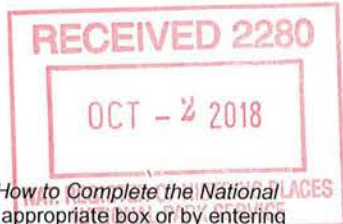


5G3113

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



### 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 *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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 entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

#### 1. Name of Property

historic name NORTH PARK BRANCH LIBRARY

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

name of related multiple property listing N/A

#### 2. Location

street & number 2351 Delaware Avenue [ ] not for publication

city or town Buffalo [ ] vicinity

state New York code \_\_\_\_\_ county Erie code 029 zip code 14216

#### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination [ ] request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements as set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant [ ] nationally [ ] statewide  locally. ([ ] see continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Roy Daniel Marley  
Signature of certifying official/Title

9/26/2018  
Date

DSHPO  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property [ ] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria. ([ ] see continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

#### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register [ ] see continuation sheet
- [ ] determined eligible for the National Register [ ] see continuation sheet
- [ ] determined not eligible for the National Register
- [ ] removed from the National Register
- [ ] other (explain) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper

date of action

[Signature]

11/9/18

**North Park Branch Library**

**Erie County, New York**

Name of Property

County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(check as many boxes as apply)

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

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

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
1		<b>TOTAL</b>

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

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

N/A

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(enter categories from instructions)

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/Library

VACANT

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVAL/  
Tudor Revival

foundation Concrete  
walls Brick  
roof Fiber cement shingle  
other

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

**North Park Branch Library**

**Erie County, New York**

Name of Property

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**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or that represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all boxes that apply.)

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location
- C** a birthplace or grave
- D** a cemetery
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F** a commemorative property
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested. **NPS # 37,428**
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by historic American Building Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

# \_\_\_\_\_

**Areas of Significance:**

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION

ARCHITECTURE

**Period of Significance:**

1928-1952

**Significant Dates:**

1928, 1952

**Significant Person:**

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation:**

N/A

**Architect/Builder:**

Howard L. Beck (Architect)/ J. Cassiol (Builder 1928)

R. Kinkel (Landscape Arch)/ D. Fraser (Builder 1952)

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other repository: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**North Park Branch Library**  
Name of Property

**Erie County, New York**  
County and State

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**10. Geographical Data**

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**Acreage of Property** .43 Acres

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 17 | 673918      4757254      3 17 | | | | | | | |      | | | | | | | |  
Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

2 17 | | | | | | | |      | | | | | | | |      4 17 | | | | | | | |      | | | | | | | |

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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name/title Caitlin Moriarty PhD and Matthew Shoen/Architectural Historians, Kelsie Hoke M. Arch/ Project Manager  
organization Preservation Studios LLC date June 23, 2018  
street & number 170 Florida Street telephone 716-725-6410  
city or town Buffalo state NY zip code 14208

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**Additional Documentation**

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Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**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.

**Photographs**

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional items**

(Check with SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner** (Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO)

name \_\_\_\_\_  
street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

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**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. 470 *et seq.*)

**Estimated Burden Statement:** public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, D.C. 20503

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National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 1

North Park Branch Library

Name of Property

Erie County, New York

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Narrative Description of Property

The North Park Library is located at 2351 Delaware Avenue in the North Park neighborhood of the City of Buffalo, New York. It sits at the northeast corner of the intersection of Delaware and Hertel Avenues, half a mile north of the Buffalo Zoo and the Frederick Law Olmsted Sr. designed Delaware Park (NR 1982). Both Delaware Avenue and Hertel Avenue are primary traffic and commercial arteries in this area, running north-south and east-west, respectively. North and south on Delaware Avenue, the fabric consists of modern commercial buildings and strip malls, set well back from the street on large lots. Further to the east and west, the fabric is denser and Hertel Avenue is lined with frame homes dating largely to the late-nineteenth century and early twentieth century. A quarter of a mile to the east, Hertel Avenue transitions to a vibrant commercial strip lined on both sides by two-to-three story, masonry-clad, commercial buildings largely from the early twentieth century.

Built in 1928 as a neighborhood branch library, the North Park Library is a small, Tudor Revival, red brick building, a single story in height, with a steeply pitched gable roof. It was designed by City of Buffalo municipal architect Howard Beck and has a Y-shaped plan that faces outward, extending to the west and south in order to frame the park and to welcome neighborhood residents from each direction. In 1952, a brick addition was made at the rear to enclose an elevator for the building and a small, discrete addition was made to the west elevation; however, no other significant changes have been made. Throughout the library's history, the building has been carefully maintained and remains significantly intact and in good condition on both the interior and the exterior. For eighty years, it functioned as the area's branch library location and local community center but was closed in 2008 due to budgetary constraints that resulted in the library moving to a new location. Since that time, the building has been empty but secure and continues to play an important role in the streetscape and fabric of both Hertel and Delaware Avenues. It retains a significant history from its role as a center for community in this neighborhood.

With the exception of the northeast corner, where the North Park Library is located, each corner at the intersection of Delaware and Hertel Avenues contains a parking lot paved in asphalt with a commercial building set well back on the site. The site of the North Park Library on the northeast corner is half an acre in size. The building is situated approximately sixty feet from the street on both sides and is nestled against a wide lawn extending to the sidewalk.

The siting and a landscaping plan complemented the Tudor Revival architecture of the library and created a tranquil setting at this busy intersection. A landscape plan from c.1928 shows six different tree species and over fifteen different shrubberies, though it is unclear whether the plan was implemented. The current landscaping scheme has a similar pattern as the c.1928 plan, but the trees are only thirty years old. Small plantings are located close to building and rear of the property and a large lawn surrounded by trees extends to the sidewalks.

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North Park Branch Library

Name of Property

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A long, curved path stretches from Delaware Avenue to the library entrance and continues to Hertel Avenue; the semi-circular shape and placement is consistent with the c. 1928 site plan. The lawn along Hertel and Delaware Avenues is lined with mature linden trees (two along Hertel, three along Delaware) approximately thirty-years in age, with two mature spruces, also around thirty-years in age, at the center of the lawn, and an ash tree of similar age near the western end of the building. A large silver maple tree appears to date to the construction of the library, but it is not shown on the c.1928 landscape plan. A large juniper bush in front of the library entrance, at the center of the curving path, appears to be the only extant planting from the original plan.

**Exterior**

The original Y-shaped library building is a single story in height over a tall raised basement and consists of a center entry pavilion with angled wings extending to the west and south with a small polygonal projection to the north. Built of brick masonry, it has a slightly variegated, striated, dark red brick at the exterior above an eighteen-inch concrete base with a flat stone water table capping the raised basement level and stucco and applied half-timbering at the gable ends. At the roofline, the perimeter is wrapped by deep, overhanging eaves with exposed, cut rafter tails, and decorative barge boards articulate the gables. The windows openings throughout are simple brick openings with a stone sill. Many have single-light casement windows but some retain original, wood casements with leaded, diamond-paned glazing.

Two small additions have been made to the building, one at the west end and one at the rear. At the west end, an eight-foot wide, single-story, flat roofed addition projects from the west wall of the west wing, enclosing an exit stair from the basement. At the rear of the building, an L-shaped addition was made to the projecting polygonal portion to enlarge the bathroom and provide an elevator for the building. Both additions are quite discrete and built in a dark red brick closely matching the brick of the original building.

Primary Façade (facing southwest)

The primary facade is symmetrically composed and consists of a small entry pavilion at the center, angled to address the corner, with wings approximately thirty-five feet in length extending to the west and the south. At the entry pavilion, a wide opening with a four-centered, Tudor arch is centered beneath a projecting gable roofed porch. The opening has a molded stone frame with a tabbed surround and a deep stone lintel and contains a pair of modern glazed aluminum doors with a deep transom above. A short flight of concrete steps leads up to the entry. Above, the roof of the porch is supported on wood knee-braces and has wide eaves with cut rafter tails and open half-timbering in the gable end. To either side, each wing has a group of three short windows on a shared sill centered high on the elevation just beneath the eaves. A matching group of windows is centered below at the basement level between the concrete base and the stone water table. Only one of the windows (the southernmost window of the south wing) retains its leaded glazing. Extending from the west wing, the western addition has a single opening at its center containing a pair of flush metal doors.

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North Park Branch Library

Name of Property

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South Elevation

The south elevation consists of the gabled end of the south wing. An exterior brick chimney with stone imposts at the shoulders is present at the center and rises up into the roofline. To either side is a single, short window at the same height as those on the primary façade. The south face of the gable itself is stuccoed and divided into tall panels by vertical half-timbering in chestnut.

West Elevation

The west elevation consists of the gabled end of the west wing and the projecting western addition. A group of four, tall, leaded glass windows with transoms above is centered on the elevation on a shared sill. Beneath them, the addition projects approximately eight feet forward from the face of the west wall, its flat roof extending from just below the sill height and with two short windows centered on its western face. Above, the gable end is stuccoed and half-timbered, matching the southern end.

Rear Elevation (facing northeast)

The rear elevation originally consisted of the west and south wings extending to either side with a small projecting polygonal apse at the center. Currently, the wings extend to either side unaltered with the L-shaped addition at the center, expanded from the original apse. Each of the wings is simple and unarticulated apart from a group of three windows centered high on the main level and below at the basement with the stone water table between, similar to the primary façade. One leg of the addition merely extended the apse twenty feet to the northeast while the second leg projects approximately sixteen feet to the south. It is wrapped by a water table matching the rest of the building and has two high windows centered on its western face, and a double door centered on its southern wall where it returns back to the original building.

Interior

The interior of the building is quite small and simply composed with the original floorplan wholly intact. A split flight of stairs within the entry vestibule provides access to both the main level and the basement level of the building. At the main level, the entry and stairs lead into a lobby at the center which contains the circulation desk at the northeast end and is open to the west and south wings at the sides. Each of the wings is a single, open-volume space with stacks around the perimeter and a reading area at the center. Beyond the circulation desk, the rear of the building is occupied by the bathrooms in the projecting polygonal portion, as well as an elevator and second stair in the 1952 addition to the east. At the basement level, like the first floor, a lobby is located at the center and bathrooms are stacked below those of the main floor. An auditorium occupies the western wing, while the south wing contains storage and utility space as well as a coatroom accessed via the southwest corner of the lobby. The library was simply and modestly articulated on the interior at the time of its construction and most of the original finishes remain intact today, though the original furnishings have long

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North Park Branch Library

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since been replaced. Plaster walls and ceilings, plaster trim, and modest millwork details are present throughout and most remain in good condition, thus maintaining a fair indication of the library's original appearance.

On the first floor, the entry consists of a small vestibule at the south end and the split stair at the north end with a short, open flight leading up to the library to the west and a pair of doors to the east accessing the stair to the basement. The space has a gray terrazzo floor and base, a flat plaster ceiling, and plaster walls incised with a faux-stone pattern for three-quarters of their heights and capped by a plaster chair rail. The stair flight leading to the library has terrazzo treads and risers with enclosed walls at either side, also patterned in faux stone. To the east, the original painted wood casing surrounds a pair of original, painted, wood doors both with a glazed panel in the upper third and a solid panel below.

The library and circulation spaces on the main floor have seen some updates and modernizations, in particular to the circulation desk and to the treads and handrails of the rear staircase; however, a number of original features still articulate the space. Throughout, the walls are plaster with a deep plaster baseboard and a detailed crown molding. Above the lobby, the ceiling is flat with flat plaster, while the open volume in each of the wings has a shallow, barrel-vaulted plaster ceiling. Original wood casings are present at each of the door and window openings and, although the flooring is currently vinyl tile, it is possible that the original hardwood or terrazzo flooring remains below. Each of the wings currently contains wooden bookcases at the perimeter that seem to date to the 1940s. The western wall of the west wing features the tall bank of four, leaded glass, diamond-paned windows at the center, while the southern wall of the south wing contains a large beige brick fireplace at the center with a Tudor-arched stone surround, a heavy wood mantel supported on short corbels, and a canted chimney breast rising above to the ceiling. In the lobby, the circulation desks are all modern and date to the 1990's. Beyond, the bathrooms have vinyl tile floors with flat plaster at the walls and ceiling, plaster trim, and wood casings at the openings. The secondary stair to the west is a wood stair built as part of the L-shaped addition in the 1990s.

At the basement level, only the auditorium and the lobby are articulated with architectural finishes, as these were the only spaces intended to be publicly accessible. Both have plaster walls and ceilings, original wood casings at all of the openings, and original, painted, four-panel wood doors. The lobby originally had a tile floor and it is unclear where it remains intact beneath the current vinyl tile. Leading up to the entry from the lobby, the steel pan stair has terrazzo treads, straight, slender spindles, and square steel newel posts with flattened pyramidal caps. In the western wing, the auditorium is finished with a wood chair rail and deep wood baseboard, both painted, and has a checkered vinyl tile floor, possibly over the original hardwood. A small stage, thirteen feet wide and five feet deep, is located at the center of the east wall, framed in a wood trim similar to the door casings, and raised on a single step above the floor level. Overhead, the plastered ceiling is approximately nine feet in height and is punctuated by the deep, plastered concrete beams of the floor system above.



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**North Park Branch Library**

**Name of Property**

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At the northeast corner of the basement, there are two bathrooms located in the polygonal portion. Each has flat plaster walls and a flat plaster ceiling with cased openings and wood baseboard. All of the fixtures have been updated and date to the 1990s. The remainder of the space at the basement level consists of the original boiler room, coal room, store room, and cloak room, all now currently used as storage and mechanical space. The openings in each room are cased to match the others at this level, but the spaces are otherwise unarticulated and have flat plaster walls and ceiling with vinyl tile floors.

