



P R O V O

CITY LIBRARY AT ACADEMY SQUARE
SELF-GUIDED TOUR

Hello & Welcome

The original Academy was founded in 1875 by Brigham Young, who was the second President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints and a former Utah territorial governor. In 1884, after the first BY Academy building (now the Lewis Building, located at Center Street and 300 West in Provo) burned to the ground, plans for a new building began. Young's Son, Don Carlos Young, was chosen as architect for the new building. On January 4, 1892, after eight years of construction and many trials, the new BY Academy Building was dedicated as an institution of learning.

Through the years, many students attended the academy for grammar school, high school, or college before it was closed in the early 1970's and sold by Brigham Young University to private owners.

After many plans and several owners, Provo City acquired the building. In 1997, a bond was passed by Provo residents and the transformation into the Provo City Library at Academy Square began.

The 1892 Academy Building, along with its accompanying new wing was rededicated on September 8, 2001 for use by the citizens of Provo as a vibrant library and center for learning and community.



This concludes your walking tour! If you do not have a Provo Library card, applications are located at the east end of the Circulation Desk. We would love to have you be a part of our family.



**Thanks
for
visiting!**

LIBRARY EXTERIOR

Take the elevator back to the 2nd floor and exit the main doors. From the front porch, the large bronze statue of Brigham Young is visible. This heroic sized statue was sculpted by artist D.J. Bawden and donated by the Brigham Young Academy Foundation. The plaque at the base of this statue recounts the history of the Academy Block.



The beehive fountain in front of the building is a replica of the 1914 original. The granite beehive at the top is from the original fountain.

Outside looking back at the building, the bell tower can be seen. The bronze bell in the tower is the same size and tone as the original bell, now hanging on the BYU Marriott Center grounds, known as the "Victory Bell." The Academy Bell rings twelve times at noon every day. The bell was donated by Brigham Young Academy Foundation.

When seen from University Avenue, the exterior of the Academy Building is historically accurate and looks as it did in 1892.

Today's exterior bricks are original to the academy site. The occasional blackened bricks scattered throughout the walls were salvaged from the first Academy Block building which burned in 1884.

The Texas supplier of the 1892 red metal shingles is still in operation today, and provided an almost exact replica of the original shingle for today's academy roof.

The pointed finials and block-shaped cresting on the ridge of the roof are replicas, and are indicative of the building's architectural flavor, which is identified as "Eclectic Victorian."



Walking Tour



Upon entering the conservatory from either the north or the south, library users find the **Mary Stuart Rogers New Library Wing** to the east, while the west glass curtain frames a view of the Brigham Young Academy Building. This wonderful, light-filled glass conservatory links the past with the future and invites all to enter the Provo City Library at Academy Square.

Cross the bridge and stop to view the large art glass window. This beautiful window, entitled "Passages of Light," was designed by Mack Magleby (Brigham Young University graphic artist), and rendered in glass by Willy Lettig. Notice the book which rises from the reader's hands and transforms into a bird suggesting the sense of freedom reading can bring. The window was donated by the Brigham Young Academy Foundation.

CHILDREN'S LIBRARY

To the east of the conservatory, beneath the historic Academy building, on the ground floor, you will find the **Delores Doré Eccles Children's Library**. Information regarding the Eccles Foundation is found to the left of the Children's entrance. The children's Library houses just over 110,000 items today and will accommodate significant expansion in the future.



It commemorates Virginia Eggertsen Sorenson, author of the Newbery Award-winning book, "Miracles on Maple Hill."

At the end of the hall is the **George H. Brimhall Meeting room**. This room is named after the third principal of the Brigham Young Academy, who was also the first president of Brigham Young University.



Now take the elevator to the basement floor. At the end of the hall and to your left, you will find the **Basement Creative Lab** where Provo Library Card Holders can learn and practice audio and video production skills. The Creative Lab encompasses a production studio, circulating collection, and multimedia editing stations. To request time with any of the equipment, visit the Provo City Library at Academy Square website.

Every weekday from 4:00 pm to 9:00 pm, you can take the elevator back up to the 4th floor and visit the **Attic at Academy Square**, which is an exhibit space dedicated to bringing in the best art, science, and history exhibits from around the country.

The large windows in the ballroom feature a breathtaking view of the Wasatch Front. The four cast iron pillars in the center of the room are the originals. Replicas of the original ceiling medallions decorate the tops of the chandeliers. This room comfortably hosts conventions, weddings, dances, and many more events.

**ACADEMY 3RD FLOOR,
BASEMENT, AND ATTIC**

At the top of the north staircase is the **Zina Young Williams Card and Susa Young Gates Conference Room**. This room is named after two of Brigham Young's daughters who made significant contributions to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints and to the community, and were teachers of homemaking skills during the early years of the Academy. The two chandeliers in this room are original to the Academy.

Now turn around and walk toward the Academy Ballroom. This spectacular 4,000 square foot ballroom now features a catering-friendly and full-service kitchen, portable stage, and complete audio and video capabilities.

