



WHY?

Does the Laurens Community Need a New Library?

Q: Why does Laurens need a new library?

A: There is simply no more room in the old building. In 1958 it contained 7,000 books. Now there are 12,716. 500 books were added in 1970 alone. With the explosion of information, libraries cannot be storehouses for books alone. A library must be prepared to furnish films, periodicals, tapes, and other forms of media as they develop. Those who built the present building wisely planned for the future. This library has served Laurens since 1910. In planning a new library, the trustees have studied needs, visited other libraries, and consulted with architects in the hope that the new library will serve Laurens well for many years.

Q: What advantages could a new library offer that the old one does not?

A: The new library will have no steps, giving easier access to the elderly and handicapped. It will provide study areas for students. The present library is often jammed with young people trying to study and do research. When this occurs there is no room for adults to browse or read. There will be a comfortable reading area for adults as well as for young children. Various activities can go on at the same time because of the increased space and quiet. Hopefully films and TV can be viewed and tapes and records played. A new library will provide increased services for all ages.

Q: How much more space would the new library have?

A: The present library has about 1,500 square

feet. The new library would provide 5,167 square feet.

Q: Couldn't the old library be remodeled?

A: Architects tell us that remodeling would be far more costly than constructing a new building. The library is 63 years old. The heating plant is inadequate. Adding on would destroy the proportions of the exterior. No matter how expansion was carried out, the high, dangerous steps would still remain.

Q: Would the old library be destroyed?

A: Not if we can help it. It is a charming building with much history. A new use must be found for it. Any suggestions would be appreciated.

Q: Where would the new library be built?

A: In the park, directly across from the Laurens Municipal Building.

Q: What will happen to the shelter house?

A: It will be disassembled and rebuilt elsewhere in the park.

Q: How much will a new library cost?

A: Approximately \$150,000.

Q: Where will the money come from?

A: Possible sources of funding are, federal revenue sharing money, foundation grants, private donations and/or a bond issue. The city council has allotted \$10,000 to the fund. Anyone wishing to make a donation may contact the librarian, members of the library board, or the Laurens State Bank, where a special account has been set up.

Brief History of Laurens Library

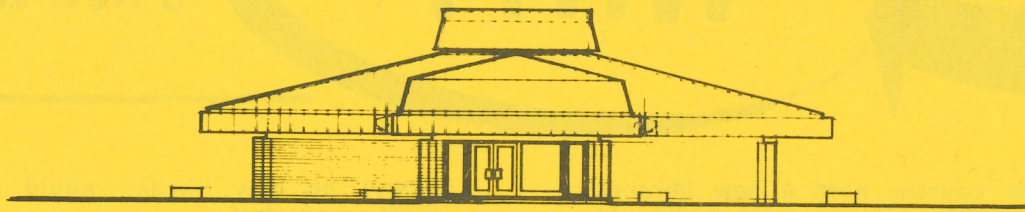
In 1901, the Woman's Club and Library Association borrowed 100 volumes from the State Library. These were placed in areas or "reading rooms" in various places of business.

As more room was needed and interest grew, the newly formed Laurens Public Library and Reading Room Association planned a new library.

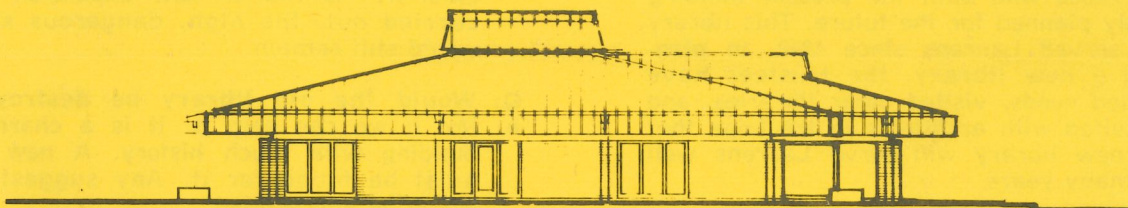
Andrew Carnegie provided \$3,800 toward the Laurens Free Public Library which was built in 1910. This gift was \$10 to every \$1 given locally.

It is believed Laurens has the distinction of being the smallest town in the U.S. to have a Carnegie Library. (Carnegie funded 2,811 libraries).

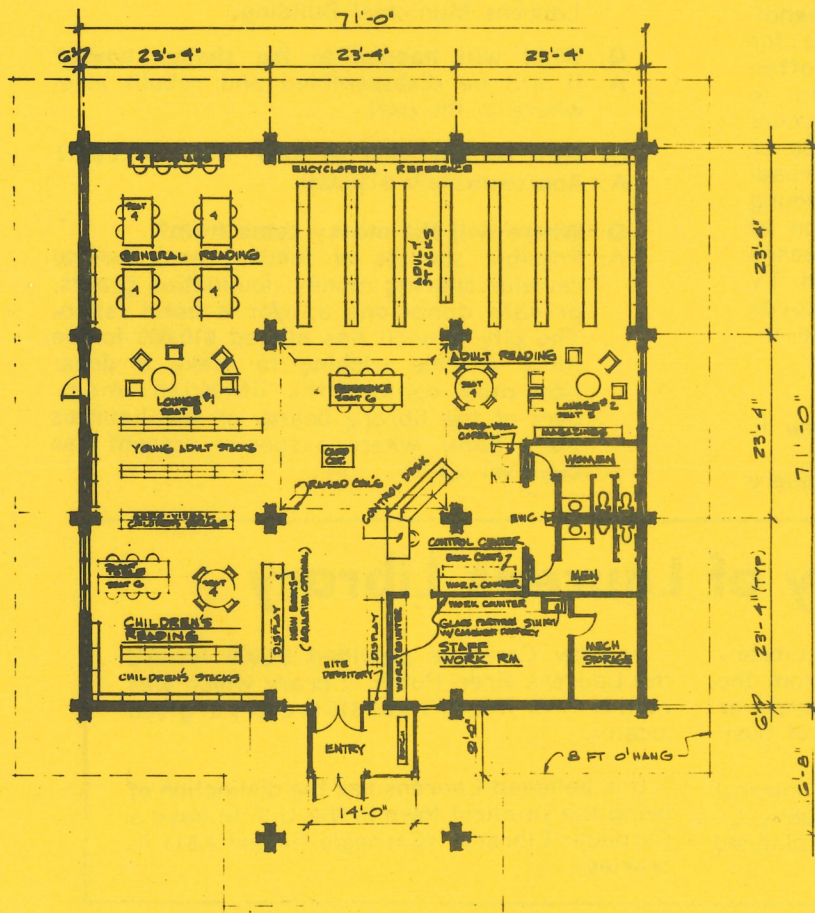
A Proposed New Library for Laurens



East (Front) Elevation



South Elevation



FLOOR PLAN



CIRCULATION—1972

Adult Fiction	11,823
Adult Non-fiction	6,307
Juvenile Books	10,320
Records	407
Films	114
Total Circulation	28,450
Number of Borrowers	2,500

LIBRARY STAFF

Head Librarian	Lulu Cook
Children's Librarian	Theone Harris
Assistant Librarians	Leota Oleson
	Dorothy Runneberg

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

President	Joe Halterman
Secretary-Treas. ...	Evelyn Pitluck
	Frances G. Hakes
	Mattie Kreul
	Earl Dwyer
	Pat Harms
	Glenn Kees
	Jeanne Cowan
	Darrel Oleson