

**KENOSHA HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
HISTORICAL ARTIFACT DETERMINATION**

ARTIFACT NAME/DESCRIPTION	<i>Reuther Central High School Murals</i>
ADDRESS	<i>913 57th Street</i>
CONSTRUCTION DATE	<i>1926</i>
ARCHITECT/SCULPTOR/BUILDER	<i>Gustave Brandt</i>

STANDARDS FOR DESIGNATION - MUST CHOOSE 1 OR MORE		
X	1	Item is a local historical artifact that is at least 50 years old.
X	2	Item is associated with a property that meets the criteria for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

STANDARDS FOR DESIGNATION - MUST CHOOSE 1 OR MORE		
X	3	Item exemplifies or reflects the cultural, archaeological, political, economic, social, or religious history.
X	4	Item is identified with personages, events, or periods of history which personages, events, or periods are significant to the community.
X	5	Item embodies distinguishing characteristics of architecture, an architect, architectural materials, craftsmanship, or works of nature.
X	6	Item is in its inherent historical nature provides the citizenry with educational or aesthetic enrichment.
X	7	Check here if the historical artifact is located in a designated local, State, or National Register property or district.

<i>Level of Action</i>	<i>For Listing</i>	<i>No Listing</i>	<i>Removal from Listing</i>
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & INSPECTIONS	X		
PUBLIC HEARING DATE: 2/27/14	RECOMMENDATION DATE:		
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION	X		
COMMON COUNCIL	X		
DATE OF COUNCIL ACTION: 4/07/14			

DESCRIPTION

Artist Gustave Brandt of Chicago painted the three murals that are located above and on either side of the auditorium stage in Reuther Central High School. The 44-foot mural painting above the proscenium arch is a striking feature of the auditorium. This mural symbolizes Kenosha history over a century, with two side panels next to the stage and above the balcony.

One side panel depicts mental training, while the other shows physical training.





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Kenosha's progress is shown in the painting above the proscenium, which also symbolizes the arts and sciences. Youthful, agricultural-minded Kenosha as it founded its free high school is shown in the left section of the panel. Kenosha is portrayed in the murals, moving through the years to its latest high school, gigantic factories, and civic recreation. *(Please see picture on next page)*

SIGNIFICANCE

The 1926 school yearbook explained that the main panel “shows the High School as the culmination of the ideals of such educators as Col. (Michael) Frank (considered the father of Wisconsin's public-school system), Col. (John) McMynn (the school's first principal) and Mrs. (Mary D.) Bradford (the former superintendent of Kenosha public schools); a high school with a curriculum varied enough to fit the needs of all classes of students and one which will place Kenosha among the first of the cities of Wisconsin in education.”

The new High School building was completed in 1926 and occupies the whole block bounded by Sheridan Road, 10th Avenue (formerly Congress Street) and 57th Street (formerly Park Street). It was designed by John D. Chubb. The school is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is a contributing structure to the Civic Center Historic District. When built, it was called Kenosha High School. However, Central High School is the name engraved in the Frieze stone on the building Entablature. It later became Mary D. Bradford High School, and ultimately Walter Reuther Central High School, named for United Auto Workers leader Walter Reuther. A major remodeling project was completed in 1993, at a cost of \$3.2 Million Dollars. A second restoration project on the building's exterior began in 2009 and was completed in December, 2010 at a cost of \$8.2 Million.

Gustave Brandt, the artist of the three murals above and next to the stage, came to America from Germany in 1892-93 to work on murals at the 1893 World's Fair in Chicago. After the fair was over, he decided to stay in America and worked on murals and other artwork in America, including the murals completed for Kenosha's High School.. Brandt is also know to have completed some of the artwork for the Masonic Temple in Allentown, Pennsylvania, which was also completed in 1926.



NOTE: Image of mural has been modified to fit page