

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**DRAFT**

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

## 1. Name of Property

historic name The Little Genesee Schoolhouse/Genesee District No. 1 School  
 other names/site number Genesee Library  
 name of related multiple property listing \_\_\_\_\_

## Location

street & number 8351 State Route 417  not for publication  
 city or town Little Genesee  vicinity  
 state New York code 36 county Allegany code 003 zip code 14754

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,  
 I hereby certify that this X nomination \_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.  
 In my opinion, the property X meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:  
 \_\_\_ national \_\_\_ statewide X local

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting official Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

## 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

\_\_\_ entered in the National Register \_\_\_ determined eligible for the National Register  
 \_\_\_ determined not eligible for the National Register \_\_\_ removed from the National Register  
 \_\_\_ other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

**Category of Property**  
(Check only **one** box.)

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

<input type="checkbox"/>	private
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	1	<b>Total</b>

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

N/A

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION/School

EDUCATION/Library

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Late Victorian/Queen Anne with Classical details

foundation: Field stone

walls: Wood clapboard

roof: Asphalt shingles

other:

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**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

**Summary Paragraph**

The former Little Genesee Schoolhouse/Genesee District No. 1 School, now the Genesee Library, is a one-story wood-frame building, located on the south side of New York State Route 417 in the hamlet of Little Genesee, town of Genesee, Allegany County, New York (Figure 1). State Route 417 runs along the southern tier of New York State from Salamanca, Cattaraugus County and Interstate 86 east to Interstate 99 just outside of Addison, Steuben County. Little Genesee is approximately four miles from the Pennsylvania border in southwestern Allegany County. Built in 1903 to replace the original Greek Revival style schoolhouse that had burned in 1901, the Queen Anne style building with classical details has a northern orientation and is set back from the highway on a 0.90 acre, Z-shaped lot (Figure 2). The surrounding neighborhood is comprised of scattered residential, municipal and ecclesiastical buildings (Figure 3).

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**Narrative Description**

The Little Genesee Schoolhouse (also known as the Genesee District No. 1 School), is a wood-frame building, three bays wide by four bays deep with a T-plan, double hipped, asphalt-shingled roof and a front-gabled center bay. It is sided with wood clapboard on the main section and wood shingles in the gable peak and features a field stone foundation at the raised basement level that is visible on the façade. A plain cornice wraps around the entire building at the eaves. [Photo 1]

The façade (north elevation) features a round arched main entrance located in the center bay with a pair of non-historic eight-panel metal doors and a fanlight transom. Framing the entry are fluted pilasters with an entablature on which rest a pair of original round arched, one-over-one windows. Above the arch windows in the gable peak at the attic level are three rectangular fixed panel windows. The bays flanking the entrance include a single one-over-one, double-hung non-historic vinyl sash framed with dentil trimmed entablatures below a decorative crown. [Photo 2] Below each first-floor window, on the basement level, are square window openings that have been boarded up.

The rear (south) elevation is four bays wide. [Photo 3] A shed roof shelters a rear entry and pressure treated porch and handicapped ramp. The porch support columns are wrapped in metal. [Photo 4] A non-historic metal

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door topped with a square transom holding an air conditioning unit is located in the eastern most bay. Historically, this may have originally been a window. Today it serves as the main entrance to the library. The other bays feature one-over-one, double-hung sash framed with similar entablatures as the façade. A corbelled brick chimney extends from the center of the hipped roof. [Photo 5]

The side (east and west) elevations share the same window fenestration with four one-over-one, double-hung replacement sash framed with similar trim as the façade and rear and a plain cornice under the eaves. [Photo 6] Historically, the first-floor windows were two-over-two, double-hung sash.

A pair of concrete walkways lead from the sidewalk at the road to the front entrance; a crushed stone drive runs along the east and west edges of the northern half of the property, and a crushed stone parking lot is located behind the building to the south. A non-historic, non-contributing plastic shed is located in the southwest corner of the parking lot. Landscaping includes flowering shrubs and ornamental trees on the front elevation.

The interior plan of the school is divided into three principal areas: an entry foyer with staircase and landing, and two large rooms (formerly classrooms). In addition, a smaller room and storage closet are located to the northwest, and a restroom, storage closet and kitchen are on the northeast side of the building.

