

DISTRICT #7 and #12 SCHOOL, “THE JOY SCHOOL”

“...beginning at the Southwest Corner of lot No twenty eight

“From thence Running north half A mile

“Thence East to the town line

“From thence South on the town line to the Swamp

“Thence westerly following the swamp to the place of beginning”

In this manner District #7 School was laid out on April 4, 1816, on Macedon Center Road opposite today’s Perinton Parkway.

The earliest records, dated 1819, note that school was in session for 4 months, and served 65 students. The first classes were

probably held in a private home, as a school building wasn’t built until 1823. The “Joy School,” named after the pioneer Joy family, was built on 3 square rods of land that had been purchased by school trustees Warren Joy, Asa Bullock and Constant Wood.

Between the years of 1844 and 1852, the student population grew from 57 to 80, and the budget from \$42.63 to \$79.75. In 1866, Luther Curtis, School Commissioner of the First Commission District of Monroe County, ordered that Perinton District #7 be redesignated as District #12, since the proximity of Victor’s #7 school to Perinton’s #7 had caused confusion. The boundaries of District #12 were modified at least five times between the 1820’s and 1840 as the population changed and shifted.

The school records of the late 1800’s show the usual preoccupation with the raising and allocation of money, but also an emphasis on maintenance and improvements to the new building that was constructed in 1876. In 1877, \$100 was raised for 22 new double seats, a teacher’s seat, and four new back seats. A new chain pump was purchased for \$10, and the old one sold to Garrett DeNise for \$4. New shade trees were bought and the trustees were “empowered to have them set in good shape.”

Vandalism is not just a modern phenomenon. School records of 1898 note that after some damage had been done to school property, a “resolution was introduced and carried that the sum of ten dollars be paid to any person furnishing evidence that will lead to the arrest and conviction of any person found mutilating and destroying the school property of the district.”

The school commissioner’s report for 1906 describes a building in fair condition, except for the heat which was “poor.” The “side walls and ceiling need plaster and paper, stove escapes gas very bad, i.e. not very old but the pupils say it always (sic) escaped gas, something should be done to do away with the gas and a new stove is about the only way out of it.” The twenty-five students were taught by Carrie Hurley, who was rated as OK to very good and received a salary of \$36 per month. The library contained 77 volumes.

The first two decades of the 20th century brought about a significant change in the makeup of the voting population and subsequently in the makeup of the elected school officials. As early as 1916, women were recorded as voters in the district, and in 1917 Mrs. William Dietrich was elected trustee, Mrs. Kate Schoolmaster, collector, and Mrs. A.J. Hull clerk.

A new school building with central heat, indoor plumbing and electricity was opened in 1924 at a cost of \$7000 to be paid over seven years. The new school was also used as a community center for “strictly social affairs, dancing being particularly specified....”

During the next 25 years, school meetings dealt with salaries and upkeep as well as with two stubborn problems: poison ivy and water in the basement. By the late 1940’s, centralization was being discussed and in 1950, it was decided to close the school for a two year trial period and send all students to the Fairport schools. The next year the Fairport schools centralized and the Joy School was permanently closed and sold. The building, now a much modified private residence, still stands on Macedon Center Road.

