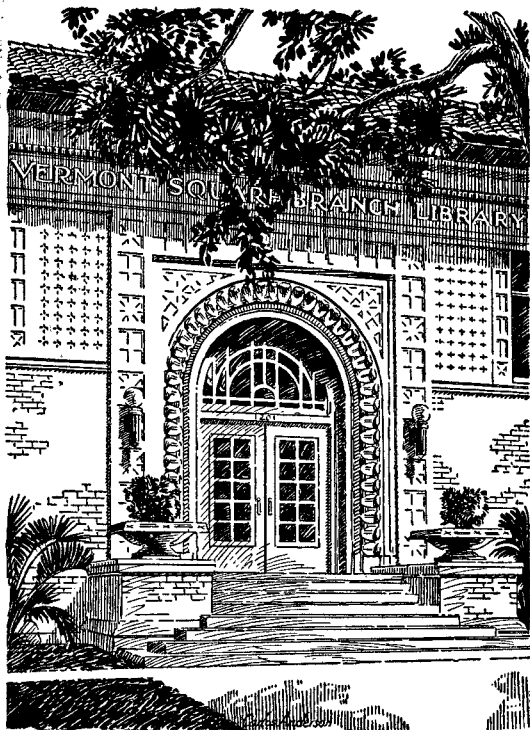
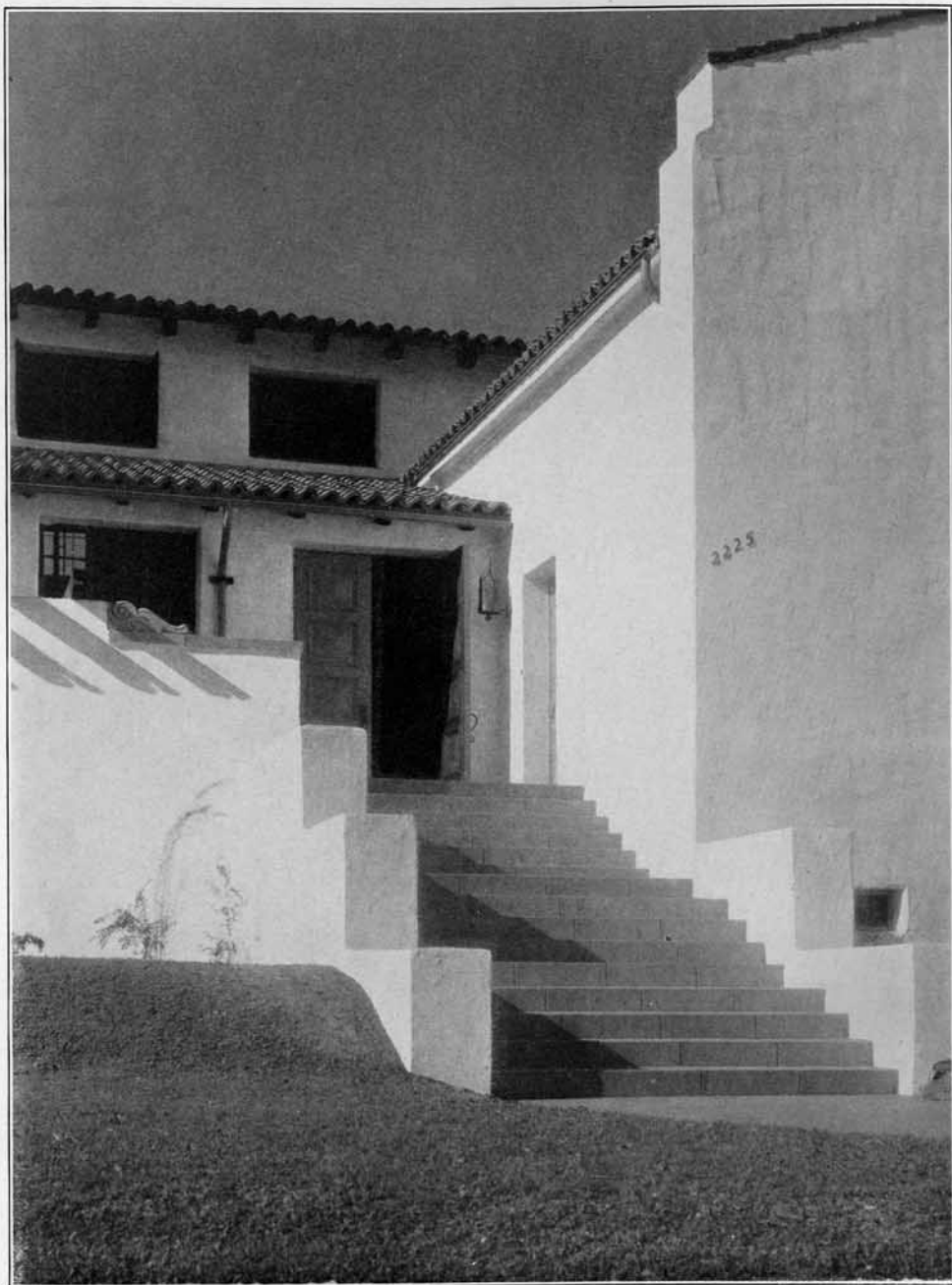


librerias - Los Angeles - Public Library *The Carnegie*



LOS ANGELES
PUBLIC LIBRARY
BRANCHES

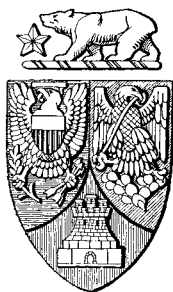
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EAGLE ROCK BRANCH
Doorway

HAND BOOK
OF THE
BRANCH LIBRARIES
LOS ANGELES PUBLIC LIBRARY

1928



BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS

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ALTHEA WARREN, *First Assistant Librarian*
(In Charge of Branches)

HELEN T. KENNEDY, *Second Assistant Librarian*
(In Charge of Branches, 1913-1926)

BRANCHES DEPARTMENT DIVISIONS

Branches Department and First Group Branches in Charge of
FIRST ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN

Work with Children in Charge of
EVA G. LESLIE

Second Group Branches in Charge of
BETSEY M. FOYE

Suburban Branches in Charge of
RHODA WILLIAMS

Stations in Charge of
ANNABEL LEARNED

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Foreword

The Branch Library System

IN the early days of public library development, a Central Library was thought to be fully adequate for the reading needs of a community. Scholars and students found there book collections adapted to their research requirements. General readers who surmounted the inconvenience of traveling long distances to the Central Library were rewarded with the opportunity of access to the best literature pertaining to a wide variety of subjects. But as American cities grew in territory the single building, even though centrally located, obviously failed to carry out the avowed mission of a public library, namely, to serve with reading material, all the people in all parts of the city. It became necessary to establish suburban branches, which contained book collections suited to the community needs. The natural trend of demand required that the branch libraries contain a large proportion of circulating books and small reference collections, while the Central Library contained the bulk of the library's reference material with a smaller proportion of circulating volumes.

The problem which confronts the Board of Library Commissioners in providing a city of the size and cosmopolitan nature of Los Angeles with adequate library service is no small one. The present system consisting of a Central Library and forty-six branches supplemented by eighty deposit stations serves a large portion of the city's 441 square miles of territory. But much remains to be accomplished before the ultimate goal of the Library Commissioners and the Librarian is attained—namely the placing of branch libraries at community centers with a frequency that requires no citizen to walk more than a mile to reach the nearest branch.

Los Angeles has rejoiced in a notable development of branch libraries for two reasons. The lack of an adequate building until 1926 for the Central collection made it necessary to place emphasis on the extension of service through the branch library department. Again, the rapid growth of the city by annexations made extension of service not only desirable but imperative. Patrons could not journey frequently from San Pedro on the one hand, nor from the San Fernando Valley on the other, to borrow books from the Central Library. Moreover, the annexation of territories, many of which had heretofore supported libraries of their own, made city library service a natural act of good faith.

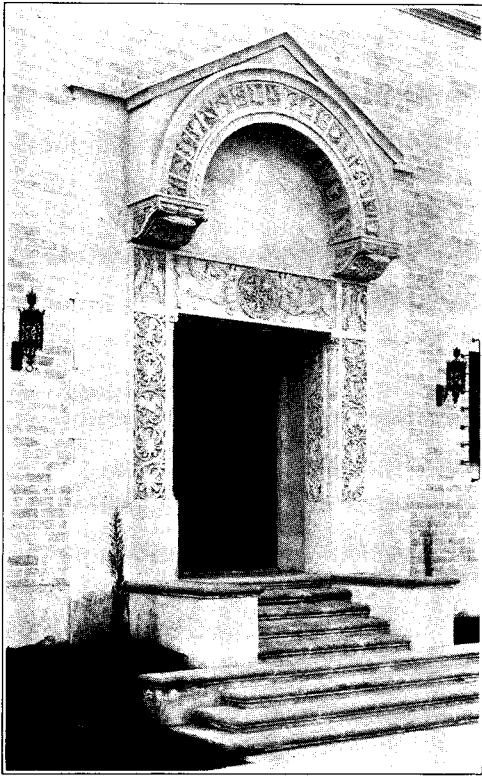
The Library Board as a body has given systematic study to the problem of branch extension, keeping in close touch with the territorial development, and the educational and recreational requirements of a rapidly growing city. The various Branch Libraries Committees have made special effort to meet the

many exigencies arising as the branch library system has been shaped and developed. Much credit is due to all board members who have guided the development of the Los Angeles Public Library in its fifty years of existence. And special mention should be made of the work of the present Board, for several of the members of this Board have been connected with the library during the period of the building, not only of the Central Library, but also the erection of the greater part of the 34 branch buildings all of which have been constructed since 1913. Orra E. Monnette has been president of the Library Board since 1916 and Francis J. Conaty, the Vice-President, has been a member since 1915; Mrs. Frances Harmon Zahn served from 1915-1919 and again since 1922; Mrs. Katherine G. Smith has been on the Board since 1920; E. N. Martin was appointed in 1926 to fill the vacancy made by the death of Frank Hervey Pettingell who had served for eight years. Meeting in weekly sessions, the Commissioners have considered petitions for new branches, have studied locations for future sites, have met bidders and contractors, selected plans adapted to the architecture of the various neighborhoods in which branch libraries are placed, and first and last, have administered the finances of the library department of the city so that this development was possible.

It only remains to record a few milestones of progress in the erection of branch buildings and to state our ultimate goal. In 1911, through the efforts of the Library Board and Mr. Purd B. Wright, Librarian in that year, a gift of \$210,000 was secured from Andrew Carnegie, with which the first six branch buildings were erected in the years 1913 to 1916. In 1921 \$2,500,000 was voted by the citizens for a central building and branches, with \$500,000 of this sum to be devoted to branches. With this fund one branch was moved and remodeled and eleven branch libraries constructed in 1923 and 1924. Again, in 1925 a bond issue of \$500,000 for branches was enthusiastically voted by the citizens. The last of the fourteen buildings erected from this bond issue is now being completed. The system comprises forty-six branches, of which twelve are still in rented quarters, and thirty-four occupy library buildings owned by the city. Not until every section of the city is equally well served and library buildings are provided for every branch, may it be said that we have attained a public library system which is capable of satisfying the requirements for educational and recreational reading of the people of Los Angeles.

Everett R. Perry, Librarian.

Branch Libraries in Los Angeles



WILSHIRE BRANCH
Doorway

The history of branch libraries in Los Angeles begins thirty-one years ago, when the Los Angeles Public Library had been in existence twenty-five years. The Central Library was housed in 1897 in rooms in the old City Hall, with a rapidly growing collection of books that overflowed into attic and basement. "To relieve the congestion of these crowded rooms, and to save patrons time and carfare" the annual library report of 1897 states that three reading rooms were opened in the Castelar, Macy and Amelia Street Schools. The next step was the establishment in 1899 of the first delivery station in a rented room at 1952 East First Street. This Boyle Heights station is the first that developed into a Branch Library, and is now the Benjamin Franklin Branch, located in a Carnegie Building at 2200 East First Street.

PRESENT BRANCH SYSTEM

The story of development from that first delivery station to the present far-reaching system of 46 branches and 80 lending stations—a book service that carries the library to the people from valley to harbor, to the worker in the industrial plant, as well as to the patient in the hospital—is a story closely associated in trials, triumphs and growing pains with the history of Los Angeles. Many leagues have been traveled from the day in 1891 when the library was made entirely free, with forebodings on the part of the directors that the collection would prove inadequate to the free demand, to the year of 1927 when seven million volumes were borrowed by Los Angeles residents for home reading. Much of this advance in circulation and use of books has been made possible by branch libraries. The Report of 1926-27 reveals that 75% of the year's circulation was borrowed from branch libraries—pertinent proof of the need and appreciation of the extension system.

COMMUNITY AID IN STARTING LIBRARIES

It is an interesting fact that in most instances, the development of branch libraries has required not only persistent and consistent attention on the part

of the City Librarian and the Board of Library Commissioners, but it has needed also the fostering aid of public-spirited community members who gave of their time and means to prove the desirability of branch library service. Early branches were all established in answer to petitions or demands from the community and were required to undergo a year of probation when citizens provided a room, furniture, lights and maintenance, while the library furnished books and a part-time attendant. At the end of the probationary year, the branch or station became a part of the Los Angeles system with all expenses assumed by the Central Library.

CHANGES IN DISTRICTS

Ebb and flow of population, change in residential districts, and shifting of business sections have all exerted a varied influence on the growth or the decline of branch libraries. In many instances, the little station which began in a drug-store or a post-office has developed into a flourishing branch library with a substantial book collection and an attractive building. In other instances, because of industrialization, or shifting of residential centers, the little station has lost patronage, and has been discontinued. In one instance it seemed best, because of traffic congestion and changing conditions in the neighborhood, to divide an old established branch in two parts with one located on either side of the main artery of travel. The old Central Avenue Branch Library went out of existence in 1925 and two new units were established: the Bret Harte Branch, located in a rented storeroom at 508 East 23rd Street; and the Helen Hunt Jackson Branch, housed since 1925 at 25th and Naomi Streets in an attractive little stucco building of the Spanish type, designed by C. E. Noerenberg.



HELEN HUNT JACKSON BRANCH
2330 Naomi Street

Architect: C. E. Noerenberg
Cost: \$7,039 (Building, equipment, furniture)
Construction: Frame-Stucco

Building dimensions: 66' x 32'
Floor space: 1,830 sq. ft.
Volumes capacity: 4,000

Branches Department

The Branches Department, under the charge of the First Assistant Librarian, has its headquarters on the third floor of the Central Library, occupying a suite of six rooms consisting of offices for the branch principals and principal of work with children, stations and inter-library loans, work-room, stock room and shipping room.

For convenience in budgeting, appraising, and supervising, the forty-six branches are divided into three groups: the larger branches which average a monthly circulation of over 10,000 volumes directly under the First Assistant Librarian; the second group of smaller city branches under the Principal of the Second Group; and the last group of suburban or outlying branches which do not average over 5,000 volumes in circulation under the Principal for Suburban Branches. The Stations Department as a fourth unit is also under a principal.

This office acts as a clearing house where branch librarians may consult their principals and make monthly reports. The shipping room sends supplies, books, magazines to all branches and stations, making two or three deliveries weekly to every branch. An average of 350 books daily is sent from the main library to the branches.

BRANCH LIBRARIANS

Branch librarians are given much freedom in working out individual problems of book selection, staff management, decisions of community policies and publicity methods, with aid and counsel on specialized subjects given by principals of the Central Library. Weekly conferences and book review meetings are held at the Central Library, attended by branch librarians and department principals of the Central Library, and conducted by the Principal of the Order Department. Principals of the main library departments evaluate books suited to branch purchase; book reviews are given by members of the staff on new books sent on approval from the leading publishers; and book orders are placed by branch librarians, based on these reviews and evaluations. The further details of ordering, cataloging, and shipping of books, pamphlets, magazines and supplies are taken care of by Central Library departments.

STATIONS AS BRANCH BEGINNINGS

An interesting part of the extension service is illustrated by the Stations Department, established with the purpose of carrying books to the people who are unable to come to the central or branch libraries, and to serve small groups with collections adapted to their requirements for reading. This department last year circulated nearly 200,000 volumes with loans in 88 different locations. The collections contain from one hundred to one thousand volumes, and are placed in business houses, institutions, churches, clubs or stores, with care guaranteed by a responsible organization. Nineteen stations are at present in fire stations, seven in stores or factories, five under church auspices, eight in summer camps, one in an old people's home, and one in a military academy, while twenty-five are giving a less specialized community service from little reading

rooms in store buildings. A recent addition to our stations service is that given to three of the large hospitals where the stations' librarian goes with her book-truck twice a week visiting every patient.

INTER-LIBRARY LOAN

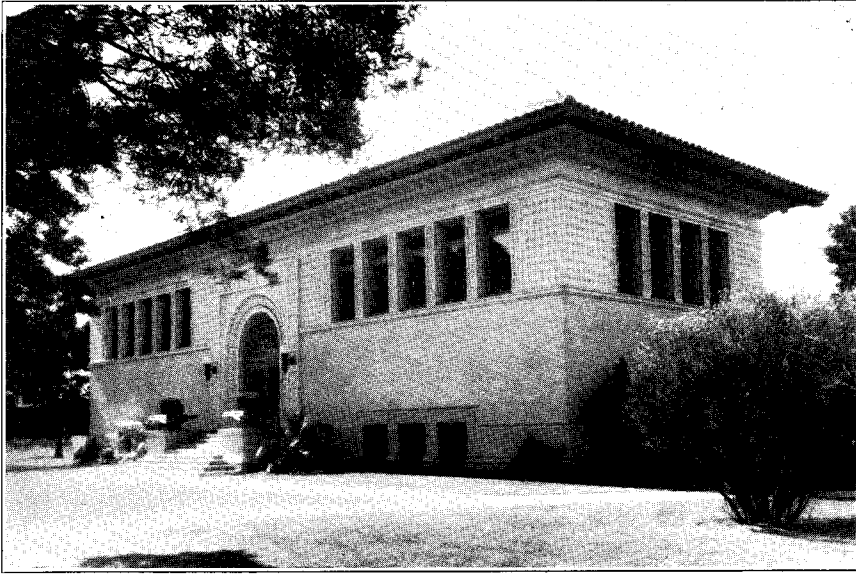
To increase the resources of branch libraries so that the small branch which necessarily contains a selective rather than an inclusive collection, may satisfy its patrons, a system of exchange has been developed known as the "Inter-Library Loan." This division with a collection of about 5,000 volumes endeavors to fill the requests for special titles that pour in from the branches at the rate of from one hundred to two hundred a day. Though stray calls persist for the mediocre books of the 1880s and the cheap serial, yet the general trend of requests reveals substantial, many-sided current interests. As rapidly as possible, these requests are filled and deliveries are made to the branch with restrictions on the length of the loan. The Central Library also lends books for this service.

