

The Avery School



The Original Avery School building, circa 1880

The Avery School was the main elementary school in Needham Heights for about 50 years. As it grew crowded, the Carter School was built right across the street, and the grades were split.

The Avery School was built in 1869 on land owned by Jonathan Avery, a prominent landowner in the Heights, and important in the development of its knitting industry. He also served the town as Postmaster for the Heights, and as Assessor. Avery was a comprehensive school, with a classroom for each grade. The other four grade schools were either one-room or two-room schools, with blended classes. Avery School was enlarged in 1885, using money paid by Wellesley in settlement over its separation from Needham. It was replaced by the current brick building in 1906. It was used as a school until 1972, and later converted into condominium residences.