

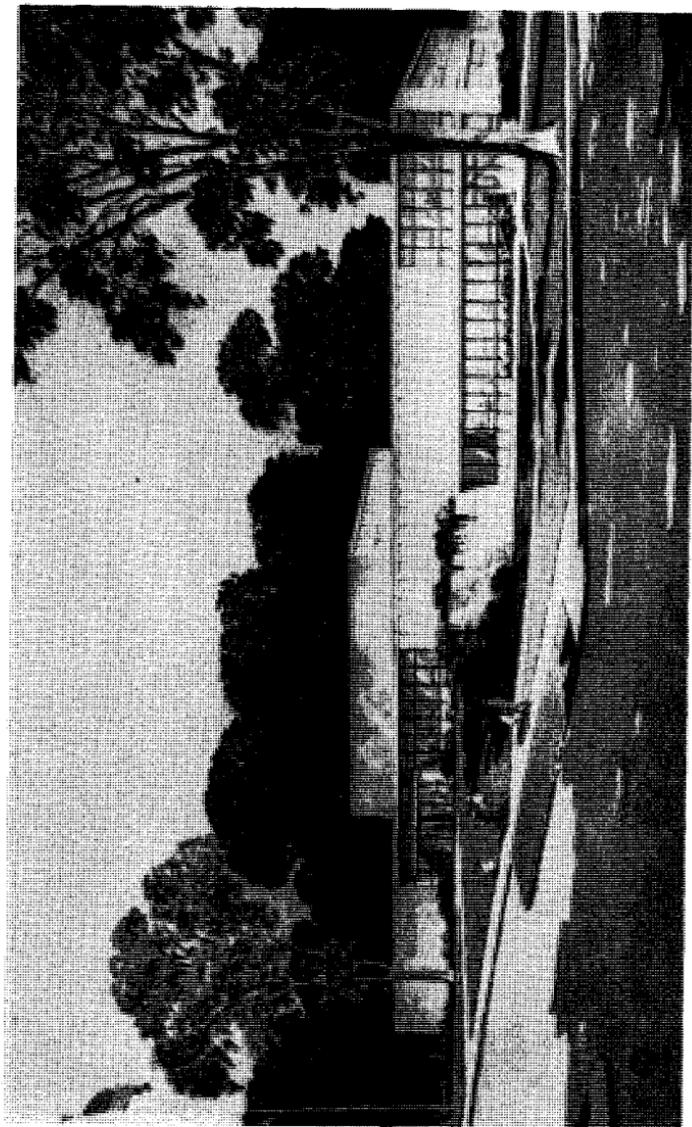
Dedication of
Free Public Library



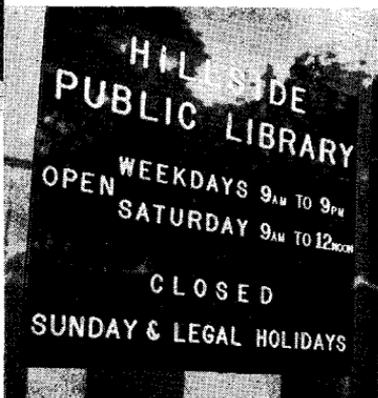
Formal Opening
Saturday, September twenty-second
nineteen hundred and fifty-six



Township of Hillside
Hillside, New Jersey



Hillside Civic Center and Public Library

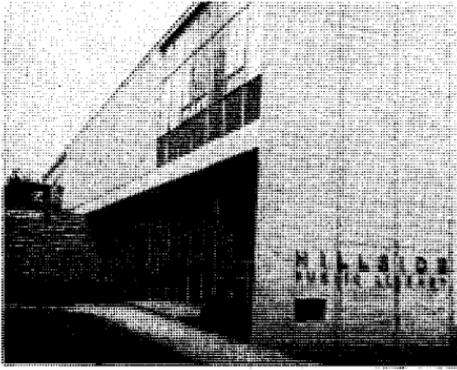


*"Books are keys to wisdom's treasure;
Books are gates to lands of pleasure;
Books are paths that upward lead;
Books are friends. Come, let us read."*

—EMILIE POULSSON

Dedication

This booklet is dedicated to the citizens of Hillside, New Jersey, and to all of the people who have furthered this project, not only those here present, but those who have served before.



