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Early Allendale Public Schools

by

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The first known school building located in Allendale was built in 1826 and was located on the northwest corner of the intersection of Chestnut Street and Franklin Turnpike. Called the "little old red schoolhouse," this first school was a one-story frame building 16 by 24 feet with desks arranged around the single room together with long, backless benches on which students sat from 9 in the morning until 4 in the afternoon.

The first Board of Trustees of this 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 began teaching in the school about 1842), John Binder, Garret A. L. Zabriskie, and Mary Geroe.

In 1862 the building was moved to John Wilson's farm, where it was subsequently used as a granary.

Allendale's second schoolhouse was built in 1862 at a cost of \$2000. It was located 1/4 of a mile from the Allendale Depot on the site of the present Allendale Municipal Building.

This school was 25 by 35 feet in dimension, was adorned with a belfry and blinds, and was surrounded by shade trees. In



1860, the Trustees of the Allendale School District No. 6, Aaron Ackerman, Peter G. Powell, and William White, had purchased from Peter G. and Maria A. 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 had reached 87, with an average daily attendance of 62. Among the teachers at this school were James Alfred Ackerman, Joseph Henry Ware (who was Principal in 1894), Bertha King, Augusta Murdock, and Mr. Van Wagener. In 1887 the school was enlarged at a cost of \$950.

In 1889, the Trustees of Allendale School District No. 55, Charles White, Crynus Quackenbush, and William Atkins, were instructed to divide the district, resulting in separate school districts for Waldwick and Allendale. Allendale residents, spurred by the subsequent decision to build a new school in the Waldwick district, petitioned for the formation of a separate borough. On November 10, 1894 Proceedings for the incorporation of the Borough of Allendale were filed and recorded. In November 1896, after a new school had been erected, the old building was sold to Henry J. Appert for \$65 and he used it for storage on his onion and celery farm.

Nearly two years after Allendale Borough was formed from parts of Orvil, Hohokus, and Frankin Townships, ground was broken for the new school building on the same site as the former school--the site of today's Allendale Municipal Building. (This third school, constructed in 1896, has been greatly altered, its second story removed, and is, in fact, today's Municipal Building.)



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The new school was built by Stephen Van Blarcom at a cost of \$5500. Begun in June 1896, the school was formally opened with a dedication ceremony held on December 18, 1896.

The original building was about 50 by 60 feet and contained two rooms downstairs and one large room, used as an auditorium, upstairs. There was a pump outdoors, and after parents complained about their children drinking from a "community dipper," all students were required to bring their own collapsible drinking cups to school. Graduated exercises were held first at the school, later at Archer Hall, and still later at the Allendale Fire House.

Early teachers at this school included Miss Murdock, Sadie Salyer, Ella Appert, Alfred Ackerman, John B. Zabriskie, Marie C. Maloney, Mrs. Joseph Ware, Anita Van Houten (later Mrs. Stanley P. Fisher), John J. Ackerman, Adele Harris, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Brinkerhoff, and Willard Alling, who was appointed Principal in 1907, a position he held until his death on November 16, 1940.

Among the early Trustees of this school were Stephen Van Houten, C. W. Stocker, William C. Tallman, J. E. Van Horn, J. W. Griffiths, Albert Pulis, and Harry Sherman.

A newspaper report published in June 1900 listed 7 graduates of this school, and remarked that this represented Allendale's largest graduating class to date. In 1914 an addition to this school was built at a cost of \$24,000.

In November 1927, Edward G. Washburne was elected chairman of a citizen's committee formed to assist school authorities in



choosing a site and floor plan for a new school. In January 1928 residents of Allendale voted almost 2 to 1 in favor of the selection of the "Anthony property" on Brookside Avenue as the proposed site for the new school, and authorized the expenditure of \$165,000 to purchase land and build and equip the new school. The new Allendale Public School (today's Brookside School) opened in 1929 with 225 pupils.

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Above portion of map drawn by Upper Saddle River historian  
Claire K. Tholl shows the location of three early Allendale  
Public Schools.

Map for sale ~~by~~ benefit the Allendale Bicentennial Committee.  
Available at the Country Shop, W. Allendale Avenue, Allendale.



Allendale's second and third schoolhouses, 1896. A side view, looking north from East Orchard Street. The new third schoolhouse is nearing completion. The steps on the right belong to the old Episcopal Church of the Epiphany--before the addition of the Parish House--which is today the Highlands United Presbyterian Church. Photo courtesy Allendale Historical Society.



Allendale's second schoolhouse. School picture, May 1884. The teacher in James Alfred Ackerman (seated, front center). Students include John Yeomans, Hattie Sterling, Willie Roswell, Cornelius Hopper, Robert Beckley, Eva Smith, Lizzie Ackerman, David Folly, Watts Anthony, Charley White, Roe Quackenbush, Chartre Mallinson, George Parigot, Allie Pullis, Emma Mallinson, Nellie Storm, Carrie Ackerman, Mazie Harris, Edith Roswell, and Lidie Storms. Photo courtesy Allendale Historical Society.



Allendale Public School class photograph taken c. 1900. Miss Sadie Salyer is the teacher (standing, rear). Students include Charlie Johnson, Ed Hilbert, John Cook, Ella Simon, William Johnson, Charlie Simon, Florence Mallinson, Hazel Burtis, Mabel Quackenbush, Morgan Stocker, Myra Zabriskie, Gertrude Borger, Matilda Van Houten, Anna Van Dien, Sadie Mallinson, Marie Nadler, Anita Van Houten, Grace Van Houten, Ethel Borger, Mina Schneider, Viola Rossner, Everett Burtis, John Appert, and Elliot Spring. Photo courtesy Allendale Historical Society.