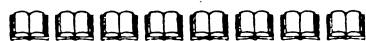


Renovation & Expansion Plans for the Jacob  
Edwards Library

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Southbridge, MA 01550-2598  
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A Proposal  
from the Library Trustees

September 1997





**JACOB EDWARDS LIBRARY**  
*A Distinguished History in an Entrepreneurial Town*

As the "Eye of the Commonwealth," home of the once sprawling American Optical Corporation, Southbridge is typical of many turn-of-the-century "mill towns" that have undergone enormous demographic changes in recent years. Its diverse population once included owners, managers and workers at "The AO." Now it is made up of all levels of employees from a wide range of companies providing a variety of services to the community. Recently the following two new initiatives were added to the economic horizon.

In 1996, a new Center for Advanced Fiber optics Applications opened on the campus of the American Optical complex, and in 1994 the Department of Defense chose Southbridge as the site of a facility which will meet the training needs of the staff of 20 centers at the Defense Business Management University. Training began offsite in Spring 1997, while renovations continue. The facility will open in 1998. With the economic climate improving, the Town's needs for an expanded and renovated library are increasing.

Whatever the economic climate, Southbridge has always been able to "do a lot with a little" and its enthusiasm for learning and public education has never failed. Nowhere is this commitment to an educated citizenry better demonstrated than in the Town's generous support of its public library.

- For decades the Jacob Edwards Library, which boasts a strong service-oriented staff and collection, has served as the library of choice for reference work by students and independent learners throughout southern central Massachusetts. The Library is so popular that from time to time it has been referred to as an "unofficial sub regional library." On the national front, its Holmes Ammidown History Room is visited by genealogists from all over the country.
- The Library is also a familiar site to librarians from across the state. It has hosted meetings of the Central Massachusetts Regional Library System dating back to the inception in 1963 and was considered a "pioneer" in the region when it became one of the first public libraries to become a fully on-line circulating member of the multi-type C/WMARS network (Central/Western Massachusetts Automated Resource Sharing).
- Equally important is the on-going service that the Jacob Edwards Library has provided to the citizens of Southbridge for nearly 100 years. Its extensive collection reflects current high-demand, high-interest materials in a variety of formats for all ages. A special effort is made to provide a broad selection of timely, accurate and useful information to support patrons' school and vocational endeavors. The children's collection features enough quality and award winning works to satisfy college level education students, as does the reference section on literature. Informational resources on all subjects, as well as recreational reading for every interest, can be found at the Library.

As the economy recovers, the need for a modern library facility will undoubtedly increase, especially in the wake of the two important new initiatives now taking place in Southbridge. These initiatives, coupled with the ongoing pride and enthusiasm of the citizens of Southbridge, will attract residents in the coming century who will require state-of-the-art, technologically sophisticated library services: services that the Jacob Edwards Library will be prepared to deliver upon completion of the renovation and expansion project scheduled for the Spring of 1999.

**JACOB EDWARDS LIBRARY**  
*An Historic Opportunity for Renovation and Expansion*

In April 1997, the trustees of the Jacob Edwards Library received the news that the Library was one of only five libraries in Central Massachusetts scheduled to receive a renovation and expansion grant in the second round of applications for the Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program. This \$1.3 million grant, which will be officially awarded this fall, will be instrumental in ensuring the success of a building program estimated at \$2, 800,000.

The Jacob Edwards Library, located in the Center Village Historic District of Southbridge, was designed in 1914 by architects Little and Browne. The Georgian Revival building, featuring a free-standing array of cast iron uprights that support book shelving, was a model of efficiency and considered state of the art when it was built. However, even at the time of its construction, there were trade-offs and limits to accessibility. For instance, the rows between the aisles are so narrow that *no two patrons can browse at the same time*, without one of them exiting the row to let the other pass. And then there are the *narrow and steep stairs between levels which require patrons to be quite agile* if they are to make the climb and avoid bumping their heads. For the far-sighted, there is *not enough room in the aisles to get far enough away from the books to read the titles!*

Nonetheless, for more than fifty years, this edifice served the community well, and it was not until 1966 that an addition was deemed necessary by the trustees. At that time, architect James C. Britton designed a second entrance and added public restrooms. Approximately 5500 square feet were added to the existing building. Although the 1966 improvements were much appreciated, problems of accessibility, potential fire and life safety issues, and extreme inefficiency from the staff perspective were not addressed. For example, currently the library pages handle 80,000 books two or three times just to shelve them!