Branch Buildings

The three sources of funds for branch buildings mentioned in the Librarian's foreword, are the 1911 Carnegie fund of \$210,000, the \$500,000 from the bond issue of 1921, and the 1925 Branch Bond issue of \$500,000.

The Six Carnegie Buildings [1913-1916]

In looking through the family album of the branch libraries we find the stately and aristocratic elders in the six buildings constructed with the Carnegie gift of \$210,000 during the years 1913 to 1916. In those days of pre-war building costs, \$35,000 would erect a fire-proof brick structure having a capacity for 15,000 to 20,000 volumes, reading rooms seating about 100 and an auditorium with capacity of 100 to 300. With one exception these Carnegie buildings have an assembly room located in a high basement, and provision is made for an outdoor reading porch or garden. These early branches were heated by coal or oil burning furnaces, which are gradually being replaced with gas. Staff quarters, office, work room, and rest room were provided on a very small scale.



VERMONT SQUARE BRANCH
Carnegie Building, First Branch in Los Angeles
1201 West 48th Street

Architects: Hunt and Burns
Cost: \$38,466*
Construction: Brick-Terra Cotta

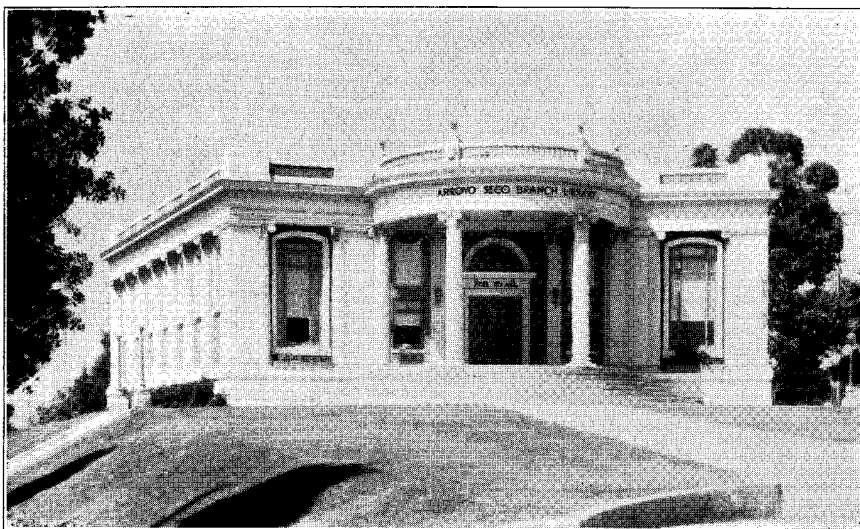
Building dimensions: 85' x 57'
Floor space: 8,000 sq. ft.
Volumes capacity: 15,000

VERMONT SQUARE BRANCH.

Vermont Square Branch at 48th and Budlong Streets was the first building to be completed with a portion of the Carnegie fund. This section of the city had no library service until the appropriation made a building possible. The site was a most suitable one, in a small city park. About 6,000 books were purchased for a beginning collection, and the branch attracted many visitors from the opening day, March 1st, 1913. In the year 1927 Vermont reported a circulation of 278,444, second only to Hollywood.

The building is designed in the early Italian Renaissance style, with a base of cream brick, with cream colored terra cotta frieze, and contrasting red tile roof, the whole making a pleasing picture in its setting of sycamore and cypress. The plan contains on the main floor, adults' and children's reading rooms, divided by the charging desk and glass partitions, an open-air reading porch overlooking the park, and staff quarters. The main floor is set well above the ground, allowing for an Assembly Room and Children's Story Room on the ground level, a few steps below grade. The Assembly Room is provided with a platform and is equipped to show stereopticon views and motion pictures.

* Cost: building, equipment, landscaping, etc., exclusive of site.



ARROYO SECO BRANCH
6145 Pasadena Avenue

Architect: Frederick M. Ashley
Cost: \$39,095 (Building, equipment, furniture)
Construction: Brick

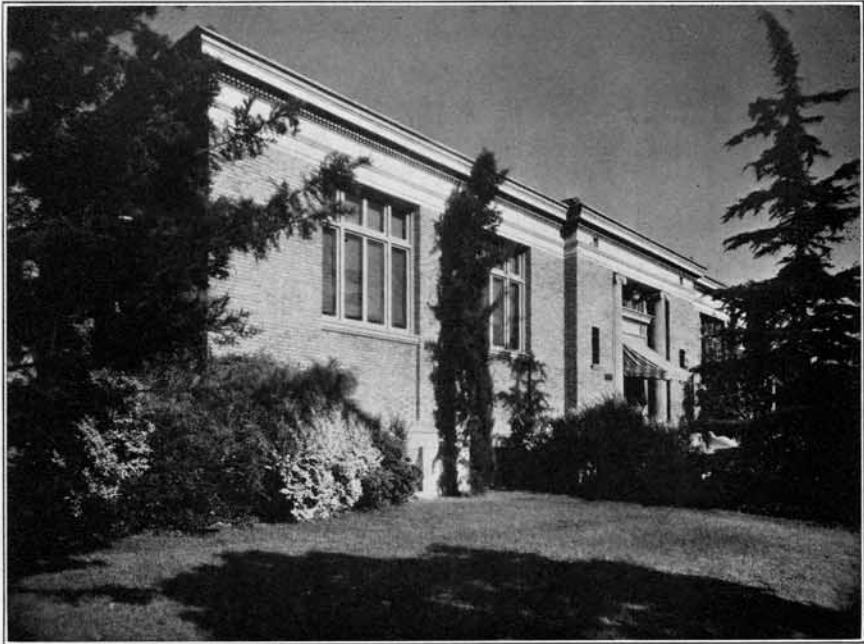
Building dimensions: 54' x 63'
Floor space: 8,736 sq. ft.
Volumes capacity: 20,000

ARROYO SECO BRANCH.

Arroyo Seco was the second branch in this group to complete its building, at 6145 Pasadena Avenue, in the year 1914. This branch was an outgrowth of the old Garvanza Branch, which in turn had united with the Highland Park Branch established in connection with the Stimson Memorial Library at Occidental College. Located on a V-shaped plot of ground in the northeast section of the city, it occupies a unique position, fronting on two streets with terraced approach. The architect has evolved a plan admirably adapted to the lot, with the main axes of the two principal reading rooms parallel to the two converging streets and a circular porch with columns of the classic Ionic order binding the two units together. Between the children's room on the south and the adults' reading room on the north, there was an open reading court which has since been enclosed to shelve fiction. Below the children's room on a level with Pasadena Avenue is a lecture room seating two hundred. The building is of reinforced concrete with the upper portion of "medium old gold" brick trimmed with cream-colored art stone.

VERNON BRANCH LIBRARY.

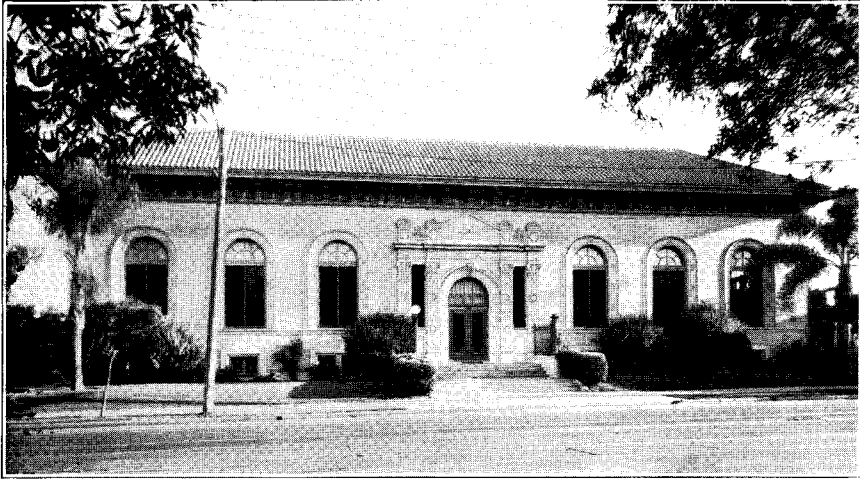
Vernon Branch, one of the earliest branches of the system to become popular, was provided with a Carnegie building in 1915 in the style of the classical Italian Renaissance, with brick exterior. The plan is a typical clover-leaf design. A feature of the building is an open air reading room which can be converted into a closed reading room by a sliding sash. Much use has been made of the basement club room and kitchen. This branch was an outgrowth of a delivery station opened in 1901 in the vicinity of Central Avenue near Vernon Avenue. As in many other instances it was maintained for a year by the citizens of the neighborhood with the book collection furnished by the library.



VERNON BRANCH
4504 Central Avenue

Architects: Kysor and Biggar
Cost: \$34,634 (Building, equipment, furniture)
Construction: Brick

Building dimensions: 107' x 49'
Floor space: 8,710 sq. ft.
Volumes capacity: 22,000



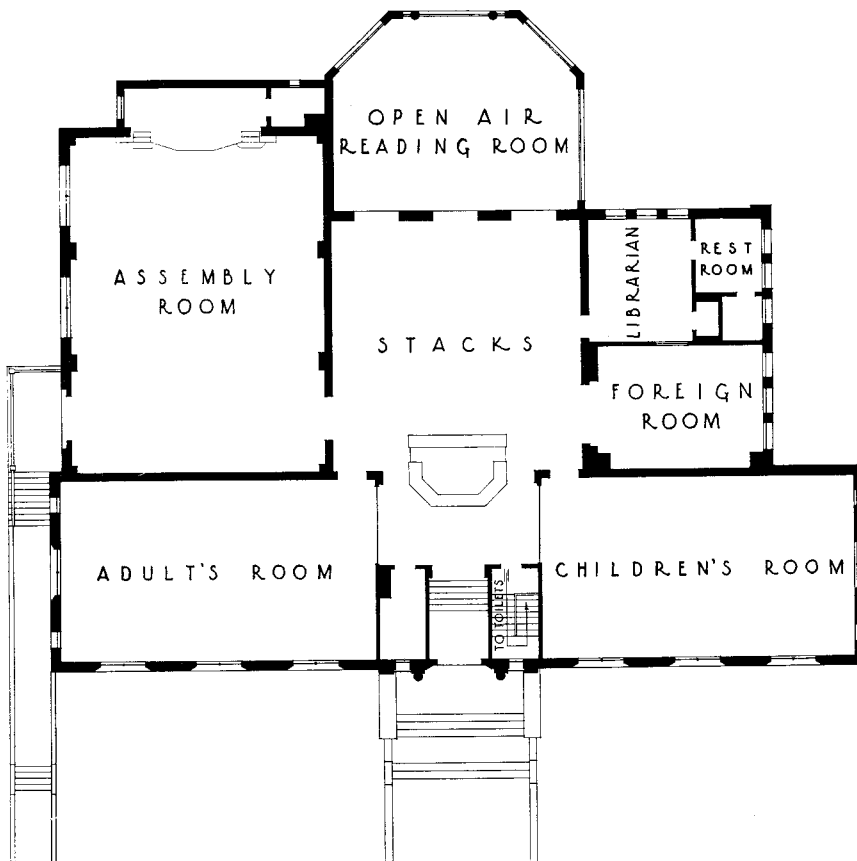
BENJAMIN FRANKLIN BRANCH
2200 East First Street

Architect: W. J. Dodd
Cost: \$34,215 (Building, equipment, furniture)
Construction: Brick-Terra Cotta

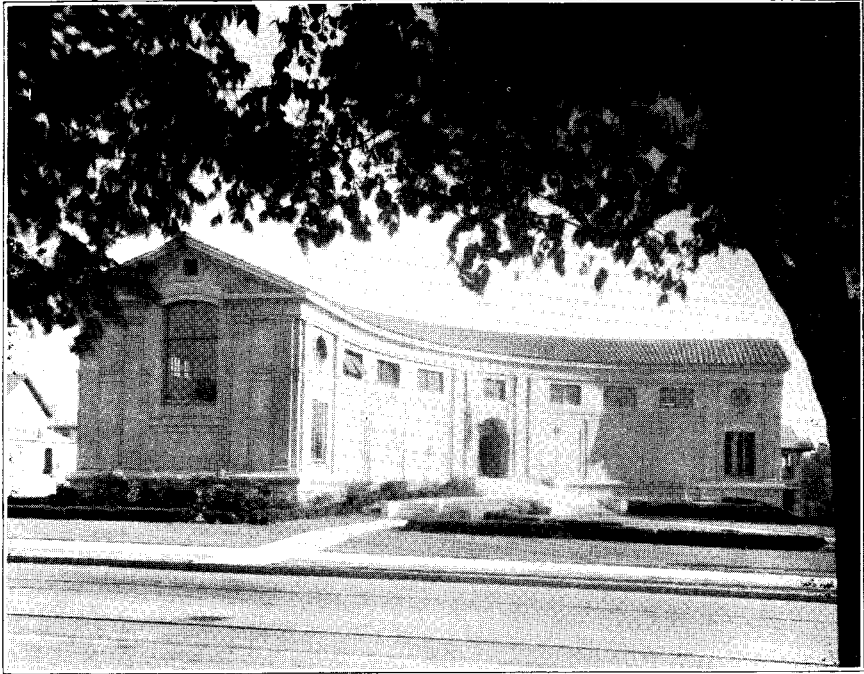
Building dimensions: 112' x 90'
Floor space: 5,855 sq. ft.
Volumes capacity: 16,344

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN BRANCH LIBRARY.

The fourth of the Carnegie group to complete its building was Boyle Heights Branch, opened in June, 1916. This branch had been a delivery station since 1899 and for eight years previous to that had been maintained by local organizations, members of which formed the Boyle Heights Library Association. In 1910 it was established as a branch library, after maintenance for one year had been given by community members. The collection has been gradually revised and enlarged to suit the needs of the changing community, and many foreign books have been added as the demand for books in Russian, Spanish, Yiddish, Hebrew, Polish, German, Greek or other languages increased. It is the depository for Yiddish and Russian volumes in the branch library system and lends over a thousand of these books a year to other branches. The handsome Carnegie building is today so overflowing with books and patrons that there is again need of enlargement. The name has been recently changed to "The Benjamin Franklin Branch" in accordance with the present policy of the Board of Library Commissioners of naming branches for American authors or historic Californians because location nomenclature in our expanding city is too frequently subject to change.



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN BRANCH
 Floor plan showing arrangement typical of the Carnegie buildings erected 1913-16



LINCOLN HEIGHTS BRANCH
190 North Workman Street

Architects: Hibbard and Cody
Cost: \$33,009 (Building, equipment, furniture)
Construction: Brick-Stucco

Building dimensions: 96' x 96'
Floor space: 7,072 sq. ft.
Volumes capacity: 23,700

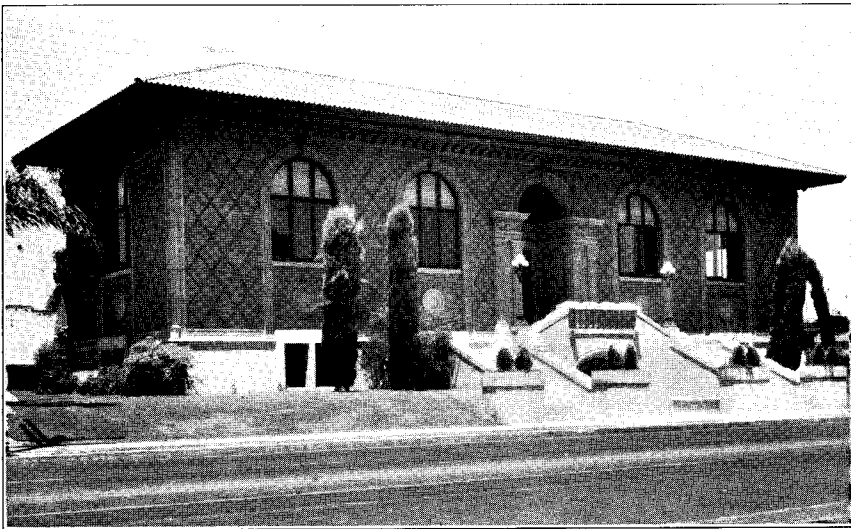
LINCOLN HEIGHTS BRANCH.

Lincoln Heights, the fifth of the Carnegie buildings, completed in September, 1916, has a unique design in the Italian Renaissance style, with the floor plan in the shape of a segment of a circle. A famous Italian building inspired the design—the Villa Papa Giulio, built for Pope Julius III, and said to be the work of Michelangelo, Vasari, Vignola and Ammanati. This library was mentioned by the Southern California Chapter of the American Institute of Architects as one of the ten most notable buildings erected in 1916 within a radius of twenty-five miles of Los Angeles.

Originally known as the East Los Angeles Branch this library was formally taken over by the City Library in 1910, after residents of the community had carried the responsibility of maintenance for a year. In December, 1910, it was combined with the East Main Branch and circulation steadily mounted until use justified a suitable building. One of the oldest sections of the city, this community reflects the changing conditions of a growing metropolis and the library has endeavored to keep pace with provision of books for the industrial community, and the foreign speaking residents, as well as to continue to provide for pioneer Los Angeles families.

CAHUENGA BRANCH.