“A thing of beauty”

To many of the citizens of Hillside, the formal dedication of this beautiful new modern library building will be their first official introduction to the Free Public Library of the Township of Hillside, New Jersey. The previous inconvenient rented quarters of the library dimmed the fact that such an institution was in existence — so, like a thing of beauty bursting into blossom, our new library building is now revealed to all — inviting all to enter — to use — to enjoy its wonderful facilities.

To a small group of far-sighted, energetic people, the new Hillside Public Library represents a dream come true; — a dream begun many years ago and held high and ever real by the constant work of this group toward this day. To the members of the "Hillside Library Association," the citizens of Hillside owe a deep and lasting debt of gratitude.

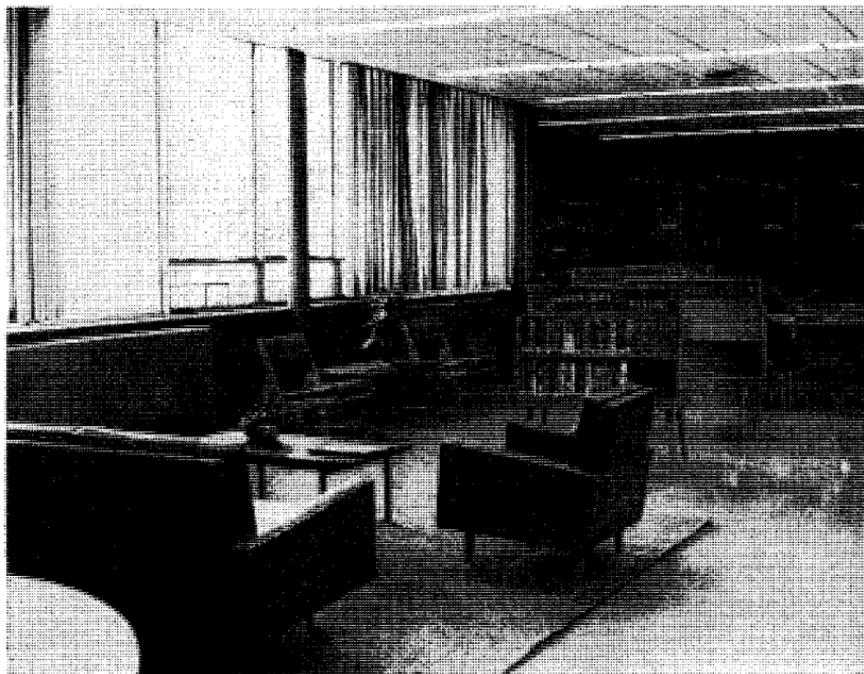


Physical features:

Hillside's new public library occupies the southwest corner of the new Municipal Building. For economic reasons, the library was incorporated in the municipal building, but it is completely separate with its own ground floor entrance on Liberty Avenue.

All primary library services are located on the main floor, which is high-ceilinged and air-conditioned, with a dramatic sweep of windows running almost the entire length and breadth of the area.





An appealing lounging area, with deep upholstered chairs, sofa, and slate-topped tables, adjoins the service and circulation desk, near the entrance.

The colorful and attractive children's area features scale-size chairs, low shelves; a huge round upholstered ottoman, and special reading desks which make turning pages easy for chubby little fingers.

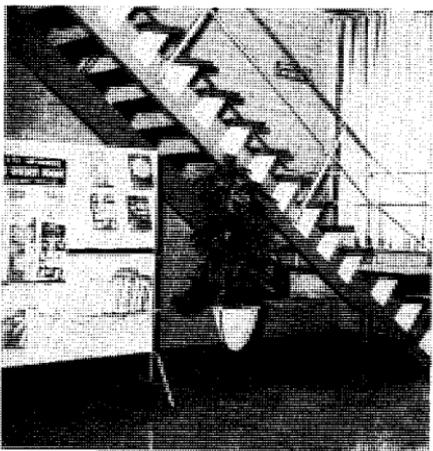
Adjoining this area, are the "Early Teen" and "Young Adult" sections. These feature convenient tables to facilitate reference work, and upholstered modern chairs near the shelves for comfort when browsing.