In 1994 the trustees submitted a proposal to the Commonwealth Board of Library Commissioners for a modest addition and renovation (\$1 million) to the Library. Much to their surprise, the reviewers encouraged them to think more boldly and to come back for funding when their plans were more comprehensive. This advice turned out to be timely and stimulating and led to the renovation and expansion plans described below and in the accompanying floor plans from the current architect, Richard C. Smith of Stahl Associates, Boston. It is this project, which is anticipated to serve the community's needs for the next 20 years, that received approval in April 1997.

The renovation and expansion plans include:

- a 9993 square foot, three story addition to be constructed on the rear (north) elevation of the original library building.
- a main entrance facing the parking area on the north, located on the axis with the historic entrance.
- replacing the old-fashioned, hazardous stacks with modern, state-of-the art shelving in the new addition.
- fully accessible public bathrooms.

*-continued-*

- restoration of the original, historic barrel-vaulted ceiling in the main reading room.
- improved provision for computer networking and internet access.
- a redesigned parking lot with handicapped parking spaces adjacent to the new entrance.

This addition will enable citizens with disabilities to use the Library for the first time in its history. It will allow staff to serve patrons with both speed and efficiency. And, most importantly, it will allow both adult and child patrons to browse and explore the Library's collection in a modern, technologically up-to-date, and user-friendly environment.

It is anticipated that construction will begin in 1998 and conclude in 1999, making the Jacob Edwards Library a 21st century resource for the citizens of Southbridge and surrounding communities.

**JACOB EDWARDS LIBRARY**  
**Renovation & Expansion Project**  
**Estimated Costs & Sources of Funding**

**ESTIMATED RENOVATION AND EXPANSION COSTS**

Construction:	
General:	\$1,448,000
Plumbing:	156,000
HVAC:	168,000
Electrical:	276,000
Site preparation:	<u>55,000</u>
Total construction:	\$2,100,000
Fees:	225,000
Clerk of the Works:	60,000
Contingency:	182,500
Shelving:	78,000
Furnishings:	93,300
Landscaping & paving:	32,300
Miscellaneous:	<u>11,700</u>
<b>TOTAL ESTIMATED COST:</b>	<b>\$2,782,700</b>

**PROPOSED FUNDING SOURCES**

Commonwealth of Massachusetts:	\$1,138,000
Town of Southbridge:	345,000
Jacob Edwards Library Trustees Funds:	125,000
Private philanthropy: (See Table of Gifts below)	1,000,000
Miscellaneous other sources:	<u>174,700</u>
<b>TOTAL ESTIMATED GIFTS:</b>	<b>\$2,782,700</b>

