

Remembering Ohio Schools: Then and Now

(Where Students Learned & Memories of our Youth Remain)

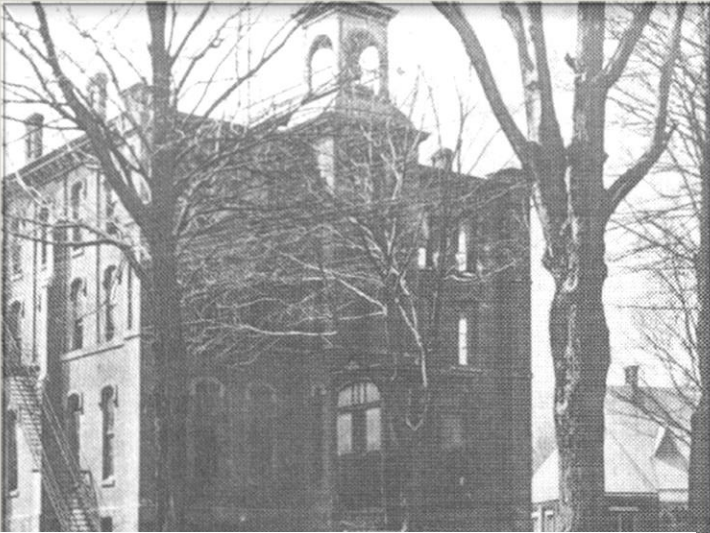
A few months ago, I was invited to return to my old school and speak on the occasion of an Alumni Hall of Fame Induction. That school moment was lost to COVID-19.

Five years ago, I was talking to my 92-year-old uncle about his days at Willoughby Union High School. That building has been sold to home developers. I drive by the former Grand River School often and I remember the former Harvey High School being demolished in 2009 as the result of a new buildings initiative. Each Tuesday afternoon, I pass the Fairport Harbor City Hall & Police Department, which at one time was the village school building.

As a retired teacher, I have come to appreciate the memories, hallowed events, and love that each of these educational edifices elicit from students, parents & colleagues, who shared time in their halls and on their grounds. Throughout their existence, these schools attracted the children of locals, immigrants and emigrants from every corner of the globe and from every



I Concord Township Consolidated School, 1923-1982



II Willoughby High School, 1900 (Before Willoughby Union)



III Mentor Village School, 1905

walk of life. Grown children who today continue to throb with much life, noise, and vivacity as did the buildings of their youth.

The world as we knew it changed in March of this year. Schools were shuttered, online learning became the new normal, sports seasons were lost forever, and an entire 2020 senior class will experience the worst of times and the best of times. A loss of time-honored experiences ushering in a brave new world.

A past inquiry from a visitor at a presentation led me to a remarkable website www.ohioschools.com.

This site is entirely devoted to preserving the memories of all old Ohio schools by county. I checked the site and found that my school Euclid Central (1913-1967) was missing from this

archive. A quick contact and photo later and *"The Lions Den"* became part of local lore.

In June, the current Euclid Central High School (1965-2020) will be lost to time as it is leveled. Again, I will return to the [Old Schools website](http://www.ohioschools.com). Its pages contain pictures of retired schools, endangered schools, and abandoned schools. It also contains pictures and brief bios of schools gone but not forgotten, status unknown and those still functional.

