

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**National Register of Historic Places Registration Form**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of PropertyHistoric name: Henry Hale Memorial Library, Hamline BranchOther names/site number: Hamline Branch Library, Hamline-Midway Library

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. LocationStreet & number: 1558 Minnehaha Avenue WestCity or town: St. Paul State: MN County: RamseyNot For Publication: ☐Vicinity: ☐**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this ___ nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide ___ local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D

Signature of certifying official/Title:

Date

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official:

Date

Title :

State or Federal agency/bureau
or Tribal Government

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register
☐ determined eligible for the National Register
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register
☐ removed from the National Register
☐ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private:

☐

Public – Local

☒

Public – State

☐

Public – Federal

☐

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Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

Building(s)	☒
District	☐
Site	☐
Structure	☐
Object	☐

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u>1</u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION/Library

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION/Library

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Collegiate Gothic

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property:

Foundation: concrete

Walls: brick

Roof: not specified on plans

Decorative elements: stone

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Hamline Branch Library is one of two Hale Memorial Libraries, Hamline and Merriam Park, built in St. Paul. It is located in the heart of the Hamline neighborhood at 1558 Minnehaha Avenue West near Snelling Avenue North. The building is one-story with a flat roof over a raised basement designed in the Collegiate Gothic style with a half-story parapet on three sides. It is rectangular, 80 feet wide by 48 feet deep. Construction was completed in 1930 and its formal dedication was held October 9, 1930.

Faced with tapestry brick in a Flemish bond, the window sills, lintels, and copings are carved stone. Stone belt courses are present on all elevations, one at the approximate level of the basement ceiling height, the other at the approximate level of the 1st floor ceiling height.

A later elevator addition on the west side of the building is not original. However, it is faced brick in the same style as the rest of the building and includes the same stone band course as the rest of the building. A storage shed at the rear of the property is not original.

During the 2021 Capital Improvement Budget (CIB) discussion within the City of St. Paul departments, this library was originally slated for demolition. Talks regarding the ultimate decisions of the plan were continuing as of early 2022.

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Narrative Description

The Hamline-Midway Branch Library is a north-facing, rectangular building in the Collegiate Gothic style, with a front window bay, a projecting chimney on the East side and a parapet on three sides of the building. Constructed on a raised basement, the building is 80 feet wide and 48 feet deep, with the front elevation and entrance on the north side. The property is 121.59 feet deep and 117.84 feet wide and occupies three city lots. The grade drops slightly from east to west. All elevations are faced with tapestry brick in a Flemish bond, and the window sills, lintels, coping, and stairs are carved stone. There are three sets of windows on the north side of the façade: three single-sash windows on the east side of the primary door, a set of three diamond-pane windows to the west of the entrance, and a triple-bay window at the west end of the north façade. Windows are also placed on the other three secondary elevations. An exterior remodeling project in the 1980s replaced all the doors and windows, including frames, with dark bronze metal, but the sizes and window-light configurations were not changed.

North (front) elevation:

The library entrance is situated at the center of the north elevation, with nine stone stairs leading from grade level to a central, single door. The stair width narrows as it approaches the doorway from the sidewalk. The staircase is flanked by brick side walls capped by carved stone copings. An unpainted metal handrail, not original, is placed along the side of the right-hand wall.

The door is set within a stone surround that is the full height of the building and extends slightly above the parapet. The current door is a modern, dark bronze metal door with a top and bottom window, and the modern sidelights have four lights on the west (right) side and three on the east; the fourth opening on the east (left) side is blocked for mail delivery. During the 1980s remodeling the door and windows were replaced with dark metal frames that replicated the original style and provided for accessibility and energy upgrades. Prior to the window replacement the wood window frames were painted in a light color. Though the original design was replicated in the windows, the zinc comes between window lights were not duplicated, and the windows now have false muntins. A set of arched windows under the carved stone lintel remains; the center window set contains 20 lights of varying sizes, while the two side windows have 8 lights each. The wrought-iron lantern-style light fixtures located on each side of the doorway are original. The sidelight windows on each side of the doorway originally contained 12 glass panes each. The remodeled sidelights have 4 lights each.

A bas-relief torch and inscription above the entrance on the north façade are of carved stone. The upper stone band course on this elevation is decorated with carved stone decorative rosettes above each window. Below the torch is a carved inscription reading: "Henry Hale Memorial Library, Hamline Branch."

To the west of the doorway is a stone-trimmed set of four diamond-paned windows at the height of the doorway transom. Just west of that on the primary façade is a three-sided window bay trimmed in stone, with stone sills. The bay features a large set of triple windows divided by stone muntins. The top row comprises a 6-light window, the second row contains 9 lights, and the

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bottom row contains five, 9-over-9 double hung windows. The two narrow sides of the bay each contain a similar progression of window sizes, though much narrower than the central portion of the bay, with the top row having 4 lights, the middle row 6 lights, and the bottom row a 6-over-6 double hung sash. The three sets of double windows to the east of the door are identical: the transoms have 6 lights, the upper rows are fixed and have 9 lights, and the bottom rows are operable single-sash windows with 9 lights. Below the lower stone band course, are three sets of fixed windows at the east basement level, and two sets of triple windows on the west. These latter allow light into the basement Assembly Room.

East elevation:

The east elevation contains the projecting chimney structure for the interior fireplace nook. The stone belt courses of the primary façade are carried through on this elevation. Both sides of the projecting chimney contain windows that are graduated in height from top to bottom. The transoms have 6 lights, fixed windows below have 9 lights, and the lower single-sash windows have 9 lights. The wall plane on each side the chimney holds another window with 8 lights in the transom, 12 lights in a fixed window, above a 12-light single sash. Projecting from the upper belt course in the center of the chimney stack is an "acorn" motif in carved stone in a streamlined Moderne design. There is a modern HVAC unit at the base of the chimney, and a modern roof-access metal ladder with circular cage is at the south end of this elevation.

The parapet ends just south of this point and the rear of the building contains the staff and reference rooms. There are two windows at this first-floor level, single sash with 12 lights in each sash. There are four stationary windows at the basement level with 12 lights in each.

South elevation:

The south elevation (rear) has a simplified aspect, but with the same brick bond pattern. The stone belt courses of the primary façade are carried through on this elevation. There are two sets of basement windows. One is a group of 3 single sash windows with 12 lights in the upper, fixed sash, and 12 lights in the operable sash. At the west side of the elevation a single sash window provides natural light to a staff office and has 12 lights in the fixed upper portion and 12 lights in the operable sash. At the east end of the elevation is another single sash window in the same configuration as that on the west end, that provides light at the landing level of the interior staircase. These are lacking the stone surrounds but have stone sills. The upper-level windows are triple sets of single sashes with 8 lights in each sash. A modern entry at the east opens onto the staircase landing and leads up to the first floor of the building or down to the basement via the staircase.

A more recent addition of a wood-framed storage/work shed is at the east end of the property, separated from the building by narrow sidewalk. It is a simple gabled building with a wood frame, 6" siding reveal, and asphalt shingle roof. The parking lot abutting the south side is reached by an alley on the west side and has spaces for six cars.

West Elevation:

There is a grade-level, accessible, modern door on the west elevation, originally a double wood door, opening into the basement and leading to an interior hallway. The new elevator enclosure

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to the north of the door is faced with same brick pattern (Flemish bond) and the same stone band course as the rest of the building. It blends seamlessly into the design of the building. Two groups of triple windows at the first-floor ceiling height are single sash with 8 lights. The basement triple set of windows are also single sash with 12 lights; however, these are without stone lintels. Two sets of the original windows, each at the ceiling and basement heights was removed and the space is now the interior wall of the elevator addition. To the right (south) of the door is a window that provides light to the corner office; it has a single sash in the same configuration as the other two windows on this side but without the stone lintel.

Interior:

The library is entered through a small vestibule of wood-framed, windowed doors on two sides, the south and the west. The original plans show only one central door from the vestibule opening into the main room of the library. Clearly the entry design changed very early, as an interior photo (fig. 5, ca. 1930) shows south-facing fixed doors in the vestibule, with entry through another one on the west side. Presumably clearer heads prevailed, in that the drafts on opening a central door directly into the building would be uncomfortable in a Minnesota winter. The current arrangement is that same as that shown on that photo.

The first floor is composed of two large spaces: a large, open main room on the first floor, on the north side, separated from the southern (rear) section by four plaster pointed Gothic arches (photo 17). The space is intact and includes the original architectural features, although the library furnishings have been changed. The four arches between the circulation desk and the room in the rear (noted on the original plans as the "reference room") are intact with no changes in room configurations, columns, or ceiling beams. The circulation desk in this main room is directly in line with the vestibule, in the same location as called for in the original plans.

The fireplace on the main floor is no longer in service, and the nook with windows on either side of the chimney piece is the children's area. The stonework on the fireplace surround matches that of the interior section shown on the original drawings. None of the woodwork has been painted and remains in good condition.

Staircases and floors in the basement are finished with terrazzo.

The finished basement is entered by a staircase from the first floor at the east side to the basement, or through an entrance on the west side at grade level. It consists of six primary rooms and a hallway in the original configuration but now used for different purposes. The "club room" is now the office of the neighborhood district council (the Hamline Midway Coalition) and has a small room adjacent for a kitchen area. To the east of that are the restrooms and the staircase to the first floor. The Assembly Room at the west end is at a slightly lower level than the rest of the basement and is accessed via a short staircase on the west end of the room or a lift next to the top of these stairs. The stage at the east end of the room has an extant wood proscenium. The janitor's room, boiler room, and cellar with the ash pit for fireplace are reached by another small set of stairs on the east end of the hallway.

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Assessment of Integrity

The building retains good integrity. The original brickwork, carved stone lintels, sills, window surrounds, and stone decorative motifs are intact. The wood single-sash windows were originally painted a light color. The replacement metal windows are dark bronze metal, also single sash, and are the same size as the originals; the dark color does not detract from the appearance of the building. The original wood exterior entrance door was flanked by decorative wood carving above the window fitted into the large arch above. The windows and carvings were removed or changed when the front door was replaced by a metal-framed door, also dark bronze.

The interior maintains integrity of design and is enhanced by the presence of original historic materials such as the plaster arches between the two firstfloor rooms, the wood window trim, the stone fireplace surround, and the terrazzo flooring in the basement. As well, the layout of the first floor is original.

The only major exterior changes include an elevator addition (1990) on the west side of the building from the first floor to the basement. The same brick Flemish bond was applied to this addition, and the stone belt courses were continued around the perimeter to match the rest of the building. Two windows were removed for the elevator addition. The other change was the construction of a non-contributing storage shed/garage at the southeast rear corner, which is unobtrusive when viewed from the street.

Structurally the building is sound. The roof and floor framing plans specify steel beams and plates, with steel-reinforced concrete columns. A building assessment by the St. Paul Public Library in early 2021 determined that the basement water problem resulted from a grading and paving problem and that the structural members, including the concrete, were not affected.¹

In conclusion, the Henry Hale Memorial Library, Hamline Branch, retains sufficient integrity to convey its historic significance.

¹ St. Paul Public Libraries, email from Jane Dederling to Barb Sporlein and Catherine Penkert re: moisture issues in the Hamline Midway Library building, 5/5/2021, via FOIA request, Jonathan Oppenheimer, October, 2021.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☐ C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- ☐ B. Removed from its original location
- ☐ C. A birthplace or grave
- ☐ D. A cemetery
- ☐ E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- ☐ F. A commemorative property
- ☐ G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

SOCIAL HISTORY

EDUCATION/Library

Period of Significance

1930-1972

Significant Dates

1930

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Carl H. Buetow, architect

J. S. Sweitzer, contractor

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Hale Memorial Library, Hamline Branch, is locally significant under Criterion A in the areas of Social History and Education given the strength of community involvement in its construction and the way in which the building served the community as a library and center for neighborhood activities. Constructed in 1930, it still in use as a public branch library. The period of significance for the property begins in 1930 and continues to 1972, in accordance with the National Park Service 50-year significance guidelines.

