

## School No. 1



This is a very old photograph of School One. The first new public school building on Park Avenue, it was constructed in the 1890s at a cost of \$18,000. It was designed by Stanford White as an adaptation of Romanesque architecture. The building was originally opened as an elementary school, but within a decade it served as a high school as well. In 1926, it again reverted to being an elementary school, and it remained in this capacity until its closing in 1974. Although it was in the National Register, the school no longer stands. The building was destroyed by an arsonist. A plaque now commemorates its site as a small testimonial to the great influence the building had on the generations of students who passed through its corridors for over eighty years.

The memories are many. The start of the school day began when the bell in the belfry was rung by Billy Bruno, one of our neighbors. Every day, at exactly 9:00, he pulled the bell rope, which was located on the auditorium stage and we would march into school. Then there were the teachers who taught (it seems forever)--Miss Speer, Mrs. Hetfield, Miss Whitman, Mrs. Conover, Mrs. Gable. I will never forget recess on the playground where we played hop scotch, jumped rope, created our own chalk games; the wonderful holiday plays, collecting newspapers and saving our nickels and dimes for bonds as our contribution to the war effort, and planting a victory garden on the school grounds.