**PRIVATE PHILANTHROPY**

**TABLE OF GIFTS NEEDED (3 YEAR PLEDGES ACCEPTED)**

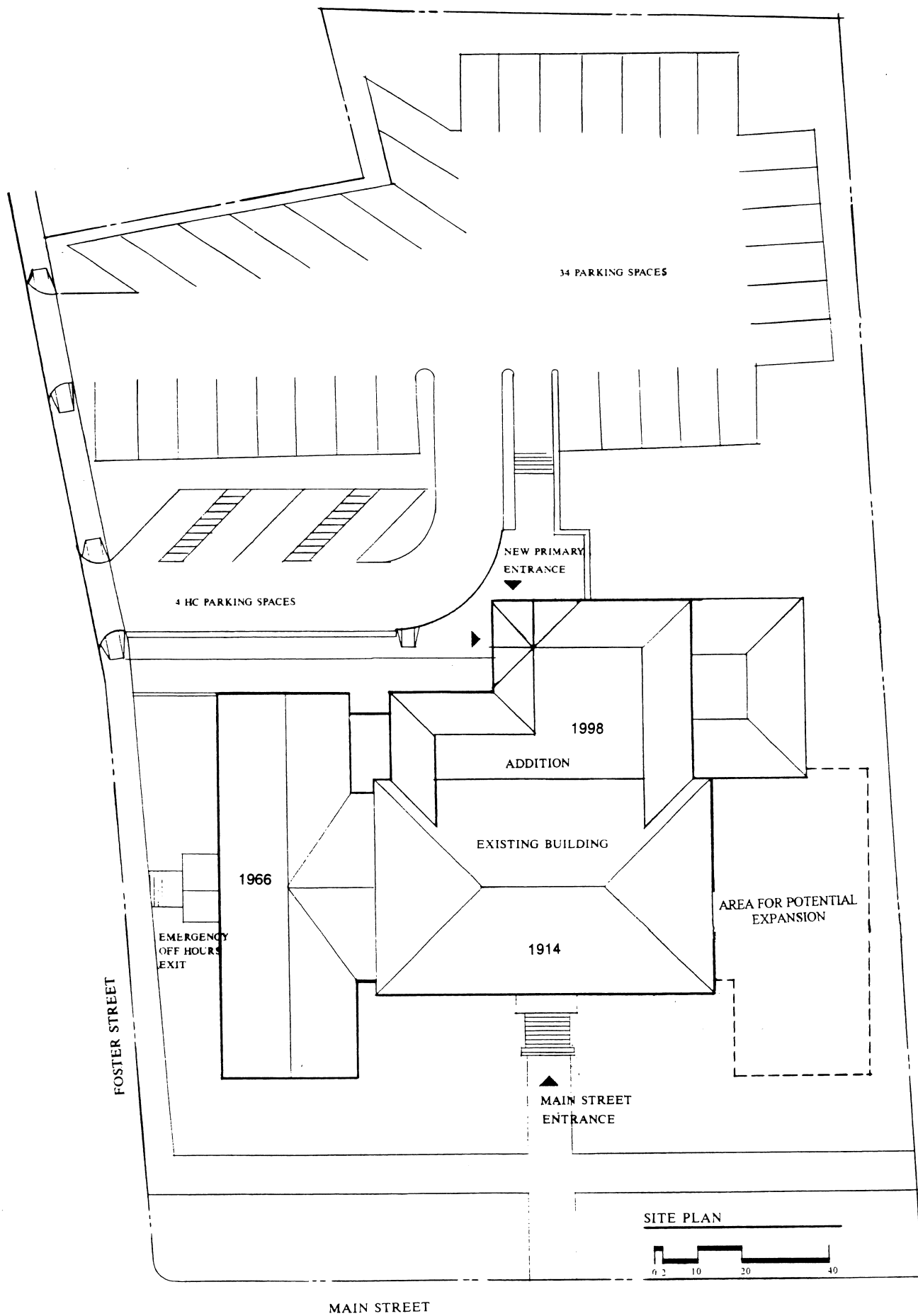
1 gift @ \$250,000	\$250,000
1 gift @ \$150,000	\$150,000
1 gift @ \$100,000	\$100,000
1 gift @ \$75,000	\$75,000
2 gifts @ \$50,000	\$100,000
4 gifts @ \$25,000	\$100,000
6 gifts @ \$15,000	\$90,000
6 gifts @ \$10,000	\$60,000
10 gifts @ \$5,000	\$50,000
Many gifts under \$5,000	<u>\$25,000</u>

<b>TOTAL GIFTS FROM PRIVATE PHILANTHROPY:</b>	<b>\$1,000,000</b>
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*JACOB EDWARDS LIBRARY  
Major Gift Naming Opportunities*

