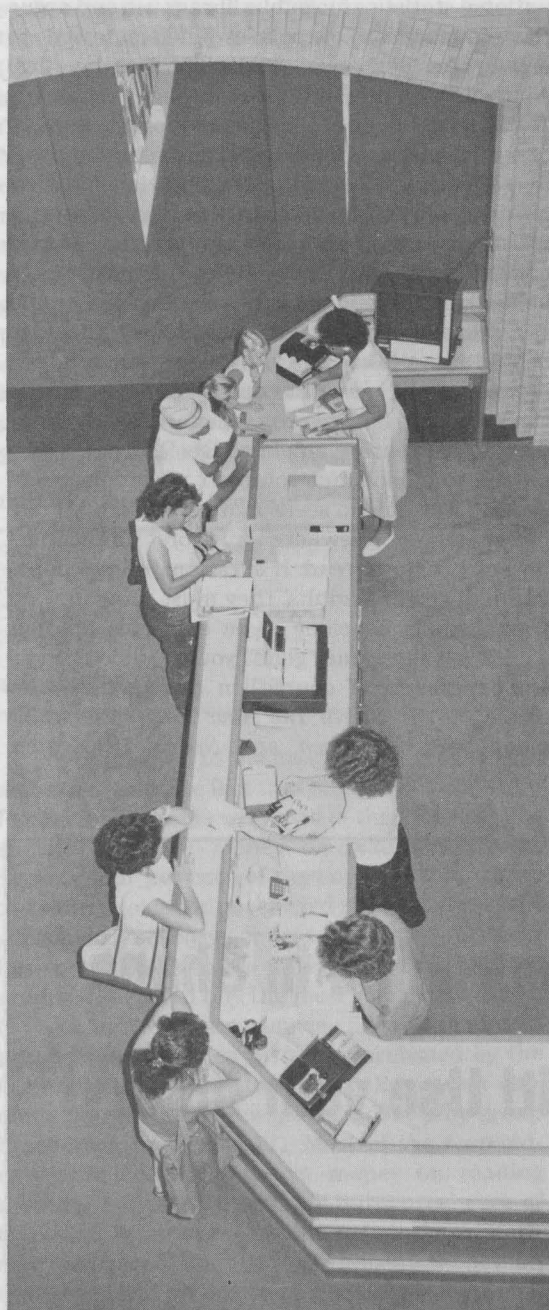


A New Headquarters Public Library for Cumberland County

Jerry Thrasher



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On a beautiful sunny Sunday afternoon on June 1, 1986, the Cumberland County Public Library & Information Center opened its new 80,000 square foot headquarters library in Fayetteville, North Carolina. Over a thousand people were present while local dignitaries gave brief remarks on the importance of this new facility to the community. At 3:30 p.m. the ribbon was cut as hundreds of colored balloons rose in front of the three floor structure. The long awaited Headquarters Library was a reality!

Local architectural firm MacMillan and MacMillan designed an open and flexible facility on a challenging two acre site that overlooks the downtown waterway named Cross Creek. A total of 82 parking spaces were squeezed onto the site adjacent to the library. Over a hundred additional parking spaces are available across the street in a city-owned parking area.

Library construction consultant Aaron Cohen of New York worked with the library staff and architect to help develop an effective and efficient design on each level of the facility. Interior design consultants Michaels Associates of Alexandria, Virginia did a fabulous job with the limited furnishings budget. Furniture bids were awarded for Aetnastak shelving, Library Bureau tables and carrels, and Madison lounge furniture.

Landscape designer Richard Bell of Raleigh created a realistic yet beautiful concept for maintaining existing trees along the creek bank in conjunction with new shrubbery, plants and trees. Barry Holton of the Center for Urban Affairs and Community Services at North Carolina State University reviewed our communication needs, developed specifications and completed in-depth evaluation of our bids. Executone/Coastal Carolina of New Bern provided our Mitel SX 200 PBX system of 48 instruments.

The new facility concentrates public services on the main and top floors. Staff and expansion areas are located in the lower level of the facility. The main public entrance to the library is on the middle floor. Due to the sloping site to the rear of the building, the lower level has an excellent view of the creek and the extensive landscaping.

