

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name Hoboken Free Public Library and Manual Training School, Hoboken, New Jersey
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 500 Park Avenue not for publication
city or town Hoboken vicinity
state New Jersey code 034 county Hudson code 09 zip code 07030

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official Date

Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National Register

other (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

<input type="checkbox"/>	private
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>	
<u>1</u>		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION/Library

EDUCATION/School

Current Functions//
(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION/Library

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE VICTORIAN/Italian Renaissance Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Brick

walls: Brick

Stone-Limestone

roof: Composite

other: _____

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary

The Hoboken Free Public Library, designed by architect Albert Beyer (1846-1922) occupies the northwest corner of Park Avenue (east elevation) and Fifth Street (south elevation) on 0.15 acre of land (City of Hoboken Tax Block 167, Lot 24) directly across Fifth Street from Church Square Park, which occupies two city blocks (between Fourth Street on the south and Fifth Street on the north and

between Garden Street on the east and Willow Avenue on the west.¹ The four-story Hoboken Free Public Library and Manual Training School – three stories atop a partially exposed below-grade basement -- faces south onto Fifth Street (an east-west street) at the right-angle intersection of Park Avenue (a north-south street) in Hoboken, New Jersey. The highly ornamented exterior is constructed of brick, terra cotta, bluestone, and limestone. The primary elevation, 61 feet wide along Fifth Street, is six bays wide. It is built to the property line. The secondary elevation, 95 feet along Park Avenue, is nine bays deep. It is built 5 feet 7 inches to the west of the property line, thereby creating a below-grade light well for the basement windows as well as space for two set of six steps leading to the two doors in the basement wall. Anchoring the building on the street intersection is a tower articulated by its one-foot projection from both the primary façade and secondary façade. It is topped with a beehive-shaped dome. The dome projects above the parapet wall that forms the top feature of both facades. The parapet wall hides the roof ridge from street-level view. A flagpole that originally projected straight up from the top of the dome has been removed; a replacement flagpole extends from the second floor façade on Fifth Street. Original ornamentation has been removed from the parapet wall. The building's rectangular floor plan is supplemented by an original four-story projection on the building's northwest corner, visible only, and barely, through the walkway to it from Fifth Street. The City of Hoboken's Church Square Park provides frontage not only for the Hoboken Free Public Library and Manual Training School on Fifth Street but also frontage on Garden Street on the east and Willow Avenue on the west for several prominent civic and ecclesiastical structures constructed during the subject building's period of significance (a public school, church, rectory, and parochial school, as well as a monument within the park honoring volunteer firefighters). Entry to the library portion of the Hoboken Free Public Library and Training School is from Fifth Street. The entry to the space formerly used by the school, on Park Avenue, now is used solely as an emergency exit. The interior of the building, particularly the portions of the building that have remained in library use since the period of significance, are highly detailed. Both the exterior and interior appear to be in good condition. The library portion of the building continues to perform its original purpose. The former school portions of the building have been adapted for library use or are the subject of a historic rehabilitation plan that the Board of Trustees plans to implement. The main structural system consists of masonry load-bearing exterior walls and three internal bearing walls of mixed masonry and cast iron girders. The foundation rests on piles sunk into soft, sandy soil.² The first-floor slab is concrete barrel vaulting formed of corrugated metal barrel vaults set into the bottom flange of cast iron beams. Cast iron columns supplement the girders by providing support from the basement floor

¹At the time the library was constructed, the adjacent building to the north was the Turn Verein, a social club for Hoboken's then-large population of recent immigrants from the portions of Europe that now are part of Germany. To the west stood the Hoboken Academy, a three-story building constructed in 1861 with partial financial assistance from Edwin Augustus Stevens (1795-1868). The Hopkins map of 1873 indicates that the lot immediately to the west of the library site was improved with a residence, as was the adjacent lot to the north of the library, according to its depiction on the fire-insurance map available from the prior year closest to the date of the library's construction. See G. M. Hopkins, *Combined Atlas of the State of New Jersey and the County of Hudson* (Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins & Company), 1873.

² Albert Beyer, "Free Public Library and Manual Training School, Hoboken, N.J., Plan Showing Pileing [sic] and Foundations," Drawing VI, January 14, 1896, shows the proposed location of 298 pilings. Their average length was 18 feet, according to the library trustees' 1897 annual report.

In specifying pilings, Beyer very likely took cognizance of the work that his business partner at the time, Thomas H. McCann, who also was the city's surveyor, had produced for the city in 1890: McCann and a co-consultant, Alphonse Eteley, recommended a sewage-pumping and drainage system for the low-lying portions of the city that until the middle of the 19th Century had been marshland. (See Daniel Van Winkle, editor, *History of the Municipalities of Hudson County New Jersey, 1630-1923* (New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, 1924), Volume I, p. 297.) Until real estate developers began draining the low-lying portions of the city in the 1860s, marsh grass grew to within a few dozen feet north of what would become the library's building site, according to an 1880 map, "Sanitary & Topographical Map of Hudson County, N.J., by Spielmann & Brush, civil engineers in Hoboken. The site on which the library would be built was six feet above mean high tide, according to Spielmann & Brush.

to library's books stacks on first floor above as well as to a mezzanine between the first floor and second floor. The second and third floors are built upon wood joist platforms. Reinforcing the wood joists under the second floor are iron straps. The roof is a timber-truss system reinforced with wrought-iron straps and iron tie rods. Perpendicular to the trusses are wood purlins. The roof ridge follows a north-south alignment. A four-story elevator tower was added in 2007 in the inside angle of the building's western façade and the south façade of the original projection. The elevator tower is accessible from Fifth Street through an exterior passage.

Exterior³

Architecture:

The Hoboken Free Public Library and Manual Training School displays the organic shades of building material and highly-stylized ornamentation that are characteristic of the Italian Renaissance Revival style of the Late Victorian period (Photograph #1).

The building rests on a rusticated base constructed of Wyoming bluestone, a course of Indiana limestone with rock-faced center panels and patent-hammered borders extending from grade level to just below the first-floor window sills. The base is interrupted on the Fifth Street elevation with four windows that open onto the public sidewalk. They align with the windows above. (Photograph #2) Originally the first floor windows were shaded by awnings.⁴ (Contextual Photograph #1)

The first floor of the Fifth Street elevation is finished with a course of flush-sawn Indiana limestone with projecting corner quoins. Eight steps rise to the entrance. The bottom tread and threshold are finely dressed bluestone; red-hued terrazzo, coated with a yellow substance that has worn away in heavily trafficked area, was the primary material used in constructing the steps. Heavily trafficked treads in the center portion have been patched with modern-day roughly dressed bluestone and cement. The entrance steps lead from the sidewalk to the pedimented entry supported by two fluted columns with Scamozzi Ionic capitals, a limestone pediment with the words "Free Public Library" and an arched entry doorway. (Photograph #3) The design drawings that architect Albert Beyer prepared on January 14, 1896 and that library trustees' representatives signed (hereafter referred to as the "architect's plans" or "original plans") show a double door with raised wooden panels by and that were, remaining physical evidence suggests, double doors recessed from the limestone door entry and hinged to swing into the vestibule where they were hooked open during library hours. At some point they were replaced with an out-of-period single, one-lite door that opens outward from wooden framing introduced into the original masonry doorway surround. (Photograph #2)

³ This architectural description is an elaboration upon, and uses architectural terminology from, a draft written by Dennis J. Kowal, architectural consultant hired by the Hoboken Public Library to prepare a preservation plan.

In addition, this architectural description was written with advice from Paul J. Somerville, Chair of the Hoboken Historic Preservation Commission, and Joan Abel, Vice Chair of the Commission, including their review of original architectural plans preserved by the Hoboken Public Library and described in the bibliography of this registration form, as well as minutes and annual reports from the library's Board of Trustees during the period of significance and from the 1980s through the present that Allen Kratz reviewed.

⁴ The trustees authorized the purchase of awnings from the firm of W.F. Harrison, according to the trustees' minutes of May 14, 1897.

The second and third floors are finished with pressed yellow (buff) iron-flecked brick⁵ with tight joints. (Photograph #4) At the second floor, three pairs of semicircular, arched windows face Fifth Street with an orange-red terra cotta horizontal belt course aligning with the base of the arch surrounds. A flagpole protrudes from the window column above the pediment at a nearly horizontal angle. A terra cotta floral-motif medallion is centered between the first two pairs of arches just below the second terra cotta belt course that delineates the third floor. Two pairs of flat-topped windows appear at the third floor with a single flat-topped window flanked by two oval windows at the third floor tower. Terra cotta quoins mark the corners of the projecting tower and also the brickwork at the second and third floors. (Photograph #5) A terra cotta frieze runs just below a projecting copper cornice along the two street facades. The copper cornice has tightly spaced copper eave brackets and continuous dentil molding. Originally the cornice was designed to include and was constructed with antefixes topped with a series of palmettes and anthemias. They since have been replaced with an aluminum drip edge. (Image #9, Image #10 and Image #16 for original design; Contextual Photograph #2 and Contextual Photograph #18 for original construction; Photograph #5 and Photograph #6 for current condition). The tower is capped with a dome roofed with plastic-composition material designed to look historic, as well as three decorative terra cotta urns. (Photograph #6) The fourth corner of the tower, not visible to the public below, has no urn.

The secondary (east) façade along Park Avenue is detailed in a manner similar to the Fifth Street façade. In contrast, however, to the Fifth Street façade's fenestration, the fenestration pattern on Park Avenue varies significantly from floor to floor to best serve the building's functions within. (Photograph #7) Nine windows pierce the rusticated base along Park Avenue. Two small windows in the base of the tower projection (closest to Fifth Street) admit light to the original Coal and Wood Storage Room (now used for general, non-fuel storage).⁶ (Image #1 for original design; Image #5 for existing layout) The next set of openings to the north – a door, a narrow window, a window and a second narrow window– provides light to the original Work Room for the library (now the staff entrance and staff space). Completing the basement fenestration are four full-size windows illuminating a Classroom of the former manual training school (now unused space). The final opening in the basement is a service-entrance doorway into the spandrel under the former Manual Training School's nine-step, gray-painted stone exterior stairway at the northern end of the building. (Photograph #8) An original cast iron grillwork door blocks unauthorized entry to the area under the stairs. A window well outside all but the two northernmost windows leads to the public sidewalk approximately four feet above by means of two sets of six-tread modern black-painted, diamond-pattern steel-plate stairways that replaced the original seven-tread steps. The architect's plans indicate that the original steps were constructed of iron. A waist-high fence separates the sidewalk from the window well below. (Photograph #13) Some of the railing's original elements have not survived -- for example, crenellation on the top railing (only a fragmentary remnant remains) and C-scrolls within the twisted straight-iron bar armature that supports the top railing (remnants of what appears to be C-scrolls remain).. A non-original iron railing constructed of straight iron-bar stock continues the alignment of the original light-well railing to the front of the building, forming a sidewalk-level enclosure used by patrons for parking strollers. The retaining wall is constructed of yellow (buff) iron-flecked brick.

The first floor of the Park Avenue façade, like the Fifth Street façade, is finished with a course of flush-sawn Indiana limestone with projecting corner quoins of limestone. The entrance leads to the

⁵ "Old Gold pressed brick" is the description in the library trustee's 1897 annual report.

⁶ To facilitate use of this registration form in conjunction with architect Albert Beyer's original architectural drawings, this Section 7 uses his capitalization and punctuation as a way of distinguishing the original uses from current uses. Current uses are not designated with initial capital letters.

space formerly used for industrial education, still designated as “Manual Trade School” in the limestone pediment. (Photograph #9) Unlike the library entrance, the school entrance lacks limestone columns and instead is flanked by stacked limestone quoins. The original double doors, hinged to swing outward, are intact. Eight windows pierce the first floor façade on Park Avenue. Two windows in the tower projection (closest to Fifth Street) admit light to the former Reference Room (now the director’s office). The next two windows, flanked by total of three narrow windows, admit light to the former Librarian’s Room and Cataloguer’s Room (now office space). Unlike the three evenly-spaced windows directly above on the second-floor elevation, the remaining four windows on the first-floor façade on Park Avenue are tightly spaced. They generally are aligned with, and admit light to, the rows between the floor-to-ceiling book shelving in the library’s Stack Room, still used for its original purpose. (Image #2 for original design; Image #6 for existing layout)

The second and third floors of the Park Avenue elevation are finished with pressed yellow (buff) iron-flecked brick with tight joints. At the second floor, nine semicircular, arched windows face Park Avenue with an orange-red terra cotta horizontal belt course aligning with the base of the arch surrounds. (Photograph #7) The southernmost two windows, in the tower projection, admit light to the original Reading Room (still used for its original purpose). The next five windows repeat the Fifth Street façade pattern: terra cotta medallions flank the windows just below the second terra cotta belt course that marks the third floor. The two southernmost windows of the five windows illuminate the former Library Trustee’s Room (now used as a reference room). The second two windows admit light to the room formerly used as the Reading and Daily Newspapers Room (currently the computer/internet room). The next window to the north, along with a pair of windows above the entrance to the school, provides light for the school’s former Cooking Room (now the periodicals room of the library) (Image #3 for original design; Image #7 for existing layout)

On the third floor Park Avenue façade, as on the Fifth Street façade, the tower is pierced by a single flat-topped window flanked by two oval windows. The five windows in the central portion of the Park Avenue façade align with the five windows on the second floor. (Photograph #7) The third floor windows admit light to the large third-floor space that school and library originally used at different times during the week or month as their shared Assembly Room (now used for children’s books) and the original Carpenterwork Room (subsequently converted into school classrooms now used by the library as an ancillary children’s room, office space and two classrooms). (Image #4 for original design; Image #8 for existing layout)

The building’s two other facades are detailed simply. The west façade faces a narrow walkway, and is constructed of red brick and bluestone sills and lintels (Photograph #10) with the exception of one bay at its south end. The southernmost bay, which is visible to passersby traveling east on Fifth Street, matches the primary façade. (Photograph #11) The west façade shows evidence of a former fire escape (removed) and the closing up of former windows and opening new doorways to accommodate functional changes (a new interior staircase added in 1914-1915 and an elevator tower added in 2007). A rusted iron crane attached to the northwest corner of the tower projection on the west façade appears to have been used to hoist ash cans from the basement level boiler room up to the level of Fifth Street. The north façade abuts an adjacent two-story building; only the uppermost portions of north wall, which are stuccoed, are visible from street level. (Photograph #12)

Existing Conditions:

The condition of the exterior is good and very little has changed from the time of construction. The original iron-flecked brick retaining wall adjacent to the public sidewalk by the Park Avenue window well shows signs of lateral shifting – mainly along the top five courses of brick in the four-foot high wall. Decorative ironwork grills continue to protect the basement windows in the tower on the Fifth

Street elevation and the tower portion of the Park Avenue elevation. Wire-mesh grilles protect the other basement windows.

The original slate, limestone, brick fabric, and decorative terra cotta friezes on the primary facades remain as constructed in 1896-1897. The copper frieze is original to the building, but shows evidence soldering and patching repairs. Ornamental copper antefixes on top of the copper frieze have been removed and replaced with an aluminum drip edge. The copper cornice is attached to iron brackets that are attached to wood strips anchored to the brick and masonry wall. Certain terra cotta details were re-pointed with a pinkish mortar that does not match the original red mortar. (Photograph #3, Photograph #4, Photograph #5)

The current windows are painted wood replacement windows with insulating glass, installed in the late 1970s.⁷ The typical window is a large double-hung window with single-pane sashes. Photographs of the original windows show single-pane sashes. (Contextual Photograph #1)

The original cupola was roofed in copper and supported a 50-foot flagpole on top of the dome. (Contextual Photograph #2) The original architectural drawings indicate that the friezes at the base of the cupola had elaborate carved wood scrollwork, and copper lion heads at the transition between dome and terra cotta frieze below it. (Contextual Photograph #3) The original hip-style main roof was slate. Records found in the library's archive indicate that the roofing system, both copper dome and slate hip roof, was prone to leaks.

Interior

The floor plans, interior partitions and finishes retain much of their original function and form – with certain key changes. The following description utilizes, with original initial capital letters and punctuation, the names of the spaces as shown on the original architectural drawings (for example, Images #1-#4) as a way of providing a historical context for the present-day uses (Images #5-#8).⁸ Minor revisions and additions are described in the “additions” section below. Images #9 and #10 are two drawings from the 13-sheet set of original drawings, itemized in the bibliography. Images #9 and #10 show, respectively, a cross section from the primary (Fifth Street) elevation and a longitudinal section from the secondary (Park Avenue) elevation. The text below is based upon a review of the original drawings in conjunction with the chair and vice chair of the Hoboken Historic Preservation Commission, minutes and annual reports of the trustees of the library and industrial education association that operated the Manual Training School, and a detailed contemporaneous newspaper account.

Basement

Configuration of Space:

Access to the basement is by five means: two exterior doorways from Park Avenue and a third exterior doorway from the walkway on the opposite elevation as well as two interior stairways, one from the original library portion of the building and one from the former Manual Training School portion. The first exterior door on Park Avenue, 28½ feet on center north of the Fifth Street elevation,

⁷ Mayo, Lynch & Assoc., Inc. *Proposed Boiler & Window Replacements for Hoboken Free Public Library*, September 21, 1978 (set of five drawings).

⁸ _____, “Hoboken’s Library. Will be One of the Best Structures in the State. For Manual Training,” *Jersey Journal*, January 30, 1897, p. 7 (detailed description of interior fixtures and finishes).

enters into a vestibule and walkway separating, to the south, a storage room (the former Coal and Wood storage room), Adjacent to it is a room housing a furnace (the former Ash Pit and Boiler). Adjacent to the north of those utility spaces are a staff room and storage room. Those spaces formerly were occupied by the Vestibule, Hall and Workroom for Library. The room next to Park Avenue gained light from three windows into an exterior window well and, on the opposite wall, from windows glazed in ground glass facing an interior landing at the foot of the stairs from the first floor the library. The casement windows remain. The original book lift up to the office space in the former Cataloguer's Room directly above is operable but not used. Under the stairway to the library is a storeroom (originally the Librarian's Toilet) and a staff restroom (originally the library's General Toilet). The area at the foot of the stairs has been equipped with a sink, refrigerator, storage cabinets and microwave for staff use. The former Class Room for the Manual Training School, measuring 30 feet, 2 inches along the window elevation and 45 feet, 8 inches deep, occupied much of the basement and now is vacant. Four cylindrical iron columns support the book stacks on the first floor and first-floor mezzanine directly above. Four windows into the Park Avenue window well provided light, as did, originally, four windows into the walkway on the west façade. The four windows on the west facade have been blocked up.

The second exterior basement door on Park Avenue is 8 feet on center south of the northern building line. Access to that door is under the spandrel formed by the masonry steps to the former Manual Training School above. The door enters into a lobby (formerly the Hall) 14 feet, 6 inches wide and 41 feet long. The Hall was designed to house two means of access to the upper levels of the former Manual Training School. One is the existing interior stairway built on the north, west and eastern walls of the space from the basement to the third floor.

An interior doorway at the western wall of the basement hallway leads to a former classroom, now vacant, at the rear of the building, shown on the original plans as a Store Room. A door and two windows provided access to an exterior space, currently unused. Next to the Passage was the Boy's [sic] Toilet Room. The portion that remains currently is used for storage. An air shaft provided air to the Boy's Toilet Room. A door from the Passage led to an exterior walkway to Fifth Street. Construction of the elevator has eliminated that door. A second access to the walkway exists next to the former Boiler room.

The architect's plans show a vent duct in the basement, parts of which remain suspended in the former basement Classroom, underneath the Book Stacks one floor above. The remaining vent duct appears to be part of the heating system that the trustees described in their 1897 annual report as a combined fresh-air/steam radiator system that provided warmed fresh air to the building's public spaces. By contrast, they wrote, "artificial ventilation is only provided for the [book] stack room" directly above, by means of a "galvanized iron duct" was connected to the vent flue that emanated from the boiler. Inspection of the location of the remaining duct work and the original plans indicate that the "artificial" hot air was vented into the book stack area through a vent that rose from the basement in its northern wall. A contemporaneous news account stated that the building "will be heated by means of a large tubular boiler, and in an indirect method by taking the outside air through the radiators...[thereby providing] a constant stream of fresh warm air passing through the rooms."

The former Boiler Room also appears to have been the focal point of a passive-hot air method supplementing steam-radiator heat to the three public rooms above the basement: the former Women's Reading Room on the first floor, the Reading Room on the second floor and the former Assembly Room on the third floor. It appears that smoke from the coal-fired boiler was designed to exit the building through a 20-inch-diameter flue located within the three-foot square masonry chimney protruding from the western elevation. Presumably the heat generated by the smoke pipe heated air that passively rose through the chimney that it shared with the self-contained smoke pipe. The vent registers depicted in the non-wood-burning fireplaces built in the rooms above each other on the first,

second and third floors of the chimney stack would have distributed the heated air into the adjacent public-use rooms on the upper floors – a supplement to the fresh-air-intake radiators described below

Architectural Features:

The ceiling height is 10 feet, 2 inches. Basement walls are generally full plaster with a painted wood base, or bead-board wainscot. The exterior walls of the former Boiler and Storage Rooms are exposed brick. The ceilings are concrete barrel vaults that support the poured concrete floor of the building's first floor. The floors are poured concrete. The floors of the rooms used for purposes other than utilities have composite floor tiles. Slate blackboards in the former Class Room are trimmed in wood casing. Four painted eight-inch diameter cast-iron columns in the former Class Room support the book stacks on the first floor and mezzanine above it on the first floor. (Photograph #39)

First floor

Configuration of Space:

The first floor is rectangular in plan, 50 feet, 3 inches by 95 feet with an extension off of the northwest corner measuring 19 feet, 6 inches by 25 feet.

