

JOLIET PUBLIC LIBRARY
Ottawa Street Branch
150 N. Ottawa Street
Joliet
Will County
Illinois

HABS IL - 1271

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington D.C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

JOLIET PUBLIC LIBRARY

HABS IL - 1271

- Location:** The Joliet Public Library, Ottawa Street Branch, is located at 150 N. Ottawa St., Joliet, Illinois, 60432.
- The coordinates for the building are 41.53° N, 88.08.08° W, using Google Earth; and latitude 41.5271262, longitude -88.0823664, using Google Maps, both obtained January 27, 2021.
- Present Owner/
Occupant:** The Joliet Public Library of the City of Joliet is the present owner and occupant of the building.
- Present Use:** The building is presently being used as a public library.
- Significance:** The Joliet Public Library was purpose-built as the first permanent public library building for the people of Joliet. Constructed between 1902 and 1903, it may be the only surviving Joliet limestone building in the downtown area built after 1900. The building was designed by the D.H. Burnham & Co.; it was one of only a handful of buildings designed by Daniel H. Burnham's office in Joliet, and it is the only building that was completed in Joliet before Burnham's death. Further, it is one of a remarkably few number of libraries known to be designed by any of Burnham's offices, and its architectural style is distinctly different from the others.
- Historian:** Sylvester Historic Consultants, LLC
Jeanne Sylvester, Architectural Historian
- Project Information:** Existing conditions verifications and architectural CAD sketches were prepared by JLK Architects.
- Architectural photography was prepared by Leslie Schwartz Photography, Leslie Schwartz, photographer.
- Historical research and historical narrative were prepared by Sylvester Historical Consultants, LLC, Jeanne Sylvester, architectural historian.
- This HABS documentation was commissioned by the Joliet Public Library as part of a Memorandum of Agreement among the Office of the

Illinois Secretary of State, the Joliet Public Library, and the Illinois State Historic Preservation Officer. The documentation was part of the mitigation required of the Joliet Public Library because of the Library's plans to undertake interior renovations in the building.

Part I. Historical Information

A. Physical History:

1. **Date(s) of construction:** 1902 – 1903.
2. **Architect/Engineer:** The original architect and engineer for the building was D.H. Burnham & Co. Daniel H. Burnham was born in Henderson, New York on September 4, 1846. He moved to Chicago, was raised and educated in the city, and began his career working as an architect for William LeBaron Jenney. In 1873, Burnham joined John Wellborn Root in partnership, and the firm of Burnham and Root would grow to be one of the most successful architectural practices in the city of Chicago, creating such notable buildings as the Montauk Building (1886), the Masonic Temple Building (1892, demolished), and the Monadnock Building (1881- 1891), among others.

Burnham and Root oversaw planning and directing construction of the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893, but Root's death in 1891 left Burnham virtually solely responsible. The firm reorganized after Root's death as the D.H. Burnham & Co., and would go on to produce a significant number of important buildings in Chicago and across the United States. Burnham would also achieve considerable success as a city planner; in addition to organizing the Columbian Exposition, he prepared the 1909 *Plan of Chicago* with Edward Bennett, as well as plans for other cities including Cleveland, San Francisco, Washington, D.C. and Manila. Burnham died in 1912, and the D.H. Burnham & Co. would reorganize again, ultimately as Graham, Anderson, Probst and White.¹

D.H. Burnham & Co. designed five buildings in Joliet, but the Joliet Public Library was the only building that was completed before Daniel Burnham's death in 1912. The other buildings are the L.F. Beach Department Store (1919), the Joliet Chamber of Commerce, now the Renaissance Center (1924), the Joliet

¹ Charles Moore, *Daniel H. Burnham: Architect, Planner of Cities* (New York: Da Capo Press, 1968); Thomas S. Hines, *Burnham of Chicago*, 2d ed. (Chicago and London: The University of Chicago Press, 2009); "Daniel Burnham," City of Chicago, Chicago Landmarks, <https://webapps1.chicago.gov/landmarkswb/web/architectdetails.htm?arcId=7>, accessed January 30, 2021.

YMCA (1927), and additions to the Joliet Township High School (1917, 1922, 1924 and 1931).²

It appears that Daniel H. Burnham, with Burnham and Root and with the D.H. Burnham & Co., may have only designed three other libraries, and only two of them were stand-alone library buildings like the Joliet Public Library.

The Kent Memorial Library was built in Suffield, Connecticut in 1899. Sidney A. Kent was a native of Suffield Academy in Suffield, Connecticut, and he commissioned Burnham & Root to build a library at 199 High St. in the town of Suffield as a memorial to his parents.³ The limestone library was designed in the Classical Revival style in the Beaux Arts tradition, with a central dome, symmetrical projecting wings, a projecting front entry portico with a triangular pediment, Ionic columns, and acroteria.

The Gilbert Simmons Memorial Library in Kenosha, Wisconsin was built in 1900. Zalman G. Simmons commissioned Burnham & Root to design a library which he donated to the city of Kenosha in memory of his son Gilbert who died in 1890.⁴ Like the Kent Memorial Library, the Simmons Library has a central dome, with symmetrical wings flanking the dome, and projecting central portico with a triangular pediment, acroteria and Ionic columns. The building was later slightly modified by architect N. Max Dunning.

The Emma Louis Schmidlapp Memorial Library Wing of the Cincinnati Art Museum in Ohio was built after the Joliet Public Library in 1905. Distiller Jacob Godfrey Schmidlapp established the Rudolph Oscar Schmidlapp Memorial Endowment at the Cincinnati Art Museum, which opened in 1886. Schmidlapp commissioned the D.H. Burnham & Co. to build a wing to increase exhibit space

² "D.H. Burnham & Company in Joliet," Joliet Area Historical Museum; "Building in Joliet," *The Economist* 62, no. 1 (July 5, 1919): 390; "Joliet YMCA," Joliet Historic Preservation Commission, <https://www.joliet.gov/home/showpublisheddocument?id=19763>, accessed January 30, 2021; "Joliet Township High School, Joliet Historic Preservation Commission National Register Properties," <https://www.joliet.gov/government/boards-commissions/joliet-historic-preservation-commission/national-register-properties/joliet-township-high-school>, accessed January 30, 2021.

³ Sidney Kent was founder of the Chicago Union Stock Yard Company, hired Burnham & Root to design his home at 2944 S. Michigan Avenue in Chicago in 1883. His home was designated a Chicago Landmark on March 18, 1987, and listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1977.

⁴ Zalman G. Simmons was a prominent businessman and civic leader in Kenosha, Wisconsin. Simmons founded the company that would become the Simmons Bedding Company and was president of a telegraph company that eventually became the Western Union Telegraph Company. Simmons served in the Wisconsin State Assembly and was Mayor of Kenosha from 1884 – 1886. The Gilbert Simmons Memorial Library was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1974 and on the Wisconsin State Register of Historic Places in 1989.

and house the museum library.⁵ The wing opened on May 18, 1907.⁶ While not a stand-alone library, the Schmidlapp Memorial Library wing was designed in the same strictly formal Classical Revival style as the Kent Memorial Library and the Simmons Memorial Library; however, whereas the Kent and Simmons Libraries are domed, neo-Roman structures employing elements of the Ionic order, the Schmidlapp Library is a Doric-ordered Greek temple with acroterion at the peak of its triangular pediment.⁷

The Joliet Public Library is wholly distinguishable from these other similarly-designed classically inspired libraries. While the Joliet Public Library is a historic revival style building, it is Jacobean Revival, and as such, it is singularly distinctive.

Correspondence shows that members of the D.H. Burnham & Co. firm who worked on the Joliet Public Library included Llewellyn B. Dutton and J.W. Edmonds. Original D.H. Burnham & Co. drawings found during the research for this report revealed that C.M. Wilkes and Joachim G. Giaever, both engineers, approved the drawings for this building.⁸

Llewellyn B. Dutton was an architect for the D. H. Burnham Co. on the Joliet Public Library project. In 1903, Dutton went to San Francisco to open and manage a west coast office. In 1906, Dutton started his own practice as the L.B. Dutton architectural firm, until 1914, when it became L.B. Dutton & Co. Among other things, he supervised the addition to the Chronicle building, where he was at the time of the April 18, 1906 earthquake.⁹ He also worked on the Merchants National Bank building, the Mechanics Bank Building, the Hotel Sutter and the Astoria Hotel in San Francisco, the First National Bank and First Trust buildings

⁵ Schmidlapp was a successful distiller. He commissioned the museum wing in memory of his daughter Emma Louise, who, along with her mother, was tragically killed in a train crash in February 1900.

⁶ Cincinnati Art Museum, <https://www.cincinnatiartmuseum.org/about/press-room/schmidlapp-gallery-pr/>, accessed January 23, 2021.

⁷ Thomas S. Hines, *Burnham of Chicago: Architect & Planner*, 2d ed. (Chicago and London: The University of Chicago Press, 2009), 283.

⁸ General correspondence between D.H. Burnham & Co. and Joliet Public Library Board, Joliet Public Library Archives; D.H. Burnham & Co. drawings; Bill for traveling expenses from D.H. Burnham Co. to Board of Directors, January 20, 1903, Joliet Public Library Archives.

⁹ "First Report of the Effects of Earthquake and Fire on the Fireproof Buildings of San Francisco ... From a Reliable Source," *Fireproof Magazine* 8, no. 5 (May 1906): 189; *Sweet's Architectural Catalogue of Building Construction for 1914*, https://books.google.com/books?id=L91BAQAAMAAJ&pg=RA2-PA1172&lpg=RA2-PA1172&dq=L.B.+Dutton+architect&source=bl&ots=OXOF5yTl83&sig=ACfU3U1Dxsiql1bEWtzuD1MMra_F6it4bQ&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwih6orphqTuAhUGLs0KHVD0DCs4ChDoATAIegQICRAC#v=onepage&q=L.B.%20Dutton%20architect&f=false, accessed January 16, 2021.

in Oakland, and the First National Bank building in San Jose. Dutton retired in San Jose, California sometime prior to 1919.¹⁰

C.M. Wilkes was an engineer for the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893. He was second in command to William S. MacHarg, who was a sanitary engineer and Director of Water, Sewerage, Gas and Fire Protection for the Colombian Exposition. That position was so important to the success of the fair that Burnham appointed MacHarg before he selected architects to design the buildings. Burnham's Final Report acknowledged the contributions of MacHarg and C.M. Wilkes in his Final Report: "In the entire enterprise, these gentlemen had the hardest part . . . The enormous water and sewerage service of the park was enough for a city of 300,000 inhabitants, and the ease and smoothness with which it operated during the Exposition was proof enough of the superb engineering ability displayed by the men who designed and controlled the service."¹¹

Following the fair, C.M. Wilkes worked as a mechanical engineer for D.H. Burnham & Co., in charge of the electrical and mechanical work. Wilkes was born in Connecticut on May 28, 1858 and graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He was a member of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the American Society of Heating and Ventilating Engineers and the Northwestern Association of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He belonged to the Apollo, Kenwood and University Clubs in Chicago. Wilkes died in Philadelphia on January 7, 1905, while working for the D.H. Burnham Co. on the Wanamaker Department Store. His funeral took place in Joliet, Illinois on January 10, 1905.¹²

Joachim G. Giaever was born in Norway and graduated from the Norwegian Institute of Technology in 1881 as a civil engineer. Among other notable things, he designed the structural framework for the Eiffel Tower in 1886. He was assistant chief engineer of the Columbian Exposition and then served as chief engineer for the D.H. Burnham & Co. until 1915. While he was with Burnham he

¹⁰ "Pumping Machinery," *Sweet's Indexed Catalogue of Building Construction, for the Year 1909*: 813, https://books.google.com/books?id=Zcgw09z1pAgC&pg=PA813&lpg=PA813&dq=L.B.+Dutton+Burnham&source=bl&ots=sODtJ9EqUV&sig=ACfU3U0MEVtbhgddijKKhCZ5emL4n9MwZg&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKewiT6Zvj_aPuAhWYbc0KHSAGCh0Q6AEwEHoECBEQAg#v=onepage&q=L.B.%20Dutton%20Burnham&f=false, January 16, 2021; Don H. Hibbard, Glenn E. Mason, Karen J. Weitze, Hart Wood: *Architectural Regionalism in Hawaii*, (Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2010): 44; "L.B. Dutton & Co.," *The Architect and Engineer of California* XXVII, no. 1 (November 1911): 101; "Troubles of An Architect," *The Architect and Engineer of California* LVI, no. 3 (March 1919): 114.table

¹¹ Daniel H. Burnham, *The Final Official Report of the Director of Works of the World's Columbian Exposition*: Republished in Two Parts (Garland Publishing 1989).

¹² "C.M. Wilkes," [obit.], *Plumbers Trade Journal, Steam and Hot Water Fitters' Review* 37, New York, January - June, 1905; "C.M. Wilkes [obit.], *Western Electrician* XXXVI, January 15, 1905; "C.M. Wilkes," *New York Tribune*, January 8, 1905.

was responsible for over 400 of the largest buildings in the United States. After Giaever left D.H. Burnham & Co., he formed his own engineering consulting business and then joined architect Frederick Dinkelberg in partnership. Among their most significant designs is the Jewelers Building, located at 35 E. Wacker Drive in Chicago, the tallest building outside of New York when it was completed in 1927. Giaver died on May 29, 1925.¹³

Architect for 1991 Addition: Ross DeYoung, Stromsland and DeYoung Architects, Inc.

Stromsland and DeYoung, Architects, Inc. was organized by John Semiteköl and Robert Larson in the city of Joliet in 1955. Kenneth Stromsland joined the firm in 1963 and became a partner in 1967, whereupon the firm became known as Semiteköl, Larson and Stromsland, Inc. In 1977, Stromsland became the sole owner of the firm. Ross DeYoung joined the firm as an architect in 1979 and the company became Stromsland and DeYoung, Architects, Inc. James Prybys began working with the firm in 1989 and became president and owner in 2010. In 2014, the firm became known as Stromsland, DeYoung, Prybys Architecture Group, Inc.¹⁴ Ross DeYoung was primarily responsible for the restoration work for the library after it was firebombed in 1989 and for the design of the 1991 addition.

3. **Original and Subsequent Owners, Occupants, Uses:** The original owner of the building was the Joliet Public Library. When the building opened in 1903, the library occupied the first floor, and the second floor was leased to municipal and other civic offices, including the offices of all city departments, mayor and city council, and the Joliet School Board. In 1967, the municipal offices moved out of the building and the library became the sole occupant of the building.

4. **Original Builder, Contractor, Suppliers:**¹⁵

Contractor	Adam Groth & Co.
Woodwork	J.D. Wilhemini
Steel	Joliet Bridge & Iron Co.
Fireproofing	Harry Leroy Thompson
Library Stacks	Art Metal Construction Co.
Catalogue cases, chairs	
delivery desk in children's room	Matthews Bros. Mfg. Co.
Light Fixtures	T.W. Wilmarth Co.

¹³ Richard G. Weingardt, "Joachim Gotsche Giaver," *Structure*, June 2012, <https://www.structuremag.org/wp-content/uploads/D-GreatAch-Weingardt-Jun121.pdf>, accessed January 30, 2021.

¹⁴ Stromsland DeYoung Prybys, <https://www.sdpagroup.com/index.html>, accessed January 22, 2021.

¹⁵ "New Library Thrown Open to the Public This Morning," *Joliet Daily Republican*, December 14, 1903; additional information regarding contractors was found in various correspondence from the Library Board in the Joliet Public Library archives.

Downspout, speaking tube, wire ducts,	Barrett Hardware Co.
plumbing, gas fittings	Kohler Brothers
Lights, electric wiring between library stacks	Trumbull Safe & Vault Co.
Vault	Pioneer Fireproofing Co.
Partition Tile	William Tunny, Contractor
Tile Laid	Poehner & Dillman
Heating and ventilating	Frank R. Johnson
Carpentry, plastering, painting, second floor	Henry Newgard & Co.
Electric lighting alterations	
Library hardware, plumbing fixtures	Burrell Hardware Co.
drinking fountain, pipes, fittings	Grohne Decorating Co.
Decorating	Kettle Stone Co.
Stone	Hacker Co.
Millwork	J.E. Shaw
Brick	L.F. Beach
Shades	Aller Brothers
Rugs	Ducker's Corner
Court carpet	Wilcox Brothers;
Furniture	J.A. Doolittle
	Heggie Brothers
Boilers	George M. Campbell
Cement	

Adam Groth & Co.

The general contractor for the building was Adam Groth & Co. Adam Groth was born in Marbourg, Germany in 1847. He learned to cut stone in Germany from his father, who was a stone contractor, and he took classes in drafting and architecture. Groth emigrated to the United States in 1866 and came to Chicago in 1871. He saw the Chicago Fire of 1871 and worked to re-build the city as a foreman for W.C. Dickman from 1872 - 1875. Groth moved to Joliet in 1884, working as a foreman for E.R. Brainard, the contractor for the Joliet penitentiary. In 1895, Groth began his own business, incorporating in 1902 as "A. Groth and Company." The Progress Report of the 1908 *Evening Herald* stated: "When the history of Joliet is written, Adam Groth's name should be recorded as in the first place on the cornerstone. He has literally built a large portion of Joliet...."¹⁶

In the city of Joliet, the Adam Groth Co. built the Joliet Public Library, the Masonic Temple, the Gerlach Barklow Calendar Company building, the Sehring Brewery, the Post Office, Union Station, the Will County National Bank, the

¹⁶ "Adam Groth," *Genealogical and Biographical Record of Will County*, 577-578; "Great Stone Works are Building up New Joliet," *Joliet Evening Herald*, November 18, 1908; Joliet Area Historical Society Newsletter, September 1990, 3.

