

Fact Sheet: Hunnewell Elementary School

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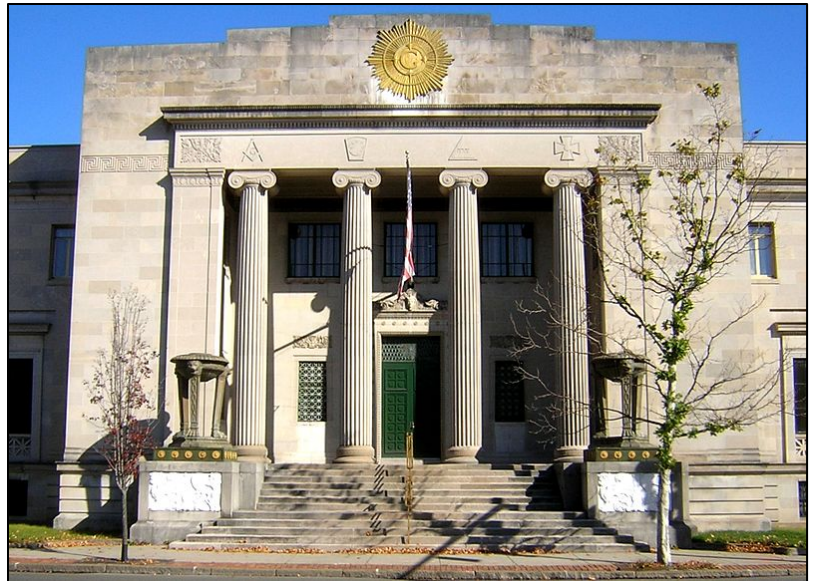
- Built in 1938 to replace the old Hunnewell School on Central Street
- School accommodations for the Hunnewell district had been an active topic for discussion beginning in 1923, leading to the construction of Hardy (in 1923), Sprague (in 1924), and Perrin (in 1931).
- By the mid-1930s, Central Street had changed from primarily residential to almost entirely commercial and was no longer a suitable site for an elementary school due to increased traffic and noise. The old Hunnewell School – a two-story wooden building constructed in 1892 – was also considered a fire hazard and needed to be replaced.
- In 1935, the Committee on School Site recommended that a new Hunnewell School be constructed on Cameron Street on the vacant property of the Simons Estate (bounded by Washington Street, Brook Street, Cameron Street, and Fuller Brook) that the Town had purchased in 1925.
- No action was taken in response to the 1935 study committee, but a committee was formed in 1936 to study the matter once again. Their report led to the appropriation of \$125,000 at the 1937 Annual Town Meeting for the construction of a new Hunnewell School building on Cameron Street. The building committee appointed to lead the project was W. Warren Jump, Carl E. Anderson, Louis Harvey, Edward T. Kilmain, and Paul W. Norton.
- Construction began on the new Hunnewell School in July 1937 and was completed in June 1938. The builders were the Klayman Construction Company of Roxbury. The school opened to students the following September.
- The new Hunnewell School was designed by J. Williams Beal & Sons of Boston. J. Williams Beal (1855 – 1919) was a MIT-trained architect who designed many buildings throughout Massachusetts and the rest of New England, including at least 11 that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). After his death, his successors, J. Williams Beal & Sons became a leading architectural firm in Boston during the 1920s and 1930s. Their work includes at least 5 buildings that are now listed on the NRHP:
 - Granite Trust Company (1929) -- Quincy, MA
 - Bethany Congregational Church (1927) -- Quincy, MA
 - Elks Building (1924) -- Quincy, MA
 - Masonic Temple (1926) -- Quincy, MA
 - Rockport High School (1925) -- Rockport, MA



Granite Trust Company



Elks Building



Masonic Temple



Bethany Congregational Church



Rockport High School