended and communities often did not re-claim their endowments.

It was also true that various communities were promised money but never received a confirmation of the gift. The history of the Jamestown College library recounts an episode in which the president made a personal visit to Carnegie's home in New York to request money and was ultimately promised a sum of \$25,000.¹¹ Curiously, in the official records of the Corporation's gifts, this library is not listed as a Carnegie funded library, suggesting that funds were later revoked or simply never materialized. Nonetheless, the Jamestown College library was built, probably from a contribution made by the library's namesake, wealthy Philadelphian, Mary Thaw.

Although the relatively unpopulated status and isolated geography of North Dakota was also characteristic of neighboring South Dakota and Montana, the latter states received more Carnegie support than North Dakota. Surprisingly, South Dakota received 25 library grants, Montana 17 and Minnesota 55.¹² Of North Dakota's eleven Carnegies, eight were public gifts, and three were college endowments. Seven of these buildings remain; three, the Minot, Valley City and N.D.S.U. Carnegies, have been nominated to the National Register of Historic Places.

The official records for Carnegies within the state conform to the typical pattern of giving larger endowments to larger communities and smaller gifts to less populated areas:

Fargo	1901	\$20,000	Razed
Grand Forks	1901	\$22,000	Razed
Valley City	1901	\$15,000	
Grafton	1903	\$10,000	
N.D.S.U., Fargo	1905	\$18,400	
Minot	1908	\$15,000	
Devils Lake	1908	\$12,500	
Dickinson	1908	\$12,500	
U.N.D., Grand Forks	1909	\$30,000	
Fargo College	1910	unknown	Razed
Bismarck	1916	\$25,000	Razed

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Not surprisingly, the building dates for Carnegies across the state correlate with the east-to-west march of settlement and population growth. The small range in the dollar amounts given also reveals the parity of size among the major settlements in North Dakota during these years. For purposes of comparison it may be observed that in contrast to this state, South Dakota received many grants in the \$10,000 and under range, suggesting that the library movement was stronger in the smaller communities of that neighboring state.¹³

Of the ten applications submitted by North Dakota communities, two were denied, or at least never came to fruition. Both Mandan and Bottineau are documented as having made applications, though it is not possible to tell if these projects were denied by the Corporation or simply were not built. The reasons for failure are not easy to pinpoint, although in most cases gifts were refused because the city commission would not meet the ten percent support pledge demanded by the Corporation.¹⁴ Siting problems were also common, but in only a few cases were projects turned down for architectural reasons. Because Bertram and Carnegie did not look favorably upon ambitious designs or architectural flourishes, a few designs were dismissed as impractical or extravagant.

Architecture:

Mr. Carnegie placed few covenants on the use of his money for libraries aside from his cautions against "wasteful" window placement, and an insistence that rooms incorporate natural light and feature maximum book storage. His major concern was that the design of libraries be functional, though he left the responsibility for the design and detailing to the local community and appointed architect.¹⁵

Stylistically, the character of Carnegie libraries throughout the country is overwhelmingly Neoclassical/Beaux Art, although there are incidences of Mission style Carnegies in southern California and Prairie School designs in small mid-western towns. Still, the exuberance of this philanthropy is most easily recalled in the great Classical Revival subjects found in New York, Pittsburg and Philadelphia. Many of these were the products of famed practitioners such as Alden and Harlow, James Gamble Rogers and McKim, Mead and White.¹⁶ The national mania for Classicism had its origins in the Renaissance Revival architecture showcased at the 1893 Chicago World's Fair, a precedent-setting event lamented by many Chicago and Prairie school architects favoring a break from the excesses of the Classical style.