Telephone Exchange Building, the Iron Products Company Mill, the McKenna Plant, the New Joliet Pure Ice Company Plant, the First National Bank, and a number of churches and schools.¹⁷

Subcontractors for the Joliet Public Library project included:

Barrett Hardware

Barrett Hardware provided hardware for the library. William F. Barrett opened a tin shop and hardware store in 1850 in Joliet, Illinois. His son John was born on March 1, 1851. In 1867, John joined the firm as a partner and the firm became known as W.F. Barrett and Son. In 1879, W.F. Barrett died and John Barrett became president, changing the name of the company to the Barrett Hardware Company. By 1883, the company was the largest hardware business in the Des Plaines River Valley. John Barrett died on July 18, 1929. At the time of his death, he was chairman of the board of directors of both Barrett Hardware and the Joliet National Bank.¹⁸ As the business grew, it moved to several different locations in Joliet, the last being in 1937 to the former Bates Manufacturing plant on Henderson Avenue, where Barrett's operates today as the Barrett Industrial Supply Company.¹⁹

Poehner & Dillman

Poehner & Dillman was founded in Joliet in 1890. The company provided heating and ventilating for the library. It was known as a hardware dealer, and plumbing contractors. It exists today as PDM, Poehner Dillman & Mahalik.²⁰

T.W. Wilmarth Company

The T.W. Wilmarth Company was located in Chicago. Daniel H. Burnham worked with the T. W. Wilmarth Company on other buildings, including the Phenix Building in Chicago (Burnham and Root, 1887, demolished in 1957), the First National Bank Building (D.H. Burnham & Company, 1903, demolished in 1969), the Railway Exchange Building in Chicago (D. H. Burnham & Company, 1903), and the First National Bank Building in Cincinnati, Ohio (D.H. Burnham & Company, 1904). The T.W. Wilmarth Company advertised its contract to provide lighting fixtures for the Joliet Public Library among a list of these and other buildings.²¹

¹⁷ "Great Stone Works are Building up New Joliet," *Joliet Evening Herald*, November 18, 1908.

¹⁸ "J.O. Barrett Succumbs to Heart Attack," *Joliet Evening*, July 18, 1928; "Bartlett Hardware Company," pamphlet, Joliet Area Historical Museum.

¹⁹ Barrett Industrial Supply Co., <https://barrettindustrial.com/about-us>, accessed January 30, 2021.

²⁰ "PDM Since 1885," <https://www.pdmsince1885.com/>, accessed January 30, 2021. The company website says the company has been in existence since 1885.

²¹ Iroquois Theater, <http://www.iroquoistheater.com/joseph-dimery-wilmarth-lighting-company.php>, accessed January 20, 2021. The T.W. Wilmarth Company also submitted a bid for lamp globes with electric lamps

1991 Addition:

General contractor	Modern Builders
Stonework	Lindblad Construction
Steel	Phoenix Steel
Roof	Adler Roofing
Windows	Lingle Glass
Drywall	Atlas Drywall
Carpet, floor tile	Carey Furniture
Paint	Ireland Paint. & Decorating
Plumbing	Peter Perella
HVAC	Dodson Plumbing & Heating
Electric	Harding Electric ²²

5. **Original Plans and Construction:** The L-shaped Joliet Public Library was designed in the Jacobean Revival style around a courtyard on the northeast corner of N. Ottawa and W. Clinton streets. No documents were found that detail discussions about a preferred architectural style for the library, although contemporary accounts refer to the building as “Tudor.”²³ The Jacobean style of architecture (sometimes referred to as “Jacobethan”) was a transition between English Elizabethan or Tudor style, and Renaissance style. It is characterized by an informal use of classical elements, mixed with ornamental detail, and the use of Tudor arches, brickwork with contrasting stonework around windows and doors, and steep roofs. The Joliet Public Library’s exterior quoins, gables, square tower with small dome, Tudor windows with stone tracery, contrasting stone trim, ornamentation at the front entry, Renaissance balustrade, orbs, and Elizabethan “E” scrolls that originally formed a balustrade at the roofline of the square tower, all point to the Jacobean Revival style.

A drawing of a Flemish gable, one of the characteristics of Jacobean architecture, is found on one of the D.H. Burnham & Co. drawings of the east elevation. While the gable does not appear to have been built, it is another indication of the

for reading, reference, delivery and registry rooms for the Chicago Public Library and ultimately provided furniture and lamps for that building. Chicago Public Library Archives, <https://www.chipublib.org/fa-chicago-public-library-archives-chicago-cultural-center-contractor-bids/>, accessed January 22, 2021; Twenty-first Annual Report of the Board of Directors of the Chicago Public Library, June, 1893, <https://libsysdigi.library.illinois.edu/oca/Books2007-07/annualreportofbo/annualreportofbo212918921901chic/annualreportofbo212918921901chic.pdf>, accessed January 22, 2021.

²² Many of these contractors worked on restoration efforts after the 1989 firebombing. Interview with James J. Prybys, Stromsland DeYoung Prybys Architecture Group, Inc., February 16, 2021.

²³ “New Library Thrown Open to the Public This Morning,” Davison, Thesis, 7.

architects' consideration of the eclectic style. Elements of the ornamentation surrounding the front entry are Baroque and Renaissance Revival.²⁴

The library was built of Joliet limestone and ornamented with Bedford limestone. A notation found on the D.H. Burnham & Co. drawing of the east elevation reads: "[L]ocal limestone roughly crandled with occasional rockfaced stones." A letter from the D. H. Burnham & Co. to William Barber dated October 11, 1902 stated that Adam Groth was preparing a sample of "Whitley granite of a lighter color than the one which he first submitted and which was rejected."²⁵ The architects chose to use Joliet limestone for the building's walls, even though it was no longer a fashionable building material, most likely as an acknowledgement of Joliet's history as the center of Joliet limestone production, and Bedford limestone, which was more fashionable at the time, as trim to highlight the Joliet stone.²⁶ The building had a red tile roof.²⁷ Historic photos show a round dome with crockets on the tower and a flag pole emanating from the dome.²⁸

The site chosen was at the heart of the downtown area of Joliet, at a busy intersection where street cars passed. "The other corners [were] occupied by a Methodist Church, a Catholic Church and the streetcar office."²⁹ At the east side of the site was the Joliet theater, a tall square building, which influenced the style of architecture "in no little degree; the high pointe style being chosen that the library should not look insignificant beside a taller building."³⁰

A letter from the D.H. Burnham & Co. to W.C. Barber acknowledged receipt of the library lot from the Joliet city engineer and stated that the firm would complete working drawings for the library as soon as the building committee

²⁴ "Style History – Jacobean Architecture," <https://archipaedia.wordpress.com/2009/05/31/style-history-jacobean-architecture/>, accessed January 27, 2021; "Jacobethan Architecture: History & Style," <https://study.com/academy/lesson/jacobethan-architecture-history-style.html>, accessed January 27, 2021; "Jacobean/Jacobean Revival Architecture," <https://buffaloah.com/a/DCTNRY/j/jaco.html>, accessed January 27, 2021; "Tudor," *Virginia Savage McAlester, A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2018): 455.

²⁵ Letter from D.H. Burnham & Co. to W.C. Barber, October 11, 1902, Joliet Public Library Archives.

²⁶ *Joliet-Lemont Limestone*, Landmarks Preservation Council of Illinois, 1988.

²⁷ The original drawings called for a green and purple slate roof. D.H. Burnham & Co. drawings, Davison, Thesis, 7. Letter from D.H. Burnham & Co. to W.C. Barber October 8, 1902, included the cost of tile roof \$835. Joliet Public Library Archives.

²⁸ Today, a flagpole is mounted in the courtyard behind the Louis Joliet statue, with a stone that reads "To honor the dead by serving the living this flagpole is provided by V.F.W. Stone City Post 2199."

²⁹ Mabel Katherine Davison, "The Joliet Public Library." (Bachelor of Library Science Thesis, Illinois State Library School, 1904), 7.

³⁰ *Ibid.*

returned a sketch with the committee's suggestions for subdivision of space on the first and second floors.³¹

Contemporary descriptions of the library are found in an article entitled "New Library Thrown Open to the Public This Morning" in the *Joliet Daily Republican* from December 14, 1903, the day the library opened, and a thesis written about the history and construction of the library by assistant librarian Mabel Katherine Davison in 1904 (Davison Thesis), as well as correspondence and other records from the Joliet Public Library archives. Entry was through the vestibule, which had walls of dark green Georgia marble and a mosaic floor. Swinging doors led to the "delivery room," or the "corridor," that also functioned as a hall, ran north – south and held the delivery desk and led to the stack room on the east, the children's room on the south, and librarian's room and hallway to the reading room on the north. Both the "New Library Thrown Open" article from the *Joliet Daily Republican* and the Davison Thesis described the delivery room as having a floor of black, white, and pink marble, walls paneled to a height of 8' with white Vermont marble bordered with pink Tennessee marble above a 6" base of green Georgia marble. Above the marble panels the walls and ceiling were painted a soft green. The ceiling was paneled with dark oak beams. In between the beams, the ceiling was painted a "conventional design of decoration."³² The windows in the delivery room/corridor were arched.³³

The delivery room/corridor was entered from the vestibule, located directly in front of the dark oak delivery desk. The east wall was divided by a series of three open arches, flanked by two doors, all leading to the stack room. The stack room was high enough to allow an extra floor to be put in when it was deemed necessary.³⁴ The stack room was painted a light green, and the floor was covered with a green cork carpet.³⁵ Above the cork carpet was a base trim of green Georgia marble. The stacks, manufactured by the Art Metal Construction Co., were finished in light and dark green. Stairs at the south end of the room led to the basement, which held the unpacking room, the catalog room, the staff room, the heating plant, a coal room, the men's toilet, some unfinished space, and a book lift.

³¹ Letter from D.H. Burnham & Co. to W.C. Barber, June 30, 1902, Joliet Public Library Archives.

³² Davison, Thesis, 8.

³³ While not mentioned in either the Thesis or the newspaper article, the two Tudor arched windows in the west wall of the delivery room/corridor have leaded glass panels and stained glass in the corners of the arches, the windows on the west elevation in the children's room did not. Historic photographs confirm that this was the original design.

³⁴ Davison, Thesis, 8.

³⁵ Originally, the stack room floor was supposed to be made of concrete, but it was changed to wood with a cork carpet. Letters from D.H. Burnham & Co. to W.C. Barber, January 29, 1903, Joliet Public Library Archives.

An arched entry on the south wall of the delivery room led to the children's room. Above the door were the words "For boys and girls."³⁶ Painted on the doors to the room were the words: "This room will be open from 3 till 9 o'clock on school days. Other days, from 9 until 9 o'clock."³⁷ The room had light green walls with a ceiling with dark Jacobean strapwork and a frieze of small black lions painted around the ceiling. Child-sized tables, chairs, armchairs and rocking chairs were scattered through the room. The room also had a child sized delivery desk and hooks for their coats and hats.³⁸ The floor was Georgia pine with cork carpet with base trim in green Georgia marble.

The librarian's office was on the north side of the delivery room/corridor, opposite the children's room. The room had a wood floor, a gas grate, bookcases, and doors that led into the stack room on the east and the reference room on the west.³⁹ The reference room had bookcases on the north and east walls, two entrances into the hall and an entrance into the reading room. A study room was across the hall from the reference room and had shelves on three walls. The reading room was at the west end of the hall. The most notable features of the reading room were the band of five windows on the west wall and the dark painted Jacobean quatrefoil tracery and drop pendant ceiling. The floors of the reference room, study room and reading room were wood with cork carpet and green Georgia marble base molding.

Originally, the entrance to the delivery room/corridor from the vestibule was arched, and the staircase to the second floor was accessed from the vestibule. Stairs were pink Tennessee marble with rail and posts of ornate bronzed iron. Halfway to the first landing was an open arch on the east side which overlooked the delivery room, at the landing was another arch which overlooked the delivery room/corridor to the reading room on the north side.

The second floor, originally not used by the library, but instead leased to municipal agencies, was not described in any detail in the Davison Thesis and was not described at all in the newspaper. Above the stack room was a long room eventually to be used as a stack room. Above the children's room was a special collection and exhibition room, and on the north side of the building was the library board room, a room for the women's study clubs and an assembly room, which is now the Burnham room. The most notable feature of the

³⁶ Davison, Thesis, 9.

³⁷ "New Library Thrown Open to the Public This Morning."

³⁸ Davison, Thesis, 9.

³⁹ Wood floors in the building were made of Georgia Pine. Letter from D.H. Burnham & Co. to W.C. Barber, February 20, 1903, Joliet Public Library Archives.

assembly/Burnham room were the windows and the pointed arched, beamed ceiling with large ancone scrolls.

The lighting of the building was described in detail. The library was lighted with both gas and electricity, and the Davison Thesis stated that the fixtures were iron, painted a dull black, and especially designed for the library.⁴⁰ Correspondence from the D.H. Burnham & Co. to W.C. Barber states that some lighting fixtures were selected, and others were specifically designed by Llewellyn B. Dutton of the D.H. Burnham & Co.⁴¹ Tables were lit with green shaded lights, wall lights were enclosed with white globes and suspended ceiling lights had larger white globes with several incandescent lights. The stacks were lighted around the walls and fixtures with three lights were between each bookcase. The city furnished light, with no cost to the library.⁴²

All the furniture and woodwork in the library was dark oak. Catalog cases, shelf-list case and charging cases were made by the Library Bureau to match the furniture. Speaking tubes connected all parts of the building, and there were also four city telephones in the building, one in the Board room, one in the librarian's office, one on the loan desk and one downstairs in the catalog room.

The overall color scheme and decorative effect of the building was dark wood and green in various hues. Whose decision that was is not known, however, on June 30, 1903, the chairman of the library building committee sent a letter to the D.H. Burnham & Co. saying that the designs submitted by the contractor for the mosaic tile floor in the coat room and toilet rooms should be treated as a part of the color scheme for the decoration of the building and would be "controlled best" by the D.H. Burnham & Co.⁴³

From the date the building opened, the library occupied the first floor, and the second floor was occupied by other municipal agencies. The Joliet School Board had offices on the second floor from 1904 – 1934, the Joliet City Hall was located on the second floor from 1936 – 1967, and from 1967 – 1976 the Burr Oak Library System had its headquarters in the building. It has only been since 1967 that the library has been the sole occupant of the building.

⁴⁰ Davison, Thesis, 11.

⁴¹ Letter from D.H. Burnham & Co. to W.C. Barber, May 21, 1903. Joliet Public Library Archives.

⁴² Davison, Thesis, 12.

⁴³ Letter from Chairman of the Library Building Committee to the D.H. Burnham & Co., June 30, 1903, Joliet Public Library Archives.

6. Alterations and additions: Known alterations to the Joliet Public Library since it opened in 1903 include:

1905: Unknown “renovations” after the Board of School Inspectors vacated the property.⁴⁴

1919: “Redecoration of the entire building,” shelving added, a fireproof room built for a stereopticon.⁴⁵

1977: “Library” sign added to the exterior courtyard on the west elevation.⁴⁶

1978 – 1981: First floor reading room was remodeled, main entrance and lobby were refurbished, woodwork was refinished, heating, air conditioning, lighting, and carpeting were added, wall repairs were made. A second tier of shelves was added above the stacks. Fluorescent lights in the stacks were replaced with indirect pendant lights. Plaster in the west part of the first floor was repaired and painted, and new carpeting was laid in the children’s room. The second floor was remodeled and opened to the public. The cost for the renovation was \$180,706.⁴⁷

The entrance between the vestibule and the delivery room/corridor was changed. Glass was installed in the arched opening of the stairway overlooking the delivery room/corridor. The delivery desk was removed and replaced. Woodwork was refinished, and the walls and ceiling were re-painted. The doors to the children’s room were removed.

On December 17, 1980 workers began construction of a concrete ramp for accessibility on the exterior of the west elevation.⁴⁸

⁴⁴ After the Board of School Inspectors vacated the property, the building was remodeled at a cost of \$2,040.56. January 12, 1905, Board of Directors of Joliet Public Library receipt, Joliet Public Library Archives.

⁴⁵ “History of the Main Library (Ottawa Street Branch),” Joliet Public Library.

⁴⁶ “New Sign Makes Friends’ Work Visible,” June 12, 1977. Unsourced newspaper clipping, Joliet Public Library clippings file.

⁴⁷ Gladdies Mayerhoff, “Joliet Public Library Keeps up with the Times,” *Joliet Herald-News* November 21, 1981.

⁴⁸ Ibid; “Joliet Library Project OK’d,” *Joliet Herald-News*, October 21, 1980; “Remodeling at the Library,” *Joliet Herald-News*, December 17, 1980; *Herald-News*, December 17, 1980. Other changes in late 1980 brought the building up to city building and safety codes. “Changes Enhance Downtown Library,” *Joliet Herald-News*, February 1, 1981.

1991: Restoration after a 1989 firebombing to the east side included re-painting, woodwork and plaster restoration, window replacement with new wood trim to match the historic window trim, and extensive cleaning.⁴⁹

2008: The circulation desk was moved and expanded, new heating and air conditioning systems installed, new lighting installed in the west wing, basement of 1991 addition finished, new rooms built to house computers, and new carpeting was installed.⁵⁰

Historic photographs show that the roofline at the square tower was changed, and much of the stone ornamentation was removed, including a balustrade composed of Elizabethan “E” scrolls and square posts topped with globes that reference the globes on the stair balustrade and the stone wall surrounding the property, and two joined scrolls topped with a small globe that also appears above the Tudor window above the front entrance. The roof over the square tower was replaced and the flag pole was removed, and the roof over the building was replaced. On the interior, an elevator was added to the northwest corner of the children’s room. Many of the windows are replacements. It is not known when these changes were made.

B. Historical Context

Joliet, Illinois

Joliet, Illinois is located approximately 35 miles southwest of Chicago’s Loop; it is the second largest municipality in Illinois in terms of land area and the third largest in terms of population. While it is the county seat of Will County, it extends into Kendall County.⁵¹ Louis Joliet and Father Jacques Marquette traveled the area with voyageurs and Joliet camped a few miles south of the city in 1673. In 1833, Charles Reed, born in Virginia in 1874 and a veteran of the war of 1812, built a cabin in the area on the west side of the Des Plaines River. He is considered to be the first settler and founder of Joliet.

The city’s propitious location along the Des Plaines River was key to its development and growth, first by development of the Illinois and Michigan (“I&M”) Canal that linked the Illinois River in LaSalle, Illinois, to the Chicago River in Chicago, and thus the Gulf of Mexico through the Mississippi River, to the east coast of the United States through the

⁴⁹ “History Repeats Itself,” *Joliet Herald-News*, August 12, 1990; William Harms, “Reading Comes with the Job,” August 23, 1989; interview with James J. Prybys, Stromsland DeYoung Prybys Architecture Group, Inc., February 16, 2021.

⁵⁰ “History of the Main Library (Ottawa Street Branch),” Joliet Public Library.

⁵¹ “Joliet, Illinois,” <https://www.joliet.gov/>, accessed January 24, 2021.

