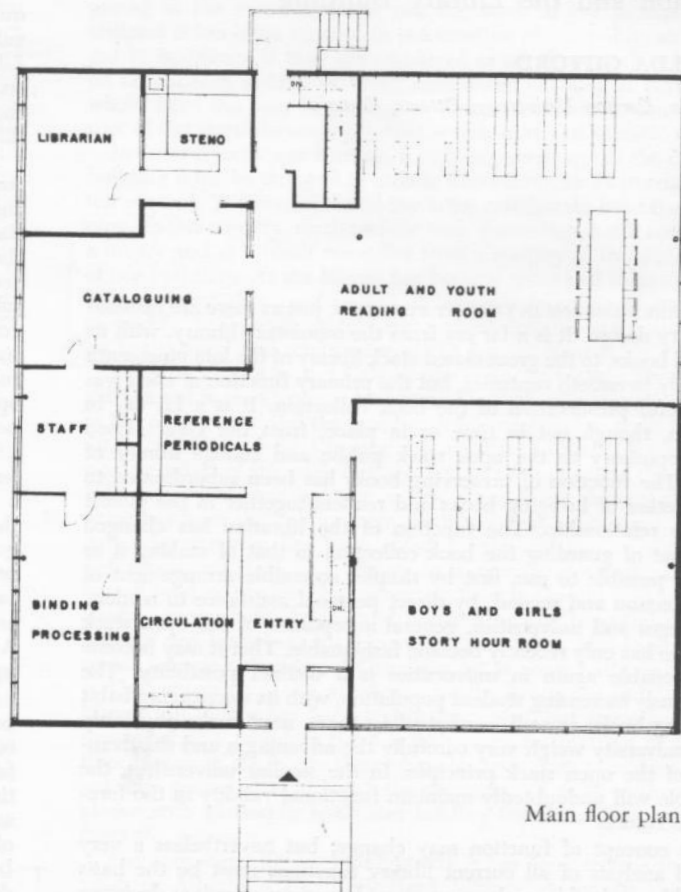


The St James Public Library was officially opened in January, 1958. It is the first library building to be constructed in Manitoba, designed specifically for that purpose, since the nineteen twenties, and is the result of the combined efforts of civic and service clubs in the City of St James. The library functions were formerly housed in a classroom of the adjacent Collegiate building. This space became inadequate with the rapid growth of St James as a city. A portion of the Collegiate site was acquired and the library building is sited fairly close to the Collegiate building. This is to encourage the use of the library by the students.

The building is designed with the main floor approximately four feet above grade. Below this level there is a full lower level presently utilized as a heating room, washrooms and storage areas. It is the intention to develop this lower level as the future boys' and girls' department, filing and cataloguing, as the expansion of the main reading room becomes necessary. In addition, the reinforced concrete and steel frame construction has been detailed to permit expansion vertically for a second floor. The total cost of the building was \$58,310.00, the cost per cubic foot is 72¢.

The lower level of the building is entirely of reinforced concrete with a cast-in-place reinforced concrete joist floor system on the main floor. The present roof and future second floor construction is of open web steel joists with a concrete deck carried on steel beams and columns. The walls are entirely of masonry construction with face brick exterior. The windows are a combination of aluminum double hung and hermetically sealed double glazing units. Interior finishes are as follows: Floors, linoleum tile; Walls, smooth plaster; Ceilings, acoustic tile.



Main floor plan

View of office and work area, with main entry at right

St James Public Library, St James, Manitoba

Architects, Smith Carter Searle Associates