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North Park Branch Library

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**Statement of Significance:**

The North Park Branch Library is locally significant under Criterion A in Education for its role in providing reading and educational materials as well as community space to residents in the North Park neighborhood of Buffalo, Erie County, New York. The library is also locally significant under Criterion C in Architecture as a good example of a small-scale Tudor Revival branch library. The one-story library is located on the corner of Hertel Avenue and Delaware Avenue, two of the North Park neighborhood's busiest streets. Built in 1928, the library was the twelfth branch library opened by the Buffalo Public Library and the second in North Buffalo. Howard L. Beck, Buffalo's city architect, designed the library, while Roeder Kinkel completed the landscaping plan and Joseph Cassiol & Sons served as the general contractors. The Buffalo Public Library began planning the North Park Branch Library in 1925 in response to a growing demand for library services from North Park residents. At that time, the North Park neighborhood was a rapidly growing residential area of primarily middle class households. These residents sought a more suburban lifestyle away from Buffalo's older and more densely settled downtown neighborhoods and advocated for convenient library services for their neighborhood which was roughly two miles away from the nearest branch library. After the Buffalo Public Library opened the North Park Branch Library, it became a major community asset and within a year patrons had borrowed over 4,400 books from the library and a number of local clubs used the building's basement auditorium as a meeting place.<sup>1</sup> The library attracted thousands of local patrons annually who could also request books from the downtown Central Library, giving North Park residents access to the Buffalo Public Library's entire collection. Howard L. Beck modeled his design for the library on the Decker Branch Public Library (extant) in Denver, Colorado, a widely imitated Carnegie library erected in 1913. The North Park Branch Library is the only Tudor Revival library Beck designed in Buffalo. The building features two wings that extend at an obtuse angle with trees and a curved walk leading to the front entrance, giving the library the feeling of a low English country manor. Beck's design, together with Kinkel's landscaping, give the library a rural feeling, despite its location at the intersection of two major streets. This feeling of rural quaintness is not seen in Beck's other branch libraries, which were primarily executed in the Colonial Revival or Renaissance Revival style, two common architectural forms for libraries in the early twentieth century. The North Park Branch Library operated until 2008, receiving a small addition in 1952 to accommodate new standards in safety and accessibility, and to provide new modern services to patrons. However, these alterations are minor and do not detract or compete with the original building. The period of significance for the North Park Branch Library extends from 1928 to 1952, beginning with its construction in 1928 and concluding with the renovation campaign in 1952 that added a secondary exit to the library. This period of significance also marks the era during which the library largely served a local clientele, which walked to the neighborhood library. While the library functioned until 2008, the period of

<sup>1</sup> The Buffalo Public Library, *Thirty-Second Annual Report of the Buffalo Public Library: 1928* (Buffalo: The Matthews-Northrup Works, 1929), 20.

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significance reflects the library's greatest period of activity in the growing North Park neighborhood as well as the most significant architectural changes to the property.

*The North Park Neighborhood*

The North Park Branch Library is located on the edge of the North Park neighborhood in Buffalo, New York. North Park is a largely residential neighborhood centered along Hertel Avenue, the area's commercial spine. North Park is generally encompassed by Delaware, Kenmore, Starin, and Linden Avenues and is north of Parkside and west of Central Park, two neighborhoods with a similar composition that date to the 1880s.

North Park developed on land which the city of Buffalo had controlled since 1854; however, with the exception of scattered farms, the area remained undeveloped until the early twentieth century. Two nineteenth century infrastructure projects, the completion of the New York Central Belt Line and the development of Frederick Law Olmsted Sr.'s Park and Parkway System, spurred development the neighborhood in the early twentieth century. By the 1920s, North Park had achieved its present shape with residential streets to the north and south of Hertel Avenue the neighborhood's main commercial thoroughfare.

The New York Central Belt Line (hereafter shortened to the Belt Line) stimulated some of the earliest real estate ventures in the northern sections of Buffalo, starting with industrial endeavors. Built between 1871 and 1883, the Belt Line was a nineteen-mile loop of railroad tracks that circled Buffalo's fringes. The railroad connected portions of the former Buffalo and Niagara Railroad, the New York Central and Hudson River Railroad, and the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Railway and featured passenger stops every mile and large depots and freight houses at key points throughout the city.<sup>2</sup> The Belt Line made it possible to decentralize industry and led to a rapid expansion of manufacturing throughout Buffalo. Industrialists erected factories along the Belt Line's tracks and created new industrial and manufacturing nodes, particularly in the northern and eastern quadrants of Buffalo. Workers could ride the Belt Line from any part of the city and reach these new factories without difficulty. Between 1890 and 1910, factories like the Pierce Arrow Factory (1906, NR 1974), American Radiator Complex (1891, NR 2015), Houk Manufacturing Company Factory (1910-1930, NR 2014), Taylor Signal Company Factory (1902-1906, NR 2014) and Linde Air Products Factory (1907, NR 2017) were built, bringing jobs to north Buffalo and encouraging residential settlement in developing neighborhoods like North Park.<sup>3</sup> The Belt Line also offered convenient transportation for upwardly mobile residents who moved north to escape downtown congestion.

<sup>2</sup> Aaron T. Heverin, "Past Tracks: A Queen City Built by Rail," *Buffalo History Works*, [Buffalohistoryworks.com/ptracks/](http://Buffalohistoryworks.com/ptracks/).

<sup>3</sup> Jennifer Walkowski, "Historic Resources of the Black Rock Planning Neighborhood, Buffalo, Erie County, NY," National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, 2010, Section E, Page 11.

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Frederick Law Olmsted's park and parkway system also played a crucial role in developing North Park and helped make the neighborhood attractive to upwardly mobile city residents. Olmsted began designing Buffalo's park system in 1868, and over the next three decades, he created a four-component system composed of a large primary park around a dammed Scajaquada Creek, a waterfront park at the mouth of the Niagara River, a small park called "The Parade," and long tree lined parkways that connected the three parks.<sup>4</sup> "The Park," renamed Delaware Park, was the centerpiece of the system and contained signature Olmsted elements such as a large water feature ("Gala Water," now Hoyt Lake) and traverse roads similar to those in New York City's Central Park, which kept traffic along Delaware Avenue lower than the surrounding park. As part of The Park's design, Olmsted incorporated roads for a neighborhood called Parkside on the edge of the park. Olmsted envisioned Parkside as a neighborhood of curvilinear streets, widely spaced homes, and landscaped lawns that would buffer Delaware Park from the rest of Buffalo and preserve the park's sense of rural appeal.<sup>5</sup> Parkside developed rapidly in the 1880s and the curving tree-lined streets effectively maintained a sylvan appeal and encouraged upper middle-class residents to move away from Buffalo's older, more densely built neighborhoods.<sup>6</sup>

Around the time Parkside developed, industrialist Lewis J. Bennett planned another speculative development called Central Park northeast of Delaware Park. Bennett acquired more than 200 acres of land between Parkside and Main Streets and he subdivided it into large residential parcels. To ensure Central Park developed into an exclusive neighborhood of wealthy families and high-quality housing stock, Bennett mandated minimum costs for the residences.<sup>7</sup> To entice prospective residents into purchasing his land, Bennett erected a train station on the Belt Line called Bennett Station and donated a significant sum of money for the construction of Bennett High School. These amenities, coupled with the neighborhood's proximity to Delaware Park, attracted thousands of residents and by 1915 almost all of Bennett's lots had been filled.<sup>8</sup>

The success of Parkside and Central Park inspired speculative relators to develop streets north of Delaware Park, between Delaware Avenue and Main Street. This neighborhood, north as North Park, had its first streets laid out circa 1890 and consisted of a smaller area bounded by the Lackawanna, Delaware, and Western Railroad to the north, Sterling Avenue to the east, Hertel Avenue to the south, and Exeter Avenue to the west.<sup>9</sup> This initial area consisted of six tree-lined streets; however, the name was adopted more generally for the surrounding area in the subsequent decades [See Figures 1 & 2]. By 1903 North Park had attained its present

<sup>4</sup> Christine Longiaru, Frank Kowsky and Martin Wachadlo, "Broadway Fillmore Neighborhood Intensive Level Historic Resources Survey," City of Buffalo, last updated 2004, [https://www.city-buffalo.com/Home/City\\_Departments/Office\\_of\\_Strategic\\_Planning/RegulatoryBoards/Preservation\\_Board/HistoricResourcesIntensiveLevelSurvey](https://www.city-buffalo.com/Home/City_Departments/Office_of_Strategic_Planning/RegulatoryBoards/Preservation_Board/HistoricResourcesIntensiveLevelSurvey), Section 3-4.

<sup>5</sup> Francis Kowsky, "Parkside East Historic District," National Register of Historic Places Nomination, 1981, Section 8, Page 1.

<sup>6</sup> Kowsky, Section 8, Page 5.

<sup>7</sup> Derek King and Matthew Shoen, "St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church Complex," National Register of Historic Places Nomination, 2015, Section 8, Page 2-3.

<sup>8</sup> King and Shoen, Section 8, Page 3.

<sup>9</sup> Rand McNally Co., *Buffalo New York Map 1891* (Buffalo: Rand McNally Co., 1891), 260.

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borders though the neighborhood remained thinly settled, especially compared to the more popular neighborhoods of Parkside and Central Park. As these neighborhoods filled, development in North Park increased, and between 1910 and 1920 the population of the Twentieth Ward, which included North Park, nearly tripled, rising to 38,440.<sup>10</sup> North Park attracted a largely middle-class population looking for affordable housing near Delaware Park and many of these residents erected double houses on their lots, contributing to the area's rapid growth and making North Park an extremely dense neighborhood. North Park's population growth continued in the 1920s, when the majority of commercial development on Hertel Avenue and residential development on side streets occurred.<sup>11</sup>

Public and private investment shaped North Park in the 1920s. The Shea's theater chain opened one of its neighborhood theaters, the North Park Theater, in 1920 at the corner of Hertel and North Park Avenues. The signaled a strong neighborhood identity centered on Hertel Avenue and helped formalize the "North Park" moniker. School 66 opened in 1924 at Tacoma and Parkside Avenues and, by 1928, congestion at that facility spurred construction of School 81 on Tacoma Avenue between Delaware and Virgil Avenues.<sup>12</sup> The proximity of these schools, located on the same street one mile apart, highlights the rapid development of this dense neighborhood. Also in 1928, construction started on the North Park Branch Library and the YMCA North Delaware Branch.

A combination of single-family and two-family homes in North Park catered to upwardly mobile families in the city. Over its history, North Park has consistently attracted residents seeking a more suburban feel and it has acted as a stepping stone to northern suburbs like Amherst. In the 1940s and 1950s, a large Jewish population moved from historic downtown and East Side neighborhoods into North Park and established businesses on Hertel Avenue and nearby temples.<sup>13</sup> In the 1970s, Italian Americans moved into the neighborhood from the West Side and formed a new "Little Italy" centered on Hertel Avenue taking the place of departing Jewish families and businesses. Currently, neighborhood groups are welcoming new business and investment in North Park as the neighborhood shakes off the effects of economic stagnation that defined Buffalo in the latter half of the twentieth century.

<sup>10</sup> U.S. Department of the Interior, *Report on the Population of the United States: Fourteenth Census, 1920* (Washington, DC: GPO, 1920), 263.

<sup>11</sup> Caitlin Moriarty, "Suor & Suor's 'Central Park Bargains': Revere Place, Taft Place, and Sagamore Terrace," *Buffalo Streets: Discovering Buffalo, One Street at a Time*, <https://buffalostreets.com/tag/suor/>.

<sup>12</sup> Frank Blake, "Where Acquiring Three R's May Be Fun for Students," *Courier Express*, September 8, 1929.

<sup>13</sup> Chana Revell Kotzin, *Jewish Community of Greater Buffalo* (Charleston: Arcadia Publishing, 2013), 55.

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*The Buffalo Public Library System*

In 1836 a group of wealthy young businessmen and industrialists from Buffalo formed the Young Men's Association with the purpose of developing a literary institution in the growing city.<sup>14</sup> The association's first act was to create a library, which operated as a subscription service. For an annual fee of fifty dollars members could access the library's collection and within a year Buffalo Library contained 2,700 volumes and the association's treasurer reported that \$6,700 had been raised for its support.<sup>15</sup> The Young Men's Association controlled the Buffalo Library for sixty-one years and during that time the organization grew from 400 to 2,900 subscribers.<sup>16</sup> Additionally, under the Young Men's Association, the Buffalo Library's collection expanded from 2,700 pieces of literature to 84,000 holdings by 1897.<sup>17</sup>

By the 1890s the Buffalo Library's leaders found it increasingly difficult to support the library through subscription fees. Though the Central Library (1887, not extant) acted as a hub of literature in the city, there was no convenient way for residents in outlying districts to access the library, limiting the subscription base and the library's reach. In order to supplement its subscription base, the Buffalo Library had for years owned the Iroquois Hotel, which generated an annual income of \$22,000.<sup>18</sup> However, in 1896 the New York State Legislature passed a law making income-generating properties owned by public institutions taxable. The new law levied an annual tax of \$17,000 on the Iroquois Hotel, undercutting the Buffalo Library's ability to purchase new materials and invest in upkeep.<sup>19</sup> Faced with bankruptcy, the Buffalo Library's Board of Managers entered into an agreement with the City of Buffalo to make the Buffalo Library a tax supported institution, accessible to every city resident.<sup>20</sup>

In 1897, the Buffalo Public Library opened and library use in Buffalo skyrocketed. In 1896, the Buffalo Library had roughly 4,000 borrowers, or around 1 percent of Buffalo's population.<sup>21</sup> By 1927, over 200,000 people, around one-third of city residents, borrowed from the Buffalo Public Library, making it one of the city's most popular institutions.<sup>22</sup> This popularity encouraged the library's Board of Managers to open branch locations

<sup>14</sup> *The Buffalo Public Library: Pictures of the Fourteen Circulating Libraries of the City of Buffalo* (Buffalo: 1928), 6.