Community input played a large part in persuading the the St. Paul Public Library system to construct a building in the area. Storekeepers had, by 1908, volunteered to set aside space in their retail locations for book "lending stations." By 1914, when the city designated the last of the Snelling Avenue library station locations as the "Hamline Branch Library," statistics began to show heavy use. By 1927 circulation numbers outpaced even the 10-year-old Carnegie libraries, though the "Branch" had just a tiny collection of books.

In St. Paul the main library downtown and the three Carnegie branch libraries, all completed in 1917, were far enough away from Hamline that it was difficult for residents to reach them easily. One of the arguments in favor of the establishment of a library in the neighborhood was the distance between Hamline and the other libraries. A 1924-25 library report notes that the central library at Fourth and Washington (the current George Latimer Library building) is "a half hour or more from the Hamline branch."²

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

The significance of the Henry Hale Memorial Library, Hamline Branch building in the Social History/Education context is evident in the participation of the residents and businesses in the area for their continued efforts to persuade the library system that their neighborhood strongly desired a nearby, permanent library facility. It is also important to note that the Hale Memorial Library is one of the first two branch libraries built after the construction of the three Carnegie Libraries in St. Paul, the Riverview, Arlington Heights, and St. Anthony Park, all completed in 1917. The other Hale Memorial Library, also built in 1930, was the Merriam Park Branch, demolished in the 1990s. Even before a brick-and-mortar library was constructed, the area residents advocated for local library services.

² "Hamline Community and Library Needs," (1924-25), SPPL: Records, MHS.

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Philanthropy, Women's Clubs, and Libraries

The first libraries in the country were formed by private associations that required a subscription and fee for access, which meant they were often closed to all but the wealthy. The first free public library was opened in 1833 in New Hampshire but growth of these libraries was slow and it was not until the late 1800s that the idea took hold. By then, communities had begun to view libraries as an integral part of educational facilities, and they followed behind the growth of publicly funded schools. Early educational institutions in the United States were often private, and the fee required for these schools was unavailable to most of the population, which was primarily rural. The availability of schooling for most early- to mid-19th century children was haphazard but eagerly sought. Until the late 1800s public school systems were established and operated by small towns and cities. "State control was extremely weak."³

Free public libraries in the United States were also still few and far between until the mid- to late 1800s. When the private associations were no longer able to remain open due to lagging membership or other factors, cities would often buy the collection of books and open some form of public library, though sometimes still with subscription requirements.⁴

There were a number of factors that contributed to the growth of free public libraries in the country and included "the emergence of compulsory education, and secondary school enrollment."⁵ Philanthropists are credited with providing an impetus to this growth by providing money that would augment whatever funds the cities could spend, which in turn allowed for more libraries to be built.

At the same time that cities and states began to enact legislation calling for the construction of public schools and libraries, philanthropists such as Andrew Carnegie and John D. Rockefeller, whose wealth had grown tremendously, began to provide funding for the construction of free, public libraries. Wealthy families donated large sums of money to educational institutions even before the American Revolution, for a variety of reasons. "No one classification scheme appears to fit the purposes of these benefactions."⁶ There did, however, appear to be a pattern in the types of schools they funded: technical schools, private schools, higher education opportunities for women, collegiate education for business, and early attempts to fund or provide schools for "freedmen."

Both Carnegie and Rockefeller had grown up in poverty and believed that an educated workforce would provide benefits to both the workers and the owners. In Carnegie's case, his "grant" structure provided funds only for the construction of the building, and required the city receiving the funds to budget for staff, book collections, and operating costs. His intent was to encourage

³ Meyer, Jon W., David Tyack, Joane Nagel, and Audri Gordon, "Public Education as Nation-Building in America, *The American Journal of Sociology*, Nov. 1979.

⁴ Kevane and Sundstrom, "Development of Public Libraries in the United States."

⁵ Kevane and Sundstrom, "Development of Public Libraries in the United States."

⁶ Wren, Daniel A., "American Business Philanthropy and Higher Education in the 19th Century," *Business History Review*, Autumn, 1983.

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cities and towns to invest in libraries as part of their support of education. Neither Carnegie nor Rockefeller were born wealthy and both had memories of being unable to borrow books from the fee-based libraries.⁷

Among Rockefeller's many philanthropic interests was education. He contributed millions to colleges and universities across the country. This enabled the institutions to open their own libraries for use by students and the public. Carnegie's primary goal within the context of education was to contribute to the construction of free public libraries for use by any citizen. Together they assisted state and local educational bodies in broadening access to books and learning.

Henry Hale

In St. Paul, the trend of wealthy philanthropists toward donating funds for educational purposes is evidenced by the donations from the Carnegie Corporation for three branch libraries, James J. Hill's financial support for a main library downtown, and in Hale's specific request to have a "free library" constructed from money left in his estate.

Attorney Henry Hale was born in Vermont in 1816. He married Mary Elizabeth Fletcher in 1855 and moved with her to St. Paul in 1856. Hale practiced law in St. Paul and simultaneously began to purchase properties throughout the city, most of them in the central downtown neighborhood. He is mentioned frequently in the real estate sections of the *St. Paul Daily Globe*; these entries form a list of some of the properties he purchased and managed, in addition to the structures he built.⁸

By 1867 the Hales had moved to the Lafayette Park neighborhood, east of Downtown and just northeast of Lowertown St. Paul. It was an early enclave of large homes set around a grassy area near the outlet of Trout Brook; this open space became an official city park in 1886. Their neighbors included Governor Henry Sibley, and businessmen Edmund Rice and John L. Merriam, the future Governor, among many others.⁹ Hale and his wife, Mary Elizabeth Fletcher Hale, quickly became active in the types of philanthropy that already engaged their neighbors. For the Hales, their activities were focused on St. Paul's Episcopal Church, then located just a few blocks from the park, St. Luke's Hospital, and for Henry Hale, as President of the Saint Paul Library Association.

Hale retired from full-time work in his law practice in the late 1800s to focus on management of his properties, which were a considerable number. (Though he continued to be known as "Judge Hale.") In February, 1890, he was listed as one of the "gentlemen of well-established reputations" being asked to assist in raising funds for a permanent library.¹⁰ Before he died later that year, he wrote into his will a clause that required the construction, from funds out of his

⁷ Kevane and Sundstrom, "Development of Public Libraries in the United States."

⁸ *St. Paul Daily Globe*, 2/20, 2/21, 9/4, 9/18, 1881; 5/1, 6/8, 8/4, 10/12, 1882; there are dozens more such examples containing references to Hale's properties.

⁹ Hatfield, Marshall R., "Once upon a time: 'Tasteful and Elegant' Lafayette Park and the homes of the elite," *Ramsey County History*, v. 29, no. 2, Summer 1994.

¹⁰ *Saint Paul Daily Globe*, February 2, 1890.

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estate, of a free public library and a free dispensary. He wrote that the transfer of funds from the residue of his estate would have to wait until 25 years after his death, and that half the remainder of his estate at that time would then go toward these two projects.

Hiram F. Stevens, in his 178-page profile of St. Paul attorneys and judges, wrote:

"In the year 1862 he [Hale] was appointed a member of the board of commissioners for Ramsey county [sic], and in this position performed very valuable service in bringing about the retirement of the county and city scrip and its reduction in cash at par. Near the close of his term he declined a re-nomination to the office, tendered him by the Republican party. For several years he was president of the St. Paul Library Association, and so wisely were its affairs conducted during his administration that at its close there was a handsome balance in the treasury for the first time in its history. Mr. Hale has always taken a deep interest in the affairs of the Library Association, and that organization has no better friend."¹¹

Hale saw his bequest of funds for a library as a type of seed money that would support construction of additional libraries in areas of the city that lacked access. In a page of his will, separated from the rest of the list of heirs and bequeathals, Hale wrote a recommendation that the library be built in the Hamline neighborhood:

"For instance, establish the library at Hamline. The city will soon be desiring to establish libraries in other parts of the City. Because there is one already established at Hamline, the city can use funds for the establishment of those other libraries which might otherwise go to Hamline. Therefore other portions of the city benefit because there is already a Library at Hamline.

"Hamline is as accessible to a thickly settled residence community as any location which could be chosen. It has practically a thru east and west car line, and by a transfer three cross-town lines. It is very convenient to two large grade schools, a junior high school, and the Tilden, Whitney, and Schaeffer grade schools, also the Midway Heights temporary school [no longer extant]. It is very convenient to the pupils of the Parish of St Columbia [sic; should be Columba] a very large parochial scholl.[sic]

"One of the growing residence districts in St Paul, which in time will be equal to any in the city, both as to desirability and density of population is that of North Hamline, and a Library at Snelling and Minnehaha would add to the convenience of all the people who now or will hereafter reside in that district."¹²

Hale's interest in a free library was echoed in another portion of his will; he wrote specifically that both a "free library" and a "free medical dispensary" should be constructed from the same residue of funds in the bequests.¹³

¹¹ Stevens, Hiram F., "The Bench and Bar of St. Paul," 1890.

¹² Will of Henry Hale, 1890, SPPL: Records, 147.4.2F, MHS.

¹³ Ibid.

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However, the value of Hale's estate was quickly and significantly diminished by the financial panic of 1893 because of its dependence on the value of real property. Though the funds were to be kept in trust for 25 years it became apparent that they would not suffice for the purposes stated in the will. At that time, Mrs. Mary Hale contributed funds from her own family inheritance in order to pay off mortgages on the properties so as to retain a sufficient amount of money in the trust and to ensure that the buildings could be financed. When Mrs. Hale died in 1926, neither the library nor the medical dispensary had been built.

The officers of the local Hamline Commercial Club, tired of waiting for the city to make any progress on preparations for use of the funds from the Hale estate, wrote to the the trustees of the fund explaining the situation in the Hamline neighborhood and petitioned them to allow funds from the estate to be released for construction of two libraries, and to eliminate the dispensary.¹⁴ The club members argued that since the city had established more than one free medical clinic not available at the time of Mr. Hale's death, the spirit of the bequest could be met with new branch libraries. Their petition was settled through a "friendly" lawsuit, the trustees came to an agreement through probate court, and the funds were released for the libraries alone.¹⁵

By 1929 there was sufficient money (approximately \$80,000.00) in the trust for the city to construct two libraries, Merriam Park Branch Library and Hamline Branch Library, using Hale's bequest, with some assistance from the city's budget. Given that these buildings opened at the start of the Great Depression, the City's budget was unable to supply them with the full complement of books and necessary furniture. Both communities raised enough money from the neighborhood to provide the buildings with pieces that would "make do" until the city budget could begin to purchase appropriate library furniture. Both Merriam Park Branch Library and the Hamline Branch Library were dedicated as "Hale Memorial Libraries."

In Hamline, this combination of a wealthy patron (Henry Hale) and various women's social club activities (the Hamline area clubs) provided a dual force that eventually prompted the Saint Paul Public Library to establish the permanent library in the Hamline neighborhood.

Women's Clubs

While the contributions of primary benefactors such as Andrew Carnegie and John D. Rockefeller in providing funds for public libraries is well-known, the work of women's clubs at the turn of the century is less well-publicized. These clubs often were established with the singular purpose of establishing a library locally. An article in *Library Quarterly* provides insight, stating that, "at the same time that women were organizing traveling libraries, they often became interested in the establishment of libraries for use by the citizens in their own towns."¹⁶

Another study indicates that:

¹⁴ from an undated letter (typed carbon) in the SPPL collection, beginning "To the Trustees of the Henry Hale Estate."

