



KIDS TALES FROM JAIL

Bristol Historical & Preservation Society

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KIDS

TALES FROM JAIL

THE BRISTOL JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

It was described as “a major endeavor for Bristol”. The community needed a new building to serve as a junior-senior school. The costs were estimated at \$25 million—a huge amount of money worth about \$200 million today. The site was to be somewhere between Chestnut Street and Gooding Avenue.

Does the idea of a school on Chestnut Street ring any bells? You're right—it's now known as Mount Hope High School. But first, it was the Bristol Junior-Senior High School. Then, it became the John F. Kennedy Memorial High School. And then, finally, in 1993, it became Mount Hope High School.

Today, we're familiar with its location on Chestnut Street. But actually, the school board considered another location, the Wardwell Farm. It's near the Town Dump. Can you imagine going to school next door to a dump?

The Bristol Junior-Senior High School was completed in 1966 and designed by Lloyd Kent. Kent was a Pawtucket native who went to school at MIT, and then opened his own firm in Providence in 1937. His firm, Kent, Cruise & Associates, specialized in designing schools. You can see more of their work at Roger Williams University. They designed the original campus buildings in 1967, including one known as the “muffin”.

Kent's idea was to allow school children to enjoy the special natural elements on the site, like Silver Creek,



The Bristol Junior-Senior High School, now Mount Hope High School

which flows through the school's 44 acre site. The building was only one story tall but very long, so that everyone would be close to the ground and could see the fields. The walls were made of concrete block, but the ceilings had wooden details. And oh the colors! Tangerine, mustard, olive green, blue, grey, tan, and beige. A rainbow! Well, sort of.

Bristol fortunately received some money from the State of Rhode Island to help fund the construction. This was helpful, because in 1993, when Bristol and Warren combined their school (and the name was changed to Mount Hope High), a new cafeteria and two-story addition were needed. Today, that color scheme is gone, but in its place are the school's colors—purple and white!

—Catherine Zipf

COLT ANDREWS
CRANSTON WORSTED MILLS
GUITERAS
HUGH COLE
KICKEMUIT
LLOYD KENT
LOUIS TIFFANY
MOUNT HOPE
PHILEMON STURGES
ROCKWELL
TAFT SCHOOL
WALLIS HOWE
WILLIAM O'ROURKE
WALLEY SCHOOL
WARDWELL FARM

Can you find these
names and places?



A	F	B	M	A	J	A	D	L	F	R	B	I	G	K	N	T	F	I	U
M	S	A	R	E	T	I	U	G	W	G	Z	S	K	S	E	H	C	B	G
S	L	L	I	M	N	E	L	O	O	W	N	O	T	S	N	A	R	C	S
T	N	U	T	E	L	C	B	V	W	O	S	R	J	D	Q	I	H	P	E
C	W	Y	U	M	C	L	Y	N	A	F	F	I	T	S	I	U	O	L	G
V	I	R	M	S	O	D	W	V	L	R	H	T	X	D	T	Z	U	L	R
O	L	J	M	W	L	U	N	G	L	E	C	Y	F	W	A	E	Y	O	U
C	L	F	R	B	T	K	N	J	I	X	F	A	E	O	F	X	D	Y	T
G	I	Q	A	I	A	Q	Y	T	S	Z	H	T	J	H	T	P	I	D	S
E	A	N	F	Z	N	M	H	Y	H	K	G	I	Q	I	S	K	L	K	N
O	M	A	L	X	D	P	P	R	O	O	H	U	G	H	C	O	L	E	O
P	O	S	L	P	R	L	B	U	W	T	P	M	S	Q	H	J	R	N	M
X	R	W	E	V	E	Y	Z	T	E	K	Z	E	L	C	O	M	A	T	E
D	O	B	W	C	W	D	M	L	D	N	U	K	E	O	O	P	J	Q	L
L	U	K	D	A	S	V	E	M	X	M	U	C	T	S	L	U	R	W	I
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G	K	Q	A	X	C	N	T	Y	R	O	C	K	W	E	L	L	O	D	P
Z	E	H	W	P	L	O	O	H	C	S	Y	E	L	L	A	W	X	Y	F
A	R	Q	B	S	I	C	B	K	Z	J	L	H	O	M	I	N	G	O	N

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Attention KIDS members: Would you like to contribute to a future issue? Let us know!!!

