

ACADEMY STREET SCHOOL

YESTERDAY

TODAY

TOMORROW

Prepared by Gus R. Horvath
Photos courtesy of Charlotte L. Evarts Memorial Archives

YESTERDAY

HAND ACADEMY

1884

- Replaces Lee's Academy (Tuition of \$4.00 per 12 week term)
- “ Where the youth of said town may receive a higher education”
- Gifted by Daniel Hand
- Three Conditions Stipulated :(Nov. 22, 1884)
 - Said property to always be known as Hand Academy
 - Nor shall the same be used for any other purpose
 - Said town shall employ a suitable teacher or teachers.... At least 8 months of each year.
- Land and building valued at \$15,110
- Operating cost for first school year at \$862.84
- Tuition waived in 1887 and Academy becomes a free public high school

REPLACEMENT

1921

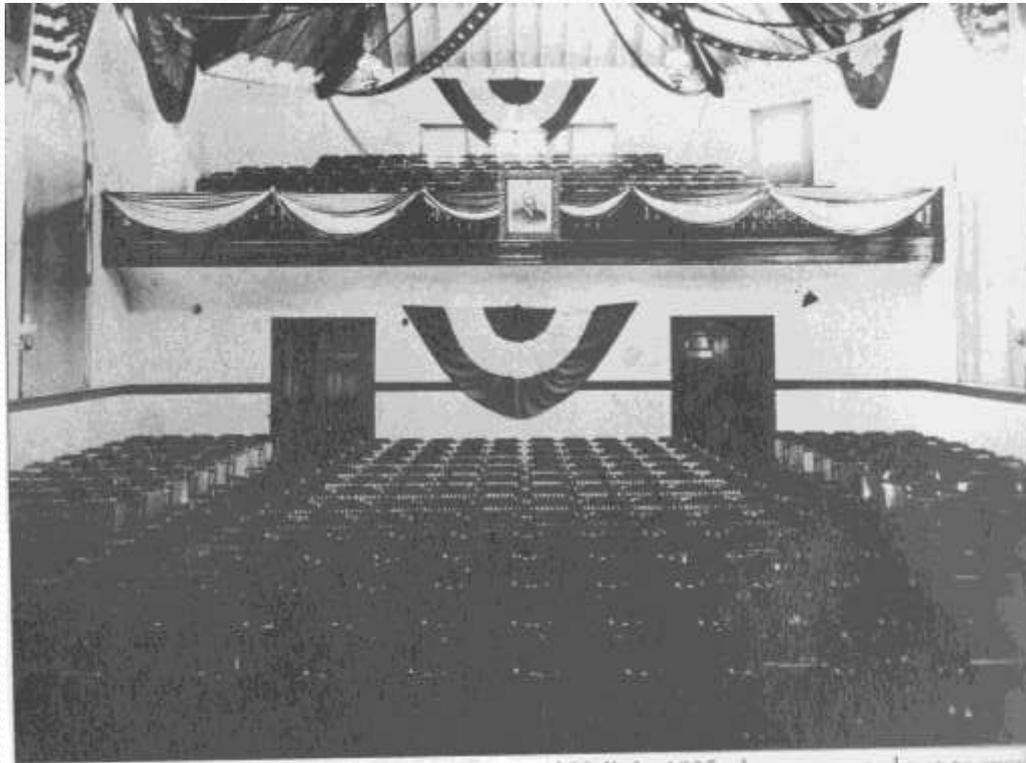
- Oct. 4, 1920 town meeting voted to consolidate 11 of 13 one room school houses.
- Increased downtown enrollment resulted in 40 students in classes at Memorial Hall
- “The best interest of schools and community... construction of a new school with proper modern equipment... located on the site of the Hand Academy”
- Estimated cost of \$151,187

ONE ROOM SCHOOL



District schools such as the Union District School, which stood where I-95 passes under Horsepond Road, still served the educational needs of the town although increasing population would see them fall into disuse at the beginning of the next decade.

MEMORIAL HALL



In 1931, the balcony was removed from Memorial Hall. In 1935, the town voted not to spend \$2,500 for a heating system. In 1938, \$18,000 was appropriated to remodel Memorial Hall for use as town offices, and in 1939, the town clerk's office and probate records were moved into the newly renovated building. They would remain until the completion of the Town Campus in 1995.

Consolidated School Building, Madison, Conn.



ADDITION 1935

- Town Meeting on Oct. 15, 1935 Appropriated \$100,000
- Built a 4 Classroom and Gym addition to rear of existing Academy Consolidated School
- Moved Lee Academy to present location
- Applied for and received \$45,000 depression era WPA funding



NEW HIGH SCHOOLS

1958 - 2003

- Town Meeting in 1958 approved new high school on Green Hill Road
- Daniel Hand estate trustees (American Missionary society) releases Town of the three conditions in Nov. 1958
- Released requires naming new high school “Daniel Hand”
- In 2003 replaced by newer high school
- Re-named “Polson Middle School”





TODAY

ACADEMY SCHOOL BUILDING

- Moth balled in 2004
- Turned over to town in 2011

TOMORROW

- 2006, JCJ Architects reassessed viability for school use
- Addressed : Current code compliance(fire, health, ADA, etc.)
- Option #1: 280 student school, limited renovation, \$6,900,000
- Option #2: 350 student school, partial demo/new, \$23,000,000
- Option #3: 350 student school, complete demo, \$22,900,000
- Declining elementary enrollment reduces need for K-4 rooms and no action taken

JCJ report available at Selectman's Office

TOMORROW

- 2009 DMR INC. reviewed physical status of all town buildings
- Marketing reconnaissance study as to potential uses of Academy
- Conclusion that building has physical potential for use as:
 - Office space
 - Retail space
 - Housing
- Office space use problematical because of economic climate
- Retail space use problematical because of building layout
- Residential use found most supportable:
 - Condominiums at market rate
 - Apartments at market rates
 - Age restricted housing
 - Subsidized rental units

DMR Inc. report available at Selectman's office

NOW COMMUNITY DIALOGUE

- Final disposition of Academy School building up to townsfolk
- Landmark building in Historic District
- Expensive to convert to any use
- Square footage not required for any Town uses
- Informed decision making is essential