A Central Library in 1925!

Rochester
A city of parks, of homes, of thriving industries.
The only city of its size in the United States without a Central Library.
*A Central Library is the University of the People.*

The Central Library

Where Should It Be Located?

BY
WILLIAM F. YUST
Librarian

ROCHESTER, N. Y.
1923
The Central Library Location

The attention which the Central Library is at present receiving prompts me to state a few principles which should guide in the selection of a site. In the first place due consideration should be given to the strong influence which the architecture of public buildings has on the ideas and ideals of the people. This applies especially to a library on account of the nature of its contents. We call it the dwelling place of books, the products of the master minds of the ages, and we refer to the public library as the people’s university.

The library building therefore should be an object lesson in architecture, beautiful, dignified, impressive, permanent. It should give the impression that it is an educational institution, not only identified with the instruction and development of the people and giving daily assistance to those who use it, but also standing for all that is noblest and best in the life of the community.

It should be located where it will best fulfill its purpose. In locating it the following points should be considered:

1. Accessibility. It should be near the center of the population to be served. It should be remembered also that this center of population may shift in the course of time. It should be on or near the great thoroughfares or thoroughfares of the city. Nearness to intersecting street car lines is desirable, though if they are too near, the noise will interfere.

2. Approach. Sufficient ground on all sides is desirable but especially in front to provide a dignified setting and approach. There are library buildings, however, which adjoin the sidewalk. This has the advantage of greater convenience to passers-by and affords better advertising possibilities, but it detracts from the architectural effect. Distance is necessary to the appreciation of a monumental building such as the library should be.

3. Light and air. The location should be high and dry with ample space around it to admit an abundance of natural light and fresh air. This forbids the nearness of high buildings or large chimneys emitting heavy smoke or gasses.

4. Growth. There should be room for addition to the building without marring its architectural appearance or impairing its administration.

5. Residence section or business. It may be either section or on the boundary line between the two. Most of the large cities of the country have chosen the residence portion probably because there a suitable site was more easily available or they have compromised on an intermediate location. But the idea is gaining ground that the library is most useful close to the street in the very heart of the retail business section, because there it makes a stronger appeal to the man in the street than it does in a residence section at a secluded distance from the passing throng. This is one way of bringing the library to the attention of the people and projecting it into their daily thought. This principle has had much weight in locating some of our present branch library quarters.
6. Relation to other buildings. It is desirable for it to stand on its own ground, to be independent of other buildings and institutions, such as the city hall, a school, a business house, etc. This adds to its appearance, ease of administration and safety from fire. It may well be one of a group of public buildings, such as a school, a church, an art gallery, as in the modern civic center. The position it occupies among such buildings has an important effect on the position it occupies in the minds of the people.

7. Cost of land. In securing a library site the cost of land is an important factor, which may have a modifying influence on any of these points. The opportunity for Rochester to obtain a suitable library site cheap is gone forever. It is still possible to obtain a good site, but it will cost money and a good round sum. It should be the best the city can afford. On the other hand the city can afford the best. It should not be content with anything else.

The city of Rochester does not possess a single building erected for library purposes. In this respect it is behind every other large city in the country and behind many of the small villages in this state. Having waited so long for this important public improvement, it should insist on a building that will be a model from the standpoint of architecture and administration and usefulness. Such a building will be possible only on a site especially selected for that purpose.
LIBRARY PLAN
IS PROPOSED
BY VAN ZANDT

Suggests Combining Rundel
Bequests with Reynolds
Library Resources.

CUT IMPROVEMENTS

Urges Sacrifice of All But
Imperative Works to
Canal-bed Project.

The delay of all except imperative purely local improvements until the industrial and rapid-transit railroad project is completed and the establishment of a central public library are urged by Mayor Van Zandt in his 1922-23 message presented to the Common Council last night.

Sufficient money is not available for carrying on the year's program of local improvements and completing the canal railroad. The Mayor believes the benefit which accrues to the city at large from the canal development is sufficient to warrant the sidetracking of all except local improvements absolutely necessary.

Central Library Needed.
The need of a read central library and the extension of the present system is emphasized by the Mayor. While he points out that the present condition of the city's finances precludes the construction of such a building, he recommends that a proper site be provided and that a building be secured by combining the Rundel fund and the Reynolds library fund, if possible, and that a definite proposal be made to the Reynolds library in cooperation with the city in the establishment and maintenance of a central library.

The Mayor expresses his deep appreciation for the cooperation and support given him by the aldermen and members of his cabinet. He states that while he is pleased that a real advance has been made toward reduction of administrative costs, yet further economies must be exercised during the coming year.