¹⁵ Saint Paul Public Library, *Library Beacon*, November 1930.

¹⁶ Watson, Paula D., "Founding Mothers: The Contribution of Women's Organizations to Public Library Development in the United States," *Library Quarterly*, July, 1994.

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“Students of local and national public library history note that the library movement was inextricably tied to the growth of women’s organizations and eventual attaining of suffrage...The clubwomen’s ideology of “domestic feminism emphasized the role of women in education and cultural uplift, and libraries became a key component of their civic reform efforts.”¹⁷

The author of one article on women's club activities wrote in 1935:

"Today about three million women are said to be allied with the [women's club] movement, which gradually has swung away from the purely literary and cultural aspect to that of social service and community welfare. In the making of public opinion it has become a real force."¹⁸

In one of the first national histories of the national clubs, published in 1898, the writer included the following in her description of Minnesota organizations under the Federation's umbrella:

"Work recommended to the local clubs by the Minnesota Federation of Women's Clubs:

1. The Establishment of town and country clubs, to provide rest rooms for the country women while in town and to promote intercourse between women of the town and women of the country.
2. **The fostering of public libraries and efforts to secure travelling libraries for the State.** [emphasis added]
3. Town and village improvement work to increase beauty and cleanliness.
4. Cooperation with the public schools to secure the best sanitary and intellectual conditions, and especially to secure moral instruction in the schools.
5. Fostering the Minnesota Art Interchange to provide clubs with photographs, stereopticon slides, and books for the study of art."¹⁹

Hamline has a long history of activism in connection with its various forms of libraries. As the population of the neighborhood grew relatively rapidly from the 1880s to the early 1900s neighborhood groups and clubs began to consider the need for a brick-and-mortar library in the area even before a permanent main library had been purpose-built downtown. Beginning in the late 1890s the discussions came primarily from residents who were organized for the effort by the women who met each other through the half dozen or so social clubs in the area, and who encouraged local businessmen to participate.

The members of these clubs, like other such clubs around the country, were generally middle- and upper-class women from the neighborhood. Lists of members of the local clubs in Hamline include faculty wives (whose husbands were affiliated with Hamline University), school teachers at the nearby elementary schools, and spouses of local businessmen. The early programs of each club followed the same patterns of book readings, lectures on art, music, and science and often

¹⁷ Kevane and Sundstrom, "Development of Public Libraries in the United States," 1870-1930, *Information and Culture*, 2014.

¹⁸ Pierce, Bessie Louis, "The Political Pattern of Some Women's Organizations," 1935.

¹⁹ Croly, J. J., *The History of the Woman's Club Movement in America*,

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included tours of historic or cultural sites. Following the lead of other clubs in the United States the members began to branch out to address social reforms - supporting schools, libraries, and issues of public policy.

The Hamline Fortnightly Club, for instance, was led by Mary Dwight Akers (Mrs. Charles N. Akers), a neighborhood resident whose name appears in many places in reference to the effort to advocate for a permanent building to house a neighborhood branch library. Founded in 1897 as a chapter of the National Fortnightly clubs, the Hamline Fortnightly Club's activities followed a national trend of public-interest work. Community involvement became part of the activities of the women's clubs' activities throughout the country, including those within the Hamline neighborhood. By the late 1890s these groups had begun to include public service as part of their missions. Most were affiliated with the National Federation of Women's Clubs, which had recently begun to establish committees focused on a variety of causes. These included public health, education, city beautification, and other public service efforts.

The 1924-5 "Needs" report provides an acknowledgment to the following people "who have been especially interested in the welfare and growth of the library, all of whom lived in the neighborhood:

“Mrs. Chas. N. Akers [Mary Dwight Akers], 1541 W. Minnehaha

“Prof. A. Z. Mann, 1721 Van Buren

“Dr. H. L. Osborn, 1599 Hewitt

“Mrs. J. E. Rounds, 1531 W. Minnehaha

“Hamline Auxiliary of the American Red Cross

“The Mothers' Club of Hancock School”²⁰

The women's names listed here show up in overlapping membership lists of some of the social clubs in the area. The "Hamline Study Clubs" collection at the Minnesota Historical Society includes a number of essays and programs from these organizations.

Many of these essays were written by Mary Dwight Akers, a strong champion of the effort to get the library built, and include a biography of Henry Hale. Her participation in neighborhood activities was broad. In addition to her presidency of the Hamline Fortnightly Club, a branch of the national organization, she was also responsible for writing manuscript and published histories of the Hamline neighborhood, along with a bound volume of information about the war work [World War I] of Hamline residents, "Hamline in the Great War." She served as Chair of the Hamline Commercial Club Library Committee, and in a note dated July 20th, 1929, she writes to thank "Mr. Webster Wheelock, Public Librarian, City of St. Paul" to commend him for his "untiring interest in the Hamline Branch Library."²¹ ²²

²⁰ "Hamline Community and Library Needs," (1924-25), SPPL: Records, MHS.

²¹ Akers, Mary Dwight, letter to Webster Wheelock, n.d., SPPL Records, MHS.

²² Few other original letters appear in the SPPL Records at the Minnesota Historical Society; references appear to Akers's correspondence in published works such as the *Library Beacon*, *St. Paul Dispatch*, *St. Paul Daily Globe* and in carbon copies of correspondence, especially in the carbon copies of correspondence from the Hamline Commercial Club to the St. Paul City Council.

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In general, the activists from these local women's clubs are referred to as "the residents," or "several of the ladies in this community" as in a reference in an undated, brief background note about the work to get "better and larger library service for Hamline," signed by an all-male group of Hamline Commercial Club members. The exception is in a document addressed to the St. Paul City Council and written by the Hamline Commercial Club, dated July 17, 1929, describing the work of the community over the previous years and "much hard work and individual effort" undertaken in regard to a new library. The first paragraph lists "Mrs. C. N. Akers, the late Mrs. J. E. Rounds, and many others."

Hamline Neighborhood

As late as the early 1880s the Hamline neighborhood was still listed as a separate entity from the City of St. Paul, contained within Rose Township. The area was not incorporated into the city until 1885. It was sparsely populated and the residents were primarily farmers and gardeners. They came from the east coast or immigrants who came directly to St. Paul, primarily, from Germany, Sweden, Norway, and other countries in central Europe. The census of 1880 lists few African-American residents; the heart of the African-American population in St. Paul, the Rondo neighborhood, bordered on Hamline at Lexington Avenue (the western boundary of Hamline) and extended eastward toward the central downtown area.²³

After Hamline University, founded in the Minnesota city of Red Wing in 1854 in what was still the Territory of Minnesota, moved to the Hamline neighborhood in 1880 the neighborhood population began to grow rapidly. By the mid- to late-1880s the residents were a diverse mix of ethnic backgrounds, and included university faculty, doctors, and other professionals along with skilled workers who found jobs as laborers, carpenters, railroad workers and in other skilled professions in the industries nearby.

The "Hamline Community and Library Needs" study of ca. 1924-5 contains a thorough study of the composition of the neighborhood at the time it was written. The primary language spoken at that time was English, though many immigrants continued to speak their native languages as well. The first church in the neighborhood was the Hamline Methodist Episcopal Church in 1899; other congregations began to build churches in the area soon after. Many, as their congregations outgrew the original buildings, constructed new buildings in the same neighborhood. The "Needs" study contains comments on the use of the library lending stations by students in the various parochial schools owned by the churches. It mentions, as well, collections in languages other than English for use by the immigrants of the community.

Saint Paul Public Library History

The Saint Paul Public Library (SPPL) dates its history to 1856, when a reading room was established at the Saint Paul YMCA, then at the intersection of 3rd and Wabasha in downtown St. Paul. Most of the residents at that time lived in or near the central business district. The population was just over 10,000 people, and life was centered on the commercial enterprises at the Mississippi River steamboat landings. Between 1856 and 1882 a number of reading rooms were established downtown but were accessible only for a fee, by subscription. In 1863 the

²³ "Hamline-Midway Historic Resources Reconnaissance Survey," 2018.

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YMCA and the Mercantile Library (established for use by working people who could not attend school) merged into the "Saint Paul Library Association." Still operating on a subscription basis, this organization was located in the Ingersoll Block, and led by Alexander Ramsey. By 1880 Henry Hale, from whose estate the funds were later designated for a "free public library," was President of the Saint Paul Library Association.

It wasn't until 1882 that the City Council (also known as the Common Council) approved public funding for the city's first free library. The location of the library's facility changed over the course of the next three decades and included the Ingersoll Block, a space in the new City Courthouse, and a large structure named Market House, owned by the city.

City residents and businessmen alike continued to agitate for a building that would be solely purposed for a free central city library. In 1901, through the efforts of St. Paul attorney Edwin S. Chittenden, they approached Andrew Carnegie, who had donated funds for the construction of libraries nationally beginning in 1883. Carnegie initially refused their requests on the grounds that "Judge Hale" (Henry Hale, who died in 1890) had already bequeathed funds for city libraries.²⁴ Those funds, however, were in trust until 25 years after Hale's death [1915] and hence unavailable at the turn of the century.

After several false starts, wherein the library system operated without substantial funding, and unsuccessful attempts were made to raise sufficient funds through subscriptions, James J. Hill, a railroad director living in St. Paul, provided \$700,000 for the construction of a combined St. Paul Public Library/James J. Hill Reference Library in downtown. This central library building was completed in 1917. The building, listed in the National Register, fronts Rice Park and is extant. At the same time, planning continued for another attempt to acquire funds from the Carnegie Corporation. In 1914, the City Council finally received funding from Carnegie for three branch libraries. These became the Riverview, St. Anthony Park, and Arlington Hills branch libraries which also were completed in 1917; they were the first three branches in the city and all remain in use as libraries.

No additional branch buildings were constructed until 1930, when funds from the Hale Bequest were released and designs drawn up for the next two branch libraries, Merriam Park and Hamline. It would be nearly 20 years before the next branch libraries were built after these two were completed.

Hamline Lending Stations and a new library

At the turn of the twentieth century, other neighborhoods around the city were also beginning to clamor for library facilities nearer to them than the central downtown location. A national trend began to appear with both "traveling libraries" (more common in rural areas) and "lending" or "deposit stations." By 1910 the St. Paul Public Library system had established eleven "delivery stations" scattered throughout the city, including one that opened in a millinery store at 720 N. Snelling Avenue in the Hamline neighborhood in 1908. At first these "delivery stations" operated as just that - books were requested by patrons and delivered to a local station from a central

²⁴ Phelps, Gary, "The St. Paul Public Library: Its First 100 Years," *Ramsey County History*, , 1982, RCHS.

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repository. If the station was in a storefront, the owners were paid one cent per book that was delivered to their location. Later, depending on the space available, small collections of books, primarily adult and juvenile fiction, were housed and lent from these stations directly. Some of these stations were located in schools or other organizational offices and reading rooms such as the YMCA in the Midway.

Once the first station in the Hamline neighborhood in 1908 was established it experienced a high level of use. The community soon began to express their deep interest in having a library building that would provide adequate space; they were looking for a structure that would be built specifically as a library, one with space for a decent book collection, well-lighted rooms, and a librarian to assist users of the library. Despite active advocacy It took over 20 years for the City of St. Paul to progress toward the construction of a library building.

