

DISTRICT SCHOOL #2 – MIDVALE SCHOOL on BAIRD ROAD

Organized in 1813, District #2's first schoolhouse was a one-room frame building on the Rochester Road (Fairport Road) just west of Baird Road. The district saw significant growth in the early 19th century primarily due to the Erie Canal, which brought growth to the village of Fairport and the surrounding area. Eventually District #2 was divided and an additional district (#8) was formed. In 1827, allocated funds totaled \$30 for 89 pupils. By 1852, with 146 students, the teacher earned \$113.88, and the library was allocated \$5.99. By 1867, the school year had lengthened into a winter and a summer term.



In 1883, Town Road Commissioner Garrett DeNise's proposed purchase of the school property for the widening of the Rochester Road was agreed to at the annual meeting. The sale netted \$400 for the building of a new one-room brick structure around the corner on Baird Road. An additional \$350 was raised for the purchase of the site and to provide a fenced school yard.

The School Commissioner's reports from 1905 and 1906 noted that the structure was sound and well cared for and that the library had increased its collection from 190 to 250 books. Teacher May Johnson was rated as "fair," receiving a salary of \$32 per month in 1905, and teacher Frank Welsher was rated as "OK" with a salary of \$40 per month in 1906. The flag was properly displayed and the attendance laws were followed. The only problem in 1906 was that the boys were in need of a "urinal trough." A letter from the Third Assistant Commissioner of Education threatened a cut-off of public money if the problem was not rectified.

Midvale School continued to grow, and in the 1920's was enlarged to its present size. The three levels of instruction, elementary, intermediate, and higher, were taught by Bernice Bridges, Rolla Rice, and Bessie Kenney respectively. Each year the school graduated 7 to 9 students.

In 1927, like most other years, the entire Midvale School took part in the graduation ceremony. There were songs by the elementary and primary grades, a piano duet, speeches by the graduates and the Superintendent, and, of course, the presentation of diplomas and awards to the nine graduates. By the 40's and 50's the songs had expanded into full-scale operettas and were financed by suppers put on by parent groups. An invitation from the same period advertises a "Community Dinner - Come to eat, sing, and be merry with your neighbors - at the community tureen dinner at 'Midvale School,'Bring your favorite dish" Clearly, Midvale School was a community center as well as a school.

By the early 1940's, Bessie Kenney had become principal, Adelle Goetzman was teaching kindergarten, Jane Bourne, first and second grade; Verna Luke, third and fourth; and Eugene Bouchard, fifth and sixth. Helen Vollbracht taught music and Effie Andrews, art. Due to two fatal accidents, a bus was purchased to transport students. Because students were bused, kindergarteners had to stay for the full day. As a result, Mrs. Cornelius, who lived across the road from the school, provided hot lunches, using government surplus food and homegrown produce.

Centralization was first discussed at Midvale School in 1948, and in 1951, parents voted to send their children to Johanna Perrin School on Potter Place, the new centralized elementary school. In 1960 the structure was sold for office space and was briefly a restaurant and disco in the 1970's. Since 1983, it has been used as offices and is an anchor point of the Baird Road Historic District.