Mayhew School

The Mayhew School was first established as the West School in 1803 to "accommodate those who are near the centre of town." That same year it was widely known as the Hawkins Street School for Boys. In 1821, it was renamed after Reverend Jonathan Mayhew of the Old West Church, and kept that name until its closing.

When the Derne Street School transitioned to a girl’s school in 1830, the boys transferred to the Mayhew School. This increased the school’s enrollment to 409 by 1838. A second building was constructed to house these students in 1847. At times, the school was co-educational, but is remembered largely as a boy’s school. The Mayhew School on Hawkins Street was closed and consolidated with the Phillips School in 1879, and the building was converted to lodging for the homeless.

A new Mayhew Primary School was built at 38 Poplar Street (now Chambers Street) in 1897 by the architect John Lyman Faxon (1851-1918). The schoolhouse was in the French traditional style and was three stories high with 14 rooms. Faxon, a Quincy native, studied architecture at MIT. He opened his own practice in 1878 and is best known for the Rollins Chapel at Dartmouth College (1884-1885), the Hotel Victoria (1886) at the southeast corner of Dartmouth and Newbury in Boston, the First Baptist Church at 848 Beacon St. in Newton (1888), and the First Congregational Church in Detroit (1891). Even when the Mayhew School was closed in 1959 it was widely considered "one of the most picturesque among the school buildings of the city."

Famous graduates of the Mayhew School include historian Francis Samuel Drake and Samuel S. Pierce (of S.S. Pierce stores). West End politician Martin Lomasney also attended the Mayhew School until the eighth grade.