The chronology of the "lending stations" in the Hamline neighborhood was outlined in the *Minneapolis Star Tribune* in 1914. Neighborhood stations consisted of,

Station K:

- 1908- 1910: Hall's Millinery Store, 720 Snelling [N.] in 1908; Moved twice in 1910 on account of persons going out of business
- 1910: From Hall's Millinery, to T.W. Lasker's Real Estate Office, 719 Snelling Ave [N]. in October to George R. Barnhart's Confectionery Store, 1579 Minnehaha [Ave], Miss A.E. Wright in charge.
- 1912: In March, moved back to 719 Snelling²⁵

Hamline Branch:

- 1914: Two rooms in a residence at 1560 Capitol St. [one block N. of current library building; that portion of the street was subsumed by Hamline University buildings and the street renamed to "Englewood"] were supplied by the Hamline Mothers' Club.²⁶ Soon after, it became the first official "branch" of a neighborhood library in Hamline and expenses were assumed by the library board. It was administered in conjunction with a post office substation, the post office attendant being in charge until a librarian was hired.
- 1918: The branch moved to a rented store owned by a Mr. Apitz. [708 North Snelling]; in October [to] a larger store at 696 North Snelling owner by Mr. Rasmussen.
- 1920-1930: October 11 it was moved to Snelling and Van Buren where it remained until the construction of the new library.
- September 1930: New library building opened at 1558 Minnehaha Ave W.²⁷

Even before the new library was built in 1930 the "Hamline Branch" (still in a storefront) circulation and book collection statistics show a busy location. Keeping in mind that the three Carnegie-funded libraries were already 10 years old and more than twice the size of the

²⁵ "Hamline Community and Library needs," (1924-25), SPPL Records, MHS.

²⁶ "Hamline Mothers to maintain library and reading rooms," *Minneapolis Sunday Tribune*, June 14, 1914.

²⁷ "Hamline Community and Library needs," (1924-25), SPPL Records, MHS.

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"Hamline Branch" storefront station, the 1927 Annual Report of the St. Paul Public Library showed the following statistics.

Book Collection:

Arlington: 13,157

Hamline: 7,480

Riverview: 12,101

St. Anthony: 10,384

Merriam Park: -- (not given)

Circulation:

Arlington: 90,264

Hamline: 97,073

Riverview: 77,979

Merriam Park: -- (not given)²⁸

The SPPL Annual Report of 1932, only 2 years after the construction of the library building, contained this summary:

"Of the five branches the Hamline Branch had the largest circulation as well as the greatest number of circulations per volume of its collection. The Merriam Park Branch had the greatest increase in its circulation over the preceding year and ranked second highest in the turn-over of its collection. There was a decrease in the circulation at the Arlington Hills Branch and the Riverview Branch."²⁹

In writing about the efforts to bring about funding for a new library, the Hamline Commercial Club listed some of the frustrations they faced over the years in working to get city funding for the project. In a document dated July 17, 1929, the club members reviewed the history of attempts to acquire a library building for the Hamline neighborhood. From the time they purchased the land, "more than seven years have elapsed and we have not yet secured a library." The document continues with information about their communications with the Trustees to affirm that the estate funds could be used for a library. It discusses the fact that "about that time [ca.1919] there was a great need all over the City for additional school buildings" and notes that the members supported bond issues for that purpose. With the construction of these new schools in the neighborhood during the 1920s it became even more clear that a nearby library was necessary to support the rapidly growing population. Later in the same document they write that "It was a well-known fact that there was a fund known as the Hale estate that the City of St. Paul was holding for what they did not seem to know."³⁰

In the undated carbon of a 90-page report entitled "Hamline Community and Library Needs" (ca. 1925) the author ("Hamline Branch" librarian at the time, Reba Wakefield) assembled a remarkable document that surveyed the community. She enlisted the help of the Sociology

²⁸ "Annual Report 1927," St. Paul Public Library, SPPL Records.

²⁹ "Annual Report 1932," St. Paul Public Library, SPPL Records.

³⁰ "Passed by the City Council July 17, 1929," SPPL Records, MHS.

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Department at Hamline University, which made it a "field project." Its introductory paragraphs state its purpose to "show the need of a library building in the Hamline Community," and includes the statement that the study is planned to be:

First, a cursory social survey of the Hamline Community, and those whose interest may be served in the future by an enlarged branch with a modern, adequate building and equipment;

Second, A presentation of the type of building, equipment, staff, and organization essential to the success of such an undertaking as should be attempted on the basis of the need discovered in the above survey and in the study of the comparative growth of interest and services developed in the Hamline Branch to date...^{31, 32}

The report goes on to state that

...The residents of the Hamline community are proud of their library and patronize it freely. They, as a whole, take a personal interest in it and in its growth. They have the welfare of the library at heart, responding readily to any attempts to promote its well-being. They are book-lovers who do and will thoroughly appreciate and use all the library facilities.^{33, 34}

The community connections continued once the library was built. In the June, 1931 issue of the *Library Beacon* a monthly newsletter published by the Saint Paul Public Library, a "Hamline Branch Library Committee" was established to "help guide the destiny of the new Hamline Branch Library." The group was composed of representatives from "five Parent-Teach Association groups, three commercial clubs, and ten other organizations."³⁵

A year later, in the June, 1932 issue, the headline of one of the articles reads "Hamline Community Helps Library." It covers a number of activities held in the library that were sponsored by the Hamline Library Committee to raise funds for the "club room" and the kitchen in the library. Local clubs and organizations organized the programs. Included were concerts, a "Silver Tea and Colonial" program given by students from Mechanic Arts High School, an antique exhibit, along with other programs.

History of building and use

The Hamline neighborhood was growing quickly by the end of the late 1800s as residents of the city moved westward, away from the business center of the city. The St. Paul Library system established a number of "lending stations" in various neighborhoods even before there was a permanent main library building downtown. As noted earlier, these were generally small spaces tucked into corners of stores on a main street and in 1908 one of these was established in a millinery store at 720 Snelling Avenue N. in the heart of the Hamline neighborhood. From 1908 to 1929 the lending station moved many times, eventually ending up housed in a store at 696

³¹ "Hamline Community and Library Needs," (1924-25), SPPL: Records, MHS.

³² Wakefield, Reba, "The Community that would have a library," *The Wilson Bulletin*, "H.W. Wilson Co., n.d.

³³ "Hamline Community and Library Needs," (1924-25), SPPL: Records, MHS.

³⁴ Wakefield, Reba, "The Community that would have a library," *The Wilson Bulletin*, "H.W. Wilson Co., n.d.

³⁵ *Library Beacon*, Saint Paul Public Library, 1928-1932.

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Snelling Avenue N. In 1929 funds from the 1890 Henry Hale Bequest were released to the city for the construction of two neighborhood branch libraries. The property for the neighborhood branch library on Minnehaha Ave W, a half-block east of Snelling Ave N., had been purchased through the Hamline Commercial Club and was donated to the City in 1919 for a library. Hale himself had recommended that a library be built "at Snelling and Minnehaha."³⁶

In July, 1929, architect Carl H. Buetow drew 3 preliminary sketches for a "Hamline Branch Library"; the drawings indicate that these were "for F.X. Tewes, City Architect" (fig. 32). By the time more detailed plans were underway Tewes had died and James Niemeyer had been appointed City Architect. He supervised the start of the projects for both the Hamline and Merriam Park branches, which were the only Hale Memorial Libraries built in the city. By the time the final plans were being drawn, Charles Bassford had been appointed City Architect.

Design and development continued through 1929 and into 1930, and construction began in March, 1930. All but one of the 14 drawings from the city offices were signed by "Buetow" or "CHB." In the title block of each final drawing Buetow's name or initials appear in the "Drawn by" and "Traced by" sections.

Once the new library was opened it quickly became the new, permanent home of a variety of community activities that had previously met elsewhere. The library hosted "Fireside" events. In the early years a number of local organizations met in the building. These included the Cosmos Study Club; Hamline Fortnightly Club; Hamline Study Club; Midway Reading Club; Neighborhood Study Club; Okiyaka; and the V.I.E.D. Study Club.³⁷

The varied users of the new library are illustrated by a photograph (fig. 5) of the interior of the new building taken shortly after construction showing a group of women in the foreground, some reading and one taking notes; in the background, fittingly, are workers in overalls browsing the shelves.

The continuity of neighborhood engagement has been maintained to the present time with the activities of library staff and the Hamline Library Association. Today the library continues to host community events such as book talks, author readings, children's Storytime (in good weather these are held outside on the front lawn), film showings, and special community events and meetings. As the commercial operations along University Avenue (known initially as the "Midway") began to expand northward, the boundaries of the neighborhoods began to blur, and the "Hamline" area became known as the Hamline-Midway neighborhood. The library was renamed, and the District 11 Community Council (the Hamline Midway Coalition) offices are now located in the library building. This organization serves as the development and action-oriented heart of the community.

³⁶ Henry Hale, "Last Will and Testament," SPPL Records, MHS.

³⁷ Hamline Study Clubs, Materials Relating to Hamline Branch Library Study Clubs [collection] Minnesota Historical Society, [the collection includes programs from 1897-1908, along with essays on neighborhood history, and biographical information about some of the members].

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Architecture

The Henry Hale Memorial Library, by architect Carl H. Buetow, is an example of the Collegiate Gothic style in a small but elegantly designed building. The Collegiate Gothic style arose from the popular Gothic Revival style that began to emerge in the mid-19th century. Its elaborate arches and decoration were simplified for educational buildings that would invoke the solidity and longevity of English universities. Predominant features of a Collegiate Gothic building are a flat roof with parapet, rectangular plan, and the use of exterior masonry, generally brick but sometimes stone. By the beginning of the 20th century the style was in use across the country for schools and universities.

Typical Collegiate Gothic buildings, either on college campuses or designed as public-school buildings for K-12 levels, are generally heavily ornamented in either terra cotta or carved stone. Stone is also used for window and door surrounds, and the buildings typically have a central entrance tower, often with crenellated parapets. In Minneapolis and St. Paul the two largest and most elaborate examples of this style were the Central High Schools in both cities.

The St. Paul City Architect during the 1920s, Frank X. Tewes, insisted that school buildings designed in his office would all conform to the Collegiate Gothic style. Buetow was working in the "Education Department" of the City Architect's office. In those years the St. Paul Public Library did not yet have its own design or construction department. All design work for public education facilities, including libraries and schools, were undertaken by this city department. The four previously built libraries were overseen by the City Architect's office under Charles Hausler.

The Henry Hale Memorial Library, Hamline Branch, is the last known example of Carl Buetow's architectural work for the City of St. Paul, which spanned a decade. He was the designer of seven St. Paul Public Schools dating from 1923-1930. The Horace Mann Elementary School, designed in 1930 (figure 20), is an example of his later use of Moderne motifs as elements on the elevations. Here he blends the modern elements smoothly with the required Collegiate Gothic style preferred by the then-city architect.

The Architect

Carl Herbert Buetow was born in St. Paul in 1893 of parents who had emigrated from Pomerania, Germany. His early years were spent in the Hamline neighborhood. After graduating high school Buetow took classes at the University of Minnesota in architectural modeling, mathematics, engineering, and drawing. His architectural career began in much the same fashion as did that of many other architects, by seeking employment in established architectural offices in the city as a "clerk" and a draftsman.

In 1914 Buetow entered the offices of C.H. Johnston, a prominent St. Paul architect whose early designs were popular with the wealthy residents of the historic Summit Hill area. Johnston also served as head of the State Board of Control and designed many state institutional buildings as well as a number of extant buildings on the campus of the University of Minnesota.

From Johnston's office Buetow began working as a draftsman in 1915 for the partnership of Alban & Lockhart, and then for W.L. Alban alone until 1918. He followed this by working for

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the Foley Brothers, a building contractor firm that worked almost exclusively for the Northern Pacific Railroad, until 1920.

By 1921 Buetow listed himself in the St. Paul City Directories as an "architect." Much of his early work appears to have been involved with firms that provided design and construction assistance for the Northern Pacific Railroad; he worked directly for the railroad during World War I, and afterward joined the architect Lambert Bassindale briefly, where he helped finish the hospital for the Northern Pacific Benevolent Association (1918) in the Midway. (The building is no longer extant.) In form and style, the hospital recognized the Collegiate Gothic.

