

**THE EAST WINSTON BRANCH LIBRARY***By* PAUL BALLANCE\*

The new main building of the public library system of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County had been occupied but a short time when definite plans were in the making for a new branch building in East Winston for the people of this section. A branch to serve Negroes was opened in 1927, and for about four years occupied quarters in the Chestnut Street Branch of the YWCA. It became known as the George Moses Horton Branch. In 1931 the City rented one room at 216 East Sixth Street, and this housed the library until 1937 when another room was rented and the space doubled. It was in these quarters that the library remained until 1954.

From an earlier survey made by Charles E. Rush, then Librarian of the University of North Carolina, it was determined that the center of Negro population was in the area near the old branch library on East Sixth Street. It was not possible for the City to obtain the proper site near Sixth and Seventh Streets, and Patterson Avenue. Drs. H. D. and H. R. Malloy and Dr. J. C. Jordan, Jr., donated a portion of the lot on East Seventh Street facing the Kate B. Reynolds Memorial Hospital. The City purchased the remainder of the block to a depth of 100 feet. This location is slightly east of the area thought of as the center of population and a very good location.

Bids were received for the branch library on October 22, 1953, and the contracts were awarded on November 9. The building is of brick construction with Indiana limestone trim. The building is 141' 8" long with a depth of 43' 4" on the east end. The west end reduces to a depth of 32'. The entire building occupies an area of 7,453 sq. ft. with 5,813 ft. on the main floor, and 1,638 sq. ft. in the basement. The total cubage of the building is 93,011 cu. ft.

The general plan of the branch follows very much that of the main library, with all of the activities on the main floor. Due to the contour of the land, and the nearness to the surface of a main sewer line under the building, it was not possible to have the main floor at street level. However, instead of having the six steps in one sequence, they were broken by having two steps from the street to a small lobby and four steps from the lobby to the main entrance to the reading room.

The adult reading room occupies the east portion of the building and is 67 ft. long, and 43 ft. wide for a distance of 32 ft., graduating to 27 ft. To the right of the entrance is a small area furnished with comfortable furniture and around the walls, counter height, are the magazine cases or current periodicals. Directly in front of the entrance is the charging desk. Here all books are charged and returned, and the adult borrowers registered. To the left of the charging desk is the public catalog and the reference desk. This room is furnished with four round tables and two rectangular tables with a sloping top table for study. There is also a rectangular table with two record players, with earphones for listening. The area at the extreme east end of the room is arranged as a comfortable reading area with comfortable furniture. A portion of the north wall has wood shelves and it is here that the popular books are shelved. This room will seat 40 people. The main room houses about 10,000 volumes of books in steel free standing shelves at the rear area. The work office and the librarian's office are immediately back of the charging desk. To the left of the office is a small storage and workroom, with an outside entrance for the staff. The automatic lift which gives access to the basement opens off this workroom.

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*Photo by Woodrow Wilson*

### Adult Reading Room

To the right of the charging desk is the children's room, with the librarian's desk, card catalog and vertical file near the entrance. This room contains six round tables of two sizes, and one double, sloping top table, and a rectangular listening table with two record players. This room will seat about 35 children. There are wood shelves around all of the wall area in the room, with three double free standing sections at the west end. At the rear of the children's room is a hall, extending the full length of the children's room. The southeast end of the hall opens to the rear of the building and on the parking lot which has space for 15 cars. The west end of the hall opens into the auditorium. The public restrooms are off the hall. The auditorium is 32' x 26', and will seat about 100 persons. The room is equipped so that it may be used as an exhibit gallery, with spot lights, and the walls are covered with Fab-ri-cona for hanging exhibit material. The auditorium has an entrance from the street. There is a small stage with storage rooms on either side.

The basement is divided into three areas: the staff, which consists of a lounge room for the staff with a combination kitchen unit, and restroom; the stack area, with stacks having a capacity of about 18,000 volumes of books; the mechanical room, which houses the heating and air conditioning equipment.

This library, like the main library, is easy to supervise because of large open areas and no solid walls. Glass is used generously for partitions, which makes supervision easy. The interior walls of the building are of concrete block, painted. The ceilings throughout are of perforated fibre tile material. All floors are of asbestos Vinyl plastic. The building is lighted by 24" x 48" recessed fluorescent fixtures, with eggcrate baffles to reduce direct glare. The building is heated by a gas fired hot water boiler, with heat exchangers in the ducts producing warm air which circulates through vents and louvers. The air conditioning units are of 20 and 10 ton capacities, the larger controls the main library proper, and the smaller unit controls the auditorium, each operated as separate units.

## NORTH CAROLINA LIBRARIES

The reading rooms, both adult and children's, are furnished with limed oak reading tables of apronless design of Myrtle Desk Company manufacture. The library chairs in both reading rooms were manufactured by the High Point Chair and Bending Company, Siler City, N. C. All straight and arm chairs have upholstered backs furnished in dark and light brown and orange top grain leather. There are three round tables in the children's room with bent-ply chairs; these were furnished by Thonet, Inc. through Dan Cooper, Inc. The comfortable furniture, rugs and draperies were furnished by Dan Cooper, Inc., New York. The office furniture is all metal with linoleum tops, the desks and tables are of Shaw-Walker manufacture and the office chairs covered in a green plastic are of Globe-Wernicke manufacture, and both furnished by local distributors. The steel stacks were supplied by Virginia Metal Products Corporation.

Mr. Dan Cooper of New York, cooperating with the decorating committee, developed the warm, soft colors which are used throughout the building.

The branch uses a variation of the Detroit system of charging, where the patron makes out his own charging slip, and each slip and a transaction card is stamped with a Simplex time machine.

This building and the main library building are the results of a great deal of effort and work by the Library Board Chairman, Mr. Ralph P. Hanes, and the citizens of this community owe a great debt of gratitude to this one man. The two buildings will remain symbols for many years marking Ralph Hanes' civic interest in this community.



*Photo by Woodrow Wilson*

**Children's Room**