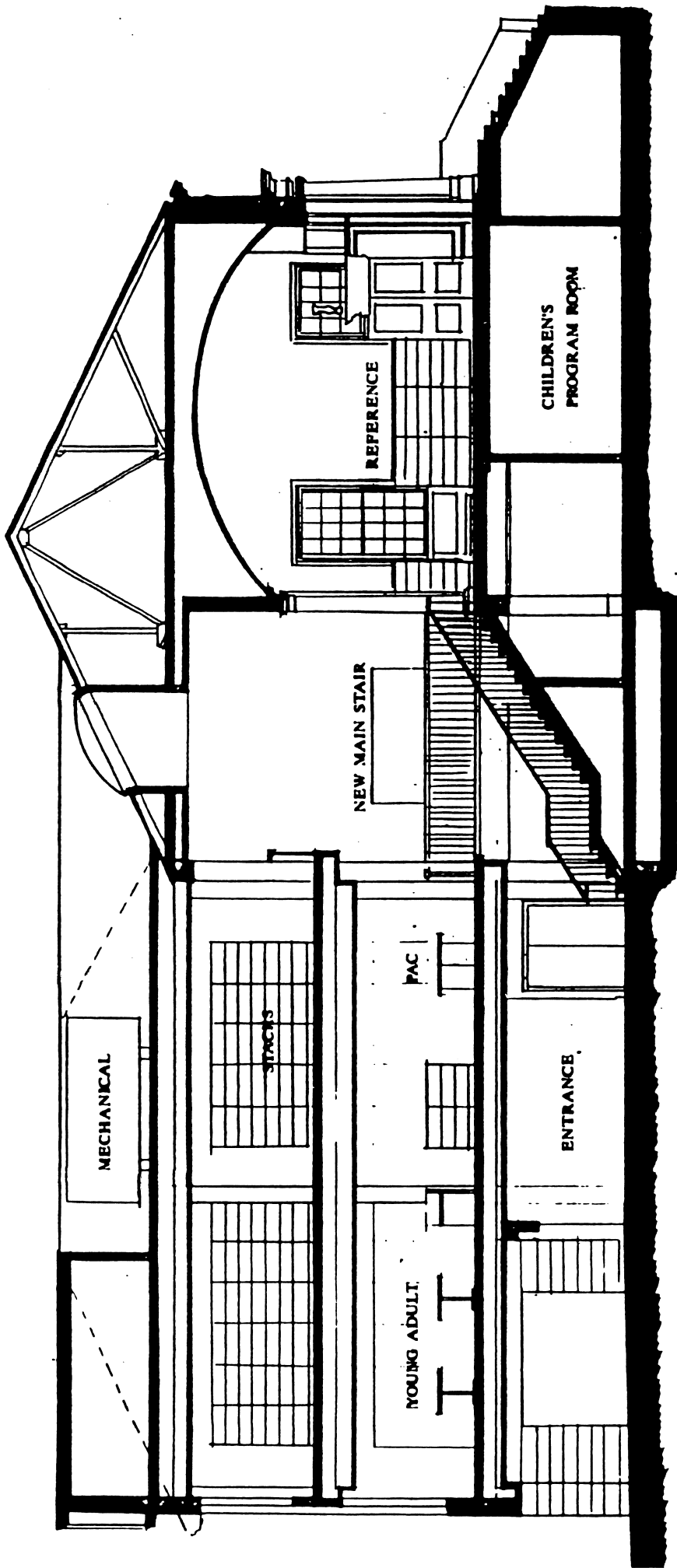
Non-fiction Area	\$340,000
Children's Room	274,000
Accessibility	213,700
Elevator:	\$142,500
Bathrooms: 5@\$12,000	60,000
Parking:	11,200
Old Library Main Hall	200,000
Fiction Area	153,000
Reference Area	143,500
Meeting Room (Pioppi Room)	108,000
Adult Seating Area	85,000
Local History Area	63,000
Story Hour/Crafts	51,000
Young Adults Area	49,000
Circulation Desk	46,000
Quiet Study Area	45,000
Technical Services	41,000
Art Display	39,000
Non-print area	34,000
Periodical Display	29,000
Conference Room	28,000
Periodicals Storage	28,000
Technology Equipment	25,000
Staff Room	25,000
Director's Office	24,000
Children's Library Office	23,500
Literacy Volunteers	18,000
Browsing Area	18,000
Reference Work Room	18,000
Quiet Study B	10,000
Storage Area	9,000
Quiet Study A	8,000
Children's Desk	4,200

