



Hutchinson School

The Pelhamville School, a small frame building with two classrooms, was the first public school to open in North Pelham in 1866. The school

accommodated approximately 50 students, mostly from families who had moved from New York City when two investors purchased the Wolf farm for \$11,800 and turned the land into 100' x 100' plots.

Education was highly regarded at Pelhamville. Some graduates by age 13 mastered not only typical grammar school studies but also "algebra through quadratic equations, bookkeeping, and United States History."

Twenty-three years later, another school was erected and eventually called the North Pelham School. It was expanded to a two-story building some time between 1908 and 1912, just before it was destroyed by fire in the winter of 1912.

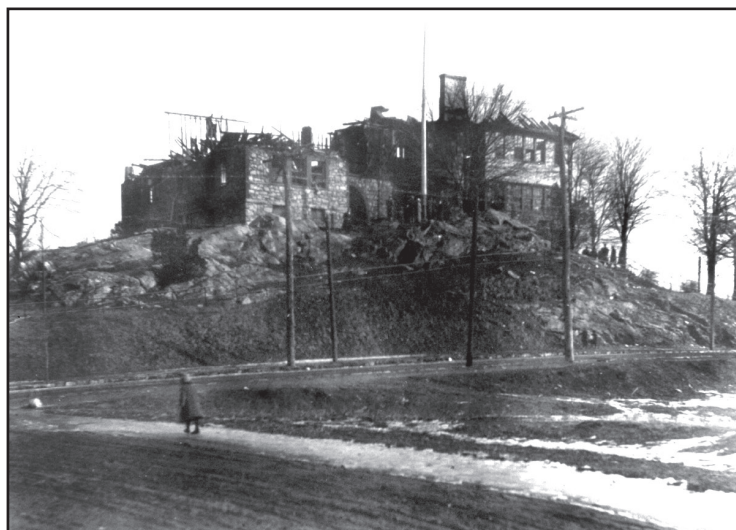
The main structure of the present school was built in 1914 by Eugene Lyon for \$40,000. Named in honor of Anne Hutchinson, the school contained ten classrooms, a kindergarten room, a gymnasium, a manual training room and an assembly hall seating 180. It was extended in 1928 as enrollment grew to 410 kindergarten through sixth grade students. Overcrowding in the 1970s led to the utilization of two portable classrooms, which will be replaced this year. A new Nature's Classroom is transforming the land surrounding the school into a resource for learning for all Pelham students.



Top left: 1888, North Pelham Elementary School, with Isaac C. Hill, principal of the two-room schoolhouse and later North Pelham School, Miss Furnan and Miss Salesbury. Miss Ella Donnelly became Principal in 1918, a post she held until 1965. Known as a strict disciplinarian, she started her career as a penmanship teacher and also a seventh grade teacher at Siwanoy School. Hutchinson School had only six principals in its first 100 years.



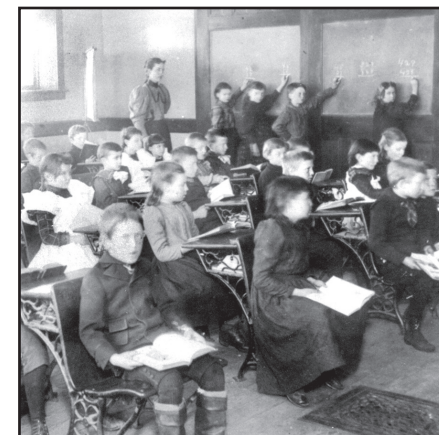
Bottom left: North Pelham School Grammar Department, 1900.



North Pelham School destroyed by fire in 1912.

Innovation, 1928

An innovative practice was begun at Hutchinson in 1928 with a "demonstration class" comprised of six boys, from 10 to 15 years old. After the students' were evaluated, they progressed at their own rates under the instruction of Miss Hazel Brooks. While regular grade work was given during the first part of both morning and afternoon sessions, the remainder of the day was devoted to art, crafts, and manual training.



North Pelham School Classroom, 1896.