Across North Dakota there is total conformity to the Neoclassical idiom, with only slight variations on the theme such as the "Jeffersonian" temple front of the Valley City Carnegie Library. Ironically, the design of this library echoes a protestation of Corporation Secretary James Bertram that, "a frequent cause of waste is the attempt to get a Greek temple...with a \$40,000 appropriation."¹⁷

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There is no evidence to suggest that the Corporation intervened in the design stage once a grant was awarded, and it can be safely concluded that the Neoclassical mode prevailed simply because it was the style then in vogue for public secular buildings built around the turn of the century in this country. While there were few constraints on the size and style of Carnegies libraries, the Corporation did after 1908, require communities to send their designs and specifications in for review and approval. Carnegie's close aid and secretary, James Bertram, developed a pamphlet entitled, "Notes on Library Architecture" which expressed a concern for frivolous architecture and wasted space. Adherence to these notes was not mandatory but their existence did much to standardize library design after 1908.¹⁸ Still, designs were rarely turned down unless they were too outlandish and strayed from the Carnegie precepts of well-lit spaces with maximum book storage. Worldwide, the rich array of designs- including revivalist themes such as Mission, Prairie and the "castle" style with crenelated towers points to the liberal view of the Corporation with regard to design. However, for North Dakota, the prosaic character of public libraries gives way only in the novel and imaginative designs of non-Carnegie endowments.

One of the innovative designs found in some Carnegie libraries was that of the radial plan. Most often this plan was used for buildings sited on corner lots and featured a semicircular bay or apse projecting from one corner. The half round bay reflected the interior arrangement of stacks into a radial configuration that converged at a central circulation desk. While the intent was to ease the viewing and monitoring of the stacks by the librarian, the plan also had an economic benefit since only one librarian was required to monitor the stacks and check books.¹⁹ Because few Carnegies with the apsidal plan retain their radial stack arrangement on the interior, the original functional mode of these rooms is not apparent and the circular shape becomes a purely aesthetic feature.

There are no existing Carnegies still standing in North Dakota that sport this apsidal projection, however, the Fargo Carnegie (now razed) was sited on a corner lot and featured a semicircular bay extending from one facade. It is not known whether this configuration was designed for a radial arrangement of stacks, however, historic photographs and the nature of the building's site are suggestive of the radial feature. The city's allotment of a corner site at Robert Street and Second Avenue north was considered an unfortunate location since it gave little opportunity for a grand entry or ornamentation. Supporting the suspicion of interior amenities such as a radial design is an excerpt from the Public Library Commission's report that states, "on account of the lack of opportunity for exterior adornment, efforts were made to make the interior as rich and pleasant as was possible with the money at hand."²⁰

In the later years of Carnegie endowments there was some encouragement for simple, functional buildings of unpretentious design. In addition, there were a number of plan

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types available from the Corporation, although nothing to constitute a pattern book approach. In some cases, state commissions offered photos and plans of successful buildings to local communities in order for them to better evaluate the potential functional and aesthetic values of an architect's proposal.²¹ The selection of an architect was left to the local community, and in some cases fell to the decision of a design competition. The latter was rare and more likely to have occurred in a larger city (the designs of North Dakota's libraries were never the products of a competitive process, but were probably inspired by existing libraries outside the state).

In spite of the re-cycled character of exterior designs, Carnegie interiors are often more reflective of individual community needs. The Grand Forks Carnegie Library was one such example. Interior spatial configuring and functional components were developed by the library board, who then engaged Warren H. Milner of Chicago to draft the plans and prominent Grand Forks architect Joseph Bell de Remer to supervise the project. In their proposals the board addressed the needs of potential local patrons, making provisions for a basement auditorium seating 250 people, a library proper with lobby area, a children's room, reference room, as well as desk, reading room, stack and office.²² These rooms played a pivotal role in the cultural life of the community and often served dual functions- the auditorium as the scene of musical events and Victrola concerts as well as lectures, the reading room as both museum and art gallery, depending on the occasion.

Though some North Dakota Carnegies can claim original interior schemes and the involvement of a state architect, the exterior designs resemble stock compositions and are undistinguished in the greater body of Carnegie libraries throughout the country. Several factors keyed to the state's youth and small population at the time may account for the relatively unimaginative designs of North Dakota Carnegies.

