

TRENTON HIGH SCHOOL

First Trenton High School 1874-1901

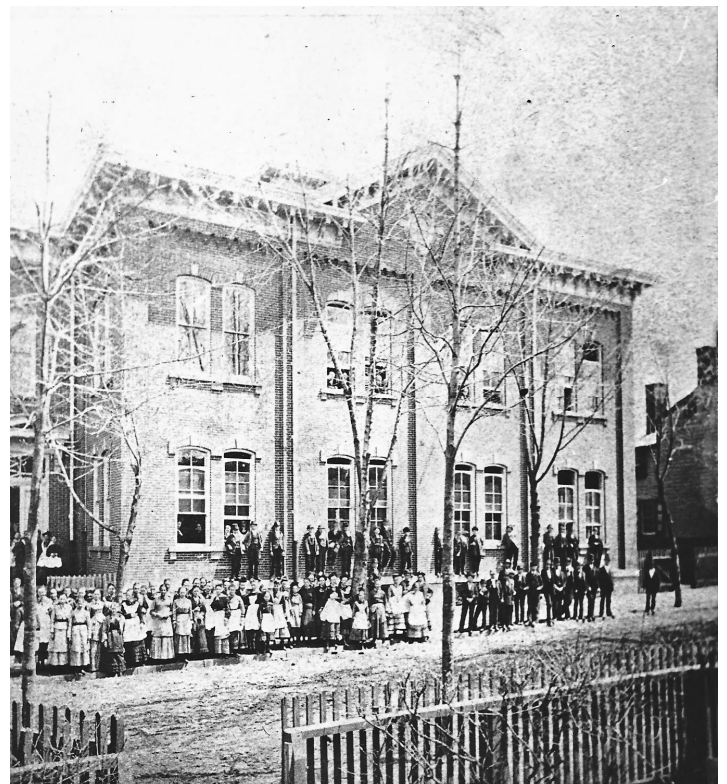
Mercer and Market Streets



- Designed by R.P. Gallagher
- Total cost of the building, grading, etc., was \$23,000
- Building could accommodate 304 students

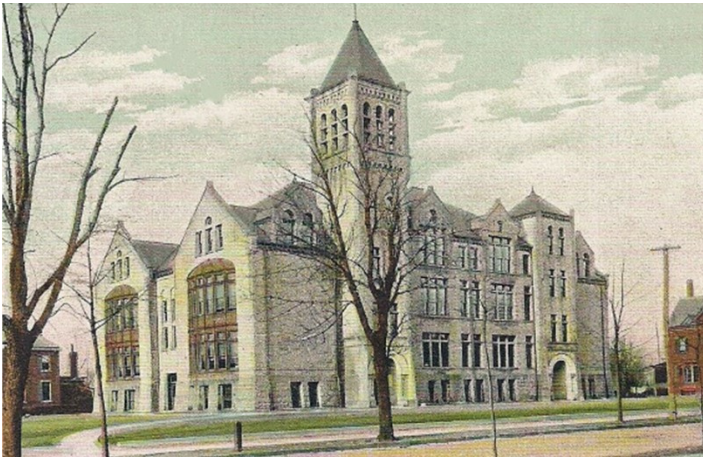
The High School in Mercer street was opened yesterday morning, at nine o'clock. The pupils, however, were dismissed at twelve o'clock for the day, some of the rooms not being ready.

Trenton State Gazette, Tuesday, October 27, 1874

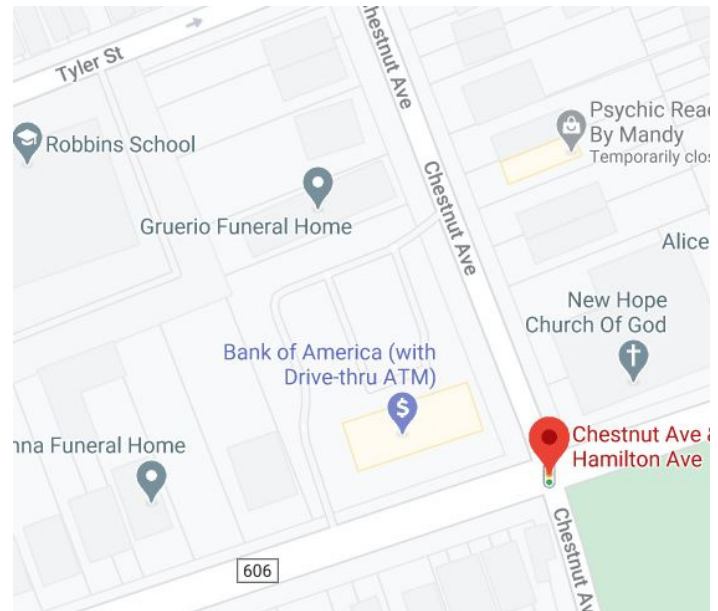


Second Trenton High School 1901-1931

Chestnut and Hamilton Avenues



- Designed by Architect S. S. Allen, the building could accommodate 800 students
- The total cost for the building with furnishing and graded ground was \$138,000
- In 1908 the nearby Carroll Robbins School opens and is used as an annex for the high school
- By 1914 the school was over crowded but the school board decided to build junior high schools first before building a new high school
- At one point it was thought to build the new high school on the Almshouse lot
- In 1922 the city purchased 36 acres of the Chambers' farm for a future high school and junior high school (never built)
- The city had plans to build a modern high school large enough for all of its high school students. However, the city had reached its maximum borrowing threshold and could not afford to build a new school
- In March of 1928 New York Legislature increased the amount a city the size of Trenton could borrow from 7% to 12% of the real estate values. This allowed New York banks to invest in Trenton, and Trenton's borrowing power was raised by \$9,000,000
- In 1952 the property is sold for \$40,000 to the Broad Street Bank, the money was used to erect bleachers at the high school on Chambers Street
- February 1953 the school is demolished to make way for the construction of a Broad Street Bank branch (today Bank of America)



Third Trenton High School 1932-2014

400 Chambers Street



- Designed by Architect Ernest K. Sibley, the building was of Colonial design
- The total cost for the building with furnishing and graded ground was \$3.295 million
- The school was built to hold 3,000 students with the ability to add additions in the future for more students
- Problems arose quickly around the segregated swimming pool, as the school policy limited the accessibility of the pool for African-American students

In 1933 black leaders filed a lawsuit to gain equal access to the pool, with Robert Queen as one of the attorneys

The New Jersey Supreme Court ruled in favor of the Black students

The case was a first step toward desegregating Trenton's public schools (See article on Desegregation of Trenton's Schools)

- A vocational wing was added in 1957
- In 1990 the school admits 9th graders when the junior high schools are abolished in favor of middle schools
- Due to lack of proper maintenance, the building starts to deteriorate and becomes a health issue to its occupants
- After many years of struggle over renovating/modernizing the old school v. new construction, it was finally decided in the spring of 2014 to tear down the old school and build a new school
- For the next five years Trenton's high school students would be taught in multiple school buildings throughout



Fourth Trenton High School 2019-present

400 Chambers Street



- Designed by NJ School Development Authority, it is of modern design stylized “columns” in remembrance of the previous school building
- The total cost for the new building with furnishing and graded ground was \$155.5 million
- The school is 367,000 sq ft and can hold 2,262 students

