

The event of the year, the culmination of many years of effort and hopeful wishing, was the opening of the Thomas Willett School on Watson Avenue when schools began in September. This new building houses all the pupils who were in the Capron and the Sanford Street schools, and three rooms of pupils who would have attended the Bank Street School. It also cares for the vocational school, having shops for the boys and domestic science rooms for the girls. All pupils have the use of the auditorium-gymnasium, a new feature in the Attleboro school system. The following description of the building was furnished by the architects, Kilham, Hopkins and Greeley.

The Thomas Willett School is located between the high land on Watson Avenue and the low area occupied by the Municipal Playground, and takes advantage of the great differences in level by a plan in which class rooms are all on the ground level; those on the lower floor of the building are level with the grounds on the south side; those on the upper floor with the Watson Avenue grounds. There is, however, in the center unit a third story in which the continuation school for girls is housed in a separate suite of rooms, cooking, sewing, class and toilet rooms, all one flight above the ground.

The class rooms are distributed along the southerly side in order to make maximum use for the children of the sunny exposure, administrative rooms are on the north, as also the main toilets. In the southeast corner is located the kindergarten with its special facilities, including a large semicircular bay window. Over this bay is a sundial carefully worked out for the exact latitude and longitude to tell accurately the sun-time, as well as the day of the year. This was in charge of an expert in this field, R. N. Mayall.

The boys' continuation work, like the girls, has its own suite of rooms. Under the gymnasium, are provided shop and class room accommodations, with full size windows opening to the west, and with a door and driveway for automobiles. The electric service meter and switch room is in this part of the building

In the west wing is an assembly hall designed also for use as a gymnasium, and equipped with stage, chair storage room and separate vestibuled entrances from outdoors.

The building is equipped with the most complete and modern system of heating and ventilation, Mr. A. R. Moller, the designer, has worked out and tested all the special features to give adequate and responsive automatic control. The lighting and power system, designed by Mr. E. P. Mahard, is planned on the most approved lines and provides the required illumination, motorization, clock and bell service, sound distribution layout, etc. There is also a system of emergency gas lighting in case of failure of electric current.

The building itself is constructed according to the high standards laid down by the Commonwealth, with additional safeguards which the architects, Kilham, Hopkins & Greeley, have been able to include within the appropriation that was made available.

The design has been worked out to safeguard the pupils and facilitate their school work and play, but always with economy in view, and with a minimum of expenditure on anything that could be called ornamentation or elaboration. The architects have had the assistance of the local firm of Higgins & Johnston throughout the period of construction. This construction was all in the hands of James A. Munroe of North Attleboro, general contractor, who has been most cooperative under an extremely difficult and exacting market, as far as building is concerned, but whose energy and patience have helped to complete the contract successfully.