

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

OCT 16 1979

DATE ENTERED

NOV 29 1979

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Raymond Public Library

AND/OR COMMON

**LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER 507 Duryea Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN Raymond

VICINITY OF

3rd Hon. Don L. Bunker

STATE Washington

CODE 98577

COUNTY Pacific

CODE

**CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME City of Raymond

STREET &amp; NUMBER

230 2nd Street (City Hall)

CITY, TOWN

Raymond

VICINITY OF

STATE

Washington 98577

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Auditor's Office, Pacific County Courthouse

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Cowlitz and Memorial Drive

CITY, TOWN

South Bend

STATE

Washington 98586

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Washington State Cultural Resource Survey: Pacific County

DATE

1978

 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR

SURVEY RECORDS Pacific County Historic Preservation Planner, P.O. Box 66

CITY, TOWN

South Bend

STATE

Washington 98586

## 7 DESCRIPTION

### CONDITION

EXCELLENT       DETERIORATED  
 GOOD       RUINS  
 FAIR       UNEXPOSED

### CHECK ONE

UNALTERED       ALTERED

### CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Raymond Public Library was constructed between August 31, 1928, and July 26, 1929, on four city lots at the corner of Fifth and Duryea Streets. Today the library is surrounded by a city park and swimming pool, multi-family housing, the United Church of Raymond and a gas station. The location is between State Highway 101 and the business district of Raymond. Landscaping around the building gradually slopes to the front entrance and contains a variety of shrubs and evergreens.

The two story, half-timber, English Cottage style library was designed by Seattle architect Arch N. Torbitt, of Huntington and Torbitt, and constructed under the direction of Pacific County contractor W. T. Stapleton. The bond issue which paid for the construction did not include enough money for the heating system, kitchen fixtures, nor the library furniture. Civic groups and individuals eventually made the necessary contributions prior to the dedication ceremonies. The building and outfitting of the library was a community effort and was given constant attention in the local newspapers.

Both levels of the rectangular shaped library are entirely above ground. Two sharply gabled wings project from the front elevation and a third wing projects from the rear. The building is topped with steep, cedar shake roofs and several sharply pointed gables. The rear wing gable and the Fifth Street elevation gable are both hipped. A brick chimney rises along the outside wall of the east elevation. It has three brick pipes protruding from the top.

The exterior walls of the wood frame structure are a mixture of stucco, half-timber and shiplap. The upper story is the main floor of the library, while the lower story is the basement. The upper story exterior walls are half-timbered using beveled cedar with stucco panels between. The stucco panels have a leaflike finish. One panel under the hipped gable on the Fifth Street elevation contains relief work. The circular design is quartered with a different relief in each. The inscription around the outer circle reads, "Progress, Religion, Industry, Education." Each work corresponds to the relief in its quarter: rising sun, cross, machinery, and world globe. The center circle contains a book with no inscription. The craftsman is unknown.

The walls on the lower story, or basement, are covered with shiplap siding laid close together and double nailed 16" apart at every 2" x 6" studding. The walls of the two front wings form a contrast. The main entrance wing is stuccoed and half-timbered from basement to gable, while the other wing is set off against it with shiplap siding from basement to gable. A bay window protrudes from the shiplap wall and is covered with stucco.

The fenestration is varied on each elevation. Some windows are small casements clustered around the main entrance, while others are double-hung with a third, fixed sash above them. Each window is multi-paned and patterns vary greatly. A partial dormer with five double-hung sashes, and half-timber construction, balances the bay window on the front elevation. Many of the window panes are art glass pieces of unknown craftsmanship. The main floor of the library was originally divided into children and adult reading sections. The art glass panes in the children's section depict characters from Mother Goose, The Wizard of Oz and other favorite children's tales. The art glass panes in the adult section are replicas of authentic old English bookplates copied from originals found in the Seattle Public Library.

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There are four entrances to the library. Three at the basement level allow access to the kitchen, meeting rooms and small theater. Twenty concrete steps with wrought iron railing lead to the main entrance. The entrance way and door were remodelled in 1957 to halt the structural deterioration being caused by moisture seepage. Above the new entrance in Old English text are the words, "Public Library." All doors and window sash are highly glazed. The original multi-paned, double lead, front door was replaced during the remodelling with a sturdier double leaf door, and the door to the small theater was replaced with a metal framed glass door in 1975.

The interior of the library is little changed from its original condition. The main floor has a high beamed ceiling. Walls are covered with plaster on wood lath. The majority of the woodwork is fir but the stairway is made of oak. Carpets now protect the wood floors. The large massive librarian's desk is located in the center of the floor to provide clear visibility. Originally the adult reading room was on the east side of the floor, while the children's reading room was on the west. The fireplace and window seat in the bay window were on the adult side. On the fireplace mantel in Old English text are the words, "Great Minds Live on Thro (sic) Books." Above this hangs a portrait of Charles L. Lewis, who is known as the "father of the library." Today, books are mixed throughout the library and there are no designated reading sections. However, the preponderance of children's literature can be found around the bay window in the old adult reading section.