Cahuenga Branch was opened to the public in the last and smallest of the Carnegie buildings in December, 1916 at 4591 Santa Monica Boulevard. It is a substantial and dignified Italian building faced with brick laid in pattern and panels, with a grand exterior central stairway leading upward to the main entrance and down to the basement club room and auditorium. The plan is similar to that of Vermont Square and like Vermont Square, Cahuenga began full-grown in a Carnegie building, giving service to a community which had no previous public library privileges. Increasing rapidly in popularity, with systematic publicity based on a thorough survey of the neighborhood, Cahuenga soon proved the wisdom of the Library Commissioners in their selection of the location on Santa Monica Boulevard. The establishment of the Southern Branch of the University of California on the old Normal School grounds on Vermont Avenue brought many university students to the library and an interesting reference and study collection is being built up. The auditorium is used on many occasions for community gatherings.



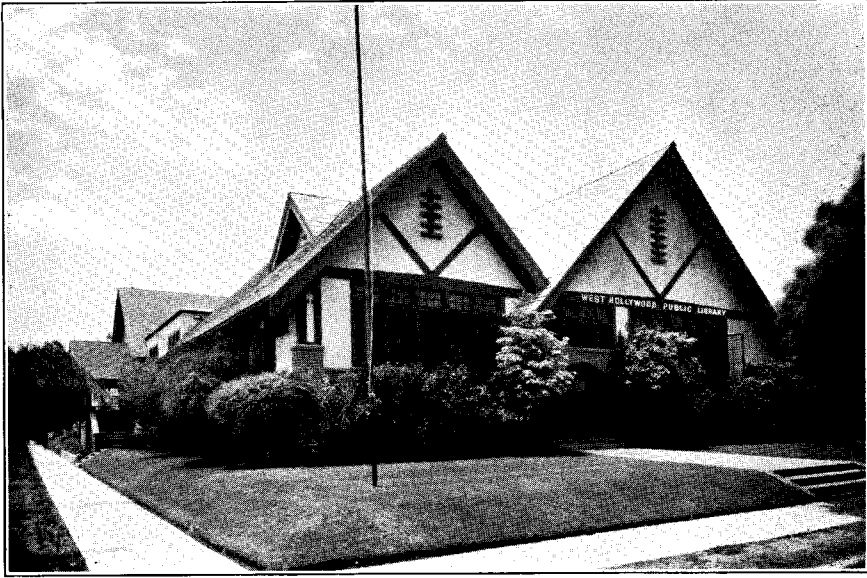
CAHUENGA BRANCH
4591 Santa Monica Boulevard

Architect: C. H. Russell
Cost: \$33,978 (Building, equipment, furniture)
Construction: Brick

Building dimensions: 94' x 58'
Floor space: 8,474 sq. ft.
Volumes capacity: 17,000

Impetus to Library Building

The Carnegie buildings with their provision for club and committee rooms, and the dignity and importance they imparted to library service in Los Angeles, gave an immense impetus to growth which was ably met and fostered by the Library Commissioners, the Librarian, Everett R. Perry, and the Second Assistant Librarian, Helen T. Kennedy, then in charge of branches. Six large branches erected, equipped and provided with suitable book collections, in the space of three years was an exacting achievement. But the appre-



WEST HOLLYWOOD BRANCH
1403 Gardner Street

Architects: Marsh and Russell
Cost: (Original building) \$14,500
Construction: Brick-Stucco

Building dimensions: 62' x 93'
Floor space: 5,130 sq. ft.
Volumes capacity: 10,000

Completed by the Los Angeles Public Library in 1923

ciative response on the part of the people inspired those in charge of library affairs to attain new goals—a central building and additional much needed branches.

Carnegie Buildings by Annexation

In 1909 San Pedro came into the city by annexation, possessing a small Carnegie library. This building occupied for 14 years, was turned over to the city in 1923, completely outgrown and inconveniently located for a library. It is now used by the Chamber of Commerce. A new library building was erected at Tenth and Gaffey Streets, San Pedro, in 1924.

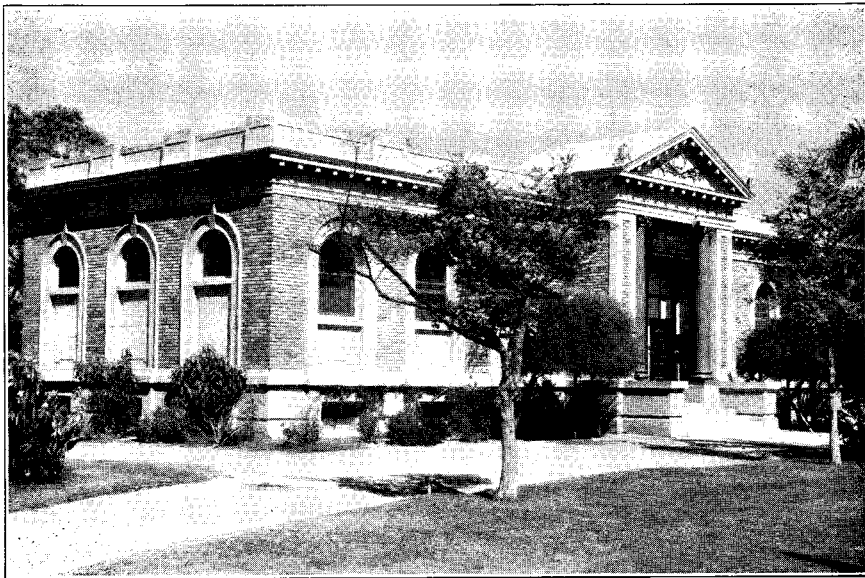
Annexation of Hollywood in 1910 brought into the system the Hollywood Carnegie building of English Tudor style which was later moved to 1403 Gardner Street, and became the West Hollywood Branch. Eagle Rock joined Los Angeles in 1923. The history of the Eagle Rock Library dates back to 1914 when a group of citizens wrote to the Carnegie Corporation for assistance in establishing a library. A sum of \$7,500 was allowed and the Eagle Rock Library was opened to the community April first, 1915. Annexation brought this building into the system in 1923 and in 1927 the original building was torn down and rebuilt, using the old foundations. Watts, annexed in 1926, brought in a fourth Carnegie Library, a small brick building.

Territories Acquired by Annexation

Communities formerly served by the County Library System or those without library service, have been coming into the city so rapidly that the extension of city service with book deliveries, maintenance and supervision, is no small problem.

Garvanza with an established library came into the city as early as 1900. 1909 brought Wilmington into the system with a library located in the city hall and a collection of a few hundred books, the gifts of citizens. For a time Wilmington and San Pedro were administered by the same staff, but in 1913 Wilmington was given a full time librarian and use of the library increased steadily. Wilmington's branch building was completed in 1927. In 1916 the San Fernando Valley became a part of Los Angeles. Rented quarters were provided for the valley branches until the demand for space and service resulted in buildings for Van Nuys and Owensmouth opened in 1927. El Sereno, Palms, and Harbor City were also annexed in 1916, and small portable bungalows were provided for Palms and Harbor City, and a rented store (now grown to two stores) for El Sereno.

Sawtelle became a part of Los Angeles in 1918, with a library housed in the Woman's City Club and since 1922 has been given library service in a room of the Sawtelle City Hall. Angeles Mesa, annexed in 1918, has been housed in a rented store at 2616 West 54th Street, and is now acquiring a building. Hyde Park came into the city in 1923, and was fortunate in having



WATTS BRANCH
9901 Grandee Street, Watts

Architect: Elmore L. Jeffery
Cost: \$10,000
Construction: Brick

Building dimensions: 75' x 30'
Floor space: 2,250 sq. ft.
Volumes capacity: 9,500

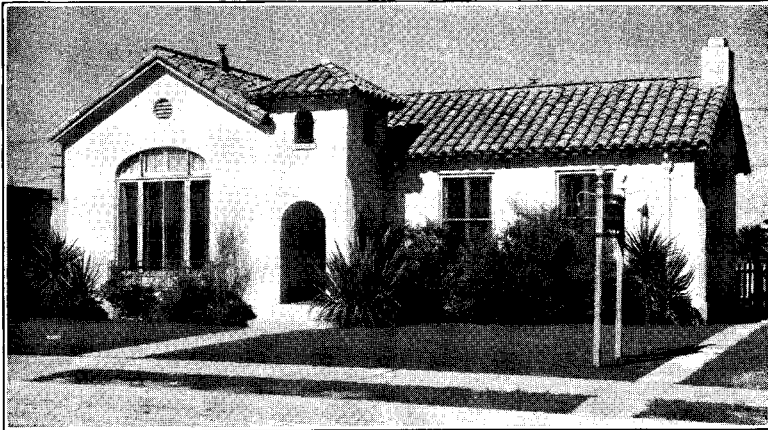
2776 12157

a lot provided by a community member, Mrs. Lizzie S. Clark. A small attractive building of the Spanish village church type was erected for Hyde Park Branch in 1925 on the site at 6527 Angeles Mesa Drive. 1924 saw Lankershim and Annandale joining Los Angeles, and 1926 brought in Venice, Green Meadows, Sunland, Barnes City, and Mar Vista. Lankershim, now North Hollywood is given city library service by the Sidney Lanier Branch. Annandale has a busy branch in a rented room. Venice, which had been served by the county library until annexation, was taken over by the city library in July, 1926. More recent annexations are served by stations.

In all cases of annexation, book collections and furniture must be added to the expenditure of the library and these funds are for the first year a serious drain on the library revenue. Once established and in running order, the branch is more nearly supported by the local tax.

Service for Congested Areas

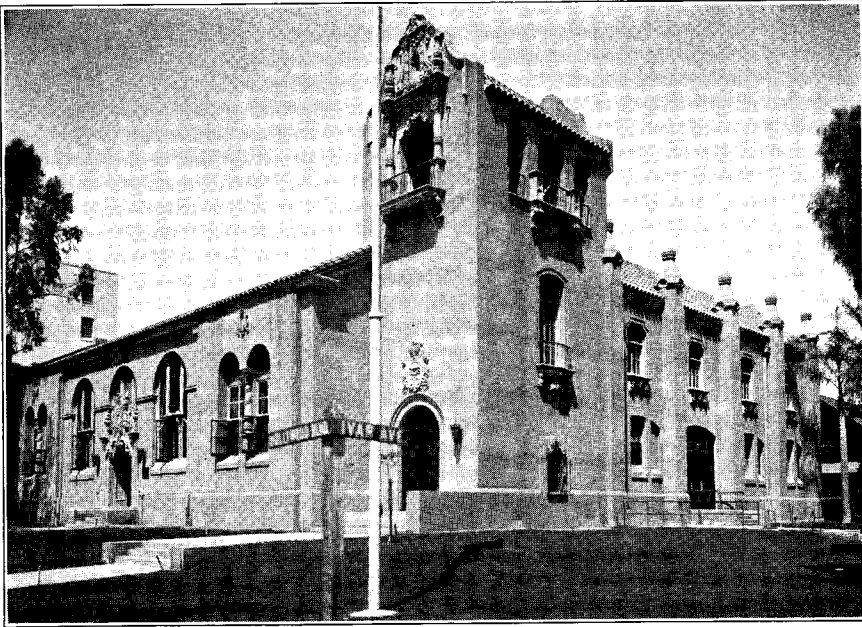
Equally important as the extension of service to outlying districts has been the intensive development within the more central districts in congested city areas. The majority of these communities first established stations which so rapidly increased in demand for better service that they were replaced by rented stores, and, as soon as funds permitted, by permanent branch buildings.



HYDE PARK BRANCH
6527 Angeles Mesa Drive

Cost: \$8,000 (Building, equipment, furniture)
Construction: Frame-Stucco

Building dimensions: 47' x 36'
Floor space: 1,200 sq. ft.
Volumes capacity: 4,480



HOLLYWOOD BRANCH
6357 Hollywood Boulevard

Architect: Dodd and Richards

Cost: \$102,398 (Building, equipment, furniture)

Construction: Brick-Stucco

Building dimensions: 112' x 110'

Floor space: 17,644 sq. ft.

Volumes capacity: 45,000

Lot given by Daeida Wilcox Beveridge
In honor of H. H. Wilcox
Founder of Hollywood

Buildings Provided by Bond Funds

From the Bond fund of 1921 eleven buildings were erected, and the West Hollywood Branch moved and remodeled. These buildings display individuality, practical economy, attractive exteriors and interiors. They vary in cost and character from the beautiful Spanish design of the Hollywood Branch to the simplicity and economy of the Edendale and Jefferson libraries.

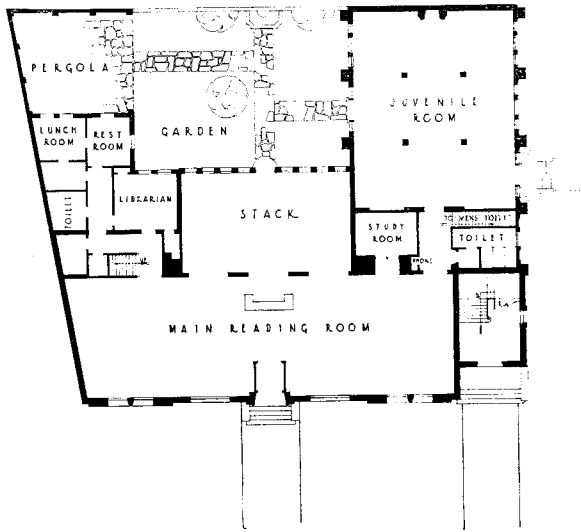
HOLLYWOOD BRANCH.

Hollywood Library is the largest branch in the system, the only two-story branch building, erected and equipped at a cost of one hundred thousand dollars. It is in the Spanish style, surfaced with stucco with ornamentation in art stone, and tile roof. Interesting features are the tower, the spacious adults' reading room, with decorated beamed ceiling, the attractive children's reading room with open fireplace, the patio garden and upstairs auditorium and art gallery.

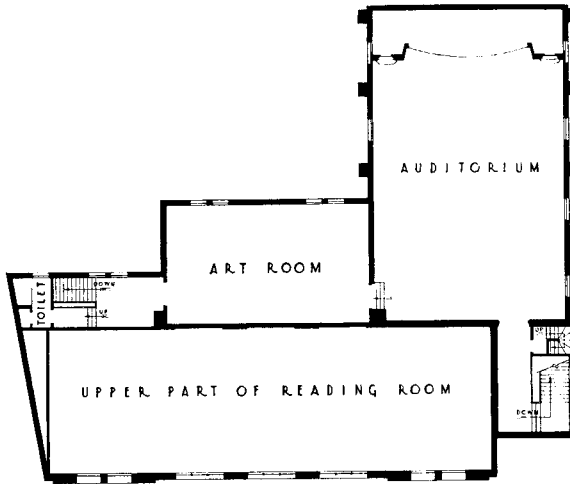


HOLLYWOOD BRANCH
Children's Room

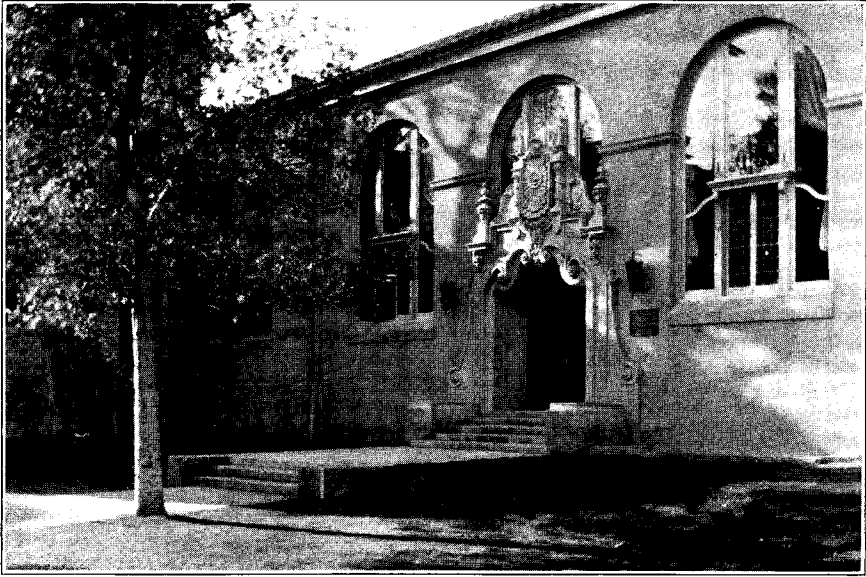
The open fireplace, the outside entrance, the display shelves around the pillars and French doors leading to a patio garden, make this one of the most attractive of the Children's Rooms in the system.



HOLLYWOOD BRANCH
 First Floor
 Building dimensions: 112' x 110'



Second Floor



HOLLYWOOD BRANCH
Doorway

Hollywood Branch, which came under the administration of the Los Angeles Public Library in February, 1910, has always been a center of community interest, and its history is intimately connected with the growth of the community. As early as 1905 a Woman's Club was organized with the purpose of founding a public library. Interest was stimulated by benefit ball games, concerts, minstrel shows and gifts. In February 1906 a gift collection of 600 volumes was placed in two small rented rooms. Shortly afterwards the library was transferred to the city of Hollywood. A petition to Andrew Carnegie resulted in a gift of \$10,000, and a building designed by Marsh and Russell was erected at a cost of \$14,500, the excess above Carnegie's gift being subscribed by Hollywood citizens. In 1910 this library came into the city system with the annexation of Hollywood to Los Angeles. The Carnegie building, completely outgrown in 1921, was removed to Gardner and De Longpre Avenue in June 1922, and became known as the West Hollywood Branch.

For one year the Hollywood Library was housed in quarters over the Security Bank at Cahuenga and Hollywood Boulevard, and on June 26th, 1923 the new building was opened to an enthusiastic community, who had contributed to the interior finishings and who looked forward to exhibits, open air readings, and civic gatherings in this attractive setting.

Seven other branches were completed within the year, a banner year in branch library history: Figueroa, University, Moneta, Edendale, Jefferson, Pio Pico, San Pedro.



FIGUEROA BRANCH
501 West 80th Street

Architect: C. E. Noerenberg
Cost: \$10,000 (Building, equipment, furniture)
Construction: Frame-Stucco

Building dimensions: 58' x 47'
Floor space: 2,278 sq. ft.
Volumes capacity: 7,000

FIGUEROA BRANCH.