Email us at info@bhps.necoxmail.com or call 401-253-7223

KICKEMUIT MIDDLE SCHOOL

It definitely takes a village to build a school! From start to finish, it took more than six years to build Kickemuit Middle School. Actually, they didn't build Kickemuit Middle School, they built the Warren High School. It became Kickemuit Middle School when Bristol and Warren merged their school district in 1993.



The Warren High School, now Kickemuit Middle School

During the 1950s, Warren was a very nice place to live and raise a family. As a result, the number of children attending Warren's schools began to grow—and fast! By 1953, Warren's town officials began to realize that they were going to need a new school. By 1955, plans to build that school were underway. A budget of \$1,290,000 was created to fund the new building. That's a lot of money, even today!

The new school was designed by local Warren architect William O'Rourke and construction began in 1957. The school was made from cinder blocks (concrete) that were faced with brick. The school was designed to house

600 students but could accommodate up to 750. Everything was very new and modern, and there were laboratories, a machine shop, a carpentry shop and, of course, classrooms.

Like Mount Hope High, the Warren High School had a unique color scheme. Inside each classroom, the wall with the window and the

wall with the door were painted beige. But the "side" walls of each classroom were painted their own unique color and no two classrooms had the same color. As a result, the school had 22 different colors in it!

The Warren High School was not located in the center of Warren and many students now had to take a bus to school. But, interestingly, it was the same site on which Warren had built its very first school in 1673. Some things never change!

—Catherine Zipf

Become one of Pandora's History KIDS

Have you enjoyed reading the Bristol Historical & Preservation Society's KIDS newsletters? You can keep reading by becoming a BH&PS KIDS member. Our KIDS membership is designed for youngsters ages 15 and under. As part of the membership, you will continue to receive this bi-monthly newsletter (chock full of games, puzzles, and weird Bristol history facts), free attendance to our KIDS events, and free admission to our headquarters, so you can experience our "neat old stuff" first hand.

If your parents say OK, please fill out the below form, and send it to The Bristol Historical & Preservation Society, 48 Court St./PO Box 356, Bristol, RI 02809

Name:

Address:

Year of Birth:

Please have your parents include a check for \$10, payable to the Bristol Historical & Preservation Society.

The Colt School

Many people might not know that the bright white marble Colt School was actually a gift to the Town of Bristol from Samuel Pomeroy Colt, who lived next door at Linden Place. Mr. Colt was an attorney and a banker as well as a member of Congress and Attorney General for the state of Rhode Island. He also led the US Rubber Company.

The Colt School's auditorium has a stained glass window designed by the famous Louis C. Tiffany. Check it out!



Colt dedicated this school building as the Colt Memorial High School in 1913 in memory of his mother, Theodora DeWolf Colt. The cost for materials to construct this school was \$40,000.00, which is over one million dollars today.

The marble was quarried near Atlanta, Georgia, and had to be delivered to Rhode Island via train. It was extremely heavy to mine, transport and saw into manageable pieces. Look closely at the columns by the front door entrance on Hope Street. These columns are carved from a solid single block of marble in an ornate Corinthian style, borrowed from an ancient Greek design. There are only three elementary schools in the entire United States made of marble!

Next door is the Andrews School, built in 1938 and named for Robert Shaw Andrews, a former superintendent of Bristol's schools. After WWII, Bristol's growing population of children required a new junior-senior high school, which was built on Chestnut Street in 1966 (that's now Mount Hope High School). The Andrews School and the Colt Memorial High School were then merged to become the present day Colt-Andrews Elementary School.

—Clara Read



The Hugh Cole School

Did you know that the Hugh Cole School was part of a larger plan to house all the Warren schools along Asylum Road? The idea was that all of Warren's students would go to school in one place that would have its own library, ballfields, and playgrounds, all in walking distance to each other. It would be its own campus, like a college. Cool, right?

Philemon Sturges also designed the modern Citizen's Bank building in Bristol!



The idea came about in the middle of the 1960s. Warren had just built its new high school—now Kickemuit Middle School—in 1959. The town's student population was growing quickly and a new elementary-level school was needed. Warren's town leaders thought that putting all the schools in one part of town would be a great idea.