Foyer

The foyer is located at the ground level in the center of the north section of the building and accessed from the double front doors. It features a wide staircase with a wood railing down the center and pipe railing along the west wall. [Photo 7] The original hardwood floor has been covered with laminate flooring. On the west wall is a narrow, five-panel wood door surrounded by wide wood trim and a cornice topped entablature that leads to the basement and attic. [Photo 8] The walls are paneled in painted wainscoting topped with wood trim at the chair rail level and drywall to the ceiling. The stairs and landing are carpeted. The original tongue and groove wood ceiling remains but has been hidden behind square acoustic fiber tiles. A ceiling fan hangs above the first-floor landing; an original schoolhouse light hangs above the entry, which is also naturally lit by the fanlight window and pair of arched windows. [Photo 9] The edges of the walls at the top of the staircase are trimmed with turned spindle-like trim. On the first floor landing at the top of the stairs are four five-panel wood doors. Three on the east/left and one on the west/right. The doors on the east lead to the restroom, a storage closet and the former east or grammar/upper division classroom, known today as the Community Room. The door on the west/right,

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leads to the former west/primary classroom, which serves as the main Library Room today. The storage closet door is original to the building, complete with original hardware and trim. [Photo 10] Due to ADA compliance regulations, the doorways to the restroom and classrooms were widened and the doors and trim were recreated to simulate the original. [Photo 11] All original doors with original hardware that were removed are stored in the basement.

Basement

The basement and attic are accessible through a narrow door off the main foyer at the ground-level entrance. A ladder attached to the exterior wall above a crawl space leads to the attic. Two wood steps lead down to the basement. The basement has fieldstone and mortar foundation, a dirt floor, and exposed wood floor joists. [Photos 12, 13] The brick chimney extends to the center of the basement floor. The first floor is supported by several steel and wood posts set on concrete bases. [Photo 14] The mechanicals for the building, including the furnace, water heater and sump pump are located in the basement.

Main/First Floor

The main floor of the building is divided into two large rooms, three smaller rooms (the Children's Room, a kitchen and a restroom), and two storage closets (one located off the foyer landing and the other in the Children's Room). The two larger rooms are identical in size - 25 feet wide and 32 feet long - and once served as classrooms for the students attending the Genesee District No. 1 School. In the two-room schoolhouse, the younger or primary students were taught in the west classroom and the older or grammar/upper division students were taught in the east classroom.

The east classroom/Community Room features a doorway to the foyer and to the kitchen along the north wall [Photo 15]; four windows and bookshelves along the east wall [Photo 16]; an exterior entry door and window along the south wall [Photo 17]; and a row of built-in storage cabinets, exposed brick chimney, and doorway into the west room along the west wall. [Photo 18]

The west classroom/Library Room includes doorways to the foyer and to the Children's Room along the north wall [Photo 19]; four windows along the west wall [Photo 20], two windows along the south wall, a doorway

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into the east classroom/Community Room and bookshelves along the east wall [Photo 21], and bookshelves throughout the room.

The galley kitchen was remodeled in 2021. [Photo 22] Originally, it may have served as a cloakroom or teacher's office. It has one window on the north wall. The floor is non-historic laminate.

The Children's Room, which may have originally been a cloakroom or teacher's room, is located off the north wall of the west room. A new wood five-panel door opens into the room. Like the kitchen, a single window is located on the north wall. An original five-panel wood door with original hardware leads to a storage closet on its east wall. [Photo 23] An original 1903 slate chalkboard, which was relocated from the west classroom/Community Room. The children of Genesee continue to use it today.

The bathroom, which was added in the 1980s or 1990s, is located off the landing level of the foyer. It was remodeled in 2021 to be ADA compliant. The walls are original wood wainscoting and drywall. The floor is non-historic laminate. [Photo 24]

Throughout the main floor, the walls are paneled with wood wainscoting to the chair rail height and drywall from the chair rail to the ceiling. [Photo 25] The window and door openings are trimmed with wood trim, sills and entablature-like lintels. [Photo 26] Where the trim isn't original, it has been recreated to match the original. The ceilings are square, fire-rated, non-historic plastic panels with fluorescent lighting. The original wood tongue-and-groove ceiling remains intact above the non-historic panels. [Photo 27] The larger rooms also have ceiling fans. Most floors are carpeted, with the exception of the kitchen, bathroom, and entrance areas which are laminate.

Despite its conversion to a library in 1935, the original interior layout remains intact, and the building retains much of its original features including: window and door trim, wainscoting, the exposed chimney wall, the entry foyer light, and some doors and windows. The original wood floor and tongue-and-groove wood ceiling and wood floor remain under the current materials.

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**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Education \_\_\_\_\_

Architecture \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1903 - 1931 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1903 – year of construction \_\_\_\_\_

1931 – year school closed \_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

No known architect. \_\_\_\_\_

Harry Nunn - mason \_\_\_\_\_

Cortland S. Jaques - carpenter \_\_\_\_\_

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

**Period of Significance (justification)**

The period of significance extends from ca. 1903, the building's date of construction, through ca. 1931, when the school closed and the students were sent to the Bolivar Central School.

**Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)**

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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph**

(Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The Little Genesee Schoolhouse/Genesee District No. 1 School is significant under Criterion A in the area of Education for its association with rural education in Allegany County. Little Genesee was one of seven school districts in the Town of Genesee in the nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries. District No. 1 represented the hamlet of Little Genesee. The original Little Genesee Schoolhouse was constructed ca. 1826 and was destroyed by fire in March 1901. The current building opened in 1903 and served the community as a schoolhouse for three decades. The closure of the school in 1931 was, in part, a result of the movement toward consolidation of rural districts to improve efficiency, facilities, and elevate educational standards. After the schoolhouse closed, children from Little Genesee attended school in nearby Bolivar. Since the 1930s, the building has been used as a library and community center for the town of Genesee.

The Little Genesee Schoolhouse is also significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture as an example of an early-twentieth century vernacular Queen Anne style two-room rural schoolhouse. Very few changes have been made to the plan of the building since it was converted into a library, leaving it as an intact and recognizable example of a rural two-room school building.

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**Narrative Statement of Significance**

**Early History of the Town of Genesee and Hamlet of Little Genesee**

The Town of Genesee is located in the southwestern section of Allegany County, New York. It was the site of repeated pre-historic occupations and historically falls within the area occupied by the O-non-dowa-gah (Seneca) people who had semi-permanent villages in the nearby Genesee River valley, including Gistaquat and Tioningarunte (Figure 4).<sup>1</sup> They would often camp in the highlands to hunt and to catch pigeons.<sup>2</sup>

Originally part of the Holland Land Purchase (Figure 4A), Genesee was founded on April 16, 1830 from a division of the Town of Cuba (Figure 5). The first annual town meeting was held on April 27, 1830. The origin of the town's name comes from the Seneca word meaning "pleasant bank." The Little Genesee Creek, a

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<sup>1</sup> John S. Minard, Esq., Historian and Georgia Drew, Editor, A Centennial Memorial/History of Allegany County, New York, (Alfred, N.Y.: W.A. Fergusson & Co., 1896), no page number.

<sup>2</sup> Minard and Drew, 22-42.



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tributary stream of the Allegany River, flows through the southern section of town, giving the hamlet of Little Genesee its name. The town of Genesee is approximately 22,905 acres, consisting of narrow valleys between ranges of hills, with some of the highest elevations 1,000 to 1,400 feet above the valleys. In its early years, some of the hills were partially cleared, but most residents lived in the valleys (Figure 6).

Many early pioneers came to the area from New England before 1850. The two main areas of settlement in the town in the early-to-mid-nineteenth century were Little Genesee and Ceres. In 1856 the village/hamlet of Little Genesee, located just south of Little Genesee Creek, had a schoolhouse, church, post office (established 1830), hotel, two stores, blacksmith, boot and shoe shop, lawyer, carpenters, a sawmill, a millwright, and several residences (Figures 7, 8). In 1875 there was one church, one school, a general store, tavern, blacksmith shop, two sawmills, cider mill, millinery shop, tailor shop, twenty-five dwellings and 80-100 inhabitants.<sup>3</sup>

Twenty years later (1895), Little Genesee contained a Seventh Day Baptist Church; a schoolhouse with two departments; an assembly hall; two general stores with a post office (established in 1830) in one; one feed and hardware store; two vacant stores; a cheese factory, a hotel and milliner's shop, barber shop and 30 dwellings. The population was approximately 225 residents. That same year the village/hamlet of Ceres, which straddled the Pennsylvania border and was situated on Oswayo Creek, about four miles from Little Genesee, had approximately 300 inhabitants. It also had a post office, a schoolhouse with two departments, a hardware store, grocery and shoe shop, a grocery and harness shop, a dry goods and millinery store, general store, two doctors' offices, a saw and planing mill, handle factory, railroad station, barbershop, Methodist Episcopal Church and about forty-eight dwellings.<sup>4</sup>

Originally, the area was covered with forests composed of pine, hemlock, and hardwoods. Much of the early economy of the town was based on harvesting the forests. The lumber business thrived in the area for many years with small and large sawmills being built along its many creeks including the Little Genesee and Oswayo. For over thirty years lumbering was the principal business and interest in the town, bringing in many new settlers. When the pine timber was exhausted, hemlock bark was harvested for the tanneries for the tanning of

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<sup>3</sup> Hamilton Child, *Gazetteer and Business Directory of Allegany County, N.Y. for 1875*, (Syracuse, N.Y.: The Journal Office, 1875, 91.

<sup>4</sup> Minard and Drew, 878-879.

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animal hides. Later, hardwoods were harvested. Many early settlers bought tracts of land for the possibility of harvesting the timber to help pay for the land and eventually for farming.<sup>5</sup>

The tracts of land were usually rectangular with some acreage for future cropland in the valley area, but the main portions were on hilly slopes containing the better timber. After clearing the land in the valleys and hills and the timber became exhausted, the settlers turned to farming as a business, with dairy farming a principal interest. In 1870, a cheese factory was located about one-half mile from Little Genesee. Other cheese factories were built by the 1890s.