*All gifts to the Jacob Edwards Library are tax deductible  
to the extent allowed by law.*



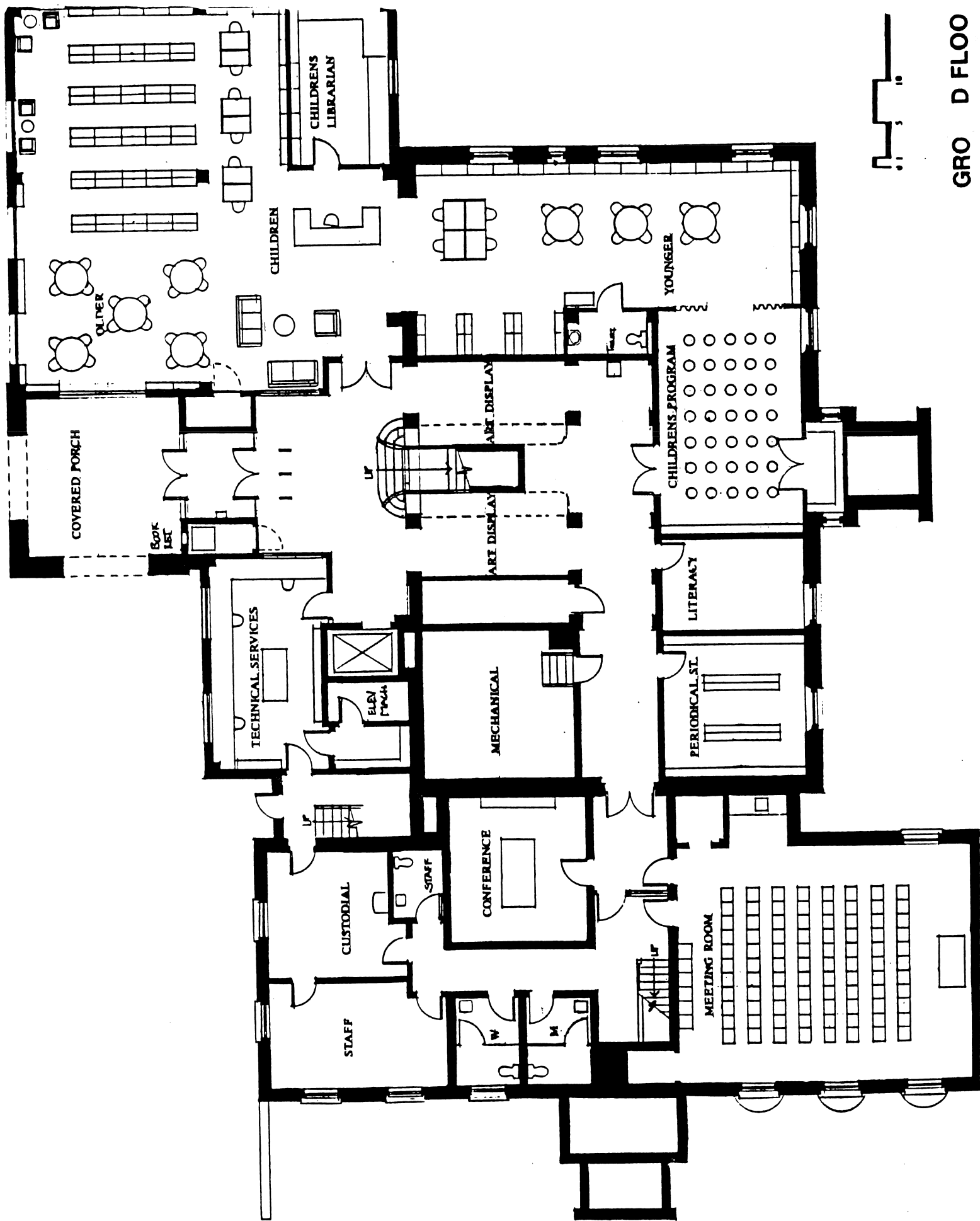
MAIN STREET





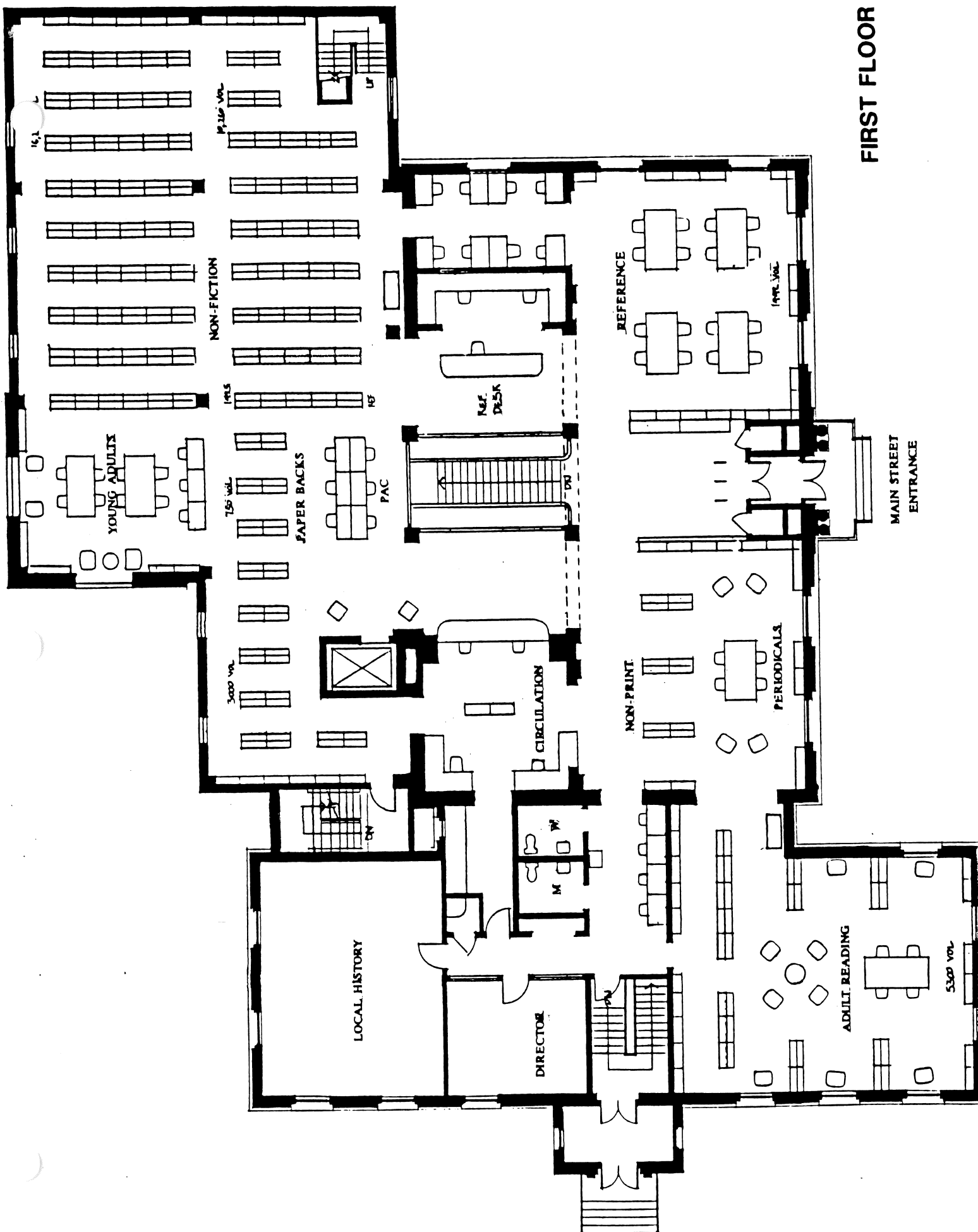