<sup>15</sup> Arthur Goldberg, *The Buffalo Public Library: Commemorating its First Century of Service to the Citizens of Buffalo 1836-1936* (Buffalo: Baker, Jones, Hausauer Incorporated, 1937), 2-3.

<sup>16</sup> Goldberg, 123.

<sup>17</sup> Goldberg, 117.

<sup>18</sup> Goldberg, 117.

<sup>19</sup> Goldberg, 117.

<sup>20</sup> Goldberg, 117.

<sup>21</sup> U.S. Department of the Interior, *Report on the Population of the United States: Twelfth Census, 1900* (Washington, DC: GPO, 1900), 110.

<sup>22</sup> U.S. Department of the Interior, *Report on the Population of the United States: Fifteenth Census, 1930* (Washington, DC: GPO, 1930), 26.

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throughout the city to service neighborhoods and alleviate some of the pressure on the Central Library in downtown Buffalo.

*Development of Buffalo's Branch Libraries*

From the Buffalo Public Library's earliest years, the Board of Managers recognized the need for branch libraries. In 1899, library superintendent H. L. Elmendorf argued,

In other large cities a great proportion of the circulation is done through small libraries, located at convenient places in different parts of the city. If we had such collections of books, with commodious, well-stocked reading rooms – say, one in Black Rock, one in Cold Spring and two or three on the East side, each in charge of regular library assistants – we could, I think, double our usefulness.<sup>23</sup>

Buffalo's branch library system developed in two phases, the first occurring between 1898 and 1915 and the second lasting from 1924 to 1930. Between 1898 and 1915, the Buffalo Public Library opened branch libraries in rented rooms inside settlement houses, commercial buildings, and social buildings. In 1898 the Buffalo Public Library opened a small book depository inside the Westminster Settlement House at 421 Monroe Street (NR Listed 2018). Two years later, a second depository called the Welcome Hall Branch opened on Seneca Street.<sup>24</sup> Both depositories had a collection of approximately 500 books, mainly chosen for children, and were very popular in their respective neighborhoods. As a consequence of their popularity, overcrowding plagued both depositories.

The Buffalo Public Library's first official purpose-built branch, the William Ives Branch Library, opened in 1901. The William Ives Branch Library included a much larger selection of adult books as well as newspapers and foreign language books for immigrant patrons. The branch library occupied the first floor of a commercial building at 746 Broadway (not extant).<sup>25</sup> The branch contained a catalogue of 3,000 books, many of which were in Polish, and paid twenty dollars a month in rent.<sup>26</sup> Within two years the J.P. Dudley Branch at 503 South Park Avenue and the Lafayette Branch inside the Lafayette High School opened.<sup>27</sup> Between 1910 and 1915 four additional libraries opened. Three occupied rented spaces, with the lone exception being the Jubilee Branch Library at 1936 Niagara Street (extant).

<sup>23</sup> The Buffalo Public Library, *Third Annual Report of the Buffalo Public Library: 1899* (Buffalo: The Matthews-Northrup Works, 1900), 19.

<sup>24</sup> Buffalo Public Library, *Third Annual Report*, 130.

<sup>25</sup> In 1906 the William Ives Branch Library moved to the still extant Dom Polski Building at 1079 Broadway.

<sup>26</sup> The Buffalo Public Library, *Fifth Annual Report of the Buffalo Public Library: 1901* (Buffalo: The Matthews-Northrup Works, 1902), 15.

<sup>27</sup> The Buffalo Public Library, *Seventh Annual Report of the Buffalo Public Library: 1903* (Buffalo: The Matthews-Northrup Works, 1904), 16-17.

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The Jubilee Branch Library occupied the former Jubilee Water Works Building, which the city gave to the Buffalo Public Library. Once converted, the former water works building was the first branch library owned by the Buffalo Public Library and possessed two important features repeated in all future branch libraries. First, the building had a basement auditorium open to public organizations. Additionally, library's first floor was divided so that adults and children had separate reading rooms. The division of space between adult readers and children was considered important to the function of the branch library. Future branches, the North Park Branch Library included, separated adult and child spaces, often placing the librarian's desk in-between.

While these branch facilities served their purpose, the Board of Managers increasingly considered rented settings inadequate and lobbied Buffalo's Common Council to fund the construction of a system of branch libraries. In 1923, the Common Council issued the Buffalo Public Library a \$200,000 bond for that purpose, and between 1924 and 1930, seven new branch libraries were planned by city architect Howard L. Beck.<sup>28</sup> The Cazenovia Branch, Kensington Branch, and Fairfield Branch Libraries opened between 1924 and 1925 and were the first purpose build libraries in Buffalo. In 1927, the Genesee Branch Library opened, and in 1928 the North Park Branch Library became Buffalo's twelfth branch library.<sup>29</sup> Between 1928 and 1930, three additional branches opened; they were the Grant Street Branch, North Jefferson Branch—which replaced the Utica Street Branch, and the Clinton Street Branch, which occupied space in a settlement house.<sup>30</sup>

Three decades after H.L. Elmendorf argued for the creation of a branch library system, Buffalo had fourteen branch libraries seeded throughout the city circulating over two-million books a year. In 1932, George J. Davidson Jr. applauded the success of the branch libraries:

The Branch System of the Buffalo Public Library was founded on the idea of a large number of small branches, each planned for a maximum circulation of approximately 150,000 books per year...Six of the branches have auditoriums which have been used for story-telling to the children and book talks to their parents. They are also used for meetings of various organizations such as Businessmen's Clubs, American Legion, City Division of Recreations, Mothers' Clubs, Garden Clubs, Home Bureau, and Erie County League of Women Voters. They serve the double purpose of having a small auditorium in a community and of bringing the library to the attention of more people.<sup>31</sup>

<sup>28</sup> Goldberg, 133.

<sup>29</sup> The Buffalo Public Library, *Thirtieth Annual Report of the Buffalo Public Library: 1926* (Buffalo: The Matthews-Northrup Works, 1927), 17.

<sup>30</sup> See Appendixes 1 for a full list of the branch library system.

<sup>31</sup> The Buffalo Public Library, *Thirty-Sixth Annual Report of the Buffalo Public Library: 1932* (Buffalo: The Matthews-Northrup Works, 1933), 26.



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Davidson's remarks highlight the importance of the branch libraries to the effective operation of Buffalo's library system. Each branch had its own sizable collection of books and related reading material; however, the libraries could also request books and have them delivered from the Central Library, meaning residents living near a branch library had access to the Buffalo Public Library's entire catalog. This served the double purpose of providing city residents with a wealth of reading material and reducing pressure on the Central Library, which frequently struggled with overcrowding. The auditoriums were also an important community asset that catered to youth events and facilitated meetings for local organizations.

The branch libraries were placed in communities throughout Buffalo, many of which had a high proportion of immigrants and non-English speakers. The William Ives Branch Library and the William Street Branch Library were particularly important for immigrant communities, as they were placed in the heart of Buffalo's Polish and Jewish neighborhoods, respectively. These branch libraries supplied English language reading materials to help young children learn the language of their new country and provided materials for older patrons in their native tongues. In the William Ives Branch Library, Polish patrons had access to the city's entire library of Polish language books as well as a number of Polish newspapers.<sup>32</sup> In 1908, the city librarian reported, "Some children using this branch in the afternoon come from parts of the city as far east of the building as the main library building is on the west."<sup>33</sup> This demonstrated to the Board of Managers not only the popularity of the Buffalo Public Library but also the need to build additional branch libraries in the growing neighborhoods around Buffalo's fringes.

While libraries like the William Ives Branch supplied immigrants with reading materials and helped them learn English, other branch libraries, like the North Park Branch Library and Fairfield Branch Library, served growing middle-class neighborhoods. Though these libraries served primarily English speaking communities, their circulation was comparable to branch libraries in immigrant neighborhoods. All of the branch libraries offered story-time programs for children and guest speakers for adults. These educational programs made use of the auditoriums and encouraged community interaction with the branch libraries.<sup>34</sup> Regardless of location, the branch libraries acted as crucial repositories of information, sources of entertainment, and community centers where people gathered to take part in educational programming.

<sup>32</sup> The Buffalo Public Library, *Twelfth Annual Report of the Buffalo Public Library: 1908* (Buffalo: The Matthews-Northrup Works, 1909), 17.

<sup>33</sup> The Buffalo Public Library, *Twelfth Annual Report*, 17.

<sup>34</sup> "Mark Twain's 'Huck and Tom High in Favor with Buffalo's Children, Librarians Learn,'" *The Buffalo Courier*, October 1, 1922, 66.

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*The North Park Branch Library*

As early as 1920, the Buffalo Public Library's Board of Managers recognized the need for a branch library in North Park.<sup>35</sup> Although the Fairfield Branch Library opened in 1925 in a former Unitarian Church on Amherst Street, just south of North Park, both the Buffalo Public Library and community leaders in North Park considered it necessary to build another branch library in the rapidly growing neighborhood.<sup>36</sup> The Board of Managers and community organizations like the Central Park M.E. Women's Association, the Central Presbyterian Church's women's association, and the Parent-Teacher association of School 22 pushed the city to allocate funds for library construction.<sup>37</sup> During appropriation hearings to determine if new branch libraries would be funded, these community groups sent representatives to Common Council and concerned residents gathered in neighborhood churches to learn the city's decision.<sup>38</sup>

After the city allocated \$200,000 for the construction of new branch libraries, the Buffalo Public Library immediately began considering sites for the North Park Branch Library and, in 1925, it selected a city-owned piece of land at the corner of Hertel and Delaware Avenues.<sup>39</sup> The lot was less than a block away from Public School 21 (1903, not extant) and School 81 (1928, extant) and sat at the junction of Hertel Avenue and Delaware Avenue, two of the most heavily trafficked streets in North Park.<sup>40</sup> Howard L. Beck designed the library and in 1927 the city requested bids for general construction, heating, and plumbing.<sup>41</sup> The contracting firm of Joseph Cassiol & Sons placed the lowest contracting bid of \$23,675 and built the library between 1927-28.<sup>42</sup> Less than a year after construction began, the North Park Branch Library opened in January 1928.

Like many of Buffalo's branch libraries, the North Park Branch Library served as a civic anchor for the North Park neighborhood. The building's architecture, siting, and landscaping set it apart from the commercial streetscape on Hertel Avenue and the densely built-up residential streets to the north and south of the library. Upon the library's completion in 1928, the *Buffalo Courier-Express* gave a lengthy description of the building's arrangement:

<sup>35</sup> The Buffalo Public Library, *Twenty-Fourth Annual Report of the Buffalo Public Library: 1920* (Buffalo: The Matthews-Northrup Works, 1921), 11.

<sup>36</sup> Buffalo Public Library, *Twenty-Fourth Annual Report*, 11.

<sup>37</sup> "Hearing on Branch Libraries Friday," *The Buffalo Courier*, September 23, 1923, 97.

<sup>38</sup> "Hearing on Branch Libraries Friday," *The Buffalo Courier*, 97.

<sup>39</sup> "City O.k.'s Use of Delaware-Hertel Site for Library," *The Buffalo Courier*, November 14, 1925, 12.

<sup>40</sup> Other libraries, such as the Kensington Branch Library, were also built near schools to provide supplemental educational tools to local children. The exact construction date for School 21 is unknown: the 1916 Sanborn indicates 1914, the 1950 Sanborn shows an expanded school and indicates construction in 1903, and the school appears in the 1893 Buffalo Directory.

<sup>41</sup> "City O.k.'s Use of Delaware-Hertel Site for Library," *The Buffalo Courier*, 12; "Department of Parks and Public Buildings," *Buffalo Courier-Express*, March 21, 1927, 17.

<sup>42</sup> The Buffalo Public Library, *Thirty-First Annual Report of the Buffalo Public Library: 1927* (Buffalo: The Matthews-Northrup Works, 1928), 39.

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On the main floor of the North Park Library there is one large room divided by the arrangement of its furniture so that one side may be used by the children and the other by the older borrowers. Below this there is an attractive auditorium seating about 100 persons. These neighborhood rooms in branch library buildings have proved invaluable for meetings of study groups and small organizations...It is believed that North Park residents will find this small meeting place a valuable asset to community life.<sup>43</sup>

The North Park Branch Library quickly proved to be a community asset and, in its first year, the library lent over 4,400 books.<sup>44</sup> The library's appearance did, however, draw the ire of locals. Bureaucratic hurdles delayed efforts to landscape the library and for a full year the library's front lawn was a morass of red clay and garbage, creating a major eyesore [See Figure 7].<sup>45</sup> However, once Roeder Kinkel and the city parks department started to level the lawn and plant trees and shrubs these criticisms subsided and the library became the preferred meeting place of the North Park Garden Club, whose members helped beautify the library grounds.<sup>46</sup> Buffalo's Republican Party also used the library as a meeting space, and in 1939 Buffalo's highest judge lectured residents on the workings of the court system.<sup>47</sup> Later, in 1949 a group of World War I and World War II veterans from North Buffalo raised funds and dedicated a site on the grounds of the North Park Branch Library for the erection of a monument and plaque to memorialize the men who'd fought in both conflicts, although no trace of the monument can be found today.<sup>48</sup> The branch's librarians were also extremely engaged with the Buffalo Public School District and organized events to bring local students to the library and show them the books and magazines available to them.<sup>49</sup>

Despite its popularity, the North Park Branch Library suffered through difficult periods, particularly during the Great Depression and in the 1950s. During the Depression, the City of Buffalo cut the Buffalo Public Library's budget by \$71,000.<sup>50</sup> The cut forced the Buffalo Public Library to temporarily close branch libraries, rotating the branch libraries that were closed every four months.<sup>51</sup> The North Park Branch Library closed from the end of 1932 to June of 1933. Public outcry reopened the library later in 1933 with help from the city's emergency employment bureau.<sup>52</sup>

<sup>43</sup> "Library Unit in North Park Open Tuesday," *Buffalo Courier-Express*, January 15, 1928, 5.