Buetow spent the following year in charge of the architectural department of the Louis F. Dow Co., stationers and bank designers, planning and remodeling small banks in five states. Having worked in the offices of such prominent local architects, he became an experienced designer, able to adapt various styles to the needs of these offices and architects.

In approximately 1930 Buetow opened his own architectural practice in St. Paul and practiced until his retirement in 1960. He designed residences, commercial buildings, and offices. During the Depression, Buetow designed and supervised the construction of many buildings in Minnesota under the construction program of the Public Works Administration (PWA) and the Work Progress Administration (WPA).

Buetow remained in St. Paul and in the Hamline neighborhood or nearby until moving in 1965 to a home he designed for himself in Maplewood, MN. He died on July 22, 1987.

The Contractor

The contractor, J.S. Sweitzer, was a Hamline neighborhood resident responsible for the construction of a number of buildings in St. Paul and in the Hamline neighborhood where he lived, including the Hamline Church United Methodist, just one block from the Hamline Branch Library. Beginning in 1910, Sweitzer listed himself as a contractor, sometimes a "brick" contractor, and at others a "stone" contractor. By 1917 he began to list himself as "Jos, S, Sweitzer & Son, contractors." He also began to appear in directories that year as the Secretary of the Hamline Commercial Club. In the 1930s Mr. Sweitzer served on the Library Committee for the Hamline District.

In addition to the nearby church, his firm also built the Power Plant and Kappa Gamma Chi fraternity at Hamline University. According to his obituary, his firm was responsible for the national YMCA building program during World War I, as well as constructing a number of war plants during World War II.³⁸ The company later became J. S. Sweitzer & Son, under the leadership of his son, J. Russell Sweitzer. In 1960 the firm built the glass-walled, modernist American Bank in the Midway area of St. Paul, no longer extant.³⁹ The son, known as "Russell," was active in the Association of General Contractors (AGC) in the Twin Cities for many years.

³⁸ "Merriam Park Branch Library," HABS MN-123, Historic American Buildings Survey, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, author Rita Goodrich, 1991.

³⁹ "Development Roundup," Jane McClure, *Midway Monitor*, January, 2018.

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Conclusion

The significance Social History of the Hale Memorial Library, Hamline Branch building lies in its presence within two national trends of the time. First is the participation by wealthy benefactors in providing financial assistance to communities by subsidizing the construction of public buildings. The second is the trend of women's clubs to expand their work from "social" activities (book readings, lectures on art and history, etc.) into work within the public sector.

The library represents significance in the area of Education due to the continued efforts of a community, over the course of over two decades, to provide adequate library services to the neighborhood. The construction of the 1930 building was supported almost entirely from money bequeathed through the 1890 will of Henry Hale, a local attorney and property owner, expressly for the purpose of building the library. The period of significance (1930-1972) encompasses the date of construction of the library, 1930, and its continued use as a library, ending 50 years from today, in keeping with the National Park Service guidelines.

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
☐ previously listed in the National Register
☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #
☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey #

Primary location of additional data:

☐ State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☒ Other
Name of repository: Minnesota Historical Society

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): RA-SPC-4629

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84:
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude:	Longitude:
2. Latitude:	Longitude:
3. Latitude:	Longitude:
4. Latitude:	Longitude:

Or

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UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐ NAD 1927 or ☒ NAD 1983

1. Zone: 15T

Easting: 487316

Northing: 4997971

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Lots 8, 9, 10, Block 3, Hamline Syndicate Addition #1, Property ID: 342923220161

Lots eight (8), nine (9), and ten (10) of Block three (3) of Hamline Syndicate Addition No 1, according to the Plat thereof on record in the office of the Register of Deeds of said Ramsey County

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The nominated property includes the building and the three lots in their entirety as historically associated with the Henry Hale Memorial Library, Hamline Branch

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Barbara Bezat, with Rolf Anderson

organization: Historic Preservation Research

street & number: 2395 Benson Avenue, Unit #102

city or town: Saint Paul state: MN zip code: 55116

e-mail: bbeza03@gmail.com

telephone: 651-402-2903

date: May 9, 2022

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Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

See below for photo key

Name of Property: Hale Memorial Library, Hamline Branch

City or Vicinity: St. Paul, MN

County: Ramsey

State: MN

Photographer: Barbara Bezat, unless otherwise noted

Date Photographed: 11/3/2021, unless otherwise noted

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of 16. North elevation, camera facing southeast (photographer, Midway Monitor July 23, 2021)

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2 of 16. North elevation detail, east side, one of a set of three triple windows. Camera facing south

3 of 16. North elevation detail, bay window on west side, camera facing south

4 of 16. North elevation detail, primary entrance and stair, camera facing south

5 of 16. North elevation detail, wrought iron lantern at entrance, camera facing south

6 of 16: West elevation showing elevator addition, camera facing east

7 of 16. South elevation, shed at right, camera facing north

8 of 16: East elevation of shed, camera facing west

9 of 16. East elevation showing chimney, camera facing west

10 of 16. East elevation detail, window at fireplace nook and northeast window in main room, camera facing southwest

11 of 16. Interior fireplace nook, camera facing east

12 of 16. Interior fireplace nook window with southeast window in main room detail, camera facing southeast

13 of 16. Entrance vestibule, camera facing south

14 of 16. North elevation detail, inscription and torch at top of parapet entrance, camera facing south

15 of 16. Staircase to ground level fire door and first floor from basement

16 of 16. Interior Main Library Room, first floor showing arches at left, camera facing east.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for nominations to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

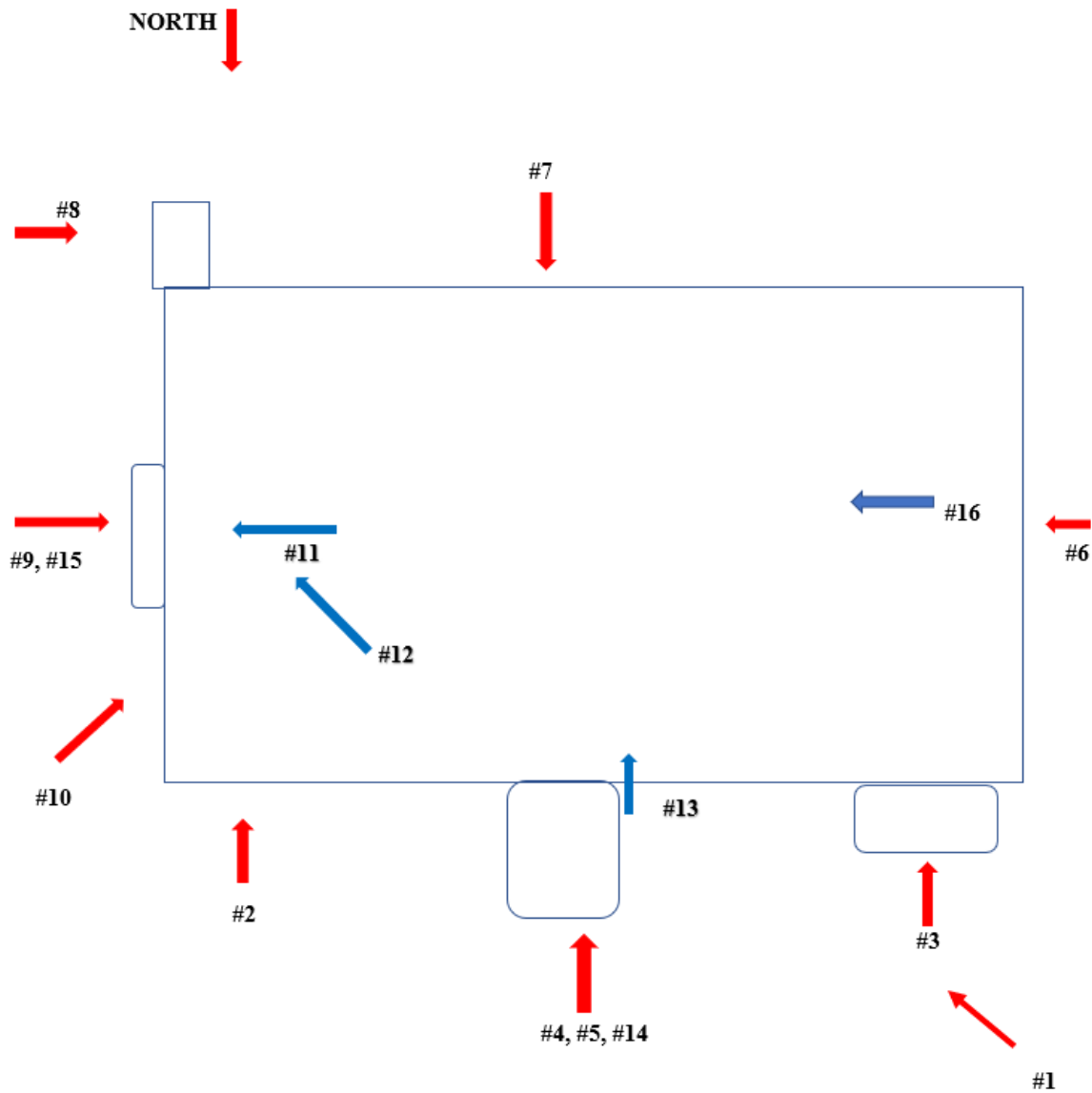
Tier 1 – 60-100 hours
Tier 2 – 120 hours
Tier 3 – 230 hours
Tier 4 – 280 hours

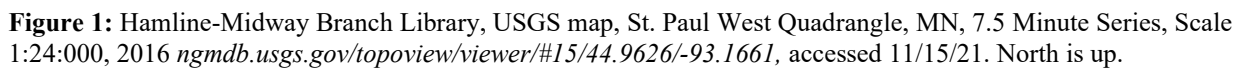
The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.

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Photo Key
Red = exterior photos
Blue = Interior photos





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Figure 2: Ramsey County, St. Paul, Property map, Interactive Property Map, Ramsey County, <https://maps.co.ramsey.mn.us/MapRamsey/>, downloaded 11/22/2021. North is up.

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Figure 3: Plat Book of the City of Saint Paul, Minn. And Suburbs, St. Paul Real Estate Board, 1928, Showing location of the last storefront for the "Hamline Branch" library.

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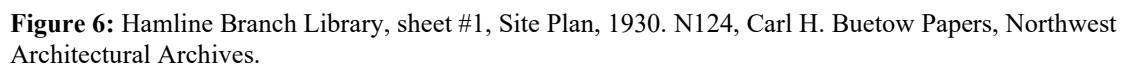
Figure 4: Hamline Branch Library, 1930, Minnesota Digital Library.

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Figure 5: Hamline Branch Library, interior, ca. 1930, from the collection of the Hamline-Midway Branch Library.