One of many designers behind this project was Philemon Sturges. He designed where each of the buildings would go. Sturges' plan was very ambitious, so the Town of Warren opted to go school by school. In 1968, they built the Hugh Cole School, which was called the "New School" for a few years before it got its name. It housed grades 4 through 6.



After that, Warren decided to continue using its other schools and in 1993, when Bristol and Warren merged their school districts, no new schools were needed. But, the original plan was pretty neat. What would it have been like to have your own school campus?

—Catherine Zipf

The Rockwell School

At the time the Rockwell School was constructed, in 1950, it had only three classrooms! The building was given to the Town of Bristol by Mr. Charles B. Rockwell, Jr., and was designed by Wallis Howe, a well known architect who lived in Bristol. Howe designed the school in the Georgian style so that it copies earlier buildings from the 1700s. Howe was also known for building private homes, libraries, and churches around Rhode Island.

The Rockwell School was needed because there were too many students at the Taft School. The Taft School isn't a school anymore, so it's okay if you've never heard of it. It used to be at the corner of Gooding Avenue and Hope Street. In 1959, the Taft School was "decommissioned" and Rockwell was added on to so that it could take those students in. The school bell from the Taft School was saved and can be seen inside the cupola dome at Rockwell.

Mr. Rockwell was the son of Charles Rockwell, the founder of the Cranston Worsted Mills (1886), in Cranston, RI. These mills originally served as a cotton factory. In 1904, Mr. Rockwell (the son) purchased land at 125 Thames Street in Bristol and built a mill. He manufactured many kinds of wool yarn for the next few decades. In 1920, Mr. Rockwell gave a small park located next door to the mill to the Town of Bristol. Today, there's a playground in that part—you've probably even played there!



—Clara Read



Look carefully! Can you see Mr. Taylor coming out to direct traffic?

The Guiteras School

In his will, Dr. Ramon Guiteras left \$350,000 to the Town of Bristol for the construction of a public school. The will demanded that the school be named for his mother, Elizabeth Wardwell Guiteras, that it be modeled after the Greek Temple style home of Marguerite (DeWolf) Mudge, on Poppasquash (built 1835; it existed at the time of Dr. Guiteras's death in 1917, but burned in 1919) and that the school should be white in color. Check! Check! Check!

In 1954, hurricane winds pushed all the cars in a parking lot where the Sip 'n Dip is onto the steps of the Guiteras

In accordance with Dr. Guiteras' wishes, architect Wallis Howe designed the school, with an exterior of buff brick and Indiana limestone, and a central projecting pavilion. The six Corinthian columns, were copied directly from the Mudge home on Poppasquash (in architecture, you're allowed to plagiarize). When completed, the new school was the largest in Bristol up to that time.

The school opened as a Junior High School for grades 7-9 and was dedicated on November 23, 1927. Gertrude Guiteras (1855-1940), sister of Dr. Guiteras, left a trust fund in her will for the maintenance and up-keep of the School. The Guiteras School served as Bristol's Junior High School until the new Bristol Junior-Senior High school was built in 1966 (now Mount Hope High School). At that time, it was converted into an elementary school.

—Rei Battcher





Pandora's Amazing Box of Bristol History

Hey, History Kids! Look what I just discovered, up on the second floor of the Historical Society! A bell, and not just any bell. It was loaned to the Town of Bristol in 1682 by Nathaniel Oliver (1652-1707), one of Bristol's founders. That makes it 337 years old!

Originally, the bell hung from a tree at the north-west corner of High and State Streets. Then, in 1692, it moved to the top of the Meeting House that used to be on the Town Common. Between 1809 and 1895, it was on the Old Brick Schoolhouse, which used to be where the Walley School is today, at the north-east corner of High and State Streets.

In September, 1684, an ordinance was passed that William Carrenton should be paid forty shillings a year to ring the bell 5:00 am and 9:00 pm on weekdays, and four times on Sundays. This was important because most people did not have clocks or watches, and they depended on the bell to let them know when it was time to go to work, school, and church. The bell rang every night until 1871. It was also used to call the fire brigade, when needed, and to start the school day.

The bell is now enjoying its well-deserved retirement, here in our collections. Stop by and you may be invited to ring it. Now go out and make history!

Open on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays from 1 to 5 p.m. & Summer Saturdays from 1 to 3 p.m. 401-253-7223 www.bhpsr.org



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