

Quincy Senior High School

*Quincy Senior High School — (Now Junior High School) Rex Barnes, Principal
100 South 14th Street — Academic Gothic Revival — 1931-33 — John Chubb,
architect; Behernsmeyer & Hafner, associated architects*

A bond issue referendum October 20, 1928, authorized the Quincy School Board to purchase the properties east and south of Webster School and to build a new high school to replace the one at the corner of 12th & Maine Streets. The decision for the location was based on the fact that 12th & Maine was the center of Quincy. The population of Quincy was 40,000 and the high school enrollment was about 1,000.

Some of the houses on the properties to be occupied by the new building were razed; others were moved. Ground was broken in June of 1931, and the cornerstone was laid in November of 1931; the building was ready for occupancy in September of 1932, designed for 2,000 students, possibly as many as 2,500. Opening day enrollment was 1,220. Purchase price of the property was \$152,430; contracts for this structure totalled \$1,198,858. It is estimated that replacement of the building today would be \$9-11 million.

The building is in the form of a hollow square, with a central bar across the square from east to west. The outside of the square is devoted to classrooms; the inside of the square has teachers' rooms, rest rooms, elevator, etc. Four beautiful staircases at the corners of the building are topped by skylights with artglass panels and Art Deco bordering depicting historic scenes appropriate to Quincy.

The Art Deco auditorium is the center feature of the building. It is of the highest period style and detail, and boasts great acoustical qualities. Its versatility from a production standpoint has allowed every type of activity imaginable, from an ascension of Jesus Christ in the Black Hills Passion Play, to ramp arrangements for beauty pageants, to a production of the Lincoln assassination play, and is regularly the setting for the Quincy Symphony, CMA. travelogues, barbershop harmony shows and contests, plays and musicals.

In 1977, a major overhaul of the auditorium interior paint and decor was done faithfully, using original tints, enamels, and materials. Electronic sound enhancement modernization takes place from time to time, but the pure sound qualities of the room are never more apparent than when a chorus of voices blend acappella and without amplification.

The building serves well now as Quincy Junior High School in view of the large enrollment and with its location at the center of Quincy.

Quincy Preserves!

An independent community organization working to preserve Quincy's architectural and historic heritage