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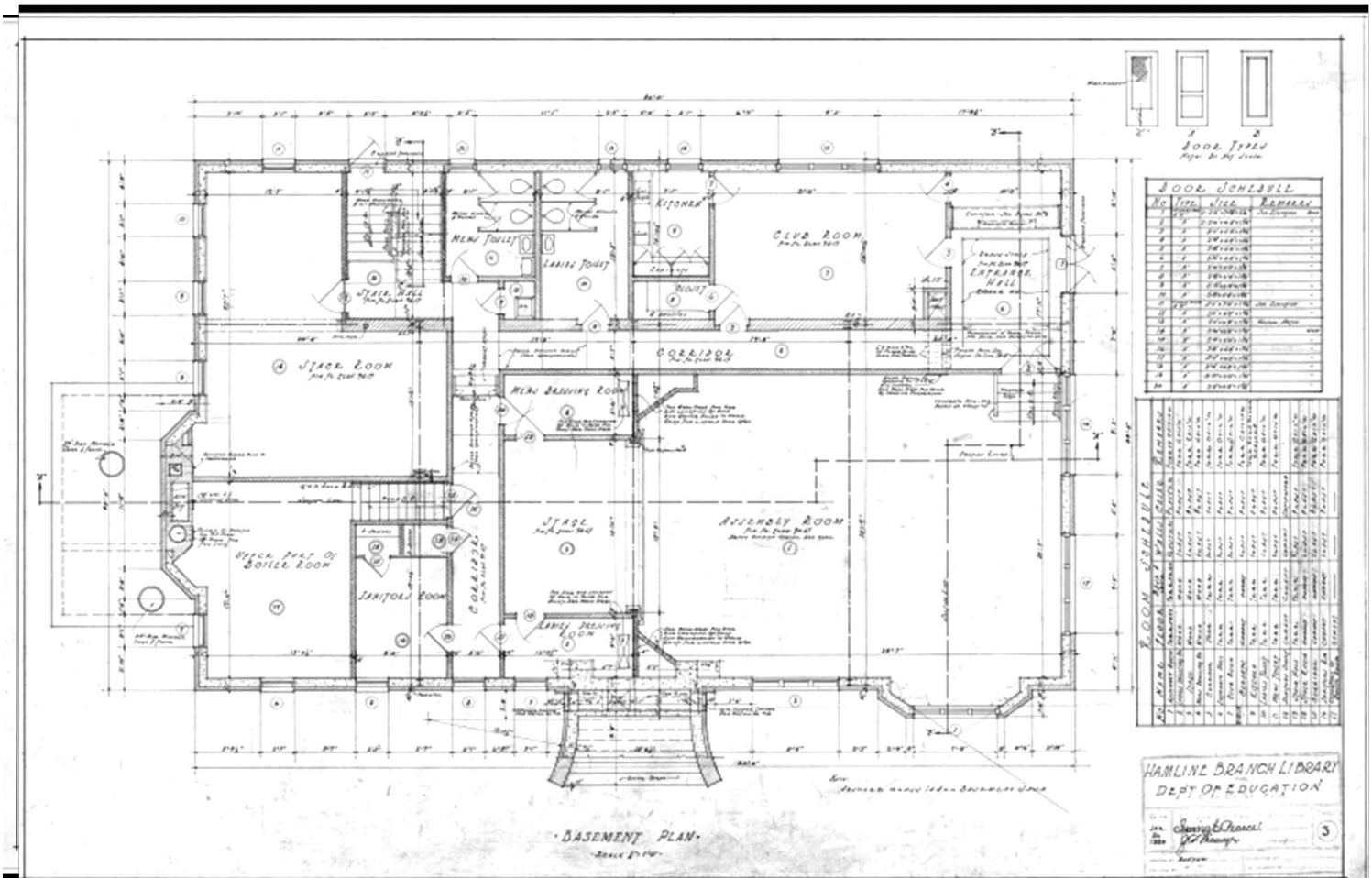


Figure 8: Hamline Branch Library, sheet #3, Basement plan. N124, Carl H. Buetow Papers, Northwest Architectural Archives.

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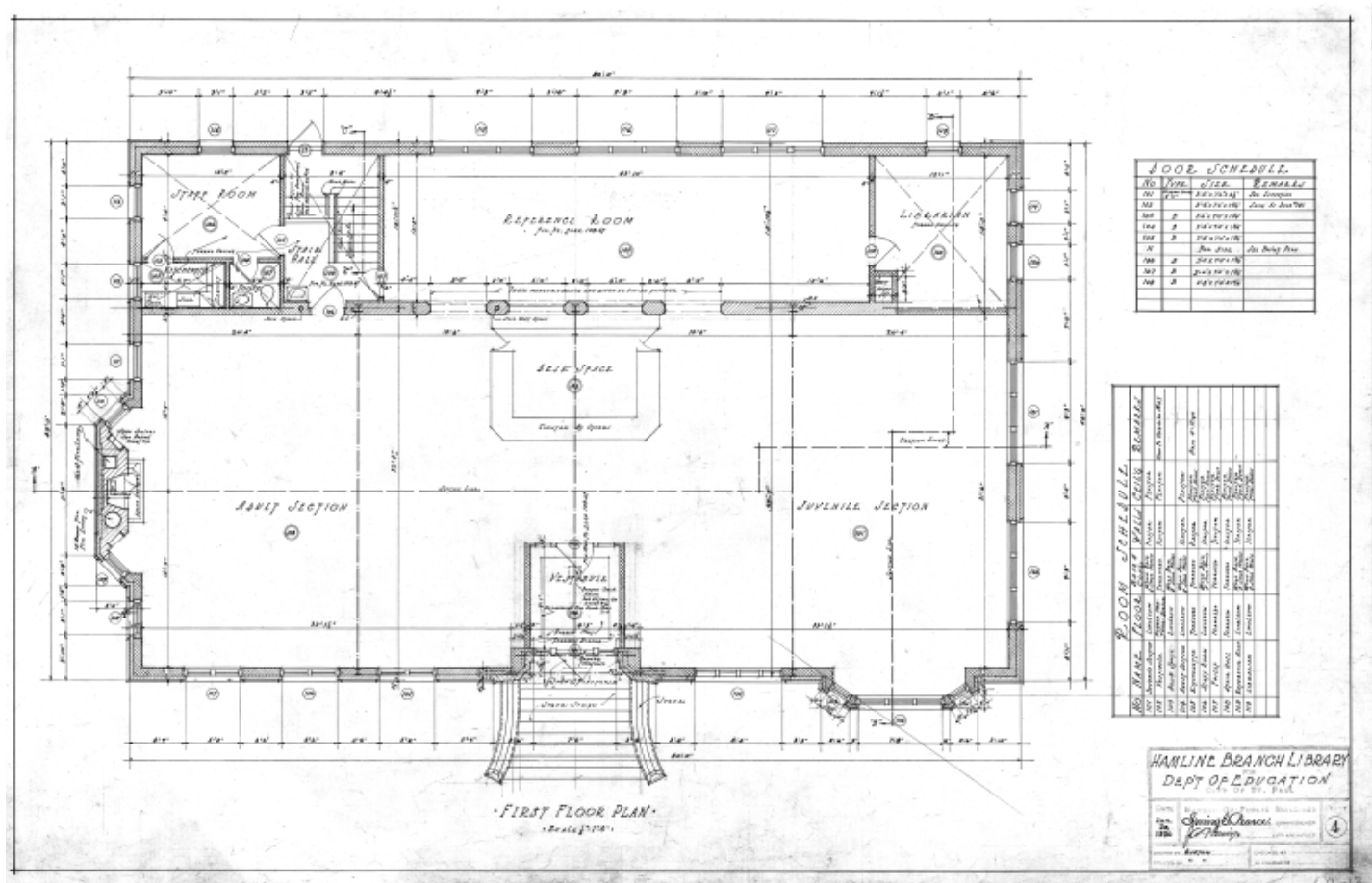


Figure 9: Hamline Branch Library, Sheet #4, First Floor Plan. N124, Carl H. Buetow Papers, Northwest Architectural Archives.

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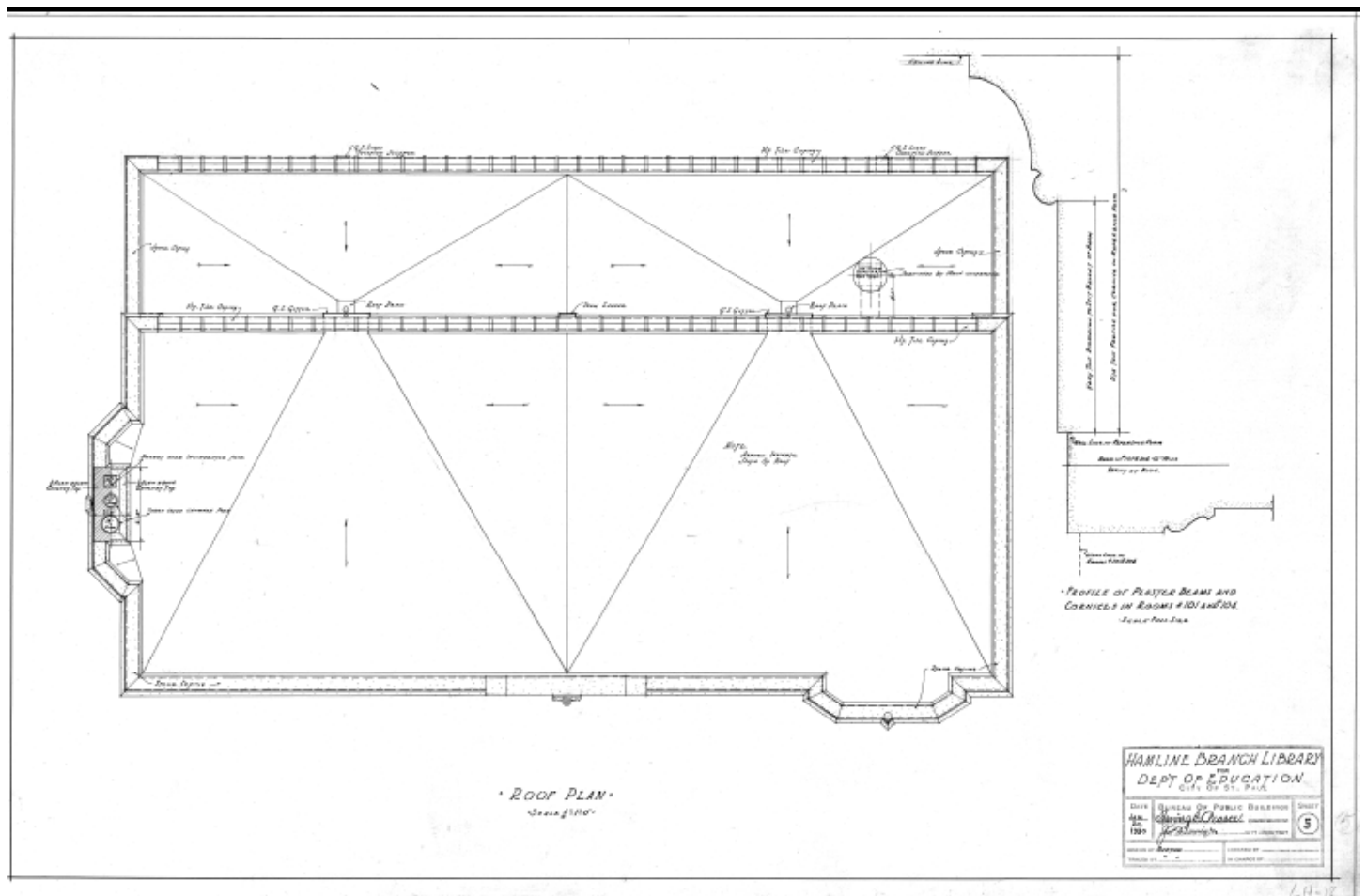


Figure 10: Hamline Branch Library, Roof Plan, sheet #5. N124, Carl H. Buetow Papers, Northwest Architectural Archives.