Chief Sections of Message.
The main portion of the message follows:

Rochester, N. Y.

To the Honorable, the Common Council of the City of Rochester:

The year 1922 established a record in the matter of public improvements, a record that not only services to maintain the high standard set for Rochester in years past, but points to greater advancement in the future to come. As a result of this in the matter of the commencement upon the plan for the utilization and development of the abandoned Erie canal lands which were acquired by the city early last year, this year marks the beginning of this improvement. It seems to me we can scarcely anticipate the year without realizing its possibilities now that the actual work of construction is under way.

Record Improvement Year.

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First payment to the state for the lands which were acquired last year, and that gave the city the right of entry upon the property, was made last year, and the construction of the canal and the building of the canal are completed has raised the amount of the city's annual debt to $1,179,457,532, and the city may begin to realize the benefit of the improvement of the canal at the earliest possible date. I urge early action upon this matter, to reduce the cost of the canal and the building of the canal, and in the completion of this work the city will derive greater in the establishment and maintenance of a central library.

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MAYOR URGES NEW CENTRAL LIBRARY SITE
ASKS OFFICIALS FOR FURTHER ECONOMIES
Wants No Local Improvement Ordinances Adopted, Except Those That Are Necessary.

Mayor Van Zandt last night submitted his annual message to the Common Council, in which he reviews the work of the various departments for the past year and suggests that there be provided a site for a central library. Of the library proposition, the Mayor says:

"Elsewhere in this message, I call your attention to the great increase in the demands made upon the branch libraries, and it is pertinent at this time to stress the growing need for a real central library and an extension of the branch system. It is unfortunate that the present condition of the city's finances precludes the immediate building of a proper central library but it is possible at this time to begin to plan toward the time of such a building. In the meantime, it is desirable that some temporary method of providing for the needs of the community be found.

"I urge that no local improvement ordinances be adopted by your honorable body except those that are imperative. Ordinances for the development of new subdivisions should be eliminated so far as possible for this year. Such development should, in my opinion, be financed by the owners of the properties involved. The benefit which is to accrue to the city at large from the canal land development, it seems to me, should mitigate any sense of disappointment resulting from the postponement of more purely local improvements.

Reports of Departments

Reports of departments review the work of the past year. The report of the waterworks bureau shows fifteen miles of mains added last year, making about 470 in all, in addition to the three conduit lines totaling more than eighty miles. Sources of waste were checked so that in the face of 1,200 more water services in use the city consumed only 5,000,000 gallons less per day on an average than in the previous year.

The Police Court section shows 7,719 collected in fines and forfeitures of $10,750. For violations of the motor vehicle law, $510 was collected.

Mayor And City Librarian Favor Spring Street Site For Central Library Building
Say Site Fronting on New Boulevard Would Be Ideal for Library and Art Gallery Building Which Would Be Combined Memorial to Reynolds Family and Morton W. Rundel—Convenient for Public.

The plot of ground between Spring Street and the present Reynolds site could be utilized for a new central library. The site now occupied by the Reynolds Library, would be an ideal site for the Rochester Central Library building if an agreement can be reached by the trustees of the Reynolds and City libraries and the city of Rochester. It was said, this morning, by Mayor Max Van Zandt and by City Librarian Williams F. Van Vliet.

"A Reynolds Memorial Library and a Rundel Memorial Art Gallery erected on this site with the combined funds of the Reynolds and Rundel monies would be of sufficient size to serve the city for years to come and would be in an ideal position to serve the community," said Mayor Van Zandt, this morning. "I sincerely hope that the necessary steps for co-operation between the two boards can be taken.

In his message to the Common Council last night, Mayor Van Zandt said that while the erection of a central library building could not be undertaken immediately owing to the city's finances, it was not too soon to begin to plan toward that end and he was glad that he could support the site he had recommended. The development of the central library along lines such as have worked out satisfactorily in other cities.

The Rundel Memorial Fund now amounts to $407,393 while the Reynolds property includes the site and buildings on Spring street and the Rundel property on Main street east. Certain restrictions exist upon the Reynolds Fund, but if a site be secured by those favoring co-operation in the administration of the
Central Library Project Discussed at Round-Table

Women's City Club Adopts Resolutions, Offering Co-operation—Dr. John R. Slater Says Some of Proposals Are Impractical—Leroy Snyder Declares Picking of Right Site Is Important.

Through the efforts of the Woman's City Club, a group of prominent citizens of Rochester were secured as speakers last evening at the round-table discussion of the central library project, held in the clubrooms in Chestnut street.