On entering the public entrance one will find

a large multipurpose meeting room just off the lobby that will seat 215 persons comfortably. This room has a stage, projection booth, remote control projection screen over the stage, microphone and video cable outlets. Fayetteville Cablevision provided cable outlets free of charge for the multipurpose room, the three public conference rooms, the children's storytime room, and the executive conference room. The multipurpose room also includes a kitchenette with refrigerator, stove, sink and microwave oven. The lobby of the new Headquarters Library also contains public rest rooms, water fountain and bulletin board.

One discovers that the major emphasis of this level is information services. On entering the library proper, one can immediately see the information services desk. This desk and the other public service desks were manufactured by Unique Furnishings Limited of Pinellas Park, Florida. This desk can seat up to four reference librarians, who handle all the walk-in and telephone inquiries to the library.

Immediately behind the service desk are the reference collection, index tables, study tables and carrels and COM readers that hold the library's microfilm catalog. Nearby is the library's periodical collection. Ample lounge seating overlooks Cross Creek through many spacious windows strategically placed next to the periodical collection. Bound periodicals are shelved adjacent to the photocopiers behind the public elevator.

The microform area, which is only a few steps away, contains four new microfilm reader/printers and three new microfiche reader/printers. This area houses the library's newspapers, magazine holdings and microform. The adult non-fiction collection is located on the main floor with many COM readers located throughout the stack area.

For the convenience of library users who are most interested in current best sellers and recently published books, a new book area was set up just inside the entrance on display shelving. Popular hardback and paperback books, both fiction and non-fiction, are displayed there. The circulation desk is located a few feet away, where all materials are loaned and returned, except for audiovisual materials and equipment.

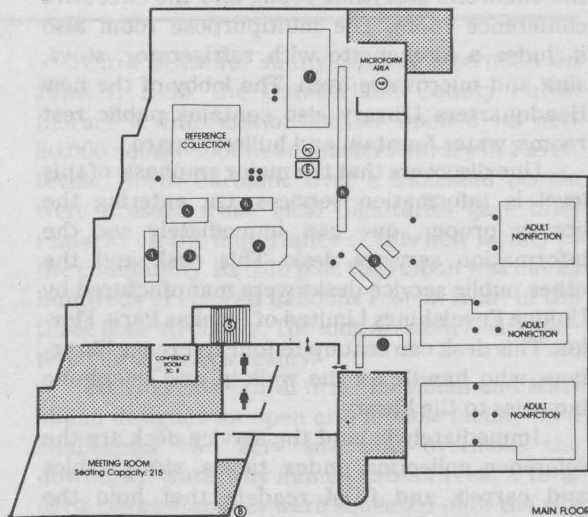
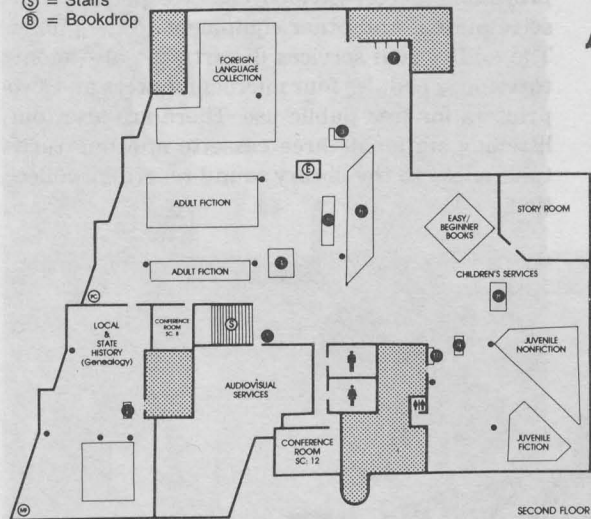
On the second level, which can be reached by the public elevator or the large stairwell, is the audiovisual services desk. Here patrons can borrow 16mm films, filmstrips, slide programs and video cassettes in VHS and BETA formats. This department does a booming business in lending projectors, screens, video cassette players, cassette players and other equipment to the public. The audiovisual services department also monitors and schedules four microcomputers and two printers for free public use. There are also four listening stations (three cassette and one turntable) next to the library sound recording collection.



