

Merriam Park Branch Library  
1831 Marshall Avenue  
Saint Paul  
Ramsey County  
Minnesota

HABS No. MN-123

HABS  
MINN,  
62-SAIPA,  
28-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
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HABS  
MINN,  
62-SAIPA,  
28-

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

MERRIAM PARK BRANCH PUBLIC LIBRARY

HABS No. MN-123

Location: 1831 Marshall Avenue  
Saint Paul, Ramsey County, Minnesota

Present Owner and Occupant: City of Saint Paul

Present Use: Library (to be replaced)

Significance: Built in 1930 from a design by municipal staff architect James C. Niemeyer, the Merriam Park Branch Public Library is a fine local example of the Collegiate Gothic style of architecture. During its 60 years of service, the library became one of the most heavily used branch libraries in Saint Paul. In recognition of its historical importance, the building was designated "a site of major significance" by the Saint Paul Heritage Preservation Commission in 1983.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Date of erection: Residents of the Merriam Park district of Saint Paul donated the land at 1831 Marshall Avenue to the city on 3 May 1916.<sup>1</sup> After a long debate over financing, work on the Merriam Park Branch Public Library commenced in the spring or summer of 1930. The library began operation on 24 October 1930, and officially opened to the public on 20 November 1930.<sup>2</sup>
2. Architect: James C. Niemeyer of Saint Paul. James C. Niemeyer was born in Saint Paul on 1 August 1890. A graduate of Cretin High School and Saint Thomas College, both in Saint Paul, and the Royal Academy of Rome, Niemeyer began his architectural practice in his hometown in 1914. After serving as a designing engineer for the Army's Ordnance Department during World War I, Niemeyer returned to Saint Paul and designed several private

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<sup>1</sup> "Proceeding of the Common Council of the City of Saint Paul," Council file number 10322, Minnesota Historical Society.

<sup>2</sup> "Hale Memorial Merriam Park Branch," The Library Beacon; Saint Paul Public Library 2 (December 1930): 1.

residences, at least one of which revealed a mild Prairie School influence. He became city architect for Saint Paul in 1929 and, over the next year, not only designed the Merriam Park and Hamline Branch libraries, but also oversaw the city's \$15-million improvement project, which included construction of a new city hall, county courthouse, and civic auditorium. Although Niemeyer resigned his position as city architect in 1930, he remained active on the city's Planning and Zoning boards and in the American Institute of Architects. He died on 28 October 1957.<sup>3</sup>

3. Original and subsequent owners: City of Saint Paul, Minnesota
4. Builders, contractors, and suppliers: J.S. Sweitzer of Saint Paul. Born in Mifflintown, Pennsylvania, Joseph Studebaker Sweitzer began his professional career in 1878 in the construction department of the Pennsylvania Railroad. He moved to Church's Ferry, North Dakota in 1898 to open a private contracting firm, only to relocate to Saint Paul five years later, believing the larger city offered better educational opportunities for his sons. In addition to building the Merriam Park and Hamline Branch Public libraries in 1930, Sweitzer also served as superintendent of the national YMCA's building program during World War I, and his firm built several war plants during World War II. Additionally, Sweitzer's obituary indicated that he also built "several St. Paul schools . . . and the field house, library, and men's dormitory at Hamline University" in Saint Paul. He died on 8 November 1946.<sup>4</sup>
5. Original plans and construction: Original plans for the Merriam Park Branch Public Library are on file at the City Planning Office, Saint Paul, Minnesota.
6. Alterations and additions: The auditorium entry located on the west side of the building has been removed. The small brick west projecting entry contained south facing double doors. A single door has been relocated to the north wall. The interior concrete stairs have been relocated with a new ramp.

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<sup>3</sup> Theodore Christianson, Minnesota: The Land of Sky-Tinted Water: A History of the State and Its People (Chicago and New York: American Historical Society, Incorporated, 1935): 262 - 263; "J.C. Niemeyer Rites Thursday," Saint Paul Pioneer Press, 30 October 1957, 5; Historic Sites Survey for 709 West Linwood Avenue, Saint Paul.

<sup>4</sup> "J.S. Sweitzer Rites Monday," Minneapolis Sunday Tribune, 10 November 1946, sec. 2, 4; James Sweitzer, phone interview, 30 October 1990.