In addition to the members of the club who moved to adopt the following resolutions: 1.—Resolved, that it is desirable to bring into conference on the central library project representatives of all interested groups, including the Rochester Public Library, Reynolds Library and those charged with the administration of the Rundell fund, and that the chairman of this meeting be empowered to appoint committees to further such a conference and advance a resolution, that this group congratulates the Mayor of the City of Rochester on his historic stand on behalf of a central library, and that we offer our cooperation in furthering the project.

The discussion was opened by Dr. John R. Slater, head of the English department of the City University of Rochester, who said, in part: Does Rochester need a central public library? This question is usually asked, and in the degree usually reserved for the more esoteric times proposed.

And there is little to be said to the central feature in Rochester, the presence of which brings to mind the necessity of a central library in or near the business district, for the reason that it is usually referred to the fact that the Rochester library is in no way a part of the business district, and in fact, has been characterized as unsanitary.

One reason why the Rochester library is unsanitary is that its location is not within the central business district, which is the location of the proposed central library. The Rochester library is located on the outskirts of the central business district, and is not within easy walking distance of the business district.

The Rochester library does not provide the necessary facilities for a central library, and, therefore, is not suitable for the purpose. The Rochester library is not centrally located, and is not within easy walking distance of the business district. The Rochester library is not centrally located, and is not within easy walking distance of the business district.

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Gives Principles To Guide Choice Of New Library Site

Librarian Yust Says Building Should Be Object Lesson in Architecture—Should Be Accessible, Should Have Dignified Setting and Approach—Rochester Is Behind Every Large City In Country In This Respect.

City Librarian Charles F. Yust, in the following letter to The Times-Union, sets forth some pertinent facts which he considered in connection with the proposed new central library:

"The attention which the central library is at present receiving prompts me to state a few principles which should guide in the selection of a site. In the first place, consideration should be given to the circumstances which the architecture of the public buildings on the site should reflect the ideas and ideals of the people. This applies especially to a library on account of the nature of its contents. We call it the dwelling place of books, the product of the minds of the people, and we refer to the public library as the people's university.

"The library building therefore should be an object lesson in architecture, beautiful, dignified, impressive, permanent. It should give the impression that ours is a city of philosophy, with people who use the great resources of this beautiful earth but also standing for something all that is noblest and best in the life of the community.

"Accessibility. It should be near the center of the population to be served. It should be remembered also that this center of population may shift in the course of time. It should be or near the great thoroughfares or thoroughfares of the city. Nearness to intersecting street car lines is desirable, though if they are too near the noise will interfere.

"2. Approach. Sufficient ground on all sides is desirable, but especially in connection with a dignified setting and approach. There are library buildings, however, which adjoin the sidewalk. This has the advantage of greater convenience to passers-by and affords better advertising possibilities, but it detracts from the architectural effort. Distance is necessary to the appreciation of a monumental building such as the library should be. The location should be high and dry with ample space around it to admit an abundance of natural light and fresh air. This provides the great buildings or large chimneys emitting heavy smoke or gases.

"3. Construction. It should be sound, for addition to the building without marred its architectural appearance or impairing its administration.

"4. Residence section or business. It may be in either section or on the boundary line between the two. Most of the large cities of the country have chosen the residence portion probably because the library is most useful close to the street in the very heart of the retail business section. It is that part of the franchise which has the need of a central library and for which a suitable site was more readily available or they have compromised on an intermediate location. But the idea is gaining ground that the library is most useful close to the man in the street than it does in a residence section at a reduced distance from the passing traffic.

"5. Nearness to other buildings. It is desirable to have it stand on its own showing, independent of other buildings and institutions, such as the city hall, a school, a business house, etc. This aids in its appearance, ease of administration and safety from fire. It may well be one of a group of public buildings, such as a school, a gallery as in the modern civic center. The position it occupies among such buildings has an effect on the position it occupies in the minds of the people.

"6. Cost of land. In securing a library site the cost of land is an important consideration which may have a modifying influence on any of these points. The opportunity for Rochester to obtain a suitable library site is limited, but it is still possible to obtain a good site, but it will cost money and a good round sum. It brave the city, the people and the city, on the other hand the city can afford the best. It should not be content with anything else.

"The city of Rochester does not possess a single building credited for library purposes. In this respect it is behind every large city in the country, and behind many of the small villages in this state. Having waited so long for this important public improvement, it should insist on a building that will be a model in the standpoint of architecture and administration and usefulness. Such a building will be possible on a site especially selected for that purpose."

Central Library Needed.

