



HART'S CORNER SCHOOLHOUSE

Teacher Bessie D. Sked pictured with her class next to the Hart's Corner Schoolhouse on June 19, 1912
[Hopewell Valley Historical Society]

30 Years A Neighborhood Classroom

Rural Hopewell Township at the turn of the 20th century boasted as many as 14 separate school districts. From 1907 until 1936 the one-room Hart's Corner Schoolhouse served students of Bear District No. 12. It was the sixth in a series of schools that existed in this part of the township beginning in the 1770s. Erected in 1906, this schoolhouse replaced the old Bear School located roughly two miles west of here on Washington Crossing-Pennington Road.

Most of the school's pupils lived within walking distance. Initially, the Hart's Corner Schoolhouse accommodated children from kindergarten through 8th grade, but with public school education increasingly consolidated in larger village-based schools, only kindergarten through 4th grade students attended here in the early 1930s. The last classes met in the spring of 1936.

From the late 1920s until the mid-1960s, when the adjoining municipal complex opened, the schoolhouse also functioned as a meeting hall, office space and occasional courtroom for the township government. Its final use in the 1970s was as the office of the Township's

Superintendent of Roads. In 2000 Hopewell Township moved the building some 200 feet to the north to allow for enlargement of the Scotch Road/Washington Crossing-Pennington Road intersection.



ABOVE: This school bus, owned and operated by Paul Astalosh, transported Hopewell Township schoolchildren in the mid-20th century; photograph of 1949 [Warznak family]



RIGHT: The Hart's Corner Schoolhouse in the process of being moved in 2000 [Hopewell Township Historic Preservation Commission]



A class photograph, circa 1910, shows the schoolhouse with its original pair of front doors before these were enclosed with a porch and then replaced by a single large door with transom and sidelights [Hopewell Valley Historical Society]



The Hart's Corner Schoolhouse, circa 1930, with an enclosed front vestibule and a cast-iron, hand-press well pump nearby outside [Hopewell Valley Historical Society]



HOPWELL VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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