Great Lakes.⁵² The United States Congress granted land for the construction of the canal in 1822; in 1830, the platting of land began. In 1834, James B. Campbell, treasurer of the Board of I&M Canal Commissioners, laid out a plan for the town of Joliet and held a public sale for lots. The town was recorded as “Juliet,” a name that local settlers had used prior to Campbell’s arrival, probably as a corruption of the word “Joliet” that identified a historic mound nearby.⁵³ The town name was later changed to “Joliet” in 1845 and reincorporated as a city in 1852.⁵⁴

Construction of the I&M Canal began in 1836. Excavation for, and construction of, the I&M Canal through the Des Plaines River Valley between Joliet and Lemont revealed extensive amounts of limestone, a solid rock that proved to be a better building material than the limestone found in Chicago. The first building constructed of limestone in Joliet was a three-story building built by C.W. Brandon for M. Demmond from 1835 – 36.⁵⁵

The earliest quarries were built near Joliet; as the need for limestone was seemingly endless, and as construction of the canal progressed, additional quarries were dug near Lemont by 1846. Limestone was used to build the canal locks, bridges and aqueducts, and the canal was used as an efficient and relatively inexpensive way to ship limestone to Chicago and other cities.

The I&M Canal proved to be a boon for the local economy. Over fifty quarries were documented in the area surrounding the Des Plaines River Valley alone, and Joliet became known as the “Stone City.” In 1852, the Rock Island Railroad came to Joliet and railroad cars began shipping stone to Chicago for rebuilding after the fire of 1871, and elsewhere. By 1890, over 3,000 railroad cars of limestone were being shipped to Chicago per month.⁵⁶ Limestone from Joliet was used to build the Illinois State Capitol, the Lincoln Monument in Springfield, the state capitol building in Lansing, Michigan and many other buildings.⁵⁷ Numerous buildings in Chicago were built with limestone known by their commercial names as “Joliet Limestone,” or “Athens Marble,” including

⁵² The concept was originally suggested by Louis Joliet after he was shown a portage in Chicago in 1673. “Illinois and Michigan Canal,” James R. Grossman, Ann Durkin Keating, Janice L. Reiff, eds., *Encyclopedia of Chicago*, (Chicago and London: The University of Chicago Press, 2004), 406; “Portage,” *Encyclopedia of Chicago*, 641.

⁵³ Robert E. Sterling, *Joliet: A Pictorial History*, (St. Louis, MO: G. Bradley Publishing, Inc. 1986), 14.

⁵⁴ “Joliet, Illinois,” *The Encyclopedia of Chicago*, 438; Hon. George H. Woodruff, “Joliet City,” History of Will County 1878, <https://will.illinoisgenweb.org/history/1878-3.htm>, accessed January 26, 2021.

⁵⁵ History of Will County; “Joliet-Lemont Limestone,” Landmarks Preservation Council of Illinois, (Chicago: 1988).

⁵⁶ “Joliet, IL,” *Encyclopedia of Chicago*; John M. Lamb, “Joliet Limestone: The Rise and Fall of a Nineteenth Century Building Material and Its Architectural Impact on the Joliet, Illinois, Area,” *Quarterly Publication*. Lockport, Ill.: Will County Historical Society, Winter 1997.

⁵⁷ Sterling, 31.

neighborhood row houses, Holy Name Cathedral (1857), First Congregational Church (1869), St. James Episcopal (1857), and the Water Tower and Pumping Station (1869).⁵⁸

In Joliet, local limestone was a natural choice for a building material, and was used extensively, including for the Illinois State Penitentiary (1858), the Barber Building (1881), the Joliet Steel Works Building (1891), the Joliet Auditorium Building (1891), Silver Cross Hospital (1895), Joliet Central High School (1901), and the Joliet Public Library (1903).⁵⁹ Not long after the turn of the century, Bedford limestone from Indiana surpassed Joliet limestone in popularity and use.⁶⁰ The Joliet Public Library is the only surviving building in the downtown area that was built of Joliet limestone after 1900.⁶¹

While cities across the United States were growing in the latter half of the nineteenth century, the country was also expanding. New construction methods using steel frames and railroads reaching westward led to an increased demand for iron and steel. Once again, Joliet was in an ideal location: the Des Plaines River Valley contained large amounts of coal and limestone that could be used for fuel and building material, several railroads and the I&M Canal ran through the area, which provided shipping outlets for raw materials and finished products, and dams on the Des Plaines River provided power for the production of iron and steel.

To meet the demand for iron and steel, the Joliet Union Coal, Iron & Transportation Company developed an iron works on Collins Street in 1869. The company built two coke-fired blast furnaces and two rod mills. By 1873, the company was reorganized as the Joliet Iron and Steel Company, and a steel plant was built, using the ninth Bessemer converter in the United States. The Joliet Iron and Steel Works was at one time the second largest steel mill in the United States. The Joliet Iron and Steel Company merged with the Illinois Steel Company, the Midwest's largest steel producer, which was later absorbed by the Federal Steel Company in 1898, then reorganized again into the U.S. Steel Corporation, the largest steel maker in the United States.⁶² While Joliet had been known as the "Stone City," it became known as the "City of Steel."

Joliet was the largest producer of iron rails for the railroad industry in the United States, and the second largest producer of iron and steel, only behind Pittsburgh.⁶³ Combined with the new railroad system that serviced the steel mill, the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railway, the dominant limestone and steel industries attracted other industries, including

⁵⁸ "Joliet – Lemont Limestone," Landmarks Preservation Council of Illinois (Chicago: 1988).

⁵⁹ "Joliet – Lemont Limestone," Sterling, 61.

⁶⁰ "Joliet – Lemont Limestone;" "Joliet Limestone: The Rise and Fall of a Nineteenth Century Building Material."

⁶¹ "Town of Joliet," Historic American Buildings Survey, HABS IL-320.

⁶² "Joliet Iron and Steel Company, Joliet Works," Historic American Engineering Record HAER No. IL-57, National Park Service.

⁶³ Stanley Ziemba, "Ex-Steel Plant Revived as Historical Exhibit," *Chicago Tribune*, July 19, 1998.

wire mills, coke plants, stove companies, brick companies, manufacturing companies, and others. These industries in turn attracted a large labor force. The population in Joliet in 1840 was 2,558; in 1850, it was 2,659. By 1860, it had risen to 7,104; by 1880 it had climbed to 11,657, and by 1890 it had jumped to 29,353.⁶⁴ The combination of industrial development and expansion, and significant population growth led to Joliet's emergence as a dominant industrial city. The prosperity led to major improvements in the downtown area including street paving and sewer and street car line installation; and while commercial and residential buildings were being constructed at a rapid rate, significant civic buildings were also being built, including the Will County Courthouse (1884 – 1887), the U.S. Post Office (1901 – 1903), and the Joliet Public Library.⁶⁵

The Joliet Public Library, 1902 – 1903

In 1872, Illinois passed a law allowing cities to establish a public library. On August 31, 1875 the Will County Historical Society, Captain Egbert Phelps, president, donated the Historical Society's library to the city on the condition that the city establish a public library. The following day, on September 1, 1875, the Joliet City Council adopted an ordinance providing for the establishment of a public library and the appointment of a library Board of Directors. The Library Board of Directors met for the first time on September 13, 1875, with Judge G.D.A. Parks as president.⁶⁶

The Will County Historical Society's donation of books formed the nucleus of the newly formed Joliet Public Library's collection. Additional donations followed, and the Library Board rented rooms in the Cagwin Bank Building on Jefferson Street in Joliet, Illinois. Charlotte Aiken was appointed first librarian. The library opened in the spring of 1876 with 764 volumes of books. Mr. Samuel Goodspeed was issued the first library card.⁶⁷ In 1879, the library moved to the Aiken Block on Jefferson Street, until it outgrew the space and moved to the Gorman Building on Van Buren Street in 1899.

Discussion of constructing a purpose-built library building began as early as 1887. In March of that year, the Joliet Steel Co., under the direction of Colonel John Lambert, proposed to contribute \$20,000 toward a library building if the people of Joliet would raise matching funds, and Lambert also promised to contribute \$3,000 a year for five years to offset expenses. The plan was not supported. Later that year, on June 5, 1895, at a Library Board meeting, the president of the Board was instructed to have plans prepared for a library building. A resolution stating that the Library Board was determined to build a library building and that a plan submitted by H. Boehme at an

⁶⁴ Decennial Census of Population and Housing, United States Census Bureau, <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial-census.html>, accessed January 15, 2021.

⁶⁵ "Town of Joliet," HABS No. IL-320.

⁶⁶ Davison, Thesis, 3.

⁶⁷ Ibid., 4.

estimate of \$36,000 was approved and accepted on June 20, 1895. On July 7, 1896, the estimate was increased to \$40,000. By July 17, 1896, the city council appropriated \$130,000 toward the cost of building a library, payable in ten annual installments, in exchange for the city council leasing space in the building to be used for city offices and council chambers. On June 1, 1897, the Board decided to delay construction of the building to raise funds.

On December 25, 1897, Colonel John Lambert gave the city \$30,000 for a library building fund, in the form of nine notes paid to Lambert for an electric light franchise. Previously, on July 29, 1897, an ordinance was passed in Joliet allowing John Lambert the exclusive right to construct, operate and maintain for fifty years a gas, electric light and power system under all of the streets in Joliet, in exchange for providing light at no cost to the city of Joliet in City Hall, the Library Building, the Police Station and the Fire Department.⁶⁸ Lambert sold the franchise to the Economy Light and Power Co. for \$30,000. The notes would be turned over to the city of Joliet on October 1, 1902, provided that the city had purchased a lot and ordered plans for a building by that time. Lots 3 and 4 of Block 13 of "old town Joliet" were purchased by the city of Joliet for the library building in January of 1899 for \$20,000.⁶⁹

While plans were to erect a building that would accommodate both a new city hall and library, it became apparent that available funds wouldn't allow construction of a building that could accommodate both institutions. On April 5, 1902, the Library Board asked the city council to release the Library Board from its contractual obligations with respect to erecting a joint building, and the Board paid the city \$25, 000 to relinquish any claims to the building and the site. In May, 1902, the Library Board formed a Building Committee to oversee construction of a new library building.

Joliet Public Library Board of Directors

In 1902, the Joliet Public Library Board Members were: Captain Egbert Phelps, president; James L. O'Donnell, James C. Heggie, William C. Barber, William D. Heise, George M. Campbell, John W. D'Arcy, Sebastian Lager, and Joseph Stephen, directors.

Egbert Phelps was born in Middlebury, Vermont on December 8, 1835 and came to Joliet in 1870. His father Samuel Phelps was a judge of the Vermont Supreme Court and a United States Senator. Egbert was an attorney and formed a partnership with W.C. Goodhue, then later with Judge Benjamin Olin. He was a member of the Joliet school board, president of the Will County Historical Society that donated the books that created

⁶⁸ Joliet City Council Ordinance No. 1663, Joliet Public Library Archives.

⁶⁹ Davison, Thesis, 5.

the collection of the first library in Joliet, and president of the Joliet Library Association, which later became the Joliet Public Library Board of Directors.⁷⁰

James O'Donnell was born on August 10, 1849. He attended the University of Niagara, New York and studied law with two law firms before he was admitted to the bar of Illinois in January 1874. He opened a practice with P.C. Haley in Joliet; the firm of Haley & O'Donnell was the oldest firm in the city in 1900. Among their more notable clients, the firm represented the sanitary district, and the Santa Fe, Wabash Michigan Central and Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railroads.⁷¹

James Heggie was born in Scotland on October 18, 1853. He moved to Chicago when he was 20, and moved to Joliet in 1875, working for the Joliet Steel Company. In 1892, he formed the Heggie Brothers Company with his brother John. James later bought out John's interest and incorporated in 1913 as the James G. Heggie & Sons Steel Plate Construction Company. James also founded the Heggie Simplex Boiler Company, which was incorporated in 1923, and he was a director of the Joliet Trust & Savings Bank.⁷²

William Barber was born on February 25, 1863 in Joliet. He graduated from Hamilton College in New York in 1884. He was a financier, taking over the business started by his father Royal E. Barber, an attorney, in 1857. His offices were in the Barber Building in Joliet.⁷³ Barber served as mayor of Joliet from 1915 – 1923, and was also known for his associations with liquidating building and loan associations. He was a member of the board of directors of the Library Association beginning in 1887, and acted as clerk until 1896. Barber became chairman of the Building Committee of the Joliet Public Library Board of Directors in 1902. He was active in the Central Presbyterian Church and the Stone City Union Club.⁷⁴

William Heise was Will County State's Attorney from 1896 - 1908. He was born on July 14, 1869. He graduated from the University of Michigan and the University of Michigan

⁷⁰ *Genealogical and Biographical Record of Will County* (Chicago Biographical Publishing Company, 1900): 619.

⁷¹ *Ibid.*, 151.

⁷² "James C. Heggie," H.H. Hill, George H. Woodruff, and Wm. Le Baron, *The History of Will County Illinois: Containing a History of the County ... a Directory of Its Real Estate Owners; Portraits of Early Settlers and Prominent Men; General and Local Statistics ... History of Illinois ... History of the Northwest ...* (Chicago: W. Le Baron, Jr., & Co., 1878).

⁷³ The Barber Building, located at 66 N. Chicago St., was built in 1887 and designed by local Joliet architect F.S. Allen. The D.H. Burnham Co. renovated the building in 1914. "Barber Building," City of Joliet, Historic Preservation Commission, <https://www.joliet.gov/home/showpublisheddocument?id=19763>, accessed January 25, 2021.

⁷⁴ "William Barber," *The History of Will County*, 33.

Law School in 1890.⁷⁵ He was one of the founders and president of the First National Bank of Lockport. He died on April 16, 1940 in Joliet.⁷⁶

George Campbell was secretary, treasurer and general manager of the Joliet Stone Company. He was born on January 5, 1848 in Maine, and moved to Joliet in 1862. In 1875 he and his partner George H. Monroe formed the Joliet Stone Company and incorporated two years later, with Monroe as president and Campbell as secretary and treasurer. Campbell was also director of the Crescent Stone Company in Joliet. The principal quarries of the Joliet Stone Company provided the largest output of any quarry in the Des Plaines River Valley. Campbell died on May 15, 1923.⁷⁷

John D'Arcy was born in Joliet in 1860. He graduated from the University of Michigan Law School in 1884 and was named Joliet city attorney in 1892. He also served as alderman. Known as the "dean of practicing lawyers in Joliet," D'Arcy was the largest individual real estate owner in the city. He served on the Library Board for 31 years, the last eight years as president. His home at 2 N. Center St. in Joliet is a Joliet city landmark. D'Arcy died in 1935.⁷⁸

Sebastian Lager was born on May 15, 1865 in a log cabin near Mokena, Illinois, and moved to Joliet as a child. He served as an alderman for 25 years and as mayor of Joliet from 1897 to 1900. He was a founder and president of the Superior Chemical Company, organizer of the Joliet National Bank, and founder of the E. Porter Products Company. Lager died in November of 1925.⁷⁹

Not much is known about Joseph Stephen. He may have been a successful harness maker who died in 1907.⁸⁰

While Colonel John Lambert was not on the first Library Board of Directors, he played an essential role in the providing for the building. Lambert was born on January 12, 1847

⁷⁵ W.W. Stevens, "William D. Heise," *Past and Present of Will County, Illinois* (Chicago: The S.J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1907).

⁷⁶ "Lockport Bank Elects Heise to Succeed M'Donald," *Joliet Evening Herald-News*, March 10, 1914; "William D. Heise," [obit.], *Chicago Tribune*, April 17, 1940.

⁷⁷ William LeBaron, Jr. "George M. Campbell," *The History of Will County Illinois*; Death Records, Ancestry.com, https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/50766537:60525?tid=&pid=&queryId=a616ad376b9337bdd8fe25f4d4a62fec&_phsrc=zpp1982&_phstart=succesSource, accessed January 30, 2021.

⁷⁸ "John D'Arcy House," <https://www.joliet.gov/government/boards-commissions/joliet-historic-preservation-commission/local-historic-landmarks/local-landmarks/john-d-arcy-house>, accessed January 29, 2021; "Dean of Joliet Lawyers Dies," *The Pantagraph* (Bloomington, Illinois), February 26, 1935; "John W. D'Arcy Dies; Bar Dean in Will County," *Chicago Tribune*, February 26, 1935.

⁷⁹ "Former Mayor Loses Battle with Pneumonia," *Joliet Herald*, November 13, 1925.

⁸⁰ "Joseph Stephen Faces a Crisis," *Joliet News*, April 8, 1907; "Funeral Services for Jos. Stephen," *Joliet News*, April 11, 1907.

in New Jersey. After serving in the Union Army, Lambert moved to Illinois and settled in Grundy County. He moved to Joliet in 1870 and worked as an officer in the Illinois State penitentiary. In 1879, he became a member of the Lambert & Bishop Wire Fence Company, which merged with the St. Louis Wire Mill Company, the Braddock Wire Company, and the Iowa Barb Wire Company, to form the Consolidated Steel and Wire Company. Lambert was elected vice president and later general manager. When the company was incorporated, Lambert was chosen president. In 1899, Lambert was elected president of the American Steel & Wire Company of Illinois, and later, president of the American Steel and Wire Company of New Jersey.⁸¹ Lambert's office was in the Rookery Building in Chicago, the same building as Daniel Burnham's firms, Burnham & Root and the D.H. Burnham & Co.⁸² It is likely that Lambert and Burnham were acquaintances before construction of the library. Through a series of mergers and acquisitions, the American Steel and Wire Company eventually became U.S. Steel. Lambert died on March 6, 1922, remembered as a national figure in the nascent steel industry and in the formation of the U.S. Steel Corporation.⁸³

Around the time the Joliet Public Library was being formed, steel magnate and philanthropist Andrew Carnegie was donating substantial funds to communities across the United States and the world to build local library buildings. Carnegie donated \$56,162,622 for the construction of 2,509 libraries throughout the world, and 1,679 libraries in the United States.⁸⁴ Being in the steel business, Lambert was a direct competitor of Carnegie's, and the city of Joliet was in competition with Pittsburgh. According to anecdote, when a suggestion was made that the city of Joliet approach Carnegie to ask for matching funds to build a library, Lambert supposedly said "I'll be damned if Carnegie will spend any money on a Joliet library!"⁸⁵

⁸¹ *Genealogical and Biographical Record of Will County*, 566 – 567; Joseph M. McGadden, "Monopoly in Barbed Wire: The Formation of the American Steel and Wire Company," *The Business History Review* 52, no. 4 (Winter, 1978): 483. D.H. Burnham & Co. moved to the Railway Exchange Building during the course of the Joliet Public Library project; correspondence in the Library's archives reflects the address change.