Figueroa Branch Library, at 501 West 80th Street, completed June 13, 1923, is an example of the simple rectangular plan with reading rooms divided by the charging desk. The casement windows and fireplace add to the home-like appearance of this little English cottage building and the shingle roof, chimney pots and attractive arched stone door are characteristic of the style adopted.

The history of this branch is a picturesque example of the valiant efforts on the part of a community to obtain library service. A Library Association of residents was founded with dues of ten cents a month, and a small collection of books donated. A small frame building was lent by the Water Department to the Association and moved by men of the neighborhood to a temporary location. In 1915 the Los Angeles Public Library took over this struggling branch and made an extension to the tiny box-like room. The present attractive stucco building is becoming rapidly outgrown, and the lack of a class room for story hours and book talks is keenly felt.



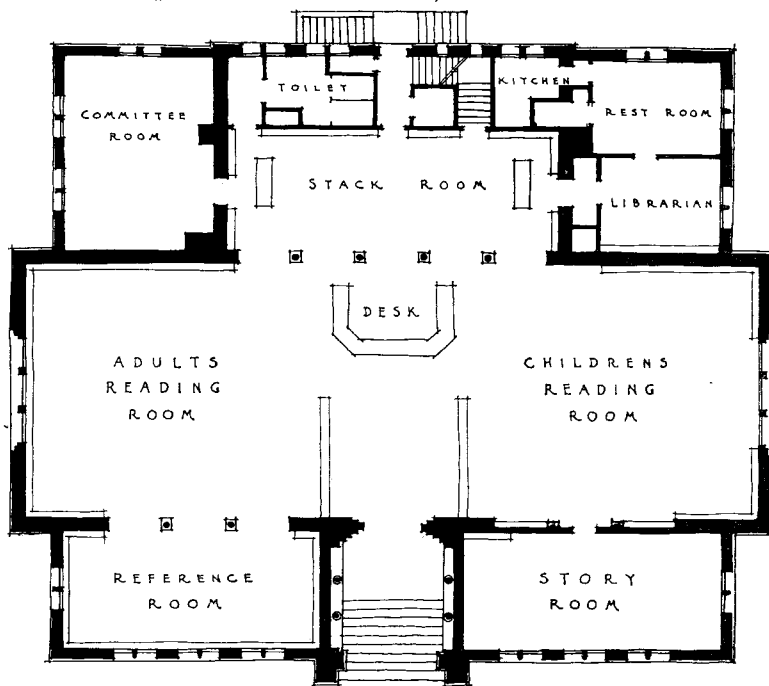
UNIVERSITY BRANCH
3420 University Avenue

Architects: Hibbard, Gerity and Kerton
Cost: \$66,444 (Building, equipment, furniture)
Construction: Brick-Stucco

Building dimensions: 95' x 85'
Floor space: 7,335 sq. ft.
Volumes capacity: 25,590

UNIVERSITY BRANCH.

University Branch, beginning as far back as 1905 with room and attendant furnished by community members, has steadily advanced in services rendered both to the general community and to the students of the University of Southern California. A Book Club organized in 1914 by the branch librarian encouraged use and appreciation of the library.



The building, at 3420 University Avenue, was completed in August 1923, and is an example of the library built to harmonize with its surroundings. Taking the style of the university buildings as a motive, the architect has planned a dignified and attractive structure faced with brick laid in Flemish bond, and trimmed with artificial stone. The details of the openings, the cornice and the deeply recessed main entrance were inspired by existing Romanesque examples in Northern Italy and Southern France. The frieze of the main entrance is a series of grotesque figures, typical of all walks of life, the laborer, the capitalist, the soldier, lawyer, churchman—those who use a public library. The roof is of Italian tile, often found in minor work in northern Italy.



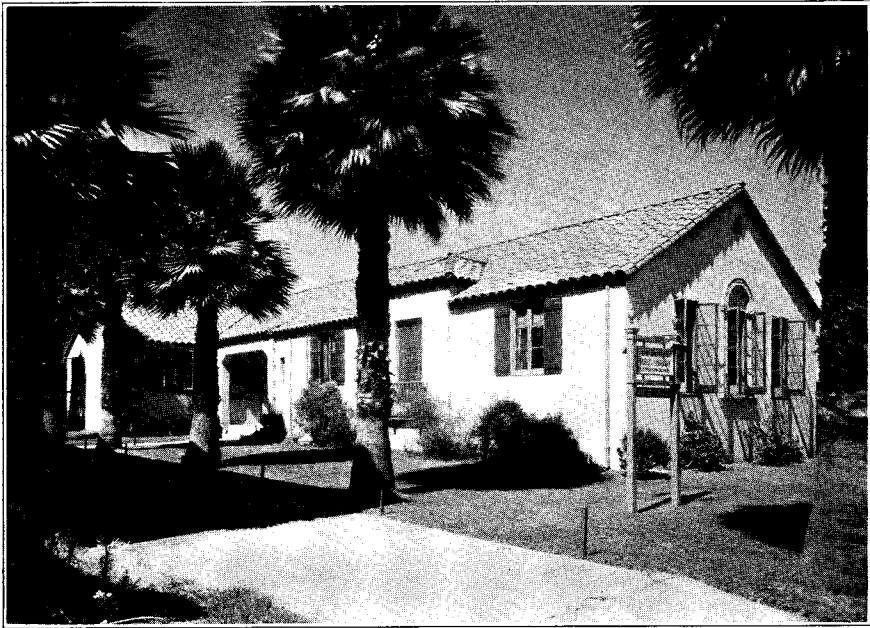
EDENDALE BRANCH
2030 Glendale Boulevard

Architect: C. E. Noerenberg
Cost: \$11,605 (Building, equipment, furniture)
Construction: Frame

Building dimensions: 66' x 38'
Floor space: 978 sq. ft.
Volumes capacity: 7,220

EDENDALE BRANCH.

Edendale Branch began as a station in the Clifford Street School in 1913 and was recognized as a branch of the Los Angeles system in 1915. It was moved from the rented store-room to the new building at 2030 Glendale Boulevard in September 1923. One of the small buildings designed by C. E. Noerenberg, it is of New England cottage type with frame construction, drop siding exterior and shingle roof. It is admirably fitted into the hillside site and commands a view of the boulevard through the long windows of the main reading room. The interior is homelike and attractive. This is one of the five branches which is not on a corner lot.



JEFFERSON BRANCH
2211 West Jefferson Street

Architect: C. E. Noerenberg
Cost: \$14,104 (Building, equipment, furniture)
Construction: Frame-Stucco

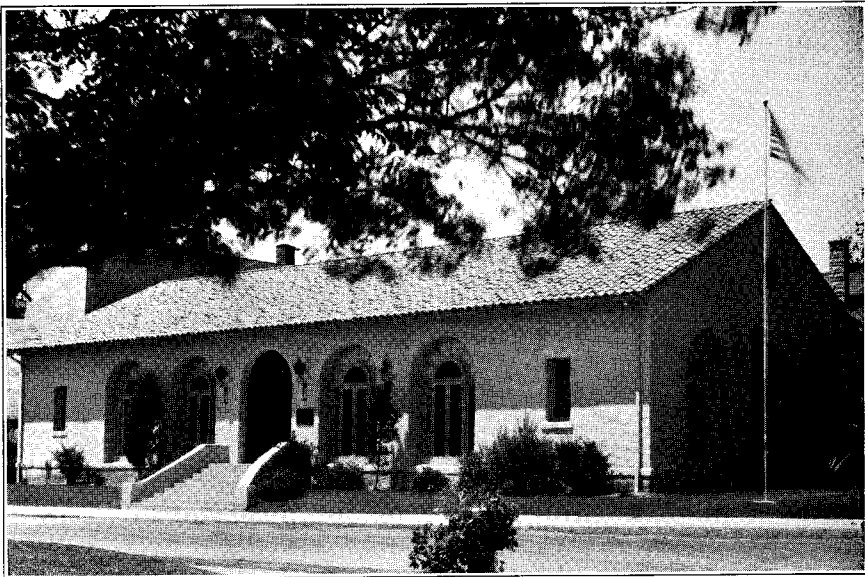
Building dimensions: 90' x 40'
Floor space: 1,966 sq. ft.
Volumes capacity: 11,000

JEFFERSON BRANCH.

Jefferson Branch, completed in October, 1923, is of frame construction with stucco exterior. It is of modified Spanish style with wooden shutters, casement windows, and mission tile roof. This branch began as a station in the Soffel Drug Store at 2100 West Jefferson Street, and was recognized as a branch by the Library Board in 1915. Because of the high cost of land on a business thoroughfare, the plan was made to fit a lot with frontage of fifty feet. The entrance faces a pedestrian alley-way which insures light and ventilation and wins a measure of the accessibility and publicity of a corner, without its cost. Like Figueroa Branch, in less than five years it has outgrown its book capacity and feels constantly the need of a club room and larger staff quarters.

PIO PICO BRANCH.

Pio Pico Branch began as a delivery station in 1900 after interest in a public reading room had been stimulated through efforts of the Pico Heights Improvement Association. The Pico Heights Book Club organized in 1912 held many interesting meetings at the library rooms at 1312 El Molino Street, and community use of this branch made a permanent building imperative. A site was chosen at Connecticut and Oxford Streets, one block from Western and Tenth. The building was completed in 1923, an attractive stucco one-story structure of simple Spanish design with tile roof. The floor plan is ideal for the medium-sized branch with the charging desk opposite the entrance dividing the children's and adults' reading rooms, the staff quarters at the right with outside windows for the librarian's office, and a small club room or story room back of the children's room. In 1925, due to the change of location and the tendency to name branches after individuals, the name was changed from "Pico Heights" to "Pio Pico."



PIO PICO BRANCH
3255 Connecticut Street

Architect : Elmer Grey
Cost : \$35,170 (Building, equipment, furniture)
Construction : Brick-Stucco

Building dimensions: 95' x 45'
Floor space: 4,275 sq. ft.
Volumes capacity: 15,500



MONETA BRANCH
4255 South Olive Street

Architect: Lyman Farwell
Cost: \$38,326 (Building, equipment, furniture)
Construction: Concrete-Terra Cotta

Building dimensions: 82' x 63'
Floor space: 3,922 sq. ft.
Volumes capacity: 12,600

MONETA BRANCH.

Designed in the Spanish or Mission style, the Moneta Branch completed in 1923, has as its characteristic feature the square Spanish tower. Located directly above the delivery desk, this tower, in addition to furnishing the exterior architectural feature, allows for excellent provision of light and air at the delivery desk, where service to the public centers at all hours. The usual arrangement for adults' and children's rooms, and small staff quarters is made. Independent gas heating units controlled from the desk obviate the necessity for a basement.

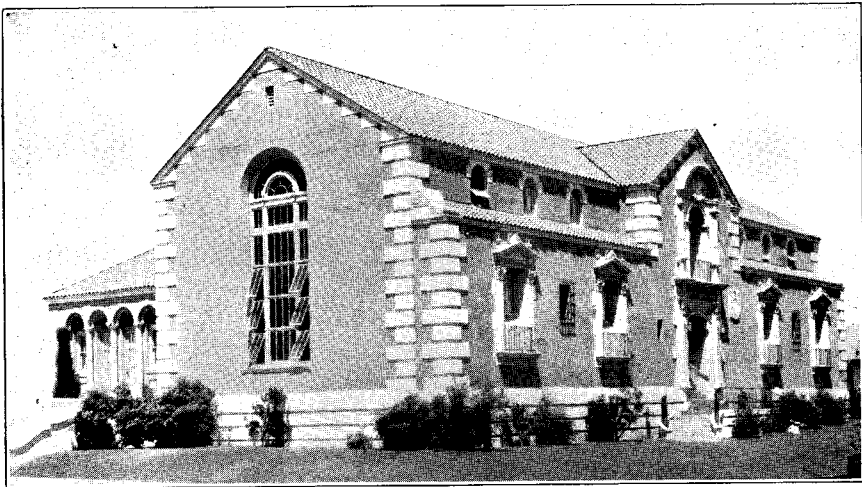
This branch, too, has a history made memorable by sympathetic support of community members. The delivery station, established in 1908 in response to the petitions of the neighborhood, grew rapidly into the status of a branch with regular hours of service and an increasing book collection, which justified a branch building.

SAN PEDRO BRANCH.

As Spanish tradition is so closely linked with the development of San Pedro, a style of building was chosen for the San Pedro Library, which is inspired by Renaissance examples of northern Spain designed in Baroque character. Ornament is concentrated to emphasize the main windows and entrance, and a sparing use of delicate wrought-iron balconies gives a characteristic Spanish feeling to the whole.

The exterior is surfaced with a ruddy colored stucco and the trim is of tufa stone with clay tile roofs forming long, unbroken lines. The 24 foot ceilings of the main reading room, vaulted and pierced with clerestory windows for extra lighting, give an impressive dignity to the interior.

San Pedro Library developed from a literary society which met in the Presbyterian Church in 1888. The City of San Pedro took over the association as a public library in 1904 and a \$10,000 Carnegie building was erected on the plaza overlooking the water front. When San Pedro came into Los Angeles by annexation in 1909, the library was housed in this building. Industrial conditions and changing of residential districts made this location impossible for library service and a lot was bought on Tenth and Gaffey Streets where the new building was erected in 1924.



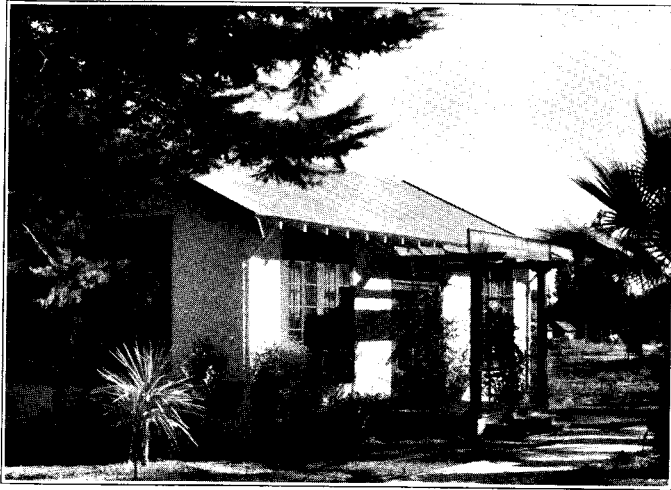
SAN PEDRO BRANCH
931 South Gaffey Street, San Pedro

Architects: Farrell and Miller
Cost: \$63,325 (Building, equipment, furniture)
Construction: Brick-Stucco

Building dimensions: 105' x 62'
Floor space: 6,510 sq. ft.
Volumes capacity: 28,384

READY CUT BUILDINGS.

In addition to these eight branch libraries, three smaller buildings were provided from the bond issue for Palms, Harbor City, and Vine Street of the ready-cut bungalow type. A single airy room ceiled in redwood with many windows, built-in book shelves, and a corner partitioned off for a workroom may be erected in California at a cost of from one thousand to three thousand dollars. This provides a simple small library, which may be moved to a new site when it is outgrown. One of these has already served in three locations. The Vine Street Branch, moved to a new location, became first the John C. Fremont Branch and later the Hazard Branch. The Harbor City Branch is now operated as a station.



PALMS BRANCH
10306 Woobine Avenue, Palms

Cost: \$2,361 (Pacific Ready Cut)
Construction: Frame

Building dimensions: 36' x 28'
Floor Space: 864 sq. ft.
Volumes capacity: 3,436

1925 Bond Issue

Though the construction of the Central Library had been actually begun in 1924 and a second bond issue of \$500,000 had been necessary for purchase of a portion of the site on Flower Street, yet the Library Commissioners realized the necessity of a third bond issue for additional branch libraries in 1925. The \$500,000 library bond on the ballot carried with a large majority. Funds from this issue have provided for fourteen branches. A wide range of styles and plans is illustrated in these new buildings, which together with photographs and floor plans are shown in the order of their completion, as examples of the library of small or moderate size with building adapted to community surroundings. The whole group was completed in a year and a half, the Alessandro Branch being opened to the public October 13th, 1926 and the last of the group nearing completion in the spring of 1928.

General Theories Developed For Later Branch Buildings



Auditorium Entrance
Wilmington Branch

For the buildings constructed from the recent bond issue a general policy of interior design has been followed with certain pre-determined essentials and non-essentials. The smaller and less expensive building has been adopted, with the thought of giving each branch a circle of service of a half-mile radius.

BOOK CAPACITY.

The minimum book capacity which will allow a branch to supply the normal community needs is estimated at 10,000 volumes. Stack space should allow for an expansion of the collection to practically 20,000 volumes. This allows for generous growth, as fifty per cent of the collection is usually in circulation. In most of the new branches stack rooms have been arranged so that a second floor may be added for later expansion.

CLUB ROOMS AND STAFF QUARTERS

Experience proves that it is poor economy to build a branch library without a small club-room for story hours, school classes and neighborhood civic or cultural gatherings. However, it is no longer considered necessary to provide a large assembly hall with stage and dressing rooms, as the public schools are now well provided with auditoria.

Staff quarters must include a work-room as close to the charging desk as possible, a librarian's office where quiet may be secured, a rest-room, equipped with couch, table and easy chairs, and a small kitchenette which contributes much to the comfort of the staff members, each of whom is on duty at least two nights weekly.

BUILT-IN FEATURES.

Practical economy is found in built-in supply cupboards, book shelving in the work-room, a poster-case, a wall safe, staff lockers, china closet, cold cupboard and dining nook. Shelving is provided in the club rooms also for extra supplies or little used books.

GENERAL PLAN.

Although each building must be adapted by the architect to the site and locality chosen, there are certain general floor plans which have been followed. Most of the Los Angeles branches conform to one of three plans, the rectangular, the outer L shape or the inner L shape.

