

The East Greenwich Academy

By Patrycja Chrzanowska and Brayden Stanger

Have you ever heard of the East Greenwich Academy? It was a private boarding high school in East Greenwich. In 1802, Ethan Clarke, William Arnold, Richard Matthewson, Earle Mowry, Peter Turner, Ray Greene, Elihu Greene, and Christopher Greene built the East Greenwich Academy. It was the only high school at that time. It was often called the "Heart of East Greenwich".



MAIN BUILDING

The buildings that belonged to the East Greenwich Academy were the Main Building, Eastman Memorial Hall, Swift Gymnasium, Winsor Dormitory, and Rose Cottage. The Main Building was built of red brick and was three stories high. Students would come to this building to take classes. The classes a student could take their first year were English I, Algebra I, American Government, Ancient History, and General Science. The subjects changed every year. If taking a Business course, students took more classes like Typing, Bookkeeping, and Junior Business Training.



EASTMAN DORMITORY

The Eastman Memorial Hall was the girls' dormitory, which was south of the Main Building. Many students from other towns and countries attended the Academy. The Eastman Memorial Hall was a place for these girls to sleep and eat. There was a reception room and dining room. Women also had tea parties in the parlor downstairs.



SWIFT GYMNASIUM

The Swift Gymnasium included a bowling alley, showers, a locker room, and a trophy room. It also had an indoor track and a

stage for performances. Students could come here to exercise and do extracurricular activities. The Swift Gym was named after Augustus Swift, because he gave a donation of \$10,000 to restore it. It is now a Senior Center today.

The Winsor Dormitory was not only the boys' dormitory, but also a faculty house. It was purchased by the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1856. The Winsor Dormitory was located on Peirce Street.

The Rose Cottage is located on 112 Peirce Street and is still standing today. It was once where the Headmaster of the Academy lived. Dr. Francis Durbin Blakeslee was the longest serving Headmaster. He served for 25 years! Another popular Headmaster was Professor George Washington Greene. The Rose Cottage got its name from the beautiful roses that climbed up the side of the house. It is two stories tall with Elm trees on the outside.

The Academy ranked highly educationally and operated for 141 years. The first headmaster was Abner Alden and his assistant was Jeremiah Chadsey. He was headmaster of the East Greenwich Academy for 6 years. The secondary committee was Thomas Howland, Thomas Tillinghast, Job Greene, Joseph Briggs, and Daniel G. Harris. A secondary committee makes decisions about our community's schools.

All that is left of the Academy is Academy Field, Swift Gym, and the Rose Cottage. The other buildings are no longer standing today. The reason why is because there wasn't enough money to restore them. We hope that the "Heart of East Greenwich" is always remembered.