⁸² *Journal of Proceedings, Joliet City Council*, Republican Printing Company (Joliet: Republican Printing Company, 1900): 288.

⁸³ Among other things, Lambert was also one of the organizers and first president of the *Joliet-Herald News*, first issue appeared on November 18, 1904. The newspaper was published by Joliet Printing Company, which was organized solely for purpose of producing the newspaper. *History of Will County*; "John Lambert, Steel Man, Dies in West," *New York Herald*, March 7, 1922; "Col. John Lambert, Steel Man, is Dead," *Pittsburgh Press*, March 7, 1922.

⁸⁴ George S. Bobinski, "Carnegie Libraries: Their History and Impact on American Public Library Development," *American Library Association* 62, no. 11, 1968. At the cornerstone laying ceremony on April 25, 1903, Joliet Schools Superintendent J. Stanley Brown said "In the erection of this building, whose corner stone is laid today, we see another full measure of Joliet's devotion to her youth. This seems all the more sacred, because it comes not from Mr. Carnegie or some other multimillionaire, but from the hearts of the people whose boys and girls will use it." "An Impressive Event," *Joliet Daily Republican*, April 25, 1903.

⁸⁵ Mary Jane Bank, "Library has a Rich History," *The Herald-News*, September 5, 1991.

Instead, Lambert served as principal donor for the library, and ultimately donated over \$42,000 toward the building fund. Lambert is also credited with securing Daniel H. Burnham to design the building.⁸⁶ In 1918, Lambert became president of the Joliet Public Library Board, and held that position until his death on March 6, 1922.⁸⁷ When Lambert died, he bequeathed the library income from a \$10,000 grant and his entire collection of oil paintings.⁸⁸

Lambert's portrait hangs in the stairwell of the library today, with a brass name plate that reads:

JOHN LAMBERT
Jan. 12, 1847 – May 6, 1922
Civil War Veteran
A Principal Donor – Joliet
Library Building
Member Joliet Library Board
1904 – 1922, President 1918 – 1922

The artist of the pastel portrait was Zula Kenyon of Joliet, Illinois, once a staff artist for the Gerlach-Barklow Company. The portrait was restored in 1982. Joliet attorney Frank H. Masters Jr. donated the costs of the restoration of the portrait, frame and brass plaque, which was performed by the Armand Lee & Co., Ltd., a custom framing and restoration firm in Chicago.⁸⁹

Theodore R. Gerlach, K.H. Gerlach and Edward J. Barklow were successful calendar salesmen who were interested in starting their own calendar business. The three men approached Colonel Lambert about financing and Lambert agreed, and Lambert and J.C. Flowers supported the start of the calendar company. The Gerlach Barklow Company was incorporated in June, 1907 in Joliet and John Lambert was president. The company employed hundreds of Joliet area women at a time when women had difficulty finding jobs outside of the home; in the hand tinting department alone, men were outnumbered by women over 50 – 1. The company grew to be one of the largest calendar companies in the United States.⁹⁰

Zula Kenyon was born in 1873 in Deansville, Wisconsin. She was largely a self-taught artist but began attending school at the Art Institute of Chicago in 1899. She worked as a pastel artist in Chicago and Waterloo, Wisconsin, and she started working for the Gerlach

⁸⁶ Ibid.

⁸⁷ Ken O'Brien, "Lambert's Contributions Could Fill A Book," *Chicago Tribune*, November 8, 1948.

⁸⁸ "Joliet," *Illinois Libraries* 3, no. 1, January 1921.

⁸⁹ "Library Accepts Restored Portrait," *Joliet Herald-News*, October 3, 1982, Joliet Public Library Clippings File.

⁹⁰ Tim and Michelle Smith, *Joliet's Gerlach Barklow Calendar Company* (Chicago: Arcadia Publishing, 2009): 39.

Barklow Company soon after it was formed in 1907. Her earlier work is signed only as “Kenyon,” a deliberate attempt to avoid revealing her gender. Kenyon quickly became one of the company’s best-selling artists and was one of the few employees who were offered an exclusive contract with the company. Her 1926 “Bluebird of Happiness” series calendar line ran for over thirty years and proved to be the most popular Gerlach Barklow Company calendar line ever produced.⁹¹

Joliet Public Library Building Committee

On May 17, 1902 the Library Board met in special session to consider the matter of selecting an architect for the new library building. A building committee consisting of William C. Barber, Chairman, G.M. Campbell and J.G. Heggie, all members of the Library Board of Directors, was appointed to choose an architect to design the building.

As chairman, Barber oversaw most of the details of planning and construction of the building. Most of the correspondence in the Joliet Public Library Archives to and from Daniel H. Burnham and the D.H Burnham Co. was directed to William Barber, in care of the Barber Building in Joliet.

On May 24, 1902, the Library Board met and listened to the report of the committee on the choice of an architect. The committee recommended three firms: D.H. Burnham & Co., Louis H. Sullivan, and Holabird & Roche, “giving their opinion that no mistake could be made in selecting any one of these firms.”⁹² The report of the committee was adopted. Upon a roll call, the Board unanimously chose the D.H. Burnham & Co. to design the building. Library Board Secretary A.H. Wagner was directed to notify the firm that it was selected.⁹³

On May 27, 1902, D. H. Burnham & Co. wrote to A.H. Wagner, secretary of the Joliet Public Library, acknowledging Wagner’s letter of May 26th informing them that the firm was chosen as architects for the new library building and established the architectural fees, which were set at 5% of the cost of the building, plus travel expenses.⁹⁴ A few days

⁹¹ *Gerlach Barklow Calendar Company*, 83.

⁹² On June 5, 1902, the local *Joliet Daily Republican* reported that local architects in Joliet were displeased with the selection of the Burnham & Co. as architects for the project. “[I]t does not look fair to the people of Joliet, and it certainly looks disrespectful to its architects to have the members of the library board go out of the city and engage a man to do the work several of the local men can do just as well as outsiders can do it.”⁹² However, the D.H. Burnham Co. asked William Barber for a list of local Joliet contractors to inquire about estimates, and the general contractor and at least two sub-contractors hired to work on the library project were local Joliet firms. Letter from D.H. Burnham & Co. to W.C. Barber and Library Board, August 7, 1902, Joliet Public Library Archives.

⁹³ Library Board Meeting Notes, A.C. Wagner, May 17, 1902, May 24, 1902, Joliet Area Historical Museum; Davison, Thesis, 6.

⁹⁴ Joliet Public Library, undated Record of Proceedings of the Board of Directors, carbon copy sent to J.W. Edmunds dated April 14, 1903, Joliet Public Library Archives; Letter from D.H. Burnham & Co. to A.H. Wagner, May 27, 1902, Joliet Public Library Archives.

later, on June 3, 1902, Daniel H. Burnham sent a letter to A. H. Wagner, telling him that Mr. L.B. Dutton from the D.H. Burnham & Co. firm would be in charge of the library project and Mr. C.M. Wilkes, mechanical engineer, would also be working on the project. A meeting was proposed for that evening, and after a survey of the property was made, Burnham requested ten days to prepare sketches and proposed a meeting at his firm's offices in the Rookery Building in Chicago.⁹⁵ No correspondence or records were found that document discussion of sketches or the meeting. On July 3, 1902, the general plan for the building submitted by D.H. Burnham & Co. was accepted.⁹⁶

On October 7, 1902, the Joliet Public Library Board awarded contracts for construction, and released a drawing of the library building. The *Joliet Daily Republican* wrote the building was "a combination of Gothic and English Tudor architecture."⁹⁷

Costs for the building were estimated to be:

Adam Groth & Co. - general contracting	\$114,376.62
Poehner & Dillman - heating and ventilating	\$10,101.45
Art Metal Construction Co. - library stacks	\$5,050.00
Matthews Bros. Mfg. Co. - catalogue cases, etc.	\$2,678.59
Kohler Bros. - electrical, lighting in stacks	\$1,833.75
T.W. Wilmarth Co. - lighting	<u>\$1,500.00</u>
Total Costs:	\$140,702.74 ⁹⁸

D.H. Burnham & Co. - architectural fees	\$7,035.14 ⁹⁹
---	--------------------------

After adjustments, William Barber, clerk of the Board of Directors of the Joliet Public Library, presented the Mayor and City of Joliet the Twenty-ninth Annual Report, covering the period from June 1, 1903 to May 31, 1904, which included the Building fund financial statement.

Costs were as follows:

Real estate	\$20,000
City hall site fund	\$25,000
Alley paving	\$451.23
Building	

⁹⁵ Letter from D.H. Burnham to A.H. Wagner, June 3, 1902, Joliet Public Library Archives.

⁹⁶ Davison, Thesis, 6. Correspondence in the Joliet Public Library archives from the Library Board to Burnham & Co. was addressed to the Rookery Building, however in 1904, correspondence was addressed to the Railway Exchange building, designed by the D.H. Burnham & Co. and where the company moved in 1904.

⁹⁷ *Joliet Daily Republican*, October 7, 1902; Jack Tegel, *The History of Main Library* (Ottawa Street Branch), Joliet Public Library.

⁹⁸ Joliet Public Library Archives.

⁹⁹ Bill for professional services to Joliet Public Library Board of Directors from D.H. Burnham Co., December 21, 1903, Joliet Public Library Archives.

General contract	\$144,844.28
Heating	\$2,263.75
Plumbing	\$4,393.15
Electrical wiring	\$1,853.51
Light fixtures	\$1,500.00
Metal stacks and furniture	\$5,050.00
Wood furniture, except chairs	\$2,695.39
Chairs	\$1,294.50
Sundry furniture and fittings	\$429.13
Statue and pedestal	\$2,263.75
Grounds	\$104.25
Architects' fees and expenses	\$7,171.24 ¹⁰⁰

Ground was broken for the library building on October 20, 1902 without formal ceremonies.¹⁰¹ On February 25, 1903, J.W. Edmunds, superintendent for the D.H. Burnham Co. wrote to W.C. Barber asking him if the library wanted a corner stone, and if so, where.¹⁰² By March 10, the Burnham Co. sent a letter to W.C. Barber enclosing scale drawings of two faces of the corner stone and full sized details of the approximately 2" high lettering, and offering to make the lettering raised, or in bronze. As an alternative, the company also offered a bronze plate corner stone instead of cut stone. A penciled notation on the letter indicates that the library considered bronze plates and called the Chicago Ornamental Iron Company and learned that the cost of bronze plates was between \$200 - \$250.¹⁰³ A few days later, on March 13, 1903, the Burnham Co. confirmed with W.C. Barber that the library decided to have the corner stone made of stone, and that the Adam Groth Co. accepted \$10 to polish the faces of the corner stone and \$30.84 for 257 letters at a cost of .12 cents per letter.¹⁰⁴

On April 24, 1903, the cornerstone was laid in a ceremony beginning at 4:30 pm.¹⁰⁵ Captain Egbert Phelps, president of the library Board of Directors "wielded the trowel" and spread the mortar setting the stone. The trowel was the same one used by Vice-President Garret A. Hobart to lay the cornerstone of the Paterson, New Jersey post office in 1898, a building built by the A. Groth Company.¹⁰⁶ Every school age child in Joliet

¹⁰⁰ Twenty-ninth Report of the Board of Directors of the Joliet Public Library, July 5, 1904, *Journal of Proceedings of City Council of the City of Joliet Illinois, for the Year Ending December 31, 1904*, <https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=nyp.33433082010970&view=1up&seq=527&q1=library>, accessed January 24, 2021.

¹⁰¹ Davison, Thesis, 6.

¹⁰² Letter from J.W. Edmunds of D.H. Burnham & Co. to W.C. Barber, February 25, 1903, Joliet Public Library Archives.

¹⁰³ Letter from D.H. Burnham & Co. to W.C. Barber, March 10, 1903, Joliet Public Library Archives.

¹⁰⁴ Letter from D.H. Burnham & Co. to W.C. Barber, March 13, 1903, Joliet Public Library Archives.

¹⁰⁵ "An Impressive Event," *The Joliet Daily Republican*, April 25, 1903; Davison, Thesis, 6.

¹⁰⁶ Ibid., "An Impressive Event."

was invited to attend. A document dated April 24, 1903 in the archival collection of the Joliet Public Library details the contents of the copper box included in the cornerstone:

List of contents of the box in the Corner-stone of the Joliet Public Library laid on the above date, viz:-

1. Present Catalogues, supplements thereto, bulletins and forms, Public Library.
2. Financial Statement as to this Building.
3. Autographically inscribed photographs of the Members of the Present Board of Directors of said Library and of the present Staff operating the same.
4. Copies of the Joliet "News" and of the "Joliet Daily Republican" dated April 23, 1903.
5. Copy of the Stone Cutters' Journal for April, 1903.¹⁰⁷
6. Copy of the Joliet City Directory for 1902-03.
7. List of Sub-Contractors under the General Contractor, Mr. Adam Groth.
8. Program of Exercises at laying of the said corner-stone.¹⁰⁸

The new building opened to the public on December 14, 1903 at 9:00 a.m. The head librarian was Mrs. Kate A. Henderson. Mabel K. Davison was the assistant librarian; she would go on to earn her master's degree in library science from the Illinois State Library School of the University of Illinois by writing a thesis on the Joliet Public Library in June of 1904. Librarian assistants were Bella C. Hopper, Anna P. Doughty, and Mrs. Helen M. Zarley.¹⁰⁹ The first books checked out on December 14, 1903 by Mrs. George A. Buck, were "Winter India," by Elizabeth Skidmore and "The Two Washingtons," by Paul Leicester Ford, and it was assistant librarian Mrs. Zarley who checked out those books for Mrs. Buck. Frank Dewey was the first patron to use the reading room and E.S. Munroe was the first patron to use the reference room.¹¹⁰

The Children's Room

¹⁰⁷ *Stone Cutters' Journal* was the official monthly journal of the Journeymen Stonecutters' Association of North America. *Stone Cutters' Journal* XVII, no 4 (April, 1903), did not feature any articles about the Joliet Public Library. The Journal's inclusion in the cornerstone was most likely an acknowledgement of the work of the stone contractors who worked on the building. *Stone Cutters' Journal* XVII, no. 4 (April, 1903), Wisconsin Historical Society.

¹⁰⁸ "List of contents of the box of the Corner-Stone," April 24, 1903, Joliet Public Library Archives; "An Impressive Event."

¹⁰⁹ *Wiggins' Joliet City Directory*, XI (Joliet: R.L. Polk & Co., 1903 – 1904): 16.

¹¹⁰ *Ibid.*

A children's room was included in the early stages of planning for the library in 1902 and the age limit to borrow books was eliminated in May of 1903, before the library was opened. "No special work could be done with the children in the old quarters on account of lack of room, but when the new building was planned, special thought was given to their needs. Theirs [was] the brightest and pleasantest room and everything [was] done to make the library attractive to them. The story hour on Saturday morning brings many children not old enough to read, but in this way, they early become accustomed to the use of the library."¹¹¹

At the cornerstone laying ceremony, Board of Director James L. O'Donnell, who presided over the ceremony, said that the library "...will be a Joliet institution, built with Joliet taxes, assisted by the contributions of a generous man who is for Joliet first, last and all the time. So, while the taxpayers think they own the structure and literally do, in spirit do we tender this library to the coming generation — the school children of Joliet."¹¹²

In 1902, the concept of having a space in the library devoted exclusively for the sole use of children was a relatively recent phenomenon. Up to the middle of the nineteenth century, children were not made to feel welcome in libraries. In 1876, the U.S. Bureau of Education commissioned a study on public libraries in the United States. One of the contributors was William I. Fletcher who wrote a chapter entitled "Public Libraries and the Young," in which he advocated for the inclusion of children in libraries. Fletcher's ideas were consistent with progressive ideas from that time period, and by the 1890s libraries began offering some designated spaces for children with books and furnishings for them.¹¹³ The Boston Public Library claims to have had the first children's room in the country; it opened in 1895.¹¹⁴

An early child library advocate and activist was Anne Carroll Moore. Moore organized a children's library at the Pratt Institute Library in Brooklyn, New York in 1896, attended a meeting of the American Library Association in 1900 and helped organize the Club of Children's Librarians, which later became the American Library Association Children's Services Division. Moore later organized the Central Children's Room of the New York Public Library in 1911.¹¹⁵ The fact that the Joliet Public Library planned for a room specifically dedicated for the use and enjoyment of children in 1902 demonstrates the

¹¹¹ Davison, Thesis, 1.

¹¹² "An Impressive Event," *Joliet Daily Republican*, April 25, 1903.

¹¹³ "From a Corner of a Room to the Peter Pan Room: A Brief History of the Children's Room at the Pasadena Public Library," <https://pasadenadigitalhistory.com/2017/11/02/from-a-corner-of-a-room-to-the-peter-pan-room-a-brief-history-of-the-childrens-room-at-the-pasadena-public-library/>, accessed January 31, 2021.

¹¹⁴ Boston Public Library, <https://www.bpl.org/about-us/>, accessed January 31, 2021.

¹¹⁵ *Anne Carroll Moore: A Biography* by Frances Clarke Sayers, reviewed by Leneil Edwards, *The Journal of Library History* 9, no. 4 (Oct. 1974).

advanced and progressive thinking of the librarian Kate A. Henderson and the Library Building Committee and Board.

The furniture of the room was made specially to fit the needs of the children. A letter from the Building Committee to the D.H. Burnham & Company requested alteration of the delivery desk for the children's room by the Matthews Bros. Mfg. Co. because the desk that was delivered was too high "to be of practical use" by children.¹¹⁶

On August 11, 1904, 6" "English picture tiles" were installed on the fireplace surround in the children's room. Librarian Kate Henderson said "no room for children is quite as it should be without an open fire. And there is nothing which so makes or mars the beauty of a room as the fireplace." "[V]arious subjects for tiles came up for consideration, but always the mind of the librarian reverted to the *Story of Hiawatha*, read and beloved of all children."¹¹⁷ According to the Twenty-ninth Annual Report of the Joliet Public Library, the tile for the children's room fireplace mantle cost \$550.¹¹⁸

The tiles had been chosen by the librarian, Kate Henderson, and were provided by Hawes & Dodd, a company that provided Tiles, Ceramic Mosaics and Fireplace Furnishings at the Stevens Building, 24 Adams St., in Chicago.¹¹⁹ The company was the sole agent for Maw & Co.'s English Tiles and Mosaics.¹²⁰ According to the Davison Thesis, the tiles were made in England and were estimated to cost about \$500.¹²¹

The Maw & Co. was formed in 1850 in England by brothers George and Arthur Maw. The company was the first to manufacture encaustic tiles using six and more colors. The company manufactured mosaic tiles, and later transfer printed and hand painted picture tiles. By the 1880s, Maw & Co. was one of the most influential and important tile manufacturers in the world and by the end of the century, the company was the largest in the world. The company dissolved in the 1970s.¹²²

A 1986 *Joliet Public Library Newsletter* reported that on August 5, 1986 a man named Alfred Garner and his family from Toledo, Ohio came to the Joliet Public Library to see

¹¹⁶ Letter from Chairman of Building Committee to D.H. Burnham & Co., September 28, 1903, Joliet Public Library Archives.