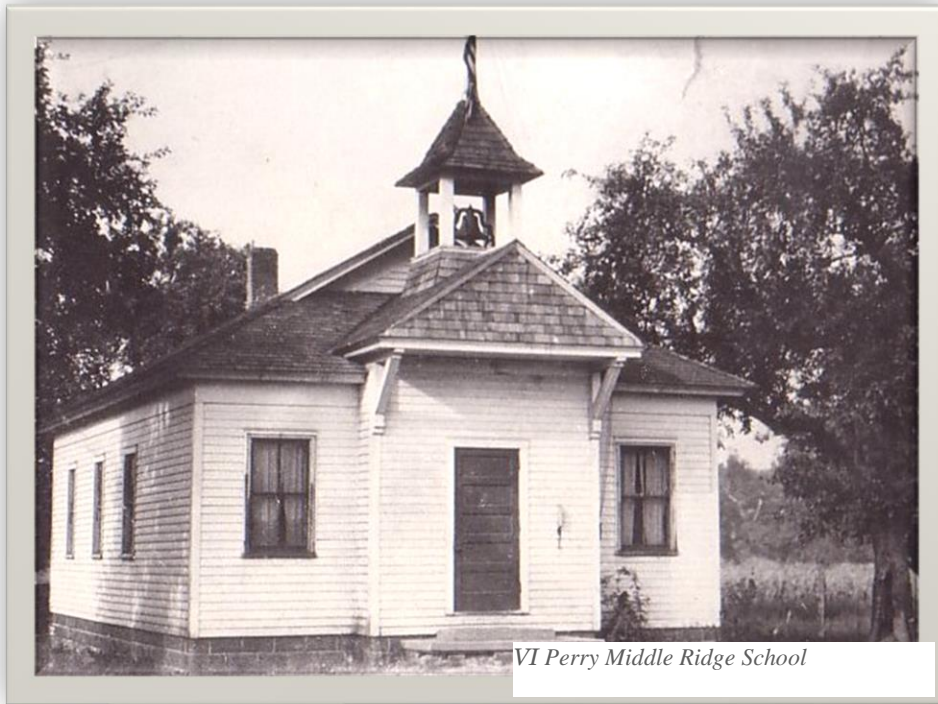
Architectural insignia and cornerstones grace another link in the site. [Old Ohio Schools](http://www.ohioschools.com) was the brainstorm of Aaron Turner and is still active, [but it does need your help](http://www.ohioschools.com). In an era where social media has not only replaced printed books, magazines and daily newspapers, online shopping has replaced brick & mortar stores; and, as early as this August, traditional school buildings and education delivery methods may fall to hybrid paradigms.



IV 1876 Garfield School - Fairport Harbor



V Salida Road School



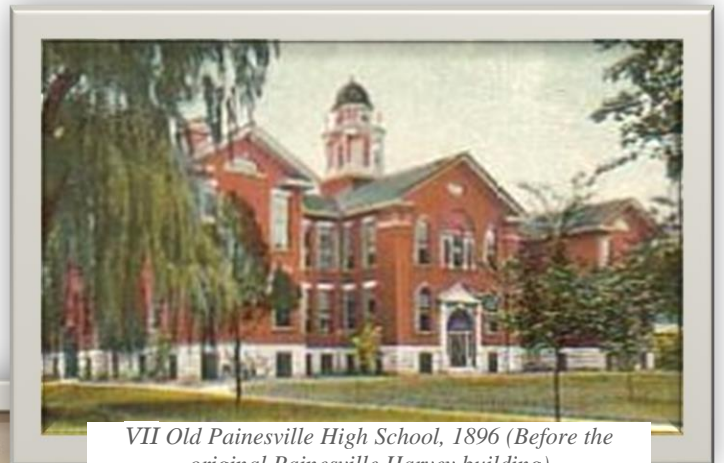
VI Perry Middle Ridge School

Whether you attended Hale Elementary, Heritage or Hadden School in Painesville; Old Center Street High School and /or old Mentor High School on Mentor Avenue; Concord Consolidated (1925-82) or P.S. 14 as I did, a look at this website is a celebration of each community's great past. It is also one captivating way to look at how our hometowns have changed and evolved.

Again, contact Aaron Turner, help preserve school heritage with a \$5 donation or simply visit www.ohioschools.com - a hidden gem and delightful pathway to our past.

Submitted by Dan Maxson

*Local Lore by Max, 2010-2016 - Community Media Lab,
The News-Herald
Volunteer Trustee, Curator - FHHS/ Fairport Harbor
Lighthouse & Marine Museum
Volunteer Curator / Docent - Old Stone School, Concord
Township*



VII Old Painesville High School, 1896 (Before the original Painesville Harvey building)



VIII Miss Ives - Grade 2 Concord School, 1956