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History of the Public Schools

The history of the summit school system is quite unique. Along with the city of summit's proximity to New York City and our train station, our great public school system, which is currently, ranked 26th in the state, represents the many great aspects of our town. The first school in Summit was know simply as P.S. 1 and it was located right here in city hall. This was the main school in Summit until Roosevelt school was built in the late 1880's. However, during this period Summit was rapidly expanding and officials began to recognize the need for more schools and an official town hall. At this time while summit was scouting the best locations for a new school a wealthy New York businessman contacted city officials. He offered them a large piece of land to build their new school on; the businessman had just one request, not money nor great recognition. He wanted the school to be named after his late son Brayton who had died at the age of 12 a year before. The town agreed and that is why today Brayton is the only elementary school not named after a president. Six years after the construction of Brayton in 1911, Summit announced plans to build two new schools, The summit high and junior high school and Washington School. With the completion of these schools in 1923 and 1924 respectively, PS 1 was shut down and renovated to become the new town hall.