¹¹⁷ *Joliet Daily Republican*, August 11, 1904.

¹¹⁸ Financial Statement – Building Fund June 1, 1904 – May 31, 1905, Annual Reports of the Officers of the City of Joliet, Illinois, for the Year Ending 1905: 60, Joliet Public Library Archives.

¹¹⁹ Correspondence between Joliet Public Library Building Committee, D.H. Burnham & Co., Hawes & Dodd, August 17 - 19, 1903, Joliet Public Library Archives.

¹²⁰ "Hawes & Dodd," Catalogue of the Tenth Annual Exhibition of the Chicago Architectural Club at the Art Institute, 1897, <https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=uva.x001118816&view=1up&seq=7>, accessed January 31, 2021; "Hawes & Dodd," *The Inland Architect and News Record* XXIX, no. 1, 1897.

¹²¹ Davison, Thesis, 9.

¹²² Maw & Co., <http://www.mawscraftcentre.co.uk/history.php>, accessed January 31, 2021.

the fireplace tiles.¹²³ Garner said his grandfather, Alfred Potter, painted the tiles in England around the turn of the century, and that the tiles had been on display at the World's Columbian Exposition in 1893.

Alfred H. Potter emigrated to the United States in 1910 or 1911, and opened a gallery in E. Liverpool, Ohio, giving lessons and creating pottery work. Some of Potter's work is in the collection and has been on display at the Museum of Ceramics in Liverpool, Ohio. Maw & Co. did have a display of tiles, mosaics, and architectural faience pottery at the Columbian Exposition of 1893 in the Merchant Tailors' World's Fair Building; however, it hasn't been confirmed if the tiles depicting the *Story of Hiawatha* that were installed in the fireplace at the Joliet Public Library were displayed in that exhibit or elsewhere at the fair.¹²⁴

Louis Joliet Statue

On September 26, 1903, the Library Board met, and the Building Committee submitted "diverse proposals" for the modeling and bronze casting of a statue of Louis Joliet for the building. The Board unanimously passed a resolution allowing the committee to make a contract to the lowest bidder, and to furnish a granite pedestal, per plans of the architects, for the statue of Joliet, including lettering, cement sub-base and erecting the statue, for \$711.25.¹²⁵ On September 28, 1903, a letter was written to Llewellyn B. Dutton inquiring about a bronze statue of Joliet. The letter in the Joliet Public Library Archives is a carbon copy; as such, it is unsigned, but it most likely was written by W.C. Barber. Dutton was asked his opinions about a statue, its location, and the landscaping of the lot around the library. Dutton wrote to W.C. Barber on October 26, 1903, discussing the sketch of a proposed statue. Dutton stated that his own idea would be to make a bust, and he previously showed a location for the monument on the ground plan, and that the same location would also work if the committee decided to have a full-length figure. Llewellyn said in his opinion the inscription should read only "Louis Joliet," and that the inscription should face the main street. Dutton said that it would be better to have no monument at all than one executed by any but the best talent that could be secured, and recommended Edward Kemyss, who sculpted the bronze portraits of Native Americans over the elevators inside the Marquette Building in Chicago, or Herman Atkins MacNeil, who sculpted the bas-relief panels over the exterior entrance of the Marquette Building in Chicago.¹²⁶

¹²³ *Joliet Public Library Newsletter* 1, no. 3, September 1986.

¹²⁴ *A Week at the Fair, Illustrating the Exhibits and Wonders of the World's Columbian Exposition*, (Chicago: Rand McNally & Co. 1893): 168; *Interesting Exhibits in Department H. – Manufactures. Great Britain*. http://livinghistoryofillinois.com/pdf_files/Interesting%20Exhibits%20with%20Their%20Locations%20in%20the%20Worlds%20Columbian%20Exposition.pdf, at 85, accessed January 31, 2021.

¹²⁵ September 26, 1903, Joliet Public Library Board Meeting notes, Joliet Public Library Archives.

¹²⁶ Letter from L.B. Dutton to W.C. Barber, October 26, 1903, Joliet Public Library Archives.

At the time, Dutton was in San Francisco and there was some confusion about his address, so mail to him was delayed.¹²⁷ Previously, on September 12, 1903, the American Bronze Foundry Co. had quoted W.C. Barber a price of \$1,600 to cast a statue of Joliet, using Sigvald Asbjornsen's clay sculpture. The American Bronze Foundry Co. assured Barber that Asbjornsen was a man of solid national reputation.¹²⁸ The Library Board selected Sigvald Asbjornsen to design the statue and the American Bronze Foundry Co. to do the casting. On October 5, 1903, the Library Board confirmed an order with the American Bronze Foundry Co. for a bronze statue of Joliet for \$1,550.¹²⁹ This letter also mentioned that cement was used to cover the area between the sidewalk and the curbs.¹³⁰

The Joliet Public Library holds photographs in its archives that were submitted on October 5, 1903, by the American Bronze Foundry showing four different profiles of the study for the statue. The photographs were signed on the back, showing approval of the design, by George M. Campbell, William C. Barber, J. L. O'Donnell, Egbert Phelps, J.W. D'Arcy, S. Lagger, and J.G. Heggie, Directors of Joliet Public Library.¹³¹

Between March and May of 1904, the American Bronze Foundry Company was paid for the project and the Adam Groth Co. was paid to build a pedestal.¹³² The statue arrived by April 28, 1904, but without the bolt for attaching the statue to the pedestal. The chairman of the Library building committee urged the American Bronze Foundry Co. to send the pin on the next train so the statue could be bolted to the pedestal.¹³³

Sculptor Sigvald Asbjornsen (1867 – 1954)

The sculptor, Sigvald Asbjornsen, was born in Christiana (Oslo), Norway. He studied art in Norway and at the age of 16 received a stipend from King Oscar II to study at the Royal Academy in Oslo. He emigrated to the United States in 1892, first working in Michigan and eventually moving to Chicago where he worked on buildings for the World Columbian Exposition of 1893 and where he spent the rest of his career. He received the St. Olaf medal in 1952 from Norway's King Haakon VII. Asbjornsen was primarily known as a sculptor. He had a studio at 296 Wabash Ave., in Chicago, and some of his best-known sculptures, other than the Louis Joliet sculpture at the Joliet Public Library, are the Leif Erikson statue in Humboldt Park, Chicago (1901) and the War and Soldiers'

¹²⁷ Ibid.

¹²⁸ Quotation Letter from the American Bronze Foundry Co. to W.C. Barber, September 12, 1903, Joliet Public Library Archives.

¹²⁹ Letter from the Board of Directors to the American Bronze Foundry Co., October 5, 1903, Joliet Public Library Archives.

¹³⁰ Unsigned letter to L.B. Dutton, October 31, 1903, Joliet Public Library Archives.

¹³¹ Joliet Public Library Archives.

¹³² September 26, 1903, March 1, 1904, April 5, 1904, Joliet Public Library Board Meeting notes, Joliet Public Library Archives.

¹³³ Letter from Chairman of Building Committee to American Bronze Foundry Co., April 28, 1904, Joliet Public Library Archives; *Joliet Daily Republican*, April 28, 1904.

Statue for the Sherman Monument in Washington D.C. (1903).¹³⁴ In 2003, Sigvald Asbjornsen's granddaughter, Helen Heitmann of Plainfield, Illinois, donated funds to restore the statue.¹³⁵

According to the "New Library Thrown Open" article from the *Joliet Daily Republican* in 1903, a millstone was set into the pavement at the corner of Ottawa and Clinton streets. Uncovered near the Jefferson Street bridge when the canal was built, the "Old McKee" millstone had been part of the machinery of a mill that stood to the north of the city, and which had been a landmark for years. The millstone was placed in the pavement in front of the library as a memorial to the industrial past of Joliet.¹³⁶ It is not clear what happened to the millstone; currently there is no marker in the pavement and neither the Joliet Public Library nor the Joliet Area Historical Museum has records of it.

1989 Firebombing, 1991 Renovation and Addition

In 1982, the library closed a second facility known as the East Branch and discontinued a bookmobile in an attempt to save costs.¹³⁷ Despite the Ottawa Street building having the full use of its entire first and second floors, the library had outgrown the building and required additional space, and in April of 1988, the Joliet City Council agreed to allow expansion of the library by building an addition.¹³⁸ Demolition of the former Walgreens building at the northeast corner of Clinton and Chicago streets to make room for a 49,000 square foot addition began in August of 1988. It was decided that the exterior of the addition would match the exterior of the historic building. Members of the Joliet Redevelopment Architectural Review Committee stated in a letter to the Library Board "the architectural significance of the existing library coupled with its prominent downtown location demand that the proposed addition's exterior appearance be of the utmost importance."¹³⁹ The cost was estimated to be \$6 million. The architectural firm hired to design the addition was Stromsland and DeYoung.¹⁴⁰

On April 19, 1989, just before the library board was ready to seek construction bids for the addition, an arsonist threw a firebomb into a window in the children's room on the

¹³⁴ "Sigvald Asbjornsen," askART, from Fine Arts Collection, Luther College, https://www.askart.com/artist/Sigvald_Asbjornsen/130924/Sigvald_Asbjornsen.aspx, accessed January 31, 2021.

¹³⁵ John Whiteside, "Giving History a Face Lift," *Joliet Herald-News*, September 10, 2003, Joliet Public Library Clippings File.

¹³⁶ "New Library Thrown Open to the Public this Morning." The millstone that was placed in the pavement at the corner in front of the library was from Logansport. "Will County," *The Joliet News* XXVIII, no. 48, September 7, 1905.

¹³⁷ Joann Bramm, "Library Board's Action Marks first Major Cut in City Service," *Joliet Herald-News*, April 4, 1982.

¹³⁸ "Here is One for the Books," *Joliet Herald-News*, April 6, 1988.

¹³⁹ History of the Main Library (Ottawa Street Branch), Joliet Public Library.

¹⁴⁰ "History Repeats Itself," *Joliet Herald-News*, August 12, 1990.

first floor.¹⁴¹ The explosion and attendant fire resulted in the loss of 48,000 children's books, and damage to the first floor of the library building. Restoration of the original building was required. The first floor was closed for two years, but library services remained opened and were moved to a nearby vacant department store building while the restoration work was completed in the library building. The 1989 firebomb was the second time that week and the third time that year that fires from arson damaged children's book collections in Joliet.¹⁴²

At the same time repairs were made to the historic building, the addition to the east side was built. The architectural firm of Stromsland & DeYoung managed the restoration of the historic building and the construction of the addition. On September 8, 1991, a grand opening was held to celebrate the opening of the restored and expanded library. The project cost \$6.7 million, funded by a \$5.7 million city bond issue, \$750,000 in state grants, and \$250,000 in insurance proceeds.¹⁴³

The addition was designed, intentionally, to closely match the historic building. The North Chicago Street entrance stairway references the historic Ottawa Street staircase. The large lobby of the new entrance features marble that matches the original interior. The east elevation exterior wall of the historic building became the addition's interior west wall with exposed limestone and former window openings visible. Oak beams, arched windows and a marble walled staircase with two landings were built, along with modern features such as sprinkler system jets, heating and cooling vents, and wiring for computer terminals that were hidden to blend in with the surroundings. The new addition tripled the library's interior space.¹⁴⁴

Librarian Jim Johnston and Ross DeYoung looked at over forty samples of limestone before choosing the closest match for the exterior of the addition. Modern Builders was hired as the general contractor, and Lindblad Construction, superintendent Gordon Leksander, oversaw masonry.¹⁴⁵

Ross DeYoung of Stromsland & DeYoung Architects and Lindblad Construction Company were awarded silver medals by the Illinois-Indiana Masonry Institute for the addition. In announcing the award, the judges stated:

¹⁴¹ "Library Firebombed: City Asks Why," *Joliet Herald-News*, April 20, 1989; "Joliet Kids Lose Most in Library Firebombing," *Joliet Herald-News*, April 21, 1989.

¹⁴² Thomas Cekay, "Children Lose Most in Joliet Library Fire," *Chicago Tribune*, April 21, 1989.

¹⁴³ "Joliet Public Library Grand Opening," *Joliet Herald-News*, September 8, 1991.

¹⁴⁴ "History Repeats Itself," *Joliet Herald-News*, August 12, 1990; "Library Rises from the Ashes," *Joliet Herald-News*, April 19, 1990.

¹⁴⁵ "History Repeats Itself," *Joliet Herald-News*, August 12, 1990; "Library Rises from the Ashes," *Joliet Herald-News*, April 19, 1990.

This structure takes a position of being highly contextual and very respectful of its neighbor, the original building. Very often when architects have an addition, they will attempt to leave their own mark on the building but in this particular case, the architect disciplined himself as to make the building become whole again and to have his design become part of the entire composition. It is apparent that the architect probably did a great deal of investigation and reviewed old documents in the archives, because in two or three years' time, this building will look like it is one entire building that was just recently erected. We think rather than trying to force a statement on a building, the blending and marriage of both the addition and the existing building is commendable. Our congratulations.¹⁴⁶

Stone mason superintendent Gordon J. Leksander from Lindblad Construction Company received special recognition for his efforts in matching the original building.¹⁴⁷

Part II. Architectural Information

A. General Statement

1. **Architectural Character:** The architectural character of this building is very distinctive. Jacobean Revival designs are not common in Illinois. The library is the last Joliet limestone building built after 1900 remaining in downtown Joliet.
2. **Condition of Fabric:** The historic portion of the building is in good condition. Much of the Joliet limestone appears well-maintained, though some weathering is evident in areas. The inscription on the cornerstone is difficult to decipher due to erosion and weathering. Some staining is present on the limestone. The 1991 addition exterior is in excellent condition, with only some staining below window sills. The interior of the building retains much of the original woodwork and details and these features are in good condition.

B. Description of Exterior

1. **Overall dimensions:** The original 1903 building was "L" shaped; it was 118'-8-1/16" wide and 117'-4" long from end to end; the 1991 addition added 127' on to the length while maintaining the same width as the historic building.
2. **Foundation:** The foundation is smooth-faced ashlar Bedford limestone.

¹⁴⁶ Ibid.

¹⁴⁷ Steve Sumner, *Herald-News*, undated newspaper clipping, Joliet Public Library Archives, Vertical File.

3. **Walls:** The walls of the Joliet Public Library are smooth-faced random-coursed ashlar Joliet limestone, with rough-faced Joliet limestone scattered throughout. The walls of the 1903 building have more rough-faced Joliet limestone than the walls on the 1991 addition. Bedford limestone details and ornamentation include a water course above the foundation and below the first-floor windows, quoins at the corners of the building and surrounding some of the windows, hoodmolds, label molding and label stops around the windows, a denticulated cornice, a parapet, castellations at the tower and above the balconies, ornament above the main entries and a horizontal strap with projecting angled points at the peak of each of the gables.

The front entry faces a courtyard formed by the west elevation and a projecting wing of the north elevation, which form an "L." The south elevation of the projecting wing and the west elevation that face the courtyard are both four bays wide. The south elevation has a bronze plaque that was placed on the building after the 1991 addition was completed. It reads:

JOLIET PUBLIC LIBRARY

Built in 1903, the building was designed in the French Beaux Arts style by Daniel H. Burnham Co., the famous Chicago architect. For many years, Joliet City offices were located in this structure. The 1991 library addition tripled the size of the existing structure. At a cost of 6.1 million, the addition utilized materials and design to match the original Burnham structure.

A cornerstone appears on the west elevation facing the courtyard, and the south elevation facing W. Clinton Street. On the west elevation, the approximate 2" incised letters read:

ERECTED AD MCMIII
BUILDING COMMITTEE
WILLIAM C. BARBER
GEORGE M. CAMPBELL JAMES G. HEGGIE
DH BURNHAM & CO ARCHITECTS
ADAM GROTH & CO. CONTRACTORS

On the south elevation, the cornerstone reads:

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
EGBERT PHELPS PRESIDENT

JAMES L. O'DONNELL JAMES C. HEGGIE
WILLIAM C. BARBER WILLIAM D. HEISE
GEORGE M. CAMPBELL JOHN W. D'ARCY
SEBASTIAN LAGGER JOSEPH STEPHEN

The 1991 addition extends east from the east elevation. The south elevation along W. Clinton Street has two gable ends, the west side from 1903 and the east side from 1991, connected by a six-bay wall. The 1903 gable on the west has three windows that look into the basement of the building, Tudor windows on the first and third floors, and a castellated polygonal projecting bay on the second floor. The 1991 gable on the east side has Tudor windows on the first and third floors, and a window without label molding.

The east elevation has a centered projecting gable with stairs and a ramp leading to an entry. There are single windows on the first and second floors of the north and south elevations of the gable. Walls flanking the gable that face Chicago Street on the east elevation are symmetrical and are each three bays wide. "PUBLIC LIBRARY" is etched into the stone in between the glass entry and second floor windows within the quoined limestone arch.

The west elevation has a projecting bow on the first floor with a balcony. The north elevation faces an alley that runs north-south. It is similar to the south elevation, minus the projecting bay, and the wall is slightly stepped back toward the east elevation.

4. **Structural system, framing:** All of the major exterior walls are built of limestone in the original building. A few interior walls in the basement are concrete block construction. The rest of the interior walls are stud framed. The 1991 addition is steel construction and limestone clad. Interior walls in the addition are finished with drywall.
5. **Porches, stoops, balconies, porticoes, bulkheads:** A small open porch is located at the front entry at the top of the stairs and ramp on the west elevation. A limestone balustrade with globes at the posts runs along the staircase on the south side. A larger open porch is located on the east elevation. The stairs have balustrades on both sides that match the historic balustrade on the west elevation. A castellated balcony is located above the polygonal bay projection on the south elevation, and a larger balcony is on the second floor above the projecting bow on the west elevation. Ornamentation on the second floor balcony on the west elevation include two scrolls with a small globe and rosettes that reference the ornamentation at the historic front entry on the west side.