<sup>44</sup> The Buffalo Public Library, *Thirty-Second Annual Report of the Buffalo Public Library: 1928*, 20.

<sup>45</sup> "North Parkers Protest Unightly Library Grounds, City Officials Promise Improvement This Spring," *The Buffalo Evening News*, March 28, 1929, 38.

<sup>46</sup> "North Park Garden Club," *Buffalo Courier-Express*, March 29, 1929, 10.

<sup>47</sup> "Lively Tilt to Mark Filling of Kean Position," *Buffalo Courier-Express*, March 30, 1938, 8; "Judge Woltz Speaks," *Buffalo Courier-Express*, February 21, 1939, 9.

<sup>48</sup> "North Buffalo Seeks \$2,000 for Memorial," *The Buffalo Evening News*, October 26, 1949, 74.

<sup>49</sup> "Library Means Fun to Pupils at School 81," *Buffalo Courier-Express*, June 25, 1950, 22-A.

<sup>50</sup> "Seek to Force Reopening of All Branches," *Buffalo Courier-Express*, September 27, 1932, 20.

<sup>51</sup> "Seek to Force Reopening of All Branches," *Buffalo Courier-Express*, 20.

<sup>52</sup> "Closed Library Branches will be Opened Today," *Buffalo Courier-Express*, June 20, 1933, 9.

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In the late 1940s and early 1950s the North Park Branch Library faced another significant problem, this time related to the city's fire code. In 1948 the Buffalo Fire Department condemned the library as a fire hazard because the basement auditorium only had one exit.<sup>53</sup> The fire department stated that only twenty people at a time could meet in the auditorium, severely curtailing its usefulness.<sup>54</sup> In 1952 contractor Don Fraser renovated the North Park Library for \$20,760.<sup>55</sup> Fraser built a secondary egress point on the west wing of the library, bringing the building in line with fire code. In 2008 the North Park Branch Library permanently closed as a result of the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library System's decision to consolidate branch library operations.

*Tudor Revival Architecture*

Tudor Revival architecture in America rose in popularity between 1890 and 1930 and the style became a widespread building mode for private homes, schools, universities and libraries, especially after 1920.<sup>56</sup> Tudor Revival buildings were frequently built in suburban neighborhoods such as North Park where larger lots permitted detailed landscaping plans and allowed buildings to resemble quaint English country manors. Landscaping helped to evoke the idea of "rural quaintness" and conjured associations with rural life and the aristocratic and genteel society of the Tudor monarchy.<sup>57</sup> Architecturally, Tudor Revival buildings are most easily identified by their use of half-timbering with stucco or lathe inset into exposed wood framing, steeply gabled roofs, prominently placed chimneys, and stone entryways. Windows in Tudor Revival buildings are often set in groups of three or more and windowpanes frequently exhibit diamond patterning. Leaded glass windows are also a popular feature. In Buffalo, the Saturn Club (1922, NR 2005) stands among the most prominent example of Tudor Revival architecture in the city, and the residences at 295 Depew Avenue and 57 Nottingham Terrace exemplify fine examples of Tudor Revival homes in prosperous neighborhoods like Central Park.

Howard L. Beck based his design for the North Park Branch Library off the Decker Branch Public Library in Denver, Colorado [See Section 11]. The Decker Branch Public Library was built in 1913 by the firm of Marean & Norton with funds from the Carnegie Corporation.<sup>58</sup> The Tudor Revival library was described as an "elbow building" and had separate wings for the children and adults, both of which could be supervised by a librarian from a centrally placed desk.<sup>59</sup> Marean & Norton's design inspired other architects and builders and libraries modeled off the Decker Branch Public Library opened in Wisconsin, Iowa, and California.<sup>60</sup> In the 1910s

<sup>53</sup> Bob Van Wagoner, "Pepe, Augspurger and Childs Urge Waterfront Work," *The Buffalo Evening News*, October 27, 1949, 40.

<sup>54</sup> Van Wagoner, "Pepe, Augspurger and Childs Urge Waterfront Work," 40.

<sup>55</sup> "What the Council Did," *The Buffalo Evening News*, May 28, 1952, 12.

<sup>56</sup> Lee Goff, *Tudor Style: Tudor Revival Houses in America from 1890 to the Present* (New York: Universe Publishing, 2002), 10.

<sup>57</sup> Goff, *Tudor Style*, 10.

<sup>58</sup> J.A. Marsh, "Denver's Municipal Government," *Municipal Facts* 1, no. 9 (1918): 13.

<sup>59</sup> Marsh, 13.

<sup>60</sup> Marsh, 13.

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Walter L. Brown, an important figure in the Buffalo Public Library, visited Denver to inspect the city's library system. Officials in Denver asserted that Brown came away from the visit impressed with the city's library system.<sup>61</sup> It is likely Brown brought the Decker Branch Library to Beck's attention and encouraged the architect to model his design for the North Park Branch Library off the Coloradan library.

Beck's design largely followed both the exterior architecture of the Decker Branch Public Library and the interior spatial arrangement of the Coloradan library [See Figure 4]. Both libraries feature large bays of diamond paned windows on one wing with a chimney on the opposite wing, as well as stone enclosed entryways sheltered beneath wooden porches that use exposed wooden beams for structural support and artistic purposes. Additionally, the libraries feature steeply pitched gabled roofs, brick construction, and a Y shape. Inside both have a similar spatial arrangement, dividing adults from children with a centrally placed librarian's desk. In the North Park Branch Library, the west wing contained the adult shelves while children used the east wing. A centrally placed desk near the main entrance allowed the librarian to observe both wings with ease. Distinctive elements such as the decorative fireplace and plaster storybook above the fireplace mantel distinguished the children's from the adult wing.

Although the two libraries have many similarities, there are several key differences in their designs. The Decker Branch Public Library has a large brick and concrete front patio as well as a projecting bay window on its northern wing, both of which the North Park Branch Library lack. The Coloradan library also possesses a chimney stack that is significantly larger than the North Park Branch Library's chimney stack on its eastern wing. However, the most significant difference between the two libraries relates to their siting. The wings of the Decker Branch Public Library form a right angle, giving the library its 'elbow' shape. In contrast, the wings of the North Park Branch Library are oriented in an obtuse angle. The library's obtusely angled wings offered Roeder Kinkel greater freedom in his landscaping design, offering him a wider front lawn for him to work with.

The North Park Branch Library's landscaping aligns with the idea of "rural quaintness" commonly associated with Tudor Revival designs. Set back at the rear of its lot, the library is fronted by its broad lawn, which is dotted with a mix of conifers and deciduous trees that shade the two curving sidewalks that lead to the library's entrance. Shrubs grow alongside the building and these green features help the North Park Branch Library feel distinctly rural, especially when compared to the surrounding streetscape. In landscaping the North Park Branch Library's front lawn, Roeder Kinkel proposed a wide variety of trees, flower beds, and a hedge to border the library's entire lot with breaks for the curved sidewalks [See Figure 13]. The present landscaping plan is much simpler than Kinkel's original proposal and it is unknown to what extent he was able to realize his landscaping plan. Whether Kinkel managed to realize his full landscaping plan or not, the trees dotting the library's front

<sup>61</sup> Marsh, 14.

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lawn combined with the curving path to the library's entrance still evoke the feeling of rural quaintness and sylvan beauty.

*Howard L. Beck (Architect) 1873-1937*

In 1902 Buffalo's Common Council put forth legislation authorizing the creation of the office of city architect.<sup>62</sup> The city's independent architects came out strongly against the proposal, which called for one architect to complete all of the municipal building projects in the city.<sup>63</sup> Despite these protests, by 1904 Buffalo had a city architect. Howard L. Beck served as Buffalo's city architect from circa 1909 until 1932 and designed numerous municipal buildings during this time, including the North Park Branch Library. In addition to libraries, Beck designed fire halls, police stations, schools, courthouses, and stadiums. Some of his most notable projects are Station No. 8 (1915), Public School 63 (1917, NR 2016), and a combined police and fire station at the corner of Bailey and Collinswood Avenue (1924, extant).<sup>64</sup> Between 1915 and 1930, Beck designed the Jubilee, Cazenovia, Kensington, Genesee, North Park, and Jefferson branch libraries and modified the Fairfield Branch Library, converting the former church into a library. In designing the North Park Branch Library, Beck worked in the Tudor Revival style for the only time in his career, modeling his design on the Decker Branch Public Library in Denver, Colorado.<sup>65</sup>

In addition to his architectural work, Beck served in the National Guard and went with the 201st Infantry Regiment to fight in Cuba during the Spanish-American War.<sup>66</sup> Before and after the Spanish American War, Beck served as an officer in the 74th Regiment of National Guards, stationed at the Connecticut Street Armory in Buffalo. During his time as a guardsman Beck rose to the rank of colonel and was honorably discharged from the service in 1916. Beck died in 1937 at the age of sixty-four following a protracted illness.<sup>67</sup>

*Roeder Kinkel (Landscape Architect) 1893-1975*

Born in Omaha, Nebraska in 1893, Roeder Kinkel came to Buffalo as a child when his parents decided to attend the Pan-American Exposition.<sup>68</sup> Following the exposition, Kinkel's family decided to remain in Buffalo and he attended Lafayette High School and later Ohio State University.<sup>69</sup> At Ohio State Kinkel was a member of the

<sup>62</sup> "Fleischmann Scores the Sneak Bill," *The Buffalo Courier*, February 21, 1902, 6.

<sup>63</sup> "Architects Raise Voice of Protest," *The Buffalo Courier*, March 2, 1902, 24.

<sup>64</sup> "New Police Stations to be Thoroughly up to Date," *The Buffalo Courier*, February 3, 1915, 8; "To Build Combined Police, Fire Station in Bailey Avenue," *The Buffalo Courier*, February 22, 1924, 3.

<sup>65</sup> "Library Unit in North Park Open Tuesday," *Buffalo Courier-Express*, 5.

<sup>66</sup> "Col. H.L. Beck, Retired City Architect, Dies," *Buffalo Courier-Express*, November 26, 1937, 11.

<sup>67</sup> "Col. H.L. Beck, Retired City Architect, Dies," *Buffalo Courier-Express*, 11.

<sup>68</sup> Bud Zubler, "Roeder J. Kinkel, Landscape Architect of City, Retires," *The Buffalo Evening News*, September 1, 1959, 22.

<sup>69</sup> Zubler, "Roeder J. Kinkel, Landscape Architect of City, Retires," 22.

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school's horticultural society and joined the American Society of Landscape Architects in 1922 becoming the organization's youngest member.<sup>70</sup> Kinkel returned to Buffalo in 1919 to accept the position of landscape draughtsman for the City Planning Commission and in 1922 advanced to the position of chief landscape architect for the city of Buffalo.<sup>71</sup> Roeder Kinkel served as Buffalo's chief landscape architect for well over thirty years and during his time Kinkel landscaped municipal golf courses, swimming pools, skating rinks, the Buffalo Zoo, the Buffalo International Airport, the Civic Stadium, Lafayette Square, and Niagara Square.<sup>72</sup> Kinkel also oversaw landscaping in Buffalo's parks system and planted flowers and trees around Buffalo's parkways and traffic circles.<sup>73</sup> Kinkel also outlined a landscaping plan for the North Park Branch Library circa 1928 that included a wide variety of flower beds, trees, and shrubberies. It is not known whether the plan was implemented, as little of the existing landscaping aligns with Kinkel's original plan. Roeder Kinkel also ran a private landscaping firm called Kinkel Associates Landscaping Architects.<sup>74</sup> With Kinkel Associates, Roeder Kinkel designed Schiller Park in Buffalo, Bassett Park in Amherst, New York, a thirty-seven acre nature park, and created plans for recreational facilities on Squaw Island (now called Unity Island Park).<sup>75</sup> Though significantly larger than the North Park Branch Library's front lawn, Kinkel's other parks feature curving pathways surrounded by trees. The parks also contain large green spaces for recreation and picnicking areas. Roeder Kinkel retired from his position as Buffalo's chief landscape architect in 1959 and died in 1975 after a long and prominent career in Buffalo.<sup>76</sup>

*Joseph Cassiol & Sons (General Contracting) 1887-1953*

The firm of Joseph Cassiol & Sons was responsible for the contracting work at the North Park Branch Library.<sup>77</sup> Joseph Cassiol, an Italian-born contractor who moved to Buffalo in 1917, lead the firm.<sup>78</sup> Prior to immigrating, Cassiol was the superintendent for a Swiss construction firm and erected buildings across Europe.<sup>79</sup> Once in Buffalo, Cassiol and his firm built Public School 23 (not extant), the St. Lawrence Parochial School (extant), the Colvin Police Station (extant), and the Churchill Tabernacle (extant).<sup>80</sup> The firm also built the White Haven

<sup>70</sup> Zubler, "Roeder J. Kinkel, Landscape Architect of City, Retires," 22.

<sup>71</sup> Buffalo Common Council, *Proceedings of the Common Council of the City of Buffalo from January 1, 1919, to December 31, 1919* (Buffalo: Union and Times Press, 1919), 1515.

<sup>72</sup> Zubler, "Roeder J. Kinkel, Landscape Architect of City, Retires," 22.

<sup>73</sup> "Gift Made to City by Wilkes on Retirement," *Buffalo Courier-Express*, December 24, 1947, 4.