In his annual message to the Common Council Mayor Van Zandt calls attention to the need of a Central Library. While stating that the city lacks the funds to proceed at once toward building and equipping such a library he makes the following conciliatory suggestions:

That the city provide a site for a central library.

That a building fund be provided by combining the endowment fund and the Reynolds library fund, if such a plan be feasible.

That a definite proposal be made to the Reynolds library to cooperate with the city in the establishment and maintenance of a central library, co-operation along similar lines having worked out satisfactorily in other cities.

In making these suggestions Mayor Van Zandt gives official recognition to one of the city's great needs. A central library is the crown and capstone of a city's educational system.

Branch libraries are useful, convenient and have been well patronized. They cannot, however, furnish the books and trained staff to serve the needs of the student or reader who wishes to get to the bottom of a given subject or range widely over the field of literature.

Yet it is just this intensive study or wide culture that it is most to the interest of the city to make available to its residents.

That the co-operation of existing foundations should be sought is plain common sense. In New York the Astor and Lenox libraries added their collections and resources to the creation of the great central public library. The same plan has been worked out in other cities.

Education does not end with formal schooling. A library is one of the best means of enabling the ambitious to repair the defects in their early training.

Thomas Edison, the great inventor, stands out in most people's minds as a type of man capable of original thought, with wonderful natural ability to see what others have overlooked. Yet his biography may be read and before Edison begins independent research he invariably reads everything bearing upon the matter in hand.

The pace of modern progress is largely due to the fact that through preserving a printed record knowledge once gained is retained and serves as a foundation for further advance.

A city which fails to provide a central reservoir of books is denying its ablest minds the tools with which to work.

Rochester should and must have a central library.
URGES PUBLIC TO
BACK EFFORT FOR
CENTRAL LIBRARY

Rev. Clinton Wander Says
It Is 'Missing Link' in
Educational System.

BRANCHES NEEDED ALSO

Per Capita Circulation Is
Said to Exceed That Of
Many Large Cities.

"The missing link of Rochester's educational
system is a central library," said Rev. Clinton
Wander Sunday night at the Baptist Temple on "One
of Rochester's Greatest Needs."

For Hoseon's Greatest Needs.

The sermon followed a musical pro-
gram by the Rochester Municipal Choir,
organized a year ago, and an orchestra
made up of high school students, trom-
bone solos by Jay W. Fay, and a song
service by the audience. Special guests
were William P. Wath, and Mayor
W. C. Hickey.

The speaker pointed out the impor-
tance attached to public school education,
which is compulsory for children up to
14 years old, and $3,500,000 is expended
each year to operate and maintain
library building plans.

The city is, however, far behind in
this field. There are only 1,800
people living in the city, and the
library has only 12,000 volumes in its
collection. The population of the city
is said to be over 100,000. Rev. Wath
said this morning that there are
sixty-nine cities in the country of over
100,000 population, Rochester, Albany and
Richmond alone are without central libraries
and in both Al-

Library Board is Commended
for River Site

First Reports of Sentiment
Show Recommendations
in High Favor.

IDEA IMPORTANT STEP

Officials See Impulse for
Achievement Given by
Definite Plan.

Many favorable comments and mes-
sages of appreciation were received yest-
erday by members of the City Library
Board for their selection of the river
site as that best suited for a great
central library in Rochester.

"The library will be the nucleus of the
community," said Mr. Wath. "It will be
the center of interest for all who live in the
city."

Support of Public Needed

Yet, the fact remains, that in the
United States more than 200,000 popula-
tion, Rochester is the only one without a
central library," he said. The branches
are libraries under the direction of a
school and the library is now available to a
million dollars to build the building.

What we need is the support of our
citizens for the erection of the
building."

"For those who have missed the op-
portunity of higher education, the high-
school and college there is but one route
and that is private study through books.
Where are the books to be found? What
is the cost of books to be found?"

"And in this respect, the library is the
education that lingers. Adaptability and
the mental power of the pupil are
more and more needed in modern
education. The public school and un-
iversity must start something. The library
must do the same thing."

Power Tunnel Planned.

The Rochester Gas and Electric
Corporation plans to replace the tunnel
and the overflow from this and dye the
water in the spillway, thus obviating danger
from the source. The corporation would
grant such rights as necessary for the erect-
ion of the building in return for the
spillway and other necessary privileges
which would in no way interfere with
the building.
ART CLUB MEMBER INSISTS RUNDELL HAD BUILDING FOR ART IN MIND

Contributions to the central-library discussion were made yesterday by Miss Bernice E. Hodges, of the Rochester Public Library, and John J. Inglis, of the Rochester Art Club. Mr. Inglis favors the construction of a central library building so as to provide a public library and相应的 the Reynolds library for different purposes. Mr. Inglis reiterated his assertion that the late Morton W. Rundell had insisted in his last will and testament that a building should be provided for this purpose. "Mr. Inglis expressed his views in an address at the Y. M. C. A. Mr. Inglis presented his views in a signed statement.