Entry to the library is by means of eight steps up from the Fifth Street sidewalk through an arched doorway five feet, six inches wide and nine feet high. The entrance leads to the Vestibule. Two additional steps within the vestibule lead up to a set of double doors glazed with beveled glass and hanging on spring-loaded double-swing hinges that allow them to swing in either direction or be hooked open in either position. The doors retain their original finish, which showcases their dark-wood construction. The leading edge of each door retains what appears to be original rubberized weather-stripping. Beyond the double doors is a continuation of the vestibule (on his plans Beyer distinguished the Vestibule from what he called the Inner Hall). A second set of double doors is set within an archway at the northern end of the vestibule. The two glazed double doors within that set of double doors are hinged in a wood-frame structure that once housed a revolving door.

The original plans show no revolving door but the trustees minutes show that adding a second set of interior doors was an early addition. Six months after their new building opened, the trustees approved an expenditure of \$375 to the Van Kannel Revolving Door Company for what, at the time, was a decade-old invention to mitigate air penetration into public buildings: a revolving door installed in a partial-circle wooden enclosure. At some point the revolving-door functionality was discarded and the doors, which appear to have been adaptively reused from the original installation, now swing on double-swing hinges. Today, the remaining evidence of the revolving doors is a hole in the terrazzo floor that housed the pin on which the doors revolved and a second flush-mounted grommet in the floor into which a lock presumably was dropped to lock the door. Whether the revolving-door feature was removed because it impeded passage by an ever-increasing number of library patrons or because they prevent rapid evacuation in an emergency was found in research for this nomination.

The erstwhile revolving-door entry is set within an arch that leads to the library's central lobby. Called "Public" on Beyer's plans, the lobby provides patrons access to a room in the southwest corner of the building that currently houses audio visual resources. Formerly the room was the Women's Reading Room. The lobby opens to the stairway to the second floor, and accommodates a circulation counter that appears to have been built in the middle of the 20th Century. (Photograph #14) Until 1912 the library operated on a "closed-stack" circulation system. In that system, patrons in the lobby approached counter with a grille that separated the lobby from staff members who worked in the Stack Room. Patrons submitted their requests through a grilled window, which still exists (but is not

used). (Contextual Photograph #4) Also adjacent to the lobby is the door to the secretarial space (formerly the Library Director's Room) that adjoins the current library director's office on the southeast corner of the building. The current library director's office originally was the Reference Room. In its original configuration, the Reference Room was accessible to patrons through a Passage from the lobby. The Passage is now blocked off and use for storage; currently reference services are provided on the second floor. Also behind the lobby wall is secretarial space (formerly the Cataloguer's Room), accessible only from the Librarian's Room and the Stack Room

The library's concentration of book shelves (called the Stack Room) is the largest space on the first floor, measuring 31 feet along the Park Avenue elevation and 46 feet deep. A contemporaneous news account stated that it could house 100,000 volumes. The stack area contains a mezzanine, accessible by a set of steel stairs in the southeast corner of the space. (Photograph #15) Although the mezzanine covers the entire square footage of the space, it appears that originally the central part of the mezzanine was open to the level below. The architect's first-floor plan shows a spiral staircase with 10 treads located adjacent to the desk at which patrons would hand their book requests to the library staff. A dotted line indicates that above the main level a structure – a mezzanine -- extended eight feet from each wall, creating an open area measuring 30 feet by 15 feet below. At some point, that 450-square foot open area was decked over by the addition of I-beams bolted to the four columns that support the mezzanine. The mezzanine is 6 feet, 7 inches above the main level.

At the northwest corner of the book shelving area, a three-foot wide door leads in an angled wall provides access to the lobby for the elevator tower and restrooms that were added during 2006-2007. Those additions utilized the space that formerly was the Women's Lunch Room for library staff and the Board of Trustees Room for the Manual Training School.

Access to the former Manual Training School from Park Avenue is via a nine-tread set of steps, possibly constructed of bluestone, that now is covered with gray paint. The steps lead to an arched doorway. A set of double doors, with decorative iron grillwork and a fanlight with original iron filigree, form the entryway. The entrance from Park Avenue leads through a vestibule to the vestibule and entry hall of the former Manual Training School. (Photograph #24) The vestibule's western partition is an assemblage of a set of double doors, side lites and glazed transoms housed in a dark-stained wooden structure embellished with Corinthian-capped fluted pilasters and egg-and-dart molding. The raised-panel double doors are hinged to swing in either direction. The doors retain their original beveled-glass lites, hardware and original finish, which showcases their dark-wood construction. The leading edge of each door retains what appears to be original rubberized weather-stripping. The lobby provides access to the stairway up to the second and third floors of the Manual Training School (Photograph #25). A closed wood staircase descends to the basement from the entry hall.

Mounted on the wall of the lobby is a marble plaque measuring 36 inches high by 28 inches wide that identifies the Stevens family donors and the industrial education trustees.⁹

Architectural Features:

⁹ The inscription reads:

MANUAL TRAINING SCHOOL, HOBOKEN 1896. BY THE LIBERALITY OF MRS. M.B. STEVENS, MRS. JOHN STEVENS AND MR. RICHARD STEVENS THE ERECTION OF THIS BUILDING HAS SECURED A HOME FOR THE MANUAL TRAINING SCHOOL – BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR INDUSTRIAL EDUCATION: EDWARD RUSS, PRESIDENT, WILLIAM KEUFFEL, VICE PRESIDENT, JAMES SMITH, TREAS, DAVID E. RUE, SEC'Y, MRS. C. B. ALEXANDER, THOMAS H. MCCANN, MRS. MARTHA B. STEVENS, W.R. JENVEY, JOHN W. GRIGGS, GOVERNOR, EX-OFFICIO, LAWRENCE FAGAN, MAYOR, EX-OFFICIO.

The ceiling height is 15 feet, 4 inches. The single door in the front doorway, on Fifth Street, is not original. (Photograph #2) An architectural drawing by Albert Beyer dated January 14, 1896 shows that he designed a double door at the exterior.¹⁰ The original double-door configuration also appears in photographs taken during the period of significance. Moreover, four pieces of evidence remain as corroboration that a double door filled the 5-foot-6-inch wide limestone door surround on the Fifth Street façade: The two exterior entry doors are shown on the original drawings as constructed of solid wood. They likely served the same function as contemporaneous entry doors to grand public buildings. When closed after hours, the two doors' solid robustness kept weather and trespassers at bay while simultaneously conveying to passersby the serious purpose of the public institution within. During library hours, following the convention of the period of significance, the two doors likely were hooked inward, creating additional paneled space within the entry way. That likely use is consistent with existing physical evidence. For example, indentations at door-handle height in the wood-paneled vestibule align with the likely inward sweep of heavy doors whose handles over time apparently came into repeated contact with the wood. Also, in the baseboard on the western side of the vestibule, the remnant of a brass door hook, symmetrically matched by a long-empty screw hole on the opposite baseboard, suggests that the outer doors were hooked open inwardly during patron hours. The oak paneling in the vestibule, adjacent to the door jamb, remains in good condition – an integrity that the wood paneling would not have retained if the absence of an exterior door had exposed it to the blackening effect that continuous, unprotected exposure to rain and snow has upon oak. The fourth piece of physical evidence is four Dutchman patches in the door jamb that show the location of what likely were robust hinges that held heavy ceremonial exterior doors typical of Victorian public buildings.¹¹ Finally, period photographs appear to depict the trailing edge of a double door propped open during patron hours. (Contextual Photograph #1, Contextual Photograph #2, Contextual Photograph #18)

Oak wainscot approximately four feet high and original, decoratively painted canvas panels are installed within the coffers of the stained wood-beamed ceiling in the first floor's Public Hall – Delivery Room (Photograph #16). The canvas panels are original and appear to have been coated with layers of protective varnish that over time has yellowed. The main cast iron staircase has buff-colored terrazzo treads, with modern raised rubber strips added to prevent slippage. (Photograph #19) Brass bolts secure the terrazzo to the ironwork. The staircase has lost its original gasoliers, originally installed on the main newel posts. The fixtures provided both gaslight and electrical lighting. "Gas is introduced only as an auxiliary for emergency lighting," the library trustees noted in their 1897 annual report's detailed description of the recently-completed building. The original light fixtures, which combined gas jet and incandescent bulb illumination, were removed from the newel posts and their mounting holes were covered. The original architectural drawings depict them in minute detail. The chandelier in the first floor hall is not original. (Photograph #17)

Prominently displayed in the lobby atop a polished 30-inch-high granite plinth inscribed with the word "Maine" is a 10-inch black-painted shell from the eponymous U.S. battleship. The steel shell is one of numerous artifacts that the Army Corps of Engineers retrieved in 1912 when it raised from the harbor in Havana, Cuba, the sunken warship whose unexplained explosion and sinking in 1898 provoked the

¹⁰ Beyer, Albert, *Free Public Library and Manual Training School, Hoboken, N.J.*, January 14, 1896 Drawing I – Elevation from Fifth Street).

¹¹ During the spring of 2012, Paul J. Somerville, chair of the Hoboken Historic Preservation Commission, identified the four cited pieces of evidence that the originally had an exterior door. Joan Abel, vice chair of the Commission, subsequently called the library's attention to a drawing in the library's possession: Albert Beyer's architectural drawing of the Fifth Street elevation, which depicts a double door on the exterior. The Board of Trustees plans to use the drawing as the basis for reconstructing the original doors pursuant to the Secretary of the Interior's *Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*.

Spanish-American War and, for more than a decade thereafter, complaints by veterans that the United States government was failing to properly honor the 266 sailors who were killed shipboard. An interagency federal board was established to distribute artifacts from the *Maine* to local governments and civic groups across the United States “provided that the parts so donated will be property preserved and cared for as memorials and shall not be sold or otherwise disposed of without prior authority of the original donors.” Mayor Martin Cooke and U.S. Representative James A. Hamill obtained the shell for the Hoboken Free Public Library, one of more than 400 recipients of the warship’s artifacts.¹²

Mounted on the wall next to the Maine monument is a marble tablet, measuring 35 inches high by 28 inches wide, that identifies the trustees of the library at the time of construction and the architect.¹³

Another memento in the entrance is a 24-inch-by-30-inch bronze plaque installed in 1949 to honor Adolph A. Langer, advisory editor of the *Jersey Observer* newspaper when he died in 1948.¹⁴

The architectural design of Albert Beyer incorporated concealed electrical wiring to supply the relatively new technology of incandescent illumination. Evidence of the original lighting locations can be seen in the exposed tin ceilings, where tin medallions mark the locations of prior light fixtures. The original terrazzo floors (Photograph #18) are exposed in the main spaces of the first floor. Non-wood-burning fireplaces created a focal point for patrons in both the first-floor Women’s Reading Room (Photograph #20), now used for shelving audio-visual material, and the second-floor reading room (Photograph #21)

Consistent with the architect’s design-drawing specifications, the library’s entrance vestibule and corridor, as well as the lobby are trimmed in “antique oak,” in the words of a contemporaneous news account. The quarter-sawn red oak remains today, varnished but not painted. The former Manual Training School vestibule is trimmed in the same type of wood.

For the Women’s Reading Room and Reference Room, as well as the non-public pace devoted to the Librarian’s Room and Cataloguer’ Room, the architect specified trim from a less expensive and softer wood, cypress. He specified yellow pine trim for the stairwell lobby of the Manual Training School, but a contemporaneous news account reported that “North Carolina red pine” is what was used. The cypress and red pine trim work has retained its original appearance. An oak raised-panel wainscot with painted plaster wall above is a common wall finish on the first floor. (Photograph #22)

¹² See text on brass plaque attached to shell. See also: House of *Representatives, Laws of the United States Relating to the Improvement of Rivers and Harbors*, 1912, Volume 2, page 1506; War Department, *Annual Reports*, 113, Volume II, 1913, pp. 1498-1499; “Maine Relic at Public Library,” *Jersey Journal*, September 13, 1912, p. 9; ___ “Russ Law Library is Dedicated...Maine Relic Is also Unveiled,” *Jersey Journal*, September 12, 1912, page 11; Alan Sweeney, “A Splendid Little War,” *CRM*, Number 11, 1998, pp. 35-36; and interview with Charles Scott, N.J. Historic Preservation Office, August 8, 2012.

¹³ The inscription reads:

FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY---THIS BUILDING WAS ERECTED IN THE YEAR 1896 BY THE TRUSTEES OF THE FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY OF THE CITY OF HOBOKEN --- LAWRENCE FAGAN, MAYOR, EX-OFFICIO, PRES'D'T, EDWARD RUSS, PRES'D'T. COM. PUB. INS'N, EX-OFFICIO, TREAS., JULIUS SCHLATTER, OTTO A. LEHMAN, EDWARD MEAGHER, WILLIAM J. O'TOOLE, JAMES J. LAWSON. --- BUILDING COMMITTEE: EDWARD RUSS, OTTO A. LEHMAN, JULIUS SCHLATTER. ARCHITECT: ALBERT BEYER

¹⁴ Langer was a newspaper reporter and city editor of the *Jersey Journal*, a member of many service clubs in Hoboken and helped to preserve the Palisades and establish Route 3 through Secaucus. See: ___ “Hoboken Civic Leaders in Tribute to Langer at Unveiling of Plaque,” *Hudson Dispatch*, February 22, 1949, np.

The first floor, like the second and third floors, was equipped with steam-heat radiators manufactured by A. A. Griffing Iron Co. at the New York company's works in Jersey City. The firm's "Bundy" model radiators continue to serve their original function; warming the interior with steam heat, but an original – and then-novel – technological feature of the "Bundy Standard Direct-Indirect Radiator" has been disabled in the building. Originally the radiators adjacent to the building's exterior walls not only warmed and recirculated the air within the room but also drew into the building "a sufficient quantity of fresh out-door air for ventilation," in the words of the firm's 1894-95 product catalog.¹⁵

The building's radiators performed this dual function by means of ducts that pierced the exterior wall behind them. Cold air entered the building at floor level into a "box base" under the steam-filled radiator fins. The radiator warmed the exterior air; convection currents distributed heated air throughout the room. The original ducts have been plugged but evidence of the fresh-air mechanism of the original radiators shows how they operated. Incorporated into each box base was a "duplex crescent damper" – two trap doors connected with a metal rod. Pushing the interior damper to its "closed" position simultaneously pushed a matching damper within the wall into the "open" position. The open exterior-facing damper admitted outside air to be warmed and circulated in the room. When staff wished to stop the flow of outside air, pulling the interior damper into the "open" position closed the exterior-air damper and, instead, caused interior air to recirculate through the open damper and up through the radiator's fins. The radiators were intended to be aesthetic as well as functional. The radiators were painted "silver"; the building's radiators have what the product catalog calls the "Bundy 'Daisy' Pattern Fret Work Top."

Second Floor

Configuration of Space:

The second floor of the library, accessed by the main staircase, begins with a lobby, serving the same function as what originally was called the Hall. Accessible from the lobby are the library's main reading room, originally the Reading Room (Photograph #28 and Photograph #29), a supplementary room with computers, originally the, Reading Room – Daily Papers, also called the Boys Reading Room, and a supplementary reading room, originally the library's Trustees Room. (Photograph #30) Originally the Reading Room was accessible by only one door. A later-added doorway to the current reference area took the place of what originally was a railing-enclosed library attendant's area in the northwest corner of the room plans. The Reading Room – Daily Papers, originally was a self-contained room. Within the library's first year of operation, the popularity of the Reference Room *prompted the trustees to "accommodate the increasing demand of school children, particularly scholars of the High School,"* by consolidating reference services on the second floor.¹⁶ To that end, the trustees vacated their second-floor room, moved their meeting room to the original Reference Room on the first floor, and converted use of their former second-floor room to reference services, a function the room currently serves. In approximately 1911 or 1912, the wood-frame wall on the northern side of the room was removed to provide access to what originally was the Manual Training School's Cooking Room. When the wall was removed, the Cooking Room became the library's Edward Russ Memorial Law Library Room (Photograph #32 and Contextual Photograph #6). It now is used as a reading room. The architect's plans for the Cooking School called for a gas range and two gas stoves as the focal point for a U-shaped counter at which 11 students could sit to observe cooking techniques. On the wall opposite the gas range, the design called for seating on four

¹⁵ A. A. Griffing Iron Co., *Catalog "M" – 1894-95: Bundy Radiators for Steam and Hot Water*, p. vi.

¹⁶ *Eighth Annual Report of the Board of Trustees of the Free Public Library and Tenth Annual Report of the Board of Trustees for Industrial Education of the City of Hoboken, N.J. for Year Ending April 30, 1898*, p. 5.

platforms of successively greater height to provide a clear line of sight to cooking and baking demonstrations. Adjacent to the Cooking School was the Pantry, with space specified for coal, wood, vegetables, and barrels and “refrigerator” connected to a drain, presumably to channel melting ice. Except for grille covered cupboards in the Pantry (now used to shelve local-history books), no remnants remain. (Photograph #31) The second floor also contains the Clay Modeling Room, in the northwest corner of the building that now functions as the server room for the library’s computer operations and also as a staff room. (Photograph #27) New doors were added during renovation for the elevator addition.

Architectural Features:

The ceiling height is 15’3”. The rooms on the second floor feature either raised panel wainscot of cypress approximately four feet high or built-in wooden book shelves. (Photograph #34) The architect specified oak trim in the second floor lobby and cypress trim throughout the remaining spaces in the library and school. Original tin ceilings are exposed in a number of spaces. Many ceilings, however, are concealed behind modern acoustic suspension ceilings, most commonly on the third floor. The exposed tin ceilings have received numerous coats of paint. The floors on the second and third floors were originally hardwood floors. These floors are covered with either vinyl tile, or a laminate floor product. A wainscot with painted plaster wall above is a common wall finish on the second floor. (Photograph #34)

Large air conditioning ducts, mounted below the original tin ceilings in some parts of the library, are visible on the second floor. (Photograph #23)

Throughout the second floor, original door openings, in contrast to latter-day openings, are identifiable by egg-and-dart detailing in the woodwork. Generally floors were laid in maple, according to a contemporaneous news account. Radiators are located in front of most windows. Behind some of them, piercing the bead board wainscot, are metal covers over what were fresh-air intake vents visible from the exterior of the building.

Third Floor

Configuration of Space:

The third floor originally was accessed only by the Manual Training School stairs at the north end of the building. The third floor consisted of four large rooms: the Assembly Room (Photograph #35), the Carpenter Workroom, the Ironwork & Lathes Room and the Carving Room (Photograph #33). The assembly room, originally designed for 204 chairs and a 15-inch-high podium, currently is used as a children’s room for the library. It was designed to be used as shared space with the Manual Training School and served that function until at least the 1980s. As described in Section 8, tensions over use of the space led to the installation, in 1914-1915, of a new staircase from the second floor up to the third floor built to the design of Max J. Beyer, a Hoboken architect who succeeded his father, Albert Beyer, in practice.¹⁷

Today, the Carpenter Workroom has been divided with partitions and lay-in ceilings into three rooms used for staff and meetings. (Photograph #36) A leaded glass skylight is framed over the former school’s stairwell. (Photograph #37)

¹⁷ Beyer, Max J., *Plan for Extending the Interior Stairway from the Second to the Third Story, Free Public Library, Hoboken, N.J.*, undated blueprint, circa 1914.

Architectural Features:

The ceiling height is 13 feet. The original wood wainscot and slate blackboards can still be seen in the Carpenterwork Room. The Carving Room retains none of its original features except a radiator. The third-floor walls are generally full plaster with a painted wood base, with beaded board wainscot along the exterior walls. Some walls in the former Manual Training School have a painted beaded board wainscot with a slate blackboard above. These blackboards surround the windows in these rooms. (Photograph #26) As on the second floor, large air conditioning ducts, mounted below the original tin ceilings in certain locations, are visible on the third floor. (Photograph #38)

No specifications for wood trim are shown on the architect's plans for the third floor.

Structural System

The main structural system is masonry load-bearing exterior walls, and three internal bearing walls of mixed masonry and cast iron girders. The first-floor slab is concrete barrel vaulting formed using in-place corrugated metal barrel vaults set into the bottom flange of cast-iron beams. Cast iron columns support mezzanine stacks at both the first floor, and in the basement below. Second-floor and third-floor structures are 3-feet-by-2-feet wood joist platforms. The second floor includes cast iron girders to reinforce the wood joists that bridge 20-foot spans. The roof is timber truss system reinforced with wrought iron straps and iron tie rods. Perpendicular to the trusses are wood purlins.

Significant Additions (in addition to those noted in text above)

Within five years of the building's opening, the trustees placed a newspaper advertisement soliciting bids due by May 9, 1902 for repairs to the roof and masonry. The bid specifications on file in the library's archives called for replacing the roof with "soft charcoal iron roofing plates, double coated with tin" installed atop sheathing paper and secured with galvanized nails and soldered with rosin. The new roof was to be painted with "one good coat of Dixon's Graphite, and after 4 days a second coat to be applied." Prospective bidders also were asked to examine all copper gutters and flashings, to repair them and to repoint with Portland cement various mortar joints of the terra cotta copings.

