

About Walker School

Student ambassadors give thanks to the West Allis Historical Society for helping our research efforts to learn more about our school. The ambassadors were excited to learn some interesting information about our school and its name. Here is what they learned:

Walker was built in 1960 for \$792, 296.00. Prior to construction, the school site was a large gravel pit used for industrial waste. Students in the area attended Lane before Walker was built. After its construction, 580 students were enrolled. There were 17 classrooms and a courtyard in the center of the school.

The first PTA was formed in 1960 with 332 members. The board of education wanted to change the school name to John Quincy Adams, the 6th president of the United States. The PTA did not want the name change and with 250 members voting no, it remained named Walker School.

Our school is named after George H. Walker who was a pioneer in the area. George H. Walker was born in 1811 in Virginia and came to Milwaukee, Wisconsin because of the fur trade. He was very interested and involved in the railroad ventures. In 1834 he built a cabin and a warehouse along the Milwaukee River, in the area now known as Walker's Point. Other highlights include him serving two terms as Milwaukee's mayor. He lived until 1866.

Sources:

Butcher, J. (1974, November 21). Walker School opened in 1960. *The West Allis STAR*.

Harding, B. (2016). George H. Walker. In Encyclopedia of Milwaukee. Retrieved from: <https://emke.uwm.edu>