TRANSVERSE SECTION AT ENTRY

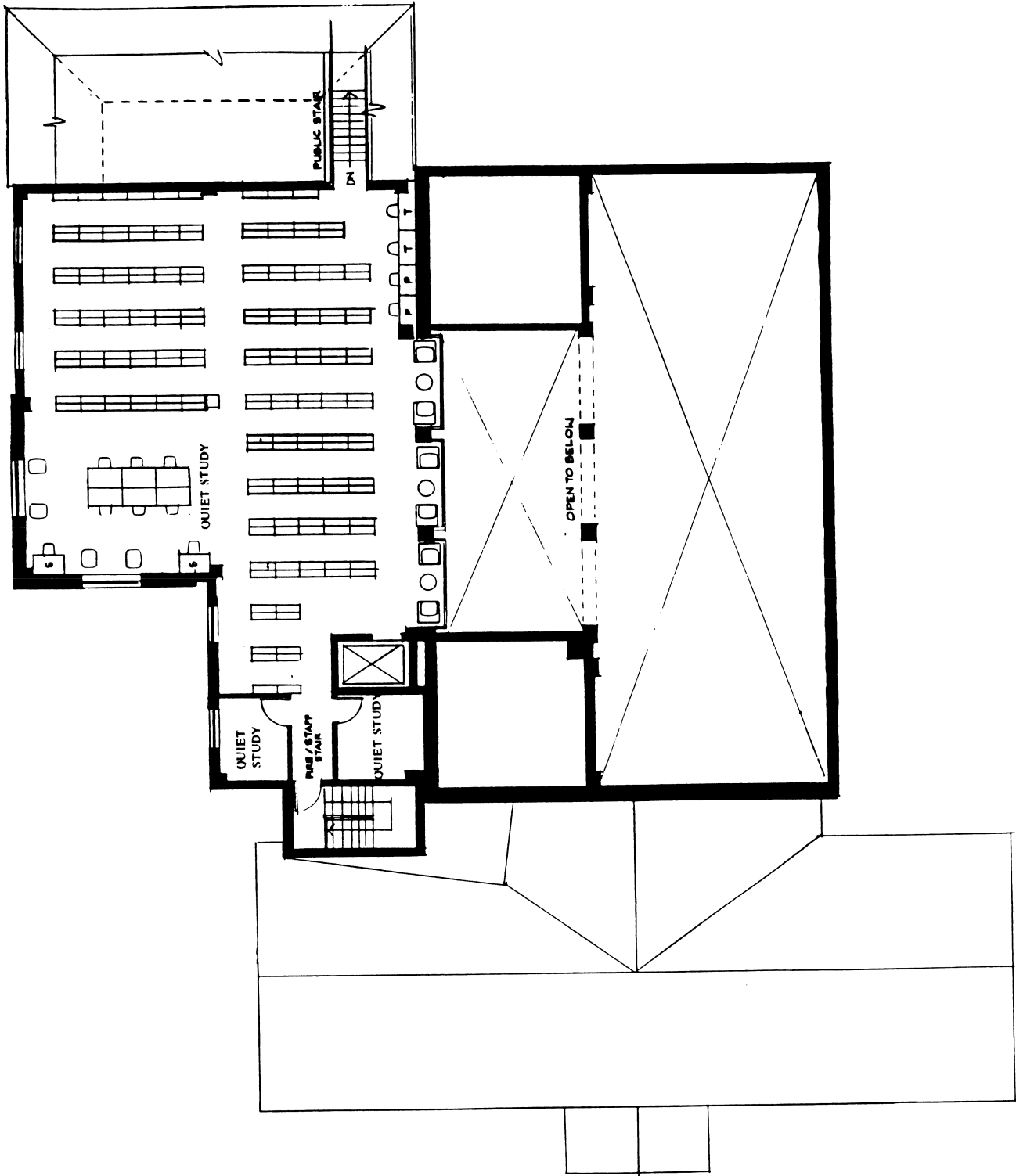




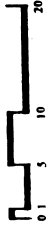
# GRO D FLOO

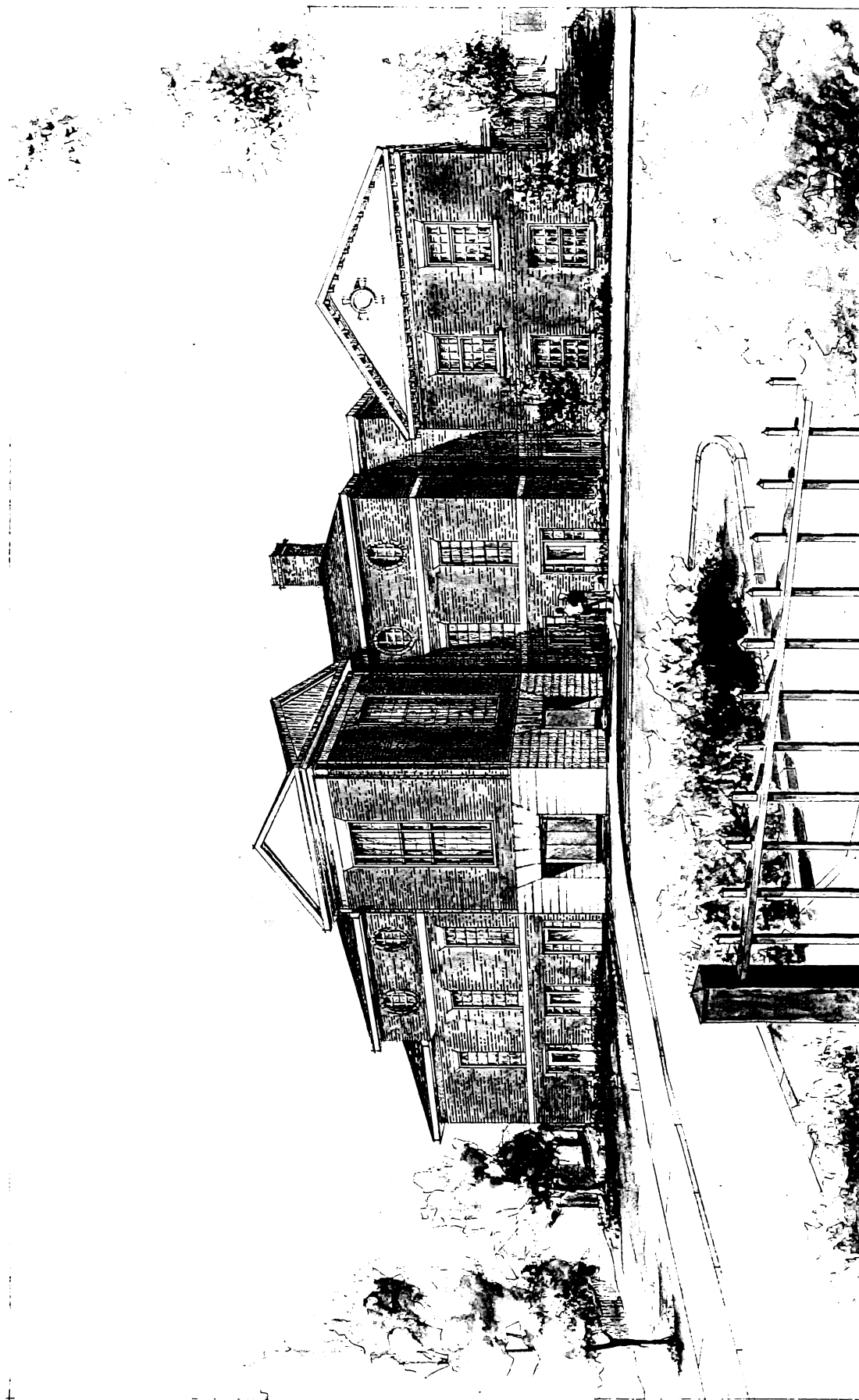
**MAIN STREET  
ENTRANCE**





SECOND FLOOR PLAN  
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"





*Jacob Edwards Library  
Southbridge, MA  
Proposed Renovation and Expansion  
View from the Parking Area*

*JACOB EDWARDS LIBRARY*

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AO Tec

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Big Bunny Market

Daniel Morrill

Marilyn Travinski  
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