

**KINGSTON, 1959
BOOK 2710, PAGE 217**

THE FAUNCE SCHOOL

**Originally Called the Center Primary School
A “Functional Antique” Restored to Town’s Service in 1976**

In 1839, Kingston’s brand new School Committee issued its first report, which in no uncertain terms lamented the dismal conditions and general inadequacy of the existing schoolhouses. Five years later, the Town decided to spend a windfall of surplus federal revenue on six new one-room schoolhouses. The crowded middle district in the center of town was split into two, and the Center Primary School was built at 16 Green Street. The simple, classic Greek Revival exterior, typical of the period, has remained virtually unchanged, with the exception of a small room added to the back in 1888.

In 1924, Center Primary was named in honor of Walter Faunce, the 92 year old Selectman, former teacher and School Commissioner. Just two years later, however, the school was virtually abandoned. In 1934, the town sold the building to the Kingston Grange for a meeting hall; in 1959, the town repurchased the building to use as an office annex to the Town Hall across Green Street. Arson gutted the building in 1970, but in 1976, Kingston’s 250th Anniversary Committee restored the Faunce School as a meeting space for both civic and private groups

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