Examples of the simple rectangular plan with charging desk dividing the main room into adults' and children's rooms are Washington Irving, Malabar, Echo Park and Angeles Mesa, all using a restricted space to best advantage. The inner L design is employed at Richard Henry Dana and Van Nuys Branches,

providing an out-door reading court, so desirable in southern California. Adaptations of the outer L with a club room at right angles to the main body of the building securing the advantage of an outdoor club-room entrance are seen in the plans of Alessandro, Wilmington, Owensmouth, and Gardena Branches. A corner lot utilizing the outer L is shown in the Robert Louis Stevenson plan where the lawn and corner entrance occupy the space used in the inner L shape for out-door reading court.

In every case, the charging desk is placed as near the entrance as possible for supervision of the exit. In the new buildings the basement has been practically eliminated. A small underground space is all that is needed for the gas furnace, the hot water heater and the storage of wood for the fireplace. The glass partitions between charging desk and reading rooms, considered essential for quiet in the older libraries have been found unnecessary.

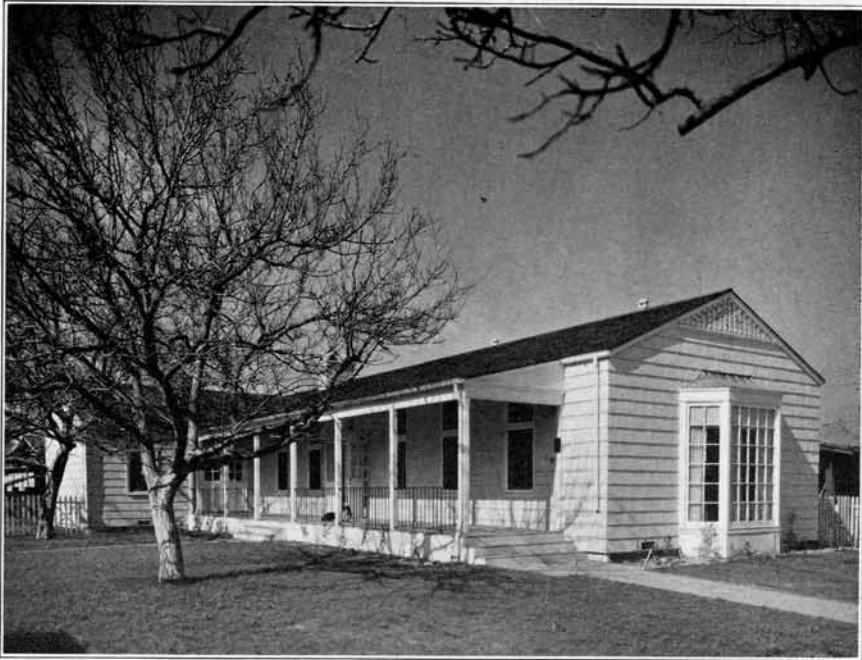
STANDARD SPECIFICATIONS.

The superintendent of buildings has worked out a standard set of specifications for branches covering all details of plumbing fixtures, light, gas and water meters, electric switches, screens, door stops, lawn sprinkling system, a built-in incinerator and innumerable other details. With these specifications the Branch system confidently hopes to emerge from the recurrence of regrets, and repairs, and to attain to the perfect Branch Library,—the librarian's castle in Spain—built on the firm foundation of experience!

ALTHEA WARREN. *First Assistant Librarian.*



“My Lady of Silence”
Fountain in Patio
Hollywood Branch



ALESSANDRO BRANCH
2639 Partridge Avenue

Architects: Weston and Weston
Cost: \$11,758 (Building, equipment, furniture)
Construction: Frame-Shingle

Building dimensions: 31' x 78'
Floor space: 2,057 sq. ft.
Volumes capacity: 5,500

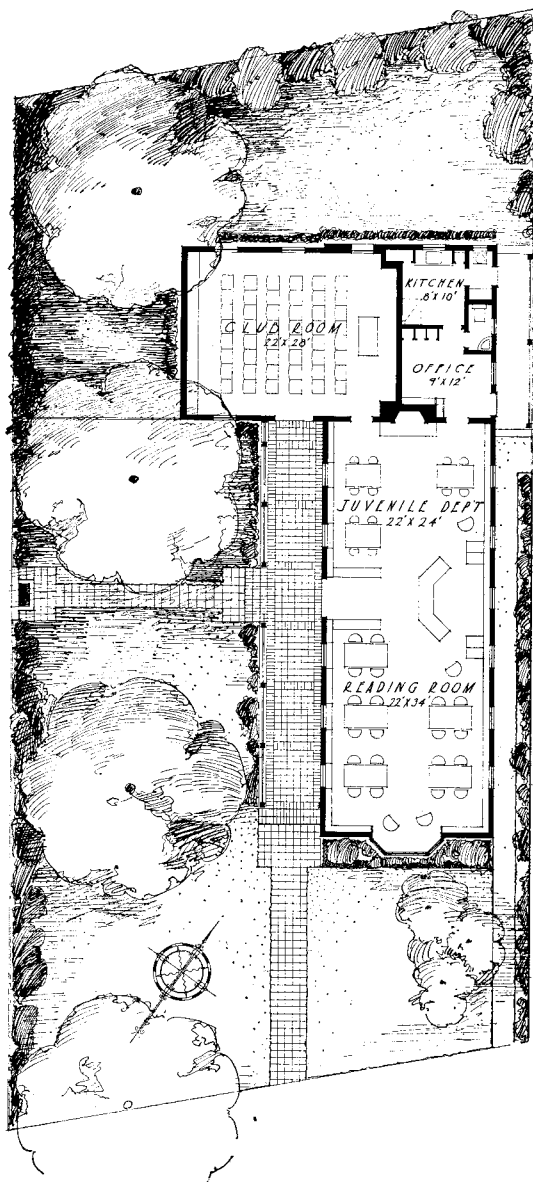
ALESSANDRO BRANCH.

As the Americans settled in California in the early forties, they began to develop a style of California architecture inspired by two sources, the New England colonial houses they had left behind, and the Spanish-Mexican structures they found here, examples of which are still extant in and around Monterey. The details of this architecture are colonial but the general plan is



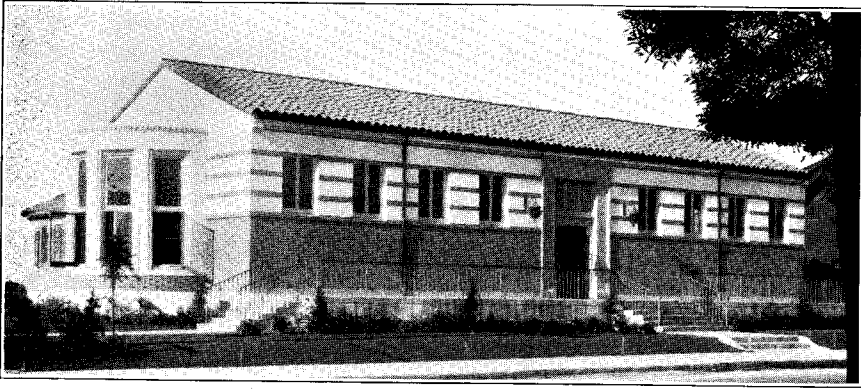
plainly Mexican, and with this combination of feeling, a distinctive style was evolved, erected with adobe or wood walls, and with tile or shingle roofs.

Alessandro Branch Library expresses this architecture, carrying out in frame construction the pattern of the Monterey type of building. This style satisfies our Anglo-Saxon traditions, fulfils the requirements of the climate, and serves to keep before us a delightful and characteristic California tradition.



ALESSANDRO BRANCH

Plan with side entrance and outside door to club-room. (Inside lot)



WASHINGTON IRVING BRANCH
2508 West 18th Street

Architects: Allison and Allison
Cost: \$37,063 (Building, equipment, furniture)
Construction: Hollow Tile-Stucco-Brick

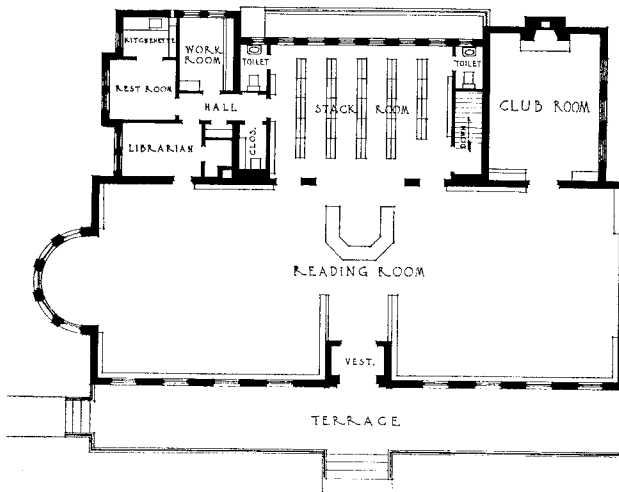
Building dimensions: 80' x 64'
Floor space: 3,918 sq. ft.
Volumes capacity: 25,000

WASHINGTON IRVING BRANCH.

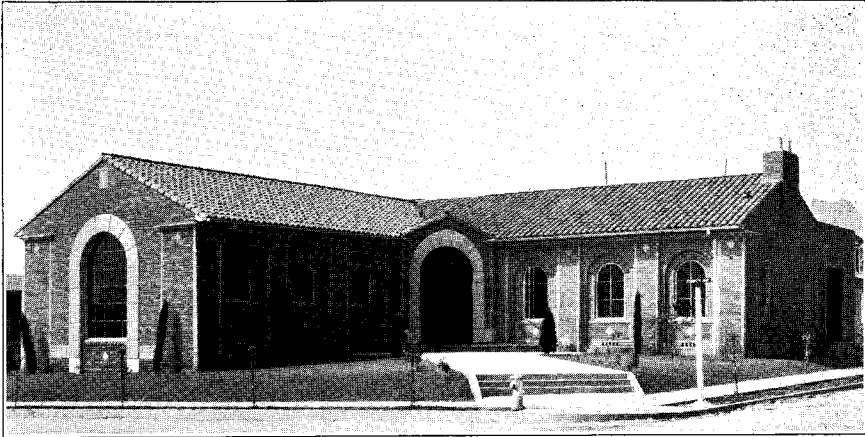
In the design of the Washington Irving Branch Library the long, low roof line, characteristic of Latin American and other architectures of Mediterranean origin, has been adopted. The exterior treatment is a combination of brick and plaster. The brick banding, extending between the windows, reminiscent of a treatment frequently seen in the brickwork of Lombardy and Tuscany, affords a simple, inexpensive means of securing a color contrast.

The long paved terrace, with its metal railing, extending the entire length of the building, gives entrance from both streets and affords a cordial invitation to enter the building.

On the interior, the reading room proper is treated in simple manner with exposed wooden trusses, and rafters decorated in black and gold. The walls



of this room are covered with acoustic plaster and the floor with heavy linoleum, all calculated to produce a quiet, restful atmosphere suitable to the purposes of the room. Aside from the ceiling, the most important architectural element is the apsidal bay window at the east end of the room, counting as an interesting architectural note both from within and without. A fireplace adds to the comfort of the club room.



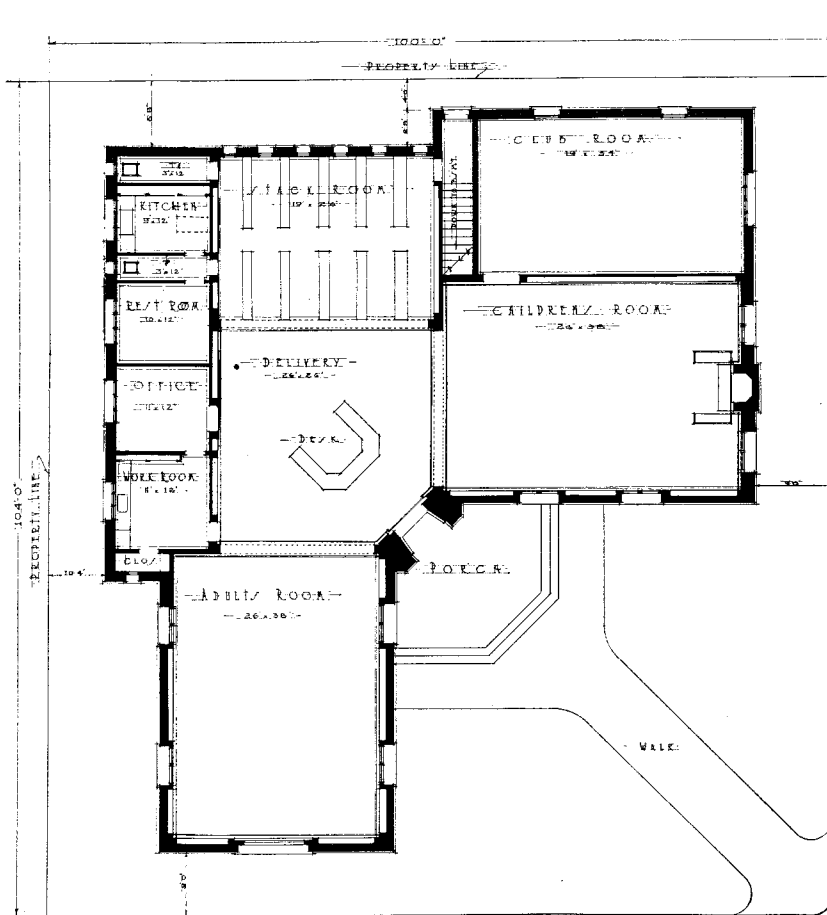
ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON BRANCH
803 Spence Street

Architect: George M. Lindsay
Cost: \$37,652 (Building, equipment, furniture)
Construction: Brick

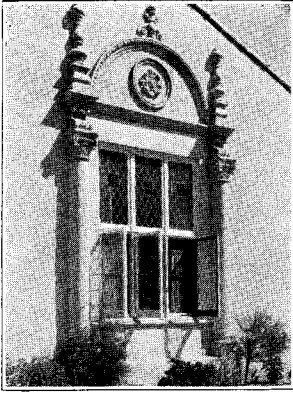
Building dimensions: 80' x 88'
Floor space: 4,474 sq. ft.
Volumes capacity: 22,000

ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON BRANCH.

Built on a square corner lot, this branch is an excellent example of the L-shaped design. This plan provides a hospitable approach, an interesting doorway, a central desk near the entrance which affords complete supervision of the two rooms, and gives excellent fenestration and ventilation. All windows are placed above the book cases to allow maximum book shelving space. Provision has been made in the stacks for adding a second floor. As in other instances this library is designed to harmonize with neighboring public buildings. The variegated brick of reddish hue with buff stone trimmings and tile roof is completely in keeping with the style and construction of the nearby Robert Louis Stevenson Junior High School.



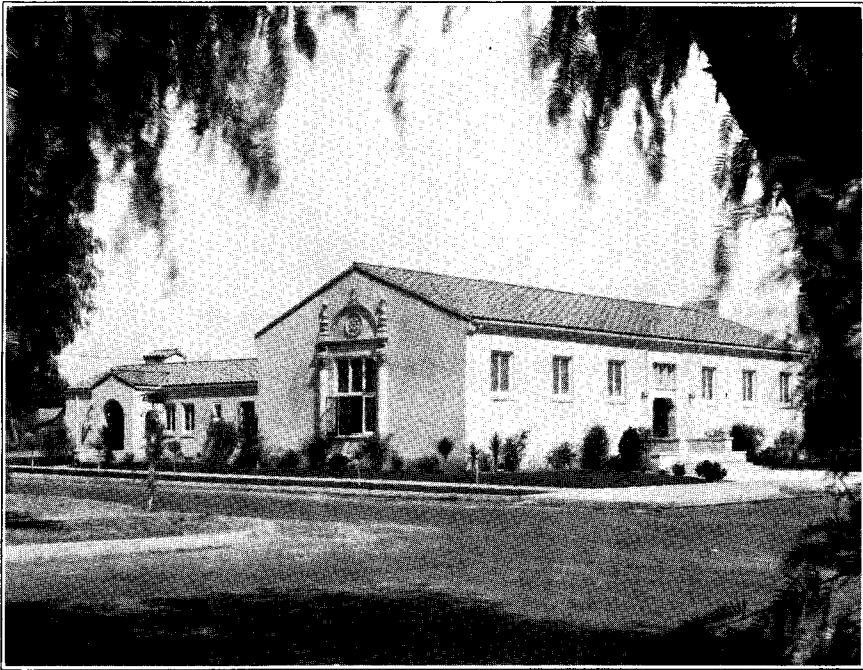
ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON BRANCH
 Floor plan showing excellent example of outer L design with corner entrance.



VAN NUYS BRANCH.

Of Spanish rather than Mexican Colonial origin this building as a whole gives the impression of being closely related to the Mission style. It is carried out in brick with plastered exterior and clay tile roof. A distinctive feature is the small paved interior patio serving not only to beautify all the rooms surrounding it, but affording as well a shaded outdoor reading room.