B. Historical Context:

The Merriam Park Branch Public Library was built in response to the metropolitan expansion of Saint Paul during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. First platted in the 1840s, Saint Paul remained a compact Mississippi River town for the next three decades. Beginning in the 1880s, however, massive waves of immigration sent the city sprawling in all directions, including westward to a sparsely settled "midway" district between Saint Paul and its upstream neighbor, Minneapolis. As the importance of this area increased, particularly following the completion of the Chicago, Milwaukee and Saint Paul Railroad's "short-line" between the cities in 1880, it captured the imagination of a Saint Paul businessman named John L. Merriam, who owned land in the district. Recognizing the potential for a suburb accessible to the cities, yet still rural in character, Merriam arranged for the construction of a railway depot and sold nearby parcels of his land. To discourage speculators, and to ensure that the area acquired a residential character, Merriam demanded that all buyers build a house worth at least \$1,500 within one year of purchase. The area soon became known as "Merriam Park."<sup>5</sup>

Following its annexation by Saint Paul in 1884, Merriam Park cemented its reputation as a quiet residential area. As part of Saint Paul, Merriam Park acquired the services of a police department, board of education, and park commission. Additionally, Merriam Park became the only "dry" spot in Minnesota, when the state legislature prohibited the sale of liquor in the area in 1885. According to one local historian, "Merriam Park was in the hands of affluent conservatives and they wanted no surroundings with a boom-town atmosphere. After all, they had moved to this pleasant village to escape all that river-front revelry." Merriam Park also received a glowing endorsement in 1886 from Northwest Magazine, a well-known journal of the time. The writer called Merriam Park "one of the most favored localities in Minnesota."<sup>6</sup>

During the period when it annexed Merriam Park, Saint Paul expanded into other outlying areas as well, creating a new problem for the city's library system. In his history of the Saint Paul Public Library, Gary Phelps has noted that the city's population "increased by 100,000 in the 1880s and 1890s, and the residential neighborhoods expanded into outlying areas, gradually leaving downtown more commercial than residential." As a result, "the library's clientele now lived farther away from the [main] library." To compensate, the Saint Paul Public Library opened

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<sup>5</sup> John Sonnen, "Merriam's Vision: Rural Village Between Cities," Ramsey County History 7 (Fall 1971): 10 - 11.

<sup>6</sup> "Merriam Park; The Most Beautiful and Popular Interurban Residence Town," Northwest Magazine 4 (June 1886): 10 - 11; Sonnen, 11, 14.

what were called "delivery stations" in several residential areas. Because these stations shared space with other institutions, such as schools, they could operate only for limited hours and provide a small number of books. Even with that limitation, though, Saint Paul operated eleven stations by 1910, occupying such unlikely structures as a drugstore and the Merriam Park YMCA. Phelps has estimated that between 1905 and 1913, circulation at delivery stations rose from five to seventeen percent of the Saint Paul Public Library's total circulation.<sup>7</sup>

Encouraged by a \$75,000 Carnegie foundation grant for three new libraries, the residents of Merriam Park first asked Saint Paul for a new branch library in the years just prior to World War I.<sup>8</sup> The Merriam Park delivery station, which had recently been moved into the coal bin of an area school, was one of the most used in the city, and local needs dictated some type of expansion. Recommending a site on Marshall Avenue because of its proximity to a number of area schools, the residents of Merriam Park brought their request to the Saint Paul Library superintendent in early 1916. The superintendent agreed, providing that Merriam Park residents donate the lots.<sup>9</sup> Eager for a new library, the people of Merriam Park soon collected more than the \$2,700 necessary to purchase land, and they donated the site to Saint Paul on 3 May 1916. A number of people even placed a sign on the land to indicate the "Future Site of the Merriam Park Public Library Branch."<sup>10</sup> Unfortunately, Saint Paul altered its plans and allocated the Carnegie funds to sites donated by the residents of Saint Anthony Park, Riverview, and Arlington Hills. Branch libraries were completed in those locations in 1917.<sup>11</sup>

Even without the Carnegie grants, Saint Paul still offered some hope to Merriam Park. A wealthy and prominent Saint Paul resident named Judge Henry Hale had donated one-half of his estate to the city upon his death in 1890 to fund construction of a medical dispensary and a library. The only stipulation was that Saint Paul wait twenty-five years to allow payment of legacies to family members before allocating

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<sup>7</sup> Gary Phelps, "The St. Paul Public Library and Its First 100 Years," Ramsey County History 18 (1982): 11 - 12.