Behind a series of arches, you will find the children's services area. This area features a large Story Hour Room that will seat a maximum of 70 children. A special puppet stage, as well as track lighting for special displays grace the Story Hour Room. Not to be overlooked is the separate children's microcomputer with several learning software programs. Comfortable parent seating is available near the children's magazines and recording collection. Parents can also find the library's adult fiction collection on this top level. A large paperback collection is just off the elevator.

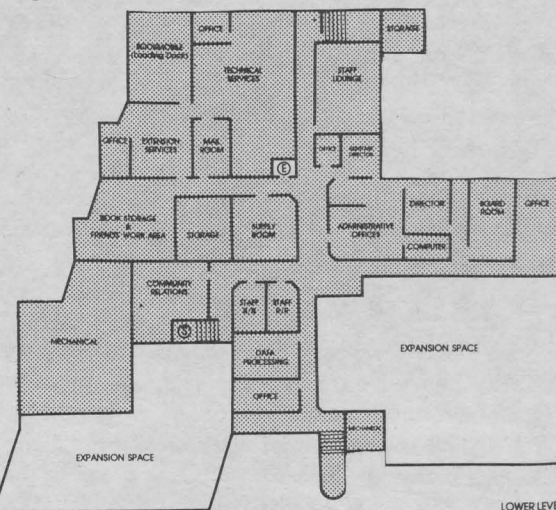
MAIN FLOOR

- ① = Circulation Desk (Check-In, Check-Out) 483-8600
- ② = Reference & Information 483-7727
- ③ = Business Reference Materials
- ④ = Vertical Files
- ⑤ = Encyclopedias and Telephone Directories
- ⑥ = Magazine Indexes
- ⑦ = Bound Section — Magazine Back Issues
- ⑧ = Current Magazines and Newspapers
- ⑨ = New Books
- Library Staff Only
- ☐ = Coin-operated Photocopier(s)
- ⓔ = Elevator
- Ⓜ = Microform Reader(s)
- = COM Catalog of Library Materials
- ⚽ = Public Restrooms
- ⚽ = Stairs
- Ⓟ = Bookdrop



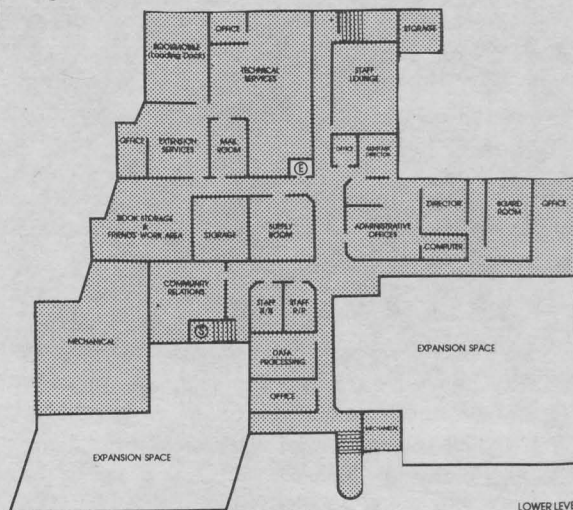
SECOND FLOOR

- ① = Audiovisual Service Desk
- ② = Local & State History Service Desk 483-3745
- ③ = North Carolina Foreign Language Center Service Desk 483-5022
- ④ = Public Computers
- ⑤ = Listening Booths
- ⑥ = Recordings
- ⑦ = Public Typewriters
- ⑧ = Children's Service Desk 483-7365
- ⑨ = Juvenile Recordings
- ⑩ = Children's Public Computer
- Library Staff Only
- ☐ = Coin-operated Photocopier(s)
- ⓔ = Elevator
- Ⓜ = Microform Reader(s)
- = COM Catalog of Library Materials
- ⚽ = Public Restrooms
- ⚽ = Children's Restroom
- Ⓟ = Stairs