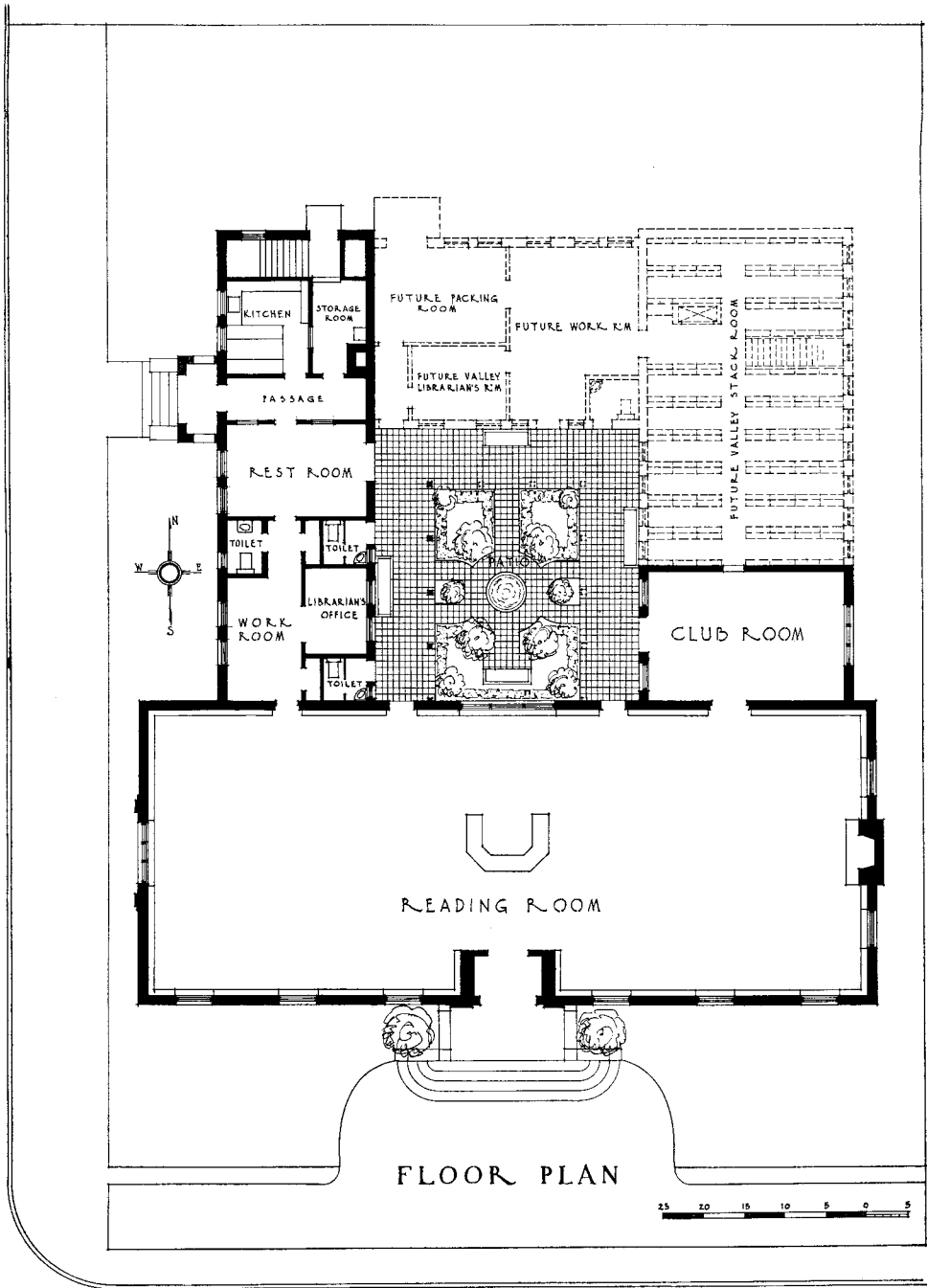
The main floor, divided by the charging desk into the children's room, and adults' reading room, is lighted on all sides through quietly enriched leaded glass. Coats-of-arms of authors from many countries, from Cervantes, Shakespeare and Corneille to our own Eugene Field are set in color in twelve of the windows. The great fireplace in the east end of the room serves as a principal motif. The ceiling is of exposed timber and sound-absorbent material, polychromed, after the manner of early Spanish examples, and imparting to the whole room an air of restful quietude. The plan provides for a possibility of enlargement to more than twice its present book capacity should Van Nuys become the regional distributing center for the San Fernando Valley.



VAN NUYS BRANCH
14553 Sylvan Way

Architects: Allison and Allison
Cost: \$41, 239 (Building, equipment, furniture)
Construction: Brick-Stucco

Building dimensions: 86' x 93'
Floor space: 3,896 sq. ft.
Volumes capacity: 10,616



VAN NUYS BRANCH

Black lines indicate portion already built. Dotted lines show a possible extension to adapt building to serve as a regional branch for the San Fernando Valley, or to increase service to Van Nuys.



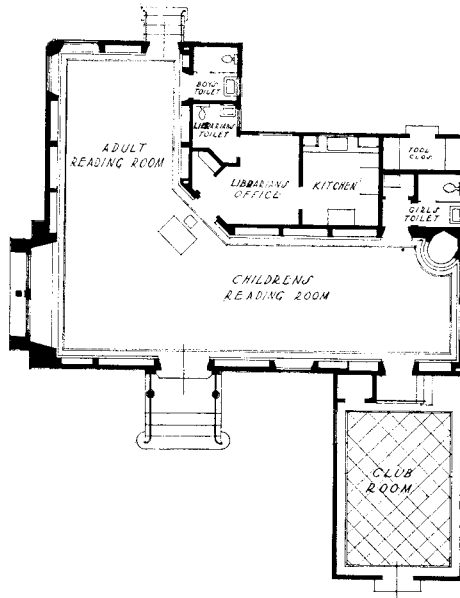
OWENSMOUTH BRANCH
7260 Owensmouth Avenue

Architect: Armand Monaco
Cost: \$13,155 (Building, equipment, furniture)
Construction: Frame-Stucco

Building dimensions: 49' x 50'
Floor space: 1,730 sq. ft.
Volumes capacity: 3,000

OWENSMOUTH BRANCH.

This is a small building of the Italian type, seen in Tuscan villages, constructed of frame with stucco exterior. The Z shape design affords ample north and east light in the reading rooms. The club room is on a different level from the main building and is entered through the children's room by a small balcony, which may be used as a platform. The interesting decoration of the doorway, the deep reveals of the windows, the recessed bookcases, the corner fire-place are features that add to the charm of the simple rooms, with their soft-toned green-gray walls and rough lumber ceilings.





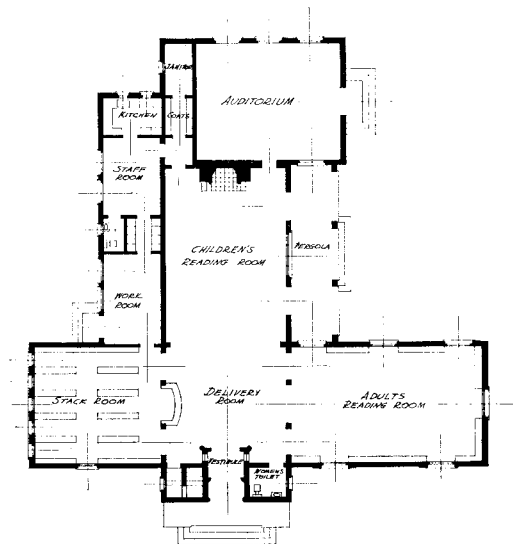
WILMINGTON BRANCH
309 West J Street, Wilmington

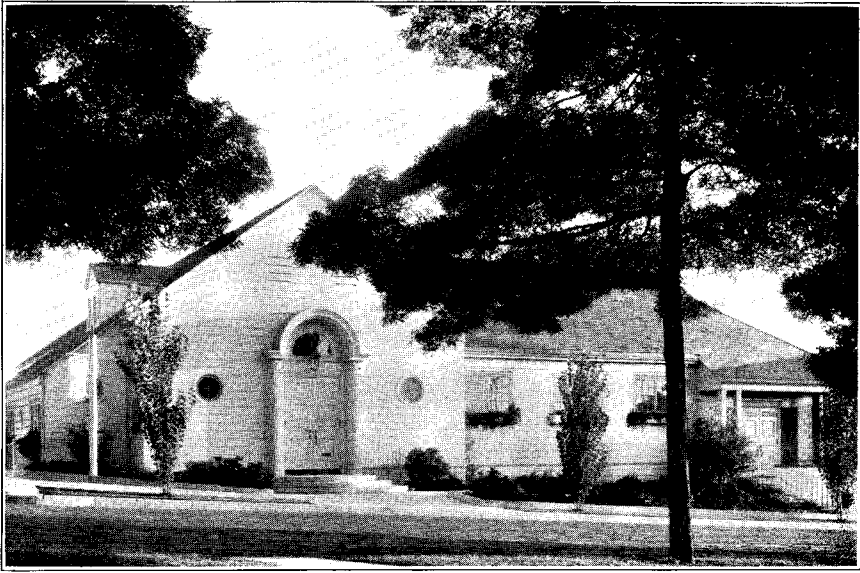
Architects: Marston, Van Pelt and Maybury
Cost: \$38,157 (Building, equipment, furniture)
Construction: Concrete-Stucco

Building dimensions: 82' x 85'
Floor space: 3,701 sq. ft.
Volumes capacity: 25,000

WILMINGTON BRANCH.

In designing this small branch a careful preliminary survey of the operation of branch libraries was made. The reading rooms were planned with thought of easy supervision from the central desk, and adequate lighting facilities. The style was determined by the identification of the district of Wilmington with the period of the Spanish occupation. The Spanish influence is seen in the plain wall surfaces with ornamentation at the doorway, the tiled roof and the use of beamed ceilings.





RICHARD HENRY DANA BRANCH
3320 South Pepper Street

Architect: Harry S. Bent
Cost: \$27,517 (Building, equipment, furniture)
Construction: Frame

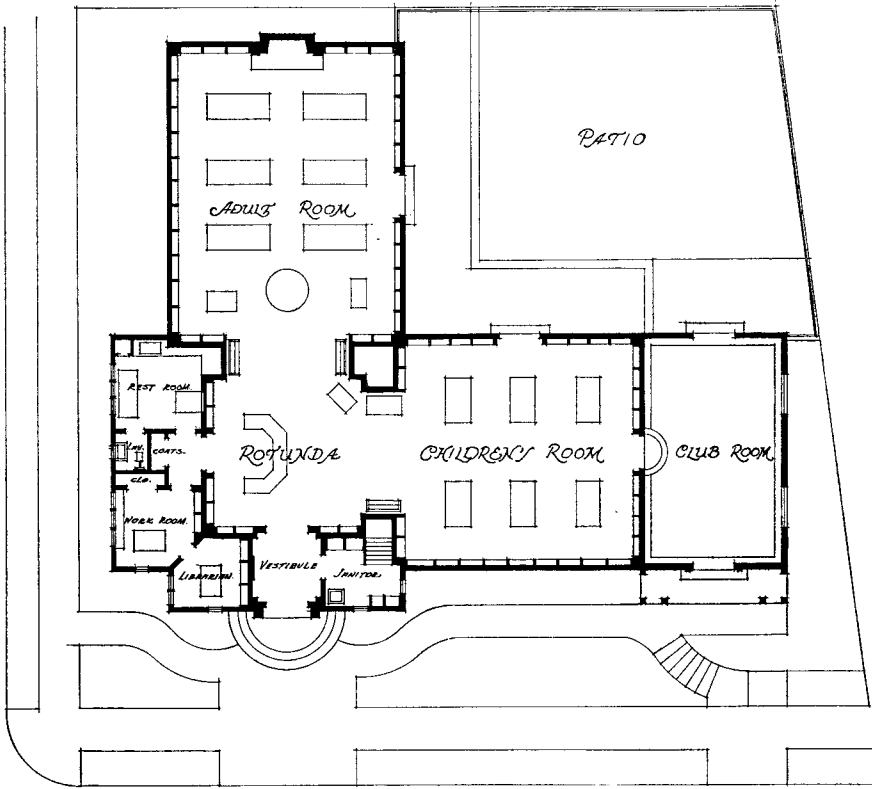
Building dimensions: 71' x 83'
Floor space: 3,080 sq. ft.
Volumes capacity: 10,000

RICHARD HENRY DANA BRANCH.

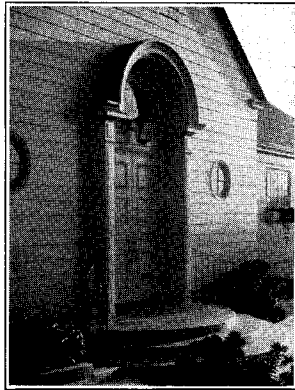
Colonial style and wood construction seemed a suitable medium for the design of this library, having the advantage of simplicity, unpretentiousness, dignity, and repose. The Colonial character allows the building to conform to the residential community and is appropriate to the New England sailor and author for whom it is named.

The site, exposure and space requirements made imperative an outer L plan with entrance at the corner intersection. The requirements of adults' and children's reading rooms, club room with outside entrance, staff quarters, consisting of office, work-room, and rest-room with tiny kitchenette, have been provided.

The exterior is painted a creamy green tint with darker green trim, and the furnishings are of green oak. The fireplace is carried out in black and white marble. Details of the signpost, bulletin board, book-cases, pilasters, the main doorway and the club-room door and railings are all typically Colonial in character. Electric fixtures in the shape of brass lanterns suggest the ship's lights of the "Alert" and the "Pilgrim."



RICHARD HENRY DANA BRANCH





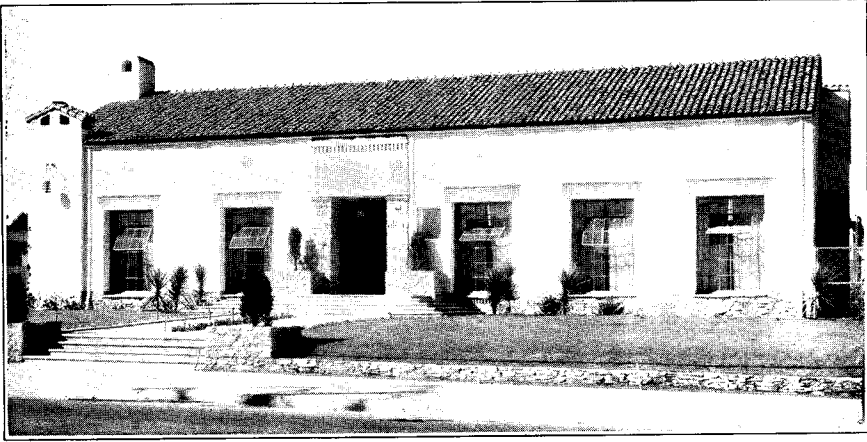
MALABAR BRANCH.

In this building architects have endeavored to minimize costs as far as was consistent with practical efficiency, and durability. The walls are of white washed brick, the windows have metal frames and there is a minimum of wood trim. The trusses of the roof, which constitute the intensely constructive features of the building, are hand hewn and stained in grey drift-wood tones. The exterior of the building is severely plain. Rough field stones are used in the foundations of the front door jambs in a manner suggesting the simple building methods of primitive people. The carving of the panel above the door is archaic and rugged, in harmony with the style of the library. The building represents a simple, direct expression of construction without attempt at ornamentation.



MALABAR BRANCH

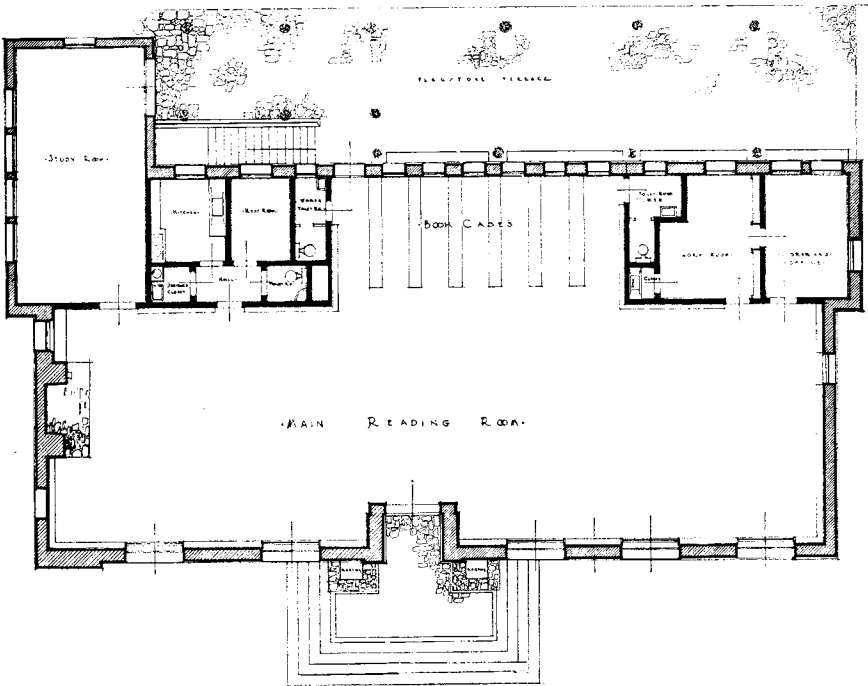
Interior showing decorative roof trusses and second floor provision for future stack space.

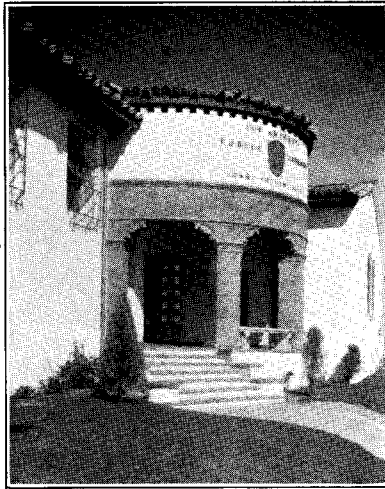


MALABAR BRANCH
2801 Wabash Avenue

Architect: William Lee Woollett
 Cost: \$38,721 (Building, equipment, furniture)
 Construction: Brick

Building dimensions: 58' x 93'
 Floor space: 4,168 sq. ft.
 Volumes capacity: 25,000





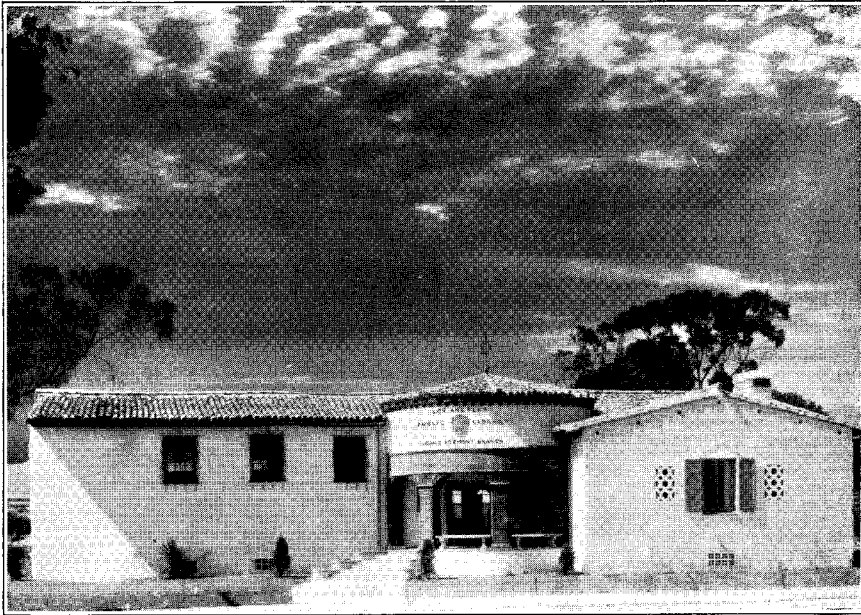
JOHN C. FREMONT BRANCH
Doorway

JOHN C. FREMONT BRANCH.