Oil was discovered in the southern half of Allegany County in the late 1870s, transforming the region from an agrarian society to an industrial-based economy.<sup>6</sup> The first oil well was drilled in 1877. In 1879, a group of men from Buffalo, drilled a well which produced oil for lubricating purposes and gas for local residents. During the early 1880s as much as 3,000 barrels of oil were produced daily by such companies included the Producers Gas Company, National Transit Gas Company, and Home Gas Company of Ceres. By 1883, the township of Genesee had 467 wells. In 1887 497 wells were operating in Genesee and in 1894, the number dropped to 348. Eventually, the brooks and creeks around the gentle slopes and valleys of the town all had producing leases owned by individuals or families. They worked at the oil business a good share of their lives producing oil or gas as a means of livelihood until the twentieth century when a transition began to take place. With the original natural timber resources of the town of Genesee exploited and the oil resources not as plentiful as in other nearby townships, the population decreased. After the original oil boom of the late 1800s, production lapsed before a revival occurred in the 1920s and 1930s, when a new drilling method was used.<sup>7</sup> The nineteenth century population of Genesee peaked at 1,076 in 1890. It remained within 1,000 to 1,200 for most of the twentieth century, until 1980 when it jumped to 1,787 and climbed to 1,807 in 2000. Today population of the town of Genesee is estimated to be about 1,633.<sup>8</sup> (Figure 8A)

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<sup>5</sup> Town of Genesee Book Committee, *Gentle Slopes and Homespun Folks: Town of Genesee Sesquicentennial 1830-1980*, (Genesee, N.Y.: Town of Genesee Sesquicentennial Committee, 1980), 945.

<sup>6</sup> William A. Paquette, *Fields of Learning: A Retrospect on One-room Schools in Allegany County, New York*, (Norfolk, Va.: New Dominion Press, 2019), 7.

<sup>7</sup> *Gentle Slopes and Homespun Folks*, 9-15; Minard and Drew, *History of Allegany County*, 885.

<sup>8</sup> US Census Bureau, "City and Town Population Totals: 2020-2023," <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/popest/2020s-total-cities-and-towns.html>). Retrieved September 20, 2024.

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**Early History of Education and the Rural Schoolhouse in New York State**

Before 1784, New York State did not have a formal school system. While individual schools existed, often in larger communities, they received no direction or funding from the state. Early attempts to support education at the state level had uneven results. To help fund the schools, in 1805 the New York State legislature created a Common School Fund from the proceeds of the sale of state lands. When the act to establish common schools was passed in 1812, much of New York State was still sparsely settled. The majority of the state's population resided in rural areas and would continue to for most of the nineteenth century, with many New Yorkers receiving their education in one-room schoolhouses. The Common School Act of 1812 divided each town into numerous small districts, each with one school and its own board of trustees. This system prevailed in rural areas well into the twentieth century and comprised an important segment of the state education system during that time.<sup>9</sup> The law put school districts in charge of local education and made funding a joint responsibility between localities and the state. It also established a separate system of elementary schools and instituted the position of "superintendent" of common schools.

The 1812 common school act shaped the future of public education in New York by establishing that education was a state function under state control, that funding was a joint state-local responsibility, and that the school district, rather than the local municipality, was the primary administrative unit for public education.<sup>10</sup> By 1826, New York had in place one of the most complete common school systems in the United States.<sup>11</sup> By the mid-nineteenth century, over 10,000 common school districts existed in New York State. Typically, each district had a one or two-room schoolhouse where students were educated in reading, writing, spelling, arithmetic, and geography. Children were placed in groups according to age and usually attended for eight years. Some dropped out as they became older and went to work.

**Early History of Schools in Allegany County and the Town of Genesee**

From its founding in 1806, Allegany County was committed to education. Residents were willing to find and spend money to make it happen.<sup>12</sup> By 1825, all townships in Allegany County had schools. In 1869, 90 percent

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<sup>9</sup> Suzanne R. Warren, "Context Study: The Schools of New York State, Development of the School as a Building Type," (Albany, N.Y.: Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, August 1990), 33-35.

<sup>10</sup> James D. Folts, "History of the University of the State of New York and the State Education Department, 1786-1996," 1996, available online at <http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/edocs/education/sedhist.htm#free>; "Red Rock Schoolhouse," *National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*, September 8, 2022.

<sup>11</sup> Warren, 16.

<sup>12</sup> Paquette, 6.

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of Allegany County's village schools were located on Main Street or outside of the business district on the main road into town; rural schools were constructed where several farm properties and the road intersected. Allegany's twenty-nine townships had a total of 310 schoolhouses (11 per township on average).

The Little Genesee School/Genesee District No. 1 was one of seven school districts established in the town of Genesee during the nineteenth century (Figure 9). Most districts existed into the 1900s, serving the students in their locality until the centralization movement throughout New York State. Rural districts were then associated with a central school district most appropriate to their geographic region.<sup>13</sup>

According to a study of schoolhouses in Allegany County by William A. Paquette and the sesquicentennial history of the town, the first schoolhouses in the town of Genesee were:

School District No. 1: Little Genesee School, original school building constructed c. 1826; the first teacher was Henry P. Green; destroyed by fire on March 7, 1901; current building constructed c. 1903 as a two-room school to accommodate the hamlet's growing population; has served as the Genesee Library since the 1930s.