To the north of the Ballroom is the **Benjamin Kimball Bullock Meeting Room**. The plaque located at the entrance provides information about Benjamin Kimball

Bullock. This room features the original the original stained-glass transom. This window was the only piece of stained-glass installed in the original Academy Building.

Years ago, when the building was vacant and falling into disrepair, two Brigham Young University students secretly removed the stained-glass window. They crated it up and moved it to California for safekeeping, hoping the day might come when the building would be restored to its original splendor. Upon hearing of the renovation plans, they returned the window, which needed only minor repair work before being replaced in its original setting.

Please proceed to the Virginia Sorenson Writer's Alcove, the open space just before the elevator. This area was made possible by donations from local authors.



“Time Out Boy,” by local sculptor Gary Price, welcomes children into their own special area. Children love to rub “Time Out Boy’s” nose and make a wish. Library legend has it that by patting his head three times, children are sure to find the perfect book!



Walking inside to the north, one will find the **Carma Leora Smuin Sandberg Story Circle** which is a favorite reading area for the smallest of library visitors. During the school year, pre-school story times are an almost daily event in the story circle.

Across the room to the west is the **George Q. Cannon Story Room**, complete with separate entrances for big people and small people alike.

On the other side of the Children's Library, computers are available for children's use, along with children's audio-visual materials, fiction, nonfiction, magazine, intermediate reader, and biography collections.

NEW LIBRARY WING

Directly across from the Children's Library, you will see the **Mary Stuart Rogers New Library Wing**.

Before entering the wing, you can find the welcome desk located in the glass



conservatory. With your back to the desk you will see two metal slots on the opposite wall. These are our indoor book return slots.

Thanks to our RFID checkout system, items dropped into these slots are immediately checked in and removed from your account.



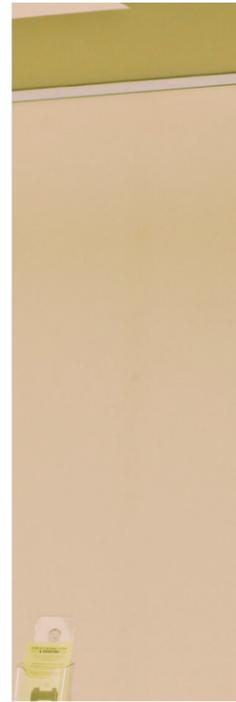
Now entering the wing, on the left is the Circulation Desk and surrounding the area you will see 8 self-check stations. These stations allow patrons to check out items and pay fines quickly without having to wait in long lines.

Past the circulation area and to the left are our self-service hold shelves. If an item is unavailable, patrons may request the item to be held when it is returned to the library. Once the item returns it is arranged on these shelves by the first 4 letters of the patron's last name and last 4 digits of their library card number. Items on hold can only be checked out to the patron who placed the request.

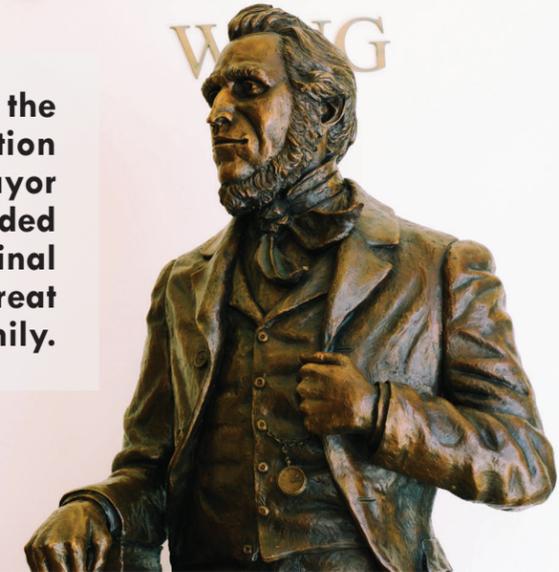


This floor of the New Library Wing is called the "Browsing Library." Computers are available on this floor for public use and the entire building has access to a wireless connection. Access is available to the Library's online catalog, the Internet, and certain research resources. The librarians at the Reference Desk in the center of the room are happy to help find an item or answer reference questions.

Toward the Southeast corner of the floor you will find study rooms that can be reserved by Library Card Holders for 2 hours each day.



A.O. Smoot was the first President of the Brigham Young Academy Trustees' Association established in 1875. He also served as Mayor of Provo City. A. O. Smoot personally funded much of the construction of the original Academy Building in the late 1800's, at great sacrifice to himself and his family.



For information about the availability of these rooms, please stop in, or call 801-852-6657.

The meeting room next to this office is the **Karl G. Maeser Meeting Room**. Maeser was sent by Brigham Young to Provo on assignment by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints to organize a school. Maeser arrived in Provo in 1876 and was appointed as the first principal of the Brigham Young Academy.

Beyond the Maeser Room is the office of Project Read. This is an independent literacy program housed within the library. Project Read's mission is to help adults learn to read or improve poor reading skills.