<sup>74</sup> "Veterans Plot to Have New Type Markers," *Buffalo Courier-Express*, March 25, 1950, 22-D.

<sup>75</sup> "Basset Park Proposal to Contain Bandshell," *The Lockport Union-Sun and Journal*, August 16, 1971, 12.

<sup>76</sup> Zubler, "Roeder J. Kinkel, Landscape Architect of City, Retires," 22.

<sup>77</sup> The Buffalo Public Library, *Thirty-First Annual Report of the Buffalo Public Library: 1927*, 39.

<sup>78</sup> "Contractor Dies During Visit to Italy," *Buffalo Courier-Express*, November 11, 1953, 30.

<sup>79</sup> "Contractor Dies During Visit to Italy," *Buffalo Courier-Express*, 30.

<sup>80</sup> "Contractor Dies During Visit to Italy," *Buffalo Courier-Express*, 30.

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Road Elementary School (not extant), and District School Number 8 (not extant) in Winchester.<sup>81</sup> Joseph Cassiol died in 1953 at the age of sixty-six while vacationing in Italy with his family.<sup>82</sup>

*Conclusions*

Buffalo's city architect Howard L. Beck designed the North Park Branch Library, which opened in 1928 as the twelfth branch library in Buffalo and the sixth branch designed by Beck.<sup>83</sup> The library served the North Park community a growing neighborhood of middle-class residents who sought a more suburban lifestyle away from the congestion and smoke of downtown Buffalo. North Park residents advocated for the Buffalo Public Library to open a branch library in their community throughout the 1920s and made use of the building once it opened. Thousands of books were loaned out each year and social clubs used the basement auditorium for meetings. The library remained active until 2008 and during its eighty years of service, the North Park Branch Library provided reading material and a space for residents to congregate and participate in different clubs.

Howard L. Beck typically used Colonial Revival or Renaissance Revival in his library designs as evidenced by the Cazenovia and Jefferson Branch Libraries. However, for the North Park Branch Library he utilized Tudor Revival, modeling his design off the Decker Branch Public Library in Denver, Colorado. The North Park Branch Library is a representative example of Tudor Revival design and contains key elements such as half-timbering, a steeply gabled roof, prominent chimneys, and a stone entryway. Inside the library, spaces such as the basement auditorium remain intact as do features such as the decorative fireplaces which delineated the adult reading room from the children's reading room. More importantly, the building and its landscaped front lawn create a sense of rural quaintness, one of the defining qualities of Tudor Revival design. The building is set back from the street and fronted by several towering shade trees which give the library a rural feeling despite its location at the intersection of two busy streets. Though the library has been closed for a decade, it still retains the key elements that define it both as a Tudor Revival building and as a public branch library in a populous middle-class neighborhood.

<sup>81</sup> "To Begin Excavation," *Buffalo Courier-Express*, March 30, 1936, 10; "Bids Opened on School Job," *Buffalo Courier-Express*, September 14, 1938, 7.

<sup>82</sup> "Contractor Dies During Visit to Italy," *Buffalo Courier-Express*, 30.

<sup>83</sup> Beck designed a total of seven branch libraries in his career.



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Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary is indicated with a heavy line on the attached maps with scale.

Boundary Justification

This area coincides with the historic and current boundary of the North Park Branch Library. Originally a city-owned lot at the corner of Hertel Avenue and Delaware Avenue, the entire property has been associated with the library since 1928.

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**North Park Branch Library**

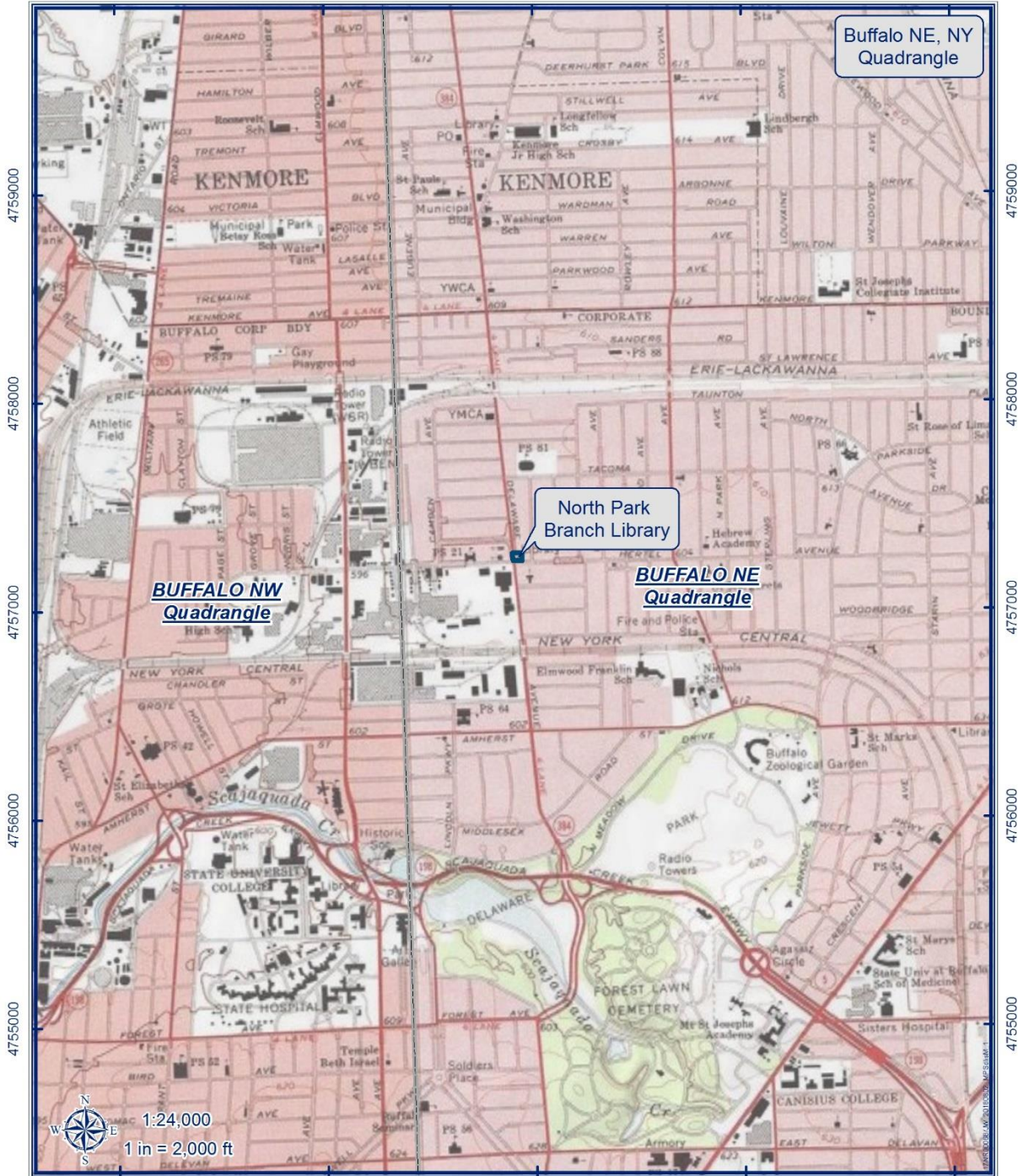
Name of Property

**Erie County, New York**

County and State

North Park Branch Library  
City of Buffalo, Erie Co., NY

2351 Delaware Avenue  
Buffalo, NY 14216



Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 17N  
Projection: Transverse Mercator  
Datum: North American 1983  
Units: Meter



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City of Buffalo, Erie Co., NY

2351 Delaware Avenue  
Buffalo, NY 14216



Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 17N  
Projection: Transverse Mercator  
Datum: North American 1983  
Units: Meter



North Park  
Branch  
Library

NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY  
Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation  
Division for Historic Preservation

United States Department of the Interior  
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**North Park Branch Library**

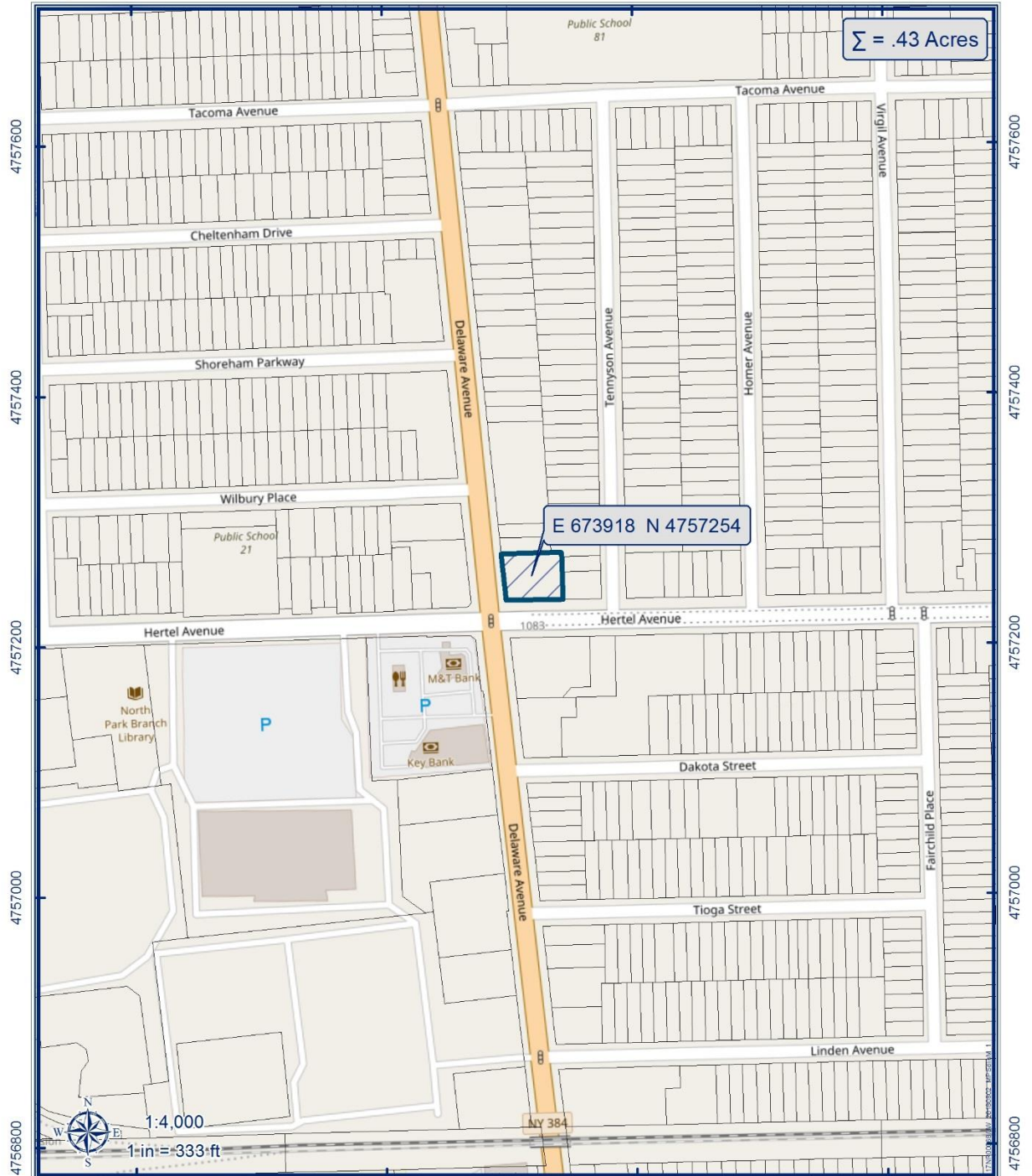
Name of Property

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City of Buffalo, Erie Co., NY

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Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 17N  
Projection: Transverse Mercator  
Datum: North American 1983  
Units: Meter