<sup>8</sup> Phelps, 13.

<sup>9</sup> "Merriam Park Library is a True Sign of Community Vitality," Merriam Park Post, November 1978.

<sup>10</sup> "Merriam Park Library is a True Sign of Community Vitality;" "Proceedings of the Common Council of the City of Saint Paul," Council file number 10322, Minnesota Historical Society.

<sup>11</sup> Phelps, 14.

the funds.<sup>12</sup> Unfortunately, when the waiting period expired in 1915, those appointed by Hale to oversee the bequest -- the mayor of Saint Paul, the comptroller of the city, the Ramsey County probate judge, the city attorney, and the senior member of the county board -- realized that it could not fund both projects. As an alternative, Saint Paul Mayor V.R. Irvin suggested that, with a new main library planned for downtown, the bequest should be used solely for a medical dispensary. Mary Hale, the judge's wife and executor, insisted, however, that "this money left by Mr. Hale for library purposes, [should] be used as he willed it." As a result of the contention, when residents of Merriam Park and the nearby Hamline neighborhood asked the trustees to allocate the bequest for two new branch libraries on 13 December 1916, the trustees refused. As an added note, a number of trustees questioned whether the branch libraries could be equally accessible to all residents of Saint Paul, and hence conform to the spirit of the bequest.<sup>13</sup>

The Hale Bequest came to Saint Paul in the form of real estate and, as it sat in reserve, unable to fund the projects for which it was set aside, its value declined. The Saint Paul News reported on 13 November 1926 that "the assessor wrote off nearly \$20,000 on it recently." Understandably alarmed, the trustees contemplated selling the land and investing the money until, the newspaper said, "such time as the terms of the will can be carried out."<sup>14</sup> Residents of Saint Paul, however, notably the Merriam Park and Hamline districts, argued that the entire bequest should be applied towards one or two branch libraries, thereby realizing "a part of the object of the gift."<sup>15</sup> To this end, city officials petitioned the court in December 1926 to force the trustees to release part of the funds.<sup>16</sup> When that tactic failed, Saint Paul asked the Hale family for permission to allocate the entire bequest solely for libraries, as Saint Paul had recently added a new medical dispensary, and did not need another.<sup>17</sup> Two years later, the family finally agreed, and library officials announced plans for new branch facilities in the Hamline neighborhood and "someplace to be determined

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<sup>12</sup> "Sinking Fund Commission Minutes," 27 January 1916, Minnesota Historical Society; Mary Akers, "Judge and Mrs. Henry Hale," speech, Merriam Park clippings file, Merriam Park Branch Public Library.

<sup>13</sup> "Sinking Fund Commission," 13 December 1916; "Library Sought From Hale Fund," Saint Paul News, 12 November 1926.

<sup>14</sup> "The Hale Bequest," Saint Paul News, 13 November 1926.

<sup>15</sup> "Library Sought From Hale Fund."

<sup>16</sup> "City Will Spend Library Bequest," Saint Paul News, 10 December 1926.

<sup>17</sup> "City May Get More Branch Libraries," Saint Paul Dispatch, 1 March 1927.

later."<sup>18</sup> Having already donated land for a library, Merriam Park residents soon convinced Saint Paul officials to build in their district. The city council formally authorized construction of the Merriam Park Branch Public Library on 13 August 1929, one week after approving the Hamline branch.<sup>19</sup>

The newly-appointed city architect of Saint Paul, James C. Niemeyer, completed plans for the Merriam Park Branch Public Library on 20 January 1930.<sup>20</sup> Construction by the J.S. Sweitzer Company of Saint Paul commenced within months. According to the Saint Paul Public Library Director, Webster Wheelock, the city built both the Merriam Park and Hamline Branch libraries concurrently, "in the expectation that if they are included in one contract a considerable saving can be effected."<sup>21</sup> Any savings were, presumably, to fund the purchase of books. The city had planned a \$15 million improvement project, which included construction of several new municipal and county buildings, but added nothing to Hale's bequest for the libraries, leaving little with which to fill library shelves.<sup>22</sup> Aided by book donations from private citizens, operation of the \$43,000 structure began on 24 October 1930, although it did not officially open until almost a month later. By December, the Saint Paul Public Library's in-house newsletter noted that "emergency help has had to be supplied to take care of those applying for library cards [at the Merriam Park Branch] . . . Circulation in spite of a wholly inadequate collection of books has already more than doubled".<sup>23</sup>

A Collegiate Gothic style building, the Merriam Park Branch Public Library largely reflected aesthetic and functional standards of its era. In an essay entitled "The Librarian's Ideas of Library Design," Arthur Bostwick of the Saint Louis Public

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<sup>18</sup> "To Use Hale Fund," Saint Paul News, 20 April 1928; "City Would Use Hale Bequest for Branch Libraries," Saint Paul News, 22 April 1928.