The lack of qualified architects in the early years of the state, and the inexperience of library boards with architectural matters no doubt pushed commissions to seek the expertise of the Corporation for design suggestions. While Carnegie did not invoke designs standardization, his file of successful building designs and architects was available to local communities that had no idea as to how to engage an architect or how to communicate their needs. Smaller, remote communities, more comfortable with precedent than with experimentation, often chose a particular design that had been built elsewhere and hired a local architect to duplicate the same thing in their town. This imitative process seems to have prevailed among the North Dakota Carnegies. Almost all subjects are chaste Neoclassical interpretations that bear little imagination in design or decorative treatments. Not surprisingly, neighboring Minnesota's Carnegies are also strictly Neoclassical, although they are mostly larger and more lavish in detail, no doubt a reflection of the state's bigger population.

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Involvement of a prominent architectural firm did not always insure novelty of design. The renowned Upper Mid-West firm of Claude and Stark designed a number of highly imaginative and revered Carnegies, many with memorable Prairie School designs. One of their Carnegies in Hoquiam, Washington, duplicates a design they originated in Wisconsin. In this example, the librarian had been a former employee of the Wisconsin Carnegie, and being well acquainted with the merits of that design, suggested an exact replica at her new assignment in Washington state.²³ This preference for imitating esteemed examples in other states often stifled the creative talents of popular architects who would have preferred to experiment with new designs. For example, while the Grand Forks and Minot Carnegies were executed under different architects, they are almost identical in appearance. This design was repeated for several Mid-West libraries and was no doubt a stock design suggested by the Corporation.

It was also common for a community to enlist the same architect responsible for the designs of other Carnegies within the state. In North Dakota, four of the earliest libraries were designed by William Albrandt, one of which is a non-Carnegie endowment. All of these observations suggest a token role for the attending architect of many Carnegie projects. The redundancy of library designs points not only to the practice of widespread borrowing of successful designs, but also to the social value and imitative reverence for acclaimed prototypes and prevailing national tastes.

Other Philanthropically Established Libraries in North Dakota:

Although motives to found other privately endowed libraries were often similar to movements to secure Carnegie funds, important differences exist. It may be said that Carnegie was forging a memorial legacy with each library that went up, however, the memorial aspect is more pronounced at the state level of private endowment. In addition, motives for endowments outside the Carnegie realm were not contingent upon population figures. And while the goal of social and educational reform fueled most all library programs, responses to social needs and political pressures were more localized in non-Carnegie endowments. A third motive for library establishment is the "chain of philanthropy", a phenomenon not observed in the Carnegie examples. This theory maintains that there are traceable linkages between various individuals and library endowments. Overall, the most visible difference between the two is that in North Dakota, the architectural mannerisms of non-Carnegies are perhaps more original than those of Carnegie libraries. The following scenarios have been observed in the histories of public libraries already listed on the National Register, and are the most likely motivational forces behind other state library endowments yet to be listed on the National Register.

- 1) Library philanthropy as a means of public welfare and social reform. These libraries were built as gestures of social reform and cultural edification. Under

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this motive, the philanthropist assumed the role of community benefactor in an effort to provide respectable leisure activity in an otherwise deprived environment. Often the endowment was made in the memory of a son, daughter, husband or wife.

- 2) Philanthropy that superceded a prior attempt to secure a Carnegie library. When the Carnegie Corporation denied a library request, communities often appealed to a local philanthropist to provide the facility. It was the Corporation's practice to decline library monies in order to press wealthy locals to make their own gift. Carnegie justified these decisions as part of his goal to target truly needy communities that lacked potential benefactors.
- 3) Library philanthropy motivated by social, political or economic forces. A "chain of philanthropy" resulted when a prominent political figure, having themself made a library endowment, suggested that a friend or ally make a similar donation in their community. Such library gifts may well be regarded as prudent investments in an effort to maintain social/political ties, and consequently, are perhaps more a product of political diplomacy than of philanthropy.
- 4) Library establishment as an inducement for new and desirable population growth. As a boost to the cultural offerings of a community, libraries and other cultural buildings might have been given in an attempt to attract new residents.

Under the process of non-Carnegie endowment, the issues of social need were more urgent and visible, whereas Carnegies grants were made under the broader theme of social welfare. For example, the benefactors of the Mayville Public Library, J.L. and E.B. Grandin of Pennsylvania, were acutely aware of the need for alternative sources of recreation and entertainment in a town frequented by transient employees of their Bonanza farm.²⁴ Until the library was built, the recreational pursuits of these seasonal employees were confined to the taverns and brothels of Fargo. While the founding of the Mayville Library may be an example of library philanthropy designed to cure social ills, it is not known whether the establishment of the public library did much to temper the colorful social life of Bonanza farm workers.

