

Opened December 3, 2001

POLAND LIBRARY

Public Library of Youngstown and Mahoning County



The Public Library
YOUNGSTOWN & MAHONING CO.
19 LOCATIONS and THE WEB • www.LibraryVisit.org

Poland Library
311 South Main Street, Poland, Ohio 44514

Public Library of Youngstown & Mahoning County
305 Wick Avenue, Youngstown, Ohio 44503

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Poland Library History

Adding to the Poland Library's beautiful design and high usage of recycled materials, the new library features a rich history.

Poland, Ohio, founded in 1796, had become a prominent educational center in the 1800s with the creation of numerous private schools and colleges.

The first Poland Library, and the first county branch of the Reuben McMillan Free Library of Youngstown, was dedicated on May 1, 1935. Located in a small room on the first floor of Town Hall, the Library boasted a collection of 1,377 volumes.

In 1941, the Library moved to larger quarters on the second floor of Town Hall, and in 1962 it moved for the third time to the north side of the historic Kennedy house, which was later the Poland Municipal Building. In 1965, a one-story colonial design library was built at 311 Main Street, overlooking scenic Yellow Creek.

The new Poland Library, designed by noted architects, the 4M Company, has two special historic features. The building includes stone window surrounds salvaged from the previous Poland Library, to bring a part of the past into the new facility. Another special feature of this new library is the inclusion of the once-adjacent building into its design. The roofed building seen at the far left as you face the Poland Library, whose design is replicated across the front, has historic significance as the former Poland Union Seminary Dormitory. Subsequently, the building served for 54 years as a home for the Steinfeld family, and, most recently, corporate offices of Panelmatic.

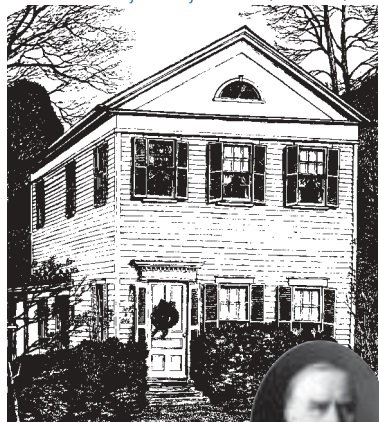


Above: In 1941 Poland Library moved to the second floor of Town Hall from its previous location on the first floor. Right: Inside view of Poland Library, circa 1951.



Above: The new Library replaces a one-story colonial built in 1965.

Poland Union Seminary Dormitory -- Chet Hunt, Illustration, 1970



Although he never resided in its dormitory, Poland Union Seminary's most famous student was William McKinley (1843-1901), 25th President of the United States.

Built in 1846, the structure was first the home of and store of Poland merchant, John Hunter and was purchased in 1894 by the Presbyterian Church for use as a dormitory for the Poland Union Seminary School. Although he never resided in its dormitory, Poland Union Seminary's most famous student was William McKinley (1843-1901), 25th President of the United States. McKinley resided in a home in Poland.

Home to scores of male students through the first two decades of the 20th century, the Dormitory eventually fell into disuse and was abandoned. Judge Kennedy, a prominent Poland resident who lived directly across the street, decided in 1924 that restoration was a better option than razing. He purchased the building and began extensive renovations. The Steinfeld family lived here from 1930-1984. The building later housed the corporate offices of Panelmatic.

It is a fitting tribute that the "cornerstone" of the new Poland Library was also a cornerstone of education in Poland's history. The Old Dormitory is an important part of Poland Village's heritage and its inclusion in the Library architecture ensures that this heritage will continue to be known to future generations.

7-2005

Public Library of Youngstown & Mahoning Co.

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Poland Library – Destined to Become a Landmark

Designed with a traditional, timeless look, reflecting the classical Greek Revival architecture of the Western Reserve, the new Poland Library is destined to become a landmark in Mahoning County. This library was carefully conceived and planned to attain several goals:

- *to become a center of education, meet lifelong learning needs of area residents and be a gathering place for people of all ages.*
- *to attract visitors from other parts of the county, as a full-service library in the Mahoning County Library system.*
- *to blend harmoniously with its surroundings.*
- *to demonstrate that beauty, durability & functionality can be achieved using “Earth-friendly” materials.*