School District No. 3: Schoolhouse was located on Salt Rising Road, built by Amos C. Merritt, who also built the "Ink Bottle House" nearby. Today the former schoolhouse is a residence.

School District No. 4: The Old Red Schoolhouse (c. 1830) in Obi – located on the corner lot of the present West Genesee Cemetery. The first teacher was George Irish. School met 14 weeks in the summer and 14 weeks in the winter. A new teacher was hired each term and required no teaching certificate. A second schoolhouse was built in the same area in 1885; later converted to a residence.

School District No. 5: Schoolhouse was on Deer Creek Road, built c. 1859. Property was sold to Orson Friar in 1948 after centralization with the Portville School District. According to the Bolivar, N.Y. historian, the building no longer exists or if it does it is unrecognizable as a schoolhouse.

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<sup>13</sup> Gentle Slopes and Homespun Folks, 30.

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School District No. 6: Ceres Schoolhouse, built c. 1850 as a two-room schoolhouse; listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2010; today is the Ceres Schoolhouse Museum, run by the Bolivar-Richburg-Allentown-Genesee Historical Preservation Society.

Possible Joint School District No. 7: Schoolhouse on Dagget Hollow, built c. 1864 by Lanson Childs. Later converted to a residence.<sup>14</sup>

Of the seven mentioned districts, no information was found on District No. 2 and only five of the district schoolhouses were identified with photographs by Paquette in his chapter “One Room Schools: A Photographic Essay” (Figures 10, 11). According to Paquette, only four schoolhouses survive in the town of Genesee. One is a residence; one is a cabin; one is a museum; and one is a library.<sup>15</sup>

The original Little Genesee School was a wood-framed building with a stone foundation, constructed c. 1826 in the Greek Revival style (Figure 12). It had a set of double doors on the façade, windows along both sides, and an octagon shaped belltower at the center. A history of the town said that it had “two departments,” but it’s not clear if it was a one or two-room school.<sup>16</sup> Newspaper accounts of the 1890s list two teachers at the school.<sup>17</sup> It’s possible that the floor plan was similar to “Plan of a 19<sup>th</sup> Century Rural School House,” (Figure 13) with the teacher’s desk on a platform, shelf desks arranged around three walls and students sitting on benches, which were later replace by rows of fixed or moveable desks.<sup>18</sup> It served the children of Little Genesee for 75 years before it was destroyed by fire on March 7, 1901. While the cause of the fire was unknown. Some claim “it was caused by an overpressure of gas” and others think “that mice and matches in the garret started the fire.”<sup>19</sup> At the time of the fire, the building was valued \$1,500. Until a new building could be erected, school was held in the town hall.

Immediately after the fire, the people of Little Genesee voted to rebuild the school. Original newspaper accounts indicate that the taxpayers of the school district at Little Genesee decided to erect a modern two-story wood building with a basement and heated by a furnace. The residents wasted no time. By March 21, 1901, they

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<sup>14</sup> *Gentle Slopes and Homespun Folks*, 30.

<sup>15</sup> Paquette, 129-141.

<sup>16</sup> Minard and Drew, 879.

<sup>17</sup> Articles from *The Bolivar Breeze* (Bolivar, N.Y.), December 9, 1892, September 1, 1893, March 8, 1895.

<sup>18</sup> Warren, “Plan of 19th Century Rural Schoolhouse,” no page number.

<sup>19</sup> “Fire at Little Genesee,” *Bolivar Breeze*, March 7, 1901

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had appointed E.R. Smith, A.L. Maxson and C.S. Jacques to make plans and estimate a cost for the new building. Initial estimates were between \$2,000 and \$3,000.<sup>20</sup> In the end, it was constructed as a one-story, two-classroom building with a raised basement, attic and square bell tower centered above the main door (Figure 14).

Since at least the 1890s, the Little Genesee School was divided into two departments: primary, which served the younger students, and grammar or upper level, which served the intermediate or older students. Newspaper accounts often list the names of the teachers for the coming school year, with the primary teacher in charge of the younger students and the principal teaching the older students. A school roster from 1921 lists 58 students registered at the Little Genesee School in grades 1st through 8th. The school term was 36 weeks and the teachers were paid \$22.50 a week.<sup>21</sup>

Not all rural students' education ended with eighth grade. Some students from the Little Genesee School went on to secondary school, college and graduate school. Allegany County attorney Walter T. Bliss, whose parents were pioneer settlers of Little Genesee, received his early education at the Little Genesee School. He went on to attend Alfred Academy for secondary (high) school, Alfred University where he graduated with a degree in Liberal Arts in 1886 and then onto the University of Michigan Law School. He was admitted to the New York State Bar in 1888 and worked in private practices in Alfred and Bolivar. He was also involved with the development of the Allegany oil fields, served as the Bolivar village attorney and president of the Bolivar School Board.<sup>22</sup>

