

SANTA CRUZ PUBLIC LIBRARY BUILDING PROGRAM

Santa Cruz Public Library Fact Sheet
Scrapbook

THE SANTA CRUZ PUBLIC LIBRARY: ITS HISTORY AND ORGANIZATION

The Central Library. The Santa Cruz Public Library was established in 1868. During the first 35 years of its existence it was housed in several small rented headquarters, such as the second floor of the Hotaling Building, and the second floor of the Williamson & Garrett Building.

In 1902, a Carnegie grant of \$20,000 was obtained through the efforts of Samuel Leask, Library Trustee, and the cornerstone of the present building was laid on September 29, 1903.

The library lot was part of the F. A. Hihn property and was purchased in 1902. The Ennor property, which is the present parking lot, was purchased in 1937.

The building has about 9,000 square feet for the two floors. All the library activities were originally carried on, on the first floor. The basement was used as a meeting room, museum room, and bicycle room, with the present storage area unfinished. The present catalog room and general work area was the meeting room for the Board of Trustees. The building was built when the population of the City of Santa Cruz was 9,000, had a book collection of 14,000 with expansion planned to 30,000 volumes.

In 60 years, the building has become seriously overcrowded with every available inch of room utilized for book stacks or work space. The basement meeting rooms are now used for the Music and Branch departments and the unexcavated area is now used for magazine files and books. The former bicycle room, approximately 10' x 20' is used for a processing area and staff room.

The East Santa Cruz Branch. The East Santa Cruz Branch at the intersection of Water Street and Soquel Avenue at Morrissey, was built in 1920 with \$3,000 of Carnegie money and \$1,500 subscribed by interested citizens, largely of the East Santa Cruz area. It was built on a park site deeded to the City by H. Slickerman.

Now, the East Santa Cruz Library is the largest and busiest of the Santa Cruz branches and serves an active community and school district of approximately 10,000. Seriously overcrowded, its 870 square feet of floor space and seating capacity for 22 people are totally inadequate for the needs of the area. There are approximately 6,500 books at the East Santa Cruz branch and 25,000 volumes should be available for the size of the area served.