

## James S. Rhodebeck Family Historic Union Schoolyard

The Union School, or Central School, was built in 1868 on four lots at Union, Walnut, and Boston Streets. The Union School faced east and west. The picture above shows the Boston Street entrance. The Union Street entrance was identical. This building housed students from 1868-1925. The Union School was razed in 1925. Eight years prior, as the student population grew, more room was needed and a new high school was built in 1917, two blocks north of the Union School.

In 1926, a new building replaced the old Union School but instead faced West Walnut Street. The building was called the Galion Junior High School and housed West elementary students and grades seven through nine junior high students.

In 1974, the building underwent major renovations and those additions paved the way for the transformation from a traditional junior high concept to middle school ideals. The new office addition hid the three arched doorways visible in the lower photograph; however, the integrity of the arches remained inside the new Galion Middle School.



When the school was demolished to build a school complex with all new schools, the Galion City Schools sold the lot to the **James S. Rhodebeck Family** who, in turn, donated the land to The Galion Historical Society. Jim, a 1948 Galion graduate, former school member, and philanthropist - we are forever grateful!!!