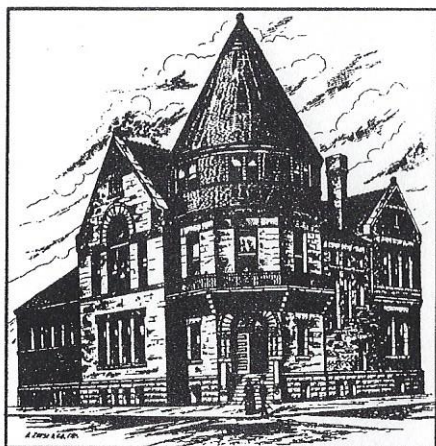


332 Maine Street
Free Public Library and Reading Room
Constructed from 1888-1889
Patton & Fisher, architects
Richardsonian Romanesque

The Quincy library can trace its history back to 1837. In 1886, after moving the library at least six times, it was decided that a new permanent home was needed. Funds were acquired and this magnificent Romanesque structure was constructed. It was dedicated on June 24, 1889.



Designed by the Chicago firm of Patton & Fisher, the library is strategically placed with its main entrance facing Washington Park. Its compact, well-massed lines of grey stone and gray slate roof are highlighted by the circular corner tower rising a full three stories to provide a tower room with a handsome view of the park. Interior features include broadly connected spaces and natural butternut trim and casework. The old reading room on the second floor, with its wood vaulted ceiling, remains one of the finest interiors in the city.

This building served as the library until 1974 when space constraints required the library to move to its present location at Sixth and Jersey Streets. The Gardner family purchased the building that same year and established the Gardner Museum of Architecture and Design which encourages the preservation of Quincy's outstanding architectural heritage.

1997 Special Tour

0