The adult area is also furnished with inviting round tables and chairs with easy access to newspapers and magazines, current literature, and books of adult interest.



Toward the rear of the library is a glassed-in work area where books are received, processed, and catalogued. Mending, typing, and preparation of display materials are a few of the activities which take place there daily.

THE SECOND FLOOR of the library has a large conference room which can seat fifty persons and will be used for special library programs such as book reviews, lectures, and discussion groups. Also on this floor are the librarian's office, staff room, and rest rooms, all in colorful modern decor.



Furniture throughout the library is finished in a soft grayed birch, sparkled by upholstery and draperies in pleasing accents of corals, yellows, tans and greens.

Parking for library patrons is available in the municipal parking lot across from the library on Hillside Avenue.

Proper lighting:



day and night,
makes reading
a pleasure.



Historical highlights

November 8, 1922, The Hillside Library Association was organized by a volunteer group of residents. Its charter members, Mrs. Harold D. Steward, Mrs. Alvin E. Graff, Mrs. J. Gould Spofford and Arthur G. Woodfield (former superintendent of schools), elected the late Harry C. LaForce as its first president. Others associated with the group were Fred Sinzinger, Mrs. Alfred Harding, Miss Eleanor Mauer, and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Estabrook. Mrs. Estabrook, the Hillside High School librarian until her retirement in June 1947, was a tireless worker on behalf of the Association, in her capacity as president and professional advisor of the group.

1922-1923: The Association's first funds were raised by public subscription, and its first quarters were in a single room over 1424 North Broad Street. Miss Ruth La Bar, now Mrs. Frank Davis of Elizabeth, New Jersey, donated her services to the group. An appeal for books brought gifts from residents.

1924: Township records show that the Township Committee allotted \$1,200.00 to the library, and the late Mrs. John Cormack became the first paid librarian. She continued in that capacity until her death on May 16, 1943. The limited funds kept services at a minimum, and a circulation of 400 books for one month during this period, made news.

1928-1930: The library moved to the Masonic Hall, and a few years later, to 1448 North Broad Street. During this time, Mrs. Mabel Rhodes joined the staff as assistant librarian, and after Mrs. Cormack's death, she became librarian. She was assisted by her daughter, Mrs. Philip J. Schaub, and Mrs. Davis.

January 13, 1947: The Association adopted a resolution urging that the institution be taken over by the municipal government under the direction of the Township Committee.

June 19, 1947: The library moved to three classrooms (two open to the public, and the third, a workroom,) on the second floor of the Hillside Avenue School.

November 4, 1947: The Township Committees indorsed a resolution that the library be taken over by the municipal government under the direction of the Township Committee, and it was approved by public referendum. Since State Statutes provided that a minimum of one-third of a mill on every dollar of assessed property should be levied for library support, the library would receive at least \$8,000.00, annually. This was a substantial increase over previous annual Township allotments, thus allowing for more books and services.

January 14, 1948: This marked the appointment of the first "Trustees of the Free Public Library of the Township of Hillside." Five persons were named: Mrs. Alvin Graff, Mrs. Harold Steward and Mrs. Samuel McClure, all members of the Hillside Library Association, Dr. H. Irving Dunn, and Paul K. Owen. The Mayor and the Superintendent of Schools (then Raymond King and Dr. Wayne T. Branom) were appointed in accordance with the law as ex officio members of the Board.