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North Park Branch Library

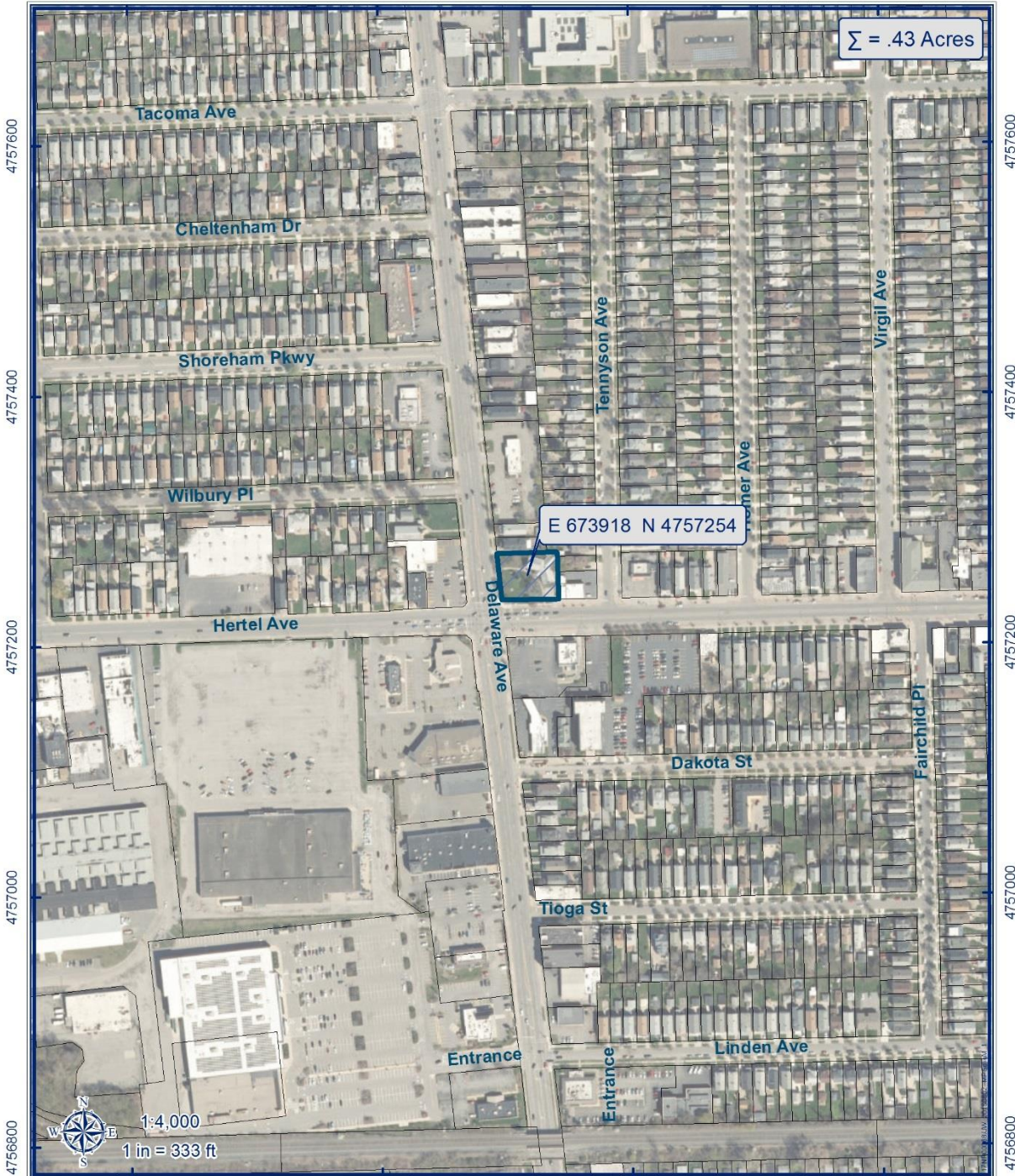
Name of Property

Erie County, New York

County and State

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City of Buffalo, Erie Co., NY

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Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 17N  
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North Park  
Branch  
Library

NEW YORK  
STATE OF  
COURTESY  
Parks, Recreation  
and Historic Preservation  
Division for Historic Preservation



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Photo Log:

Name of Property: North Park Branch Library

City or Vicinity: Buffalo

County: Erie County

State: NY

Name of Photographer: Kelsie Hoke

Date of Photographs: August 10, 2017

Location of Original Digital Files: 170 Florida Street, Buffalo, New York, 14208

Photo #1 (NY\_ErieCounty\_NorthParkBranchLibrary\_0001)

Façade of library, camera facing northeast.

Photo #2 (NY\_ErieCounty\_NorthParkBranchLibrary\_0002)

East elevation of library (right), camera facing west

Photo #3 (NY\_ErieCounty\_NorthParkBranchLibrary\_0003)

West elevation of library (left), camera facing northeast

Photo #4 (NY\_ErieCounty\_NorthParkBranchLibrary\_0004)

Façade of library, camera facing northeast

Photo #5 (NY\_ErieCounty\_NorthParkBranchLibrary\_0005)

Library entrance, camera facing northeast

Photo #6 (NY\_ErieCounty\_NorthParkBranchLibrary\_0006)

Adult reading room, camera facing northeast

Photo #7 (NY\_ErieCounty\_NorthParkBranchLibrary\_0007)

Children's reading room, camera facing northeast

Photo #8 (NY\_ErieCounty\_NorthParkBranchLibrary\_0008)

Entryway and vestibule, camera facing south

Photo #9 (NY\_ErieCounty\_NorthParkBranchLibrary\_0009)

Basement auditorium, camera facing northwest

Photo #10 (NY\_ErieCounty\_NorthParkBranchLibrary\_0010)

Basement stairwell and exit, camera facing southeast

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**Appendix 1 Date of Opening of Branch Libraries in Buffalo**

<b>Library/Library Location</b>	<b>Opening Date</b>	<b>Rented space or built library</b>	<b>Extant</b>
Westminster Depository 421 Monroe Street	1898	Rented Space	Yes
Welcome Hall Depository Seneca Street	1900	Rented Space	No
William Ives Branch 746 Broadway	1901	Rented Space	No
Joseph P. Dudley Branch 433 South Park Ave	1903	Rented Space	No
Lafayette Branch Lafayette High School	1903	Rented Space	Yes
S.V.R. Watson Branch 414 Elk Street	1910	Rented Space	No
Utica Street Branch 306 East Utica	1911	Rented Space	No
William Street Branch 356 William Street	1913	Rented Space	No
Jubilee Branch 1936 Niagara Street	1915	Library Built <sup>84</sup>	Yes
Cazenovia Branch 155 Cazenovia Street	1924	Library Built	Yes
Fairfield Branch 1659 Amherst Street	1925	Library Built <sup>85</sup>	Yes
Kensington Branch 22 Westminster Street	1925	Library Built	Yes
Genesee Branch Genesee and Doat Street	1927	Library Built	Yes
North Park Library Delaware and Hertel Ave	1928	Library Built	Yes
Grant Street Branch Grant and Amherst Street	1928	Rented Space	No
Jefferson Branch 332 East Utica Street	1929	Library Built	Yes
Clinton Street Branch 1799 Clinton Street	1930	Rented Space	No

<sup>84</sup> The Jubilee Branch was originally built by the Jubilee Water Commissioners, however in 1915 Howard L. Beck substantially modified it to suit the needs of a branch library.

<sup>85</sup> The Fairfield Branch was originally a Unitarian Church, however 1925 Howard L. Beck substantially modified it to suit the needs of a branch library.

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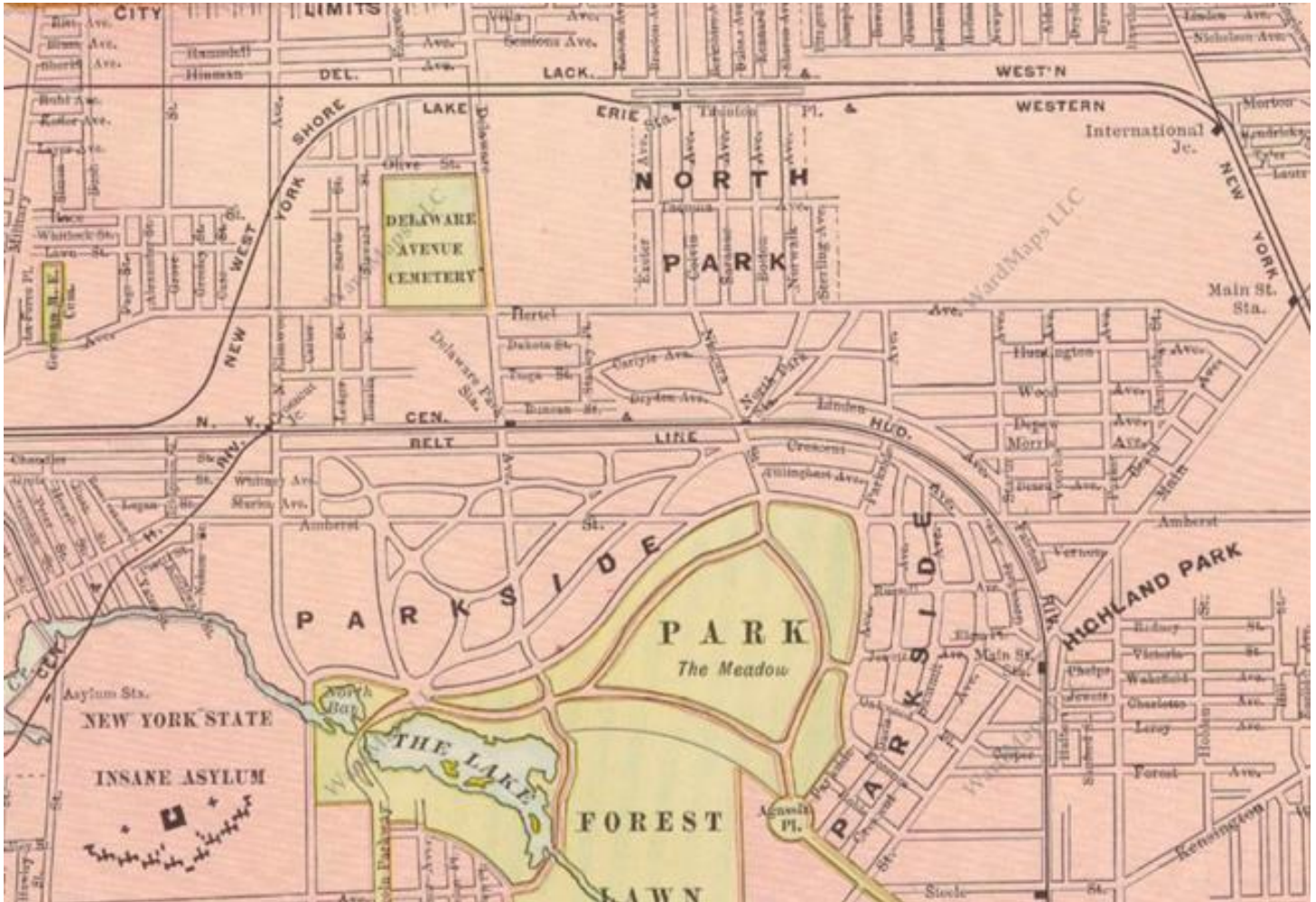
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**Figure 1:**

**Map of North Park Neighborhood from 1891**

The map shows the earliest streets gridded out in the North Park neighborhood. The map also shows North Park's location in relation to the Parkside neighborhood and Delaware Park (named Park in the map).

Rand McNally Co., *Buffalo New York Map 1891* (Buffalo: Rand McNally Co., 1891), 260.

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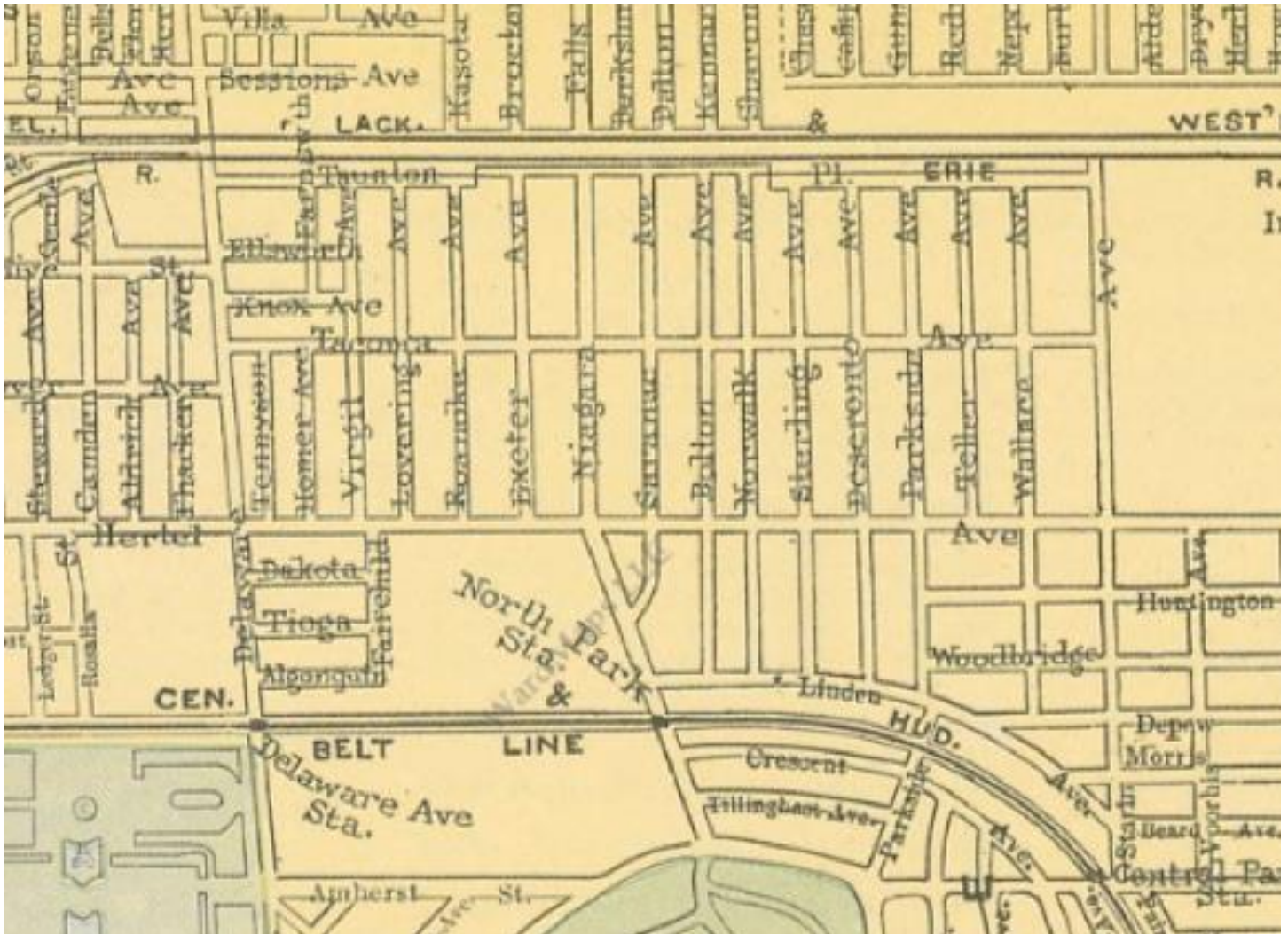
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**Figure 2:**

**Map of North Park Neighborhood in 1903**

Map shows the westward expansion of the North Park neighborhood to Delaware Avenue and the neighborhood's eastward expansion to Starin Avenue.

