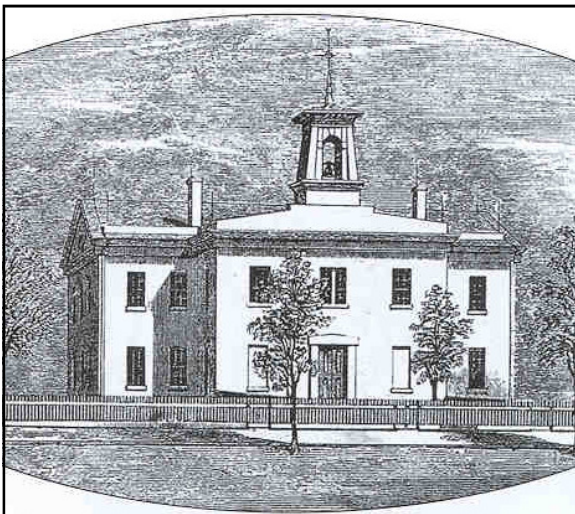


If ever a building represented the "old schoolhouse" in Perrysburg, it is the one that existed for some 114 years on the southeast corner of Indiana and Louisiana Avenues.

At one time in years past, it was only the only public school in town and it was a very handsome building as you can see in the picture on the far right panel.



The First Schoolhouse

However, it was not our first schoolhouse. The first school was built on the same site in 1849 and later burned down. It was called the Union School, a frame building constructed at a cost of \$1,600. Just twenty years later it had to be enlarged and at that time the wooden walls were bricked over and a third floor added.

When it burned down in 1894, the Perrysburg newspaper headlined the disaster "A Smoldering Ruin! The Dear Old School-house!" But in the same

news article it pointed out that this was never a suitable building for school, that "its long stairs (to the third floor) have been the cause of the death of many a young lady who might be a healthy, happy woman today" (an apparent exaggeration), and that its bad lighting was the reason a great number of people in town were wearing glasses (perhaps some truth in this?). The newspaper editor seemed to be both sorry and glad it burned down!



**The 1849 Schoolhouse
as it appeared ca. 1890**

Classes had to be held in several different places until a new building was completed at a cost of \$30,000. It was designed by a Toledo architectural

firm and its architectural style is known as Romanesque, which was popular for schools and libraries in America at the time, the "Gay Nineties".

A typical feature of that style is the building's large square bell tower (or belfry) with the pointed top that rose from a three-sided bay to the left of the main entrance. This tower was 80 feet high and could be seen from all over town. It was also a temptation for enterprising students who occasionally climbed up it to hang their graduating class banner from the belfry.

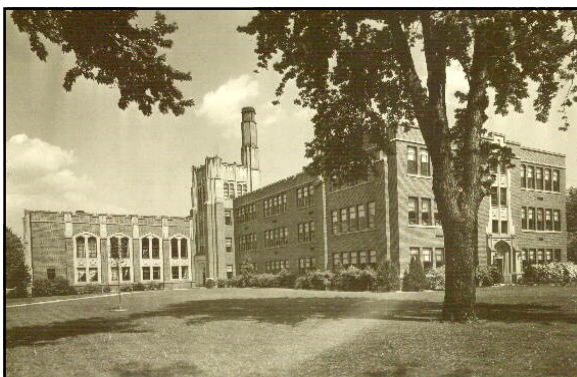


The Old Schoolhouse ca. 1900

There were just a few hundred school-age youth in the district at the time, so the original 10 rooms in the school were adequate for all grades and classes. The place was heated by coal-fired hot air furnaces, had oil-soaked wooden floors to hold down the dust and for years depended on water

from a well located outside about half way to the street. Every room was supplied with a bucket and a dipper for drinking purposes.

Some people thought the building was too fancy because it had an auditorium with theater-style seats on the third floor. But it was built that way because there was not any other place in town like it to hold plays and concerts. The citizens felt "Why not create a space for something useful in addition to school activities?"



The 1931 High School ca. 1950

The building was used for both grade and high school until 1916 when a two-story addition to the back was built to serve as a high school. In 1931 a new high school was built on the northeast corner of Indiana and Elm Streets. By 1953 Elm Street (now known as Toth) Elementary School had been built to help house our growing student population, but the old school was still needed, so money was raised to overhaul and modernize it. The deteriorated shaky bell tower was taken

down, as was the auditorium and third floor, and a flat roof was installed.

In 2000, Perrysburg Junior High School moved from this facility to the old high school on East Boundary and all the buildings on the site, save part of which were used for Board of Education offices, were mothballed, as they no longer was deemed suitable for educational purposes.

Deemed to be beyond reasonable repair costs and as an ever-increasing financial burden to the school district, the building and its 1916 addition were demolished in July 2008. The property then became a community center known as Commodore Square.



The Old Schoolhouse ca. 2008

Things You Should Know About Perrysburg, Ohio

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