In 1909, Manahan Bros. Heating contractors of Hoboken, "propose[d] to place in the second and third floor room on the northwest extension of the Free Public Library...sufficient radiation to bring temperature to 70 degrees in zero weather," according to a document in the library's archives.

As noted above and further described in Section 8, in 1914-1915, a single flight of stairs was added to the library's staircase to provide access from the second floor of the library to the third-floor Assembly Room above. The change was made to facilitate shared use of the third-floor space with the building's other beneficial occupant, the industrial education trustees, in compliance with a court ruling. (Photograph #40)

1954 appears to be the date of major repairs to the dome, removal of the flag pole base and building the room to its contours and then shingling the room. Edward Meyer, a tinsmith and roofer, submitted an estimate to make those repairs. Evidence (the lack of a flagpole) suggests that Meyer or another bidder performed the specified work during or shortly after 1954.

In 1985, minutes from the April 9 library trustees' meeting noted that the "library building leader had been replaced and that the roof would be tarred with funds from the [city's] Public Works Department."

In 1988, the library trustees learned at their March 8, 1988 meeting that “the [exterior of the] building would be steam cleaned the first week of April by Mr. Steam Machine of Newark, N.J.”

In 1989 the library trustees’ ongoing discussion of air-conditioning options gained momentum. Minutes from the March 29, 1989 meeting record a discussion of how best to locate the equipment “to preserve the exterior appearance of the building” by installing equipment on the minimally visible west elevation and suspending ducts from the ceiling to cool the Park Avenue side of the space rather than install window units in the Park Avenue façade.

In 1990, air conditioning was installed which resulted in installing through-wall units in original limestone under three first-floor windows on the Park Avenue façade. The installation caused little irreversible damage to the pressed metal ceilings and building interiors.

In 1990, the cornice was to be repaired and a pigeon deterrent system to be installed, the trustees’ February 8, 1990 minutes note.

In 1992, an underground storage tank and polluted soil were removed in a manner satisfactory to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and the heating system was converted from oil to gas, the library trustees’ minutes from the February 2, 1993 meeting report.

In 1993, the trustees approved plans to install pigeon guards on the first and second floors and window guards or brackets on the third floor, to fill a gap between the mezzanine floor and wall, and, if necessary, to install safety glass in the mezzanine, according to the minutes of the May 20, 1993 meeting.

Also in 1993, during the same meeting, “several architectural renderings in need of preservation have been discovered within the Library,” the trustees noted in their minutes. Lenore Hyland, library director, sought authorization to preserve the plans, at an estimated cost of \$2,000 to \$5,000, but the trustees “decided to defer this discussion to a later point.” (Apparently the trustees or library director funds later; the library’s collection includes historic architectural plans, itemized in the bibliography, that are laminated in plastic or, in some cases, framed and mounted on the wall in the reading room on the second floor.)

In 1998, state funds were obtained to spend up to \$200,000 for window replacement with “architecturally appropriate windows, roof and cornice repairs,” according to the trustees’ September 20, 1998 minutes.¹⁸ Word of the impending work apparently prompted concerns about the building’s future. At the trustees’ meeting one month later, on October 27, 1998, President Jane Zeff “asked Director [Robert] Drasheff about the status of the dome on the library, because people have asked her if it was going to be removed.” Dr, a library trustee and also the City’s Director of Human Services, which until 2008 oversaw the library’s operations, refuted the rumor. Drasheff also “said that the Board should decide if we should stay here or build new. President Zeff responded that the building has historical meaning to the City and that even if it doesn’t remain as the library, the City should keep it and not abandon it.” Zeff also asked about nominating the building for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, following the example of the Paterson Public Library’s “extensive renovation through this process.” Nancy Sciancalepore, a trustee, and also a City of Hoboken employee responsible for obtaining grants, noted the requirement for a local match and “suggested

¹⁸ See Rivardo, Schnitzer, Capazzi, *Exterior Renovation to Hoboken Library: Roof Replacement, Moisture Protection and Window Replacement*, (Cliffside Park, N.J.), November 1, 2002 (set of drawings)

that this is not the time to nominate the building because of the process of doing the wiring and computer work.” Sciancalepore, who also served on the Hoboken Historic Preservation Commission in the 1990s, “added that all work that is done should be historically sensitive.”

In 2002, the library trustees voted to move funds from the library’s account to the funds that the City of Hoboken had received in bond funding, with the understanding that the funds would be used for exterior masonry renovations and window replacement in the former Manual Training School portion of the building, according to minutes from the library trustees’ May 30, 2002 meeting. Attached to the minutes were excerpts from a proposed construction budget from Rivardo Schnitzer Capazzi, architects and planners based in Cliffside Park, N.J., totaling \$120,029 for repairs to the roof, dome and chimney.

In 2003, T&M Construction, of Hoboken, won the bid for \$375,000 of repairs and renovations, including roof repairs, window replacements, stuccoing the western façade and north wing, repointing brick and cleaning and sealing the exterior. Board President Nancy Sciancalepore reported that \$312,000, for Disability Act improvements, was to come from Community Development Block Grant money. She reported that the City of Hoboken would receive \$150,000 from Hudson County to use for the library. She also reported that she, as the municipal government’s grant writer, had submitted a proposal “to the state for funds and we received approval for an additional \$100,000,” resulting in available funds totaling approximately \$500,000.

During 2006 and 2007, the only alteration to the building’s footprint occurred; a 9-foot, 4-inch by 25-foot 9-inch four-story elevator tower was added in a newly leveled walkway adjacent to the west elevation, part of a building upgrade that provided barrier-free access and barrier-free toilets. Within the former school portion, new barrier-free toilets were added on the first floor inside the former school trustees’ room. The elevator tower is constructed in brick to match the west façade and, located as it is away from the closest street, has no major impact on the integrity of the building’s closest façade, on Fifth Street (Photograph #41).¹⁹

Opportunity for Further Research

Research for this registration form suggests an opportunity for further research: conclusive evidence that a dumb waiter drawn on the 1896 floor plans was or was not built.

Albert Beyer designed a dumb waiter (marked “D.W.” on his plans and measuring 3 feet, 4 inches square in plan) for transporting materials from the basement to the upper floors the materials used by students (metal, clay, wood, food for cooking classes, etc.) No evidence exists to indicate that the dumb waiter was constructed. The concrete vaulted basement ceiling shows no sign of an earlier penetration for a dumbwaiter. Similarly, the floor above shows no evidence of patching an opening that would have accommodated a dumb waiter. The railings and balustrades on the second and third floor landings appear to be intact with no indication that they accommodated access to a dumb waiter. There is no vestigial sign, e.g., iron brackets, screw holes or woodwork blemishes, to show that a dumb waiter had been stabilized against the stairwell’s wall or ceiling. The absence of a dumbwaiter leaves a stairwell that, to modern cost-conscious eyes, appears wastefully commodious but that, as designed, probably was appropriately sized for expediting the expected movement of

¹⁹ Rivardo, Schnitzer, Capazzi, *Hoboken Public Library Elevator Addition and Toilet Room Alterations*, (Cliffside Park, N.J.) March 1, 2004. See also Rivardo, Schnitzer, Capazzi Architects, *Accesability [sic] Addition and Alterations: Elevator Additional and Toilet Room Alterations for the Hoboken Public Library, 250-254 Fifth Street, Hoboken, N.J.* (Cliffside Park, N.J.), May 21, 2004 (set of construction drawings).

students and products from floor to floor in a portion of building that, notwithstanding its utilitarian purpose, nevertheless served the important function of elevating the experience of its students.²⁰

²⁰ Albert Beyer, "Free Public Library and Manual Training School, Hoboken, N.J., Basement Plan," "...First Floor Plan," and "...Second Floor Plan," Drawings VII, VIII and IX, January 14, 1896.

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance begins with construction of the library (1895-1897) and ends with the addition of a staircase from the second floor of the library to the building's Assembly Room above to (1914-1915) facilitate shared use of the third-floor space with the building's other beneficial occupant, an industrial education school, in compliance with a court ruling.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The Hoboken Free Public Library and Manual Training School, constructed in 1895-1897 and altered inside in 1914-1915 to facilitate its original dual uses, meets Criterion A as exemplifying events in the evolution of library services and industrial education in New Jersey from private-sector operation and support to state-government financial assistance in two forms: library construction-bond financing and annual stable-source tax-levy support for library operations as well as matching state funds for locally supported industrial education.

The building qualifies for Criterion B on the basis of its association with both start-up and ongoing private financial donations and in-kind support from philanthropist and civic leader Martha Bayard Stevens (1831-1899), of Hoboken, who drew upon her wide range of experience, resources, and influence with public officials and like-minded philanthropists from throughout New Jersey to actively advance industrial education and library services as complementary public missions to support New Jersey's rapidly evolving industrial economy during the final two decades of the 19th Century.

The building meets Criterion C as the work of a master architect, Albert Beyer (1846-1922), whose design demonstrates high artistic value and skill in accommodating the functions of two closely associated civic institutions on a space-constrained plot in the Italian Renaissance style that architects of the Late Victorian period popularized as a way of emphasizing a public building's purpose, prominence and accessibility to the new middle-income and low-income population of library patrons and the growing population of workers in need the ongoing job-enhancement and job-retraining curriculum that industrial education provided.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

See continuation of section 8A, "Statement of Significance: Applicable National Register Criteria A, B, C."

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

Included in continuation of section 8, "Statement of Significance: Applicable National Register Criteria A, B, C."

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Included in continuation of Section 9, Bibliography

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

Primary location of additional data:

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
 previously listed in the National Register
 previously determined eligible by the National Register
 designated a National Historic Landmark
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
 recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other
 Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 0.15 _____
 (Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>37</u>	<u>553511</u>	<u>1783562</u>	3	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	4	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Hoboken Free Public Library is located on Lot 24 and Block 167. The survey and map of the 0.15 acre site is shown on Images #11 and #12.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries of the property are the same as the original property.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Allen W. Kratz, Trustee
 organization Hoboken Public Library date 11 May 2012
 street & number 500 Park Avenue telephone 201-420-2280
 city or town Hoboken state New Jersey zip code 07030
 e-mail _____

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
 A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map. n/a
- **Continuation Sheets**

- Section 8 – Statement of Significance (pages 1 to 29)
- Section 9 – Bibliography and Research Resources (pages 1-5)
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Hoboken Free Public Library and Manual Training School

Photographers: Roman Brice, Dennis Kowal, Forde Prigot, Paul Somerville, Allen Kratz (as noted on photographs)

County and State: Hudson, New Jersey

Date of Photograph: Indicated in the description of each photograph

Location of Original negative: Digital-format photos are in possession of Hoboken Public Library

Description of Photograph(s) and number: listed on form Continuation Section "Photographs"

Property Owner:

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Hoboken Public Library

street & number 500 Park Avenue

telephone 201-420-2280

city or town Hoboken

state NJ

zip code 07030

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

United States Department of the Interior**Here**

National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Hoboken Free Public Library and
Manual Training School

Name of Property

Hudson, New Jersey

County and State

n/a

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 1**8. Statement of Significance: Applicable National Register Criteria A, B, C**Introduction

Design and construction of the Hoboken Free Public Library and Manual Training School, a dual-purpose, shared-use building completed in 1897, exemplified two significant developments in New Jersey at the end of the 19th Century: state-government assistance to make library services available to the general public free of usage charges and state-government assistance to improve the manual skills of workers in New Jersey's manufacturing industries.

In Hoboken, as elsewhere in New Jersey, influential citizens, followed by civic officials, established "free public libraries," recognizing that the social and economic value of no-usage-charge public access to books, periodicals and reference materials in a democratic society warranted issuing municipal bonds to finance library construction and warranted spreading the recurring cost of library services across the municipal property-tax base. Similarly, in Hoboken and other communities in New Jersey, industrialists, educators and public officials established state-government-supported "industrial education" programs, understanding that the economic value of a workforce trained to meet emerging industrial needs warranted enacting and using state subsidies to complement the funds theretofore raised solely from municipal governments and private-sector sources.

In the field of library services, the enactment of government bonding and stable-source annual government funding marked a shift in the late 19th Century from the historic provision of library services by paid-subscription "library companies" early in the century and later in the century by "apprentices libraries," i.e., libraries established for educational and moral instruction of erstwhile agrarian youth newly arrived in urban areas to work in manufacturing, shipping and other trades.

Evolution in the field of industrial education was similar: state subsidies were enacted to complement and formalize what theretofore had been solely the role of public schools that offered manual training and vocational education to young pupils and the self-help role of employers who provided job training and skills enhancement for their employees either during the workday or after hours.

An influential figure in advancing both complementary educational pursuits both in Hoboken and within the state was philanthropist Martha Bayard Stevens (1831-1899). Widowed at age 37, Martha Stevens drew upon a wide range of experience and resources: her own descent during childhood from middle-class comfort into single-parent poverty, her subsequent re-emergence into wealth by marriage, the duties required by a special-needs son with a physical deformity, her belief in Christ's teachings to care for the poor, her acumen in overseeing the business affairs of the Stevens family's Hoboken Land & Improvement Company, her role as a founding and lifetime trustee of Stevens Institute of Technology (on whose board philanthropist Andrew Carnegie also served during Martha Stevens's three-decade tenure), her easy access to and support from prominent political leaders, scientists, educators and industrialists, and the inheritance of money and land from her late husband, Edwin Augustus Stevens (1795-1868).

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Drawing upon those resources and influences, Martha Stevens played a major role in conceiving, establishing, promoting and financing a range of social-service organizations in Hoboken: a birthing center, founding hospital, orphanage, schools, church and the Hoboken Free Public Library and Manual Training School.

Founded in 1889 and operating in leased basement space starting in 1890, the Hoboken Free Public Library almost immediately felt the need for more space in a building of its own. In 1895, Martha Stevens donated \$20,000 to the library trustees for land acquisition and the construction of new quarters. Two family members added \$6,000. As a condition of their gift, the Stevenses required the new library building to provide "appropriate accommodations" for a manual training school.

Manual training had been the earlier of Martha Stevens' two antecedent interests in constructing the new building. In 1885, she played the primary role in convening in Hoboken a group of prominent citizens, including George B. McClellan, the former Union Army general-in-chief during the Civil War and former New Jersey governor, to found the Industrial Education Association. The association sponsored manual training programs in Hoboken's public schools. Following passage of state-subsidy legislation in 1881, the association re-created itself as the Board of Trustees for Industrial Education, with the governor serving *ex officio*. Actively supported by Martha Stevens, who served on its board until the year before she died, the Board of Trustees for Industrial Education became the initial co-occupant of the new library building.

To design the dual-purpose building, the library's trustees selected a local architect, Albert Beyer, whose design experience had included a railroad bridge approach in Newark, an exterior public staircase scaling the bluff between Hoboken and what is now Jersey City Heights, Hoboken's Public School No. 6 and residences on two of Hoboken's premier residential streets, Hudson Street and the northern stretch of Washington Street. For the library, Beyer executed a Late Victorian design, with Italian Renaissance influences. The building remains in use solely as a library, the industrial school's board having disbanded and ceased classes in the 1990s as the result of a funding dispute between municipal and state officials.

In two respects, the Hoboken Free Public Library and Manual Training School either foreshadowed or closely followed other cities' advances. Although Hoboken's library was the third library in New Jersey to be chartered as a result of the property-tax-support legislation enacted in 1884 (Hoboken created its free public library in 1889, following Paterson and then Newark), Hoboken's library trustees were the first to complete construction under the 1895 bond-financing enabling act (in 1897, prior to the opening of the Newark's free public library building in 1901 and Paterson's in 1905).¹

¹ The Paterson Public Library, incorporated in 1885, opened its doors to the public on October 23, 1885 in leased space, the "Stimson House" at 54 Church Street, Paterson. Not until May 1, 1905 did it move into a building constructed for its use, the Danforth Memorial Library, named in honor of Charles Danforth. His daughter, Mrs. Mary Ryle, contributed nearly \$200,000 to its construction. See Irene Janes, *Early History of Libraries in Paterson* (Paterson, N.J.), 1949, pp. 11, 43, 44-45, 48, and Roger McDonough, "Public Libraries," in *A History of New Jersey Libraries, 1750-1996*, edited by Edwin Beckerman (Lanham, Maryland: Scarecrow Press, 1997), p. 9.

The Newark Public Library was organized under the 1884 act in 1889; it dedicated its new building on Washington

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Similarly innovative, the industrial school that moved to its new permanent home in the Hoboken Free Public Library and Manual Training School in 1897 was only the second school established in New Jersey, in 1887, shortly after the Newark Technical School was established in 1884 or 1885.²

The Hoboken Free Public Library and Manual Training School meets Criterion A as exemplifying innovation in, and the evolution of, library services and industrial education in New Jersey.

The building's association with the social service principles and practices, the financial contributions and in-kind support of Martha Bayard Stevens (1831-1899), who exercised civic leadership and utilized elected-official support in Hoboken and at the gubernatorial level in Trenton, qualifies the property as a building of statewide significance under Criterion B.

The building meets Criterion C as the work of a master architect, Albert Beyer, whose Italian Renaissance Revival design demonstrates high artistic value and skill in Beyer's accommodating the functions of two closely associated civic institutions on a space-constrained plot in a burgeoning city facing rising land costs.

Criterion A – Association with Events
and Criterion B – Association with Famous Person

I. Evolution of Libraries

Establishment of the Hoboken Free Public Library in 1889 and the 1895-1897 construction of its permanent home demonstrates growing awareness in New Jersey during the late 19th Century of the importance of providing to the public books that could be circulated free of charge by government-subsidized libraries. Two New Jersey laws played especially important roles. In 1884, New Jersey's Legislature enabled the state's municipalities, for the first time, to create a taxpayer-supported library equipped to provide library services to the public at large for no patron fees. Eleven years later, in 1895, a new law strengthened that annual taxpayer support by authorizing municipalities to seek private-sector funds through the sale of government-backed bonds. Coinciding with those two forms of government aid came philanthropic support – notably from industrialist Andrew Carnegie throughout New Jersey and other states and, in Hoboken, from Martha Stevens and her immediate family.

Until the establishment of tax-supported free public libraries, library services generally were available in New Jersey, as elsewhere in the United States, only from private, subscriber-supported "library companies" (typically in the 18th Century), and, later, from "apprentices' libraries" that "library societies" and private philanthropy created, increasingly during the 19th Century, to provide literary education and moral guidance to workers migrating from farm to city

Street in 1901. Bruce E. Ford, "The Newark Public Library," in *A History of New Jersey Libraries, 1750-1996*, edited by Edwin Beckerman (Lanham, Maryland: Scarecrow Press, 1997), p. 9.

² *Governor's Message Transmitting Report of the Commission on Industrial Education*, 1909, p. 106.

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and immigrating from overseas to the United States.

Antecedents to Hoboken Free Public Library – Library Companies

Establishment and construction of the Hoboken Free Public Library generally followed the evolution of libraries elsewhere in New Jersey – an evolution that Roger McDonough described from his perspective as New Jersey’s State Librarian from 1947 to 1975.³

Starting in the mid-18th Century, McDonough notes, New Jersey’s first “library companies” were established in Trenton (1750), Elizabeth (1755) and Burlington (1758). By 1800, one library company (or more) offered books in each of 21 municipalities. Each such library was simultaneously “private” insofar as membership or the sale of shares supported the library company financially and “public” to the extent that anyone with the means to join or purchase shares could access the library company’s collections. Because such libraries were not “free,” patronage of library companies was disproportionately skewed toward the educated and affluent members of the community, usually, clergymen, schoolmasters and property owners, McDonough notes.⁴

New Jersey’s Legislature provided its first statutory (albeit non-financial) support to library companies in 1794 by passing an “Act to incorporate societies for the promotion of learning.” Five years later the Legislature took another step forward; it amended the law to “include all library companies that now are, or shall hereafter be formed in any of the counties of this state, which have not been, by letters patent or act of assembly, already incorporated.”⁵ The statute became the enabling legislation for community libraries, of one sort or another, for the next century.

In Hoboken, the first “library” appears to have been the library company that Ferdinand Luthin, variously described as a librarian, bookseller and stationer, established in 1864 at 197 Washington Street, where he remained for 23 years. “Later Luthin moved his establishment to 512 Washington Street where he remained until his demise....Luthin charged a fee for withdrawing his books.”⁶

Some time later, another library began circulating books in Hoboken: a subscription library

³ Roger McDonough, “Public Libraries,” in *A History of New Jersey Libraries, 1750-1996*, edited by Edwin Beckerman (Lanham, Maryland: Scarecrow Press, 1997), pp. 1-10.

⁴ McDonough, p. 1.

⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 4.

⁶ Alfred Kerr, typescript dated June 27, 1935, in vertical file, “Hoboken Public Library – History,” at Hoboken Public Library. For Luthin’s occupations, see annual *Gopsill’s Directory of Jersey City and Hoboken*, published annually during the final third of the 19th Century and into the first two decades of the 20th Century. See also *Boyd’s Directory of Jersey City and Hoboken*. Note that the addresses “197 Washington Street” and “512 Washington Street” do not refer to present-day addresses. Not until 1892 did Hoboken adopt the “Philadelphia Plan” of keying addresses to cross streets, e.g., between Fifth and Sixth streets, building numbers range from 500 to 599, according to David Webster, curator, Hoboken Historical Museum, interview, April 11, 2012.