Rand McNally Co., *Buffalo New York Map 1903* (Buffalo: Rand McNally Co., 1903), 68.

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**Figure 3:**

**Map of the Buffalo Public Library System in 1930.**

The map highlights the location of each branch of Buffalo's fourteen branch libraries, which are indicated as black dwellings within circles. The map also shows proposed locations of branch libraries as white buildings and branch libraries in rented spaces as white buildings in circles. The red arrow points to the North Park Branch Library and the blue arrow points to the Central Library.

The Buffalo Public Library, *Thirty-Fourth Annual Report of the Buffalo Public Library: 1930*, (Buffalo: The Matthews-Northrup Works, 1930), 26.

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*Decker Branch*

**Figure 4:**

**Decker Branch Public Library in Denver, Colorado**

Opened in 1913 as a Carnegie Library, and designed by the architectural firm of Marean and Norton the Decker Branch Public Library in Denver Colorado inspired Howard L. Beck's design for the North Park Branch Library

The Denver Public Library, "The History of the Denver Public Library," *Genealogy, African American & Western History Resources*, <https://history.denverlibrary.org/history-denver-public-library>.

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North Park Branch

**Figure 5:**

**Exterior of the North Park Branch Library in 1928**

*Pictures of the Fourteen Circulating Libraries of the City of Buffalo* (Buffalo: 1928), 26. Grosvenor Room, Buffalo and Erie County Public Library, Buffalo.

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*Interior of North Park Branch Library*

**Figure 6:**

**Interior of the North Park Branch Library in 1928**

*Pictures of the Fourteen Circulating Libraries of the City of Buffalo* (Buffalo: 1928), 26. Grosvenor Room, Buffalo and Erie County Public Library, Buffalo.



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**Figure 7:**

Image of the North Park Branch Library from 1929 showing the library prior to Roeder Kinkel's landscaping. Because of the mud, patrons had to cross a wooden plank bridge to enter the library.

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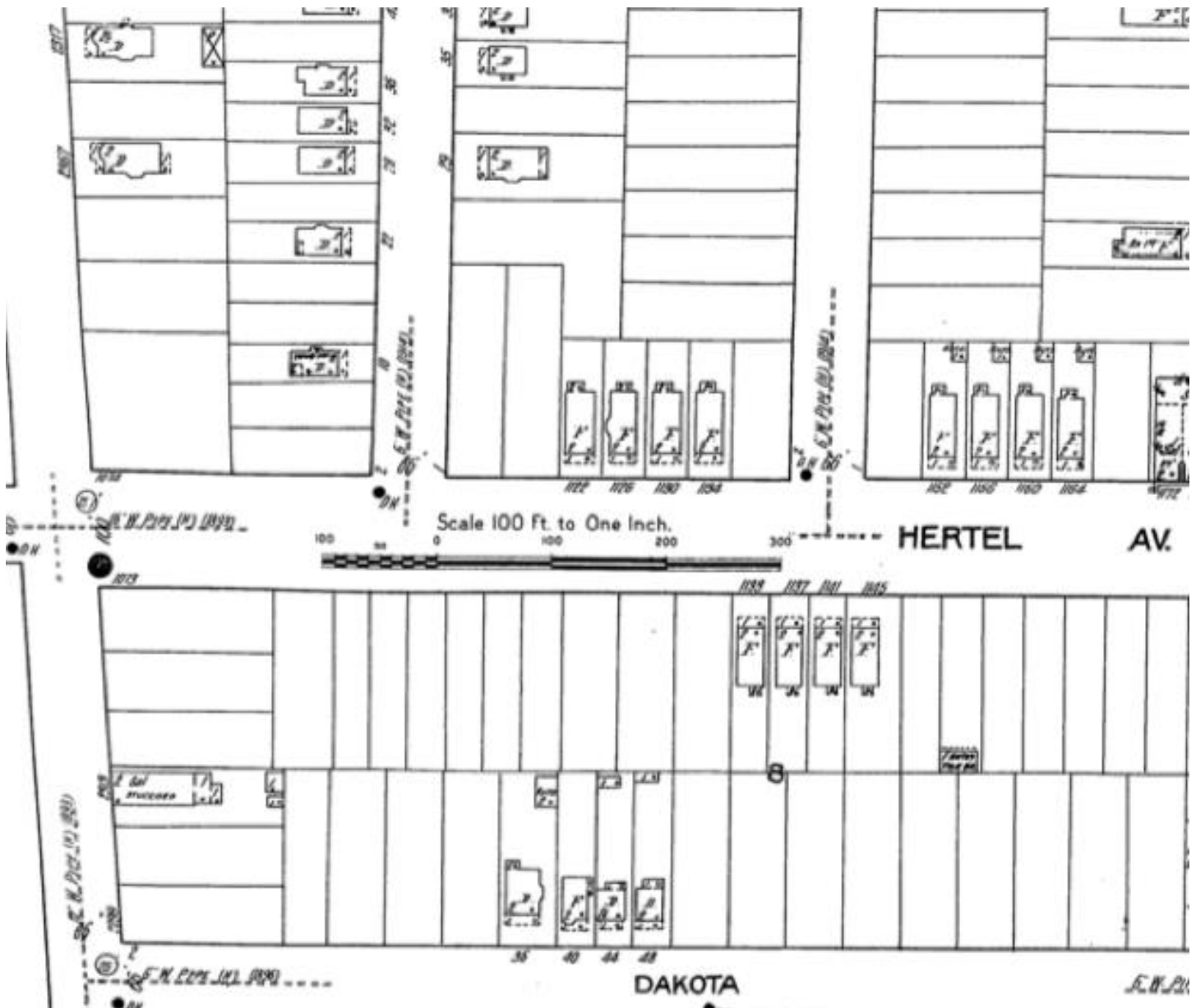
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**Figure 8:**

**Sanborn Map Image (1916)**

Sanborn Map showing the intersection of Hertel Avenue and Delaware Avenue twelve years before the construction of the North Park Branch Library. The map shows the sparsely populated intersection and numerous lots that would be filled with homes and businesses within a decade.

Sanborn Map Company, *Buffalo, Erie County, New York*, 1916, Sheet 508.

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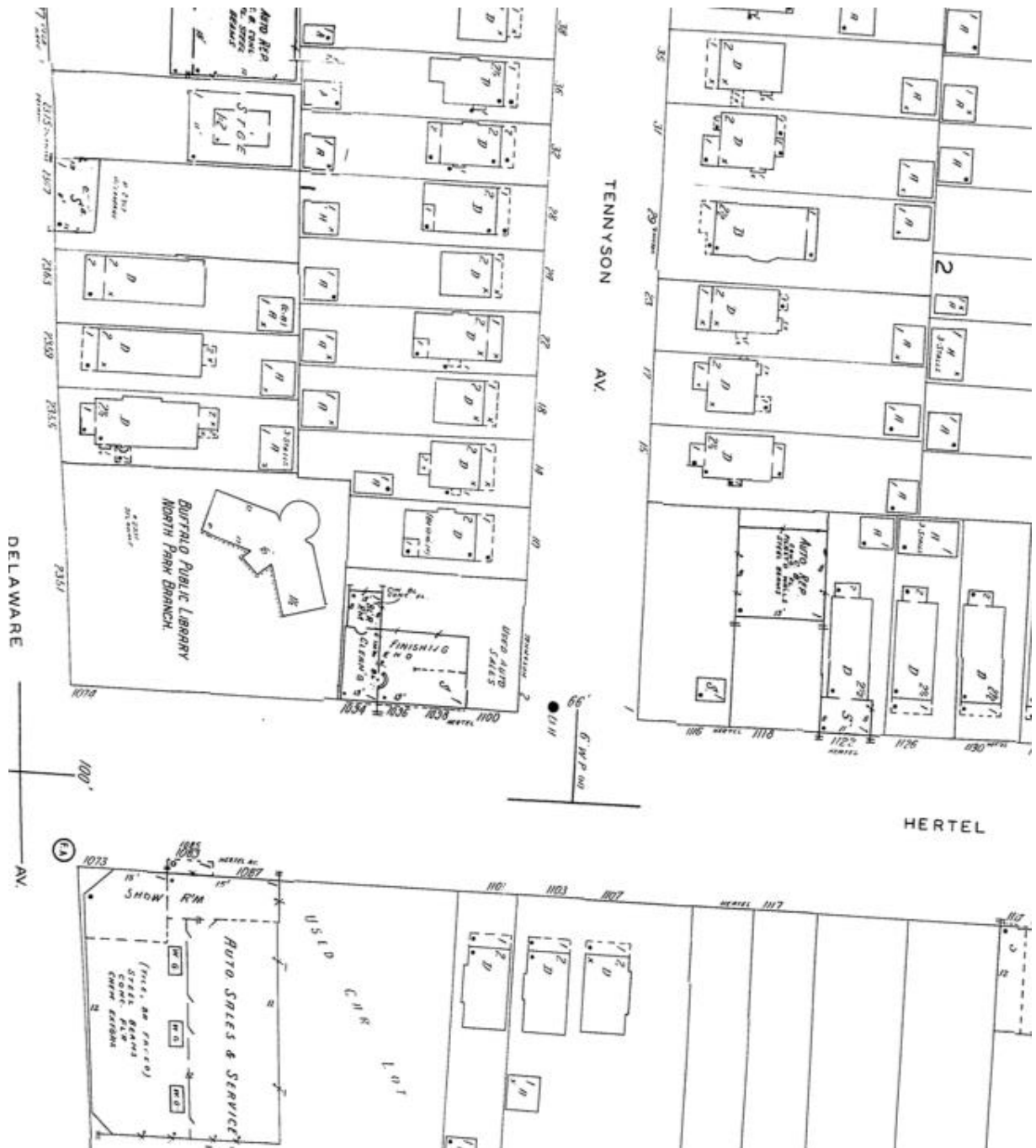


Figure 9:  
Sanborn Map Image (1935)

Sanborn maps showing the North Park Branch Library as well as the development of housing and commerce in the North Park neighborhood.

Sanborn Map Company, Buffalo, Erie County, New York, 1935, Sheet 522.

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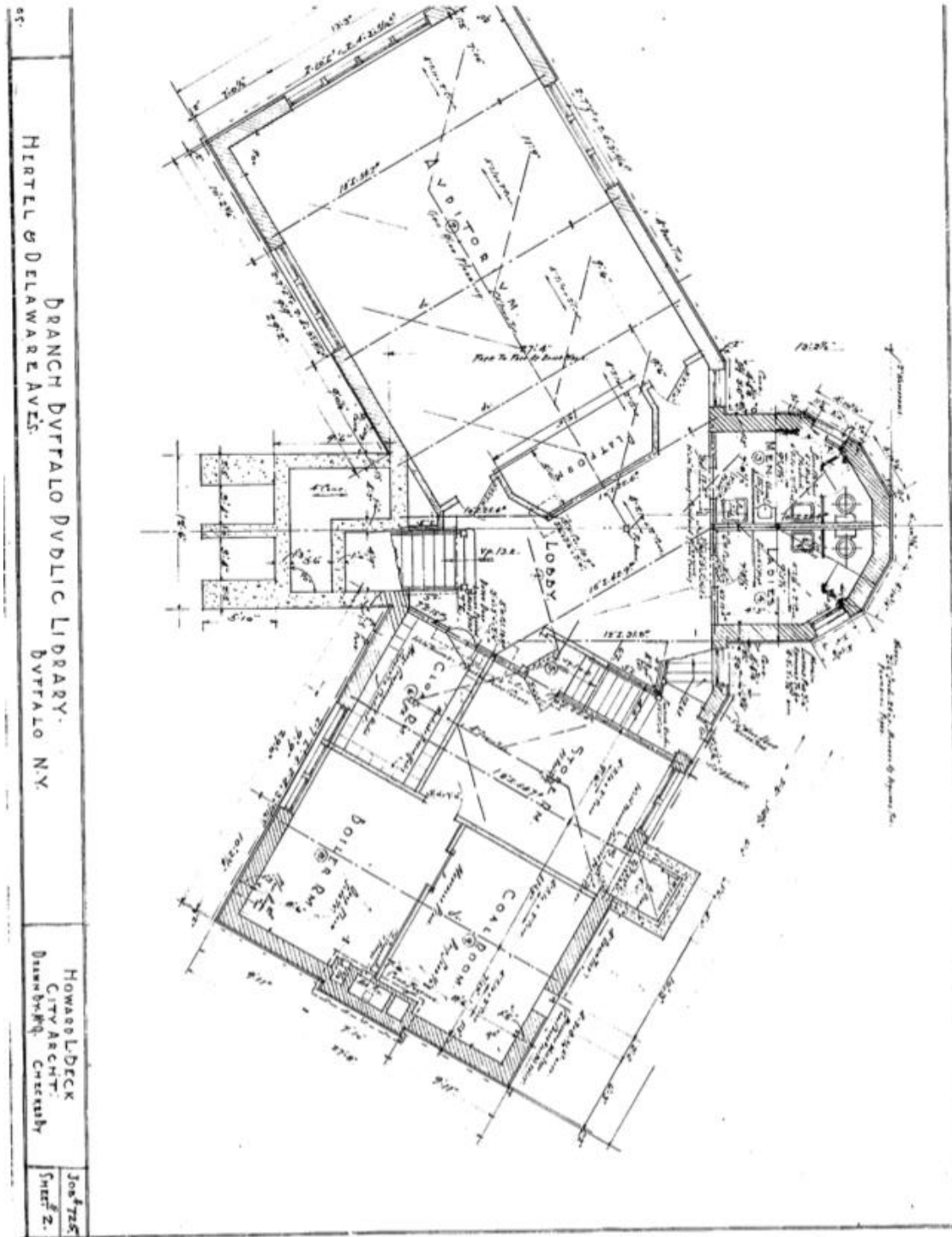
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**Figure 10:**  
Howard L. Beck's architectural drawing of the interior layout of the North Park Branch Library.

