

Pardon our dust

Big changes are coming to 1420 Ogden Street. Last summer, the National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP) acquired the Emerson School (the building which houses Howard Dental Center among other nonprofits). With donated funds, the building will be entirely refurbished as a model for historic renovation that meets or exceeds energy efficiency standards.

It was designed by Robert Roeschlaub (1843–1923), who is widely recognized as Colorado’s first master architect. His commissions for more than 50 school and college buildings are a particularly significant aspect of his architectural legacy and were influential in both Colorado and around the country.



Completed in 1885, the Emerson School is the oldest remaining Roeschlaub school in Colorado. The large limestone sundial on the south façade is believed to be the first example of the use of a sundial on a Colorado building. It was included as a reminder to students to be on time.

Over the coming year, the Mountains/Plains Office will undertake a comprehensive, \$2.4 million rehabilitation of the school, with a particular focus on making the building a model for how older structures can meet – or exceed – the highest standards for energy efficiency and environmental design. Upon completion, the Emerson School will remain home to Howard Dental Center and become

the new home for the Mountains/Plains Office of the National Trust, Historic Denver, Inc., and Colorado Preservation, Inc.

Since our clinic and administrative offices were remodeled in 2007, very little of the construction will involve our operations. However, we will benefit from increased energy efficiencies (warmer in winter and cooler in summer!) as well as revitalization of one of Denver’s historic landmarks.

As the new home for three non-profit preservation organizations, the Emerson School is envisioned as a center for historic preservation activity in Denver and statewide. NTHP plans to employ strategies to ensure that the school property serves as a vibrant, active neighborhood asset. Additionally, the Emerson team looks forward to working with community leaders and organizations to promote preservation-based revitalization in the surrounding Capitol Hill neighborhood. At HDC, we are looking forward to participating in this revitalizing project.