Tucked under the stairway, you will find portraits of the first three principals of the Brigham Young Academy. These portraits were commissioned by the Brigham Young Academy Foundation and painted by artist Ben Sowards. At the far end of this hall are the Administration Offices of the library.

Now, take a moment to look at the Grand Staircases, tile floors, oak doors, and the oak wainscoting on the walls. Though the building's original floorplan has been modified to accommodate library needs and allow for modern amenities such as elevators and electrical equipment, great care has been taken to keep the architectural flavor of the 1890s.

Please go up the north Grand Staircase next to the Art Gallery, or use the elevator next to the main entrance to go to the 3rd floor.

ACADEMY 2ND FLOOR



Exit the new library wing and take the elevator or stairs to the second floor of the academy wing (above the Children's Library). A statue of Abraham O. Smoot welcomes visitors to the area.

Walking into the Academy Building, you will see the **Anderson Art Gallery** on the north side of the hallway. This gallery showcases work from local artists, and exhibits will rotate periodically. Please feel free to walk in and enjoy the current exhibit.



In the hallway just outside the art gallery is one of the building's original cast iron pillars. This pillar has been cleaned, repainted, and re-installed in its original position.

Across from the Art Gallery is the **LeGrand (Grit) Young Special Events Room**. This and other meeting rooms are available for use by members of the community.

Please check the signs which post the day's meeting room schedule, located at the bottom of the stairs by the pillar. If activities are in progress, please plan to visit these rooms at another time.



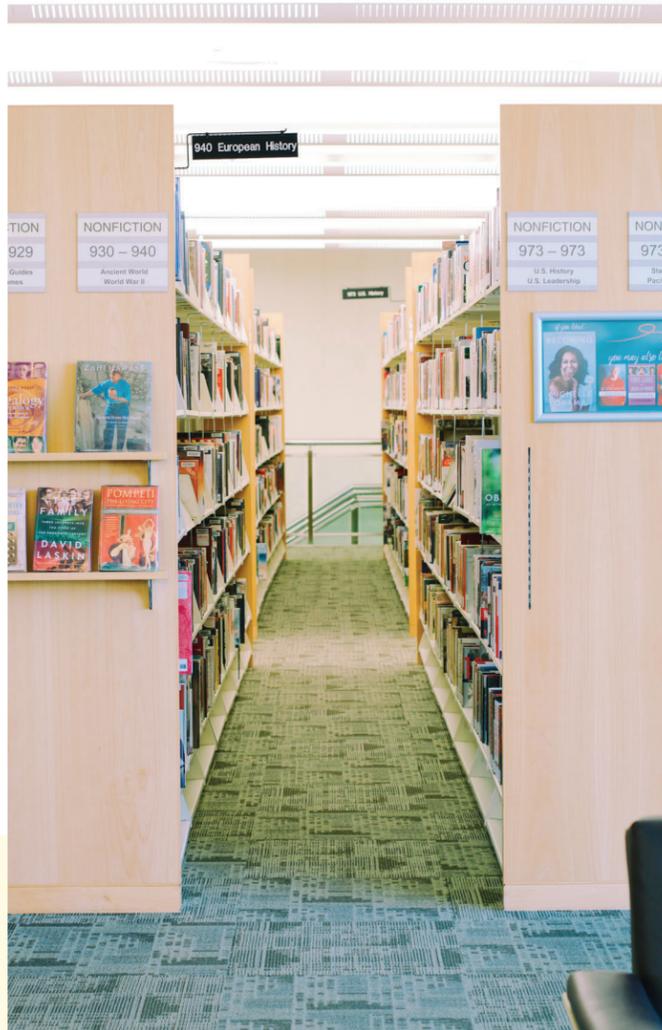
To your right, proceed toward the large window at the end of the hall. The first door on your left opens into the scheduling office for library meeting rooms.



The majority of this floor contains adult fiction, adult audio/visual, the teen collection, the Spanish collection, and a large print collection.



Use the elevator just behind the welcome desk or the stairs along the north and south walls to go to the building's second floor, the **Stephen R. and Sandra M. Covey Family Reference Library**, and walk towards the art glass window.



As you walk onto this floor, you may notice that it is significantly quieter than the lower floors here. This floor is considered our quiet study floor and patrons are encouraged to limit as much noise as possible and always silence their cell phones.

This floor houses our periodical collections including newspapers and magazines, our reference collection containing current research resources, and our nonfiction collection including biographies and oversized items. At the center of the floor you will find another reference desk with librarians trained to assist patrons with questions regarding our reference library.

The **John E. Booth Special Collections Room** is found to the left of the art glass window. The materials in this room focus primarily on Provo history, but the collection also includes information about neighboring communities.



Many of these materials are out of print or hard to find. If you want to use any of these materials, please ask a librarian.

As you leave Special Collections, you will notice three additional study rooms that can be reserved for public use. Around the far corner you will find the **Dan K. and Paula L. Shaw Programming Room**. This room is used for a variety of library programs for all ages.

