



"On Franklin Turnpike where the Municipal Hall now stands."  
----Violet W. Straussman

Today's Municipal Building (or Borough Hall) is, in fact, this very same building, greatly altered and with the second floor removed. This view dates from about 1905-1910. The postcard was printed in Germany for J. H. Ackerman, Allendale, N.J., and was sold in Ackerman's General Store.

The first school building (of which we have evidence) located within Allendale's present-day boundaries was built in 1826 and was known as "the little old red schoolhouse." The school was located  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile below the Allendale Depot at the intersection of Chestnut Street and Franklin Turnpike. Its location is shown on an 1861 map published by Hopkins and Corey. By 1876, a new school had been built on a different site, as shown by the Walker's Atlas Map of that date, which also shows a private home on the original school site. The 1826 school was a one-story frame building 16 by 24 feet. The desks were arranged around the room along with long, backless benches. The first Board of Trustees of the school included John G. Ackerman, John G. Ackerson and Albert A. Garrison. The first teacher was Isaac Demarest. Later teachers in this school included Henry H. Vanderbeck, James Alfred Ackerman (who first attended the school as a student and later began teaching in it about 1842), John Binder and Mary Geroe. In 1862 the old building was moved to John Wilson's farm where it was used as a granary.

Allendale's second schoolhouse was built in 1862 at a cost of \$2000, and was located  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a mile from the depot on the site of the present Municipal Building. This school was 25 by 35 feet in dimension, adorned with a belfry and blinds and was surrounded by shade trees. Among the teachers at this school were James Alfred Ackerman, Joseph Henry Ware (who was Principal in 1894) and Mr. Van Wagener. In 1860 the Trustees of Allendale School District #6 (Aaron Ackerman, Peter G. Powell and William White) had purchased from Peter G. and Maria Ackerman Powell for \$25 the plot on which the school was subsequently erected. In 1876 the enrollment of the school was 80; in February of 1878 the enrollment was 87, with an average daily attendance of 62. The school was enlarged at a cost of \$950. in 1887.