LOWER LEVEL

- Administrative Offices 483-1580
- Director
- Assistant Director
- Business Office
- Community Relations
- Bookmobile Services 483-0543
- Data Processing
- Extension Services
- Technical Services
- ⓔ = Elevator
- Ⓟ = Stairs



Last but not least on the top floor is the Local and State History Room. The library maintains an indepth collection of books, magazines, newspapers and genealogical materials pertaining to Fayetteville, Cumberland County and the state of North Carolina. Back issues of local newspapers on microfilm are located here. A staff-created index to the two local major newspapers since 1979 is also on file.

The lower level of the library holds the "behind the scenes" operations of the entire library system. Here one will find the administrative offices, technical services, community relations, extension offices, book storage, equipment storage, supplies and staff lounge.

The library system has just signed a contract with CLSI of West Newton, Massachusetts, for a complete on-line automation system. A special computer room was designed to handle up to 60 terminals within the new library alone. The new system will be installed this fall with automated circulation operational in 1987. The library's six branches will be added to the LIBS 100 system, as will the bookmobile. The on-line catalog (PACII) will be set up shortly thereafter, along with acquisitions, serials and film booking.

Another important feature of this building is that it was really built to last for many years. Over 9,500 square feet of expansion space is available in the lower level for public services or administrative use in the years ahead. This extra space was possible because the overall bids for construction of the library were under \$41 a square foot.

A special security door control system monitors all exterior doors. If an exterior door is opened, a visual and auditory signal is given at the circulation desk security console. The library's security guard can be directed to the appropriate door to investigate. There is also an interior motion detection system that is activated at closing. If an intruder breaks into the library, an alarm will be activated in the City-County Enforcement Center.

This \$4.7 million structure has been needed for over twenty years. Before the completion of this new library, headquarters library services were divided into three separate buildings. The Anderson Street Library housed the information services staff, the reference collection, the adult non-fiction collection, current and back issues of periodicals, the Local & State History Room, technical services and the offices of the assistant director and headquarters librarian.

A few blocks away the library's adult fiction, children's and audiovisual collections were lo-

cated in the old post office that was renamed the Frances Brooks Stein Memorial Library. Bookmobile services, administrative office, storage for supplies and equipment and the office of the director were squeezed into this 1907 facility.

The third part of the headquarters library included the Gillespie Street Library, which was seven blocks distant from the other libraries. The North Carolina Foreign Language Center was located here. This library also included a small collection of adult and juvenile materials, a public meeting room, and the office of the head and assistant head of extension services.

The community attempted to correct this horrendous division of services with bond referendums in 1968 and again in 1982. Both failed. However, the defeated 1982 bond referendum provided the impetus for a new financial package. The Board of County Commissioners challenged the community to raise \$700,000 in private funds, along with \$497,000 in federal funds, \$350,000 from the City of Fayetteville, and \$250,000 from the Cumberland Community Foundation. If library supporters were able to accomplish that, the commissioners would pledge up to \$3 million for the new headquarters library.

During the summer of 1983, the fund-raising campaign surpassed its goal and raised \$1.2 million in donations and pledges, in addition to the federal, city and foundation sums. The additional funds made it possible for the library to purchase the automated library computer system.

Ground breaking for the new Headquarters Library was held on September 12, 1984. Twenty and one-half months later, the collections, equipment and staff from the Anderson Street Library, the Frances Brooks Stein Memorial Library, and the Gillespie Street Library were relocated.

We anticipated that our circulation of materials would grow at 50% in the new facility. We were elated to discover after only one month of service that our book circulation had jumped 80% over the same month the year before!

Future enhancements include a permanent collection of North Carolina art to be unveiled in September. This collection was developed with private funds and selected by the library's Art Selection Committee. In late fall 1986, an outdoor sculpture will be unveiled at the entrance to the library. This abstract piece of white Georgia marble by Horace Farlowe will be the first modern public sculpture in Fayetteville and Cumberland County.

This community has struggled for many years to construct this library; they endured and now their dream is a reality.