<sup>19</sup> "Proceedings of the Common Council of the City of Saint Paul," Council file numbers 81892 and 81982, Minnesota Historical Society.

<sup>20</sup> Saint Paul Department of Education, Plans for the Merriam Park Branch Public Library, City Planning Office, Saint Paul, Minnesota; "Branch Library Plans Approved by City Council," Saint Paul Dispatch, 29 January 1930.

<sup>21</sup> Webster Wheelock, letter.

<sup>22</sup> "Civic Center Structure, Improved Airport and Barge Docks Proposed," Saint Paul Dispatch, 7 August 1928.

<sup>23</sup> "Merriam Park Library a True Sign of Community Vitality;" "Hale Memorial Merriam Park Branch," 1.

Library argued that "an architect should strive to build [a library] that is pleasing and impressive largely from its simplicity and fitting proportions." Bostwick rejected "the caprices of fashion," emphasizing qualities associated with permanence and tradition. He concluded that "a public library building must necessarily serve its community for a considerable time . . . and its very permanency constitutes a particular claim upon the thoughtfulness and resourcefulness of architect and librarian".<sup>24</sup> Collegiate Gothic was well suited to meet these requirements. Recalling the venerable tradition of English ecclesiastical scholarship, especially as enshrined at Cambridge and Oxford, the style became the favored design for American educational institutions after its adoption by Bryn Mawr College and Princeton University in the 1890s.<sup>25</sup> At the Merriam Park Branch Public Library, the Collegiate Gothic style is invoked by the traditional interplay of red-brick walls and light-colored stonework, most notably employed in a monumental entryway, protruding window bays, bas-relief carvings, upper stringcourse, and quoining around fenestration. The Gothic motif is further continued by diamond-paned windows in the entryway and shallow buttresses on side elevations.

The interior of the Merriam Park Branch Public Library also followed the conventions of its time. When the noted architectural historian Talbot F. Hamlin described the layout of a typical, small public library of the early twentieth century, he might well have been standing in the Merriam Park Branch Public Library:

The librarian's desk will be in the center, opposite the entrance, and forward, with reading areas open on each side -- one perhaps for adults and one for children. Immediately behind the desk will be the librarians' offices and workrooms . . . Often the building is raised high above ground in order to give a well lighted basement, which will contain an auditorium with a separate entrance.<sup>26</sup>

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<sup>24</sup> Arthur E. Bostwick, "The Librarian's Ideas of Library Design," Architectural Forum (December 1927), quoted in "The Designing of Libraries," Library Journal 53 (February 1, 1928): 140.

<sup>25</sup> Marcus Whiffen, American Architecture Since 1790 (Cambridge, MA: M.I.T. Press, 1969), 174.

<sup>26</sup> Talbot F. Hamlin, "Smaller Public Library Buildings," Pencil Points 22 (July 1941): 473; Saint Paul Department of Education, Plans to the Merriam Park Branch Public Library, City Planning Office, Saint Paul, Minnesota.

Over the next sixty years, the Merriam Park Branch Public Library became one of the most used branch libraries in Saint Paul, achieving monthly circulation levels during the late 1980s of 10,000 "units" (i.e., books, magazines, and recordings).<sup>27</sup> In recognition of its long-standing community service, it was designated a "site of major significance" by the Saint Paul Heritage Preservation Commission in 1983.<sup>28</sup> The building's high level of use, however, eventually dictated its replacement. As one Saint Paul library official noted, "This building was constructed based on library collections, patterns and attitudes of the late 1920s. For today's use we find the space both inefficient and poorly arranged, and we face significant difficulty in providing access to the library for the handicapped."<sup>29</sup>In addition, foundation settlement has led to structural deterioration. Accordingly, Saint Paul announced plans in 1990 to replace it with a larger library and scheduled its demolition for 1991.

