

Perinton Memories: District 3 Schoolhouse on Turk Hill Road

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Written by Bill Poray



The District 3 schoolhouse is seen in this photo, believed to be circa early 1900s. / Provided by Perinton historian's office

The District 3 schoolhouse is located on the east side of Turk Hill Road, north of what was long called Palmyra Road, more commonly known today as Route 31.

The district was established in 1813. Prior to the existence of a school building, the earliest classes were likely held in the homes of area families. The first District 3 schoolhouse was built in 1822 by Arona Bradford, on land donated by John Peters. In the earliest years of the district, the school was open as much as nine months per year. During the 1840s, school was in session in the winter and one month in the summer. Most of the students came from farming families. Their priorities in the spring and fall were the planting and harvesting of crops.

While there are no photographs of the initial schoolhouse, we do have details regarding the building and the operation of the school. In 1827, school trustees authorized the purchase of a Franklin stove. In order to fuel the new stove, families were required to provide a half cord of firewood, cut and split, for each of their children attending the school. In 1844, there were 61 students enrolled in District 3, and the teacher was paid \$107 for the year.

In 1850, District 3 trustees voted to build a new schoolhouse on approximately the same site. The builder, Thomas A. Slocum, was paid \$388 at the completion of the job. When some extra work on the school house was required a year later, Slocum was paid two more dollars.



The District 3 schoolhouse, circa 1950s. / Provided by Perinton historian's office

In the early 1900s, electric lights and indoor toilets were installed in the school. The above photo is probably just before this era, as no electrical service wires are visible. The student population continued to grow, requiring the addition of a second classroom in 1929.

The 1950s photograph seen below shows the schoolhouse much as it looked after this addition. The centralization of Fairport schools resulted in the closure of district schoolhouses in the early 1950s. In 1957, the District 3 building became the home of the American Legion Brooks-Shepard Post 765. For the past 32 years, it has been a private residence.

Photos and text provided by Bill Poray, Perinton town historian.