6. **Chimneys:** Two chimneys sheathed in Joliet limestone and two smaller chimneys sheathed in asphalt are located on the historic 1903 building.

7. **Openings:**

- a. **Doorways and doors:** The main entry to the historic building is located in the square tower at the reentrant angle of the “L” on the west elevation. The Tudor-arched doorway with Bedford limestone label molding and rosettes with label stops has a metal door with glass panels and semi-circular transom light. Bedford limestone detailing and ornamentation above the doorway includes a nameplate with the words “Public Library,” a datestone with a book that reads “A.D. 1903,” scrolls, obelisks and other features. Brackets with shields that flank the name plate are weathered, but may bear the letters “JL” for Joliet Library. A historic staircase with a Bedford limestone Renaissance bannister and a modern concrete ramp lead to the front entry.

The main entry to the 1991 addition is located on the east elevation. The two-story Bedford limestone-arched doorway has a metal door with glass panels. Metal doors that lead to the basement are located on the south and north elevations. A door to a fire escape and another door to a loading dock are also located on the north elevation.

- b. **Windows and shutters:** On the 1903 historic building, windows include small foundation windows that look into the basement, and arched Tudor windows on the first floor, second floor over the projecting bow, second floor tower, and third floor on the north and south elevation. Vertical windows are located on the second floor, including those flanking the Tudor arched window on the projecting bow on the west elevation, and those on the projecting polygonal bay on the south elevation. There are single pane vertical windows on the third floor that flank a Tudor arched window on the north elevation.

On the 1991 addition, divided vertical windows are on the first floor, and paired vertical windows are on the second floor of the south elevation. The south elevation gable end has Tudor arched windows on the first floor, paired vertical windows on the second floor, and a Tudor arched window on the third floor. On the north elevation, divided vertical windows are on the first and second floor. A Tudor arched window flanked by two small vertical windows is on the third floor. On the east end, Tudor arched windows are on the first and third floors, and paired vertical windows are on the second floor. Some windows on the third floor have been in-filled with vents. On the east elevation, the projecting gable entry has a large divided arched window above the entry. The symmetrical elevations that flank the entry have divided vertical windows on the first floor and paired divided vertical windows on the second floor.

All windows have Bedford limestone sills, and all windows except for the paired windows on the second floor of the east gable on the south elevation of the 1991 addition have Bedford limestone hoodmolds or label molding and label stops. Many have Bedford limestone tracery acting as muntins. Most windows are replacement. There are no shutters on the building.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering:** The roof is cross gabled, sheathed in asphalt shingles.
- b. Cornice, eaves:** The denticulated cornice is Bedford limestone. The roof also has a Bedford limestone parapet and coping.
- c. Dormers, cupolas, towers:** A three-story square tower is situated at the reentrant angle of the "L" where the south and west elevations join on the west side of the building. The tower holds the historic front entry of the building on the first floor. The top of the tower is castellated and holds a small octagonal dome sheathed in metal.

C. Description of Interior

- 1. Floor plans:** Historic drawings and sketch floor plans and elevations follow this report and are included on a compact disc. The basement is accessed from a number of ways, including the stairs on the north side hall on the first floor. The basement is used mostly for mechanicals; however, it has rooms used for book processing, staff breaks and lunches, a custodians' room, a workshop, a parts room and restrooms. The basement has been remodeled and few historic features remain, among those are a former jail cell.

The main entrance to the historic building is on the west side at the joint of the "L." A corridor on the first and second floors runs north-south and connects offices and public rooms on the west and south sides of the building and formerly connected to book stacks on the east side of the building. The 1991 addition on the east side incorporated the exterior east wall into the interior. Access to the space in the addition is through openings created in the former exterior east wall.

From the main entry on the west elevation, the entrance to the first floor is through a vestibule into the delivery room/corridor. The former children's room is on the south. The north side of the delivery room/corridor leads directly to library offices. A hall leading west through an arched entry, on the west side of the delivery room/corridor, leads to a staircase to the second floor and another staircase to the basement on the left, the former reference room, now known as the media room on the left, and the

former reading room, now known as the Joliet Room, on the west. The 1991 addition is on the east side of the delivery room/corridor. Entrance on the east elevation leads to a lobby, which leads directly into library space with stacks and youth services.

The second floor is accessed from a historic staircase in the west side vestibule, an elevator in the former children's room, an elevator in the center of the 1991 addition, or from a staircase north of the lobby on the east elevation. The floor plan on the second floor is similar to the first floor, with library offices and the assembly/Burnham Room on the north side, and library offices on the south side. Additional offices are located on the northeast side of the 1991 addition.

The unfinished third floor is used for storage and mechanicals. It is accessed through a staircase and elevator in the center of the second floor, and a staircase on the south side of the second floor, just north of the library offices.

2. **Stairways:** In the historic building, stairs are located just north of the entrance vestibule. The main historic staircase leads from the vestibule to the second floor. The stairs are pink Tennessee marble, the walls are white Vermont marble framed with panels of pink Tennessee marble. There is a carved oak balustrade on the east side of the staircase that was originally open and looked into the delivery room. The arched opening is now covered with safety glass. The stairs split and turn and the walls of the second half of the stairs feature a painting and framed historic documents. The balustrade of the second half of the stairs is bronze metal and features pansies and other flowers. The newel posts are black metal. The staircase is enclosed in oak framing and glass panels, and leads to a non-historic oak-framed glass vestibule on the second floor. Stairs under the main stairs in the north hall leads from the first floor to the basement. Those stairs are also pink Tennessee marble. A small staircase with concrete stairs, west of the historic staircase, leads from the second floor to the third floor.

A third staircase north of the children's room leads down to the basement and up to the second floor, just north of the library offices, and up to the third floor.

There are two staircases in the 1991 addition, one near the lobby on the east elevation, another in the center of the addition that has a small staircase leading to space that could be extended to the third floor if the library's needs required finishing the third floor. Those stairs and elevator are sheathed in grey marble squares.

3. **Flooring:** Flooring in the basement and third floor are concrete. The floor in the main entry on the west elevation is red marble at the entry; pink marble with black and white marble cruciform inserts and a green marble edge leads from the vestibule into and throughout the delivery room/corridor, and along the north hall leading to the

reading/Joliet room. Flooring on the first-floor interior rooms and on the second floor is carpeted.

- 4. Wall and ceiling finish:** The walls in the basement are painted masonry and plaster. The ceiling is plaster with suspended ductwork, plumbing and electricals. On the first floor, the walls in the west elevation vestibule are lined with dark green marble and trimmed with oak. The plaster ceiling is arched. The delivery room/corridor walls are white Vermont marble with oak paneling and the ceiling is plaster with heavy oak beams. There are arched openings on all four walls, and open arched entryways behind the desk on the east side of the delivery room/corridor lead to the addition. The arched entries on the north and south walls are symmetrical. The arches on the east and west walls are not symmetrical, but form a colonnade.

On the south side of the first floor, the former children's room has painted plaster walls and a highly decorative white painted plaster ceiling with interlocking strapwork and rosettes. On the north side, the offices have painted plaster walls and ceilings. The hall has marble wainscoting and painted plaster walls and ceiling. The ceiling has painted wood trim. The hall leads west to the former reference room, now known as the media room, on the south side of the hall which has a white painted plaster ceiling, and finally, to the reading/Joliet room. The Joliet room has painted plaster walls, a rounded west wall with five Tudor arched windows framed in oak, and an elaborate white painted plaster ceiling with Jacobean strapwork quatrefoils and bold drop pendants.

The east side of the library, which was added in 1991, is accessed from the east side of the delivery room/corridor. The west wall of the addition is the limestone exterior wall of the historic 1903 building east elevation, including window openings without glazing. The walls in the 1991 addition are painted drywall. The drop tile ceiling has oak trim and oak beams with ventilation grids.

On the second floor, the walls of the historic building are painted plaster. At the west end of the north hall was the assembly/Burnham room, the room has white painted plaster walls, and a large Tudor window flanked by two smaller windows on the west wall. Paired vertical divided windows trimmed in oak are on the south, west and north walls. The most outstanding feature in the room is the elaborate white painted plaster arched ceiling with beams and plaster framing, and large, graceful ancone scrolls. In the 1991 addition, the walls are painted drywall, and the drop tile ceiling has oak trim and oak beams with ventilation grids, and drop tiles.

On the third floor, the walls are exposed brick.

5. Openings

- a. Doorways and doors:** Doors to the basement from the exterior are modern replacement metal doors. Doors leading into the main entry and into the delivery room/corridor on the west side are non-historic metal with glass. The doors leading into the 1991 addition on the east side are metal framed glass. On the interior, the arched doorway leading to the former children's room is open. Doors leading into the offices on the north side of the first floor are wood framed with glass, and have sidelights and glazed arched openings. Doors leading to the restrooms on the south side of the north hall are replacement wood doors. The doorway to the basement stairs has a locked metal gate. Doors to offices in the 1991 addition are wood with small vertical windows. On the second floor, the double doorway leading into the assembly/Burnham Room has replacement double wood-framed doors with wavy glazing and transoms. Doors to offices on the north side are wood framed with glass and transoms.
 - b. Windows:** Historic window openings in the 1903 building are framed in oak and have oak sills. Tudor arched windows have trim that references label molding. Two Tudor arched windows with leading and stained glass in the arches are on the south side of the west wall of the delivery room/corridor. In the 1991 addition, the windows have stone sills and no trim. The east wall on the second floor has a limestone-trimmed arched divided window.
- 6. Decorative features and trim:** Wood door and window trim in the historic building is of simple profile, with flat trim boards and applied raised bands at the outside edge. The trim in the assembly room/corridor is above the marble walls, around the arches and at the ceiling. Wood corbels with unadorned shields support the beams on the ceiling. Wood trim and beams in the 1991 addition at the ceiling consists of flat boards with thin raised bands at the outside edges and vertical dividers.

The former children's room has a fireplace with a carved wood mantel that references the ornamentation surrounding the historic front entry on the exterior west elevation. The fireplace has a painted 6" tile surround with illustrations from *The Story of Hiawatha*.
- 7. Hardware:** Some interior doors have historic hardware, including metal knobs, plates and hinges. Replacement door hardware is metal pulls, hinges and surface mounted closers.
- 8. Mechanical equipment**

 - a. Heating, air conditioning, ventilation:** Current heating, air conditioning and ventilation systems throughout the building are replacement. The original mechanical equipment in the building was housed in the basement. Heat was coal

powered and a coal room was located in the northeast corner of the basement according to historic drawings.

- b. Lighting:** All lighting fixtures in use in the building are replacement. Lighting is suspended bar lighting, except on the second floor, where suspended pendant lighting is hung in the assembly/Burnham room. Lighting in the third floor appears to be temporary. One pendant light that might be historic was found in a box on the third floor along with some original furnishings (see original furnishings, Section 9, below). The ridged, pendant glass shade is white, and the pendant holder, chain and canopy are dark metal.
 - c. Plumbing:** Plumbing throughout the building is replacement. Historic plumbing drawings were not found as part of the collection of the library or the Joliet Area Historical Museum.
- 9. Original furnishings:** The Joliet Public Library is in the possession of some original furnishings, including two library tables, one chair, one bookcase, three cabinets and one pendant light (see lighting, Section 8b, above). The library tables have rectangular tops and double trestle bases joined by a cross bar. The tables are varnished, natural color oak with carved ball feet that are stained a darker color than the tables. There is one table on the second floor and one in the basement. The rocking chair is stained and varnished oak, with curved supporting legs in the front, and straight legs in the rear. The head rest, side rails and spindles are slightly curved, the wood seat is rounded and wide and the arm rests have a generous curve and are similar in appearance to the front legs. The rocking chair is stored on the third floor of the library.

Also stored on the third floor are a bookcase and two cabinets. The 6' rectangular, freestanding bookcase is stained and varnished oak with four open shelves. The sides are paneled, and the top has simple molding. The cabinet is also 6' and has two original, intact glass doors, but they have been removed and the hardware is missing. The second stained and varnished wood cabinet is 4' and has double doors with three shelves inside. Hardware consists of simple knobs and the legs are turned. The third wood filing cabinet consists of two units of thirty small drawers, some missing, many with decorative metal pulls. Many have small squares of paper with typewritten notations tacked to the front. This cabinet was used for files by the city of Joliet when the city government was housed in the library.

D. Site

- 1. Historic landscape design:** The historic building was surrounded by a stone knee wall with round globes, separating it from the sidewalk and creating a front courtyard on the west elevation. The knee wall was included in the original design of the

building, and when the addition was built in 1991, a stone knee wall with globes was built to match the historic wall; it was extended along the south elevation and was added to the east elevation.

A bronze statue of Louis Joliet on top of a stone pedestal is located in the grass covered courtyard on the west elevation, along with a flag pole and a dedication stone. Deciduous trees are planted along the area between the sidewalk and the street on the north, west and east elevations, and within the stone knee walls along the west, south and east elevations. A large non-deciduous tree is planted on the south side of the west elevation and a group of non-deciduous trees are clumped together on the southeast side of the east elevation.

- 2. Outbuildings:** There are no outbuildings associated with the library.

Part III. Sources of Information

- A. Architectural drawings:** A compact disc with images of original architectural drawings from the D.H. Burnham & Company dated September 26, 1902, and October 2, 1902, was found in the collection of the Joliet Area Historical Museum, while research was being conducted for this project. They are attached to this report.¹⁴⁸
- B. Early views:** Select historical photographs that are owned by the Joliet Public Library have been scanned and placed on a compact disc and are included with this report.
- C. Interviews:** Interview with James J. Prybys, Stromsland DeYoung Prybys Architecture Group, Inc., February 16, 2021.

D. Selected Sources

1. Unpublished Sources:

Davison, Mabel Katherine. "The Joliet Public Library." (Bachelor of Library Science Thesis, Illinois State Library School, 1904).

Joliet Public Library Archives:

D.H. Burnham & Company correspondence
Joliet Public Library Board of Directors correspondence and records
Joliet Public Library Building Committee correspondence and records

¹⁴⁸ A letter in the Joliet Public Library Archives from the D.H. Burnham Co. to W.C. Barber, dated October 28, 1902, transmitted a complete set of drawings of the building, including general architectural drawings, structural iron drawings, heating, ventilating and plumbing drawings, and specifications. The drawings in the collection of the Joliet Area Historical Museum are not a complete set.

Joliet Area Historical Museum Archives:

Joliet Public Library Board Meeting Notes

Compact disc with architectural drawings of Joliet Public Library, D.H. Burnham
& Company

2. Published Sources:

A Week at the Fair, Illustrating the Exhibits and Wonders of the World's Columbian Exposition. Chicago: Rand McNally & Co., 1893.

"An Impressive Event." *The Joliet Daily Republican*, April 25, 1903.

Bank, Mary Jane. "Library has a Rich History." *The Herald-News*, September 5, 1991.

"Barber Building." City of Joliet, Historic Preservation Commission,
<https://www.joliet.gov/home/showpublisheddocument?id=19763>, accessed
January 25, 2021.

Barrett Industrial Supply Co. <https://barrettindustrial.com/about-us>, accessed January 30, 2021.

"Bartlett Hardware Company." pamphlet, Joliet Area Historical Museum archives.

Bobinski, George S. "Carnegie Libraries: Their History and Impact on American Public Library Development." *American Library Association* 62, no. 11 (1968).

Bramm, Joann. "Library Board's Action Marks first Major Cut in City Service." *Joliet Herald-News*, April 4, 1982.

"Building in Joliet." *The Economist* 62, no. 1 (July 5, 1919): 390.

Burnham, Daniel H. *The Final Official Report of the Director of Works of the World's Columbian Exposition: Republished in Two Parts.* New York: Garland Publishing, 1989.

Cekay, Thomas. "Children Lose Most in Joliet Library Fire." *Chicago Tribune*, April 21, 1989.

"C.M. Wilkes." *New York Tribune*, January 8, 1905.

“C.M. Wilkes.” *Plumbers Trade Journal, Steam and Hot Water Fitters’ Review* 37, (January - June, 1905).

“C.M. Wilkes [obit.]. *Western Electrician* XXXVI, January 15, 1905.

“Changes Enhance Downtown Library.” *Joliet Herald-News*, February 1, 1981.

Chicago Public Library Archives. <https://www.chipublib.org/fa-chicago-public-library-archives-chicago-cultural-center-contractor-bids/>, accessed January 22, 2021.

Cincinnati Art Museum. <https://www.cincinnatiartmuseum.org/about/press-room/schmidlapp-gallery-pr/>, accessed January 23, 2021.

“Col. John Lambert, Steel Man, is Dead.” *Pittsburgh Press*, March 7, 1922.

“Daniel Burnham.” City of Chicago, Chicago Landmarks, <https://webapps1.chicago.gov/landmarksweb/web/architectdetails.htm?arcId=7> accessed January 30, 2021.

“Dean of Joliet Lawyers Dies.” *The Pantagraph* (Bloomington, Illinois), February 26, 1935.

Decennial Census of Population and Housing, United States Census Bureau, <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial-census.html>, accessed January 15, 2021.

Edwards, Leneil. Review of Anne Carroll Moore: A Biography, by Frances Clarke Sayers. *The Journal of Library History* 9, no. 4 (Oct. 1974).

“First Report of the Effects of Earthquake and Fire on the Fireproof Buildings of San Francisco ... From a Reliable Source.” *Fireproof Magazine* 8, no. 5 (May 1906).

“Former Mayor Loses Battle with Pneumonia.” *Joliet Herald*, November 13, 1925.

“From a Corner of a Room to the Peter Pan Room: A Brief History of the Children’s Room at the Pasadena Public Library.” <https://pasadenadigitalhistory.com/2017/11/02/from-a-corner-of-a-room-to-the-peter-pan-room-a-brief-history-of-the-childrens-room-at-the-pasadena-public-library/>, accessed January 31, 2021.

“Funeral Services for Jos. Stephen.” *Joliet News*, April 11, 1907.

Genealogical and Biographical Record of Will County. Chicago: Biographical Publishing Company, 1900.

