

**ORANGE COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**ACTION AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT**

**Meeting Date:** August 18, 2009

**Action Agenda**

**Item No.** 4-m

**SUBJECT:** Recognition of Rebecca B. Wall Within the New Orange County Main Library

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**DEPARTMENT:** County Manager

**PUBLIC HEARING:** (Y/N)

No

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**ATTACHMENT(S):**

Naming Report/Request  
Library Interior Design Plans

**INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Lucinda Munger, Director, 245-2528

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**PURPOSE:** To present a report and recommendation acknowledging the contributions of Rebecca B. Wall by recognizing her in a prominent place within the local history area at the new Orange County Main Library.

**BACKGROUND:** In accordance with the recently adopted Orange County Property Naming Policy, the Library Director has presented a proposal to the Interim County Manager that the Board consider naming a designated area housing the local history collection to recognize Rebecca B. Wall.

In 1983, the Orange County Library Board was notified that Rebecca B Wall intended to make a sizeable contribution to the Orange County Public Library upon her death. According to the minutes of the January 20, 1983 Orange County Library Board meeting, "Ms. Wall indicated in her last will and testament that in addition to the donation, an area of the library (not necessarily with walls) was to be designated the Rebecca B Wall History Area and for the hand-painted plaque to be on display in this area."

On April 23, 1987, the Orange County Public Library received \$50,000 from the estate of Rebecca B. Wall. These funds have since been invested in interest bearing accounts for the current amount of \$134,485.

The new Main Library on West Margaret Lane is scheduled to open in fall 2009 / winter 2010. The current Main Library has a collection of approximately 90,000 items including books, electronic resources, books on CD, audiovisuals and magazines/newspapers to serve the needs of Orange County residents. The collection includes items in the local history room focused on Orange County history and genealogy records. The Main Library on Tryon Street holds this collection in a room with a plaque naming it the Rebecca B. Wall NC History Room. At its meeting on May 5, 2009, the BOCC approved relocating a "core collection" of the NC History Room to the new Main Library. This core collection will be located near the reference desk on the second floor. In addition, researchers will have access to the genealogy computer, the microfiche reader and family historical documents. It is this area in the new main library the Library Director requests the Board consider naming and acknowledging Rebecca B. Wall.

The Interim County Manager has reviewed the Naming Report/Request from the Library Director and refers it to the Board with a recommendation to receive the report and consider adoption of a resolution as such at its next regularly scheduled meeting.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:** There is no financial impact associated with Board consideration of naming the designated location within the new main library on W. Margaret Lane. The request is being made in consideration of and compliance with stipulations in the 1987 bequest from Ms. Wall's estate that an area of the library be designated recognizing Rebecca B. Wall.

**RECOMMENDATION(S):** The Interim Manager recommends the Board:

- 1) Receive the Naming Report/Request acknowledging the contributions of Rebecca B. Wall; and
- 2) State its intent to consider adopting a resolution designating recognition of Rebecca B. Wall in a prominent place within the local history area at the new Main Library at its meeting on September 1, 2009.

Acknowledgement and Recognition of Rebecca B. Wall's contribution to the local history collection

Report regarding designee information:

The Orange County Main Library is scheduled to be open in Fall / Winter 2009. The Main Library maintains a collection of approximately 90,000 items including books, electronic resources, books on CD, audiovisuals and magazines / newspapers to serve the needs of Orange County citizens. Part of the collection includes 1600 items in the local history room, focused on Orange County history and genealogy records. In the current facility located on Tryon Street, the library holds this collection in a room with a plaque naming it the Rebecca B. Wall NC History Room.