Some graduates came back to teach at their alma mater. Anna Crandall, who graduated from Little Genesee in the early 1900s, served as a primary teacher at the school in the 1915-16.<sup>23</sup> Oscar Maxson Burdick spent most of his life in Little Genesee. He attended Alfred University and taught at the Little Genesee School and other schools in Allegany County. Burdick became a school superintendent in the 1920s He was also a town justice, operated a general store in Little Genesee, and was involved in oil production in Kansas, Ohio and Allegany

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<sup>20</sup> "Will Build a Modern Schoolhouse," *Bolivar Breeze*, March 14, 1901; "Little Genesee," *Bolivar Breeze*, March 21, 1901.

<sup>21</sup> "Teacher's Contract for Alta Allen," June 1, 1920, and class lists from 1921 from the files of the Bolivar-Richburg-Allentown-Genesee Historical Preservation Society.

<sup>22</sup> "Prominent Allegany County Attorney Passes from Life," obituary of Walter Bliss, *Andover News*, (Andover, N.Y.) February 13, 1941.

<sup>23</sup> Newspaper articles about Anna Crandall, *Bolivar Breeze*, September. 9, 1915; *Bolivar Breeze*, August 31, 1916.

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County. In his role as Superintendent of Schools in Allegany County, he oversaw the meeting and vote that led to the closing of the Little Genesee School in 1931.<sup>24</sup>

**School Consolidation**

One (and two) room schools were a product of an agricultural America, which believed that education enriched one religiously and promoted both economic opportunity and social mobility. One (and two) room schools anchored communities.<sup>25</sup> Schools, one-room or larger, provided not just an education, but engendered social interaction among all age groups in each township of Allegany County.

A national movement to reform rural schools began in the early 1890s. Many educators believed that the ungraded, one-room, one teacher country schools could not begin to measure up to their urban counterparts with well-developed curricula, efficient methodologies and modern facilities and equipment. In New York State, educational leaders sought to improve schools by making them efficient through closer supervision, professional expertise and oversight by state authorities. In 1896, the education law was amended to allow school commissioners to dissolve and consolidate districts without the approval of the local district board. In 1903, the non-resident Free Tuition Act allowed students residing in districts that did not have high school departments to attend high schools in other districts, with the state paying part of each student's tuition. The Unification Act of 1904 streamlined and strengthened the state's educational bureaucracy and expanded the powers of the Commissioner of Education. At that time the Department of Public Instruction and the Board of Regents were combined to create the State Education Department. Between 1912 and 1918, there was increasing pressure from the state for the small rural school districts to consolidate in the name of efficiency and better education programs for children. It was argued that the one-room school could not provide the diversified curriculum or depth of coverage expected in modern schools. To facilitate consolidation, the state encouraged the provision of transportation of students across district boundaries so they could attend larger, better equipped schools. The Central Rural School Act of 1913 encouraged rural school districts to consolidate and form more efficient units of education. Still, the rural districts continued to resist consolidation. In 1924, the Central School Act provided every child in the state access to a high school education through the administrative structure of their local district. In some cases, the consolidation of a number of small districts resulted in the merging of two

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<sup>24</sup> "Sketch of Professor O.R. Burdick, A Well Known Little Genesee Teacher Who is a Candidate For School Commissioner," *Bolivar Breeze*, July 17, 1896; "Oscar M. Burdick Remembered as Teacher, School Commissioner, Oil Producer, Store-Keeper, Poet and Town Justice," *Gentle Slopes and Homespun Folks*, 140.

<sup>25</sup> Paquette, 2.

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small secondary programs to provide a more broad-based curriculum than either could achieve alone. In others, small districts pooling their resources could provide a high school program for the first time. The 1924 act did not put an end to the one-room rural school altogether. Many survived until after World War II when another major initiative for consolidation resulted in their rapid decline.<sup>26</sup>

The consolidation of schools in Allegany County during the periods of 1869-1910, 1910-1945, and 1945-1998 forced the closure of its one-room schoolhouses. Consequently, hamlets declined and collapsed. Families relocated to incorporated villages where larger elementary schools were built, and academies and/or high schools were established. School consolidation paralleled the shift of the United States from an agriculture-based to an industrial-based economy.<sup>27</sup>

