



CATAWBA COLLEGE LIBRARY, SALISBURY, N. C.

**CATAWBA COLLEGE LIBRARY**

By LULU RUTH REED\*

The Corriher-Linn-Black Library on the campus of Catawba College, opened for use in November 1953, combines Gothic architecture with a modern functional interior. At present there is a stack capacity of 149,000 volumes, and seating equipment for 210 persons, with space for additional stacks, chairs, and tables. The architectural design permits the addition of wings, when needed. Construction is of Catawba brick, with cut limestone trim. Tall, bronze lamps, suspended on either side of the center arch, provide illumination of the main entrance. They are controlled by a time clock at the central switchbox.

Through an enclosed lobby one may enter either the delivery hall and library reading rooms, or, by stairways, the second floor lecture and listening rooms, and the basement lounges and museum. The lobby contains a pay telephone station, a drinking fountain, night deposit slot for return of books when the library is closed, and space for wraps. Large glass doors, on which appear the seal of Catawba College, separate the lobby from the delivery hall; and glass partitions divide the lobby from the stairways, making it possible to close off stairways when desired.

Terrazzo tile floors are used in the lobby, the delivery hall, and the main reading rooms, with asphalt and rubber tile in the stacks and other rooms. The color scheme features soft pastel shades: doeskin in lobby, yellow in stairways, green in the reading rooms and other rooms. Louvered, recessed slimline lighting is used throughout the building, with indirect lighting spots in the lobby and the delivery hall.

The charging desk and public card catalog occupy the center section of the main floor, flanked by reading rooms and stacks. Back of this central area are the staff work rooms and the librarian's office.

The reading room to the right houses current periodicals, near an informal reading center; and reference books, near standard apronless tables. Chairs are upholstered in shades of pine and persimmon. An atlas stand, dictionary cases, and two special index tables supplement wall and floor cases. Stacks on both the main and the mezzanine floor at this end of the building contain other reference books and periodicals.

\**Librarian, Catawba College Library.*



MEZZANINE—INFORMAL READING CENTER

The reading room to the left contains a browsing collection and special display cases for new books. Both informal chairs, and regular apronless tables, with chairs, are provided. Cataloged books in all fields are shelved in the stacks at this end of the building. In both reading rooms, cases and furniture are in blond birch and oak.

While much of the mezzanine floor is given over to stacks, the center section contains two seminar rooms, a room equipped with six typewriters, and an informal reading center. A large map of the United States decorates the wall in this section, and an illuminated globe affords additional means for geographical study. On this level tables for readers are available in the stacks, and individual study carrells are at each end of the stacks. The typing room, provided so that students can take notes from library books, is sound-proofed by acoustical tile and a double-glassed vestibule. It is proving to be one of the most popular of the new facilities installed for users of the library.