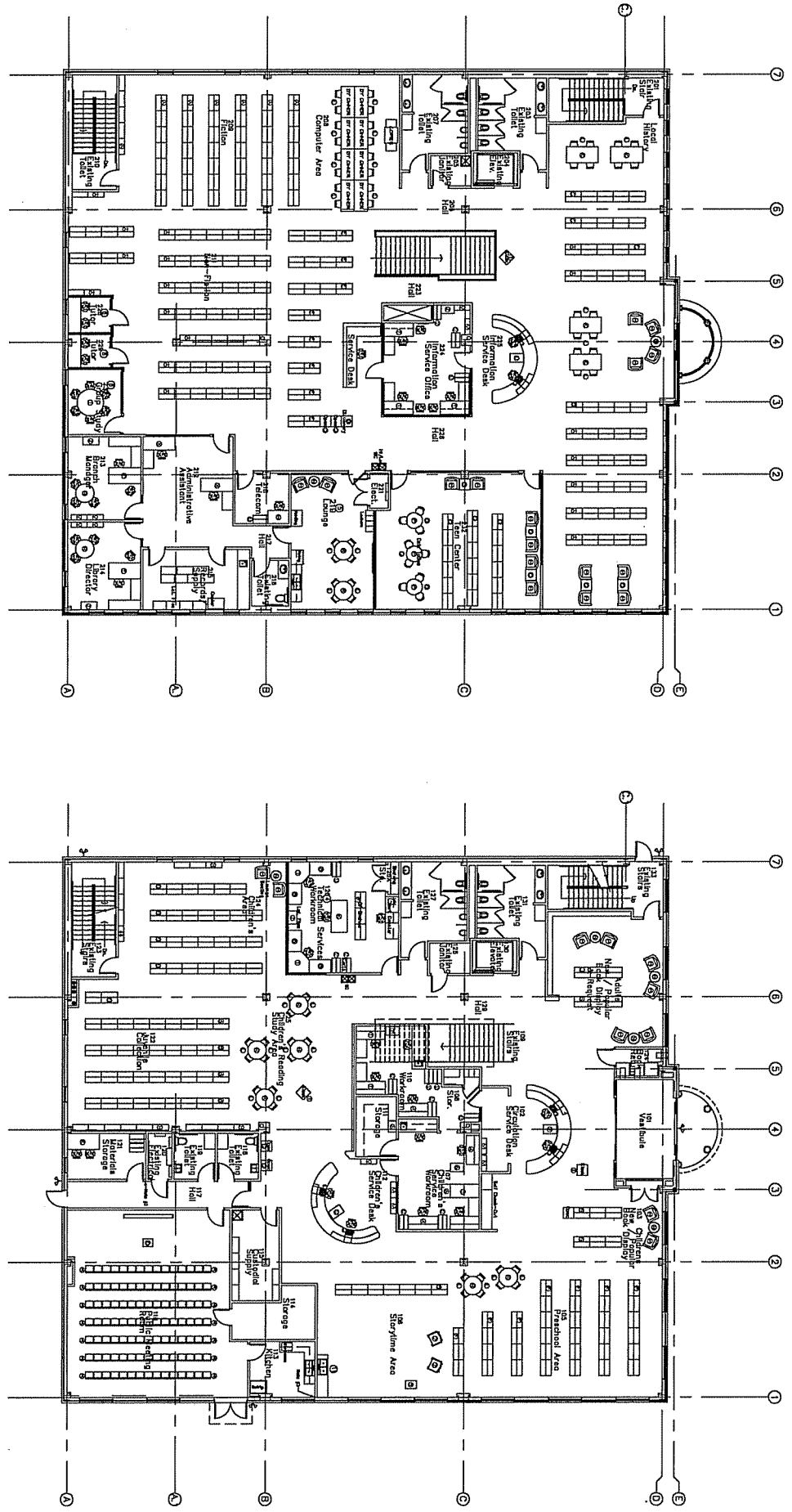
In the new main library, the collection will be located near the reference desk on the second floor. In addition, researchers will have access to the genealogy computer, the microfiche reader and family historical documents. It is this area in the new main library the Library Director requests naming and acknowledging Rebecca B. Wall.

In 1983, the Orange County Library Board was notified that Rebecca Wall intended to make a sizeable contribution to the Orange County Public Library upon her death. According to the minutes of the January 20, 1983 Orange County Library Board meeting, "Ms. Wall indicated in her last will and testament that in addition to the donation, an area of the library, (not necessarily with walls) to be designated the Rebecca Wall History area, and for the hand-painted plaque to be on display in this area."

Ms. Rebecca Benehan Wall was a resident of Hillsborough and lived in and owned Heartsease known as Burke-Heartt Home since 1963. She was a librarian at the Veterans Administration prior to her retirement. Ms Wall was a member of the St. Matthew's Episcopal Church.

On April 23, 1987, Orange County Public Library received \$50,000 from the estate of Rebecca Wall. These funds have been invested in interest bearing accounts, which currently amount to \$134,485.

In compliance with the conditions of the bequest and in accordance with Orange County Property Naming Policy, the library respectfully requests that the Board consider approving the naming of a designated area housing the local history collection recognizing Rebecca B. Wall.



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Orange County Public Library  
 Hyconeechee Regional Library Headquarters  
 Hillsborough, North Carolina