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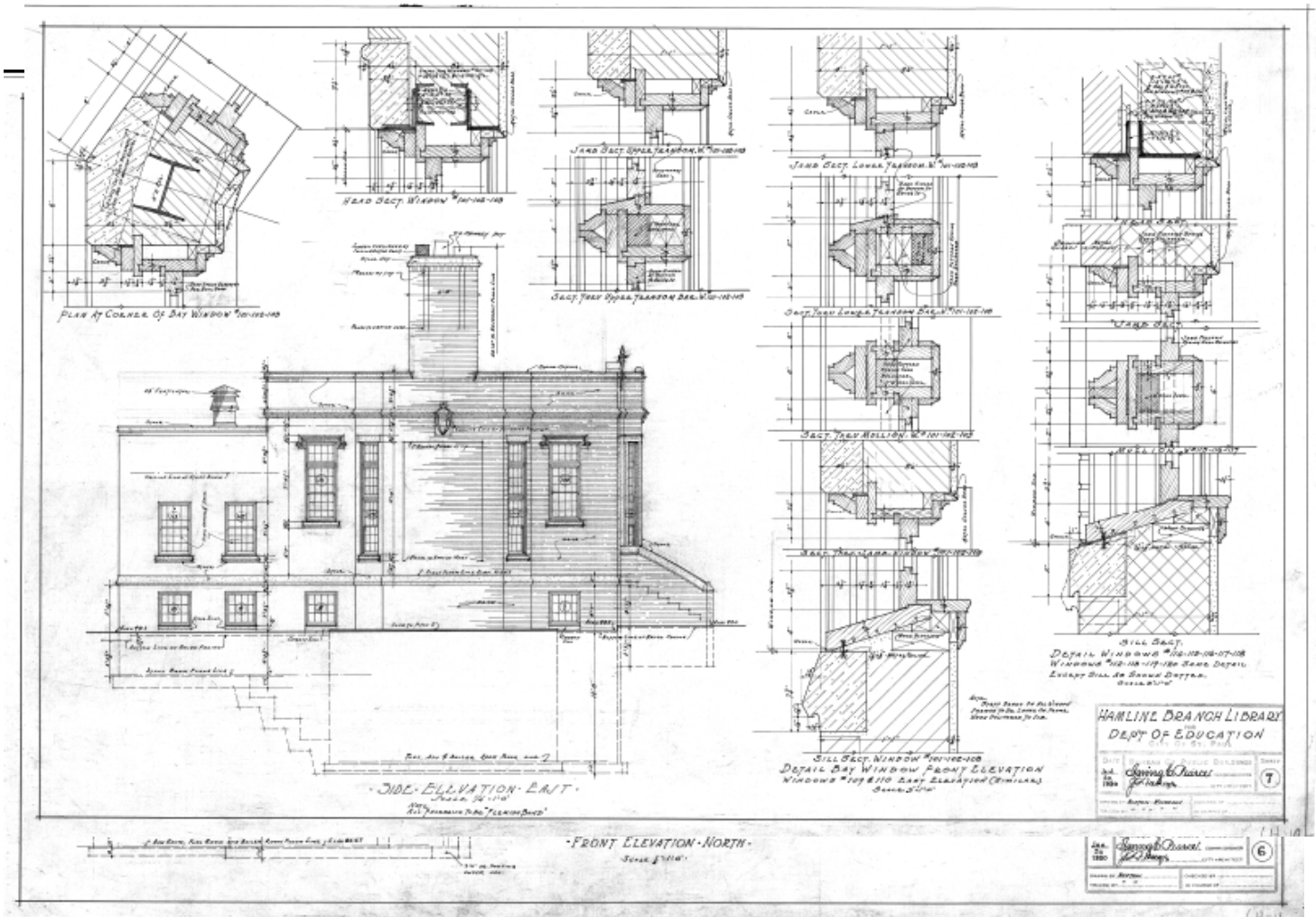


Figure 12: Hamline Branch Library, East Elevation, sheet #7. N124, Carl H. Buetow Papers, Northwest Architectural Archives.

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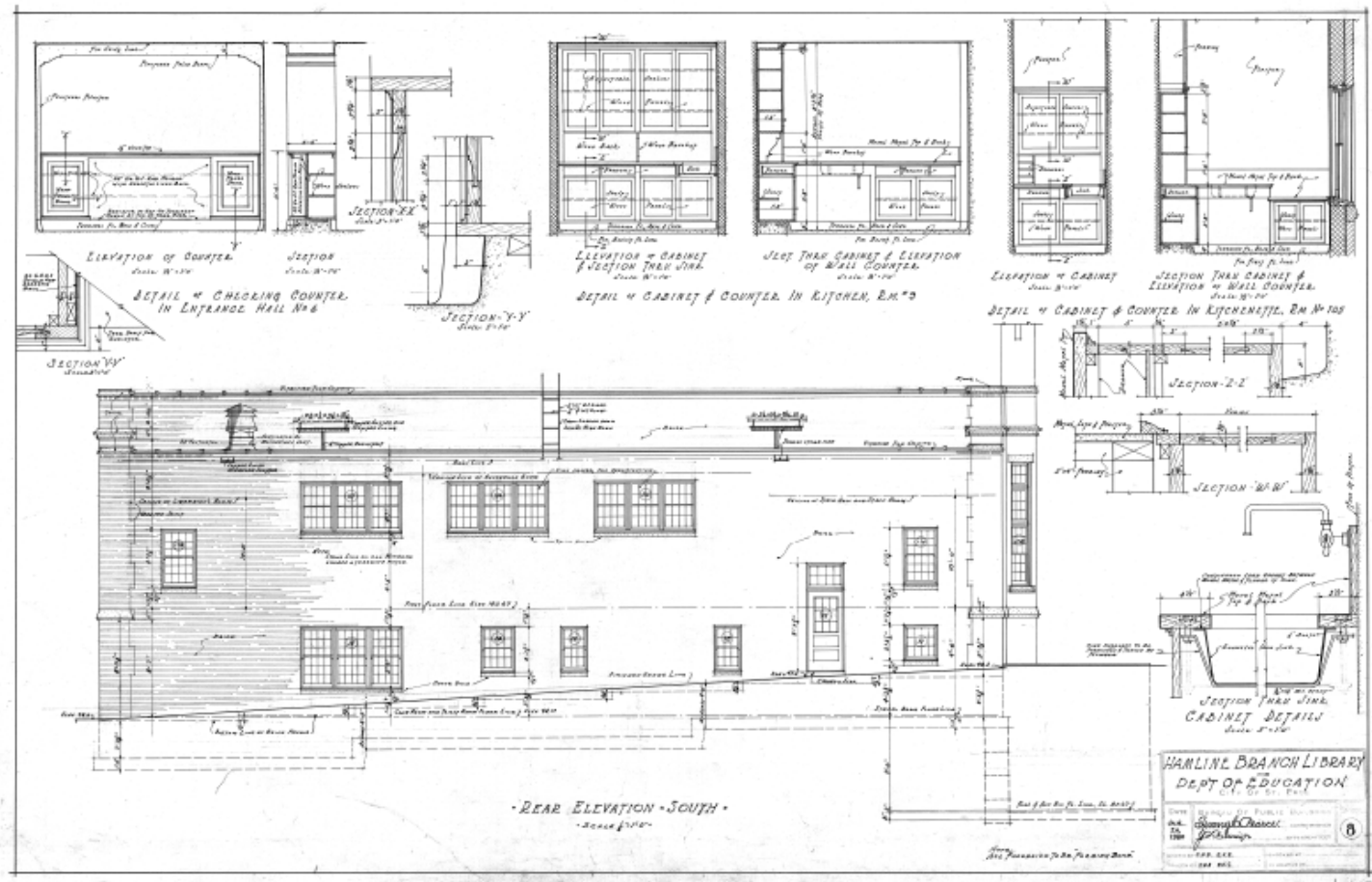


Figure 13: Hamline Branch Library, Rear Elevation - South, sheet #8. N124, Carl H. Buetow Papers, Northwest Architectural Archives.

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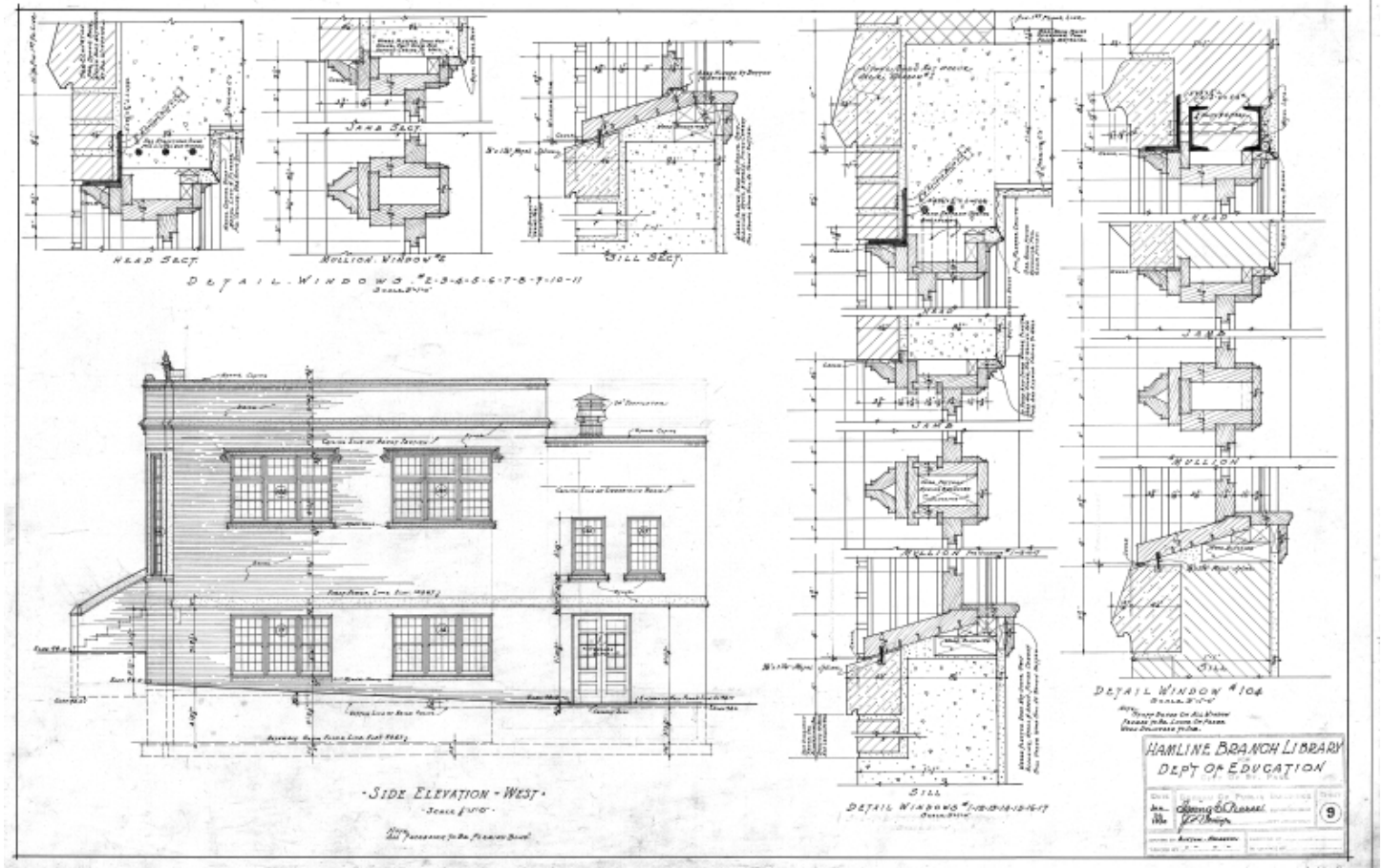
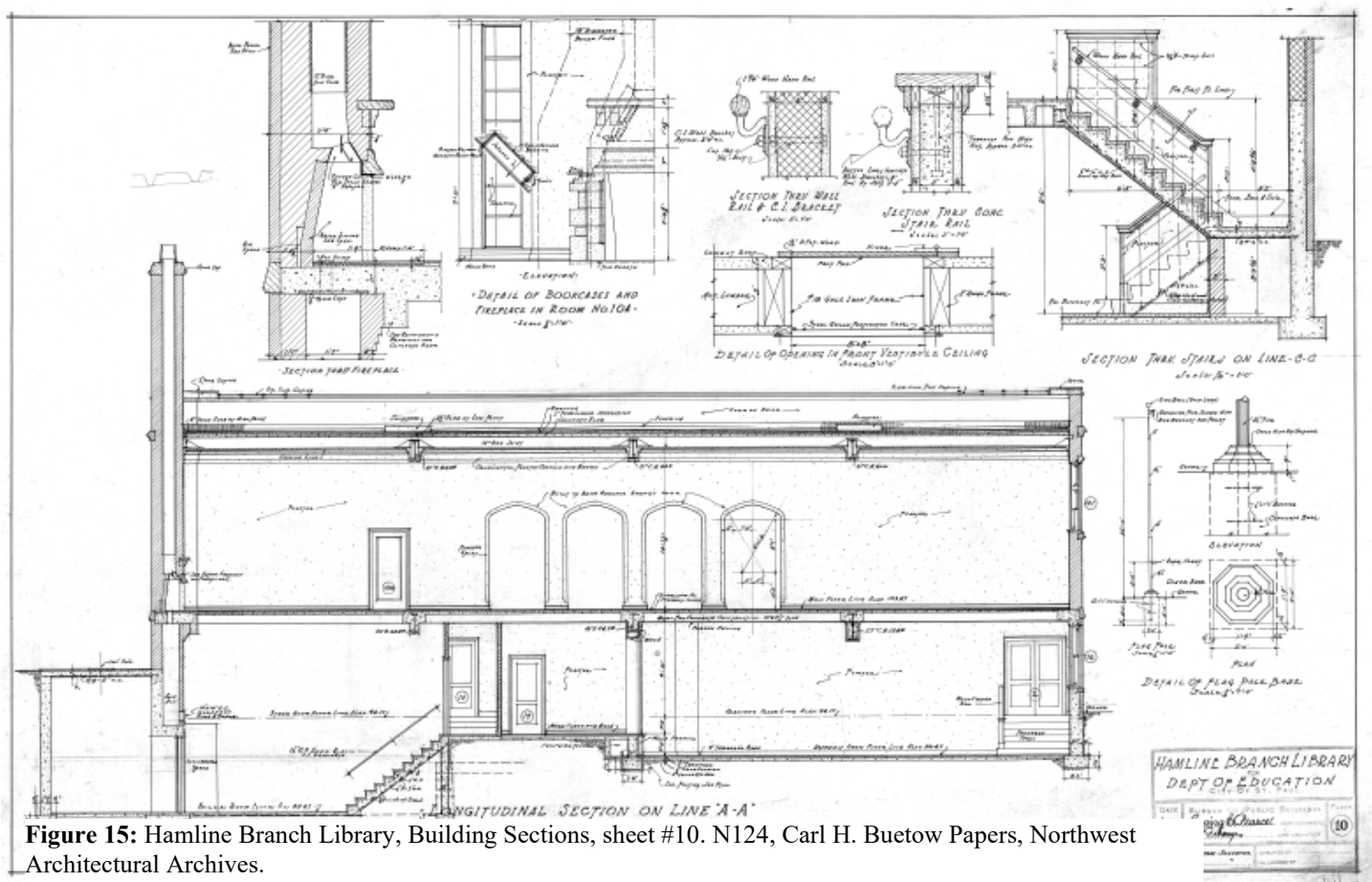