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located within the Franklin Lyceum, on Bloomfield Street between Eighth and Ninth streets., Martha Stevens – foreshadowing her later financial support for the Hoboken Free Public Library -- started the lyceum’s library “for the young people of Hoboken”⁷ with a consignment of 1,000 books and shelving lumber. By 1876, the lyceum library reported to the United States Bureau of Education, it had 2,000 volumes, augmented annually with 150 books. It reported circulating 2,500 books annually.⁸ It continued operating until *circa* 1890, when the building was demolished for construction of the First Protestant Reformed Church.⁹

Antecedents – “Apprentices’ Libraries”

During the early part of the 19th Century, library companies throughout New Jersey gave way to a new means of circulating books, “apprentices’ libraries.”

“The rise of the apprentices’ libraries in New York, Philadelphia, Newark, Elizabeth, and Trenton...represented an effort to make books more readily available to the young workingmen of the day, who could not afford to be stockholders in the older library companies,” Howard L. Hughes, president of the New Jersey Library Association from 1914-1915 and a librarian at the Trenton Free Public Library, has written. “Generally the funds were raised by subscription and the use of the libraries was free.”¹⁰

Apprentices’ libraries were established for economic and humanitarian purposes: the dual need not only to help young workers change not only their occupations, from agriculture to industry, but also to provide and strengthen the moral grounding that would help them adapt to and adopt new ways and morés upon arriving in urban agglomerations, McDonough states.¹¹ In New Jersey the first several apprentices’ libraries began operation in Newark and Trenton (1821), Burlington, (1822) and Elizabeth (1825), according to McDonough.

Evidence of an “apprentices’ library” *per se* in Hoboken does not appear in documentation of the city’s history, but evidence exists of local facilities that likely served as “apprentices’

⁷ *Ibid.*

⁸ United States Department of Interior, Bureau of Education, *Public Libraries in the United States of America; Their History, Condition, and Management. Special Report* (1876), available at <http://digioll.library.wisc.edu/cgi-bin/History/History>, viewed February 19, 2012. The report includes the results of a nationwide survey of libraries with 300 volumes or more during 1875-6 in which 3,682 libraries reported key statistics. Among the libraries were 91 libraries from New Jersey and two from Hoboken, the Franklin Lyceum library and the library at Stevens Institute of Technology.

⁹ Kerr’s account is not inconsistent with the history of the building currently occupying the site: the former First Protestant Reformed Church, located at 829-831 Bloomfield Street, Hoboken, constructed beginning in 1894, replacing a “frame building burned two years ago,” the *New York Times* reported on May 31, 1894 in an article about the cornerstone laying the previous day.

¹⁰ Howard L. Hughes, *Public Libraries in New Jersey, 1750-1850*, 1965, p. 12.

¹¹ McDonough, p. 4.

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libraries” in fact while not in name. For example, it is reasonable to believe that young workers in Hoboken could avail themselves of books and periodicals housed within the numerous social-service institutions that preceded establishment and construction of the Hoboken Free Public Library. “Reasonable to believe” because education was integral to the philanthropic endeavors that Hoboken’s founding family, the Stevens family, turned into bricks and mortar as Hoboken’s population more than doubled with new workers from near and abroad. Populated by 9,662 inhabitants in 1860, Hoboken grew surged by 52% to reach a population of 20,297 in 1870. During the following decade, Hoboken’s population grew by 35% to 30,999 inhabitants in 1880.¹²

Antecedents – Philanthropic Support for Education by the Stevens family

The philanthropy of Martha Stevens’ ancestors – coupled with her ancestor’s and her husband’s emphasis on education – played an integral role in the history of the Hoboken Free Public Library. Education was a major interest of Revolutionary War Colonel John Stevens III (1749-1838), who in 1784 purchased at auction 564 acres on the west bank of the Hudson River and in 1804 mapped his acquisition as the “New City of Hoboken,” ready for development. Two generations of descendants voiced strong support for education and laid the philosophical groundwork for the Hoboken Free Public Library.

As early as 1830, Col. John Stevens, whose engineering experiments advanced the growth of transportation in America, foresaw the coming importance of the railroads and sought to use the emerging economic prowess of railroads as a benefit to education. He wrote to President Van Buren to promote a novel idea: profits from railroad companies should be used to fund education.¹³

Stevens’ desire for a dedicated, industrial source of educational funding proceeded no further. Nevertheless, his interest in advancing academic pursuits became a reality in the form of a bequest by a son, Edwin Augustus Stevens (1795-1868), like his father, an inventor and entrepreneur. Edwin Augustus Stevens died in 1868, leaving funds to establish, in 1870, the college of mechanical engineering known as Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken. His ample funds and yen for education-directed philanthropy passed to his 37-year-old widow, Martha Bayard Stevens.

Martha Bayard Stevens

Martha Stevens was born on May 15, 1831 in Princeton, New Jersey, the daughter of Albert B. Dod, a mathematics professor at Princeton University. She descended from the Bayard

¹² Census Office, Department of the Interior, *Report of the Population of the United States at the Eleventh Census: 1890*, Volume I Part I, Table 6 – “Population of Cities Having 25,000 Inhabitants or More in 1890.”

¹³ Robert P. Guter, *Edwin A. Stevens Hall*, National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, April 28, 1993, Section 8, p. 4. John Stevens in 1832 built the first railroad track in the United States, upon the grounds of his estate in Hoboken. Stevens’ engineering experiments with railroad locomotives, trains and tracks led to development of the Camden & Amboy Railroad, the first practical rail transport line in the United States. The nomination form describes other contributions to American engineering history.

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family, which fled France to Holland, and then to the British colony of New Jersey, prior to the American Revolution. Her grandfather sided with the revolutionaries but two of his brothers stayed loyal to the British crown. One of them, William Bayard, owned extensive real estate in what became Weehawken and Hoboken. At war's end, the new United States government confiscated the Bayard property. Colonel John Stevens, who served with General George Washington, subsequently acquired at auction the property that Martha Bayard Dod's great-uncle had owned. When Colonel Stevens' son Edwin Augustus Stevens, a widower, married Martha Bayard Dod in 1854, her ancestor's land was reunited with her, a Bayard descendant.

The couple established a home on the bluff in Hoboken overlooking the Hudson River and had seven children: John; Edwin Augustus Jr.; Caroline; Julia, who died at age 7; Robert; Albert; and Richard.¹⁴

Shortly after her husband died in 1868, Martha Stevens honored the commitment that her husband had made, shortly before he died, to deed land at Sixth Street and Park Avenue in Hoboken for establishing an industrial school within a building that its grateful new owners renamed the Martha Institute. At the Martha Institute, teachers instructed boys and girls in carpentry, clay modeling, woodcarving, cooking, sewing, and crafts – subjects that later would be taught at the Hoboken Free Public Library and Manual Training School as well.¹⁵ The Martha Institute became the home of Hoboken's first German-American school; the Manual Trade School; Hoboken's first public high school, the Stevens Academy; and the Normal School, a training institute.¹⁶

Having experienced the death of her husband in 1868, and death of her seven-year old daughter Julia four years later while on Christmas holiday in Rome, Martha Stevens returned to her home on Hoboken's Castle Point in 1872. She never remarried, instead channeling her grief, energy and inheritance into support for the working poor by addressing basic life needs and underwriting education, Christian teachings and moral instruction.

Childhood poverty may have inspired Martha Stevens' philanthropy. While she was a young child, the death of her father pushed the family into complete poverty, according to an admiring biographer: "By the time she reached sixteen, Martha Bayard Dodd [sic] was helping her mother support the family by teaching sewing and doing any chores that a girl of that age

¹⁴ ___, "Mrs. Stevens Dies at Castle Point," *New York Herald*, April 2, 1899 (np); ___, "Mrs. Martha B. Stevens Dead," *The New York Times*, April 2, 1899, (np); ___, "Mrs. Stevens Dead," *The Evening Journal*, Jersey City, N.J., April 3, 1899, p. 4. For dates of birth of Edwin Augustus Stevens' children, see Henry Miller Cox, *The Cox Family in America* (New York: 1912), pp.227-28, and for Julia, see John J. Heaney, *Church of the Holy Innocents: The Miniature Cathedral*, booklet published in 1947. Note: Heaney spells Martha B. Stevens' original surname as "Dodd"; contemporaneous accounts spell the name "Dod."

¹⁵ John J. Heaney, *The Bicentennial Comes to Hoboken*, 1976, unpaginated. See also typescript, "Martha Institute," no author, circa 1920-1940, in collection of Hoboken Historical Museum, available online.

¹⁶ Inscription on a plaque at the site of the former Martha Institute (1866-1999), Sixth Street and Park Avenue, Hoboken.

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might do. Through her life Mrs. Stevens with all her wealth...never forgot her humble early background."¹⁷

Early in her philanthropic endeavors, for example, in memory of her daughter, Martha Stevens funded the founding of the Church of the Holy Innocents as a "free" Episcopal church, in the heart of Hoboken's factory district, open to all with neither pews nor pew rents but with, instead, simple wood chairs. She insisted on a Gothic design that blended non-imposing street-level entrances with high-style ennobling architectural features inside and out. (See historic photograph.) She funded its construction and ongoing programs within.¹⁸

Martha Stevens also established a foundling hospital and birthing center, and founded the Robert L. Stevens Fund for Municipal Research (named for her late husband's brother).¹⁹

Her civic duty reached beyond New Jersey; her intellectual appetite beyond the United States. For the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893, she was one of the two representatives from the State of New Jersey on the exposition's Board of Lady Managers.²⁰

¹⁷ John J. Heaney, *Church of the Holy Innocents: The Miniature Cathedral* (Hoboken, N.J.: 1947), np. Although the obituary of Martha Stevens in *The New York Times* on April 2, 1899 said that she "was reputed to be one of the wealthiest women in America," she was not among the 100 individuals whom researchers Michael Klepper and Robert Gunther identified in their book, *The Wealthy 100: From Benjamin Franklin to Bill Gates – A Ranking of the Richest Americans, Past and Present* (Secaucus, N.J.: Carol Publishing), 1996. The only woman in that book was financier Hetty Green, 1834-1916, whose wealth was estimated at \$100 million and who lived in Hoboken starting 1895 in the Elysian Apartments ("Yellow Flats") in the 1200 block of Washington Street, and who returned to Hoboken for another period, from 1908 to 1915, in another apartment, at 1309 Bloomfield Street, after an interim residence in New York City.

See Charles Slack, *Hetty: The Genius and Madness of America's First Female Tycoon* (New York: HarperCollins), 2004, pp. 105, 149-157, 176, 182, 197, 236. Whether Martha Stevens and Hetty Green interacted socially, philanthropically or financially during the four years in which their residencies in Hoboken overlapped is a matter for further research. Unlike Martha Stevens, who immersed herself in the civic life of Hoboken, Hetty Green had a reputation for living alone and moving frequently among rented rooms in Brooklyn, Manhattan and Hoboken in what her biographer describes as an apparent attempt to avoid establishing a permanent home in a jurisdiction that could lay claim to her taxable wealth.

See also this news article: "To the Rescue: Mrs. Stevens, the Nun of Kenmare and Hoboken's Poor," *The (New York) Evening Sun*, February 16, 1886 (np) ("Mrs. Stevens, of the wealthy family of that name, has taken a great deal of interest in the condition of Hoboken's poor. There is no money in the fund for the relief of the distressed ones, and kind-hearted Andrew Miller, the Overseer of the Poor, was at his wits' ends. Mrs. Stevens, who is very generous, has come to his relief. She requested Sister Mary Frances Clare, the Nun of Kenmare, to open a food distributing house, and guaranteed the cost. As a result two Sisters of Mercy are now in a little store on Willow Avenue, where the poor are received and fed. Mrs. Stevens has done much for Hoboken, but she could not have done a more kindly act than this.")

¹⁸ _____, *Church of the Holy Innocents (Episcopal)*, National Register of Historic Places Inventory – Nomination Form, February 4, 1977.

¹⁹ Geoffrey W. Clark, *History of Stevens Institute of Technology: A Record of Broad-Based Curricula and Technogenesis, 1870-2000* (Jersey City, N.J., Jensen/Daniels), 2000, p. 21.

²⁰ Franklin DeMonde Furman, ed., *Morton Memorial: A History of the Stevens Institute of Technology* (Hoboken, N.J.: Stevens Institute of Technology), 1905, p. 148.

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Traveling in Europe, she toured New Lanark, a village in Scotland founded by utopian social reformer Robert Owen (1771-1858), whose clean, affordable worker housing inspired Martha Stevens to help fund construction of the Willow Terrace worker housing within the Hoboken city block bounded by Sixth and Seventh streets, Willow Avenue and Clinton Street.²¹ She served as a trustee of Stevens Institute of Technology from 1868 until her death in 1899.²² Obituaries noted that “her latest benefaction was to arrange for the erection of a recreation pier on the waterfront for the poor” – foreshadowing civic activists six decades hence who successfully lobbied for “recreation on the waterfront” and a state-mandated waterfront walkway along the river.²³

Martha Stevens’ last will, written 39 days before she died, testified to the charities she held most dear at life’s end. She made the following bequests: \$5,000 to the trustees of the Episcopal Fund of the Diocese of Newark, \$2,000 to St. Michael’s Home, Mamaroneck, New York; \$5,000 to Saint Katharine’s Society; \$5,000 to the Rev. Robert Dolling, of England; and \$3,000 to the trustees of the Church of the Holy Innocents in Hoboken to be invested as a means of producing revenue “to be used...for...supplying coal to the poor of Hoboken free or at less cost than the then current rates.”²⁴

Given the importance of “book learning” to that era’s education philosophy, it is reasonable to believe that books in particular, and library services generally, played an important role in the social-service institutions that Martha Stevens founded and funded. Bibliophilanthropy by Martha Stevens set the predicate for the key role that she and family members played in establishing the Hoboken Free Public Library during the final two decades of the 19th Century as library services made their next evolutionary advance.

Antecedents – Public Library Laws

In that next evolutionary advance, privately organized, subscription-only, apprentices’ libraries as well as the libraries that had focused on moral suasion and spiritual uplift, McDonough notes, “were gradually giving way under the influence of a growing public consensus that, in a democracy, only libraries founded, operated and maintained by the people themselves could meet

²¹ Clark, p. 21.

²² Furman, p. 148.

²³ ___, “Mrs. Stevens Dies at Castle Point,” *New York Herald*, April 2, 1899 (np). Her son Richard “will see that the work is completed,” said the obituary. He did. On August 23, 1899, Richard Stevens notified Hoboken’s Common Council that “the recreation superstructure erected on the Seventh Street pier is now completed and ready for use” and Martha Stevens’ heirs “wish to turn over this...structure to the city to be used for the benefit of the citizens of Hoboken. See “Recreation Pier Ready,” *Jersey Journal*, August 24, 189, p. 3. An axonometric map by Hughes & Bailey, “City of Hoboken, New Jersey,” circa 1903, depicts a two-story structure on the pier. The 1909 Hopkins map of Hoboken shows the pier to be 200 feet long and 50 feet wide. By the time Hopkins updated the map in 1923, the recreation pier had been subsumed by expansion of the piers to the north for Ellerman’s Wilson Line.

²⁴ Martha B. Stevens, Last Will and Testament, February 21, 1899.

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the needs of modern society.”²⁵

Given the degree of progress in other states, “gradual” accurately describes the evolution of New Jersey’s government-supported library-services. By the second half of the 19th Century, the movement to establish free public libraries had sunk strong roots elsewhere in the United States, but not in New Jersey. “New Hampshire gained the honor of leadership by enacting a law in 1849, authorizing towns to grant money to establish and maintain public libraries, the amount of such grants being fixed by the voters of the respective towns,” the U.S. Bureau of Education stated in its 1876 report. “Libraries so formed and maintained are exempt from taxation.”²⁶

By contrast, the relevant law in New Jersey, passed by the Legislature in 1879 under the sponsorship of Senate President George Ludlow, of Middlesex County,²⁷ contained no funding mechanism. Silent on funding, New Jersey’s 1879 law simply authorized a city’s “common council” to “establish and maintain a public library and reading-room” that “shall be forever free to the use of the inhabitants of the city.” The law authorized the mayor to appoint nine “directors,” and regulated “the expenditure of all moneys collected to the credit of the library fund.”²⁸

The Rev. William Prall,²⁹ of Paterson, a member of the bar as well as of the clergy, became a key proponent of municipal support of public libraries. McCullough relates that Prall, impressed by the example of New England, sought to establish a library in Paterson under the new, 1879 law. He failed. “[T]he change in New Jersey was slow in coming,” McDonough notes “It was only in 1884,” with Prall, by then himself a member of the New Jersey Assembly, and taking the lead, “that the legislation was passed to make taxpayer support of libraries possible”³⁰ - a bill that not only authorized the creation of free public libraries but also included an automatic funding mechanism to establish and maintain them: authorization for cities in New Jersey to collect from their taxpayers an additional tax of one-third of one mill of assessed property value to be dedicated to library purposes.

“The importance of this landmark legislation,” McCullough states, “can scarcely be

²⁵ McDonough, p. 8.

²⁶ United States Department of Interior, Bureau of Education, *Public Libraries in the United States of America*, pp. 447-8. The report notes that similar legislation took effect elsewhere in subsequent years, the editors learned from their survey: Massachusetts (1851, 1859, 1866, 1870), Maine (1854), Vermont (1865, 1867), Ohio (1868, 1875), Wisconsin (1868, 1872), Connecticut (1869), Iowa (1870), Indiana (1871, 1873), Illinois (1872), and Texas (1874).

²⁷ McDonough, p. 9.

²⁸ P.L. 1879, p. 262, §§2, 6 in *General Statutes of New Jersey*, (Jersey City: Frederick D. Linn & Co.), 1896, p. 1947.

²⁹ Prall was a member of the Passaic County bar and had “taken orders in the ministry of the Protestant Episcopal Church. See: George Wurtis, “The Free Public Library,” in Shriner, Charles A., *Paterson, New Jersey: Its Advantages for Manufacturing and Residence; its Industries, Prominent Men, Banks, Schools, Churches, etc.* (Paterson Board of Trade), 1890, p. 65.

³⁰ McDonough, p. 8.

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overestimated. It gave libraries organized under its provisions a sound structure of governance and an assured minimum based of tax support....[Prall's] bill, which became the basic law governing public libraries [in New Jersey], remains, after numerous amendments, the fundamental law under which public libraries organize and operate."³¹

During the next 11 years, the Legislature repeatedly voted to strengthen and hasten implementation of its 1884 legislative act. Particularly important to library trustees in New Jersey from a fiscal standpoint was the Legislature's 1895 "supplement" to the 1884 Act. The supplement contained two important provisions.³²

First, it enabled a library's trustees to "to purchase lands, improved or unimproved, or to erect buildings thereon, or both, for the purpose of a free public library." The act ordained that when the estimated cost exceeds the annual appropriation and the funds that the trustees have on hand, the trustees, upon their certification of need to the "common council" [currently the city council], upon passage of a resolution by the council, and with the mayor's consent, "shall be empowered and authorized...to purchase real estate and to erect buildings and make improvements thereto."

Second, the 1895 supplement authorized a city's common council "to defray the expense of such purchase and construction" by authorizing the council to "issue bonds of such city not to exceed \$175,000 in the aggregate."

Establishment of the Hoboken Free Public Library, 1889

The two acts laid the groundwork, figuratively and literally, for the establishment and construction of the Hoboken Free Public Library in starting 1895. On April 9, 1889, pursuant to 1884 act, "a majority of voters...voted to adopt a Free Public Library in the City of Hoboken," the new library's bylaws recounted.³³

Mayor Augustus Grassman appointed five citizens as trustees. They met on June 14, 1889 at City Hall and elected Mayor Grassmann as president.³⁴ Thereupon the trustees set about the four-fold task of self-education, staffing, space acquisition and collection development. During the first year, trustees "familiarize[d] themselves with library work and methods by visiting and inspecting public libraries in New York, Newark and Paterson," according to the trustees' first annual report, and purchased used furniture from the Paterson library.³⁵ The trustees leased space for their collection in the basement of the newly constructed Second National Bank at the northeast corner of Hudson Place and River Street.³⁶ (See historic photograph.) They accepted

³¹ McDonough, p. 9.

³² P.L. 1895, p. 338, §§1, 2, in *General Statutes of New Jersey*, (Jersey City: Frederick D. Linn & Co.), 1896, p. 1953.

³³ *By-Laws of the Board of Trustees of the Free Public Library of the City of Hoboken, N.J.*, 1890 (unpaginated).

³⁴ Ibid.

³⁵ August Grassman, president, in *First Annual Report of Hoboken Free Public Library*, May 1, 1891, p. 3.

³⁶ The bank was chartered in 1887 (*History of Hoboken*, Hoboken Board of Trade, 1907). The building is still standing.