“George Campbell.” Death Records, Ancestry.com,
https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/50766537:60525?tid=&pid=&queryId=a616ad376b9337bdd8fe25f4d4a62fec&_phsrc=zpp1982&_phstart=successSource, accessed January 30, 2021.

“Great Stone Works are Building up New Joliet.” *Joliet Evening Herald*, November 18, 1908.

Grossman, James R. Ann Durkin Keating, Janice L. Reiff, eds. *Encyclopedia of Chicago*. Chicago and London: The University of Chicago Press, 2004.

Harms, William. “Reading Comes with the Job.” *Chicago Tribune*, August 23, 1989.

“Hawes & Dodd,” Catalogue of the Tenth Annual Exhibition of the Chicago Architectural Club at the Art Institute, 1897,
<https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=uva.x001118816&view=1up&seq=7>, accessed January 31, 2021.

“Hawes & Dodd.” *The Inland Architect and News Record* XXIX, no. 1, 1897.

“Here is One for the Books.” *Joliet Herald-News*, April 6, 1988.

Hibbard, Don H., Glenn E. Mason, Karen J. Weitze. *Hart Wood: Architectural Regionalism in Hawaii*. Honolulu: University of Hawai’i Press, 2010.

Hill, H.H., George H. Woodruff, and Wm. Le Baron. *The History of Will County Illinois: Containing a History of the County ... a Directory of Its Real Estate Owners; Portraits of Early Settlers and Prominent Men; General and Local Statistics ... History of Illinois ... History of the Northwest* Chicago: W. Le Baron, Jr., & Co., 1878.

Hines, Thomas S. *Burnham of Chicago*, 2d ed. Chicago and London: The University of Chicago Press, 2009.

Historic American Building Survey (HABS), National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. “Town of Joliet.” HABS No. IL-320

Historic American Engineering Record (HAER), National Park Service, U.S.
Department of the Interior. "Joliet Iron and Steel Company, Joliet Works,"
HAER No. IL-57.

"History Repeats Itself." *Joliet Herald-News*, August 12, 1990.

Interesting Exhibits in Department H. – Manufactures. Great Britain.
http://livinghistoryofillinois.com/pdf_files/Interesting%20Exhibits%20with%20Their%20Locations%20in%20the%20Worlds%20Columbian%20Exposition.pdf, at 85, accessed January 31, 2021.

Iroquois Theater. <http://www.iroquoistheater.com/joseph-dimery-wilmarth-lighting-company.php>, accessed January 20, 2021.

"J.O. Barrett Succumbs to Heart Attack." *Joliet Evening*, July 18, 1929.

"John D'Arcy House." <https://www.joliet.gov/government/boards-commissions/joliet-historic-preservation-commission/local-historic-landmarks/local-landmarks/john-d-arcy-house>, accessed January 29, 2021.

"John Lambert, Steel Man, Dies in West." *New York Herald*, March 7, 1922.

"John W. D'Arcy Dies; Bar Dean in Will County." *Chicago Tribune*, February 26, 1935.

"Joliet." *Illinois Libraries* 3, no. 1, January 1921.

Joliet Area Historical Society Newsletter, September 1990, p. 3.

"Joliet, Illinois." <https://www.joliet.gov/>, accessed January 24, 2021.

"Joliet in Photographs: Giving a Report of Possession and Present Conditions." 1909,
<https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=loc.ark:/13960/t4jm2kj6x&view=1up&seq=48>, accessed January 22, 2021.

"Joliet Kids Lose Most in Library Firebombing." *Joliet Herald-News*, April 21, 1989.

"Joliet Library Project OK'd." *Joliet Herald-News*, October 21, 1980.

"Joliet-Lemont Limestone." Landmarks Preservation Council of Illinois. Chicago: 1988.

"Joliet Public Library Addition Project 1988." Joliet Public Library Archives.

“Joseph Stephen Faces a Crisis.” *Joliet News*, April 8, 1907.

Journal of Proceedings, Joliet City Council. Joliet: Republican Printing Company, 1900.

“L.B. Dutton & Co.” *The Architect and Engineer of California* XXVII, no. 1 (November 1911).

Lamb, John M. “Joliet Limestone: The Rise and Fall of a Nineteenth Century Building Material and Its Architectural Impact on the Joliet, Illinois, Area.” *Quarterly Publication*. Lockport, Ill.: Will County Historical Society, Winter 1997.

“Library Accepts Restored Portrait.” *Joliet Herald-News*, October 3, 1982.

“Library Firebombed: City Asks Why.” *Joliet Herald-News*, April 20, 1989.

“Library Rises from the Ashes.” *Joliet Herald-News*, April 19, 1990.

“Lockport Bank Elects Heise to Succeed M'Donald.” *Joliet Evening Herald-News*, March 10, 1914.

Maw & Co. <http://www.mawscraftcentre.co.uk/history.php>, accessed January 31, 2021.

Mayerhoff, Gladdies. “Joliet Public Library Keeps up with the Times.” *Joliet Herald-News*, November 21, 1981.

McGadden, Joseph M. “Monopoly in Barbed Wire: The Formation of the American Steel and Wire Company.” *The Business History Review* 52, no. 4 (Winter, 1978): 483.

Moore, Charles. *Daniel H. Burnham: Architect, Planner of Cities*. New York: Da Capo Press, 1968.

“New Library Thrown Open to the Public This Morning.” *Joliet Daily Republican*, December 14, 1903.

“New Sign Makes Friends' Work Visible.” June 12, 1977. Unsourced newspaper clipping, Joliet Public Library Archives, Vertical File.

O'Brien, Ken. "Lambert's Contributions Could Fill A Book." *Chicago Tribune*, November 8, 1948.

"PDM Since 1885." <https://www.pdmsince1885.com/>, accessed January 30, 2021.

Past and Present of Will County, Illinois. Chicago: S.J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1907.

"Pumping Machinery." *Sweet's Indexed Catalogue of Building Construction, for the Year 1909*: 813,
https://books.google.com/books?id=Zcgw09z1pAgC&pg=PA813&lpg=PA813&dq=L.B.+Dutton+Burnham&source=bl&ots=sODtJ9EqUV&sig=ACfU3U0MEVtbhgddijKKhCZ5emL4n9MwZg&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwiT6Zvj_aPuAhWYbc0KHSAGCh0Q6AEwEHoECBEQA#v=onepage&q=L.B.%20Dutton%20Burnham&f=false, January 16, 2021.

"Remodeling at the Library." *Joliet Herald-News*, December 17, 1980.

"Sigvald Asbjornsen." askART, from Fine Arts Collection, Luther College,
https://www.askart.com/artist/Sigvald_Asbjornsen/130924/Sigvald_Asbjornsen.aspx, accessed January 31, 2021.

Smith, Tim and Michelle. *Joliet's Gerlach Barklow Calendar Company*. Chicago: Arcadia Publishing, 2009.

Sterling, Robert E. *Joliet: A Pictorial History*. St. Louis, MO: G. Bradley Publishing, Inc., 1986.

Stone Cutters' Journal XVII, no. 4, April, 1903.

Stromsland DeYoung Prybys, <https://www.sdpagroup.com/index.html>, accessed January 22, 2021.

Sumner, Steve. *Joliet Herald-News*, undated newspaper clipping, Joliet Public Library Archives, Vertical File.

Sweet's Architectural Catalogue of Building Construction for 1914.
https://books.google.com/books?id=L91BAQAAMAAJ&pg=RA2-PA1172&lpg=RA2-PA1172&dq=L.B.+Dutton+architect&source=bl&ots=OXOF5yTl83&sig=ACfU3U1Dxsiql1bEWtzuD1MMra_F6it4bQ&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwih6orphqTuAhUGLs0KHVD0DCs4ChDoATAIegQICRAC#v=onepage&q=L.B.%20Dutton%20architect&f=false, accessed January 16, 2021.

Tegel, Jack. *The History of Main Library (Ottawa Street Branch)*, pamphlet, Joliet Public Library archives.

“Troubles of An Architect.” *The Architect and Engineer of California* LVI, no. 3 (March 1919): 114.

Twenty-first Annual Report of the Board of Directors of the Chicago Public Library, June, 1893, <https://libsysdigi.library.illinois.edu/oca/Books2007-07/annualreportofbo/annualreportofbo212918921901chic/annualreportofbo212918921901chic.pdf>, accessed January 22, 2021.

Twenty-ninth Report of the Board of Directors of the Joliet Public Library, July 5, 1904, *Journal of Proceedings of City Council of the City Council of the City of Joliet Illinois, for the Year Ending December 31, 1904*, <https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=nyp.33433082010970&view=1up&seq=527&q1=library>, accessed January 24, 2021.

Weingardt, Richard G. “Joachim Gotsche Giaver.” *Structure*, June 2012, <https://www.structuremag.org/wp-content/uploads/D-GreatAch-Weingardt-Jun121.pdf>, accessed January 30, 2021.

Wiggins' Joliet City Directory, XI. Joliet: R.L. Polk & Co., 1903 – 1904.

“Will County.” *The Joliet News* XXVIII, no. 48, September 7, 1905.

“William D. Heise.” *Chicago Tribune*, April 17, 1940.

Woodruff, Hon. George H. “Joliet City.” History of Will County 1878, <https://will.illinoisgenweb.org/history/1878-3.htm>, accessed January 26, 2021.

Ziemba, Stanley. “Ex-Steel Plant Revived as Historical Exhibit,” *Chicago Tribune*, July 19, 1998.

E. Likely Sources Not Yet Investigated:¹⁴⁹

Ryerson and Burnham Library, The Art Institute of Chicago
Burnham, Daniel H., Collection, 1836 – 2019 (bulk 1880 – 1925)
Series 1: Business Correspondence
Daniel H. Burnham Collection (1943.1) Index IV: Subject Index to Letterpress
Copybooks [Other Correspondence], p. 34.

¹⁴⁹ Due to COVID-19, the Ryerson and Burnham Libraries at the Art Institute of Chicago were closed and not open to researchers. As such, this item, as well as any others in the collection related to this subject matter, were not available for review.

Joliet, IL. Joliet Public Library (1903) June 3, 1902 XI 52.

F. Supplemental Material: Sketches of floor plans and elevations by JLK Architects are included in Appendix I at the end of this report, and historical photographs from the Joliet Public Library Archives are included in Appendix II.

Part IV. Project Information

Methodology: Research was performed by Sylvester Historic Consultants, Jeanne Sylvester, architectural historian. Research for this project was conducted from January 7, 2021 – January 31, 2021, and included site visits to the Joliet Public Library to view archival materials, assistance from the Joliet Public Library Executive Director and Reference Librarian, assistance from the Joliet Area Historical Museum, consulting books, journals, and newspapers, and the use of online sources.

Prepared by:	JLK Architects Meg Kindelin, President Kathleen McNamee, Project Architect
	Sylvester Historic Consultants, LLC Jeanne Sylvester, Architectural Historian
Date:	February 26, 2025

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS

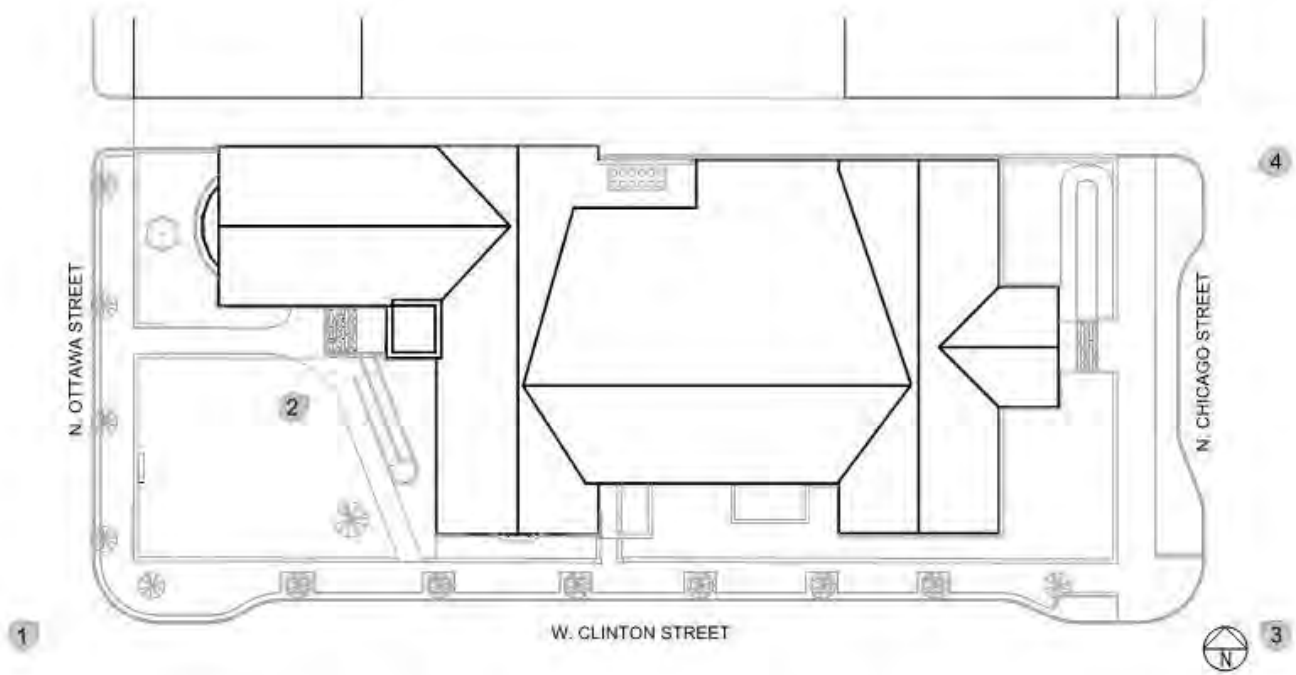
JOLIET PUBLIC LIBRARY
150 North Ottawa Street
Joliet
Will County
Illinois

HABS IL-1271

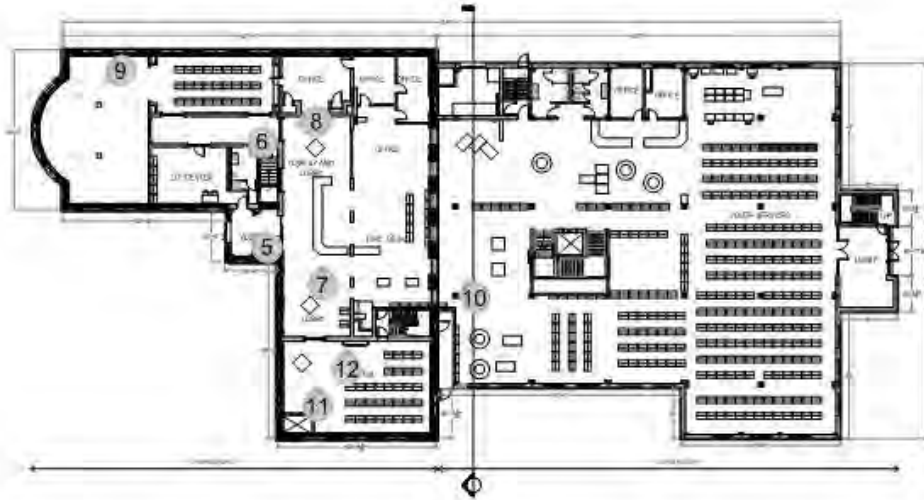
INDEX TO BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOGRAPHS

Leslie Schwartz, photographer, February 2021

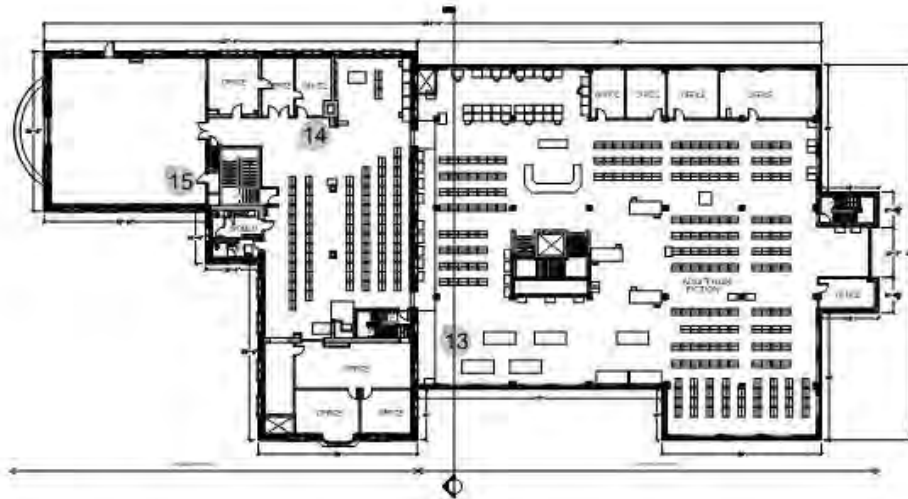
- IL-1271-1 Original Library main façade from the southwest
- IL-1271-2 South and west facades of original library
- IL-1271-3 South and east facades of 1990 addition
- IL-1271-4 East façade
- IL-1271-5 Entry vestibule and original primary staircase
- IL-1271-6 Ornamental balusters on main staircase
- IL-1271-7 Main Lobby and circulation desk
- IL-1271-8 Main Lobby looking west
- IL-1271-9 Quatrefoil patterned ornamental ceiling on first floor
- IL-1271-10 Original east façade incorporated into building addition on first floor
- IL-1271-11 Media Room looking north toward Main Lobby
- IL-1271-12 Decorative wood fireplace with porcelain tile surrounds depicting Native American scenes
- IL-1271-13 Original east façade incorporated into building addition on second floor
- IL-1271-14 Main staircase enclosure on second floor
- IL-1271-15 Ornamental arched ceiling and corbels in Burnham Room