Features of the New Poland Library

- The main floor has 15,020 square feet of library space and the lower level has 15,580. (Previous library was 4,600 sq. ft.) The total building is 35,619 square feet, which includes terraces and porches, an upper level overview area (not open to the public) and staff area. The parking lot has 90 spaces.
- The library was designed to house a collection of 70,000 items – 75% larger than the previous building. At opening, the collection was about 20% larger and will grow over time. The main floor includes staff areas, children’s and adult collections, videos, books-on-cassette, CDs, reference materials, a children’s activity room, a young adult area, and a reading area overlooking Yellow Creek.
- The lower level houses a meeting room which seats 125. Lower-level areas which will generate income for the library include the cafe and upcoming Council of Friends bookstore. The fully functional CHAPTERS cafe is the first library cafe in the Mahoning Valley. It is owned and operated by Thymely Events, Inc.
- Extensive use of natural lighting and special insulating glass reduces the need for artificial lighting and contributes to a building that will consume less energy.
- The use of local artisans to craft tables, art work and other aspects of the building brings added recognition and awareness to the breadth and depth of local talent. *Examples: 18th century style wooden tables and cabinets by J.L. Treharn of Youngstown; decorative hardware by blacksmith Robert Kurz of Canfield; iron railing by Pedaline Ornamental Iron, Youngstown; handcrafted bronze plaques by Wendell August Forge; reading room art work by Phyllis Beard; fountain by Poland artist Tom Antonishak; Windsor chairs and benches handcrafted by Amish of Berlin, OH, and Lancaster, PA, and finished by Youngstown Furniture and Refinishing; outdoor gold leaf sign by Cape Cod Signs, Warren.*



What did the library cost?

- The need for a new library was determined through the long-range planning process over five years ago and Trustees began then to set aside funds for a new Poland Library.
- The Poland Library project has changed several times since planning began. The project started with initial bids awarded for \$6.5 million for a 35,610 sq. ft. building, with a complete main floor, meeting room, and 83 parking spaces. This averaged \$194 per sq. ft. with large areas of the lower level incomplete.
- More parking was added when adjacent properties became available. Two income-producing activities were added to the lower level – a cafe and bookstore (note: the Library does not own either, but will receive income from both). These added \$357,000 to the project. Grants and community support played a major role in underwriting the project – over \$800,000 has been donated. All of the artwork, including the cupola and future statue fountain have been made possible by generous donations.
- The completed project, after donations, with parking for 90 cars and completion of all areas, cost the Library \$6.078 million or \$170 per square foot. (Note: furnishings cost was \$559,000 and adds \$15.71 to the cost per square foot.) The cost is comparable to other libraries being built in Ohio and nearby states. Cost per square foot of libraries completed between 1999 and 2000 is \$137 to \$440 in the midwest.

About the "Green Architecture"

In addition to its timeless beauty, this library was built with Earth-friendly products. The concept of creating a cost-effective, highly functional library that is also an example of the highest principles of "green architecture" was a task both challenging and inspiring. The Public Library of Youngstown & Mahoning County, along with 4M Company Architects & Planners and the Recycling Division of Mahoning County, rose to the challenge with the new Poland Library.

This library is one of the foremost "green architecture" projects in the Mahoning Valley – using materials from sustainable resources which are recyclable, affordable and easy-to-maintain. A \$400,000 grant from the Recycling Division of Mahoning County helped offset the cost of using recycled materials. The use of recycled materials and energy-efficient features is already drawing the attention of national publications to the Mahoning Valley.

A permanent display in the library's lower level serves as an educational tool for students and those concerned with environmental issues and the application of high-performance, sustainable materials that protect our environment.



WINDOW & DOOR

FRAMES – Pella windows and doors. Made of 95% recycled aluminum. Glass has 15% recycled content. Insulating glass was used for energy efficiency.

DECORATIVE SURROUNDS

Decorative stone window surrounds from the original Poland Library were placed in the new facility to retain a part of the past.



RECYCLED BUILDING – A unique example of true recycling is the reuse of a historic structure adjacent to the new Poland Library site. The far left portion of the Library (as seen above) is the former Poland Seminary Dormitory. (See back for more information.)



WOOD FLOORING – Recycled from old New England barns.



LANDSCAPE STONE WALLS – From old stone homes and barns.



CARPETING – Made from reclaimable materials.



PARKING LOT – Made of recycled asphalt and tires.



ROOFING – Ecostar roofing made of 100 percent recycled tires, rubber and plastics. Virtually indistinguishable from natural slate and just as durable, yet only one-quarter the weight.



SIDING AND TRIM – James Hardie siding composed of cement and recycled wood fibers. Exterior and interior trim is Georgia Pacific Prime Trim, composed of glue and recycled wood fibers.