Why Should City Follow?

"In the absence of any satisfactory reason why Rochester should not proceed with the building of the library at the bottom of the educational scale when it comes to libraries and acknowledge that we cannot do what every other city in the United States is doing, has done or is doing?" asked Miss Hodges in her address yesterday afternoon before the Women's Auxiliary of the Rundell Memorial Library. Mr. Hodges is a member of the auditorium of the central association building. "If we were necessary for Rochester to pay its way, is it not within the power of all the money to build and books and a building large enough and have confidence enough in Rochester to believe that what Rochester can do, Rochester can do," she continued. "Practically everyone admits that the city needs a central library. It is one of the questions of when and how are asked that differences appear.

Library Needed Now.

"We need a central library right now. In fact, we have needed one for years. Rochester is behind the city of private libraries and a city with more than 100,000 population in central-library facilities. It is the only one of the first sixty cities in the country which does not have a central library nor one in process. Probably the two groups of people who realize the need are the visitors in the city and those new residents who have been used to central-library service in other cities, and the librarians in the branch of the Public Library who are restricted in their work because there is no central library.

"In the former group are many who are returning to Rochester and who believe that they have not one.
ARCHITECTS' PLAN OF NEW CENTRAL LIBRARY UPON RIVER SITE

Ground plan and surroundings of the proposed central library on the river site recommended by the Library Board, as pictured by Gordon & Kaelber, architects. This shows the main library building projecting over the river and the wing extending along the aqueduct to be used as the library subway station.

CROSS-SECTION OF PROPOSED PUBLIC LIBRARY

Cross-sectional view of the proposed central library building showing race and spillway, and connection of the wing with the subway and South avenue.
The diagram shows how the proposed site, at the South avenue subway station, would serve all sections of the city equally. Almost in the heart of the retail business section, yet at the principal future car-traffic center of the city and directly connected by a boulevard with the new University and Medical School, the site has roused much enthusiasm in official circles since it was suggested.
City Library Board

Recommend Site at Aqueduct

CITY-OWNED PROPERTY EAST OF RIVER URGED AS WISEST CHOICE FOR GREAT BUILDING

Idea Meets Approval of Mayor and Other City Officials—Offers Architectural Opportunity and Convenience.

Plans that would give Rochester one of the most beautiful and picturesque central library buildings in the country on a site unequaled for accessibility, dignity, and other practical advantages in the opinion of library experts, was revealed yesterday at the regular meeting of the Library Board, when request was made to the Common Council to reserve tentatively as a possible Central Library site the location bounded by South Avenue, Court street, bridge, the Genesee river, and the new Aqueduct boulevard over the subway.

This land is owned by the city and it would cost nothing. It is valued at $3,000,000 and as a large site in the downtown section of Main street it is said would bring in $3,000,000. As the city is now in a position to finance such an expenditure at the present time, the river site is thought to solve one of the greatest problems in connection with a Central Library. If this site were to be purchased wholehearted approval of the idea and enthusiastically it would be accepted for erection of a building by far the most beautiful in the city and one that will give Rochester a remarkable distinction as a library center.

Officially Enthusiastic.

The river site was suggested first by Assembleman Shirly L. Adair, Charles H. Wiltse, president of the Library Board, quickly saw the possibilities of the site, and he enthusiastically called it forth by consultation with experts and others directly interested. A committee of the membership of the site was made by Edwin F. Fishback, superintendent of the City Planning Bureau and civil engineer, and Edwin S. Gordon, architect, and they heartily approved the idea from the architectural and engineering point of view. D. L. Van Zandt is highly in favor of the suggestion. William F. Yust, City Librarian, declares that the site could not be improved upon if the requirements of a great library.

for flower beds and grassy plots. On one side would be the beautiful Genesee, on others the new Boulevard, Court street, bridge, the Aqueduct, the stone wall, and the stone bridge as well as the other side of the river, and the second floor of the building. The plan of the building would be as follows:

Build It All at Once.

It is proposed that the entire Central Library structure be erected at once, although it is possible to provide for the future growth of the library without any need for some years. In the meantime, the part of the building to be used for the Department of Education, affording facilities in keeping with the Library, the Public Library, and the Rochester library system holds in the country. By the time that the Library need all the room, other suitable quarters may be developed and the Department of Education. These suggestions are typical of the sensible and businesslike manner in which Mr. Yust and other officials have sought to plan the proposed building as well as making it an ornament to the city.

