

Special Events & Programs

- Pre-School Story Hour
- Summer Reading Club
- Mariachi Festival
- July 6: Library's Birthday Celebration
- September: Library Card Sign-Up Month
- Festival del Arte
- An Evening with the Authors
- November: Children's Book Week
- Dickens' in Lockhart

The Irving Club

The Irving Club is impossible to differentiate with the library and it is impossible to envision one without the other. The Irving Club is the second oldest Women's Federated Club in the State of Texas and was founded in 1886, naming themselves for the noted author Washington Irving. In 1897 they joined the newly formed Texas Federation of Women's Clubs. Several members of the Irving Club were named to the Board of Trustees. The Irving Club held its first meeting in the new meeting room on February 20, 1900 and the original furnishings are in the room today.



Library Staff

Bertha Martinez

Jeanna Trejo

Mary McHaney

Mark V. Diaz

Charlotte Jones

Susan Andrews

Stephanie Castanon

Technology Center Staff

Joseph Montana



Dr. Eugene Clark Library

DR. EUGENE CLARK LIBRARY



*Over a Century of Service
to the Community!*

217 South Main Street
Lockhart, TX 78644
512-398-3223
Fax 512-398-8316

Website: www.clark-library-lockhart.org
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Hours:
Monday, Wednesday & Friday
9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Tuesday & Thursday
9 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Saturday
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

DR. EUGENE CLARK LIBRARY

THE HISTORY

This unique and historically significant building was built with a \$10,000 bequest from Dr. Eugene Clark. Dr. Clark was a native of New Orleans, and his father died on the battlefield during the Civil War when Dr. Clark was only three. Mr. Clark's life-long friend E.H. Purcell was with him as he lay dying and Mr. Clark requested that Purcell take care of his wife and son. Three years later Mrs. Clark lay on her deathbed. She entrusted the care of her young son to her dearest friend Miss H.M. Young. Miss Young raised the boy as if he were her own and Mr. Purcell watched over the progress of the young boy as he grew.

The young Clark was a great satisfaction to both Miss Young and Mr. Purcell. He graduated from Tulane Medical School with the highest honors and did his residency at Charity Hospital. He graduated in May of 1883 and came to Lockhart.



He entered practice with Dr. Lancaster, but Lancaster soon abandoned his practice, leaving the 21 year old Clark to handle the practice alone. He practiced medicine for 13 years in Lockhart and during this time a mutual love between Dr. Clark and the town grew.

While practicing in San Antonio, Dr. Clark became very ill. He went to New York for surgery. On his way to New York he came through Lockhart to see his old friends. In New York his condition was pronounced incurable and he left to return to the only home he had known in New Orleans. On his deathbed, with Mr. Purcell and Miss Young by his side, he dictated a will specifying that the citizens of Lockhart should have a library and lyceum. His will left \$10,000 to the people of Lockhart, of which \$6,000 was to be used for construction, \$1,000 to buy books and the remainder was to be put in a trust to maintain the building and purchase new books.

The Library open it's doors to the public in 1900 and served as a cultural center for the city of Lockhart for many years. President William H. Taft has spoken from the stage in the Library and the noted singer Dorothy Sarnoff has performed here.

THE ARCHITECTURE

The library was designed and built in 1899 by local contractor T.S. Hodges. The library is a two story, Greek cross plan and is a Classical Revival building of red brick with limestone trim, with four projecting pediment pavilions forming the arms. The main façade facing east is divided into three bays by pilasters and contains a central stained glass memorial window classically framed by pilasters and a round keystone arch. The southeast entrance has double doors with a mullet-lighted fanlight also framed by pilasters and entablature and supports the central dome.



Inside the building the pressed tin ceiling, woodwork, lighting fixtures and perimeter shelving are all original to the building. When built, the library had auditorium style seating in the center of the building and on the balcony. In 1956, the seating was removed to allow room for the expansion of the book collection.

The architecture of the building has been a source of curiosity to many professional architects, and the library is visited annually by many amateur and professional architects, including regular visits by architecture majors from the University of Texas.

Today the library continues to serve as a focal point for community activities and is the major source of informational and pleasure reading for Lockhart and Caldwell County residents.

The Friends of the Dr. Eugene Clark Library is a non-profit organization founded to promote, support and encourage the growth of the library and reading. The Friends of the Library fund a year-round calendar of special events and programs. These worthwhile activities are made possible by individual donations, memberships, local business contributions, and the Friends' annual fundraising efforts. Friends also gives hundreds of hours of volunteer time each year in support of the library and staff. Funds raised have been used for books, equipment, programming, materials, and building renovation and expansions. Memorials and honoring gifts are presented to the library as a lasting reminder and tribute to loved ones and help enrich the library's collection. For more information stop by the library.