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the resignation of Thomas Hatfield, a trustee, and thereupon appointed him librarian.³⁷

A librarian from the Newark Public Library, Frank P. Hill, compiled for his new Hoboken counterpart a list of 3,500 volumes that Hoboken's trustees subsequently purchased for \$3,247.76. Meanwhile, Hatfield and a cataloguer organized the collection. Among the new library's holdings were the 2,000 books from the Franklin Lyceum library that Martha Stevens had established.³⁸

Nineteen months after appointment of the trustees, the library opened for patron service on October 2, 1890, following "public exercises" in City Hall the day before, at which Governor Leon Abbett spoke, as well as a celebratory banquet at the Park Hotel the night of the opening.³⁹ At the City Hall ceremony, trustee James Minturn thanked Mayor Grassman for overcoming "some opposition [that] arose from good, worthy and responsible citizens who feared that the expense which would be entailed by [establishing a library] would be wasted" because some unidentified men "reasoned that the youth of our city would rather promenade the streets or infest the billiard room than apply themselves to mental and moral development." Civic leaders persevered, Minturn concluded, and "[w]e trust that we have given to the city of Hoboken one of the institutions which mark the progress of a city's development," he said.⁴⁰

Hoboken was a rapidly growing city. By the time of the 1890 United States census, Hoboken's population had increased to 43,648 inhabitants, 41% more than were counted a decade earlier. Hoboken was the sixth-most populous municipality in the state (following, in order, Newark, Jersey City, Paterson, Camden and Trenton).⁴¹ During its first year, the library's first-month circulation of 4,974 grew to 6,207 six months later.⁴² During library's second full year of operation, the trustees extended hours by opening at 7 a.m. and closing at 9 p.m., a one-hour expansion of the initial 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. schedule that was "fully appreciated by those seeking employment and anxious to have early access to the advertising pages of the daily papers."⁴³ In 1893, Hoboken's public school library donated 1,385 books. With tax-levy support, the City of Hoboken provided more than \$12,000 to the library trustees during their first fiscal year of

³⁷ August Grassman, president, in *First Annual Report of Hoboken Free Public Library*, May 1, 1891, p. 3.

³⁸ Kerr, *op cit.*

³⁹ Newspaper article in *The Evening Observer*, October 2, 1890, p. 1. Article quotes speakers' remarks.

⁴⁰ *Ibid.* Professor Barringer, identified only by surname in the news article, is listed as Professor W. N. Barringer in the *Alphabetic Catalogue of the Free Public Library of Hoboken, N.J.*, August 1895 (np).

⁴¹ See Census Office, Department of the Interior, *Report of the Population of the United States at the Eleventh Census: 1890*, Volume I Part I, Table 6 – Population of Cities Having 25,000 Inhabitants or More in 1890."

⁴² August Grassman, president, in *First Annual Report of Hoboken Free Public Library*, May 1, 1891, p. 11.

⁴³ Edward R. Stanton, president, reported the expansion in hours in *Second Annual Report of Hoboken Free Public Library*, for fiscal year ended April 30, 1892, p. 3. The initial library schedule was part of the *Bylaws of the Board of Trustees of the Free Public Library*, 1890, p. 7.

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stewardship.

Construction of the Library and Manual Trade School, 1895-7

Shortly after opening the library in rented space, the trustees recognized its physical constraints. “[I]t will shortly be necessary to extend the present inadequate quarters to a larger and more extensive building,” the trustees’ president wrote in the library’s first annual report.⁴⁴

“The one-third mill levy,” he continued, “is sufficient to cover the ordinary expense and allow us to add a few of the many books it will be necessary to have on our shelves to supply the demand of the public and to fill incomplete sets and classes.” However, he added, the levy was not sufficient to support a building program and “the prospect for a permanent home for this popular institution is not a bright one, unless some generous-minded citizen, desiring to emulate the example of many liberal-minded philanthropists, whose names will never die, will erect to his memory and generosity a silent and lasting monument in a gift of a building to the Free Public Library of Hoboken.”

The generosity of a liberal-minded philanthropist who was willing to fund a new, large, permanent home for the library eventually emerged – four years later, in 1895, as the nation’s economy emerged from the Panic of 1893. When the library trustees met on March 26, 1895, they reviewed and transmitted to the mayor and city council “for immediate consideration” two letters. One letter came from F. E. Francis by R. P. Francis, “attorney in fact,” offering to sell to the City two plots on the northwest corner Fifth Street and Park Avenue: a corner plot measuring 41 feet on Fifth Street and 75 feet on Park Avenue and an adjoining plot on Park Avenue 20 feet wide and 100 feet deep.⁴⁵ The asking price: \$12,000, exclusive of buildings.

Stevens Family Funding for Library, Manual Training School

The second letter that the trustees reviewed and forwarded to the mayor and city council on March 26, 1895, was a letter, dated the same day, that contained the promise of start-up funds for site acquisition and construction. The letter arrived from Richard L. Stevens, who was one of Martha B. Stevens’ sons and a brother of Edwin Augustus Stevens Jr., one of the initial trustees who had been appointed in 1889 to serve briefly as an incorporator but no longer on the board in 1895. Richard Stevens wrote:

On behalf of my mother, Mrs. Martha Stevens and my sister-in-law Mrs. John Stevens, and myself, I beg to acquaint you with the fact that we are willing to donate to the City

⁴⁴ August Grassman, president, in *First Annual Report* of Hoboken Free Public Library, May 1, 1891, p. 11.

⁴⁵ An article, “Hoboken’s Library,” *Jersey Journal*, January 3, 1897 (np), misstated the dimensions of the building “The building has a frontage of 50 feet on Fifth Street and 90 feet on Park Avenue, and there is an extension in the rear 20 feet by 28 feet.” The accurate measurements are 61 feet on Fifth Street and 95 feet on Park Avenue, per Dennis Kowal Architects, March 6, 2012.

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of Hoboken in land and cash a sum not exceeding \$26,000, towards the erection of a Free Public Library Building, by the Free Library trustees of the City of Hoboken, providing that accommodations [*sic*] at the same time be given for the proper accommodation of the Industrial Education department of the City of Hoboken, and providing that the City of Hoboken will raise the balance of the amount necessary to erect such buildings as may meet our approval for the above objects, and providing that this offer must be accepted before the first day of July, of this year.

And that the deed of conveyance shall contain such restrictions as will insure the accomplishment of the above named objects. The site of said building to be selected by the Library Trustees.

The Stevens donation was a three-person gift; Martha Stevens contributed \$20,000, Richard Stevens \$5,000 and Mrs. John Stevens \$1,000.⁴⁶ The relative worth of \$26,000 in 2011 dollars can be calculated as \$6.2 million by comparing the same \$26,000 to a consistent metric: the one-third-mill property-tax revenue allocation from the municipality. In 1895 the Stevenses \$26,000 gift was double the typical annual allocation of \$13,000 that the library received at that time. In 2011, the same allocation formula generated \$3.1 million for the Hoboken Public Library. Doubling that figure leads to the conclusion that the Stevens family donation was worth \$6.2 million in current 2011 dollars.

The Stevens letter was significant in two important respects: as an apparent indicator of national economic conditions and as a clear demonstration of the Stevens family's multipurpose approach to philanthropy – an approach that directly influenced the design of the Hoboken Free Public Library and Manual Training School.

In terms of national economic conditions, the Stevens gift, in 1895, came at – and possibly was induced by -- a favorable moment in the economic history of Hoboken, a community tightly tied to the economy of New Jersey and, by extension, the United States. Two years earlier, the nation had experienced the Panic of 1893, caused in part by the bankruptcy of the Philadelphia and Reading Company, and financial difficulties of other railroads. As a result, “[t]he industrial paralysis of 1894,” recounted a contemporaneous observer of finance, “had alike affected import

⁴⁶ *Sixth Annual Report of the Board of Trustees of the Free Public Library and Eighth Annual Report of the Board of Trustees for Industrial Education of the City of Hoboken, N.J. for Year Ending April 30, 1896*, p. 26.

Little is known about Mrs. John Stevens. Widowed only three months before donating \$1,000 to the library, on January 21, 1895, Mrs. John Stevens was Miss Mary McGuire, “a Richmond, Va., belle,” according to her husband's obituary, “Rumors About John Stevens,” *The Evening Journal* (Jersey City, N.J.), January 22, 1895, p. 6. After her husband died, Mrs. Stevens married Lewis Hyde, an attorney in Hoboken, according to the obituary of Martha B. Stevens in *The New York Times*, April 2, 1899. The “rumors” about Mary McGuire Stevens's first husband reported by the Jersey City newspaper, and denied by William N. Parslow, the undertaker, were that John Stevens, born in July 1856 as his parents' oldest son, “had submitted to another operation for the removal of a cancer, and had “succumbed to the effects of the operation.” The article noted that Stevens had undergone an operation 14 years before his death to remove a life-long “excrescence on his neck” so large “that it caused a permanent deformity” and “untold tortures when strangers on the street manifested any curiosity.”

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trade and home production; both had fallen to their lowest level in many years.”⁴⁷ By 1895, however, business confidence returned. Key to the recovery was the agreement by the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States on February 8, 1895, by which J.P. Morgan & Company and Augustus Belmont & Company, representing the Rothschild interests, would purchase \$62 million of United States government bonds. Recovering from the prior year’s depressed demand and reduced supply of goods, commercial markets in 1885 surged. “Hardly an article of domestic produce or manufacture failed to rise in response to this increased demand” – including iron, grain, cotton, oil and print cloth. The recovery did not last – much of the demand was based on speculation and by 1897, “[i]ndustrial markets were in a state of profound discouragement; the collapse of the premature ‘trade boom of 1885’ had left the country’s business at the beginning of 1896 seemingly worse off than at the end of 1894.”⁴⁸ Nevertheless, the fledgling Hoboken Public Library and Manual Training School benefited from the robustness of the nation’s business climate and the generosity of donors whose business ties to real estate, railroads and shipping enjoyed an economic upswing, however brief.

In terms of the form of the Hoboken Free Public Library following its function, multipurpose philanthropy is the other key characteristic of the Stevens letter of March 26, 1895. The letter directly demonstrates a significant fact in the history of the Hoboken Free Public Library: from the outset and throughout much of its existence, the building -- in original intent, architectural design, and the allocation of interior space -- housed not only a library but also a manual training school. The building embodied a passion that Martha Stevens and her children elevated beyond their support of a free public library, namely, the ideals of the Board for Industrial Education.

Less than two months after the March 26, 1895 offer, the Stevens donors sent a second letter to emphasize their view that the library and manual training school were interconnected. Writing on May 8, 1895, “on behalf of my mother Mrs. Stevens, my sister-in-law, Mrs. John Stevens, and myself,” Richard Stevens explained that the three donors “expect to see carried out the conditions annexed to our gift of \$26000 [\$26,000] to the Library and Industrial Education building.” The conditions, he wrote, “consisted of the guarantee that the building should be used for the joint purpose of the Library and Industrial school, and that the Industrial Education Board should have power to pass on the [design and construction] plans before they are accepted.” For emphasis, he added: “There is only one way in which we can assure the fulfilment [*sic*] of the above conditions, viz., that the donors, after the site the building and the price thereof have been decided on by the proper city authorities, shall purchase the same and convey the property to the City by a deed in which are incorporated the foregoing conditions.”⁴⁹

⁴⁷ Alexander Dana Noyes, *Forty Years of American Finance: A Short Financial History of the Government and People of the United States Since the Civil War, 1865-1907*, (New York: G.P. Putnam Sons), 1907, p. 242.

⁴⁸ *Ibid.*, pp. 237-243, 262.

⁴⁹ Richard Stevens, letter to Edward Russ, May 8, 1895.

Despite Richard Stevens’ intentions, within several years of the building’s opening, the industrial education trustees accused the library trustees, in contravention of the deed restriction, of seeking “exclusive control” of the third-floor

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Selection of an Architect

Production of the final architectural design of the Hoboken Free Public Library and Manual Training School followed a tension-shaped path. One day after the library's trustees received Richard Stevens's May 8, 1895 letter, the front page of one of the community's major daily newspapers, *The Evening Journal*, published a page-one article headlined: "May Lose the Gifts. Stevens' Family Displeased With Free Library Trustees."⁵⁰ The one-paragraph article stated that "[t]he action of the free library trustees, of Hoboken, in awarding the plan for the new library building to an architect without competition, may result in unpleasant complications. The members of the Stevens family, who liberally contributed to the library fund, had it in mind that the board should invite completion, in order that the best plan for a building of such magnitude might be secured, and they are not pleased." The article concluded: "It is possible that they will recall their gifts unless the trustees change front."

Six days later, the trustees and Richard Stevens appeared in the newspaper again, under the headline "Free Library Row. Hoboken Folk Tangled Up – Too Much Meddling."⁵¹ Not only did the Stevens family expect an open design competition, the article recounted, but an additional problem had surfaced: "[W]hen the library trustees learned that Mr. Beyer had designed a four-story building, three floors of which are said to have been given up to the industrial school, while only one floor was provided for library uses, they waxed wrath, believing that the school was getting more than its fair share of the building."

Furthermore, "it is understood that a member of the industrial board gave Architect Beyer a few pointers, in making the plans, although he was not authorized to do so, whereby the industrial school got the greater share of the building in the plans," the newspaper reported, without identifying the source of the allegation or the industrial board member.

As to the design, "Richard Stevens said this morning that the donors had nothing whatever

Assembly Room. In 1905 the state Supreme Court ruled that "neither [board of trustees] has an exclusive right but each has a right" to the Assembly Room. (Vice Chancellor Lindley Miller Garrison, *Board of Trustees of Schools for Industrial Education in the City of Hoboken v. Mayor and Common Council of the City of Hoboken, and the Trustees of the Free Public Library of the City of Hoboken*, November 9, 1905) In 1913, the erstwhile litigants executed a five-year agreement by which the library trustees would pay the industrial school \$600 annually for the library trustees' right to construct a stairway up to the Assembly Room from the second-floor reading room below (see Photograph #40). The agreement permitted the library trustees to use the Assembly Room until 6 p.m. as a children's room on condition that the library's book shelves were to be rolled away and replaced with "proper tables and chairs" for use of the industrial school after 6 p.m. (See *Agreement between Martin Cooke, President, Free Public Library of the City of Hoboken, N.J., and William Keuffel, President, Board of Trustees for Industrial Education*, December 19, 1913.) Max J. Beyer, one of Albert Beyer's two sons, and an architect himself, designed the stairway between the two floors, according to architectural drawings on file in the library. The stairway was constructed in 1914-1915. Shared use of the third floor continued until the 1980's, according to a review of the library trustees' minutes. Book shelves and sewing machine tables – all mounted on casters – were rolled in and out of place for daytime library use and evening sewing classes.

⁵⁰ "May Lose the Gifts. Stevens' Family Displeased With Free Library Trustees," *Evening Journal*, May 9, 1895, p. 1.

⁵¹ "Free Library Row. Hoboken Folk Tangled Up – Too Much Meddling," *Evening Journal*, May 15, 1895, p. 8.

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to do with Beyer's plans." He repeated the family's preference for a design competition and he suggested granting control of the building to the library trustees with a long-term lease to the industrial school trustees at nominal rent for use of the basement. "There could be three floors," the newspaper quoted him as saying. "The basement for the industrial school, the ground floor for a library and reading room and the top floor for a public lecture room."

During a meeting of board of trustees the night before, the newspaper reported, "some of the [board] members, it is said, were in favor of giving up the offer of the Stevens family and proceeding without any financial aid from them." The trustees took no action on the matter other than to plan a meeting with the family, said the newspaper.

The meeting took place on May 16, 1895. Participating in the meeting at the office of one of Martha Stevens' other sons, Edwin Augustus Stevens, were Martha Stevens, Richard Stevens and the library's building committee: Edward Russ, Otto Lehman and Julius Schlatter, according to the *Evening Journal*.⁵²

"During the discussion it was suggested that entrance to the library should be on Park Avenue, and to the Industrial school on Fifth Street," the newspaper reported without elaboration.

"Architects both in Hoboken and other cities will be invited to compete in drawing plans for the building," said the newspaper. "The man whose plans are accepted will receive \$500, or 1 percent on \$50,000," the newspaper reported. "In case an outsider is successful," added the newspaper, "a Hoboken architect will be appointed to supervise the construction."

During the meeting, Schlatter questioned whether the library had legal authority to issue bonds to construct a library that would be encumbered by the Stevens family's insistence that the building accommodate an industrial school, the newspaper reported. It added that Russ and the city attorney, James Minturn, "are said to have carefully looked up the law on this subject."

In response to this concern, the newspaper reported, "Both Mr. Stevens and Mrs. Stevens said at the conference that they were willing to make the gift absolute to the city without any restrictions whatever, and only asked that the library trustees grant them the use of one floor of the proposed building for the industrial school, the latter to be a tenant paying rental to the library." Reported the newspaper: "This plan seemed to be highly satisfactory all around" – subject to confirmation by the entire library board at a meeting to be held the next week.

Neither the trustees' minutes nor the library's archives contain any evidence of the pre-construction contretemps. There is no evidence of the trustees having consulted or selected an architect prior to the family's public reproach and, if so, how much design work had been completed.

Nonetheless, it is clear that the trustees followed the agreed-upon plan to hold a design competition. Nine architects submitted designs. At a trustees meeting on August 13, 1895, three of the contestants -- James Ross and Louis Mowbray, for the firm of Mowbray & Uffinger; Albert Beyer; and George Mort Pollard -- appeared before the board and explained their plans (see concept plans).

⁵² "All Is Clear Now. Hoboken May Go Ahead with Its Free Library Building," *Evening Journal*, May 17, 1895, p. 4.

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Both Mowbray and Pollard presented plans that appear to have been inspired by the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition that had drawn thousands of visitors to marvel at the exposition's technological advances and shimmering Beaux Arts architecture. Homage to Chicago's "white city" may have been a subtle effort to secure a good word from their putative client's financial supporter, Martha Stevens. Three years earlier, in 1892, New Jersey Governor Leon Abbett had appointed her to the Board of Women Managers for the State of New Jersey. The seven other women on the board elected Martha Stevens to be the chairman of their effort to collect and prepare exhibits for New Jersey's portion of the women's pavilion.⁵³ Notwithstanding Martha Stevens' official connection to the Columbian exposition, and despite other communities' embrace of the exposition's architectural exemplars,⁵⁴ the trustees for the new library that she was underwriting in Hoboken appear to have not been ready to embrace the new Beaux Arts style. Still a community significantly Germanic in population, culture and architectural vernacular, Hoboken more readily accepted buildings that emphasized solidity and frugality over ornamentation and excess.⁵⁵ At the end of their interviews with architects, the trustees passed

⁵³ In 1892, the title was "chairman." See Margaret Tufts Yardley, editor for Board of Lady Managers for New Jersey, *The New Jersey Scrap Book of Women Writers* (Newark, N.J.: Advertiser Printing House), 1893, p. v. See also: ___ *Dedicatory and Opening Ceremonies for the World's Columbian Exposition*, (Chicago: Stone, Kastler and Painter), 1893, p. 170. Martha Stevens' son Edwin A. Stevens also served in an official capacity related to the exposition. On the all-male New Jersey State Board of Commissioners for the exposition (every state had such a delegation), Edwin A. Stevens was one of two alternates to the two full members. See Moses P. Handy, *Official Directory of the World's Columbian Exposition* (Chicago: W.B. Gonkey Company), 1893, p. 91.

⁵⁴ Charles McKim, one of the exposition's architects, thereafter established the American Academy of Rome to foster the study of classic Italian architecture. "Soon New York and cities across the country turned to Classical, or Renaissance design for their libraries, train stations, court houses, office buildings, and houses. In an imperial rebirth of ages past, architects put up little Romes everywhere." (Neal Bascomb, *Higher: A Historic Race to the Sky and the Making of a City* (New York: Doubleday), 2003, p. 36.)

⁵⁵ This interpretation of the library trustees' decision, advanced by Paul J. Somerville, who is familiar with Hoboken's historic architecture as chair of the municipal Historic Preservation Commission, is corroborated by Ulysses Grant Dietz, the Newark Museum's chief curator of decorative arts: "The all white Beaux Arts look was still too startling for a lot of people, who were used to turrets and architectural bric-a-brac still. You watch domestic houses in heavily German neighborhoods, for example, and they keep their turrets well into the 1900s." (email from Ulysses Grant Dietz to Allen Kratz, July 16, 2012).

Hoboken was heavily Germanic in the late 19th Century – one of many American communities populated by immigrants from what is now Germany, "small proprietors forced off the land by agricultural depression, spinners and handloom weavers unable to compete with English textiles flooding down the Rhine, skilled shoemakers and furniture makers facing proletarianization, and handfuls of merchants and manufacturers frustrated by economic stagnation and political repression," in the words of Edwin G. Burrows and Mike Wallace, *Gotham: A History of New York City to 1898*, (New York: Oxford University Press), 1999, p. 735, quoted in Christina A. Ziegler-McPherson, *Immigrants in Hoboken: One-Way Ticket, 1854-1985*, (Charleston, S.C.: The History Press), 1999, p. 19. By 1890, ; 23% of Hoboken's population was recorded in the decennial census as having been born in Germany, a higher percentage than those shown for Newark (15%), New York (14%), Brooklyn (12%) or Jersey City (10%). See Census Office, Department of the Interior, *Report of the Population of the United States at the Eleventh Census: 1890*, Volume I Part I, Table 6 – Population of Cities Having 25,000 Inhabitants or More in 1890," and Table 34 --"County of Birth."