Figure 14: Hamline Branch Library, Side Elevation, West, sheet #9. N124, Carl H. Buetow Papers, Northwest Architectural Archives.

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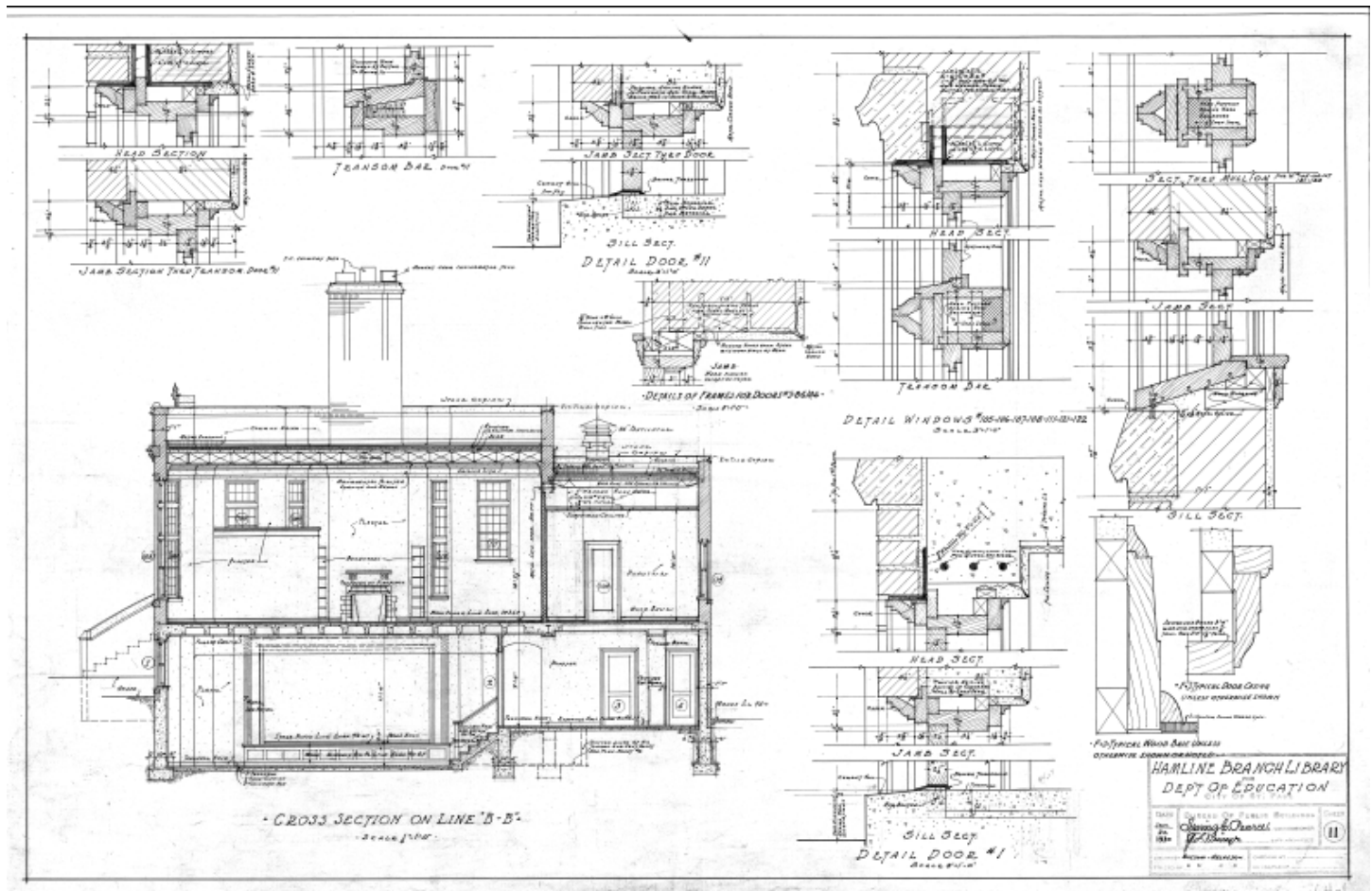


Figure 16: Hamline Branch Library, Building Sections, sheet #11. N124, Carl H. Buetow Papers, Northwest Architectural Archives.

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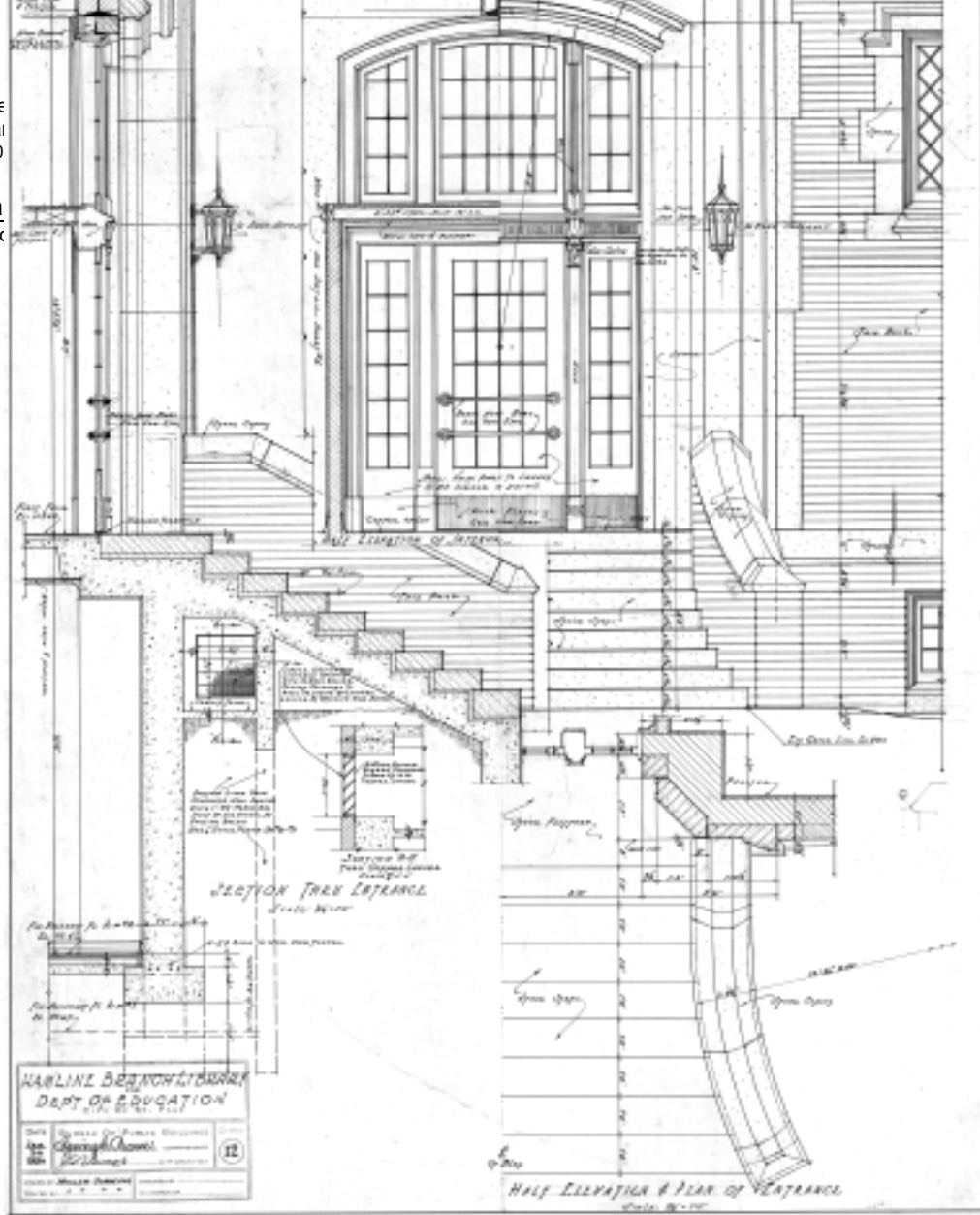


Figure 17: Hamline Branch Library, Wall Section, sheet #12. N124, Carl H. Buetow Papers, Northwest Architectural Archives.

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Figure: 21 Hamline Branch Library, Front Elevation, Carl H. Buetow, June 28, 1929
N124, Carl H. Buetow Papers, Northwest Architectural Archives.

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Figure:22 Hamline Midway Library, Ramsey County Property Records, captured 11/13/2021