

Buckstaff Bathhouse

The Buckstaff Bathhouse, named for controlling shareholders George and Milo Buckstaff, replaced the former Rammelsberg Bathhouse, a brick Victorian structure. The Rammelsberg replaced the A. B. Gaines bathhouse destroyed in the 1878 fire, but evidently there was a brick bathhouse on the site in the late 1850s.

Designed by Frank W. Gibb and Company, Architects, the present bathhouse cost \$125,000 to build and contains 27,000 square feet on three main floors. Classical in design, with imposing Doric columns and urns gracing the front of the building, the building is of taupe brick with white stucco and wood trim. It epitomizes the Edwardian style of classically designed buildings popular during the first decade of the 20th century. Because it has been in continuous operation since it opened on February 1, 1912, it is one of the best preserved of all of the bathhouses on Bathhouse Row, but it has undergone many changes over the years. Originally it had a large hydrotherapeutic department. Only it, the Fordyce and the Imperial had these, and all three were allowed to close them in 1921.

Colorado marble is used throughout the interior, particularly in the bath halls. The floors are of white and colored hexagonal tile in varying patterns. All levels may be accessed by way of stairs or the building's original elevator, with an ornate interior reminiscent of the Golden Age of Bathing. The capacity of the building is 1,000 bathers per day.



Rammelsberg Bathhouse circa 1900