1948-1953: In 1948 the Township increased the library appropriation to \$9,000.00 and the first college-trained librarian, Mrs. Ford Meyer, was appointed. On her resignation in 1951, she was replaced by Miss Lottie Smolenski, present Library Director. During this period, Mrs. Mildred Raphael and Mrs. Estelle Jacobs (now deceased) also served as members of the Board of Trustees. Plans were now being discussed with the Township Committee and the Library Board for permanent library quarters, and so the foundation for this beautiful structure was laid.

December 12, 1953: Ground was broken for the municipal civic center. Despite rain more than one hundred persons turned out to watch Mayor Milton B. Conford and other officials take part in this Saturday morning ceremony.

1948-1955: The library functioned Monday, Wednesday and Friday 2-5 p.m. and 7-9 p.m. except for legal holidays and vacation periods. During this time of growth, while occupying three rooms on the top floor of the Hillside Avenue School, a notable increase in patronage was noted.

| <i>Year</i> | <i>Circulation</i> | <i>Book Stock</i> | <i>Appropriation</i> |
|-------------|--------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| 1948 | 13,577 | 9,374 | \$ 9,000.00 |
| 1949 | 28,910 | 10,500 | 10,000.00 |
| 1950 | 39,716 | 12,723 | 11,500.00 |
| 1951 | 43,257 | 14,096 | 14,000.00 |
| 1952 | 53,136 | 14,670 | 19,000.00 |
| 1953 | 55,865 | 15,424 | 20,000.00 |
| 1954 | 56,848 | 17,623 | 24,000.00 |
| 1955 | 59,839 | 21,322 | 28,000.00 |

July 16, 1956: The new library building was opened to the public with a record first day circulation of 1,200 books.

New Library Hours: The library is now open daily, Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon, except for legal holidays.

Commentary

It is of more than passing interest to note that during the years 1948 to 1955 under municipal control, the library has had a steady increase in patronage as evidenced by the fact that in 1948, 13,577 books were circulated while in

1955, 59,839 were used. During this same period, the library has by purchase and gift increased its total volumes from 9,374 to 21,322. To achieve this, under the trying conditions of housing, appears noteworthy. At the same time, the cost of conveying this service to the public has remained modest by comparison with surrounding communities of similar size, and far below the per capita cost for "reasonably good library service" recommended by the American Library Association. At all times, the objective of obtaining maximum books and service for the expended dollar of taxpayers' money has been a guiding philosophy. Basically, the library is a center of both pleasure and post graduate education. Achieving balance with community needs is a daily objective.

Gifts

Many of our kind hearted fellow citizens have thoughtfully contributed books and other gifts to their library. The Trustees gratefully acknowledge these benefactions. The library is always interested in suitable gifts and donations. Additional details will be gladly furnished by the Library Director.

Looking ahead

The library in its new quarters requires a period of readjustment but it is contemplated that innovations will become scheduled features as soon as feasible.

These include:

- Children's story hours with a trained children's librarian in charge.
- Music library and limited audition facilities.
- Programs of public interest to the citizens of Hillside, New Jersey, such as art and book exhibits, author interviews, and lectures on a personal appearance basis.
- Continued expansion of our book program as budgetary allocation permits.

It is hoped that many technical reference books may be added in the near future. In the matter of book selection, your Library Board of Trustees and your Library Director encourage thoughtful suggestions.

Nothing pleases the Staff and the Board more than to have the citizens of Hillside say —

"It's OUR library and we USE it."

Present Board of Trustees

Dr. H. Irving Dunn, *President*

Dr. Wayne T. Branom, *Vice-President Ex-Officio*

Paul K. Owen, *Secretary*

Mrs. Bernard Senner, *Treasurer*

Mrs. Henry G. Nulton

Mrs. John Malone

Mayor William Gural, *Ex-Officio*

Present Permanent Staff

Miss Lottie Smolenski, *Library Director*

Miss Edith Herrmann, *Senior Librarian*

Mrs. Robert K. Bloy, Jr., *Senior Library Assistant*

Miss Joan Stancheff, *Junior Library Assistant*

Mrs. Leah Feldman, *Junior Library Assistant*

Miss Madeleine Sloboda, *Junior Library Clerk*