The "chain of philanthropy " is best illustrated in the history of the James Memorial Library, Willison. In this case, the endowment, made by Arthur James was first suggested by Great Northern Railway magnate James J. Hill. Hill himself had earlier made an ambitious donation in the Minneapolis Library that bears his name. At Hill's suggestion, Arthur Curtiss James Jr. agreed to make a library endowment in memory of his father, Arthur Curtiss James, formerly a close associate of Hill's.²⁵ The establishment of this library is also an instance in which a private bequeath took over when an application to the Carnegie Corporation was turned down.

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The "chain of philanthropy" may also be traced to the founding of the Mayville Public Library where, again, a library endowment was an outgrowth of railroad investment. When the over-extended Northern Pacific failed to deliver on bond investments, the railroad offered holders the option of acquiring government land grants in exchange for the worthless bonds. As Pennsylvania natives and Northern Pacific bond holders with only passive interest in North Dakota, the Grandin brothers parlayed their bonds into a Bonanza wheat growing operation in the Red River Valley.²⁶ What began as casual speculation yielded greater profits than expected. With their initial investment, the Grandins and others like them funneled wealth into far reaching and largely unsettled corners of railroad territory. Building patronage became a logical outgrowth of this prosperity.

Architecture

North Dakota's non-Carnegie library endowments present a slightly broader spectrum of architectural styles and designs than do the often repetitive designs of the Carnegie buildings. Homogeneity is not the rule for Carnegie libraries in other parts of the country, as verified by the fanciful Norman castle motif used on the Dillon Carnegie in neighboring Montana.²⁷ In North Dakota, however, the most experimental designs are confined to non-Carnegie library endowments.

The National Register listed Alfred E. Dickey Free Library in Jamestown was an architectural revolution for the period and has remained an unparalleled subject of Prairie School design in the state. As one of only two buildings in North Dakota executed in the Prairie design, it is also the only structure featuring ancient Egyptian motifs rendered in wood. Simple in form and mass, the building is divided into three symmetrical bays framed by terra cotta window details with foliate designs. The interior features an Egyptian program with battered lotus piers supporting a central dome. All original furnishings bearing ancient stylized motifs are still in use.²⁸ Co-architect Henry J. Scherer had been educated in the Prairie School design in Minnesota and no doubt absorbed the philosophy in his work with both Chicago and Minneapolis firms. It is also possible that Scherer was familiar with a Claude and Stark Prairie style library located just east of Fargo in Detroit Lakes, Minnesota.

Like most state Carnegies, the James Memorial Library in Williston repeats the subdued Neoclassical theme common for the period and is perhaps the least imaginative of non-Carnegie libraries in the state. It can only be speculated as to the origin of this design, but the affinity to other stock designs throughout the country is undeniable. At the far end of this spectrum is the Victorian folk cottage design of the Watts Free Library in Leonard (1911). Undisputedly the most modest subject in the state's inventory of libraries, this small building makes vestigial reference to the much earlier Stick Style through the use of a decorative truss in the entry gable.

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Another example of free interpretation of style is the highly unacademic treatment of the Mayville Public Library. Here, a Neoclassical program rendered in Roman brick with rock-faced stone trim features a blind roofline balustrade, squat pier caps and stepped parapet.

The characteristics of this and other privately endowed libraries are dramatic departures from the staid Classicism of the Carnegie subjects. However the diversity of Carnegie libraries in other parts of the country can only suggest that the Corporation's design direction was sought more frequently in North Dakota than in other states. In spite of the architectural sophistication of these non-Carnegie subjects, North Dakota has fewer privately endowed libraries than other states. Here, Carnegie was the chief source of library support, perhaps due to the small population of the state, the limited number of potential benefactors and the few sources of great wealth.