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over Mowbray & Uffinger and Pollard.⁵⁶ When the trustees met on August 13, 1895, six of the trustees voted for Beyer's plan; Edward Russ, who initially favored the plans of Mowbray and Uffinger, changed his vote to make Beyer's commission a unanimous decision.⁵⁷

Although the trustees chose Beyer, they did not choose his plan. Instead, they asked for a revised design. Beyer's initial concept drawing was a vertically oriented Gothic design with a tall slender spire, gable dormers and steeply pitched roof that closely resembled the King's House erected from 1515 to 1536 on Market Square in Brussels, Belgium and restored in 1860 in neo-Gothic style.⁵⁸

The trustees adjourned to meet with Beyer two days after their August 13, 1895 vote. Perhaps also chary of trumping the church across the square, Our Lady of Grace Church (see historic photograph), with an ornate ecclesiastical design,⁵⁹ the trustees asked Beyer for a re-design. At their next meeting, on September 17, 1895, Beyer presented his plan, the minutes note. Beyer's re-design – an Italian Renaissance Revival concept – retained some of his initial design's details (vertical mass and protruding tower) but shifted the entrance from the street corner to the Fifth Street elevation and eliminated the tall spire (see final concept drawing).⁶⁰ Beyer received approval to proceed. On January 14, 1896, the trustees' president, Lawrence

Early annual reports by the library trustees routinely quantified the number of books and periodicals in the library's holdings that were written in German.

⁵⁶ Mowbray and Uffinger subsequently designed Newark's City Hall in a late French Renaissance style (1906). See *New Jersey: A Guide to Its Present and Past* (Stratford Press), 1939, p. 334 ("WPA Guide"); Pollard subsequently designed the Hotel des Artistes in Manhattan, with Gothic and Tudor design elements, which opened in 1917. See Andrew Alpern, *Luxury Apartment Houses of Manhattan* (Mineola, N.Y.: Dover Publications), 1992, p. 43.

⁵⁷ Minutes from trustees meeting, August 13, 1895; see also: "Says He Was Fooled. Architect Long Sends a Sharp Letter to Library Trustees," *Evening Journal*, August 14, 1895, p. 6. Selection of Beyer was accompanied by a new controversy, as headlined in the article. "When the board first advertised for a competition by architects," the article stated, "Trustee Julius Schlatter stated publicly that Mr. Beyer was the favored architect, and that everything pointed to the prospects of the selection of his plans. Mr. Schlatter was very much opposed to the manner in which his colleagues conducted the competition, and said so in no uncertain tones." The article also noted that an architect from Jersey City, C. Frederick Long, had sent a "cutting" letter to the trustees. Long charged that their intention to submit the plans of the three finalists to a New York architect for review called into question the trustees' ability to select the three. Long was not one of the finalists.

⁵⁸ "Brussels: Buildings and Monuments – The King's House" (http://ww.trabel.com/brussel/brussels-kings_house.htm, viewed August 11, 2012).

⁵⁹ This interpretation of the library trustees' rejection of Beyer's initial design is advanced by Dennis J. Kowal, the architectural consultant hired by the library in 2008 to prepare a preservation plan.

⁶⁰ The library and manual training school was not the only building subsidized by the Stevens family to lose its spire in the design phase. Architect Richard Upjohn's original plans for Stevens Institute of Technology's first building called for a 50-foot spire on the central tower. However, because Edwin Augustus Stevens' will bound his three trustees, including his wife, to economical construction, the building was constructed without a spire (see historic photograph). See Guter, National Register nomination of Edwin Augustus Stevens Hall, Section 8, p. 10.

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Fagan, memorialized the trustees' acceptance of Beyer's Italian Renaissance Revival design by countersigning 13 plans drawn on large linen sheets that are stored in the library. Three are displayed in the library's main reading room; the others are accessible from flat files under the control of reference librarians.

Structures Designed by Albert Beyer, Architect

The library trustees most likely drew comfort not only from Beyer's re-design but also his strong roots in Hoboken's business community. During much of his career in Hoboken, Beyer worked from offices in the Second National Bank building, which was constructed in 1889 on the northeast corner of Hudson Place and River Street – the building in which the Hoboken Free Public Library leased basement space shortly after its formation in 1889 until it moved eight years later into the permanent structure that Beyer designed. He was a member of the German Club of Hoboken and the Hoboken Camera Club.⁶¹

Albert Beyer, born in Prussia in 1846, in the town of Halle on the Saale River, began his career as a draftsman and then branched into civil engineering and architecture, eventually becoming a name partner in two firms in Hoboken, Beyer & Tivy (1878-1889) and Beyer & McCann (1889-1894), thereafter conducting business under his own name with assistance from his son, Max J. Beyer, also an architect, before retiring in 1903 and returning to his native land in 1905 to live in retirement in Dresden until he died in 1922.⁶² No extensive biography of Beyer has emerged in research for this registration form, and the short accounts written about him during and shortly after his life, while helpful, benefit from the corroboration and correction that contemporaneous original sources provide.

After receiving education in Prussia at the college of Landsberg an der Warthe,⁶³ Beyer took a government job as a surveyor. In 1864, at age 18, Beyer emigrated to the United States, settling first in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, where he worked as a draftsman for the erection of the nation's first zinc rolling mills.⁶⁴

When the mills were completed in the mid-1860's,⁶⁵ Beyer moved to the New York City area and took various jobs, including designing a plant to make wood pulp.⁶⁶ In 1865 he began

⁶¹ *The Record of Progress*.

⁶² Daniel Van Winkle, editor, *History of the Municipalities of Hudson County New Jersey, 1630-1923* (New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, 1924), Volume III, pp. 478-80 dates Beyer's partnership with Aloysius Tivy as 1878-1892 and with Thomas H. McCann as 1892-1899, and the end of Beyer's architectural practice as 1902. However the more reliable source -- used here -- are the annual editions of *Boyd's Directory of Jersey City and Hoboken*.

⁶³ Until 1945, Landsberg an der Warthe, situated in Prussia, was part of Germany. The city now lies within the boundaries of Poland and is named Gorzów Wielkopolski.

⁶⁴ Van Winkle, Volume III, pp. 478-80.

⁶⁵ P.J. Hall, "History of South Bethlehem, Pa.," *Souvenir History Book of the Borough of South Bethlehem, Pennsylvania*, 1915, states that the Lehigh Zinc Company expanded its operations in 1865.

⁶⁶ Van Winkle, Volume III, pp. 478-80.

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the study of architecture.⁶⁷ For a short time in the mid-1860s, Beyer was employed by the chief engineer of the Morris & Essex Railroad in Hoboken. Beyer subsequently took a job as a draftsman and civil engineer for the Atlantic & Great Western Railway, designing plans for a railway bridge across the Niagara River at Fort Erie in Ontario. The railroad company failed in May 1866 after Beyer's plans were completed; a review of on-line articles indicates that the Atlantic & Great Western Railway never constructed the planned bridge.⁶⁸

In October 1866, Beyer moved to Hudson City, a municipality in Hudson County, New Jersey, from 1855 until the City of Jersey City annexed it in 1870, whereupon it became known as "The Heights" section of Jersey City.⁶⁹ While living and working in Hudson City, Beyer was appointed one of the City Surveyors.⁷⁰ Beyer completed his study of architecture in 1868.⁷¹

In 1868, Beyer formed a surveying firm, Fouquet & Beyer, which he dissolved in 1871. In 1878 Beyer moved to Hoboken to set up the architectural and engineering firm of Beyer & Tivy in conjunction with surveyor Aloysius Tivy, of Hoboken. The partnership continued through 1889.⁷² The firm designed two Hoboken buildings that figured in news accounts:⁷³ Wareing's Theatre, the imminent construction of which was described in 1886 press accounts as a three-story venue on the west side of Hudson Street, between Hudson Place and Newark Street that would be "decorated in Renaissance style" with "capacious stairways," electric lighting and automatically operated skylights in the dome,⁷⁴ and Bernitt's Hall, a three-story brick building at First and

⁶⁷ Albert Beyer, *Form of Application for Associate Membership, American Institute of Architects*, Hoboken, March 22, 1900. The AIA's form did not require, and Beyer did not provide, information about where he began the study of architecture and began the independent practice of architecture.

⁶⁸ *The Record of Progress of the Hoboken Evening News Together with the History of the City of Hoboken from Its Settlement to the Present Time* (Jersey City, N.J., The Evening News, 1893), (np). The website of the Rochester & Genesee Valley Railroad Museum states that the Atlantic and Great Western Railway Company went into receivership in 1867 (http://wnyrails.org/railroads/agw/agw_home.htm, viewed April 22, 2012).

⁶⁹ John P. Snyder, *The Story of New Jersey's Civil Boundaries: 1606-1968* (Trenton, NJ: New Jersey Bureau of Geology and Topography; 1969), pp. 146-147. See also: Free Public Library of Jersey City, *From Canoe to Tunnel: a Sketch of the History of Transportation between Jersey City and New York, 1661-1901* (Jersey City: Free Public Library, 1909), p. 15.

⁷⁰ *The Record of Progress*.

⁷¹ Albert Beyer, AIA application form.

⁷² *The Record of Progress*. The first Jersey City-Hoboken directory to list Albert Beyer and Beyer & Tivy *Gopsill's Jersey City and Hoboken Directory 1879*. The final directly to list them as partners was Gopsill's 1888-1889 edition.

⁷³ ___, *Quarter-Century's Progress of New Jersey's Leading Manufacturing Centers* (New York: International Publishing Company), 1887, p. 168.

⁷⁴ "A New Theatre," *The (New York) Evening Telegraph*, February 16, 1886 (np). See also a description of the firm's history and clients in *Quarter-Century's Progress of New Jersey's Leading Manufacturing Centres* (New York: International Publishing Company), 1897, p. 168.

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Bloomfield Streets that, weakened by severe winds (contemporaneously called a "cyclone") unexpectedly collapsed on August 29, 1901, killing a bartender working inside.⁷⁵ For the Erie Railroad, Beyer designed the entrance on the Newark end of the railroad's steel swing bridge across the Passaic River into East Newark, which opened circa 1880. (See historic photograph.) It was replaced with a new bridge in 1922.⁷⁶

During the 1880s Beyer designed the public outdoor iron staircase, the "Franklin Street Steps," in Jersey City linking Paterson Plank Road to Franklin Street in the neighborhood atop the Palisades to enable pedestrians to scale the bluff between Hoboken and Jersey City. (See historic photograph.) Exactly when Beyer designed the staircase is not documented. An early version is depicted on city maps of 1866 and 1873.⁷⁷ The steps no longer exist, although Sanborn's cartographers continued to depict them as recently as 2006.

Beyer & Tivy assisted construction of the 1888 Deutsche Evangelische Kirche von Yorkville, a Victorian eclectic style church with facades finished in brick, limestone and slate in the Yorkville section of Manhattan's Upper East Side, populated largely, at the time, with recent German immigrants. The congregation's building application listed the Beyer & Tivy as architects, but the building file in New York City's Department of Buildings lists Manhattan architect Michael J.F. Mahoney as architect and Beyer & Tivy as the builder. The Hoboken firm's role as builder is consistent with the role that Beyer apparently performed for the trustees of the Hoboken Free Public Library: their recapitulation of expenses lists Beyer as architect but does not list a contractor or builder; presumably Beyer handled that task, too. Beyer & Tivy's role as builder also illustrates the occupational antecedents of the still-young discipline of architecture: until the second half of the 19th Century, most architects were builders – "most people considered

⁷⁵ "Hoboken Man Pauses to Warn Inmates and Loses His Life," *New York Times*, August 30, 1901 (np).

⁷⁶ On his application for AIA associate membership in 1900, Beyer listed as one of his design projects "Entrance on Fourth St. Bridge over Passaic at Newark," i.e., the steel swing-span bridge that the railroad opened circa 1878-1880 to replace its 1871 wood draw span at the foot of Fourth Avenue (not Street) in Newark. The Erie Railroad replaced the circa 1878-1880 bridge in 1922 with the site's third span, a bascule bridge, no longer used, that Norfolk Southern acquired from Conrail and maintains in its upright position. See "Bridge 8.04: Newark Branch," *Erie Railroad Magazine*, December 1948, p. 10. See also U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, *Lower Passaic River Commercial Navigation Analysis*, 2007, p. 9. See also map by CSX, "North Jersey/New York City Area Railroads, Highways and Industries," April 19, 1999. Newark Public Library has two identical photographs of the bridge by commercial photographer William F. Cone (see historic photograph). Each is identified differently -- "Passaic River above 4th Ave. bridge," says one; "Boat races on the Passaic c. 1878," says the other – but amalgamating the captions identifies both the bridge that Beyer cited on his AIA application form and its approximate date of construction.

⁷⁷ Patricia Florio Colrick, *Images of Hoboken* (Charleston, S.C.: Arcadia, 1999), p. 27. Exactly when Beyer worked on the steps is a matter of documentary confusion. *The Record of Progress* dates Beyer's work on the stairway to 1860 but also says that Beyer did not immigrate to the United States until 1864. Both the "Map of the Property Belonging to the Hudson City Land Association," dated April 12, 1866, and the Hopkins map of Jersey City from 1873 depict steps at the relevant location but not their design or construction material. Beyer's contribution may have been to re-design or re-engineer a replacement structure, not the original steps.

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architects imply carpenters putting on airs," in the words of architectural historian.⁷⁸ In largely German Yorkville, parish leaders, or Mahoney himself, may have hired Beyer at the start of the project to translate (literally and figuratively) the German-speaking congregation's concept into construction. The church, at 339-341 East Eighty-fourth Street in New York City, remains in use as Zion-St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church (see photograph).⁷⁹

Several years later Beyer designed Hoboken's Public School No. 6, a Romanesque Revival masonry and brick structure on the northwest corner of 11th and Willow Streets (see historic photograph) that opened in 1892 and was demolished in the early 1970s for replacement by the public school system's Wallace School.⁸⁰

Beyer designed another public building nearby: the City's Second Police Precinct building on the northeast corner of 12th and Willow Streets, now demolished.⁸¹

Beyer received residential commissions as well. At approximately the same time Beyer received the library commission, he designed a three-story Flemish style home at 802 Hudson Street (see photograph), built circa 1895 for Thomas A. Butler, to fill the 19½-foot wide vacant lot between two existing residences.⁸² The front of the house is faced with brownstone, brick and terra cotta.⁸³ The house remains in use as a residence. Beyer also designed similar residences on the east side of Washington Street between Ninth and Tenth Streets, according a photocopied page of an undated book, *Architects and Some of Their Work in Hudson County and Those Who Execute It*. The original book included a photograph of five brownstone-faced three-story residences that is captioned: "A Row of Private Dwellings on Washington Street, Hoboken, A.

⁷⁸ Neal Bascomb, *Higher: A Historic Race to the Sky and the Making of a City* (New York: Doubleday), 2003, p. 35. Bascomb notes that it was Richard Upjohn, an architect who designed Trinity Church in New York, who in 1857 convened other architects to form the American Institute of Architects in an effort to craft architectural guidelines, establish standards and promote the establishment of architecture schools. The trustees of Stevens Institute of Technology hired Upjohn to design the new school's first building, Stevens Hall.

⁷⁹ Peter D. Shaver, *Zion-St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church*, National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, November 28, 1994, Section 8, pp. 3, 7-8. In 1902, Beyer obtained a judgment of \$2,138 against the church, according to a newspaper article: "The Church in Financial Distress," *The (New York) Sun*, November 1, 1902 (np).

⁸⁰ Albert Beyer, AIA application form. See also: *The Record of Progress*.

⁸¹ *Stevens Indicator*: A Quarterly Journal of Mechanical Engineering, Volume XXXIII, 1916, (np) ("class note" about Richard Beyer that mentions his father's work, including the Second Police Precinct building). The building appears to have been built in the 1890s and was used as a police station until the 1960s or 1970s, after which it became a community recreation center. Following a major fire in the building circa 1968-1972 the structure was demolished and replaced with apartment housing.

⁸² The first appearance in city directories of Thomas A. Butler living at 802 Washington Street is in *Boyd's Jersey City and Hoboken Directory, 1896-97* (in which he is listed as a salesman). His final listing in Boyd's at that address is in the 1899-1900 directory, which lists him as engaged in "silks."

⁸³ ____, *Architects and Some of Their Work in Hudson County and Those Who Execute It*, (undated), p. 22.

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Beyer, Architect."⁸⁴ Research by Alice Galmann, who owns one of the homes, 919 Washington Street, shows that in 1886 Ida Beyer, Albert Beyer's wife, is recorded as purchasing the land at 925 Washington Street. The significance of the purchase – by her and not her husband – and the extent to which she alone or with her husband (and possibly other investors) purchased that building lot and others on that block for land-development purposes did not emerge in the research for this registration form. Nonetheless, the above-mentioned book states that Beyer designed an apartment house at the north end the same block, on the southeast corner of Washington and Tenth streets (939 Washington Street), called the "Waldorf." The four-story building faced in brownstone on its primary elevation and in salmon-colored brick and brownstone details on its side-street elevation, has a "rock faced" brick-shaped brownstone façade at the basement level. The apartments (apparently one on each floor) had halls, kitchens and bathroom finished in natural wood and "elegantly fitted up" as well as living rooms that "are expensively decorated." The description of the Waldorf is consistent with the appearance of the residences that line the eastern side of Washington Street between Ninth and Tenth streets – all of them with their facades intact and all of them together still known, among long-time Hoboken residents, as "Doctor's Row," a vestigial recollection of the occupation of many of the block's early residents. No date is given for the design of the Waldorf or the residences to the south.⁸⁵

Other commissions for Beyer followed the library project. In 1897, he became the architect for a 2½-story stone and frame dwelling measuring 32 feet by 40.1 feet at 38 King Street, in the Highwood Park (now King's Bluff) neighborhood of Weehawken, New Jersey, to be constructed for Mrs. Maria Claussen of Hoboken for \$9,000.⁸⁶ The house remains in residential use (see photograph).

Beyer was active in professional associations. He chaired the architectural branch of the German Technical Society of New York, in which role he assisted Thomas H. McCann, his business partner at the time and a civil engineer, in translating from German into English a paper published in *Transactions of the American Society of Civil Engineers* in 1893.⁸⁷ During 1896-97 (while construction of the library was underway), Beyer was president of the society of New Jersey Architects, a predecessor of the New Jersey Society of Architects of The American Institute of Technology.⁸⁸

⁸⁴ ____, *Architects and Some of Their Work in Hudson County and Those Who Execute It* (undated), p. 50.

⁸⁵ ____, *Architects and Some of Their Work in Hudson County and Those Who Execute It*, (undated), p 14. See also: recollections of Alice Galmann, 919 Washington Street, Hoboken, N.J., interviewed by Allen Kratz on July 28, 2012.

⁸⁶ *The Real Estate Record and Builders' Guide* (Volume 60, Number 1529), July 3, 1897, p. 911. *Boyd's Jersey City and Hoboken Directory, 1897-98* lists Marie Claussen as the widow of John C. Claussen, living at 1219 Garden Street, Hoboken. *Wand's North Hudson Directory, 1900-1901*, lists a "Mrs. Mary Clauson" as living at 38 King Avenue, Weehawken. By the time Sanborn published its 1909 map, the house had been renumbered as 54 King Avenue.

⁸⁷ L. Franzius, "Description of the Lower Weser and Its Improvements," *Transactions of the American Society of Civil Engineers*, Vol. XXIX, 173 (1893), translated by Thomas H. McCann and Albert Beyer, pp. 173ff.

⁸⁸ From AIA New Jersey website, [http://www\[nj.org/about/pastpresidents.shtml](http://www[nj.org/about/pastpresidents.shtml)], viewed April 1, 2012.

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Although Beyer retired to Germany, his two sons remained active in Hoboken's civic life. Max J. Beyer continued his father's architectural practice and designed, circa 1913, the court-mandated stairway built from the library's second floor to the shared-use assembly room above in furtherance of the Stevenses original intent that both the library and school trustees share the room⁸⁹ and Richard A. Beyer became the director of the Manual Training School, subsequently the Industrial School, in the building that his father had designed.⁹⁰

As to site selection, the library trustees' minutes from the 1890s make no mention of why they chose to locate the library on two improved lots in preference to choosing vacant land nearby that they may have been able to acquire less expensively, particularly if the vacant site were part of the unsold inventory of their putative benefactors' enterprise, the Hoboken Land and Improvement Company (see the 1873 Hopkins map). It is reasonable to believe that the trustees, either with or without consulting the Stevens family, foresaw the opportunity to make Church Square Park, bounded on the north by Fifth Street, a new civic square, anchored as it already was by two key buildings: Hoboken Academy just to the west on the northeast corner of Fifth Street and Willow Avenue⁹¹ (see historic photograph) and Our Lady of Grace Church on Willow Avenue at Fourth Street (see historic photograph).⁹² Moreover, the Church of the Holy Innocents was only two blocks away, on Willow Avenue at Sixth Street, and the Martha Institute also was located nearby, one block away from the library site at Sixth Street and Park Avenue (see historic photograph). Not much farther beyond stood the workers' housing, facing Willow Terrace North and Willow Terrace South, inspired by Martha Stevens' visit to the Scottish social experiment of New Lanark. Locating the library on Church Square Park placed the newest manifestation of the Stevens family's civic uplift, by intent or not, within a cluster of the family's existing philanthropic endeavors.⁹³ And, as the trustees noted in the annual report that they issued two months after

⁸⁹ Max J. Beyer continued to practice in Hoboken. Among his major commissions was the Star of Israel (Kochov Israel) synagogue at 115-117 Park Avenue, Hoboken, built in 1915, now the United Synagogue of Hoboken. See Mary Delaney Krugman, "United Synagogue of Hoboken," National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, January 28, 2008. Also a two-story warehouse on the east side of Adams Street near 15th Street in Hoboken for the George W. Travers Company ("Other Building Projects," *New York Herald*, May 30, 1916).

⁹⁰ Van Winkle, Volume I, p. 329; Volume III, p. 479.

