

## Columbus School

By 1900, the area north of Division Street (now East Hennepin Ave.) had been platted for residential development, with Aurora Park, Carlisle Park, and the curving streets of Oakland Heights extending onto the high ground of the long ridge near the east limit of Minneapolis. The expected development, along with the existing families in east Como, justified the construction of an elementary school nearer to it than Tuttle School, which was then at 14<sup>th</sup> and Talmadge Aves. SE.

Columbus School was built on a 353' by 300' lot at Winter and "O" Streets (today's Hoover St. NE). A brick building situated beyond the city's water, sewer and electrical lines, Columbus never prospered (its peak enrollment only reached 139). In 1911, a new Tuttle School was built at 18<sup>th</sup> and Talmadge Aves. SE, and the 1913 city ordinance that created the Minneapolis Industrial Area (today's Mid-City Industrial Area) promoted the construction of a line of the Minnesota Transfer Railway just North of East Hennepin Ave., and rail spurs to businesses and industry.

By 1922 increased rail traffic meant that small children had to cross not simply East Hennepin Ave. but an active rail line twice a day to get to school. Columbus School was abandoned in 1931 and torn down in 1936. AccessAbility Inc. is located there now in a building that was constructed in 1966.



*Upper left photo of employees on the steps of the General Mills Research Laboratories at 2010 E. Hennepin Ave.: Norton & Peel, 1930, Minnesota Historical Society*

*Lower right photo of Columbus School: 1922, Minneapolis Public Schools*



## General Mills Research Laboratories

General Mills, Inc. was founded in Minneapolis in 1928 by James Ford Bell and the merger of several milling companies. In 1930 General Mills paid \$4000 for the initial land they bought at 2008/2010 E. Hennepin Ave. for the site of their research laboratories. The initial building was constructed by the August Cederstrand Company and completed in August of 1930. Later that same month, an open house was held to showcase the milling industry's first research laboratory right here at 2008/2010 E. Hennepin Ave.

The number of staff at the 2010 Research Laboratories grew from 8 in 1930 to 202 in 1945. General Mills continued acquiring land, constructing buildings and expanding their laboratories at this site until deciding in 1951 that they would need 1000+ acres to adequately accommodate their anticipated growth. They opened their headquarters in Golden Valley in 1958.

The Washburn Crosby Company, a forerunner of General Mills, created *Betty Crocker* in 1921 as a pen name for its consumer response department. *Wheaties* was introduced by the Washburn Crosby Company in 1924 after being accidentally discovered by a Minneapolis health clinician three years earlier. *Kix*, the first ready-to-eat puffed cereal, was introduced in 1937 and *Cheerioats* was introduced in 1941, changing its name to *Cheerios* in 1945. In 1953, the mechanical division invented the Ryan Flight Recorder, otherwise known as the "black box". This site was one of the first in the nation to receive Superfund monies and is largely remediated today.