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END NOTES

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- 2 Pepper, Simon. Notes and Correspondence with the author of the upcoming: "A Social and Architectural History of Libraries in the United States." March 1989-June 1989.
- 3 Ibid.
- 4 Gardiner, Allen. The Carnegie Legacy in Kansas. Kansas State Library, 1985. pg. 3.
- 5 Cooper Hewitt Museum. "Carnegie Libraries: A Sesquicentennial Celebration." New York: Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Design, June-September, 1985.
- 6 Pepper.
- 7 North Dakota Public Library Commission. Report of Public Library Commissions, 1914-1916. Fargo: Walker Bros. and Hardy State Printers, 1914-1916. pg. 12.
- 8 Frank, Mary. History of the Grand Forks Public Library 1900-1958. (no page numbers or date or origin of publication.)
- 9 Bobinski, George S. Carnegie Libraries: Their History and Impact on American Public Library Endowment. Chicago: American Library Association, 1969. pg. 38

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- 10 Ibid.

- 11 Kroeze, Barend H. A Prairie Saga. Saint Paul, Minnesota: North Central Publishing Company., 1952. pg. 70.

- 12 Brudvig, Glenn Lowell. Public Libraries in North Dakota 1880-1920, Masters Thesis. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota, 1962. pg. 61.

- 13 Ibid.

- 14 Bobinski, pg. 140.

- 15 Pepper.

- 16 Cooper Hewitt Museum.

- 17 Bauman. pg. 38.

- 18 Ibid.

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- 20 North Dakota Public Library Commission. Public Library Commission Report 1908. Bismarck: Tribune, 1908, pg. 55.

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- 24 Maddox, Dawn. Nomination Form for the Mayville Public Library. October, 18, 1976.
- 25 Schweigert, Kurt. Nomination Form for the James Memorial Library. September 21, 1979.
- 26 Maddox.
- 27 Lecture. "Carnegie Libraries for Montana and Wyoming." Presentation at the Northern Tier States Centennial West Conference, Billings, Montana, June 23, 1989.
- 28 Sluss, Jackie. Nomination Form for the Alfred E. Dickey Library. March 19, 1980.

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- I. PROPERTY TYPE: Philanthropically Established Libraries in North Dakota
II. DESCRIPTION:

This multi-properties nomination addresses six library structures listed on the National Register, as well as two libraries for which individual nominations are appended. The material for this nomination addresses these libraries only, but is intended as a framework, anticipating that other philanthropically established libraries will be discovered and nominated using the context of this multi-properties form.

Collectively, North Dakota libraries convey broad patterns of architectural history within the state. From the earliest example in the Mayville Public Library (1900), to the more recent subject of the Leach Memorial Library in 1923 there is a continuity in general plan and functional aspect, with more latitude expressed in the stylistic programs. As with many public buildings of the period, public libraries reflect a strict adherence to Neoclassical principles based on the turn of the century vogue of Beaux Arts design. These buildings obey the Beaux Arts canon for well delineated entries which announce a logical and readable progression into interior spaces. In keeping with this dictum, North Dakota libraries have entries that are clearly defined in the central bay, most often as a shallow portico or projecting vestibule. The libraries typically present a central rectangular or square volume, flanked by smaller bays of lower height and symmetrical disposition. In the example of the Valley City Carnegie, the fully developed Greek portico entry is an academic exercise in the Neoclassical tradition. Classical form persists even in the absence of Classical ornament. While the stylistic program of the Alfred E. Dickey library has shed Classical encrustations in favor of Prairie School motifs, the formal, symmetrical arrangement of volumes has been preserved.

The known inventory of philanthropically established libraries may be generally categorized as one story structures with either single room or central volume plan with flanking bays. Given emphasis by a visually dominant entry vestibule or portico, these facades are predominantly brick (either dark or light colored) or cast stone block, and often incorporate rock-faced or smooth stone fittings for sills, lintels and cornices. Common design elements include roofline balustrades, paired columns, triangular pediments with garland motifs, hipped roofs and raised basements of brick or stone.