The parents of students at Genesee District No. 1 resisted consolidation into the early 1930s. In September 1929, the *Bolivar Breeze* reported on the opening of school for the Bolivar Central School District, listing its teachers and adding that Mrs. Cora Foster and Mr. Ferris S. Whitford were still teaching at the Little Genesee School.<sup>28</sup> In February 1930, at a special meeting the residents of Little Genesee voted against closing the school and moving the students to the new consolidated school district.<sup>29</sup> However, in September 1930, the upper department of the Little Genesee School had moved to a room on the first floor of the Central building in Bolivar while 19 students remained at the Little Genesee School.<sup>30</sup> Finally, in July 1931, a special meeting was held and Little Genesee residents voted 21-2 to close its school and send the 15 remaining students to the Bolivar Central School. Mrs. Foster would go on to teach second grade in the Bolivar Central School.<sup>31</sup>

The sudden change of heart by the parents of Little Genesee may have been because the new central school their children would be attending had been rated the second best central rural school in the state. According to an article in the *Bolivar Breeze*, the week before the special meeting and vote, “in the new central school every child has the superior advantages of special music, special drawing and physical training directors, not to mention the special attention of a trained nurse at all hours of the school day.”<sup>32</sup>

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<sup>26</sup> Warren, 33-42.

<sup>27</sup> Paquette, 2

<sup>28</sup> “Central School District No. 1 Schools Will Open on Monday,” *Bolivar Breeze*, September 5, 1929.

<sup>29</sup> *Andover News*, February 21, 1930

<sup>30</sup> “Bolivar Central School News,” *Bollivar Breeze*, September 18, 1930.

<sup>31</sup> “Vote to Send Pupils to Bolivar Central School,” *Bolivar Breeze*, July 23, 1931.

<sup>32</sup> “School Meetings at Genesee and Salt Rising,” *Bolivar Breeze*, July 16, 1931.



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After consolidation forced their closure, one- and two-room schools in Allegany County were put up for sale. Some never sold and over time were abandoned and/or demolished. Others were converted into businesses, churches, libraries (like Little Genesee) and museums (like Ceres). Many became residences.

According to Paquette, 129 buildings that once served as schoolhouses in Allegany County were extant as of 2019. Of that number, 87 were year-round residences, 10 were seasonal cabins, 15 were abandoned, and the remaining 17 have a variety of uses: churches (4), garages (3), barns (3), storage (1), grange (1), fire station and post office (1), bicycle shop (1), museum (1), library (1), and unknown use (1).<sup>33</sup>

For its association with rural education in Allegany County, the Little Genesee Schoolhouse/Genesee District No. 1 is significant under Criterion A in the area of Education. Its history reflects the changes in rural education in the nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries, from one- and two-room school buildings educating children of a variety of ages from a small area, to the consolidation of those smaller schools into a centralized system that improved efficiency, facilities, and elevated educational standards. Of the seven early schoolhouses identified in the Allegany County study, the majority have subsequently been converted to residences or undergone substantial rehabilitation, and only one other retains an educational purpose.

**Later History of the Building**

In his study of the schoolhouses of Allegany County, Paquette states that the two great success stories of one- and two-room schoolhouse reuse are in the township of Genesee: District No. 1 School in the hamlet of Little Genesee, owned by the town and serving as the town library; and District No. 6 School in Ceres, owned by the Bolivar, Richburg, Allentown, and Genesee Historical Preservation Society (B.R.A.G.) and converted to a schoolhouse museum. It was listed in the National Register in 2010.<sup>34</sup> [Photo 28]

The Genesee Library was organized in 1908. Its collection was originally held in the vestry of the Seventh Day Baptist Church in Little Genesee. In 1909, it moved to the Lodge Room of the Genesee Town Hall and in 1935, after students had transitioned to the Bolivar School District, it moved to one room of the former Little Genesee

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<sup>33</sup> Paquette, 130.

<sup>34</sup> Paquette, 129-130

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Schoolhouse.<sup>35</sup> In 1952, residents of Little Genesee voted to buy the former school from the consolidated school district for one dollar.<sup>36</sup> Since the building no longer had a need for the school bell, in 1961 the town board voted to give the old school bell to the Wesleyan Methodist Church of McCrea Brook, Eldred, McKean County, Pennsylvania.<sup>37</sup>

Over the years the library has shared the building with a number of community groups and organizations, including the Women’s Kitchen Band, the Little Genesee Rod and Gun Club, the Little Genesee Quilters, and the Bolivar, Richburg, Allentown, Genesee Historical Preservation Society, which was first headquartered in what is now the Children’s Room. Today the building continues to serve as the town library and a community center, providing meeting and gathering space for residents. The Community Room is used for year-round library activities and a summer lunch program and summer reading program. After a fire at the Genesee Town Hall building in 2015, the library served as the Genesee Town Hall until a new building was constructed the following year. During the COVID-19 pandemic, it provided to-go activities for children and adults, as well as a Wifi connection for students without internet access in the months when school was held remotely, coming full circle and bringing the building back to its historic roots.