The early Italian style with a touch of the Spanish is incorporated in this building with the feature of a circular entrance porch of decorative concrete cast in place. The building is of brick construction, reinforced with concrete belt courses, the exterior finished with cement plaster, water-proofed.

The main room, incorporating the adults' reading room, the children's room, and charging desk, is 90' x 24' with book-cases recessed into the walls. At the end of the children's room is a stone fireplace flanked by leaded glass windows and at the opposite end of the adults' reading room is a large plate glass window with decorative iron grill. The ceiling is of paneled wood supported on exposed wood trusses from which lantern light fixtures are hung.

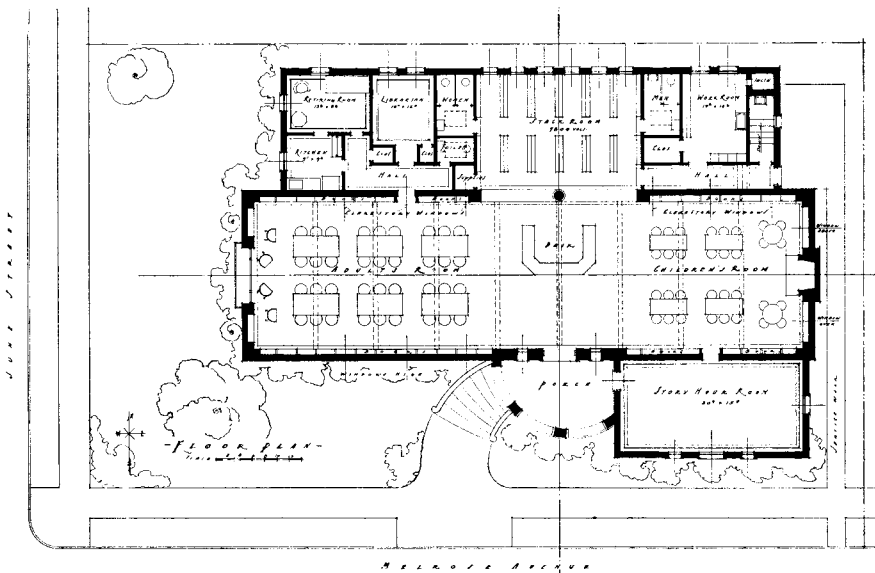
At the rear of the adults' reading room is the administrative unit comprising librarian's office, staff work-room, rest-room and kitchenette. A unit gas furnace system controlled from the work-room provides easily adjusted heating. A club room seating seventy, which may be entered from the porch or through the children's room, completes the plan.

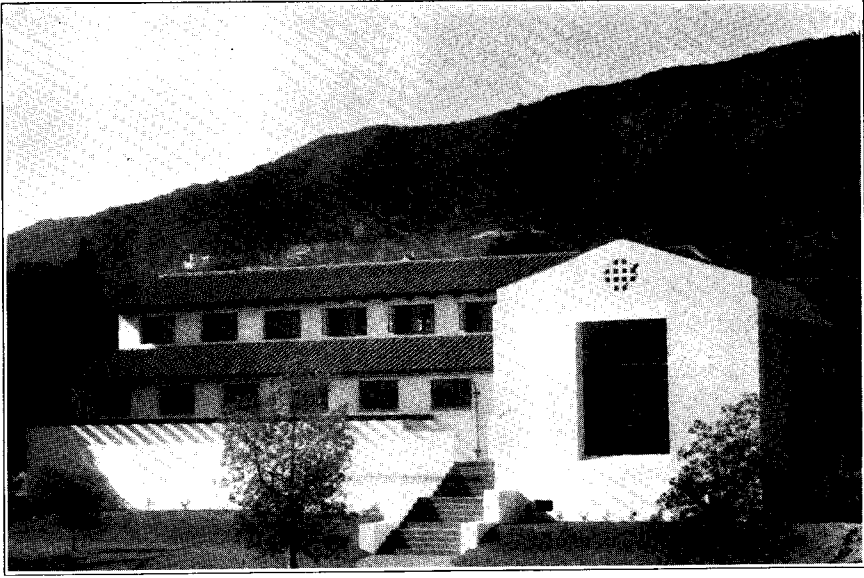


JOHN C. FREMONT BRANCH
6121 Melrose Avenue

Architect: M. I. Barker
 Cost: \$35,502 (Building, equipment, furniture)
 Construction: Brick-Cement Plaster

Building dimensions: 94' x 48'
 Floor space: 4,276 sq. ft.
 Volumes capacity: 24,000





EAGLE ROCK BRANCH
2225 Colorado Boulevard

Architects: Henry C. Newton and Robert D. Murray
Cost: \$35,088 (Building, equipment, furniture)
Construction: Tile-Concrete (tile roof)

Building dimensions: 84' x 80'
Floor space: 5,892 sq. ft.
Volumes capacity: 15,000

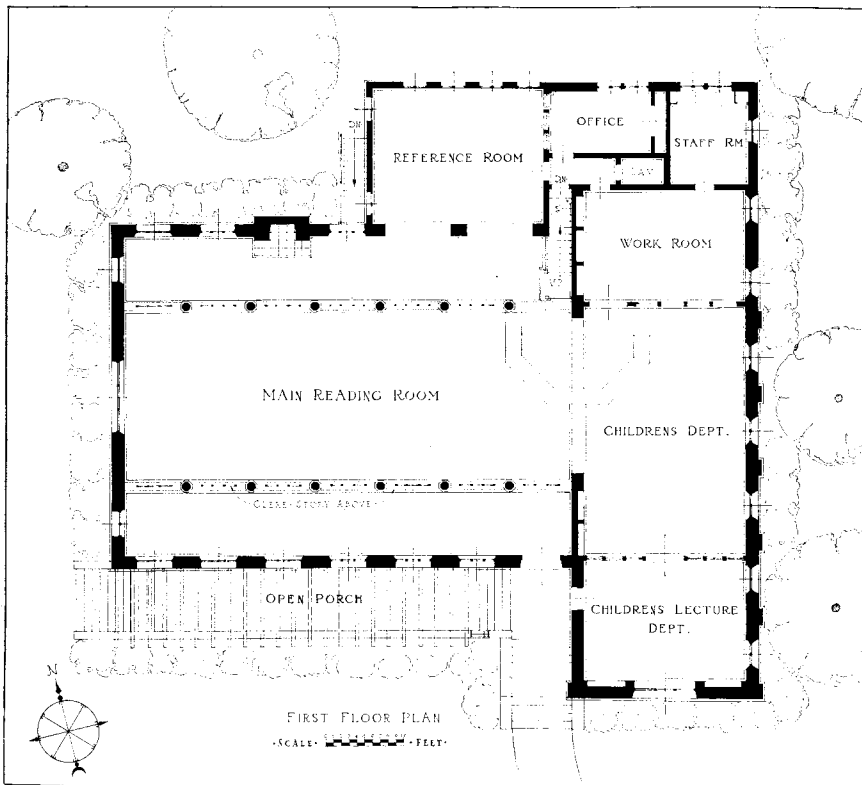
EAGLE ROCK BRANCH.

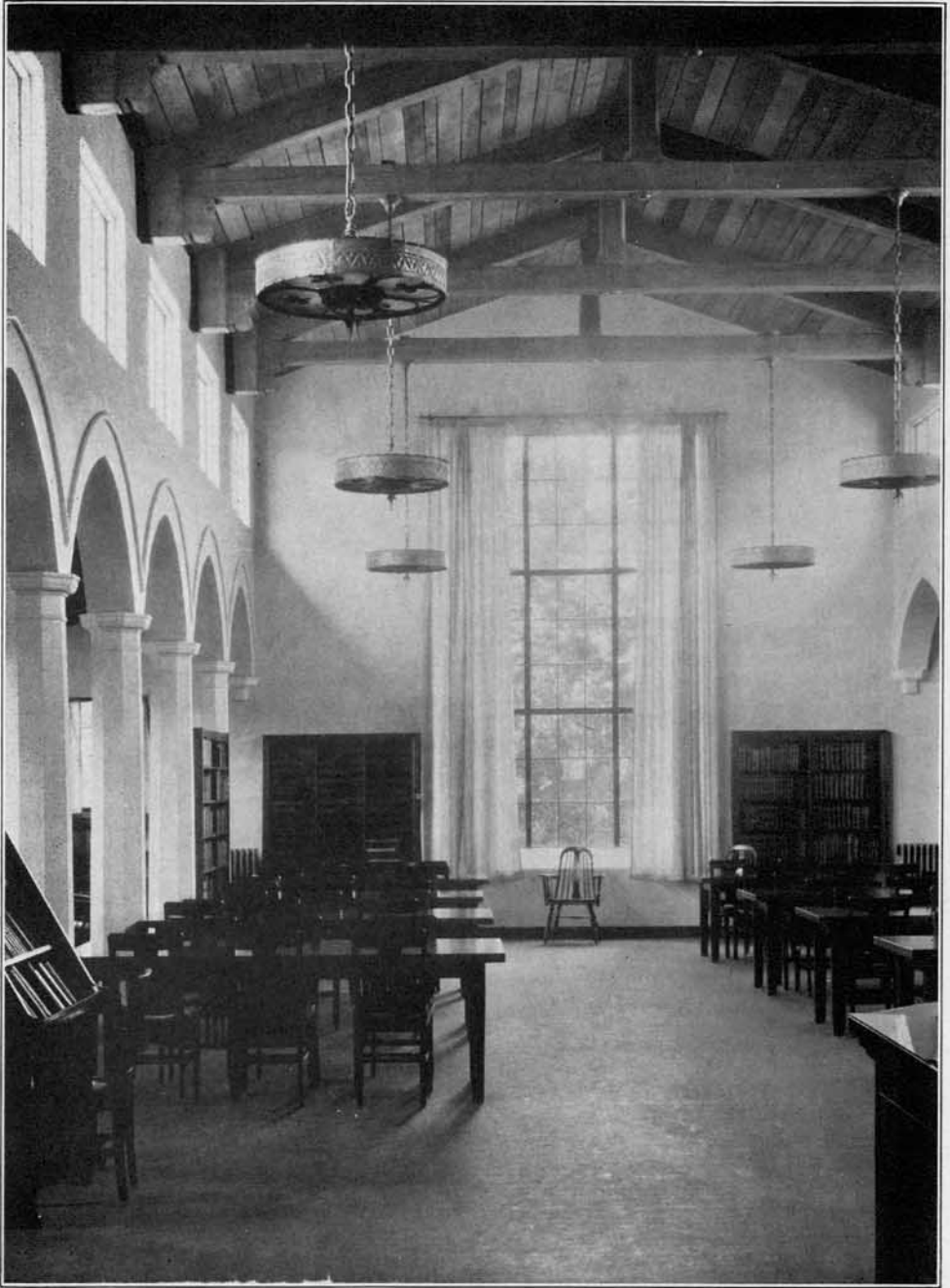
The old Carnegie Library of Eagle Rock proving inadequate in space and equipment, funds were provided by the 1925 bond issue for a complete rebuilding of Eagle Rock Branch, using little of the old structure but the foundations and the east wall. The floor plan of the original building was excellent and was followed in the arrangement of a main wing, a smaller wing at right angles and a section joining these wings. The main wing devoted to the adults' reading room is laid out in the Basilica Church plan with concrete archways and clerestory windows. The wood trusses of the ceiling are stained in antique finish and banded with wrought iron straps. Solid cast concrete columns are an interesting feature and the fireplace and "aisles" give an unusual effect of comfort and seclusion. The children's room opens into a small club room which may also be entered from the porch. Upstairs an open-air "reading roof" overlooking the hills, and a small committee room form useful and attractive additions to the main floor.

Mechanical equipment has been carefully considered. Gas steam radiators provide heat, automatically controlled. Extension in book capacity has been provided for by upstairs stack space. The building is of concrete, surfaced with white stucco with a semi-vitrified surface, while doors, sash and gutters are painted a sage green.

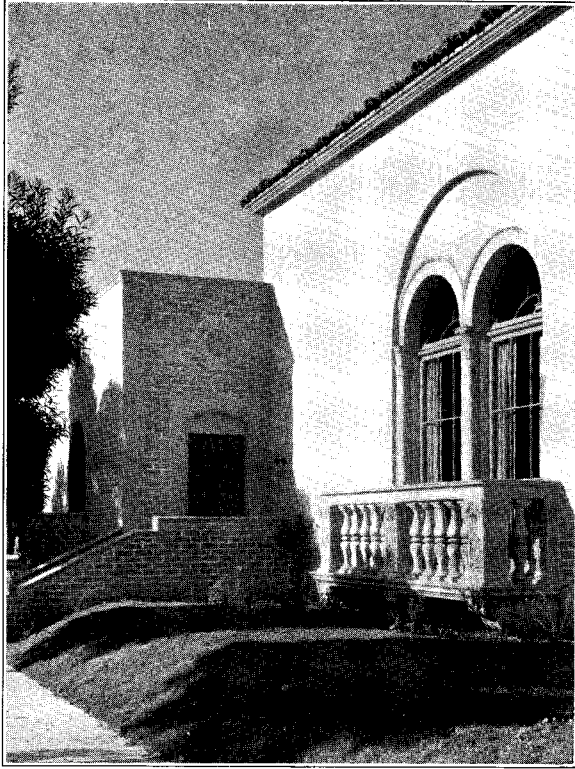


EAGLE ROCK BRANCH





EAGLE ROCK BRANCH
Interior, showing concrete archways and clerestory windows.

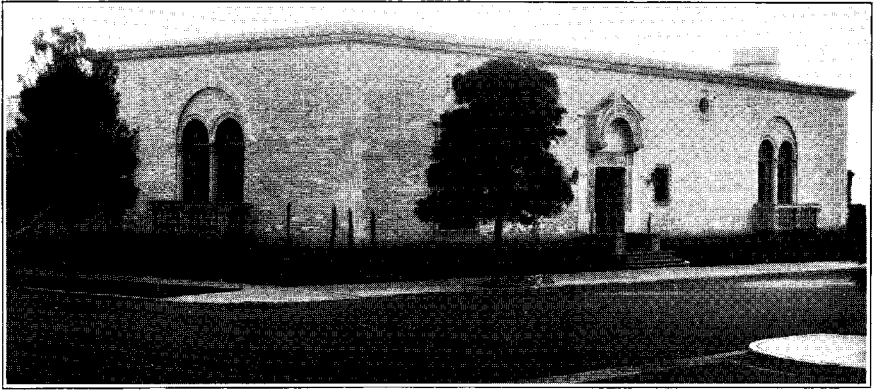


WILSHIRE BRANCH
Auditorium Entrance

WILSHIRE BRANCH.

Wilshire Branch is one of the largest branches built from the 1925 bond issue. Italian Renaissance in style, it is of stone tile in the natural color with tufa stone trimmings. The three large windows are each set off by a richly carved stone balcony of individual design, copied from Twelfth Century Italian originals.

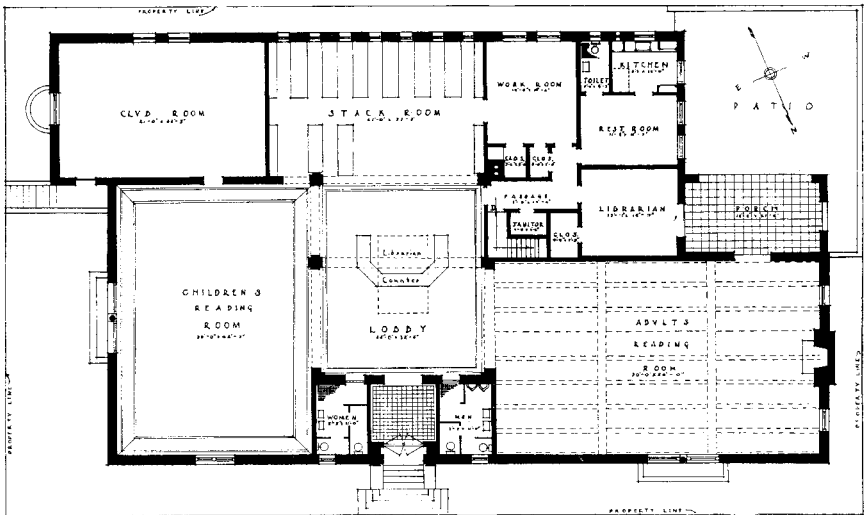
The entrance door is based on the design of the Portal of Costanzo in Perugia Cathedral with an elaborate pattern of mythological animals. The interior of the building has walls of a light dove gray and richly colored ceilings, blue in the large rooms, Pompeian red or old gold in the staff quarters. In the adults' reading room is a hooded fireplace bearing the inscription: "Nec nimis prope nec nimis longe." (neither too near, nor too far.)