In several examples, the central volume is accented with a cupola or lantern located over the dome of the lobby or central reading room. The James Memorial Library retains this feature while the cupola of the Mayville Public Library has been removed. Common to these libraries is the fitting of large single plate windows to exterior walls. Often these windows incorporate an upper light with leaded glass or other decorative treatment. Although large windows were prescribed by the Carnegie Corporation, their

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presence on both Carnegie and non-Carnegie buildings suggests that the increasing use of broad single plates on libraries and other public buildings and residential designs during the period is a benchmark of the Chicago School influence in the state.

These library structures offer a glimpse at prevailing tastes in public architecture just before and after the turn of the century. Departures from Neoclassical design are represented in non-academic readings such as the Mayville Public Library as well as in the literal Classicism of the Valley City Carnegie. The state's Neoclassical spectrum includes the pared down Classicism of the Minot and Dickinson Carnegies, as well as the Grafton (altered) and Grand Forks (demolished) Carnegie libraries. Progressive movements begun just before the turn of the century include the Prairie School treatment of the Alfred E. Dickey Library, as well as belated appearances of earlier styles such as the "Stick Style" cottage design of the Watts Free Library in Leonard.

Philanthropically established libraries, like other public libraries, are usually situated in the core of the original platting in a community. For some, the physical stature was enhanced by a corner location. Both physically and culturally, they provided stylistic linkages with other civic buildings and served as arbiters of cultural and architectural taste.

III. SIGNIFICANCE:

Philanthropically established libraries already listed on the National Register, those here amended with individual nominations, and those which have yet to be identified and nominated are eligible for nomination under one of Criteria A, B and C, or combinations thereof. Under Criterion A, philanthropically established libraries belong to a national trend in the development of library programs and the erection of library buildings just before the turn of the century. Libraries eligible for nomination under criterion B qualify for their associations with famed philanthropist Andrew Carnegie, and for their associations with individuals of state and local prominence. Often some of the most visually assertive buildings in a community, philanthropically established libraries are recognized for their distinctive architectural merits of period style, design and materials and therefore qualify for nomination under Criterion C.

Using the context statement as a gauge of significance, each library must conform to the general history of library patronage within the state, either as a subject of Carnegie philanthropy or other private philanthropy. The significance of these libraries may be further divided into three areas.

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Architecture

Criterion A:

Libraries, as with most subjects of public architecture, often serve as benchmarks of architectural trends or shifts in building philosophies. Typically, libraries, courthouses, post offices and city halls made a collective statement about the proper attire for public buildings in North Dakota and across the nation. In Wahpeton, for example, the Leach Memorial Library reflects the local planning mandate for municipal buildings in the Neoclassical tradition. The architectural fabric of this area is interwoven with other Classically inspired buildings such as the City Hall, Post Office, Hospital and County Court House.

Criterion C:

These buildings are executed in architectural styles that were popular for public buildings built in the state during the period of significance 1900-1939. Most of these structures adopted the principles of Beaux Arts/Neoclassicism then in fashion for most public, civic and commercial architecture. Other period styles represented in the state's inventory of philanthropically established libraries include a Prairie School design with an Egyptian interior program and a late Victorian "Stick" cottage.

Development/Settlement

Criterion A:

In at least one known case in North Dakota, town settlement and growth may have been stimulated by the existence of libraries and other cultural amenities. The clearest example is the case of the Leach Public Library, Wahpeton, where it has been documented that community members regarded the library as an effective means of attracting desirable new residents. Though tenuous, the link between library establishment and community growth was forged when a patron promoted the benefits of cultural offerings such as libraries, opera houses and colleges.

Educational/Social History

Criterion A:

The origins of philanthropy are embedded in the social fabric of any society. As a product of social history, philanthropy not only rectifies certain social and cultural voids, but also reaffirmed the social status of benefactors in a community. The

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motives for library philanthropy were often spurred by community concerns for public welfare and social reform through the promotion of reading and cultural pursuits. The earlier discussion of social reform and philanthropically established libraries further develops the topic of education and social history and will therefore not be repeated here.

IV. REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS:

Criteria for the evaluation of philanthropically-established libraries was developed through the examination of both National Register listed libraries and libraries determined eligible for listing. Evaluation was aided through the use of existing nomination forms, archival materials, photographs and on-site inspection of various structures. All libraries included in this study present similarly high levels of integrity and will serve as gauges for the future evaluation of philanthropic library structures.

