

A Look Back in Time

The Kenosha High School, located at 913 57th Street, occupies a massive block square and is one of five important buildings in the Civic Center Historic District. The building's 1st major remodeling was in 1993 at an approximate cost of \$3,500,000 and the 2nd 2 year restoration started in beginning of 2009 and was completed the end of 2010 at a cost of \$8,200, 000.



*Section 15.04 of the City's Zoning Ordinance establishes standards for designating structures and sites as historic and the site or structure must meet at least one of these standards. It was determined that **The Kenosha High School** is architecturally and historically significant under Standards 1,3, and 6; “exemplifies or reflects the City's cultural, social...history; or “embodies the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type or specimen...; or is representative of the notable work of a master builder, designer, or architect...” The Kenosha High School is architecturally significant because it exhibits the fine characteristics of the Neo-Classical style. It also achieves its significance as a landmark in its magnitude and presence.*

The Kenosha High School is a three story building and was designed by Chicago architect John D. Chubb. The overall square building taking up an entire block of land, features slightly projecting corner pavilions and pedimented entry pavilions. Built of gray limestone, a prominent cornice decorated with modillions runs across the entire building and is topped by a granite parapet with balustrades at the corner pavilions. Pilasters separate window banks on the second and third floors. These windows are double-hung sashes, grouped in fours. The pilasters feature the Corinthian order. The building also features a rusticated first floor sitting on a pedestal foundation. The pedimented entry pavilion on the front facade features attached Corinthian columns between paired windows. Three openings lead to the recessed main entrance. Projecting corners of the building have recessed panels decorated by Corinthian columns and a blind arch with keystone. A separate auditorium wing at the rear of the building is similarly decorated with modillioned cornice, pilasters, and a projecting entry pavilion flanked by Corinthian columns. Period fixtures also decorate the building's entrances. The Kenosha High School was originally designated in 1979 and re-designated on January 4, 1995.

*Construction of the new **Kenosha High School** started August 15, 1924 and was completed on May 26, 1926 by the Madsen and Peterson Company of Minneapolis, Minnesota for a total cost of \$1,248,607.59. On February 22, 1926 the school conducted it's first classes and was dedicated the week of April 11th – 17th. The old Kenosha High School was half of the first phase of the Civic Center construction. It was an almost unprecedented agreement between the City of Kenosha, Kenosha County, and the school board that sited this building and the courthouse complex around the Civic center. The old Kenosha High School was the First Free High School. The high school was later known as Central High School and was the third iteration. The school was also called Mary D. Bradford High School, named for the noted Kenosha educator. It is now called Reuther Central High School, an alternative high school. Reuther Central High School was named after Walter Reuther, a nationally noted labor leader in the 1930s, '40s and '50s. In 2012, Harborside Academy, a charter school, merged with Paideia Academy, a charter middle school and moved to Reuther Central High School. The newly blended Harborside Academy serves grades 6-12.*