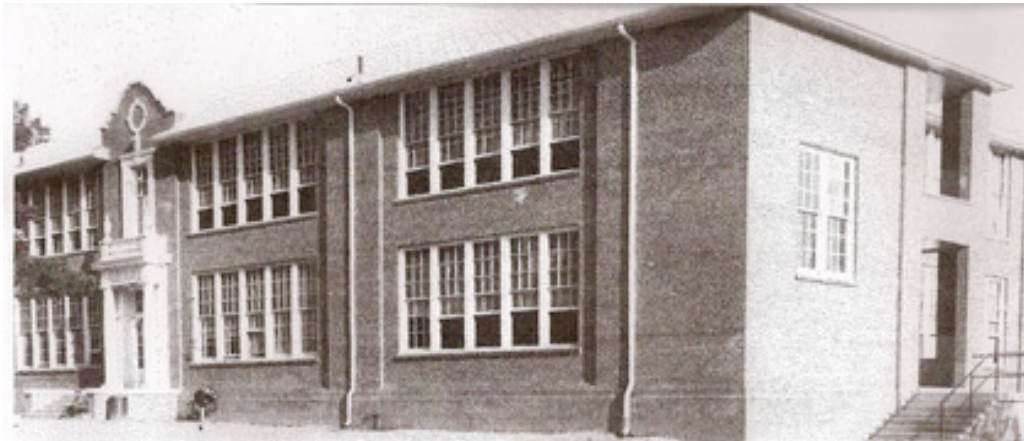


A Brief History of Market Center Towers

The building rests today on the original site of Ray Street School and the Little Red Schoolhouse.

In the early 1920's the land was purchased from the Pickett Tobacco Estate and William Tate. W. P. Pickett settled in High Point in 1881 and manufactured plug tobacco. He was also one of the founders of Welch Furniture and Marsh Furniture Co's. William Tate was one of the founders of Home Furniture Co.

The purchase was made in order to construct an elementary school for children living in the nearby Johnson Street area (now a Historic District). The school was constructed at a cost of \$75,000 and opened for the school year of 1923. The school was burned to the ground in May 28, 1961 by an arsonist.

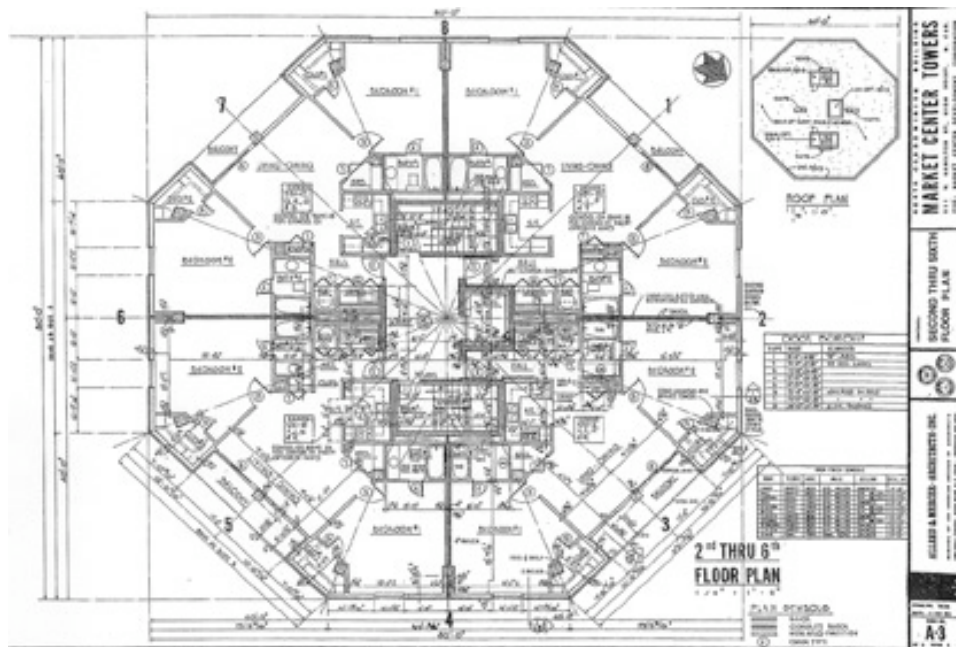


Also built on the site was the “Little Red Schoolhouse”. This structure was constructed from lumber salvaged after the Emma Blair School was demolished in 1931. The one room school house was designed to hold first graders as the school commission did not wish to add a single room to the Ray Street School building and interrupt the symmetry of the structure. Architect Louis J. Voorhees designed the small structured after a one-room school house he had attended as a child in Michigan. The school was not burned in the 1961 fire and is now located near the High Point Museum on East Lexington Ave.



In 1981 a group of well respected local businessmen, B. C. Fowler, Fred Alexander and P. Hunter Dalton, Jr. joined together to construct Market Center Towers. The original concept was a pair of well constructed octagonal buildings featuring four individual condominiums on each of six floors. The local architectural firm of Allred and Mercer was selected to provide the design and plans for the building and J. R. Graham and Sons was selected for the actual construction; both firms being recognized as experts in their respective fields.

The target audience was to be furniture company executives visiting the International Furniture Market Exposition each April and October. However, the quality construction and unique design of the first building found locals quickly purchasing the units during the construction phase. Upon completion, the building was completely sold out!



The building construction features solid 6 inch thick concrete floors and ceilings providing for a safe, secure facility.

