Blackstone Elementary School was built at 33 Blossom Street in 1916. A four story brick building, the original schoolhouse had twenty-four classrooms which accommodated an enrolled class of 1,056 students. In 1935 Blackstone was reconstructed and opened the following year as a Junior High due to the nearby Washington School closing. Lower grades were transferred to the Wendell Phillips, Peter Faneuil and Winchell schools.

During the West End Redevelopment the enrollment at Blackstone dropped dramatically from 3,500 to 500. When the final class graduated in 1959 there were only twenty-eight ninth graders and forty-nine eighth graders left. Irene Zagulska, a Myrtle Street resident and displaced person from Germany, was valedictorian.

“We are leaving the district from which we have spent many happy childhood years. We have watched for the past two years our school class diminishing and our friends going away to other places and other states. Yet by reason of our experience, we should have no fears as to our ability to advance just in new environments and to change.”

– Louise Capodillupo Class Salutatorian

The Blackstone School Song

“Where the vale of old Trimountain meets the river blue, Stands our loving Alma Mater, ever fair to view. Noble, glorious and victorious, let the truth prevail. To they name we’ll e’re be loyal, Blackstone, hail! All hail!”

Courtesy of West End Museum