

**Central State University  
Emery Hall Rehabilitation  
Wilberforce, Ohio**

The building was constructed by student labor in 1913 and originally served as a women's dormitory. It last served in that capacity in the late 1970s and had been vacant for nearly 30 years. The building had fallen into a state of severe disrepair.

In 2007, the National Park Service (NPS) provided a federal matching grant to Central State University to begin a rehabilitation process to restore Emery Hall to its original character.

The project director of the NPS required the design team to follow very strict guidelines, including:

- restore the building back to its original grandeur
- use the same materials and methods of construction
- maintain aesthetics and craftsmanship
- easily adaptable for current and future technological advancements

The design team undertook a painstakingly detailed approach to meet the requirements of the NPS. For example, building windows were salvaged. Each window was removed, numbered, and totally rebuilt by local craftsmen.

Emery's wood floors were warped due to decades of water damage. The floors were taken apart and replaced with in-kind wood to maintain the building's historic character.

The 29,000 SF building was designed by Columbus, Ohio architect Frank Packard. The design team toured other Packard buildings in central Ohio to ensure that Emery mirrored the character and intent of his other work.

In addition, hardware, plumbing fixtures and hand railings were salvaged from other Packard-designed buildings and restored for reuse in Emery.

An important component of the project was to work with the university to identify appropriate new uses for the building that would respect its historic character and generate new life. Those uses include overnight accommodations for parents and visitors, a dining area, meeting rooms, and classrooms for students in the Hospitality Management program.