

OUR NEXT CHAPTER



A COMMUNITY SPACE



In 1903, the Hamburg community had a vision. They wanted to create one of the first libraries in Berks County, a place where knowledge would be accessible to everyone. With determination, they approached Andrew Carnegie with a proposal: he would finance the library's construction, and the town would commit to its ongoing support. The result? Our historic library opened its doors on November 5, 1904, welcoming over 500 visitors.

Over the last century, our library has remained a cornerstone of our community—a center of knowledge, learning, and cultural enrichment. However, as our town evolves, so do the demands placed upon our library.

Our proposed expansion isn't merely about adding more space. It's about creating a warm, welcoming environment with upgraded facilities, easier access for everyone, and modern amenities. And rest assured, we're committed to preserving the rich history and character that make our library so special.

Our library isn't just a building—it's the heartbeat of our community. It's where kids find their love for reading, where families come together for stories, and where neighbors connect over shared interests. But just as in 1903, we can't do it alone. We need your help to turn this vision into reality. Whether you can give financially, spread the word, or lend a hand, your involvement is what will make the difference.

So, let's write the next chapter in our library's story together.

Sharon Shirk, Library Trustee

Mary Himmelberger, Library Trustee

Chelsea Williams, Library Director



WHAT WE DO

Offer FREE Access to:

- A large collection of books for children and adults
- DVDS, music CDs, audiobooks, magazines and newspapers
- Thousands of eBooks and audiobooks
- Passes to the Reading Public Museum, Hands-On House, Reading Science Center, and Berks History Center
- Computers, printers, faxing, and Wi-Fi
- A community hub space
- Fun and educational programming for adults and children

In 2023, the community saved over **\$820,000** by using the Hamburg Public Library!

OUR MISSION

The Hamburg Public Library provides services and programs to our community to encourage coming together, forming connections, engaging in lifelong learning, and finding inspiration.

We believe in honoring yesterday, embracing today, and inspiring tomorrow.

2023 IMPACT



34,775 Visitors



2,372 Attended programs



3,098 Kits distributed



5,934 Computer sessions

WHY NOW?

THE CURRENT HAMBURG PUBLIC LIBRARY FACES SIGNIFICANT CHALLENGES.

The library has been an important part of our educational, social and economic infrastructure for 120 years, continually adjusting and growing to meet the needs of our community. It is time to upgrade and expand our building to meet our current and future needs

The current library building does not meet the needs of a busy modern library:

- Limited flexibility and space
- Small children's area
- Limited room for programs
- No teen area
- No study area
- No space for community groups
- Computers in busy areas



OUR CIRCULATION IS INCREASING!

In the past five years, our circulation has been on the rise! In 2023, we achieved a record circulation of 71,546 materials, the highest ever in our history. That's a **31%** increase since 2019!



ADDRESSING THE GREATEST NEED: ACCESSIBILITY AND ACCESS

We have a legal and ethical obligation to ensure all members of our community can access the services and programs offered by the library. Our current historic building is not accessible.

The Hamburg Library Board of Trustees has explored a number of options to address our accessibility needs: a ramp, elevator, a second entrance. None of those options are feasible in our historic building.

"A library outranks any other one thing a community can do to benefit its people. It is a never failing spring in the desert"
-Andrew Carnegie

AN ADDITION WILL SOLVE ALL OUR ACCESSIBILITY NEEDS.

