

The Emery Grover Building



The Emery Grover Building was built in 1898 as the first Needham High School. Prior to that time, high school classes were held on the top floor of the Kimball Primary School on School Street. The new school housed three classes (grades 10-12) of about 10-15 students each, three teachers, and a principal.

The archway on the south side was the boy's entrance, and the archway on the right was for the girls. The High School used the building until 1924, when a larger new school (the Highland Avenue School) was built on the lot to its north. The present High School was built in 1930, replacing the two older buildings. The Highland Avenue School served as Junior High School for a while, and then both it and the Emery Grover held overflow classes from the high school and junior high. It has been the school administration building since the 1970s.

Emery Grover (1842-1920) was a lawyer and judge. Judge Grover (as known) also served in numerous town offices, especially as selectman and for a long time as a member of the school committee. It is for his dedication to the schools that the School Administration building was named after him.