

1310 Washington St.



Emerson School was one of five projects the Quincy Public School Board began in the late 19th Century. All were scheduled to open in the fall of 1900, although “for no good reason,” according to architect Tubbesing, Emerson was not ready. Thus, students attended half days, with access only to the top floor of the building, for two weeks. Emerson School fully opened for all day classes on October 1, 1900

The boundaries for the Emerson Beagles (their mascot) were different for primary and grammar grade levels. The primary boundaries were North—Monroe Street, East— 11th Street, and the South and West by the city limits at the time. Grammar grade level boundaries were Kentucky to the North, 9th on the West, and city limits on the South and East sides. The neighborhood was so protective of the school that any damage was brought to the School Board’s attention. In June, 1915, note was made that vandals had broken glass in some doors and windows and other “damages” caused to the playground and buildings. Otherwise, the school was active in interscholastic athletics, community campaigns, parent groups and all-school picnics at South Park.

As Quincy’s population grew, so did the need for more or larger schools. George Behrensmeyer reported that he could build an addition to Emerson for \$65,000, but the Board anticipated an additional \$10,000 to \$15,000. In 1924, the School Board began discussions of whether to build a new Emerson or enlarge the present building. They decided in 1927; a new gym and auditorium were completed, with terrazzo floors throughout.

In the decades since, Quincy had a population decline, and Emerson and other schools were closed. Initially, the Quincy Park Board bought the building for its headquarters, but in 2014, sold the building to Powell’s Pride III LLC \ dba Emerson Garden Apartments, which transformed it into 11 high end apartments. Powell Properties kept the character of the building by retaining many of the original architectural features. Many of the classrooms and office spaces have been converted to apartments, although the original features remain—banisters, wainscoting, wooden stairs and the terrazzo and gym floors.