Prepared by:  
Robert Hybben and Charlene Roise  
Hess, Roise and Company  
January 1991

## PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

1. Architectural character: The Merriam Park Branch Library is a Collegiate Gothic style structure of red brick and stonework. The single story rectangular block facade has two large bay windows flanking a monumental stone entry with a diamond paned transom over the door. The gothic motif is also used in the bas-relief sculpture, upper stringcourse, quoining around the facade fenestration and the shallow buttresses at the sides. The site slopes to the north to allow a grade level floor below.
2. Condition of the fabric: The building is mostly in sound condition. The major problem is the unstable soil at the footing of the northwest corner of the building. This has resulted in the cracking of the concrete foundation, brick

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<sup>27</sup> "Merriam Park Library is a True Sign of Community Vitality."

<sup>28</sup> Patricia A. Murphy and Susan W. Granger, Historic Sites Survey of Saint Paul and Ramsey County, 1980 - 1983: Final Report (Saint Paul: Ramsey County Historical Society and Saint Paul Heritage Preservation Commission, 1983), 140.

<sup>29</sup> "Merriam Park Community Library Aging, May Have to be Replaced," Merriam Park Post, February 1989.

walls and interior plaster walls and ceiling. The building is inaccessible to patrons with mobility impairments.

B. Description of Exterior

1. Overall dimensions: 55' wide (east/west) by 70' long (north/south).
2. Foundations: Poured concrete.
3. Walls: Red colored brick in flemish bond. Limestone upper stringcourse, quoins, roof coping and window and entry door surrounds.
4. Structural System: Masonry bearing walls, floor slab for main floor, and roof structure, structural steel and poured concrete. Poured concrete roof deck.
5. Porches, stoops: The front entry stoop has limestone stairs and surround, with a herringbone pattern brick inlay landing.
6. Chimney: There are two stone capped brick chimneys located on the east wall of the building. The front chimney is for the fireplace and the back chimney is for the boiler.
7. Openings:

- a. Doorways and doors: The main entry is set within a large central limestone surround, which has an arch top, projecting above the roof line. Inscribed in the stone, above the doorway opening is the following: "Henry Hale Memorial Library, Merriam Park Branch,". Flanking the door opening are two bronze lanterns. The slightly recessed rectangular door opening contains a fixed, three-part wood window with zinc diamond-paned lights. Below this is an arched opening which contains the doorway. This is an anodized aluminum single-light replacement door with two single-light side lights with a wood divided light transom above.

Side entry double doors are anodized aluminum with a small single light.

There is a single wood door at the rear of the building with a divided light transom above.

- b. Windows: The front facade has two large bay windows that each contain a pair of 8/8 double-hung wood windows with two 8-light

hinged wood transoms. Each side of the bay contains a narrow 2/2 double-hung wood window with two 2-light hinged wood transoms.

Windows on the west are sets of three, 12-light fixed sash with 8-light hinged transoms.

The north windows are 8/8 double-hung wood windows, set singly and in groups of three.

East windows are in groups of three 8/8 double-hung wood sash with 8-light hinged transoms.

The lower level windows are 6/6 double hung wood windows with opaque lights on the front and 8/8 double hung sash on the other elevations. On the south side there are metal grates at grade in front of the windows.

All windows have stone sills.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: A flat roof of concrete roof deck and a built-up membrane.
- b. Parapet: Limestone parapets surround the east, west and south side of the building. The north side parapets is clay tile.
- c. Towers: None.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: The main library space is entered through a central vestibule that is contained within the U-shaped reading/stack room. In the reading room, freestanding, simple wood bookcases line the exterior walls. A small limestone faced fireplace is placed centrally on the east wall. The check out desk is parallel with the entry and the librarian's desk is opposite, across the reading room.

Behind the desk, to the west is another small reading room with stacks. On the original drawings, this room is identified as the reference room, it will be referred to as such in this text. Next to the reference room are two small closets, drinking fountain and the librarian's office.

The librarian's office is located in the north-east corner and contains closets, a restroom, and small kitchen.

The northern slope of the site allows for a well-lit lower level. This floor contains an auditorium, several meeting rooms, storage rooms, restrooms, kitchen, maintenance room and stack storage.

The auditorium has a stage with two side dressing rooms and is also accessible by a central stair. There is an exterior door on the north side of the room.

