

# Franklin School 1921 - 2015

**The School was used as Kindergarten  
through the eighth grade.**

The smaller grades started on the Archer Street side and then it made a circle with the 8<sup>th</sup> grade being in the back facing Jessie Street.

I graduated in the early 50's from the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Some years later it became a Junior High. Not sure when the school was closed.

After the school was closed, it was used and owned by the Federal Government for the US Marine Corps as a training office.

The last use was to the Fort Wayne Police Department for training.

In 2014, after being vacant, the City of Fort Wayne requested to take ownership of the property. To demolish the school and make it into a neighborhood park.

# Photos of the school



This is the view from the front on St Mary's Avenue





Classrooms were the smaller grades starting on the left going to the right.  
This is a view from Archer Avenue.



Starting from the left, this was the lower grades door. After the Federal Government took over ownership the left side top says Center. This was when it was used by the US Marine's as a training center.



This is the view from St Mary's





This is the right side going down to the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> grade wing. The left photo is the door to those grades. Then on the right and the bottom pictures shows turning to the view from Greenlawn Avenue.



View from Greenlawn Avenue and the turn onto Franklin Street.  
Notice it now has a second floor. This was the seventh and eighth grade wing.



Below is the corner to turn to view  
the school from the Jessie Street side.





This is the back of the school. It is a view from Jessie and Archer Streets.  
The bottom right with big windows was an addition added on to the building.  
Also, the small building with garage doors was added later. It will be the only structure standing after the demolition is complete.



Girls posing for an 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduation photo. It is in front of the back door.



Here is a picture of Jean and her friends.





This is one of the classes to graduate from Franklin Grade School.  
Most of the students went on to North Side and graduated in 1956.  
Some of the students went to Central.



This class photo was taken on the stage in the gym in Franklin School  
See the arrow? That is Jean!

# Now that you have seen some of the history of Franklin School, it is time to watch the start of a new era!

## A Neighborhood Park.



December 15, 2014

Press Conference regarding the  
Demolition of Franklin School

### To Become a Park

Mayor Tom Henry introduced the people who have been working for several years to work on plans and start the process of making a park for everyone and for all the many citizens of the surrounding neighborhoods.



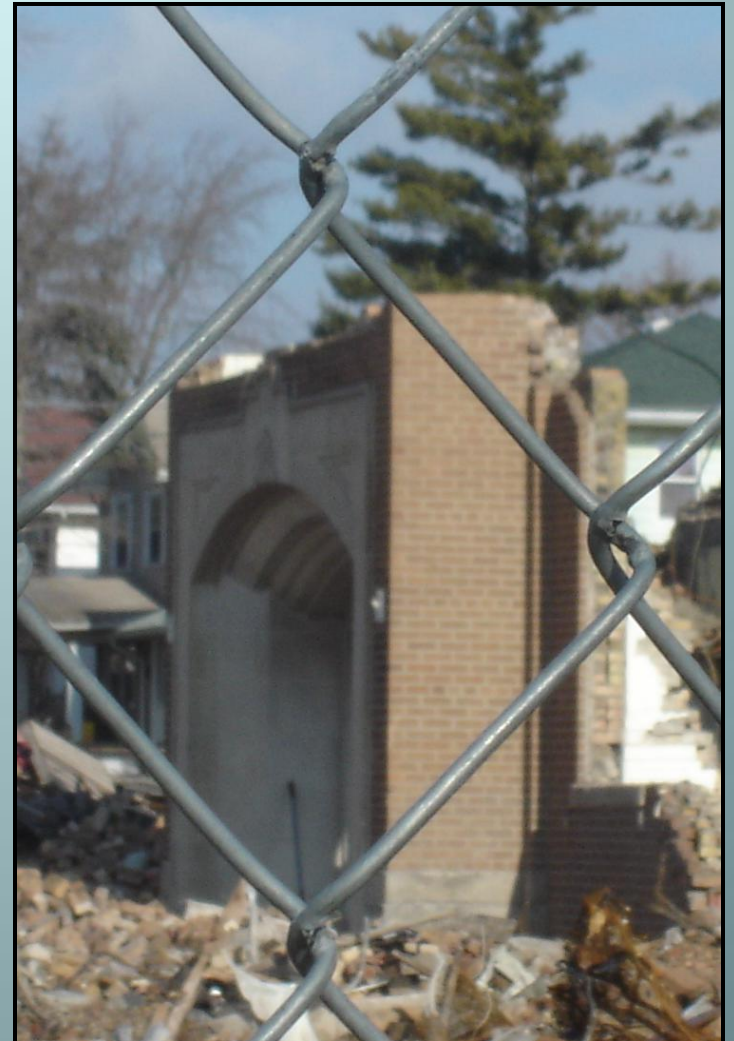


Because Jean graduated from Franklin School in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade, she wanted a brick! So John and Pastor Tim asked the engineer from Martin's to give her a brick. Then the lower right is the plan that Tim held up during the press conference showing the park.



*Jean's  
Brick*

This is the back entrance arch before and after demolition.  
The Design is hoping to save the arches to be part of the new park.





# This is the another arch to be saved.

Before and after demolition



Here is another photo showing 2 arches during the demolition.





Here is the entrance arch in the middle of the school on St Mary's Avenue.  
As you can see, the school was built in 1921.



Small door on corner of St Mary's and Greenlawn. Before & after photos.







The wrecking ball starting on the back side.





The bricks and mortar was  
really flying.

This is the corner of the  
building on Archer and  
Franklin.





Building is all down,  
just the arches are still standing



Now it is time to start the plans for making a nice neighborhood park.

It will be a long time before it will be completed, but we can wait for our special space that will turn into a nice quiet park for all the surrounding neighborhoods.