

IMAGES

...THEN AND NOW

From the Indian Hill Historical Society



**Buckingham Lodge
1861**

One Room Schoolhouses of Indian Hill

In the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, local youths were educated at country schools within walking distance of their homes. Three of these schools within Village limits are still visible today.

Jefferson School at the northeast corner of Drake and Indian Hill Roads was used from 1857 until the 1940s for elementary education. The original room closest to the corner had stone sills, lintels, and a gabled roof capped with a bell tower. In the late 1890s the building was enlarged with an ell, creating an L-shaped floor plan. Then in 1926, another wing was added, mirroring the original one room and creating the current U-shaped configuration. The crossroads where the school and Armstrong Chapel was once considered the center of the Village. Community meetings were held at the school. Local produce was sold at the Country Market there; the annual Memorial Day parade assembled there; and Village homecomings were held on Labor Day weekend there for decades. When the Indian Hill School at Drake Road opened, the Board of Education sold



Jefferson School—1880s

Jefferson School to Armstrong Chapel (1951). Currently Armstrong Church uses the structure as its administrative offices. After a complete renovation, the edifice was renamed Jefferson Center as a tribute to its history.



Franklin School, c. 1925

The Franklin School (1869) at the intersection of Given and Shawnee Run Roads was also only one room originally, and expanded in 1931. The school song begins with these words: “By the old Camargo golf course, Stands a dear old school, 1869’s her birthday, Still we keep the rule...” By 1944 Franklin School became too small for the number of students enrolled, and it closed. It became a private residence in the 1950s. The belfry is gone, but the dates “School District No. 10 1869” and “A.D. 1931” are etched on stone plaques on the north side of the building. Recently the homeowners elegantly added on to and upgraded the residence.

Known also as the Washington Heights School, the “Little Red Schoolhouse” is at the northeast crossroads of Camargo and Given Roads. It opened its doors in 1874 to 52 students and provided local children education until 1940. The belfry, elaborate brickwork, double entry doors with a fanlight transom, and tall arched windows with matching shutters are notable architectural features. Inside the blackboard spanning the entire north wall was the newest innovation in teaching in the

late 1800s. After the closure of the schoolhouse, the structure was used as Administrative Offices for Indian Hill Village, a community center where art shows and gatherings took place, and the headquarters for the Indian Hill School Board of Education. In 1974, the Indian Hill Historical Museum Association, now the Indian Hill Historical Society, restored the tired structure and brought it back to its former glory. For more than 40 years it has been used for lectures, programs, parties, weddings, recitals and meetings. The Schoolhouse was modernized in 2003 with the addition of a state-of-the-art kitchen, two restrooms, a storage area, and an exterior handicapped access ramp. The historic structure is usable for all types of functions. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

In these once one room schools, students learned the 3 Rs: “readin’, ‘ritin’ and ‘rithmetic” from the schoolmaster or schoolmarm. It was radically different from 21st century schools. Students of all ages and abilities were mixed together. There was only one teacher for all subjects and all grades. That one teacher remained at the school until he/she retired. There was no cafeteria, no bus service, no computers, and no central heat. These three schoolhouses were all constructed of brick, and each was named for a famous American. Driving by them reminds one of the heritage of yesteryear. Indeed, they are jewels of Indian Hill’s



**Washington Heights School, c. 1885
aka, The Little Red Schoolhouse**