There is a lower boiler room which contains the boiler and maintenance equipment.

2. Stairways: There is a stair located at the back of the reading room, which leads to the lower level near the side entry. These straight run stairs are terrazzo with wood hand rail. There is also a small stairway into the auditorium, with terrazzo treads and a metal and wood railing. There is a concrete straight run stair to the boiler room.
3. Flooring: Floors in the reading rooms, vestibule, office, staff rooms, lower level kitchen and meeting rooms are linoleum. The auditorium stage floor is wood.

The floors in the auditorium, auditorium entry, librarian's kitchen and restrooms are terrazzo.

There is vinyl base in the reading room and terrazzo base in the auditorium, restrooms, auditorium entry and librarian's kitchen. There is wood base in the lower level kitchen and stage. The meeting rooms and lower hallway have a concrete base.

4. Wall and ceiling finish: The walls in the building are all smooth plaster. The walls in the reading room have a 17" deep plaster cornice with a blind picture molding, approximately 3" below the cornice in the reading room. The cornice continues on the sides of the beams, used as a beam casing. There is a 12" deep cornice in the reference room.

Ceilings in the building are smooth plaster. The reading room ceiling has two plaster encased beams.

5. Openings:

- a. Doorways and doors: There is a triple arched cased opening between the reading room and reference room. There is a single doorway between the vestibule and the reading room, with a second opposite doorway closed.

The auditorium doors are a pair of wood doors, stile and rail, with two flat panels per leaf.

The boiler room door is a fifteen light wood stile and rail door.

The meeting room door is wood stile and rail with a opaque glass light above and a wood flat panel below.

All other doors are wood stile and rail with two flat panels.

- b. Windows: The window openings have wood heads, transoms, mullions, jambs and sills.

There is a set of three fixed interior windows located in the vestibule. The upper portion has three lights and the lower portion has nine lights. Most of the lights have been painted out.

6. Decorative features and trim: The main reading room contains a fireplace on the east wall. Within the rectangular surround is a slightly recessed arched opening, limestone block cut face and random stone hearth. There is a painted limestone shelf, 12" above the stone surround.

7. Hardware: Simple, durable, iron hardware is used throughout the building. There is no ornate hardware.

8. Mechanical equipment:

- a. Heating: Heating is provided by cast iron steam radiators located below the windows. Steam is provided by a central boiler located in the lower level boiler room. The gas-fired boiler is manufactured by U.S. Radiator Co.

- b. Lighting: Lighting in the reading room, reference room is provided by four-tube suspended fluorescent fixtures. Lighting in the librarian's office is provided by two-tube suspended fluorescent fixtures.  
Lighting in the auditorium, hallways, kitchen, meeting rooms and restrooms is provided by suspended incandescent lighting fixtures.
- c. Plumbing: Standard water closets, urinals, and lavatories are located in the toilet rooms. Additional sinks are located in the kitchens and a drinking fountain is located adjacent to the reading room.

D. Site

- 1. General setting and orientation: The building is located towards the east end of a rectangular city block and is oriented to the south. The lot slopes to the north, allowing the lower level to be entered at grade in the back of the building. The turf covered area of the front is intersected by a half-circle sidewalk, which joins the boulevard sidewalk. Along the east side of the building is a concrete sidewalk linking the parking area in the back with the side and front entries. This area is enclosed by post and chain fencing. An asphalt parking area is located to the north between the building and the alley. The west side of the property is enclosed by post and chain fencing and is a sand covered playground for the church to the west. There is a straight run concrete stairway along the west side of the building.

Prepared by:  
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February 1991

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Original Architectural Drawings:

The drawings listed below are in the possession of the City Planning Office, Saint Paul, Minnesota:

Niemeyer, J.C. "Merriam Park Branch Library, Dept. of Education/ 1, Plot Plan, January 20, 1930. (See HABS Photo No. MN-123-1.)

Niemeyer, J.C. "Merriam Park Branch Library, Dept. of Education/ 2, Foundation Plan, January 20, 1930, (See HABS Photo No. MN-123-2.)

Niemeyer, J.C. "Merriam Park Branch Library, Dept. of Education/ 3, Basement Plan, January 20, 1930, (See HABS Photo No. MN-123-3.)

Niemeyer, J.C. "Merriam Park Branch Library, Dept. of Education/ 4, First Floor Plan, January 20, 1930, (See HABS Photo No. MN-123-4.)