Also on the main floor are two small public restrooms near the entrance door, a magazine reference and storage closet, a room designed for consultation and debate team use, an office and private bathroom for the librarian, and a mending room with a hand pulled booklift connecting the basement and main floor. The booklift is still used by the present library staff. The restrooms still have the original porcelain and castiron fixtures.

The basement level was originally designed for the use of the community clubs in the area. At the bottom of the oak staircase is a suite of rooms connected by a hallway. At the rear is a fully equipped kitchen. Adjoining it is a club meeting room, with a fireplace much like the one above. Smaller offices and a boiler room adjoin the meeting room. The largest of the rooms in the basement was originally designed as a community auditorium, or small theater. When the room is cleared it will hold nearly 200 chairs. The stage has special light for performances and entrances from each side to accommodate performers backstage. Today the room contains numerous bookshelves, but the stage is still the scene of frequent concerts and community entertainments.

During its 50 year history the Raymond Public Library has had few structural changes. Internally and externally it is a distinctive part of the community landscape.

## 8. SIGNIFICANCE

### PERIOD

### AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

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SPECIFIC DATES August 1928-July 1929      BUILDER/ARCHITECT W.D. Stapleton/Arch N. Torbitt

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### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Raymond Public Library has served patrons in Raymond and northern Pacific County for the past fifty years. The half-timber English Cottage style library is the most familiar edifice in Raymond and is a local landmark. It is significant as a product of early community pride in the city of Raymond, and is notable for its architectural design. It is a place to browse or borrow books, as well as the site of free concerts, club meetings and other community cultural events.

Raymond is a comparatively young community in Pacific County. As a town it did not actually exist until after the turn of the century. In the 1850's part of it was the Donation Land Claim of Capt. John Vail. By the 1870's Capt. George Johnson and several others took up homestead claims there, and in the 1890's sawmills appeared along the river banks. It was not until 1904 that the post office was officially established and the city fathers applied the name "Raymond" to the town in honor of the first postmaster, L.V. Raymond. The townsite was mostly tidelands in the early years, and the streets were sidewalks built five or six feet above the mud. Willapa River tides twice daily inundated the tidelands and had a beneficial flushing effect. After 1911 the town started to grow rapidly. Dozens of sawmill operations took advantage of the free industrial sites being advertised by the town promoters. A concerted effort to fill the tidelands after 1911 provided a more stable foundation for the business district.

Raymond's first library was housed in the Young People's Building on Ellis Street in 1911. The library operated with volunteers and was financed by public subscription. It was housed in an attic room and shared the building with other sponsored groups such as the Boy Scouts, the YMCA, a kindergarten, public auditorium and social hall, night school, pastor's study and sleeping rooms for men. Today the Young People's Building is an apartment house.

By 1913 the attic had grown cramped. The library board of trustees decided to take a lease on the first floor of a concrete building on the corner of Fifth and Commercial Streets. A librarian was hired and a public poll was taken to find out which books the public wanted added to the collection being moved to the new location. The concrete building served as the library until 1929 when the books were again moved. In the early 1970's the building was finally torn down and replaced with a gas station.

In 1919 the bookshelves were showing signs of becoming cramped again. The board of trustees started looking for a new site. The Raymond Lumber Company, owned and managed by Charles L. Lewis, deeded four city lots on Fifth and Duryea Streets to the board. Mr. Lewis was a member of the board of trustees and was trying to promote the idea of building a new library. In the deed he stipulated that a building worth \$10,000 had to be built on the site he donated by 1922 or the land would revert to his company. When no building was



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constructed by that date, Mr. Lewis reissued the deed in 1923 with a five year period in which to build. A bond issue for \$25,000 was judged necessary to provide the funds for the desired building. The voters of Raymond finally passed the bond issue in 1927.

Originally the building plans of architect Arch N. Torbitt of Huntington and Torbitt, Seattle, called for the use of brick covered with stucco. A scale model was displayed at city hall to impress voters with the stately design of the library he envisioned for Raymond. When the bond issue was settled and bids were taken, however, it was discovered that the lowest construction bid was more than the bond would supply. The library board hurriedly instructed Huntington and Torbitt to redo the plans.