THE PLAN FOR OUR NEXT CHAPTER

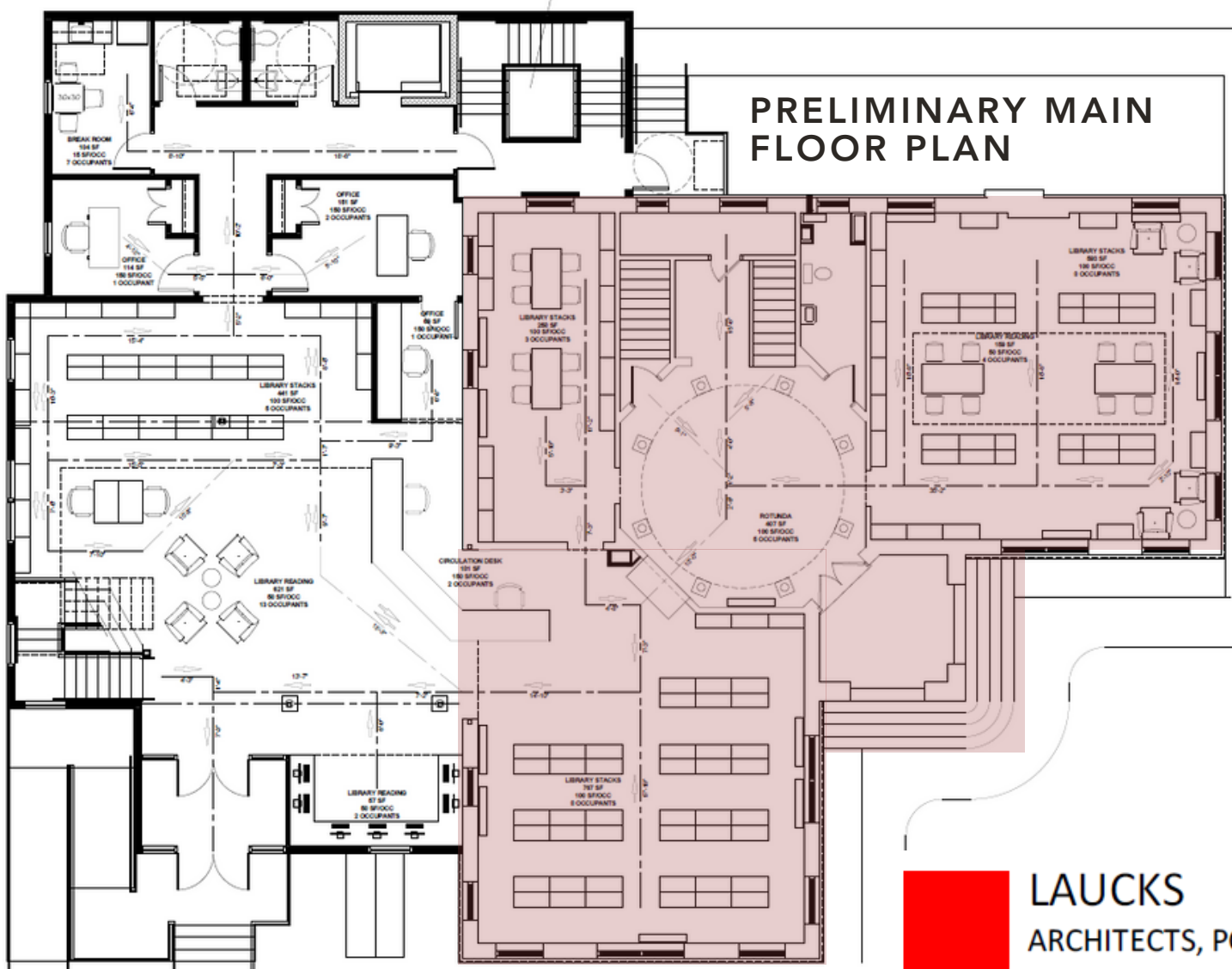
The library will add a two story addition with a basement to the rear of the existing library. This will add an additional 2,650 square feet of space.

The second floor of the original library will also be finished for use, including the turret!

The new expanded and enhanced library will include:

- An accessible entrance with a ramp
- Comfortable seating areas
- A dedicated teen area
- A dedicated children's programming space
- A large public meeting room
- A small meeting/private study room
- Additional space for collections
- Three additional accessible bathrooms

