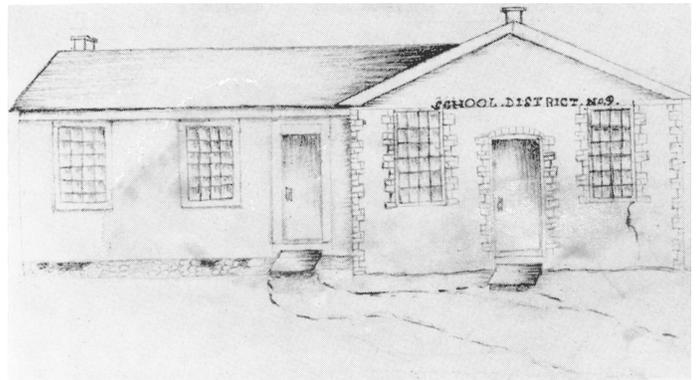


## DISTRICT SCHOOL #9 – EAST CHURCH STREET

The earliest record of District School #9 states: “Pursuant to public notice a meeting of the freeholders inhabitants of School District No. 9 was convened at the house occupied by Cyrenus Mallett in the Town of Perinton....April 12, 1826.” At that meeting John Peters, Abishai Goodell, and Larry Wilcox were elected trustees. It was voted “that the trustees fix on a site for the School House at some point between the southeast corner of A. Goodell’s land and the Fairport Burying Ground [Greenvale Cemetery on East Church Street] on either side of the road – ,” “that a school house be built by the first day of November next,” and “that said schoolhouse be twenty four by thirty feet, to be built of stone...” Approval was given to raise “a sufficient sum of money” as well.



*Original E. Church Street school*

Unfortunately, the record does not indicate anything about students or teachers until 1830, when it is noted that the school was in session for 10 months with duly appointed and approved teachers. Seventy children attended the school and a total of \$94 was spent. The number of students steadily increased during the decades of the 1830’s and 1840’s, due to the growth of Fairport as a canal village. Probably because of the growing number of students, in 1839 a tax levy of \$10 was allocated to start a library.

The issue of repairs and funding is a constantly recurring item in the district’s minutes. In 1829, \$15 had been raised to build a “necessary” and to attend to some repairs. In 1840 a tax of \$92 was levied for the purpose of repairing the schoolhouse. A new privy was built in 1852 at a cost of \$8. Library money also appears to have been an issue as well. Teacher salaries were a problem in 1850. Three different proposals were made to raise funds for wages, all of which were voted down. The district did provide, however, \$60 for boarding teachers for 48 weeks. There were obviously other disagreements as well, because several times it was noted that elected officials refused to serve and had to be replaced.

Space had become a problem by 1843 as the trustees considered the “propriety of hiring a room for an extra school...” and in 1844 Abishai Goodell was paid \$12.50 for the rent of a school room. In 1844 a committee of three was appointed to investigate the possibility of purchasing a site for a new schoolhouse, but instead, a \$175 tax was raised to build an addition on the east side of the old schoolhouse. In 1852, however, the decision was made to purchase the lot adjoining the schoolhouse (owned by Mrs. Bolen) for a new school, provided that it could be acquired for \$450. The new school was to be a two-story brick building, 36 feet by 50 feet. In 1854, the new building plan was approved despite considerable disagreement over the cost. James Van Buren stated that \$3,000 was necessary for an adequate structure. His proposal was defeated. At a subsequent meeting, the sum of \$1,500 was proposed, lowered to \$1,200, and approved. By 1855, it was obvious that \$1,200 was insufficient for a two story building and another \$1,000 had to be raised “for the purpose of adding and erecting a second story to the school house building already in process of erection.” The new building had eight rooms with similar configurations on both floors, with a central stairway and coatrooms on either side of the center hall. Elementary students attended classes on the first floor and high school students on the second.

District School #9 served village students until 1870 when population pressures and the need for a more expanded high school curriculum led to the construction of a new building on West Church Street.

Henry DeLand purchased the schoolhouse in 1873 and his sister Eliza Marring ran a boarding house there for teachers for ten years before it became a private residence. The

Rightmire family purchased the house in 1905, and lived there for nearly 50 years. In 1951 the structure became the Fairport Gospel Center under the leadership of the Rev. Albert D'Annunzio. The remodeled building served as both church and residence for the D'Annunzio family. In 1970, a disastrous fire seriously damaged the building and it was razed later that year. The new building on the site is home to the Fairport Evangelical Church.