⁹¹ The Hoboken Academy (demolished) was another beneficiary of the Stevens family's philanthropic support of education. Founded in 1861 by German-American citizens who sought to preserve German educational methods and the German language in the then-heavily German community, the academy by 1874 had been expanded to cover the four building lots that the founders purchased from the Stevens family's Hoboken Land & Improvement Company with partial financing from Edwin Augustus Stevens, according to John J. Heaney, *The Bicentennial Comes to Hoboken*. See also Van Winkle, Volume I, p. 329.

⁹² The Church of Our Lady of Grace, 400 Willow Avenue, Hoboken, was built from 1874-1876 under the direction of William J. Whyte, builder, to the late Victorian Gothic design of Francis G. Himpler. See the Rev. Richard Carrington and Helen Manogue, "The Church of Our Lady of Grace," National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, October 24, 1995.

⁹³ During the period in which the Stevenses donated funds for site acquisition and construction of the library, Martha Stevens "used her influence to have the [Hoboken Land & Improvement Company] create the Church Square Park

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the building's 1897 opening, "the cupola on the corner was thought proper so as to mark and emphasize the public character and location of the building as otherwise it would be entirely covered by its surroundings."

Additional Funding – Bond Financing

All the while monitoring construction issues, the trustees also recognized another likely funding opportunity. At the March 31, 1896 meeting, "Trustee [Edward] Russ reported the passage of a bill by the last Legislature enabling the city and the trustees to proceed with the erection of the new building and to issue bonds under the law of 1883 [sic: 1884 statute amended in 1895]. The trustees directed the board's secretary to "notify the Governor...and request him to sign the bill."

On a more immediate matter, when the trustees met on April 14, 1896, "...it was resolved to place in the corner stone of the new building all printed forms, documents and papers used in the library and an invitation be extended to Mr. Richard Stevens, Mrs. Martha B. Stevens and Mrs. John Stevens, to attend the placing of such stone and that he be requested to add such papers and documentation as they may choose for such purpose."

The cornerstone was laid six days later, on April 20, 1896 in what a newspaper reporter called an "informal" ceremony during which Martha Stevens "placed under the cornerstone a copper box containing the records of the library, of the Stevens family, and of the Hoboken Land and Improvement Company."⁹⁴

across from the library...." states Clark, p. 21.

⁹⁴ "Hoboken's New Public Library: The Cornerstone Laid Yesterday by Mrs. Martha B. Stevens," *The New York Times*, April 21, 1896, p. 2. The cornerstone has not been opened.

Martha B. Stevens' laying of the cornerstone, with her son Richard also present, appears to have been the high-water mark of Martha Stevens' and her children's active support of the Hoboken Free Public Library. By the time of the first annual report, Edward Augustus Stevens, who was one of Martha B. Stevens' sons and who served as an original trustee for purposes of incorporation, had left the board. The trustees' seventh annual report (through April 30, 1897) duly noted that in addition to the \$26,000 tripartite Stevens donation, Mrs. Stevens had donated 41 books, a donation that echoed the prior year's annual report of gifts: "Mrs. M.B. Stevens: Collection of Photographs." (*The Evening Journal* reported on its print page on December 12, 1895, that Martha Stevens "has made a fine gift...of over 100 handsome pictures, copies of renowned paintings, etc. [that] will be framed and hung up in the new library building." No other charitable support for the library or personal involvement in its activities by Martha Stevens or her children appears in subsequent minutes, annual reports, Martha B. Stevens' general ledger from 1881-1896 or her last will, dated February 21, 1899.

Moreover, apart from the short tenure of one of Martha Stevens' sons, Edward Augustus Stevens, as an "incorporator," no one from the Stevens family received a mayoral appointment to the library board prior to, during or after construction of the new building. A possible explanation may be the growing distance between wealthy industrialists such as the Stevenses and Democratic machine politicians who tapped working-class resentment against "capitalists" and the Hoboken Land & Improvement Company. In Hoboken, Democrats, as one manifestation of their ascendancy, blocked City Council from approving sewage and drainage projects that would increase the value of vacant land in the low-lying western part of Hoboken awaiting development but that would raise property taxes on developed property. For a documented history of the Stevenses' growing disenchantment with, and disinvestment in, the city that their ancestor

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Meanwhile, enactment of the bond-financing law (which the trustees had advocated a year earlier, as had, presumably, public officials in cities elsewhere in New Jersey) enabled the City of Hoboken to issue construction bonds for the library, which was then under construction. On March 1, 1887, the City floated a \$50,000 bond issue by selling fifty \$1,000 bonds maturing in 30 years with semi-annual interest payable at four percent at the First National Bank of Hoboken.⁹⁵

The new library opened to the public on April 5, 1897 in an evening ceremony that filled the 200-seat third-floor assembly room to overflowing. Among those on the platform were Martha B. Stevens and members of her family, including her daughter Caroline Alexander, as well as Miss Mary Stevens, Miss M. B. P. Garnett, and Mr. E. A. Lewis. Also attending was Viscount Santo Thyrso, envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary from Portugal to the United States. (During that time, 1885-1888, the United States minister to Portugal was Edward Park Custis Lewis, the second husband of Martha Stevens' step-daughter, Mary Picton Stevens.) Edward Russ, chairman of the library's building committee, presented to Mayor Lawrence Fagan keys to the library and noted that the number of volumes had increased from 5,975 in 1890 to 17,009 in 1897.

The new library was not the sole focus of the evening. The main speaker, Otto Crouse of Jersey City, "remarked that the industrial school is one of America's best institutions, while Hoboken is the fortunate possessor of one of the best schools of the [word obliterated in microfilm]. He said that the days of hard apprenticeship have passed away since the

founded, see Geoffrey W. Clark, *History of Stevens Institute of Technology: A Record of Broad-Based Curricula and Technogenesis, 1870-2000* (Jersey City, N.J., Jensen/Daniels), 2000, pp. 21-28.

In contrast to the Stevens withdrawal from involvement with the *library*, Martha Stevens and two of her children remained active in what appears to be her longstanding, primary philanthropic interest: industrial education and manual training. For example, the *Sixth Annual Report of the Board of Trustees of the Free Public Library and Eighth Annual Report of the Board of Trustees for Industrial Education of the City of Hoboken, N.J. for Year Ending April 30, 1896*, listed as trustees for the industrial education organization Martha B. Stevens and one of her daughters, Carolyn Bayard Alexander; Martha Stevens served on the audit committee.

In addition, the *Eighth Annual Report of the Board of Trustees of the Free Public Library and Tenth Annual Report of the Board of Trustees for Industrial Education of the City of Hoboken, N.J. for Year Ending April 30, 1898* stated that "Mrs. Stevens and members of her family have...have always been most substantial promoters of the cause of manual and industrial education."

Two years later, although Martha Stevens was off the board of the industrial organization, Richard Stevens had replaced his mother, joining his sister, Caroline Alexander, as a trustee, according to the *Ninth Annual Report of the Board of Trustees of the Free Public Library and Eleventh Annual Report of the Board of Trustees for Industrial Education of the City of Hoboken, N.J. for Year Ending April 30, 1899*.

⁹⁵ The library's archives contain two matured and cancelled bonds of the "Free Library Construction Bond" series. The First National Bank was established by the Stevens family and was considered a "Stevens Bank," according to Clark, p. 21. The Romanesque-style bank, which stood on the southeast corner of Hudson and Newark streets, was demolished for construction of the Beaux Arts bank building that, in 2012, houses Commerce Bank.

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establishment of industrial schools."⁹⁶ During the next week, 15,000 individuals inspected the building, according to the trustees' annual report for the year ended April 1897.

In that same annual report, the trustees reported that the project cost a total of \$83,735.27. The cost was defrayed by funds from two sources: the City's payment of \$57,735.27, presumably with proceeds of the \$50,000 bond issue (net of transaction and issuance costs), with the remainder covered by appropriations from the City's three-mill tax levy, which, during the 1890s averaged \$13,000 annually,⁹⁷ and by the Stevens family's donation of \$26,000. The trustees itemized the building's project costs of \$83,735, as shown in Table 1 below.⁹⁸

Table 1 -- Total Project Costs, 1895-7

Expenditures	
Site	\$17,719.40
Carpenter	15,622.07
Mason	9,716.98
Steel book stacks	3,600.00
Architect	2,997.94
Steam heating	2,992.68
Furniture	2,337.14
Plumbing	2,021.00
Painting	1,623.38
Gas and electric fixtures	1,555.00
Electrical work	1,362.00
Inspector	846.00
Incidentals	841.68
Plan prizes	500.00
Total	\$83,735.27
Receipts	
City payment	\$57,735.27
Mrs. Martha B. Stevens	20,000.00
Mr. Richard Stevens	5,000.00

⁹⁶ ___ "The New Library. Hoboken's Fine Building Formally Opened Last Night," *Evening Journal*, April 28, 1897, p. 2.

⁹⁷ During the 1889-90 fiscal year, receipts from the City's tax revenue totaled \$12,191.30 and during the 1897-98 fiscal year \$14,407.01. See *First Annual Report of the Board of Trustees of the Free Public Library*, May 1, 1891, p. 5, and *Eighth Annual Report of the Board of Trustees of the Free Public Library and Tenth Annual Report of the Board of Trustees for Industrial Education of the City of Hoboken, N.J. for Year Ending April 30, 1898*, p. 7.

⁹⁸The relative worth of \$83,735 in 2010 dollars ranges from \$2,240,000 (multiplying the project cost by the percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index from 1896 to 2010) to \$10,600,000 (looking at the labor cost of the project, using unskilled wage earners) Calculations from Lawrence H. Officer and Samuel H. Williamson, "Measures of Worth," *MeasuringWorth*, 2010, at <http://www.measuringworth.com/calculator/uscompare/relativevalue.php>, viewed April 7, 2012. Essay explains how to choose a subject, e.g., income/wealth, and an indicator, e.g. historic opportunity cost, to calculate relative monetary worth.

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Mrs. Jno. Stevens	1,000.00
Total	\$83,735.27

Architectural Significance of Beyer’s Design

Albert Beyer’s skill as an architect – an architect who began his career with training and commissions as an engineer and surveyor – is demonstrated by his mastery of his client’s challenge to create a visually appealing form to safely and cost-effectively accommodate a variety of disparate functions, including reading, studying, cooking, carpentry, sewing, mechanical drawing, clay modeling, and metalworking. Also significant: Beyer’s incorporation of new technology, i.e., fresh-air-intake steam-heat radiators, and new methods of protecting interior temperatures from incoming air drafts, i.e., revolving doors.

Unseen but important to the building’s function are the structure’s building materials. A contemporaneous news account noted that “the first floor is fireproof, but the upper floors are of timber construction” – a construction decision appropriate to the storage of books on the lower floors. Between the floors, “heavy deafening felt” was included for sound attenuation, according to the library’s annual report in June, 1897. Also unseen to the casual observer, but clear from a review of the architect’s plans, is the variety of floor plates that Beyer employed to accommodate library and school functions on different floor. No single wall runs elevation to elevation, basement floor to roof, to divide the building’s intended functions that, instead, were intertwined spatially on each floor.

Beyer’s skill in adapting form to function is exemplified on the Park Avenue façade. Appearing, on first glance, to be as symmetrical as the building’s primary façade on Fifth Street, the Park Avenue façade, by contrast, is an asymmetrical arrangement of windows and other openings that match the functions inside. The four primary windows on the first floor, for example, do not align with the ones on the floor above. The reason: on the first floor, the windows generally are aligned with the shelving in the Stack Room – the better to illuminate the tightly spaced rows. Above, the windows serve the more forgiving function of providing light to reading rooms. To counterbalance the lack of symmetry on the first floor, Beyer included two narrow slit windows near the projecting tower.

Beyer also paid attention to the functions of the two original public entrances. In designing them, Beyer drew a distinction between creating an experience, for library patrons, and efficiency, for school attendees. Both sets of users climbed steps from the respective sidewalks (Fifth Street for library users) and Park Avenue (for those attending school). Library users had, and still have, the experience of entering through a narrow corridor paneled in quarter-sawn oak and then emerging into the library’s lobby, to see a painted canvas ceiling, grand staircase to the second floor, etched-glass doors to anterooms, a tall fireplace in the former Womens Reading Room in the building’s southwest corner, and book stacks ahead. Beyer likely knew that similar to the experience of entering a church through a dark narthex and then entering a spacious, richly appointed sanctuary, thereby elevating one’s sense of arrival, so, too, the experience of entering

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his client's library would elevate the sense of arrival for a population that never before had enjoyed the experience of free public library services.⁹⁹

By contrast, Beyer designed the entrance to the Manual Training School to efficiently serve a student population that, unlike library patrons, would enter and leave the building in waves timed to class hours. The double door at the top of the stairs on Park Avenue leads to a wide vestibule and a large entrance hall that faces a wide interior staircase configured to facilitate movement to and from the upper floors. Notwithstanding the focus on efficiency over aesthetics, Beyer nonetheless included architectural features that enhanced the arrival experience for students: a wood-paneled vestibule with plentiful beveled glass, a colored-glass skylight and, similar to the library's vestibule, a multi-colored terrazzo floor.

Befitting a client (the trustees) whose major underwriter's two generations of forebears in the Stevens family promoted technological innovation in multiple areas of engineering, Beyer specified steel – not wood – as the shelving material for the Stack Room, which could accommodate 100,000 books. Constructed of steel with high tensile strength, the shelves enabled the library to accommodate more books than would have fit into the allotted space if he had selected wooden shelves, which require thicker shelves and nevertheless have a tendency to sag over time. The steel book stacks were purchased from the firm of Stiffel & Freeman, of Philadelphia and Lititz, Pennsylvania, according to the library trustees' meeting minutes and were "made after the best approved fashion," in the words of a contemporaneous news account. Costing \$3,600, according to the library trustees' 1897 annual report, the stacks were the largest non-labor construction cost (22 percent of the total).

Not only did Beyer specify metal for the stacks, he also specified metal for the floor of the mezzanine – a choice that allowed him to forego the thicker live-load requirements of wooden joists and, thereby, to gain several vertical inches of shelving space that, multiplied by linear feet, allowed the trustees to accommodate more books in the same volume of space.

Likely aware of the value of fresh-air circulation, Beyer included air inlets under most radiators on all three floors. Introducing cold outside air behind the radiators facilitated the positive convective effect of newly warmed fresh air moving throughout the building without the aid of fans or blowers. Horizontal ventilation inlets are located under most windows, which a contemporaneous news account described as "an indirect [heating] method...of taking the outside air through the radiator...[to supply] a constant stream of fresh warm air passing through the rooms." The inlets on the first and second floors have no grates; those on the third floor are covered with bronze grilles. Viewed from inside, most of the inlets, located behind radiators, appear to have been plugged with material or covered with wallboard or metal, possibly after the introduction of air

⁹⁹ Both Paul J. Somerville, chair of the Hoboken Historic Preservation Commission, and Joan Abel, vice chair, have used the word "experience" to explain the design of the library entrance and to distinguish it from the equally important but differently used entrance to the Manual Training school.

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conditioning in 1990, to avoid air infiltration, water penetration and insect invasion.¹⁰⁰

Plumbing was “in keeping with the advanced ideas of modern sanitation; the toilet rooms for library are in the basement under the first floor, accessible from [the book] stack room only,” the 1897 annual report noted. Manual Training School toilet facilities were located on the north end of the building where they “receiv[e] their light and ventilation from a large lightshaft separated from the main part of the building,” the annual report noted.

Role of the Hoboken Free Public Library in Expansion of Library Service in New Jersey

A key measurement of the expansion of free public libraries in New Jersey – an expansion aligned with Progressive Era ideals, backed by the statutory one-third-mill levy, enhanced by statutory bond-financing authority, and further supported by private philanthropy – is the pace at which municipalities elsewhere in the state constructed “Carnegie libraries” – libraries that benefited from donations by steel magnate Andrew Carnegie. Carnegie provided financial support for construction of 38 library buildings in 30 New Jersey municipalities in New Jersey between 1900 and 1917, as shown in Table 2 below.

Table 2 -- Communities in New Jersey with Carnegie Libraries¹⁰¹

Municipality	Year Built
1. East Orange (Main Library; Elmwood and Franklin Branches)	1900
2. Montclair (Main Library, Bellevue and Church Branches)	1901
3. Perth Amboy	1901
4. New Brunswick	1902
5. West Hoboken (joined Union Hill to form Union City in 1925)	1902
6. Atlantic City	1903
7. Bayonne	1903
8. Camden (Main Library, East Camden and Cooper Branches)	1903
9. Freehold	1903
10. Vineland	1903
11. Union	1904
12. Westfield	1904

¹⁰⁰ Controlling the interior temperature of the building, particularly near the library entrance, prompted the trustees make their first significant post-construction addition to the building: a revolving door between the original double doors and the Public Hall. The trustees procured the revolving door from the Van Kallen Revolving Door Company in October 1897. Nine years earlier, Theophilus Van Kallen, of Philadelphia, was granted a patent for a revolving door design that addressed a growing problem as commercial structures and multi-family residences rose to new heights: the convective force that pulled outside air into a building’s lobby and upward through stairwells and elevator shafts when conventional entrance doors swung open. The air-lock dynamic of revolving doors resolved the problem. See the website for International Revolving Door Company, the successor to Van Kallen, at <http://www.internationalrevolvingdoors.com/lrdHistory.htm>.

¹⁰¹ Howard Green, listserv, <http://h-net.nyu.edu/cgi-bin/logbrowse.pl>, viewed February 12, 2012. Green says a good source is Theodore Jones, *Carnegie Libraries Across America: A Public Legacy* (New York: John Wiley & Sons, 1997).

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13. Kearny	1906
14. Caldwell	1908
15. Cranford	1908
16. Belleville	1909
17. Summit	1909
18. Elizabeth (Main Library, Liberty Square Branch)	1910
19. Plainfield	1911
20. Englewood	1913
21. Nutley	1913
22. Belmar	1914
23. Edgewater	1915
24. Orange	1915
25. Avon-by-the-Sea	1916
26. Collingswood	1916
27. Verona	1916
28. Lakewood	1917
29. Little Falls	1917
30. Long Branch	1917

Although construction of Hoboken’s library building in some ways prefigured the Carnegie libraries soon to be funded and built, Hoboken’s trustees, with no model to follow, created a building that was largely different from other communities’ later libraries; were fewer.

In terms of similarities, the Carnegie libraries as well Hoboken’s benefited from generous benefactors who provided funds without requiring the benefited institutions to bear the donor’s name. Both Martha Stevens and Andrew Carnegie sought to avoid excess or extravagance. Hoboken’s trustees reduced Beyer’s initial French Gothic structure to a more utilitarian design. Carnegie, “aware of some of the architectural monstrosities going up as libraries” early on, subsequently required his staff’s advance written approval of building designs. To further maximize form and function, Carnegie’s staff, beginning in 1911 after consulting librarians and architects, sent to potential grantees an architectural guide that favored a rectangular floor plan, two levels (basement and first floor), symmetrical room layout, and by implication required that the exterior be dignified and not overly embellished.¹⁰²

No such guidance benefited Hoboken’s architect; one of Carnegie’s staff noted that prior to 1898, architects had no experience in building libraries. Therein lies a key reason for the uniqueness of the Hoboken Free Public Library and Manual Training School. While Beyer installed massive fireplaces in the first-floor Womens [sic] Reading Room and second-floor Reading Room (Photographs #32 and #33), Carnegie’s staff later forbade fireplaces as a waste of wall space that otherwise could be used to shelve 500 to 600 books. A notable difference between Carnegie’s libraries and the Hoboken Free Public Library and Manual Training School was Carnegie’s requirement that only library functions – not even related municipal or educational

¹⁰² George S. Bobinski, *Carnegie Libraries: Their History and Impact on American Public Library Development* (Chicago: American Library Association), 1969, pp. 57-63.

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functions – could be housed in the library buildings that he funded.¹⁰³

As one of the first of its kind, Hoboken's 1895-1897 library building advanced the art of library construction and laid the civic-benefit groundwork upon which successive government officials, librarians, architects and benefactors could design increasingly efficient buildings to provide library services.

II. The Evolution of Industrial Education

Just as the construction of the Hoboken Free Public Library exemplified a growing public support for government-subsidized libraries, the Stevens family's decision in 1895 to house an industrial school within their community's new library building demonstrated an evolution in public support for vocational education for a growing industrial workforce.