The resolutions adopted by the Library Board at its meeting yesterday were as follows:

RESOLVED, That the Central Library building shall be a beautiful Gothic structure of light, stone rising directly from the bed of the river, trimmed with Norristown, its vertical lines being preserved for the beauty and dignity quality as to seem to have risen by magic from the river itself. Given a platform over an enlarged spillway on buttresses built in the river, it is proposed that the best architects in the country be given opportunity to create the most picturesque and suitable building for this particular site. An arcade through the structure from the Aqueduct on the site of the Central Library building would look out upon the river and add an added point of beauty and delight.

In the chances in this part of the city, it is declared that the Central Library would have unsurpassed approaches and surroundings. The grounds would be large enough to allow for flower beds and grassy plots. On one side would be the beautiful Genesee, on others the new Boulevard, Court street, bridge, the Aqueduct, the stone wall, and the stone bridge as well as the other side of the river, and the second floor of the building. The plan of the building would be as follows:

Why not put it on top of the river. It is a perfect solution of the problem of cost and west side so far as it applies to the Central Library.

There is no place anywhere near the center of the city where there are such possibilities for a beautiful, stately building, the most delightful and imposing spectacles in the city. There is a space there 320 feet wide, with streets on one side and the Genesee river on the fourth side. This is a place which is the highest in all sides for a dignified setting and approach. In order to approach the site from the north, for example, it is necessary to imagine all existing buildings have been removed between South avenue and the river, south and north.

The buildings are all owned by the city and will shortly be sold, so far as increase the appropriateness of this river site for a monumental building.

Plenty of Light and Air.

Light and air are fundamental importance. The open space around the building will provide a wonderful examples of natural light and fresh air. There will be room for the library and at least from one side there will be no mist unless the river runs.

Growth. Another established principle that there is no need for the city to be embarrassed by growth. With the Central Library structure, would be a new building on the site of the old Central Library, and in the same with the same with the same ultimate central library use of the property as above described.

Mr. Yust Points Advantages.

City Librarian William F. Yust described the river site to the Rochester Public Library in this manner:

It is on South avenue between Court street and the new boulevard which is being built up on the old Erie canal aqueduct, between South avenue and the river. It is only two minutes walk from the greatest thoroughfare of the city. It is on the new swivel boulevard, which will become greater thoroughfare of the city. It is on Court avenue, the north and south routes of the city.

Where the above mentioned advantages are so much greater, there will be the greatest traffic points of transportation. The plans of the Central Library will be the best traffic points of transportation. The advantage of the center of population may go. The proposed site shows the site for the purpose of the site for the purpose of the site.

Meets Sectional Arguments.

Rochester has an east side and a west side and will always have them as long as the Genesee river flows through the city. In years past people have moved from the west side to the east side, and the east side was the better located, with reference to access.

Business Site Preferable.

Residence or business section. Two distinct and opposite, or each to the proper location of a library. The one selects the one as a residence and the other as a grove which the Goddess of Wisdom is supposed to favor. Both spots naturally are to be found only in the residential districts. Some of the localities in our city have been located with a tendency in this direction. It is the purpose of the Rochester Public Library to have the better located, with reference to access.

Why not put it on top of the river. It is a perfect solution of the problem of cost and west side so far as it applies to the Central Library.
Project For City Central Library
Furthered At Meeting Of Trustees

BUILDING WOULD
OVERLOOK RIVER
AND BOULEVARD

Common Council Petitioned;
To Set Aside Site Sugges-
ted by Simon Adler,'n
Who Also Recommends
Type of Architecture.

The project of erecting a municipal
Central Library at Court street and
South avenue received great impetus
when the Public Library Board peti-
tioned the Common Council last night
to set aside the land shown on the orter
which is owned by the city for library
purposes.

The proposed site is bounded by
Court street, South avenue and the
new boulevard over the old Erie canal
and the Genesee river. Its purpose to
build the library over the Johnson-
Seymour race. The site, which is
worth half a million, will cost nothing.
The type of building to be built by the
trustees of the Public Library have in
mind, would cost about $1,900,000, of
which the city would pay $498,890 left to
the municipality by the Rundel estate.

A Norman of Simon L. Adler,
whose original idea it was to build a Central
Library on the site recom-
doned by the Library Board, was
depleted by the Council by no
trustees. Mr. Adler’s idea was pub-
lished exclusively in The Times-Union
some time ago. His statement that the architecture be of
the Collegiate or Tudor Gothic, modeled
on the famous Delaware and Hudson Railroad office
building in Albany, and architects are prepar-
ing sketches of a proposed building
along these lines.