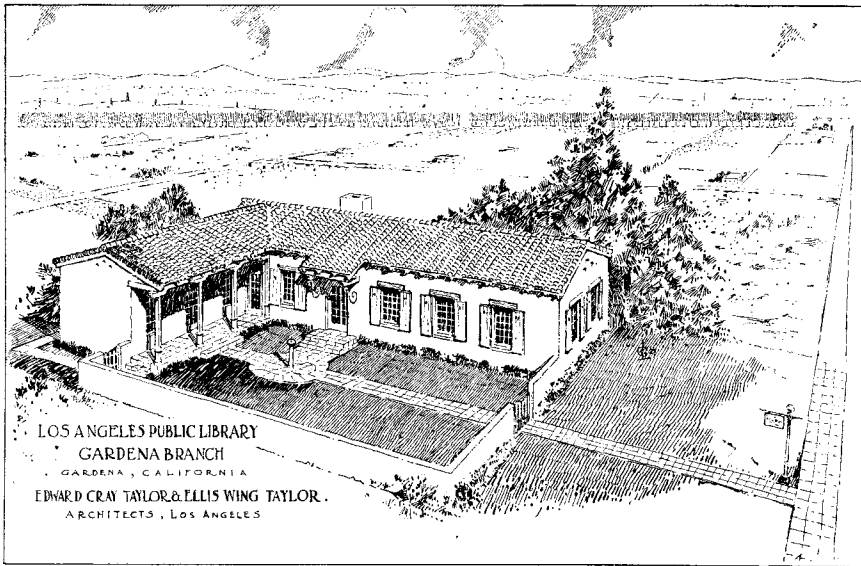


WILSHIRE BRANCH
149 North St. Andrews Place

Architect: Allen Ruoff
Cost: \$56,405 (Building, equipment, furniture)
Construction: Stone Tile

Building dimensions: 110' x 67'
Floor space: 6,258 sq. ft.
Volumes capacity: 25,000





GARDENA BRANCH
561 West 165th Street

Architects: Edward Cray Taylor and Ellis Wing Taylor
Cost: \$14,838 (Building, equipment, furniture)
Construction: Frame-Plaster

Building dimensions: 66' x 28'
Floor space: 2,251 sq. ft.
Volumes capacity: 6,000

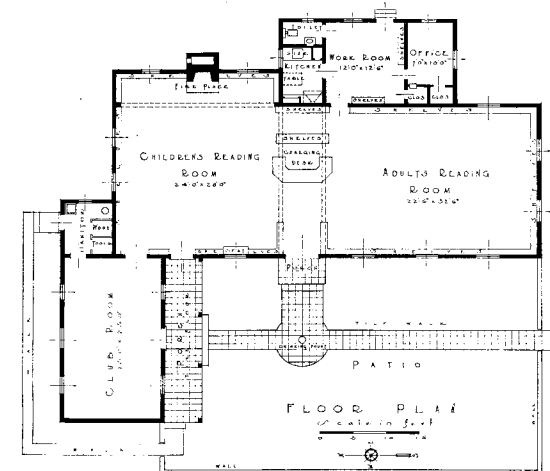
GARDENA BRANCH.

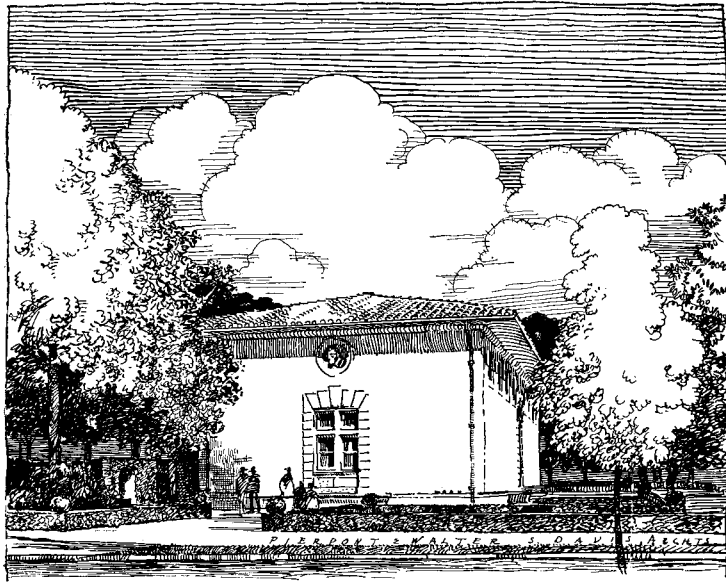
The design of this branch building which was suggested by the surrounding country, follows the lines of the picturesque early California architecture with its low sweeping tile roofs and covered porches. The plan follows the letter "L" with its two wings each roofed with varicolored Mission tile. The roof of the club room sweeps down over a tiled porch, which overlooks the front patio. The roof of the other wing extends over the main entrance forming a tile covered hood which is supported on graceful iron brackets.

To enter either the library proper or the club room one passes through the front patio enclosed by a high plaster wall, along a tiled path. The club room, which is in a separate wing of the building, is also accessible through the children's reading room.

The general color scheme has been worked out in grey plaster wall surfaces, variegated red tile roof, and dark brown wood work which gives a pleasing color contrast with the green lawn and shrubs.

The lot on which the branch stands was the gift of Mrs. Lizzie P. Coltrin and the sum of \$500 was contributed by L. A. Schofield for improvement of sidewalks and garden.





ECHO PARK BRANCH
520 Glendale Boulevard

Architects: Pierpont and Walter S. Davis
Cost: \$35,000 (estimate, building, equipment, furniture)
Construction: Tile-Concrete

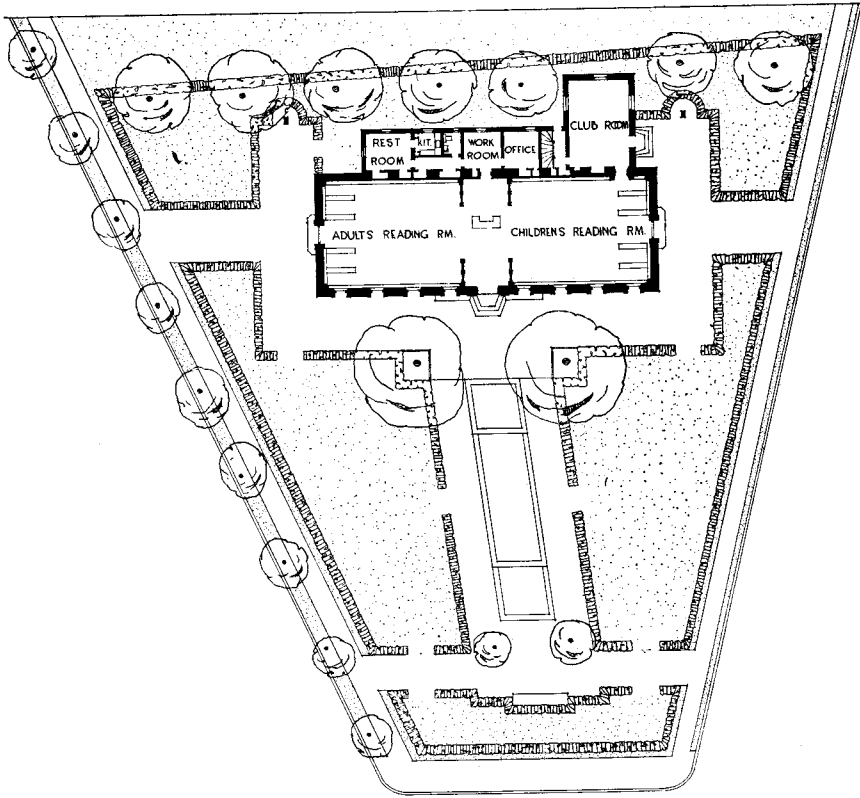
Building dimensions: 96' x 60'
Floor space: 3,138 sq. ft.
Volumes capacity: 15,000

ECHO PARK BRANCH.

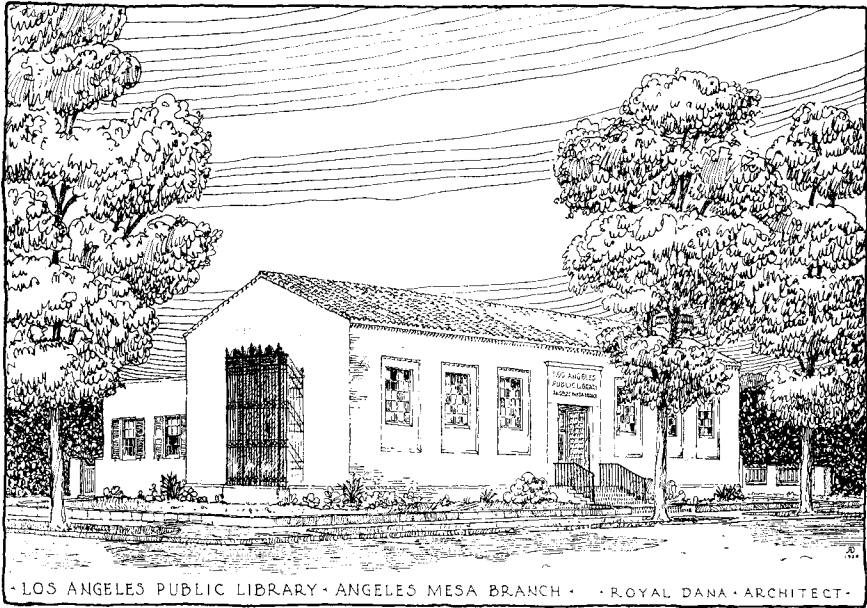
As this branch library is a unit of a community recreational center in a public park, it was necessary that the library building be in architectural harmony with the existing buildings. These are built of whitewashed brick and roofed with handmade tile in the Spanish style, but the more formal Italian style of architecture was chosen for the library building.

The ceiling of the main room is groin-vaulted, the lines of the vaulting coming down on cast-stone brackets. This room is lighted by clerestory windows on the long sides and by a large window at each end. The artificial lighting is indirect, the fixtures being concealed in the sills of the clerestory windows. In addition to this main room there are at the back, the necessary staff quarters and a club room. The club room may be entered either from the outside or the children's room. It has an exposed beamed ceiling and is provided with an inviting fireplace which will be the focal point for story hours, committee meetings and other group educational activities of the library.

The exterior architecture is an expression of the character and use of the building. Hedge-bordered lawn spaces, and an avenue of old established trees, as an axis of approach emphasize the charm and dignity of the Italian architecture.



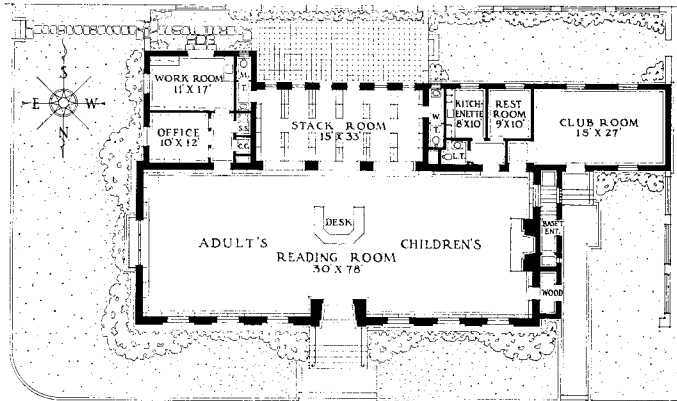
ECHO PARK BRANCH



ANGELES MESA BRANCH
2616 West 54th Street

Architect: Royal Dana
 Cost: \$35,000 (estimate, building, furniture, equipment)
 Construction: Hollow Concrete Tile

Building dimensions: 106' x 55'
 Floor space: 4,750 sq. ft.
 Volumes capacity: 14,000



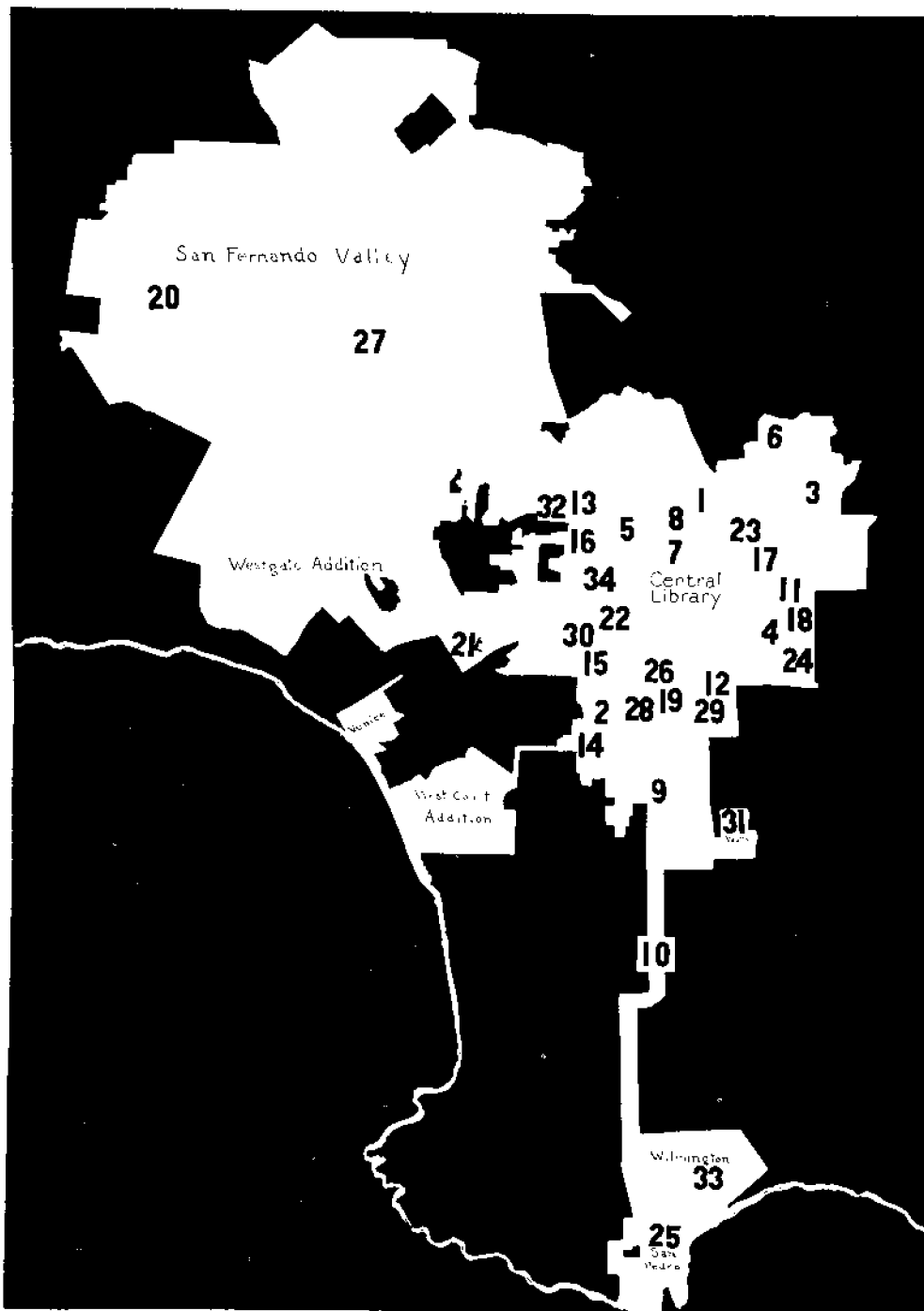
ANGELES MESA BRANCH.

The last of this group, the Angeles Mesa Branch is in process of construction. The style is designated by the architect as "California Renaissance." Hollow concrete tile is used in construction with exterior whitewashed, and interior surfaced with texture plaster. The plainness of the white walls is relieved by the red Mission tile roof, the buff lime-stone trim at the entrance, the brick steps, the iron railing and grilled studio window. Inscribed in the metal grill are the words, "Translate reading into living." Features of the interior are the fireplace faced with colorful Mexican tile, and the Douglas fir ceilings. A gas-fired furnace with thermostat control, an automatic hot water heater and incinerator are provided in a small basement.

Conclusion

In addition to the thirty-four buildings described, the Los Angeles Library system counts in rented store-rooms twelve branches: Annandale, Ascot, Bret Harte, El Sereno, Henry Adams, Hermon, John Muir, Los Feliz, Mark Twain, Sawtelle, Sidney Lanier and Venice. Many of these are very active branches and are accomplishing work worthy of the facilities and dignity of a branch building.

Petitions from numerous sections of the city for library service have been received by the Library Board and it is estimated that at least \$1,000,000 more will be required to enable the Library Department to serve adequately all sections of the city from suitable branch library buildings. The Board of Library Commissioners is confident that the same public spirit and the zest for education which has made the present development possible will provide for the future needs of Los Angeles.



Outline Map of the City of Los Angeles. Embracing 441 Square Miles
 Numbers indicate alphabetically location of branch library buildings. (Key on opposite page)

Key to Branch Buildings

As shown on outline map

1. Alessandro 2639 Partridge Ave.
2. Angeles Mesa 2700 West 52nd St.
3. Arroyo Seco 6245 Pasadena Ave.
4. Benjamin Franklin 2200 East First St.
5. Cahuenga 4591 Santa Monica Blvd.
6. Eagle Rock 2225 East Colorado Blvd.
7. Echo Park 520 Glendale Blvd.
8. Edendale 3030 Glendale Blvd.
9. Figueroa 501 West 80th St.
10. Gardena 561 West 165th St.
11. Hazard 2201 Zonal St.
12. Helen Hunt Jackson 2330 Naomi St.
13. Hollywood 6357 Hollywood Blvd.
14. Hyde Park 6527 Angeles Mesa Dr.
15. Jefferson 2211 West Jefferson St.
16. John C. Fremont 6121 Melrose Ave.
17. Lincoln Heights 190 North Workman St.
18. Malabar 2801 Wabash Ave.
19. Moneta 4255 South Olive St.
20. Owensmouth
7252 Owensmouth Blvd., Owensmouth
21. Palms 10306 Woodbine Ave., Palms
22. Pio Pico 3255 Connecticut St.
23. Richard Henry Dana 3320 South Pepper St.
24. Robert Louis Stevenson 803 Spence St.
25. San Pedro 931 South Gaffey St., San Pedro
26. University 3420 University Ave.
27. Van Nuys 14553 Sylvan Way, Van Nuys
28. Vermont Square 1201 West 48th St.
29. Vernon 4504 Central Ave.
30. Washington Irving 2508 West 18th St.
31. Watts 9901 Grandee St., Watts
32. West Hollywood 1403 Gardner St.
33. Wilmington 309 West J St., Wilmington
34. Wilshire 149 North St. Andrews Pl.

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Brentwood lot size = 75' x 175'

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