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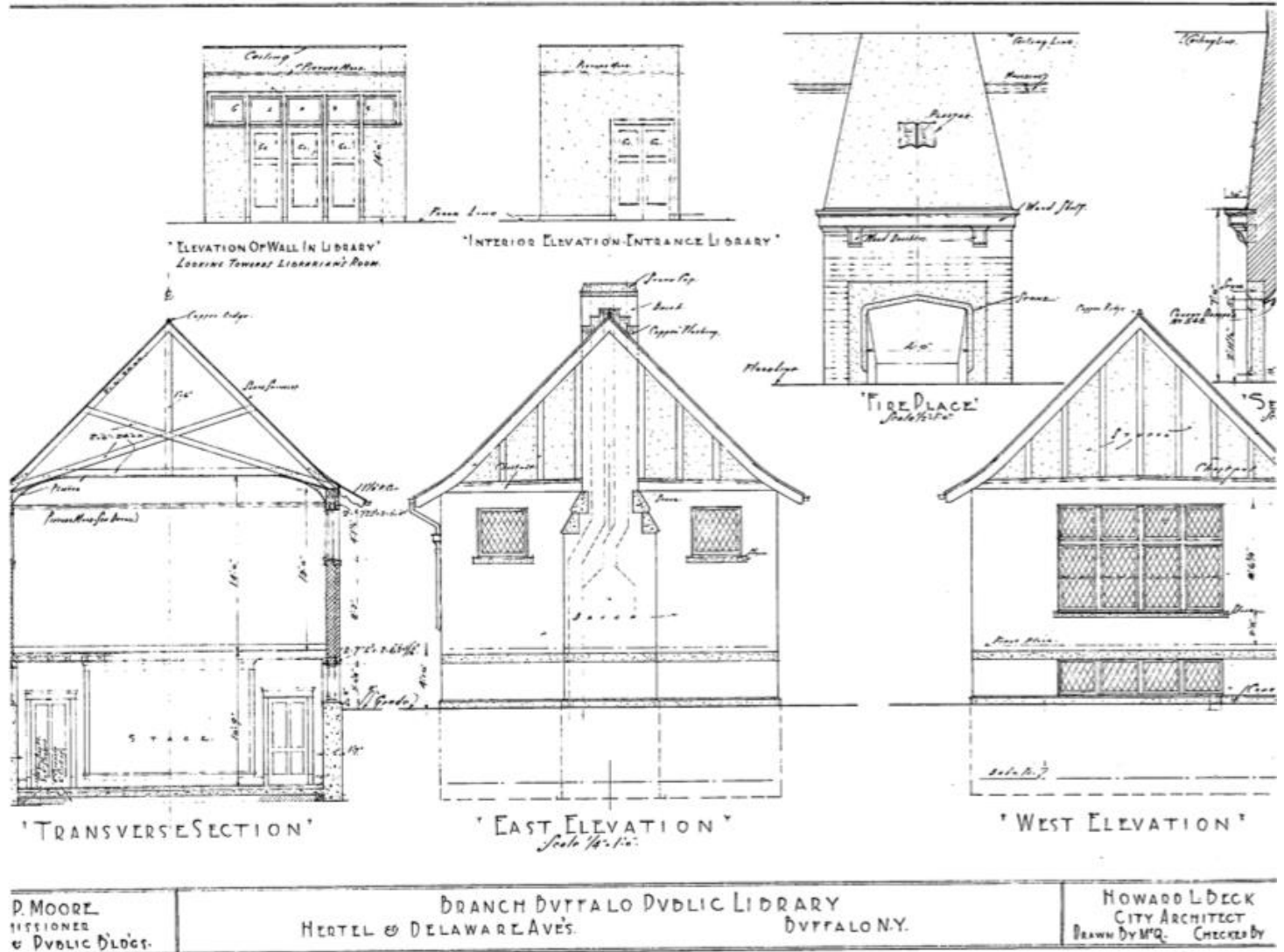


Figure 11:

Howard L. Beck's architectural drawing of the side elevations of the North Park Branch Library.

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North Park Branch Library

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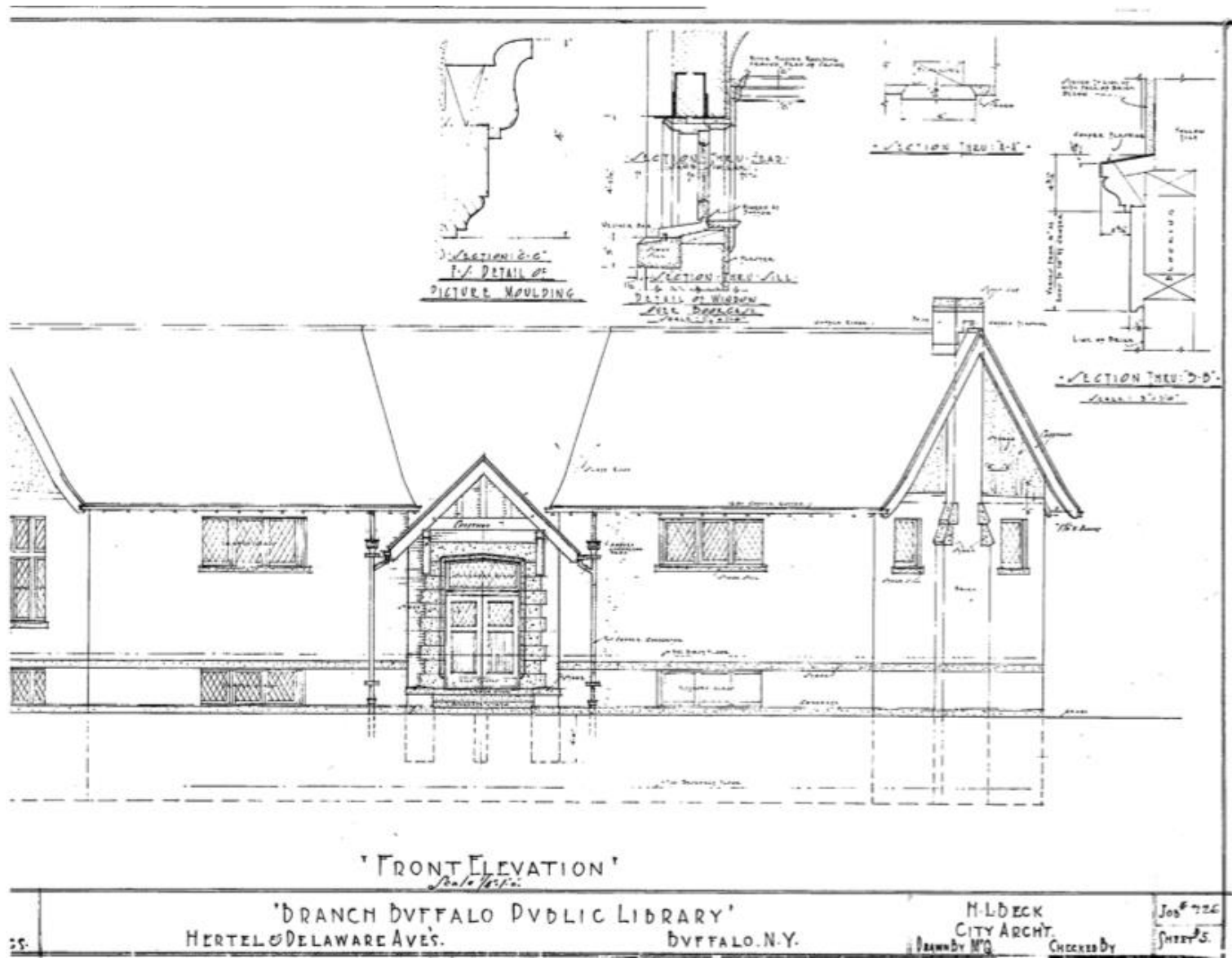


Figure 12:  
Howard L. Beck's architectural drawing of the primary elevation of the North Park Branch Library.

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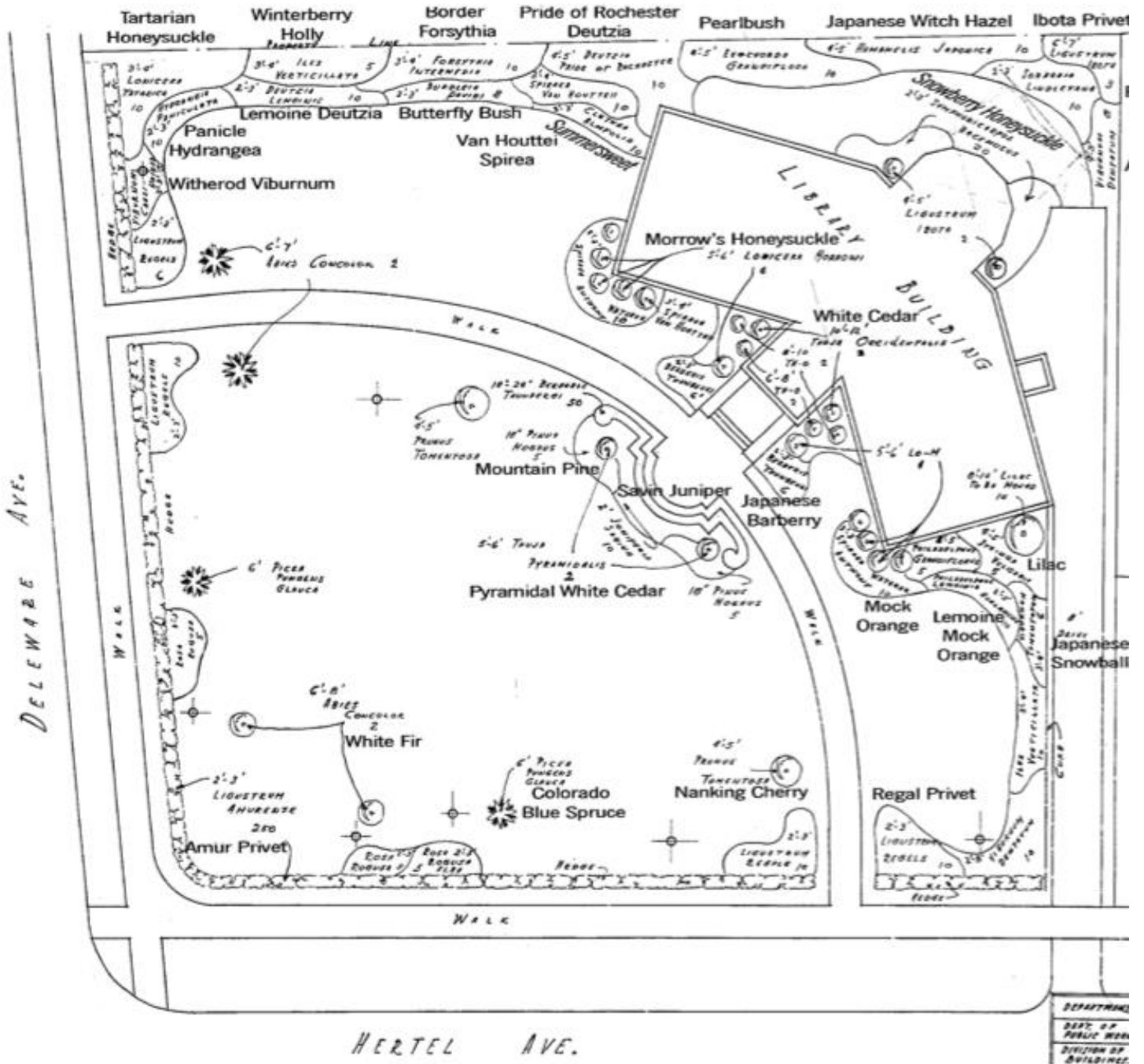


Figure 13:  
Roeder Kinkel's c.1928 lanscape design for the North Park Branch Library.



NORTH PARK BRANCH  
LIBRARY





RESTRICTED





SA  
875-R



NORTH PARK BRANCH  
LIBRARY



ADULT NONFICTION

EXIT

BARAKS

R.E.A.



EXIT

ADULT FICTION







EXIT



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 10/2/2018      Date of Pending List: 10/25/2018      Date of 16th Day: 11/9/2018      Date of 45th Day: 11/16/2018      Date of Weekly List: 11/9/2018

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

Accept       Return       Reject      11/9/2018 Date

Abstract/Summary  
Comments:

Recommendation/  
Criteria

Reviewer Alexis Abernathy      Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2236      Date \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION:    see attached comments : No    see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



**Parks, Recreation  
and Historic Preservation**

ANDREW M. CUOMO  
Governor

ROSE HARVEY  
Commissioner



27 September 2018

Alexis Abernathy  
National Park Service  
National Register of Historic Places

Mail Stop 7228

1849 C Street NW  
Washington DC 20240

Re: National Register Nominations

Dear Ms. Abernathy:

I am pleased to submit the following eight nominations, all on disc, to be considered for listing by the Keeper of the National Register:

Norwich Pharmacial Company Warehouse, Chenango County  
Christ Church, Nassau County  
First Reformed Church of College Point, Queens County  
First African Methodist Episcopal Church: Bethel, New York County  
North Park Branch Library, Erie County  
Methodist Episcopal Church of Jacksonville, Tompkins County  
Chandler Street Industrial Buildings, Erie County  
Abingdon and New Abingdon Apartments, Jefferson County

Please feel free to call me at 518.268.2165 if you have any questions.

Sincerely:

Kathleen LaFrank  
National Register Coordinator  
New York State Historic Preservation Office