

WHEELER SCHOOL AND LIBRARY

101 MAIN STREET

To provide higher education for the young people in North Stonington, Miss Sarah J. (Jennie) Wheeler, a daughter of Major Dudley R. Wheeler, started the Edgar H. Wheeler School in memory of her brother.

The first classes were held in the house east of the Congregational Church and later the site of Larson's Store. The students dubbed the school "Over Brook Academy" because the brook ran underneath the building. Francis H. Kimball, architect of several New York City and Philadelphia buildings, undertook the design project to construct a new school and library.



In 1901 the school moved to this building constructed of Westerly granite. The lions guarding the steps are made of Italian marble. The school provided a free education to North Stonington students and welcomed boarding students from outside the community.



The new school building was based on the Richardson Romanesque style which utilized different building materials such as pink granite around the windows and gray granite for the rest of the building. Other features of the building are arched second floor windows, a recessed door, and polished columns of red granite.

The land for the first Elementary School (now the Middle School) and the High School was given by the Wheeler Trustees. A Board of Trustees continues to oversee the funds left by the Wheeler family in support of the library.