1 Black & White Photo Key – Ground Floor
Scale: NTS



2 Black & White Photo Key - First Floor
Scale: NTS



3 Black & White Photo Key - Second Floor
Scale: NTS































Appendix I. Sketch Plans

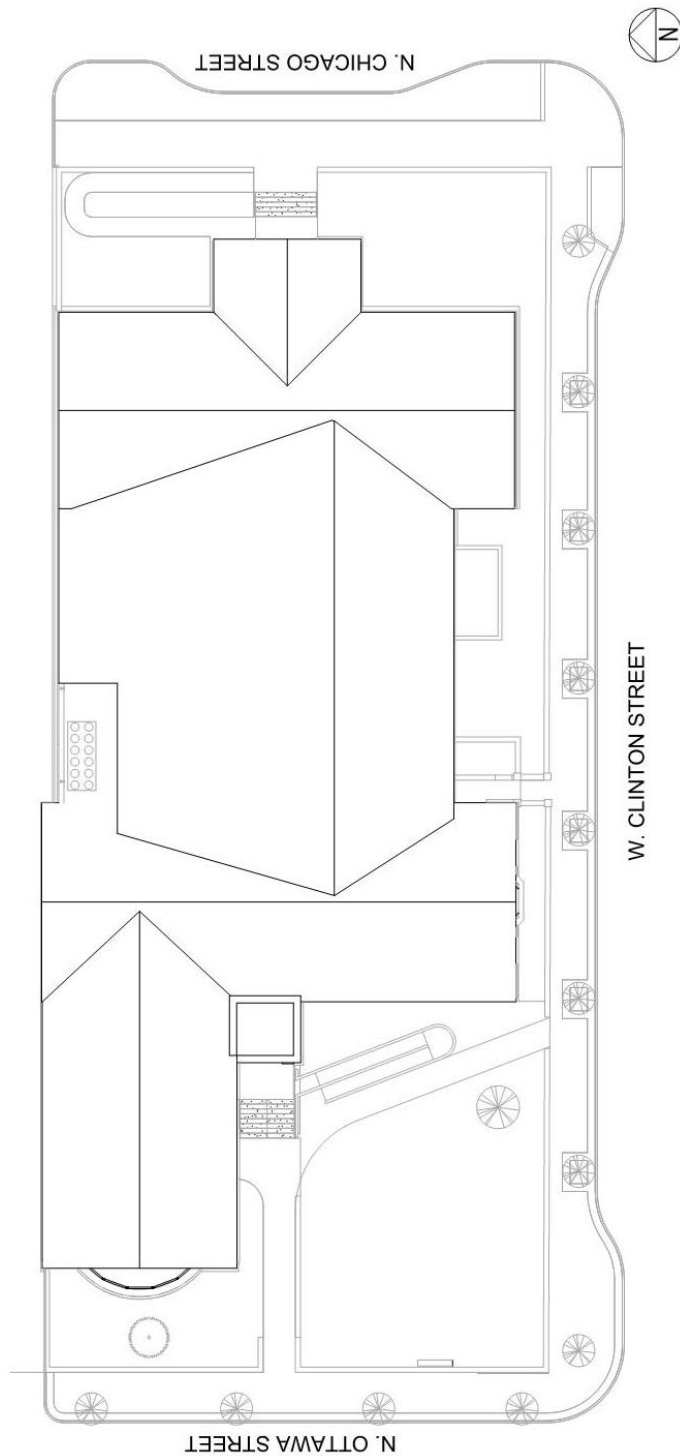


Figure 1. Site sketch floor plan, not to scale. (JLK Architects 2025)

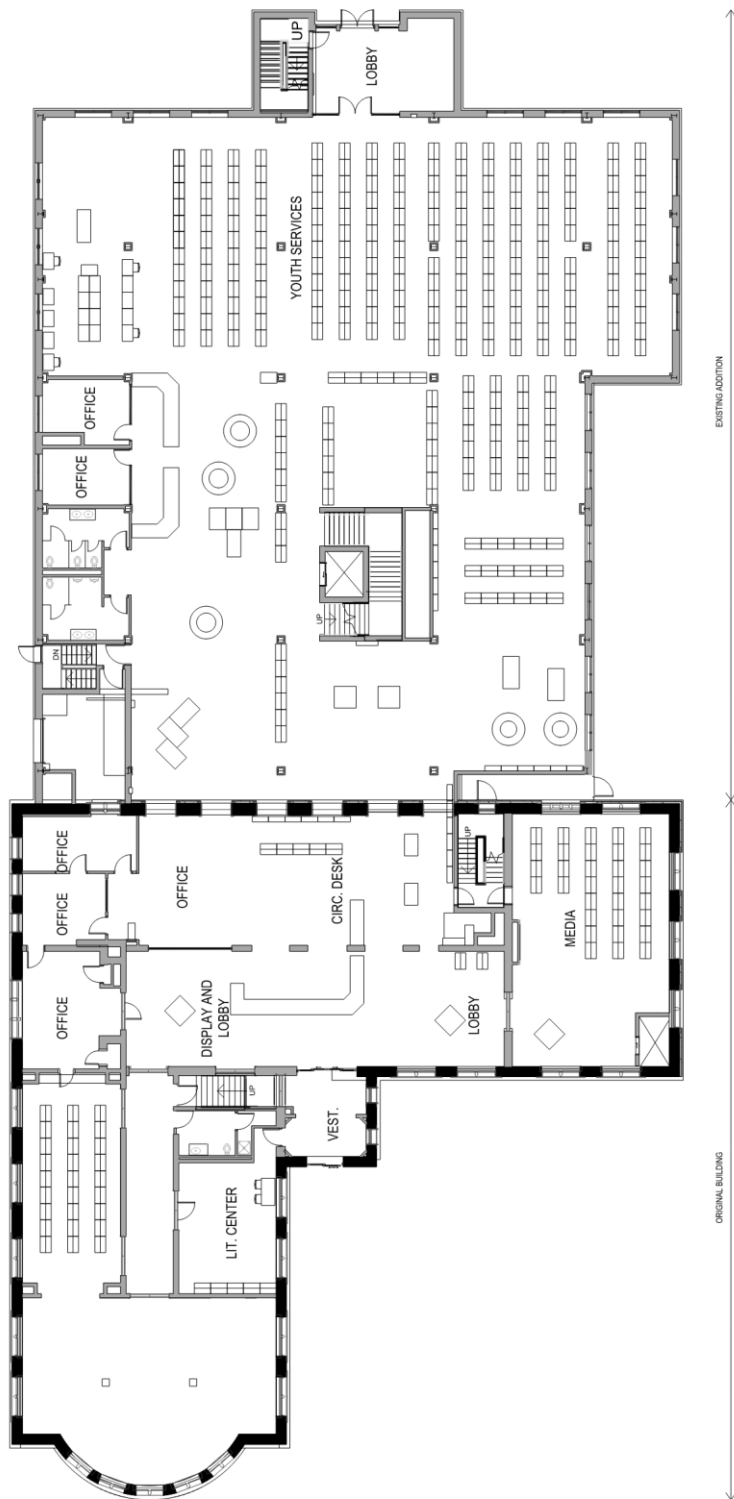


Figure 2. First floor sketch floor plan, not to scale. (JLK Architects 2025)

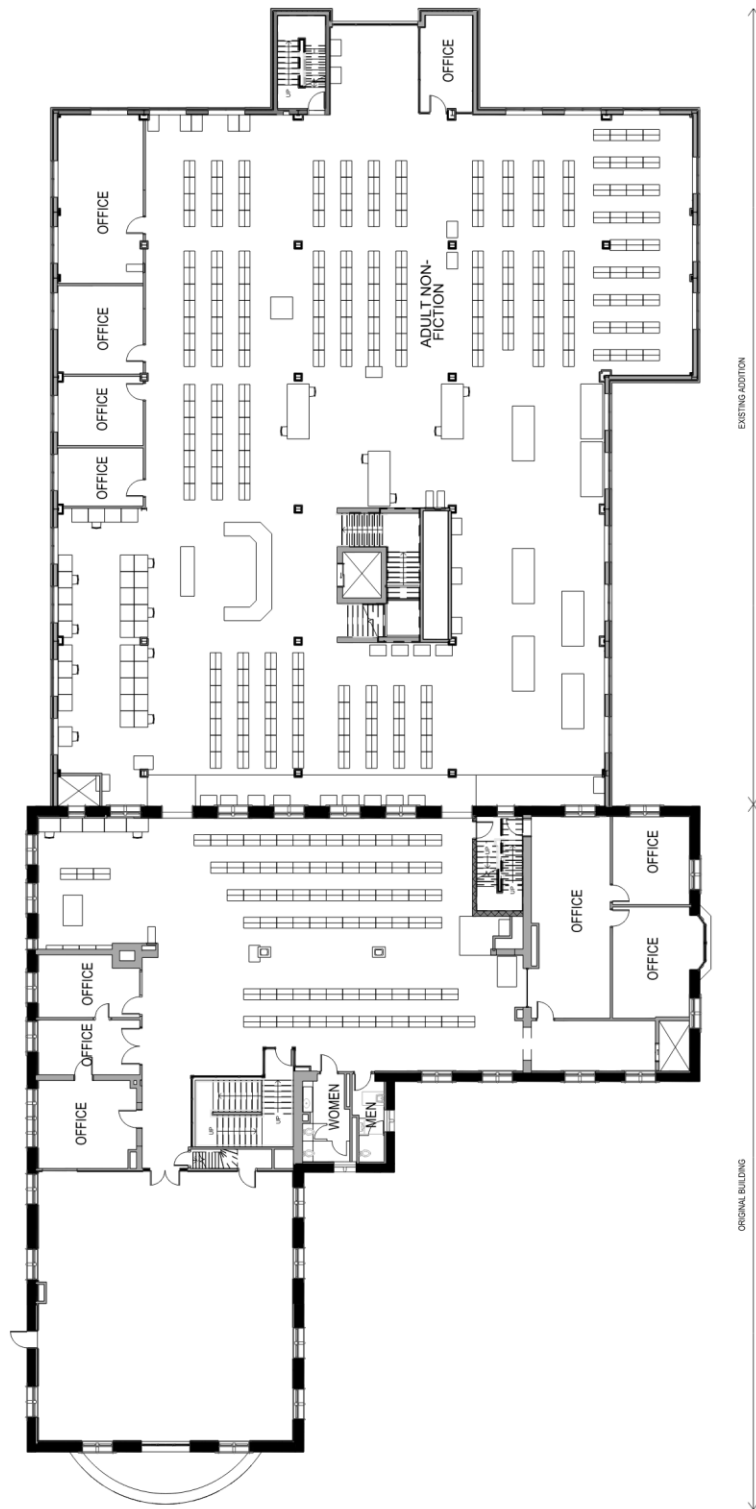


Figure 3. Second floor sketch floor plan, not to scale. (JLK Architects 2025)

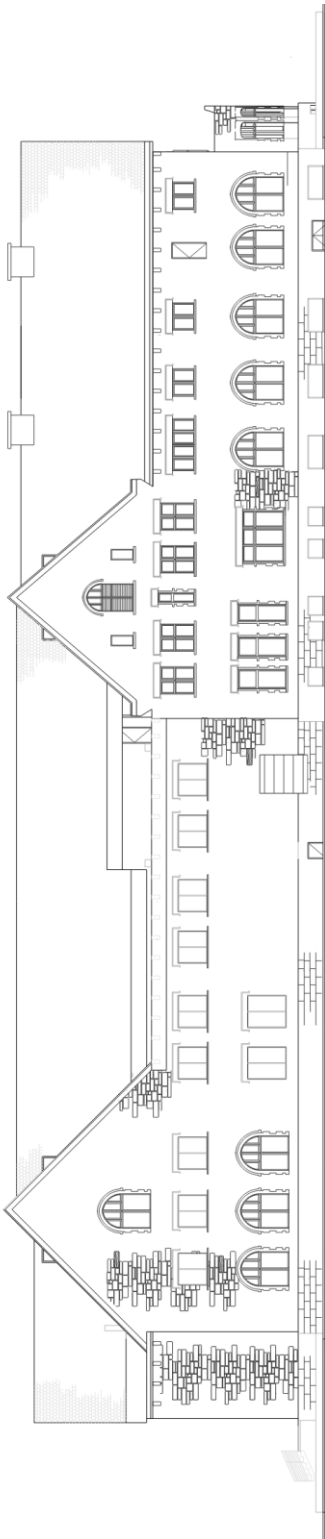


Figure 4. Sketch north elevation, not to scale. (JLK Architects 2025)



Figure 5. Sketch south elevation, not to scale. (JLK Architects 2025)



Figure 6. Sketch south elevation, not to scale. (JLK Architects 2025)

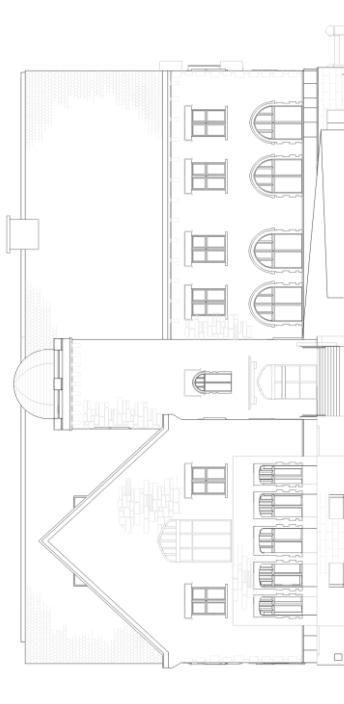
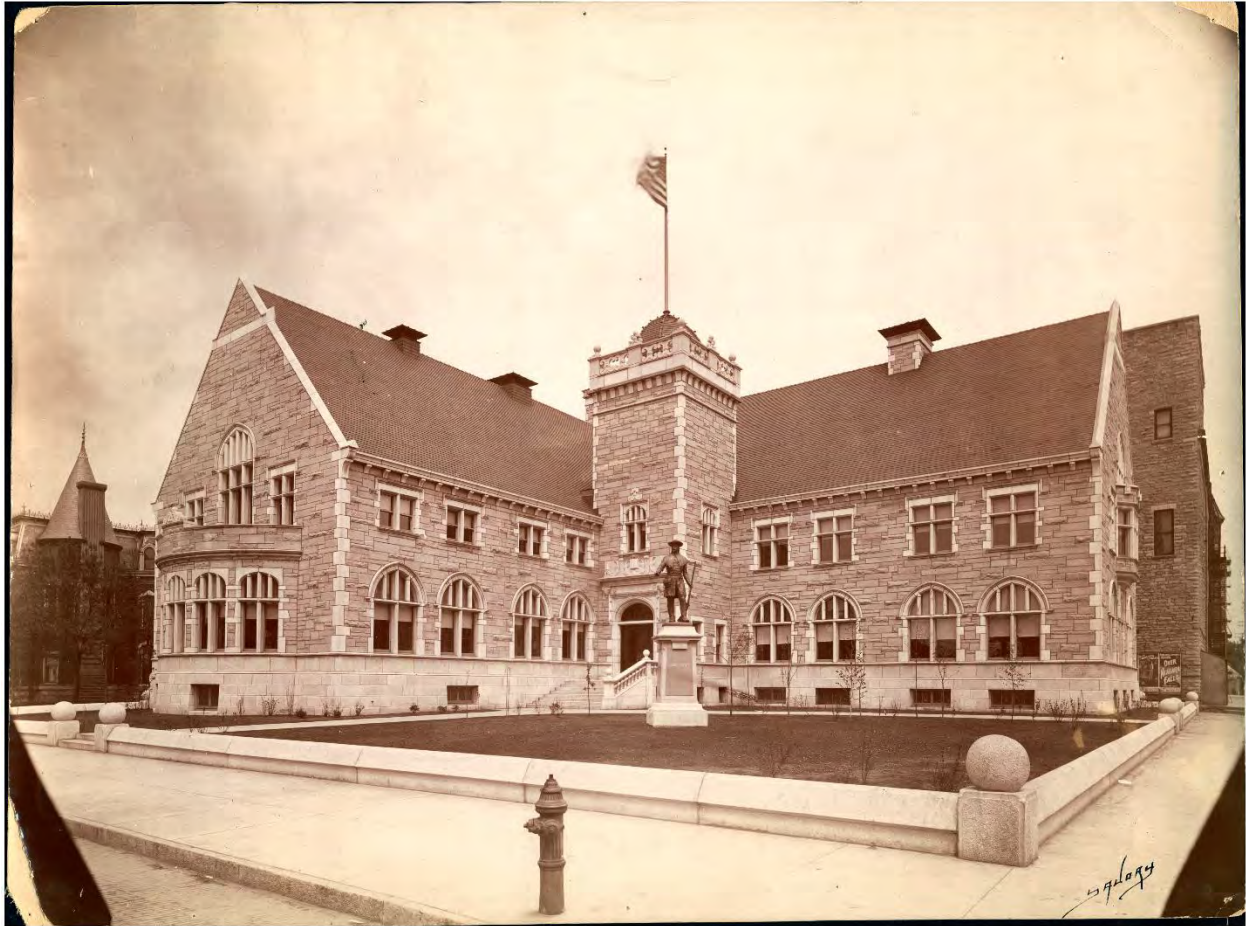


Figure 7. Sketch west elevation, not to scale. (JLK Architects 2025)

Appendix II. Historic Photographs



Exterior photograph of west elevation main entrance circa 1904 from the Joliet Public Library archives in Joliet, IL.



Exterior photograph of west elevation main entrance circa 1904 from the Joliet Public Library archives in Joliet, IL.



Interior photograph of first floor corridor circa 1904, looking west, from the Joliet Public Library archives in Joliet, IL.



Interior photograph of reading room circa 1904, looking west, from the Joliet Public Library archives in Joliet, IL.



Interior photograph of reading room circa 1904, looking east, from the Joliet Public Library archives in Joliet, IL.



Interior photograph of the librarian's office circa 1904, looking west, from the Joliet Public Library archives in Joliet, IL.



Interior photograph of delivery room circa 1904, looking north, from the Joliet Public Library archives in Joliet, IL.



Interior photograph of delivery room circa 1904, looking north-west, from the Joliet Public Library archives in Joliet, IL.



Interior photograph of delivery room circa 1904, looking south, from the Joliet Public Library archives in Joliet, IL.



Interior photograph of delivery room circa 1904, looking southeast, from the Joliet Public Library archives in Joliet, IL.



Interior photograph of reference room circa 1904, looking east, from the Joliet Public Library archives in Joliet, IL.



Interior photograph of children's room circa 1904, looking north, from the Joliet Public Library archives in Joliet, IL.



Interior photograph of fireplace detail in the children's room circa 1904, from the Joliet Public Library archives in Joliet, IL.



Interior photograph of stack room circa 1904, looking south, from the Joliet Public Library archives in Joliet, IL.



Interior photograph of study room circa 1904, looking west, from the Joliet Public Library archives in Joliet, IL.



Interior photograph of assembly room circa 1904, from the Joliet Public Library archives in Joliet, IL.



Interior photograph of board room circa 1904, looking south, from the Joliet Public Library archives in Joliet, IL.



Interior photograph of work room circa 1904, looking northwest, from the Joliet Public Library archives in Joliet, IL.