

# Union Square Grammar School (Hannibal Hamlin School)

*Did you know...*

*In 1919, Hannibal Hamlin School on Union Street was the largest school on the West Side with 464 pupils. Bangor's East Side Abraham Lincoln was the largest school city wide with 850 pupils. Valentine School on First Street was the 3rd largest in the city with 213 pupils.*

The Union Square Grammar school was a large brick edifice built in 1875 on Union Street. According to the Bangor Museum and History Center, when it was built "it was the pride of the school department". In 1880, the school was upgraded to include water closets. In 1910, the Bangor School Board voted to change the name of the school to the Hannibal Hamlin School. According to Maine Memory.net the three-story building held eight schoolrooms, three playrooms in the basement, and a coal furnace, and was outfitted with the then-new combined desk and chair, described as "superior to any other" for "the health and comfort of the pupils."

The Hannibal Hamlin School building was razed in 1959 during the Urban Renewal process in favor of a shopping center. (Read more about 1960's Urban Renewal project by clicking on the Urban Renewal link on the Neighborhood History page.)

In April of 1960, the first Shop 'N Save store opened on the site of the former school on the corner of Third and Union Streets in Bangor. Today, the site is occupied by Rite Aid Pharmacy and Gold Star Cleaners.

Click on the Hannibal Hamlin School picture link on the Neighborhood History page to see a photo of the school courtesy of CardCow.com.