Niemeyer, J.C. "Merriam Park Branch Library, Dept. of Education/ 5, Roof and Interior Elevations, January 20, 1930, (See HABS Photo No. MN-123-5.)

Niemeyer, J.C. "Merriam Park Branch Library, Dept. of Education/ 6, South and North Elevations, January 20, 1930, (See HABS Photo No. MN-123-6.)

Niemeyer, J.C. "Merriam Park Branch Library, Dept. of Education/ 7, East Elevation, January 20, 1930, (See HABS Photo No. MN-123-7.)

Niemeyer, J.C. "Merriam Park Branch Library, Dept. of Education/ 8, West Elevation, January 20, 1930, (See HABS Photo No. MN-123-8.) - )

Niemeyer, J.C. "Merriam Park Branch Library, Dept. of Education/ 9, Longitudinal Section, January 20, 1930, (See HABS Photo No. MN-123-9.)

Niemeyer, J.C. "Merriam Park Branch Library, Dept. of Education/ 10, 3/4" Scale Details, January 20, 1930, (See HABS Photo No. MN-123-10.)

Niemeyer, J.C. "Merriam Park Branch Library, Dept. of Education/ 11, Window Details, January 20, 1930, (See HABS Photo No. MN-123-11.)

Niemeyer, J.C. "Merriam Park Branch Library, Dept. of Education/ 12, Miscellaneous, January 20, 1930, (See HABS Photo No. MN-123-12.)

Niemeyer, J.C. "Merriam Park Branch Library, Dept. of Education/ 13, Structural Basement, January 20, 1930, (See HABS Photo No. MN-123-13.)

Niemeyer, J.C. "Merriam Park Branch Library, Dept. of Education/ 14, Structural First Floor Framing, January 20, 1930, (See HABS Photo No. MN-123-14.)

Niemeyer, J.C. "Merriam Park Branch Library, Dept. of Education/ 15, Structural Roof, January 20, 1930, (See HABS Photo No. MN-123-15.)

Niemeyer, J.C. "Merriam Park Branch Library, Dept. of Education/ 16, Mechanical Basement Plan, January 20, 1930, (See HABS Photo No. MN-123-16.)

Niemeyer, J.C. "Merriam Park Branch Library, Dept. of Education/ 17, Mechanical First Floor Plan, January 20, 1930, (See HABS Photo No. MN-123-17.)

B. Early views: A photograph of the exterior of the library, taken in 1930, is on file at the Minnesota Historical Society's Audio Visual Library. A slightly obscured photograph of the exterior is in "Hale Memorial Merriam Park Branch," Library Beacon 2 (December 1930): 1.

C. Bibliography:

1. Primary and unpublished sources:

Akers, Mary. "Judge and Mrs. Henry Hale." Speech. Merriam Park clippings file, Merriam Park Branch Public Library.

Historic Sites Survey. 709 West Linwood Avenue, Saint Paul. Ramsey County Historical Society and Saint Paul Heritage Preservation Commission.

Historic Sites Survey. 1831 West Marshall Avenue, Saint Paul. Ramsey County Historical Society and Saint Paul Heritage Preservation Commission.

Original Construction Permit. 1831 West Marshall Avenue. City of Saint Paul. Copy available at Ramsey County Historical Society, Saint Paul.

"Proceedings of the Common Council of the City of Saint Paul," 1916, Council File Number 10322; 1927, Council File Number 71572; 1929, Council File Numbers 79463, 80011, 81892, 81982. Minnesota Historical Society.

"Sinking Fund Commission Minutes." Minnesota Historical Society.

Sweitzer, James. Sweitzer Construction Company, Saint Paul, Minnesota. Interview, 30 October 1990.

Van Kirk, Annie B. "Chronicle." Speech. Merriam Park clippings file, Saint Paul Public Library.

Wheelock, Webster. Letter to Russell E. Van Kirk. 25 July 1929. Merriam Park clippings file, Saint Paul Public Library.

2. Secondary and published sources:

"Accept Library Site." Saint Paul Dispatch, 3 May 1916.

"Agreement of Hale Heirs and City Approved." Saint Paul Dispatch, 2 February 1929.

Andrews, C.C. History of Saint Paul, Minnesota. Syracuse, New York: D. Mason and Company, 1890.

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