PRELIMINARY MAIN FLOOR PLAN



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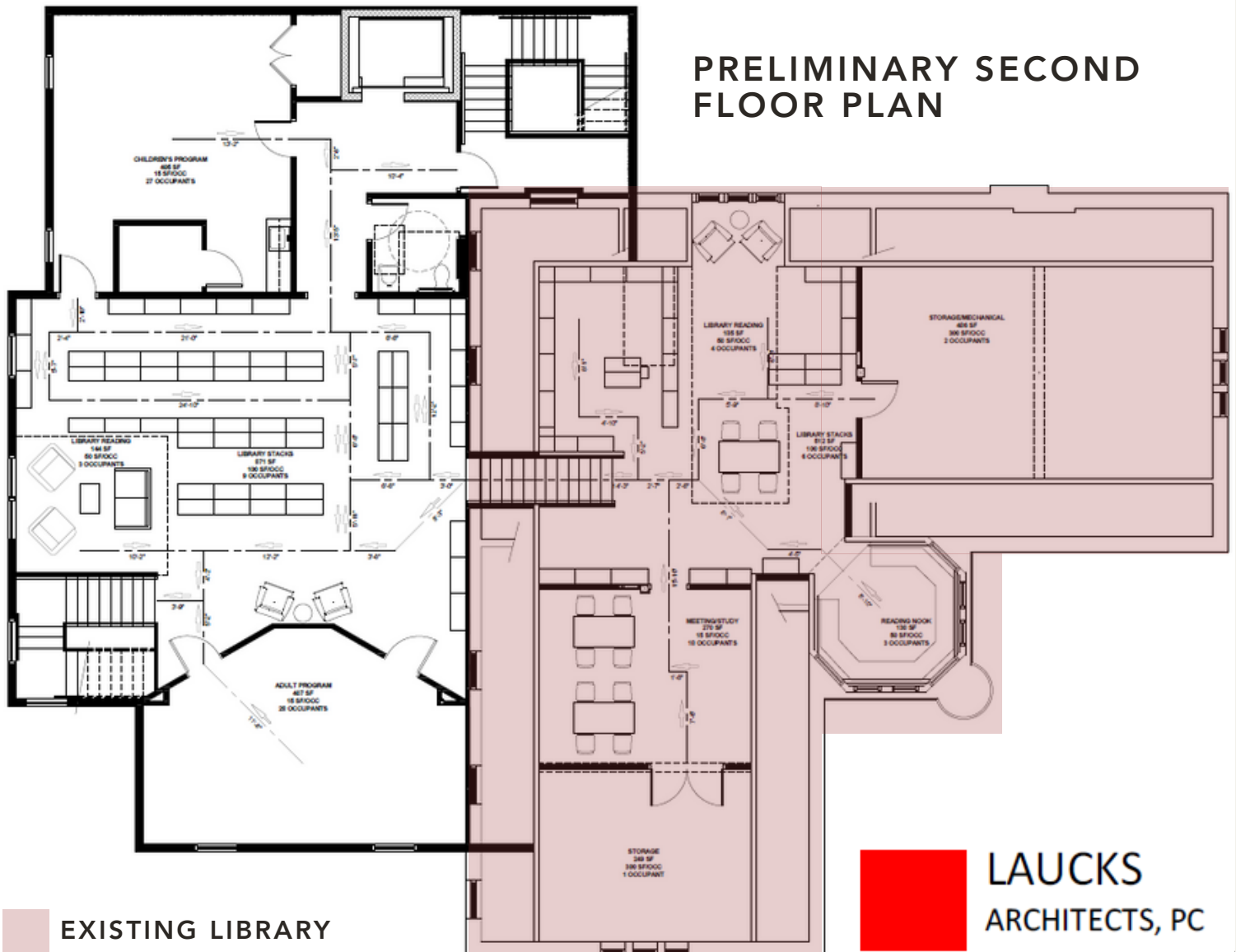
EXISTING LIBRARY

RESPECTING THE PAST

The Hamburg Public Library is on the National Register of Historic Places. We are committed to respecting the history of the building while enhancing the building for our modern needs. All plans have been created following The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and have been approved by the Pennsylvania Historic Preservation Office.



PRELIMINARY SECOND FLOOR PLAN



This project is supported, in part, through a grant with the Office of Commonwealth Libraries, Department of Education, with funds provided from the Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund.



JOIN US IN WRITING OUR NEXT CHAPTER!

We need your help to make this plan a reality. Help your library grow and serve the community for the next 120 years.

For more information about getting involved

VISIT:

hamburgsnextchapter.org

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