At a national level, industrial education had received a significant push from the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia in 1876. That event "awakened American manufacturers to an appreciation of the industrial results achieved by European States through their efficient vocational schools," recounted the fact-finding Commission on Industrial Education that New Jersey Governor John Franklin Fort appointed in 1908.¹⁰⁴ Melvin L. Barlow's comprehensive 1967 study, *History of Industrial Education in the United States*, elaborated on the 1876 exposition's impact on college curricula. Exhibits in Philadelphia captured the imagination of John Daniel Runkle, president of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and motivated him to give "practical training to engineering students" at the college level.¹⁰⁵

Barlow noted that for a second population group, i.e., workers who had not gone to

¹⁰³ Although Martha B. Stevens and Andrew Carnegie served on the board of trustees of Stevens Institute of Technology from 1891 to 1899, and although Martha Stevens hosted elaborate dinners for prominent visitors to the city and campus, there is no documentary evidence that Martha Stevens' bibliophilanthropy in 1895 prompted Carnegie to begin his extensive support of libraries in 1898. By the time Carnegie sat at Stevens Institute's boardroom table, and, perhaps, Martha Stevens' Castle Stevens dinner table, Carnegie already had funded a library in Allegheny, Pennsylvania (now part of Pittsburgh) in 1886, motivated, he wrote in his autobiography, by childhood experience. See Andrew Carnegie, *The Autobiography of Andrew Carnegie*, 1924, pp. 45-48. Nor did a long-serving Carnegie Corporation employee, Robert M. Lester, mention Martha Stevens in his book, *Forty Years of Carnegie Giving* (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons), 1942. Lester's book does cite, however, one Hoboken connection: until the Carnegie Foundation was created in 1912, Carnegie disbursed many of his charitable gifts from a special-purpose bank, the Home Trust Company, that he incorporated in 1901 and operated from leased office space in the Hudson Trust Company bank building that still stands at 51 Newark Street, Hoboken. The bank's vaults were "built specifically for their stacks upon stacks of \$300 million in bonds...located in Hoboken...out of the New York City taxman's reach," according to one of Carnegie's biographers: Peter Krass, *Carnegie* (Hoboken, N.J.: John Wiley & Sons), 2002, p. 414. See also: George S. Bobinski, *Carnegie Libraries: Their History and Impact on American Public Library Development* (Chicago: American Library Association), 1969, pp. 3-27, 32-33.

¹⁰⁴ *Governor's Message Transmitting Report of the Commission on Industrial Education*, 1909, p. 9.

¹⁰⁵ Melvin L. Barlow, *History of Industrial Education in the United States* (Peoria, Ill.: Chas. A. Bennett Co. Inc.), 1967, p. 38.

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college, trade education evolved in the final quarter of the 19th Century from self-help (“mechanics had customarily solved their own educational problems by establishing mechanics’ institutes, mechanics’ libraries, and professional associations”) into state-supported educational programs.¹⁰⁶ “The necessity of providing a vast number of workers could not be overlooked by educators,” recounted Barlow. “They were particularly appalled by the failure of apprenticeship to meet the needs of labor...”¹⁰⁷ In 1885, Thomas Hampson, an educator, told the National Education Association that, in Barlow’s words, “manufacturing cities should have one or more manual labor schools to be attended by the public schools for two or three hours each day.”¹⁰⁸

A third subgroup of the work force – workers already employed in manufacturing – presented another challenge to employers and policymakers. “There is a lack of skilled and efficient workmen, and this will be largely increased unless a better means of vocational training is found,” New Jersey’s Commission Industrial Education stated in 1909.¹⁰⁹

While New Jersey lagged behind many states in legislatively enabling the creation of free public libraries, the reverse was true in the field of industrial education. Only two other states, Massachusetts and New York, predated New Jersey in enacting laws to promote manual training in public schools and to provide funds to enhance the skills of workers already employed in manufacturing and trades, the gubernatorial fact-finding committee reported.¹¹⁰ Moreover, Newark and Hoboken were the first two municipalities in New Jersey to utilize the new industrial education laws.

The leading role played by New Jersey, and in particular by Newark and Hoboken, where Martha Stevens was an early advocate of industrial education, is consistent with the importance the manufacturing sector in New Jersey during the late 19th Century, as recorded in the 1880 United States decennial census. Although New Jersey ranked 17th in population among the 38 states in 1880,¹¹¹ New Jersey ranked sixth in three key metrics: manufacturing capital, number of

¹⁰⁶ Melvin L. Barlow, p. 42.

¹⁰⁷ *Ibid.*

¹⁰⁸ *Ibid.*

¹⁰⁹ *Governor’s Message Transmitting Report of the Commission on Industrial Education*, 1909, p. 5. The Commission reported that its year-long survey of 2,000 manufacturing, construction and productive firms in New Jersey elicited various challenges: “Fully nine-five percent. Of the pupils leave school between the ages of fourteen and seventeen, and without having formed any idea as to what trade or vocation they should follow; in consequence, they drift into occupations, rather than select those which might be most nearly suited to their aptitudes....” Furthermore: “The trades have become so specialized that there is but little chance for a learner to go beyond the narrow limits of the work to which he is assigned, unless he has supplementary training.”

¹¹⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 11.

¹¹¹ New Jersey, with 1,131,116 inhabitants in 1880, trailed, in order, New York (population of 5,082,871), Pennsylvania Ohio, Illinois, Missouri, Massachusetts, Kentucky, Michigan, Tennessee, Georgia, Virginia, Texas, Wisconsin, North Carolina and Alabama (population of 1,205,505). See: Census Office, Department of the Interior, *Report of the Population of the United States at the Tenth Census: 1880*, Volume I, Table I – “Population by States and Territories.”

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“hands” employed, and value of manufactured products. In terms of employment in New Jersey, only Massachusetts reported a higher percentage of inhabitants who worked in manufacturing: 23% versus 11%. Within New Jersey, three northern counties accounted for the bulk of the state’s manufacturing activity, as measured by capital (55% of the state’s manufacturing capital), employment (54% of the state’s manufacturing employment) and value of manufactured products (66% of the state’s total). The three key manufacturing counties were Essex, anchored by Newark; Hudson, home of Jersey City and Hoboken; and Passaic, with Paterson at its center. Subtracting Passaic County from the 1880 statistics, the two counties of Essex and Hudson, with direct maritime access for receiving resources and shipping goods, accounted for a significant share of the state’s manufacturing activity: 41% of capital, 36% of employment and 54% of manufactured value.¹¹² The importance of manufacturing in Hudson County and in New Jersey likely impelled civic leaders to ensure that a trained workforce would continue its contribution to the economic wellbeing of the state and its manufacturers.

Antecedents to Industrial Education in Hoboken

In 1881, New Jersey’s Legislature, to “meet a growing want in our community of skilled mechanics, artisans and agriculturists” passed “an Act for the establishment of schools for industrial education,” the gubernatorial commission reported.¹¹³ Typical of laws that made state aid contingent upon a demonstration of citizen support, the 1881 law provided that the state would match, up to \$7,000, “a sum of money not less than \$3,000 “that has been contributed by voluntary subscriptions of citizens...for the establishment of a school or schools of industrial education.” The intent was that such schools would facilitate “those technical studies which are directly associated with the material prosperity of our people.”¹¹⁴ The law also authorized recurring state aid on the same threshold-and-cap formula and authorized municipalities to levy taxes to fund such schools. Each such school was to be governed by a 10-member “board of trustees of the industrial school” consisting of eight citizens from the municipality plus the governor and mayor as *ex officio* members.¹¹⁵

Six years later, in 1887, the Legislature provided the means for *existing* schools to add industrial education to their curriculum. It passed an “Act for the promotion of industrial education” that authorized the state to match, up to a limit of \$5,000, whatever funds, totaling \$500 or more, a school district had raised during that year “by special school tax or by [private] subscription, or both for the purpose of adding industrial education to the course of study now

¹¹² Calculations by Allen Kratz from a review of census reports in: Census Office, Department of the Interior, *Report of the Population of the United States at the Tenth Census: 1880*, Volume I, Table I – “Population by States and Territories,” Volume II – “Manufactures, by Totals of States and Territories, for the Censuses of 1880, 1870, 1860 and 1850,” and Table IV --“Manufactures in Each State and Territory: 1880.”

¹¹³ *Governor’s Message Transmitting Report of the Commission on Industrial Education*, 1909, p. 9.

¹¹⁴ *Compiled Statutes of New Jersey* (Newark, N.J.: Soney & Sage), 1911, p. 4808.

¹¹⁵ *Ibid.*, pp. 4811-4812.

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pursued in the school or schools of such district."¹¹⁶

One year later, in 1888, the Legislature adopted virtually identical legislation, with the same dollar thresholds and caps for matching funds, to promote manual training with state appropriations.

With the state's legislative framework in place, municipalities moved forward. Newark became the first city to establish an industrial school under the 1881 act: the Newark Technical School, established in 1884 or 1885.¹¹⁷ The second industrial education school was the "Hoboken Industrial School...housed in a building which includes also the Free Public Library."¹¹⁸

Formalization of industrial education in New Jersey coincided with an upturn in the economy of the United States and increased immigration. A year-by-year review of the nation's economy, written in 1907 by Alexander Dana Noyes, a future financial editor of the *New York Times*, notes that business activity in 1886 exceeded the annual business activity of the five preceding years. Iron prices rose in 1887 as a result of railroad expansion. In 1888, the dry goods industry was particularly prosperous. The sale of more than 49 million acres of public land in the unsettled western territories of the United States during 1887-1888, a 10 percent increase over the immediately preceding period, reversed a decline in immigration; 546,889 immigrants came to the United States in 1888, up from 334,203 two years earlier.¹¹⁹

Industrial Education in Hoboken

Even before the industrial education program in Hoboken was chartered pursuant to state law, Martha Stevens' philanthropy had laid the groundwork. In 1885, she convened a meeting to obtain permission from public and private school officials in Hoboken to experiment with industrial education in one or more schools. The group selected as its presiding officer the former Union Army general-in-chief George B. McClellan,¹²⁰ who following the Civil War had formed business ties with Martha Stevens's husband, had established residence briefly in Hoboken and then Orange, New Jersey, and had served as Governor of New Jersey (1878-1880) -- promoting trade schools and local industry as a major initiative during his gubernatorial tenure.¹²¹ Among the

¹¹⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 4812.

¹¹⁷ *Governor's Message Transmitting Report of the Commission on Industrial Education*, 1909, p. 106.

¹¹⁸ *Ibid.*, pp. 107-108.

¹¹⁹ Alexander Dana Noyes, *Forty Years of American Finance: A Short Financial History of the Government and People of the United States Since the Civil War, 1865-1907*, (New York: G.P. Putnam Sons), 1907, pp. 114-115.

¹²⁰ Daniel Van Winkle, editor, *History of the Municipalities of Hudson County New Jersey, 1630-1923* (New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, 1924), Volume I, p. 325.

¹²¹ Stephen W. Sears, *George B. McClellan: The Young Napoleon* (New York: Ticknor & Fields), 1988, pp. 389-390, 392, 397. In 1867 Edwin Augustus Stevens retained McClellan on a commission basis to seek a European purchaser for the uncompleted "Stevens Battery," an ocean-going ironclad warship. Overtures to the Prussian, Russian and Austrian navies were unavailing. Returning from Europe, McClellan rented a house in Hoboken to pursue the project. Funds from Stevens' estate (his will designated \$1 million to complete the project) ran out and McClellan resigned. The

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fledgling committee's members were Martha Stevens' daughter Caroline (Mrs. Archibald Alexander) and daughter-in law, Emily Contee Lewis Stevens (the wife of Edwin A. Stevens), and Thomas F. Hatfield, the Hoboken Free Public Library's librarian.¹²² At a subsequent meeting, participants voted to establish the What h of New Jersey "dedicated to teaching young female Hobokenites the skills of home economics, neatness, and the principles of saving."¹²³

The association raised sufficient funds from private donations to sponsor eight classes in the city's public schools: sewing for girls and clay-modeling for boys. In April 1886, the Association displayed the children's work in an exhibition at Stevens Institute of Technology with Governor Leon Abbott promising his support for industrial education.

The association's activities moved into higher gear in 1887. On November 17 of that year, the "board of managers" of the Industrial Education Association circulated a written appeal. "In order to continue the valuable work accomplished by the Industrial Education Association in the teaching of manual training in the public schools," said the solicitation, "more funds are needed." The City of Hoboken's tax commissioner appropriated \$1,800 from tax levies for industrial education during the spring of 1887, the letter noted, "with the proviso that our Association should raise an additional \$1,200 during the year." With perfect understanding of the how the new law could leverage private donations into a public benefit, the managers noted that "[i]f, therefore a subscription of \$1,200 be raised by us, there becomes available at once \$3,000...from state funds..." thereby making \$6,000 available to the Industrial Education Committee from private, municipal and state resources.¹²⁴

The solicitation noted that "in accordance with the laws [of the state]," the Industrial Education Committee in Hoboken "would consist of two members from our Association, two members from the city Board of Education, two members from the State Board of Education and one member from the Board of Aldermen [city council], the Governor being a member *ex officio*." Once those appointments were made, the association became the Board of Trustees for Industrial Education. New Jersey Governor Robert S. Green formally organized the Board on February 20, 1888. Members included Nicholas Murray Butler, who worked for the New Jersey Board of Education and would become president of Columbia University, as well as the City's councilmanic appointee, surveyor and civil engineer Thomas H. McCann, who later became a

warship eventually was sold for scrap.

¹²² Van Winkle, Volume I, p. 325.

¹²³ Typed carbon text regarding history of the Martha Institute and Industrial Education Association, undated, probably circa 1920-1940, available from Hoboken Historic Museum's on-line catalog; also website of Stevens Institute of Technology, available at <http://www.stevens.edu/sit/about/sit.cfm>, viewed February 20, 2012. The typed text gives the organization year as 1885; Stevens' website mistakenly gives the organization year as 1887. George Long Moller's 1964 monograph, *The Hoboken of Yesterday*, recounts this history in an essay, "Hoboken – Leader in Industrial Education of the Young," pp. 40-41.

¹²⁴ Industrial Education Association, solicitation letter, November 17, 1887, signed by Thomas H. McCann, 13 Newark Street, Hoboken. A copy of the letter is in the Hoboken Public Library's vertical files.

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business partner of the library's architect, Albert Beyer.

By 1892, the industrial education board's annual exhibition of student work drew 5,000 visitors to the exhibition hall at the Martha Institute. "Many of the visitors," according to Van Winkle's 1924 history of Hudson County, "were from neighboring cities and interested in other industrial schools. The board was still in constant receipt of letters from different parts of the country, making inquiry about the methods...."¹²⁵

Instruction moved to the new library and manual training school building in the spring of 1897. The following year, the industrial education trustees could state in their annual report that "the adaptability of the building to industrial training, and its new equipments have contributed in a large degree to the success of the year's work." During the school's initial year in new quarters, 1,492 pupils received instruction in courses: carpentry, 211; wood carving, 243; clay modeling, 315; cooking, 163; and sewing, 560. Wood carving and clay modeling served a manufacturing purpose: the ability to efficiently use wood and clay to build accurate mock-ups that showed the proportion and scale of goods to be manufactured was an important trade skill before industrial designers could use computer-assisted axonometric designs to represent the likely appearance of an otherwise two-dimensional design of an object.¹²⁶ By 1899, the industrial education trustees were able to report that enrollment had increased to 2,066 students, taking various courses: carpentry, 506; wood carving, 318; modeling, 499; cooking, 138; and sewing, 605. "The educational value of manual training is no longer questioned by boards of education," the 1899 annual report stated. "Its aim and scope are better understood and appreciated by parents and teachers."

The success of industrial education at the Manual Training School elicited official state recognition. The gubernatorially appointed Commission on Industrial Education noted in 1909 that "[t]he trustees of the State Industrial School [in Hoboken] are granted, by the city, the use of the [library building] premises. They conduct the industrial school in the evening, and during the day maintain a manual training school for pupils who come from the fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth grades of the public school....The instructors are paid by the trustees of the State Industrial School, and the work is done without charge to the local board of education."¹²⁷ The Board of Trustees for Industrial Education continued its programs until the 1990s, at which time the Hoboken City Council ceased to match state funds and the program died.¹²⁸

Conclusion of Criterion A and Criterion B

¹²⁵ Van Winkle, Volume I, p. 329.

¹²⁶ Paul J. Somerville, an interior designer and the chair of the Hoboken Historic Preservation Commission distinguished the uses of industrial "modeling" through much of the 20th Century from other uses of modeling today.

¹²⁷ *Governor's Message Transmitting Report of the Commission on Industrial Education*, 1909, p. 108.

¹²⁸ James Farina, City Clerk, City of Hoboken, interview with Allen Kratz, March 26, 2012.

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Design construction of the Hoboken Free Public Library during 1895-1897 illustrates the following themes in the development and expansion of library services in New Jersey during the 19th Century:

- Library companies, such as Ferdinand Luthin's library on Washington Street in Hoboken, served an educated, moneyed clientele that was disproportionate to the general population in terms of academic training and wealth.
- Subscription libraries, subsidized by civic-minded citizens such as Martha Bayard Stevens as stand-alone entities (e.g., the Franklin Lyceum library in Hoboken) played an important role in making books accessible to those without the means to purchase them.
- "Apprentices' libraries" existed in fact, if not in name, within various social service organizations. In Hoboken, they existed within the social-service institutions that the multidisciplinary, multigenerational philanthropic pursuits of the Stevens family established throughout the city (e.g., the Martha Institute).
- Civic leaders and philanthropists at times served as the "opinion leaders" for legislators. For example, by the time the Legislature acted in 1884, support for education and libraries had become an integral part of civic thinking and philanthropic action in Hoboken.
- Philanthropic support of free public libraries presented an opportunity for specialized buildings that housed more than one entity and provided more than traditional library services.
- In Hoboken, Martha Stevens, with assistance from her children and family members, demonstrated the importance of philanthropic support in creating a public library.

The simultaneous housing of both the Hoboken Free Public Library and the programs of the Board of Trustees for Industrial Education in the structure built between 1895 and 1897, 10 years after the education board's predecessor, the Industrial Education Association was founded under the inspiration of Martha Stevens, illustrates:

- the strong state government interest in providing, through legislation in 1881, state aid to supplement private support of industrial education, and
- a growing civic belief that municipal libraries were a necessary addition to the public and private schools and social-service philanthropies that already provided education to New Jersey's increasingly urbanized and immigrant work force.

By illustrating the evolution of library services in New Jersey from private libraries to taxpayer-supported free public libraries, and by illustrating the evolution of industrial education from private support to matching state aid, the Hoboken Free Public Library building meets National Register Criterion A.

The Hoboken Free Public Library building meets National Register Criterion B by illustrating the importance of the pre-legislative, ground-laying philanthropic accomplishments of Martha Bayard Stevens, said to be one of the wealthiest women in the United States during the 1890s and who, with two family members, contributed, in 1895, nearly one-third of the cost of acquiring the construction site and erecting the building upon it.

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Not only did she contribute funds, she did so on condition that the new building also house a manual training school and industrial education programs to advance the Stevens family's century-old support for mechanical engineering and practical arts – a field of education increasingly important in Hoboken and other industrial centers of New Jersey and the United States.

Until a year before she died, Martha Stevens served on the Board for Industrial Education that operated the Manual Training School.

She instilled within her daughter Caroline and her son Richard the importance of support for industrial education that they continued after she died.

Martha Stevens advocated for industrial education reform at the highest levels of New Jersey's government. She enjoyed, and used, access to governors, present and past, to support her educational endeavors. Similarly, through her board memberships and civic advocacy, she interacted with opinion leaders of national importance, including philanthropist Andrew Carnegie and educator Nicholas Murray Butler, soon to become the president of Columbia University.

The Hoboken Free Public Library and Manual Training School is the sole surviving structural manifestation of Martha B. Stevens' philanthropy in Hoboken that has remained in continuous use for its original purpose.¹²⁹

The Hoboken Free Public Library and Manual Training School warrants listing for its association with Martha Stevens – a transitional figure who played a significant role in transforming library services and industrial education in New Jersey from underperformance into, instead, government-subsidized services that improved the quality of life for her contemporaries and their descendants and advanced economic progress for the benefit of the State of New Jersey.

Criterion C – High Artistic Value

The Hoboken Free Public Library and Manual Training School qualifies for listing under Criterion C as the embodiment of the distinctive characteristics of design and construction required by a donor – the philanthropist and statewide civic leader Martha Bayard Stevens -- who sought to accommodate within one building in Hoboken two distinct missions important to New Jersey's economic growth -- access to library services and access to industrial education. In designing the Hoboken Free Public Library and Manual Training School, architect Albert Beyer

¹²⁹ The Church of the Holy Innocents remains standing but no longer is used for religious services. The Martha Institute was demolished during the first few years of the 21st Century. St. Mary Hospital, another beneficiary, remains in operation as Hoboken University Medical Center but none of the physical plant that Martha Stevens underwrote survives in its original form or appearance. The former worker housing on Willow Terrace North and Willow Terrace South remains in place as housing bought and sold on the open market to owners who over the years have made additions to the original exteriors. The recreation pier at the foot of Seventh Street whose construction she funded shortly before she died was subsumed by a commercial shipping wharf within two decades. And the Italianate style Stevens Castle in which Martha Stevens enlisted like-minded family members and visitors in her causes was demolished in 1959.

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created a building that simultaneously introduced the new reality of free public libraries to a population of New Jerseyans for whom taxpayer-supported library services had not existed; raised the level of manual training and industrial education from apprenticeship and employer self-help to formal education; harmoniously, or at least tolerably, accommodated the building's quiet and noisy, disparate adjacent uses; utilized and showcased modern technology consistent with the Stevens family's engineering legacy and Hoboken's growing industrial importance within New Jersey; and, in both exterior and interior design, not only functioned efficiently but also elevated the experience of the building's users without an ostentatious display of wealth.

Albert Beyer, the architect selected by the trustees of the Hoboken Free Public Library to manage the transition from rented basement to permanent library home, and to fulfill the additional dual-function conditions of Martha Stevens' financing, demonstrated a mastery of function and form in designing and overseeing construction of Hoboken Free Public Library and Manual Training School as a building that possesses high artistic values.

The Hoboken Free Public Library and Manual Training School exemplifies architectural skill in successfully accommodating a complex dual mission within the constraints of space-constrained urban land. The Hoboken Free Public Library and Manual Training School is significant in the history and architecture of the State of New Jersey and satisfies Criterion C on that basis.