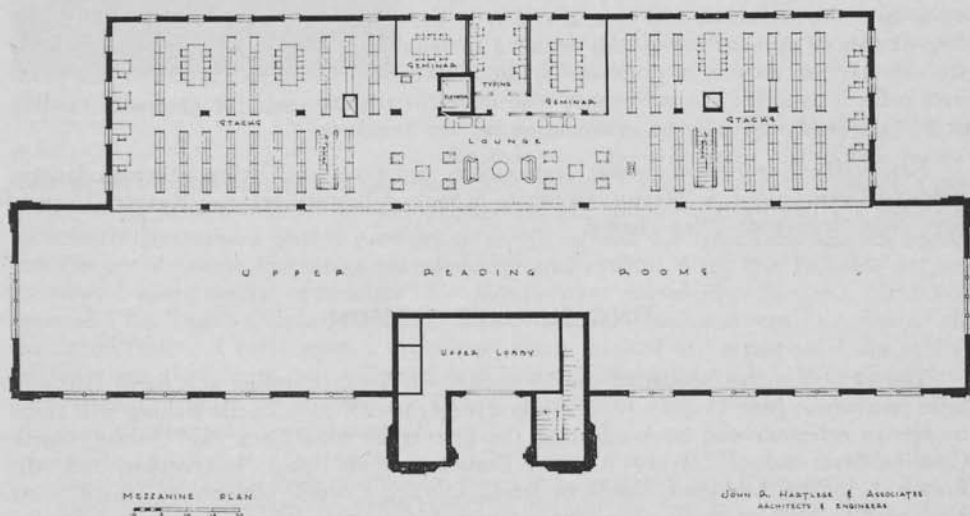
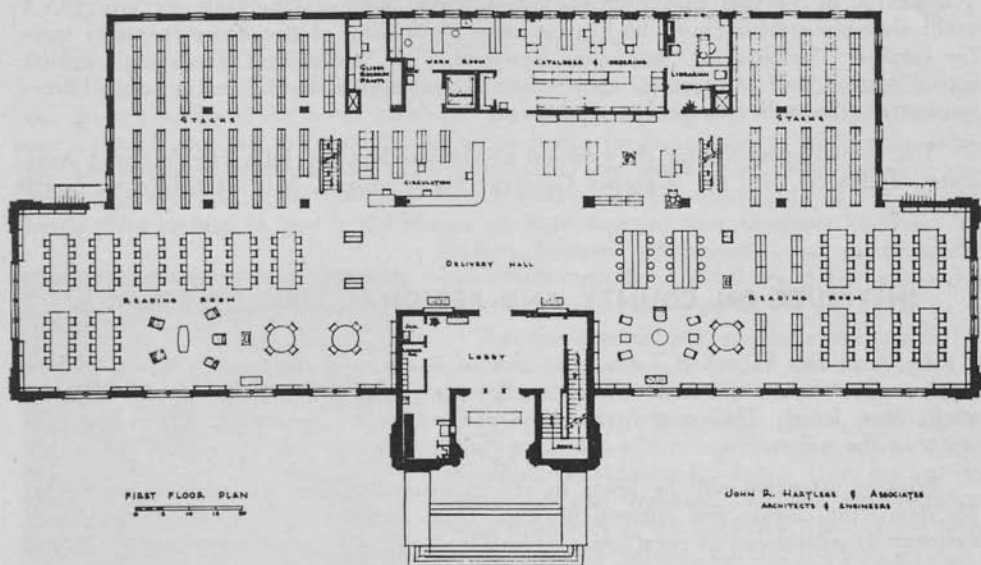
The staff offices are fully equipped for efficient work in ordering and cataloging books. There are ample card files, vertical files, and a specially designed case for Cumulative Book Indexes and other bibliographical aids. One section of this work room contains built-in cabinets for storage of supplies, and space for lettering and repair of books.

The outer wall of the librarian's office consists of casement windows that overlook a lovely wooded area to the rear of the library. The office appointments include tan and green draw draperies, beige wall-to-wall carpet, a large modern desk of walnut accented with a cane panel insert and built-in desk lamp, and easy chairs.

The basement is divided into two areas. One, with access from the main lobby, contains the public lounges and a museum, with its workroom. An outside door to the museum makes it possible to use this section without opening the rest of the building.

The other area of the basement, below the stacks and offices, contains various mechanical equipment rooms, a "Treasure Room" (of vault construction), the library staff lounge, two locked sections of stack for storage of uncataloged material, and room for future stack installation. There is also a "Receiving Room" on this level, with entrance from a service drive. The recessed entrance makes it possible to deliver material without exposure to rain.

## NORTH CAROLINA LIBRARIES



*Floor plans of main and mezzanine floors of the Catawba College Library.*

An elevator, sufficiently large to carry a standard book truck and two or three persons, gives access to working areas on the basement level, and to stacks and work rooms on the main floor and the mezzanine.

Over the central part of the building a second floor, reached by stairway from the lobby, contains a lecture room and two listening rooms. The lecture room is wired for the showing of slides and films, and furnished with blond chairs, a table, and a lectern.

## NORTH CAROLINA LIBRARIES

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The chairs, of Finnish manufacture, are specially designed for compact storage. A small alcove separated from the lecture room by folding plastic doors furnishes space for storage. The listening rooms are equipped with Stromberg-Carlson high fidelity record players, and comfortable chairs. Special instructions have been given to library assistants, who will operate the equipment.

The firms responsible for the erection of the building are John Hartlege and Associates, architects, and the Wagoner Construction Company, both of Salisbury, North Carolina.