It is not likely, however, that plans
or even the style of architecture for
the building will be made upon this
site. City Librarian William F. Yust
tsaid this morning that Invitations
would probably be sent out to architects all over the country asking
them to submit sketches for a building
that would suit the unusual site.

The Public Library Board of
Trus-
sees which petitioned the Common
Council to set aside the site for a
building, is composed of: H. H. Mc-
Wittie, president; Mayor Van
Zandt, ex-officio; Dr. Rush Rhoades,
Edward G. Miner, Mrs. Charles
Hunt, Mrs. George W. Mott, Mrs.
Charles F. Wray and William F. Yust
secretary and city librarian.

Mr. Yust has described the site as
follows:

City Librarian William F. Yust des-
ted the project of erecting a Cen-
tral Library in this manner:

The site is bounded by Court
street and the new boulevard which
is being built over the old Erie canal.
Facing Court street is the present Union
House between South avenue and the
river. It is about half a mile west from
Main street, the present street
throughout on the new street and boulevard.
This boulevard would be built at
the present south avenue, the old
street north and south east of the river.

It is only four minutes’ walk from
State and Exchange, the leading north
and south streets west of Court
street. Where the above mentioned
street would be the great transpor-
tation points of transportation. This will
re-

Proposed site of municipal Central Libra-
ry at Court street and South avenue.

Letters From Readers

Opposes River Site
For Central Library

Editor, Times-Union:

Before the location for the new
library building is decided, I would
like to make my protest against the pro-
posed river site. I am sure that the
people of Rochester—no matter their
South—would be anything but pictur-
esque, the building would be hidden
out of sight. Besides, I do not see
why it should be built there.

The building would be built on the
site, which is already owned by
the city, and would be a great
loss to the city. The site is
already occupied by the
museum and art gallery.

Charles P. Adams

5th Avenue
The Library Board's recommendation for a central library on the east bank of the Genesee river at the east end of the historic Aqueduct mentioned the possibility that the structure would be built in the Gothic type of architecture. The architects who have submitted the drawings reproduced above have taken that recommendation to mean the American adaptation of skyscraper architecture of the Flamboyant Gothic type that was developed in Northern France and Belgium. The large drawing at the top is a full view from the river side of a building in this tower topped by a lantern design. Many persons who have seen the designs have expressed a preference for the tower design at the lower left which presents almost unbroken vertical lines from the river, bed to its top. The drawing at the lower right shows another type of tower in this sort of Gothic.

A Central Library Site.

Suggestion of the site between Court street bridge and the new Aqueduct boulevard for location of a central library brings proper realization of this important civic project decidedly nearer.

That the land already is owned by the city is the first and most obvious advantage. Purchase of a site having anything like the same advantages with reference to location near the center of population and important transfer points would involve great expense.

Rochester needs a central library which will serve as a storehouse for a much larger collection of books than can be housed in any branch library. Such a library, by affording means for acquiring information along different lines and covering the field of good literature in a reasonably adequate fashion is the crown and capstone of the educational system of a large city.

Nearly every other city approaching the size of Rochester has such a library. Here such books as we have are scattered, with many duplications in lines where proper service would mean concentration of purchases and a more extensive and down-to-date collection.

If the city can take the initiative by providing a proper site it is to be hoped that some such combination of existing funds and foundations as has been worked out successfully in other cities can be effected here. The Rundel fund and the Reynolds library foundation come to mind at once in this connection.

Ultimate test of the value of a library is the number of readers and the extent to which they are benefited.

So far as the number of readers is concerned the argument for a location as central and as easily accessible as possible is conclusive.

Quality of service is the main argument for a large library. Only by the aid of such a collection, properly housed, can those who wish to "dig into" a subject and make extensive use of books for cultural, scientific and business purposes properly be served.

In addition to the advantages of present city possession and central location this site will give plenty of light and air on all sides. Its area of 320 by 200 feet is ample. There are said to be no engineering difficulties.

Let us hope the proposal to reserve this plot will mark real progress toward a central library worthy of Rochester.
LIBRARY SITE AT AQUEDUCT WINS INTEREST

Architectural Possibility Unrivaled, Particularly for Gothic Building.

OWNERSHIP, FACTOR

Fact It Is Held by City Means Fund Is Needed Only for Building.

Keep interest has been aroused throughout the city in the proposed new central library in South avenue, between Court street and the Aqueduct, since the recommendation of this site last week by the Library Board at its monthly meeting. Many people have visited the site and in so doing have tried to picture in their imagination what would be the type of architecture and the general appearance of the building in this particular setting.

