

Key Point: Octagonal Tower

The staircase beyond this door leads up to the octagonal tower on the roof. The upper portion of each window in the tower is fitted with colored glass, much like the windows in the center of the lecture hall. The bell that hangs in the tower was rung to mark the start and end of each class. The tower's ceiling was originally made from paper, like the ceilings in other parts of the building, but it was resurfaced with wooden planks soon after.

This type of rooftop tower was a common feature of Western-style buildings constructed early in the Meiji era (1868–1912). At that time, towers were considered a defining feature of Western architecture. Similar towers can be seen on the buildings of the former Yamabe School and the former Nakagomi School, both in Nagano Prefecture.