

Brief History of Schools in Union, NY

Summary by Doris Edwards for her 60th U-E Class Reunion in 2002

The first school in Union, NY: This was established in 1800 and was located at the corner of Vestal Avenue and East Main Street at Union Corners. Its first teacher was Flavel Sabin. The school closed in 1897.

The Broome County Academy: This was organized in Union in 1839. The 1875-1878 catalogue lists the teachers and students with their addresses. Some of them are from as far away as Pennsylvania, Kansas, Brooklyn, and Rochester.

Union Free School District: This was established by Dr. L D Witherill in 1886 and he was the first president of its Board of Education.

The Union Academy: This was built on Loder Avenue in 1888. It was the first graded school with grades 1 through 12. Teacher training classes were also held here. The first training class graduation was comprised of three females and they held their commencement ceremony at the Union Presbyterian Church. In 1902 there were 23 members (4 males and 18 females) and the teacher was Anna Fletcher.

Union High School: The Union Academy was renamed Union High School in 1889. In 1912 the original building was moved to the west side of Loder Ave and became apartments. A new brick school building was erected on the old site. The Old Village of Union Historical Society has catalogues for 1906-07, 1911-12, 1914, 1915, 1916, and 1917.

Union-Endicott High School: The current U-E High School, on the SW corner of East Main Street and Washington Avenue, was built in 1915 on the 640-acre Gates Farm. Ideal Park was immediately west of the new school. Ideal Park had a racetrack for trotters that was located between the school and the river where the U-E football field now sits. The horse stables were at the east end in the area of the Boys Club building and parking lot.

Loder Avenue School: To accommodate the new high school, Union High School was renamed Loder Avenue School in 1915. The local population was constantly growing and two new additions were added to the building in 1916.

George Washington Junior High School: In 1935 it was renamed George Washington Junior High School to honor our first president who was a comrade of John and Joshua Mersereau during the Revolutionary War. They became two of the first pioneers who founded of our area.

Jennie F. Snapp School: On July 1, 1954 the school was renamed after Jennie F Snapp who had been principal there for 34 years. In 1962, all of the structure that was built in 1912 demolished except the gymnasium. A new structure was constructed around the remaining gym.

Other Union or Endicott schools:

Broad Street School	1906 – 1916
George F Johnson School	1924 West Endicott
Henry B Endicott School	1927
North Side School	1928 later renamed George W Johnson School
George H Nichols	at Hayes and Jenkins Ave on the Northside
West Corners School	Annex 1942
Ann McGuiness	1955
Charles F Johnson	1955
Thomas J Watson School	
Harriet Rounds' School	at Nanticoke Crossing

Misc school notes:

- 1) Fredericka Rounds (Zimmer) was principal of the Broad Street School in 1906 at a salary of \$450 per year.
- 2) Herbert H Crumb became superintendent of the U-E schools in 1913 at a salary of \$800 per year
- 3) For many years, the biggest school event was the U-E and Binghamton Central High School football game.
- 4) Gladys Mersereau attended U-E 1917-1921. She became a teacher and a guidance counselor there for 42 years.