In order to qualify for listing in conjunction with this multi-properties form, subjects must retain all exterior architectural components original to the design. Installation of new windows is inevitable and will not damage eligibility unless window openings themselves have been enlarged or otherwise altered. In the example of the Mayville Public Library, the cupola was removed due to structural problems and leakage. However, because its removal occurred within the historic period and because its absence does not create a visual imbalance or impair the building's presentation as a library structure, the change did not detract from eligibility.

One existing Carnegie library in the state has experienced substantial alteration and no longer presents an acceptable level of integrity. The Grafton Carnegie has suffered the loss of original cornice elements and portico, and has undergone a lowering of the facades.

For libraries that have been enlarged through additions, registration will require that new portions are generally discreet, do not create awkward junctures with original fabric, do not physically overwhelm the core structure, do not intrude into principal facades, do not confuse the principal egress patterns through porticos and entry vestibules, and though clearly readable as newer construction, are composed of materials that are compatible in color and texture with original construction.

Descriptions of libraries will always address the appearance and condition of interior spaces. Not suprisingly, library interiors are highly prone to periods of remodeling and expansion projects. While the lack or presence of original architectural

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components and decorative treatments will not affect eligibility, interiors should be examined and described for documentation purposes.

The period of significance identified in this study falls between 1900 and 1923, based on current, known construction dates for philanthropically established libraries found in the state. The possibility exists that other eligible subjects were built outside this time frame, in which case the period of significance may be adjusted in the future.

Registration of philanthropically established libraries in the future will demand that each subject possess at least one of the areas of significance discussed in Section E. Registration under any of these criteria will vary, however all philanthropically established libraries will immediately qualify for listing under the theme of Education and Social History.

G. Summary of Identification and Evaluation Methods

Discuss the methods used in developing the multiple property listing.

See continuation sheet.

See continuation sheet

H. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional documentation:

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State historic preservation office | <input type="checkbox"/> Local government |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other State agency | <input type="checkbox"/> University |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Federal agency | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

Specify repository: State Historical Society of North Dakota

I. Form Prepared By

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The topic of philanthropically established libraries was suggested by the existing inventory of state libraries listed on the National Register, all of which have philanthropic origins in either the Carnegie Library Program or other private endowment. Patterns of philanthropy were gleaned from these nominations as well and from site leads of other libraries contained in the Survey and Inventory files of the Division of Archeology and Historic Preservation, State Historical Society of North Dakota (SHPO).

Also consulted were records of the Carnegie program, general sources on the history of the Corporation and other library histories in North Dakota, archival materials pertaining to the State Library Board and historical documents provided by private individuals. Comparative information regarding library philanthropy in neighboring states was provided by individuals currently involved in the study of library architecture.

Much of this information provided direction for the context statement, however the course of research also suggested further areas of investigation posed by as yet unanswered questions.

- 1) Given the similarities in size, population and geography, why did North Dakota receive relatively little Carnegie support compared to nearby South Dakota and Montana?
- 2) What factors accounted for the large number of small Carnegie endowments in South Dakota, when all of North Dakota's pledges fell above the \$10,000 range?
- 3) A profile of the history of the Jamestown College Library cites a direct plea for Carnegie support by college president Barend Kroeze.²⁸ Although there was a subsequent committment by the Corporation for 25,000 this building is absent from official records of Carnegie endowment in North Dakota. Is this an example in which Carnegie funds were requested and promised, but never materialized? Was the library completed with funds provided by other benefactors?
- 4) What was the design inspiration for architectural anomalies such as the Mayville Public Library and the Watts Free Library?
- 6) How effective were public libraries in promoting social reforms and cultural pursuits in various communities?
- 7) To what extent did the Carnegie Library Program stimulate other private endowments.
- 8) What other examples of the "chain of philanthropy" exist in North Dakota, and are there linkages with nearby states?

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Extant Carnegie libraries in Dickinson and Devils Lake present good integrity and are currently eligible for nomination. Other library philanthropy yet to be investigated took place in Bowman and Lakota. In addition, the Jamestown College Library and the U.N.D. Carnegie on the campus in Grand Forks are eligible.

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