

Quapaw Bathhouse

The Quapaw Bathhouse was built in 1922 on two lots that were previously used for two Victorian style bathhouses (the Horseshoe and the Magnesia). Designed by George Mann and Eugene John Stern, the building was originally to be named the Platt Bathhouse after one of the owners. However, when a tufa cavity was discovered during excavation, the owners decided to promote the cavity as an Indian cave, and the bathhouse was renamed Quapaw Bathhouse in honor of a local Native American tribe that briefly held the surrounding territory after the Louisiana Purchase was made.



Horseshoe Bathhouse

The most impressive exterior detail of this Spanish Colonial Revival bathhouse is its dome, inset with colored tile and topped with a decorative cupola. Sculpins inset in scallops adorn each end of the building. Its 24,000 square foot area mostly covers the first floor, but a second floor had additional dressing rooms and a lounge room in the center. Construction costs for the building totaled \$214,837. Its lease provided water for forty tubs, making it the largest business for bathing, its main service. Although other services were not stressed at the Quapaw, it did offer massages and

some electro-therapy. The Quapaw closed in 1968, but shortly afterward other bathhouse owners reopened it as Health Services, Inc. It was the only bathhouse on the Row to make services available on evenings and weekends when the other businesses were closed. Shortly before its final closure in 1984, the bathhouse reclaimed its current and historic name. Recently, a 1928 windowed enclosure was taken off so as to restore the sun porch's architectural design.



Magnesia Bathhouse