At the suggestion of Charles H. Wilton, president of the Board of Library Trustees, the firm of Gordon and Kibbe, architects, made a number of studies of a library building for this location, and some of these are reproduced here as giving several possible types for the consideration of the public. While the final plans would be chosen as those deemed best suited for the needs, it is believed that these studies are in particular interest at this time as showing some of the possibilities of an exceptionally beautiful and picturesque structure at this site.

Advantages of Gothic.

Several Gothic types are shown here. A Gothic structure, which is the peculiar American development of the European original, seems to be the one generally favored so far in the discussion. This type is simple and solid and with the rising tower it is believed would be particularly suited to the location recommended. The straight lines built of blue stone from the bed of the river it is said would give the appearance of a building having risen in all its beauty from the river itself.

A building which would fulfill the future needs of the city for central library facilities and embrace the beauty of architecture in keeping with the ideals of the city and the dramatic possibilities of the river site, would cost not less than a million dollars, members of the Library Board say, adding that a structure costing less should not be erected in this location.

Site Owned by City.

As the site already is owned by the city, the entire appropriation could be expended in the building itself, but even at that, it is said the use of the Rundell fund of $400,000 is the only hope of
The Democrat and Chronicle on Sunday presented three designs for the proposed central library on the Aqueduct site in the Gothic type of architecture. Herewith is presented an alternate design in the classic manner.

The lower picture is a view of the proposed site taken from the south end of the Democrat and Chronicle building. The library site proposed has been marked out with the heavy black line.
Rochester Library Project
Described By Simon L. Adler
In Talk Before Lions Club

Site on River Front, on Property Acquired by City as Result of Erie Canal Purchase—Location Ideal for Erection of Great Central Library With Opportunity for Expansion if Found Necessary.

The Rochester Public Library project, its history and present status, were described by Assemblyman Simon L. Adler of 17 Argyll street, in an address before the Lions Club at the Hotel Rochester this noon. Mr. Adler has been closely connected with the plans of the library committee for the establishment of a central library to serve the entire city, and made clear just how far preparations for such a building have progressed.

Actual plans for erecting the library have not as yet been started, but the site of the building has been selected, and as soon as funds for construction are obtained, work on the proposed building will commence. Mr. Adler's remarks, briefly, were as follows:

"A city library has two principal purposes: the first is to provide for the current reading of the community, and the second is to serve as a reservoir for the knowledge of the ages. In Rochester, the development of the public library system in establishing branch libraries throughout the city has been calculated to fill in the first purpose. The other, and perhaps more important function can be fulfilled only by the establishment of a central library.

"Probably no other city of this size in the country is without a great central library. Rochester has a great many books available for reference, but these are to be found principally in the libraries of the University of Rochester and the Theological Seminary. The public library holds the city in this regard. These are open to the general public, but are not easily available.

"For some time past, it has been a subject for the thoughtful consideration of many persons, to determine when and where a central library should be erected. A number of sites were proposed. Finally, after the city acquired from the State of New York the abandoned Erie Canal, and when this property was sold, the site of a new subway which is now in course of construction, and for a new street parallel to the south, and crossing the river over the aqueduct, it was found that the city owned a comparatively large area situated directly in the main streets of the city, which could be utilized for the erection of a building or buildings of large size.

"Measurements made by the city engineer showed that in the area between South avenue Court street, the new street and the east bank of the river there was a space 260 feet wide and 320 feet long which could be utilized for a great public building. It was then suggested to Charles H. Wiltse chairman of the library board, that this would be an ideal site for the great central library for which the city had been waiting. Mr. Wiltse immediately saw the advantages of the location and made a study of the problem with the result that the library board has requested the city to set aside this site for the purpose.

"The space, as previously noted, is large enough for a building even of great size, which can be erected along the river bank, leaving sufficient space for a plaza between the building and South avenue. It is also large enough to provide space for any expansion of the building which may later be required.

"The location is ideal in that it is practically in the center of the city. It is so situated as to make it easy to reach in two or three minutes from any part of the business or financial section; it will also be at one of the main stations of the subway which is soon to become an important part of the city's transportation facilities.

"It will be a structure of such artistic merit and intrinsic beauty as to attract the attention of the people. As it is situated so that it can be used for the purpose of beautifying the river front, an opportunity which should eagerly be taken advantage of, as such opportunities have been in the past.

"On the whole, the location of a great public library on this site will be a tremendous advantage. The new library, both as an artistic and as an educational feature of the city's facilities."