The announcement that the plans for the library would be redrawn sparked the community. It became the rallying point for the community in developing their library. Lumber mill employees appeared before the board and asked that the more costly brick construction be replaced with locally milled materials. The newspapers urged the board to become "wood minded" and support the local economy, instead of outside brick manufacturers. Other interested parties asked the board to consider how it would look to outsiders for a milltown to build one of its public buildings out of brick. The board called for new bids with construction costs to include estimates in both brick and in wood. Specifications were to additionally state how much rebate would be allowed if various basement fixtures and the heating system were omitted.

The bid submitted by South Bend contractor W. D. Stapleton for a wood building worth \$22,185 was finally accepted in August 1928. Construction work was started on August 28th. Thirty-foot pilings were driven into the ground for the foundation of the two story structure. Both levels were built above ground with landscaping covering the remaining parts of the lots. The all wood construction was designed with a half-timber English Cottage exterior. The interior combined high ceilings and plastered walls.

Stapleton supervised all of the construction work. He purchased all materials from local firms and sub-contracted work to his associates in Raymond and South Bend. The foundation was laid by the Willapa Construction Company of Raymond. The framing of the building and exterior carpentry was completed by South Bend carpenter Dan Coulter, and the interior finishing was done by William Beck. The cabinet work was given to the Raymond Furniture and Manufacturing Company.

Because Stapleton's bid did not include estimates for a heating system, basement kitchen fixtures and other interior furnishings, every service organization in town was asked to make a sizable donation toward their purchase. Among the many gifts made to the library is the imposing portrait of Charles L. Lewis which still hangs above the fireplace on the main floor. The portrait was painted by well known artist and naturalist Joe Knowles and was contributed by Otis Hesen of Raymond. The library had been among Mr. Lewis' many accomplished dreams for Raymond and he well deserved

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the title "father of the library." He served on the library board from its creation in 1913 until 1929. He retired after the dedication of the new building and was later succeeded by his son Raymond Lewis.

The official dedication ceremonies were held in the library on July 26, 1929. Mrs. H. F. Gilchrist, librarian at the time, said, "The efficiency of this new building is such that we will be able to operate it with the same force that we used in our other small room." When the American economy was plunged into depression in October the efficiency of the new building proved to be a very essential ingredient for the successful functioning of the library through the moniless 1930's.

Since the year of its dedication, the Raymond Library has had very few modifications to its design. The entrance ways have changed to protect against the weather and a carport cover was added to the rear of the building. Interior remodelling has only meant a change in some of the furniture, and carpeting to protect the vertical grain hemlock floors. Restroom fixtures, booklift from basement to top floor, bookshelves, librarian's desk and other larger pieces of furniture, basement kitchen facilities, auditorium stage and various all-purpose rooms still function as they did. Raymond's library has served as a community gathering place for concerts, art exhibits, plays, flower shows, club meetings and during World War II as headquarters for the Office of Price Administration and Ration Board. Hoquiam artist Elton Bennet often exhibited his works on the main floor of the library in the late 1950's.

Because of the centrally located position of the Raymond Library, the county elected in 1943 to enter into a contract with the city to rent the basement of the building as an operating base for the county library system. The central library in the basement of the city library and a system of branch libraries, book stations and bookmobile circuits served the entire county until 1968 when the county joined the Timberland Regional Library System. Timberland provides its patrons access to any item of published material still in print as well as a number of other services.

The history of Raymond's library documents its value as a center of community life. The stage built in the downstairs area is still in use for free community programs, workshops, and displays. Library services have improved over the years and the number of patrons using the library has grown. The design of the library both inside and outside is functional and a distinct attraction in Pacific County.

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"Committee Asks That Library Be Built of Wood." The Raymond Herald, May 11, 1928,  
p.1

Dixon, Ruth. "Librarian's Scrapbook Vol. I." Newspaper clippings and memorabilia  
compiled by librarian assistant in 1968. The clippings are dated January 28,  
1944 through 1968.

"Library Board To Ask Bond Issue." The Raymond Herald, August 19, 1927, p.1

"Library Shows Steady Growth: History Is Given At Dedication." The Raymond Herald,  
August 2, 1929, pp. 1, 10.

Mergens, Ann. "Bookworms Welcomed!" The Raymond Herald, Yearly Advertisement Issue  
1979, p. 5.

"Need of Library Building Is Told by Local Board." The Raymond Herald, November 18,  
1927, p. 1, 6.

Olson, Mrs. Nels, editor. The Willapa Country: History Report. Raymond: Raymond  
Herald and Advertiser, 1965.

"Plans for Library Suffer Setback." The Raymond Herald, March 23, 1928, p. 1.

Tresize, Isabella. A member of the citizens committee to pass the bond issue  
for a new library in 1927. Interviewed by Shirley Hoffer, present member  
of the library board, in August 1978.

"Work Started on Library Building." The Raymond Herald, August 31, 1928, p. 1.