**Schoolhouse Architecture**

Schoolhouse architecture in the United States may be divided into two broad categories – the vernacular and the architect-designed – and up to five distinct (sub-categories) periods and styles:

- 1) Vernacular – a primitive dwelling, like a log house, serving as a schoolhouse.
- 2) Folk vernacular – a simple dwelling with some ornamentation reflecting the traditions of the local population.
- 3) Mass vernacular – a structure resembling a schoolhouse, but with features typical of a church or town hall.
- 4) Architect designed – executed by a hired architect or copied from published design books.
- 5) Monumental – a multi-storied structure.<sup>38</sup>

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<sup>35</sup> “Annual Report for Year Ended December 31, 1935, Genesee Library, Little Genesee, N.Y.,” from Genesee Library files.

<sup>36</sup> Gentle Slopes and Homespun Folks, 129; “Little Genesee” column, *Bolivar Breeze*, August 21, 1952.

<sup>37</sup> Allie Burdick, Genesee Town Clerk, “Genesee Town Board gives Old Grade School Bell to the Wesleyan Methodist Church, McCrea Brook, McKean Co., Pa.” Notes from the Genesee Town Board Meeting, June 26, 1961.

<sup>38</sup> Paquette, 6; Fred E. H. Schroeder, “Schoolhouse Reading: What You Can Learn from Your Rural School,” *History News*, Vol. 36, No. 4, 1981, 15-16. JSTOR, <http://jstor.org/stable/42656249>. Accessed June 20, 2024.

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According to Paquette in his study of Allegany County schoolhouses, nineteen schools in Allegany County were mass vernacular type of design, including the second Little Genesee School District No. 1 building. They used commercial machine-made materials, producing a structure that looks more like a schoolhouse than an agricultural building or home and resembling other rural civic structures such as a town hall or church. They contained ornamental details such as porticos, dormers, belltowers, columns and even gingerbread.<sup>39</sup>

Mass vernacular school buildings use commercial and standardized materials such as dimension lumber, standard-size bricks, concrete blocks, asphalt shingles, and commercial siding; prefabricated mill work, manufactured hardware and fittings such as doorknobs, hinges, ventilating louvres and bells. Many have ornamental details or sophisticated architectural additions such as a portico, dormer or belltower. Its form is usually rectangular with one or two entrances at one end, a simple gable roof, and three or four widely spaced windows on each side. In the case of the Little Genesee Schoolhouse, many of those details remain such as: classical pilasters and a fanlight window at the front entrance, dentil details in the window lintels, a mixture of materials on the façade, including stone, clapboard and shingles, wide overhanging eaves and a simple cornice.

“The vernacularity is in the design. The builder (not an architect) builds not according to blueprints, but according to a cultural template in his mind of what a schoolhouse looks like and the current method of building construction.”<sup>40</sup> Without access to an architect, it’s likely the school trustees looked to previously published designs for inspiration then hired local craftspeople to execute the design. In the case of the Little Genesee schoolhouse, local residents Cortland S. Jaques and Harry Nunn were the craftspeople with Jaques doing the carpentry and Nunn the masonry.

In 1887, the New York State Department of Public Instruction conducted an architectural competition to secure designs for model rural schoolhouses. The competition resulted in a booklet, *Design for School Houses*, a compilation of nineteen designs for small schools from one to four classrooms costing between \$600 and \$10,000, that provided guidance to local authorities. The first prize in Class III, “Plan No. 10” by J.C.A. Heriot & Cortiss McKinney from Albany, New York, has many of the same features as the second Little Genesee Schoolhouse (Figures 15, 16). It was identified as a two-room school of frame construction, for 60 to 100

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<sup>39</sup> Paquette, 7

<sup>40</sup> Schroeder, 15-16

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students, not to exceed \$1,500. The design grafted two one-room units together.<sup>41</sup> It featured a loggia with exterior steps leading to two separate entrances (for boys and girls) with a shared lobby. Differences between the state design and the schoolhouse built in Little Genesee show how the local school officials and craftspeople adapted the model design to fit their community's needs and preferences. The Little Genesee school building is sited on a hill and has a raised basement, a single center entrance with a single set of interior steps leading to a lobby and possible separate cloakrooms or auxiliary rooms replace the separate entries. The exterior of the Little Genesee school had similar design elements as the model plan with a central bell tower, hipped and gable roof, four windows on each side elevation, three square windows on the façade above the entrance and a corbelled chimney in the rear. In addition, the Little Genesee school and the model both have a basement. The only difference in the classroom section of the plan is that the Little Genesee building has four windows (two in each room) on the rear elevation (Figure 17).

The basic function spaces found in the one-room school in the late nineteenth century would continue in the one and two-room school for several decades.<sup>42</sup> While *Designs for School Houses* was published sixteen years before the construction of the new school in Little Genesee, the publication was re-issued by the state in 1895 and was still considered to have examples worth emulating.

The interior of the typical one-room school included tongue and groove flooring, wainscoting, embossed metal ceilings, cast iron desks, cabinets, shelving and slate blackboards. The Little Genesee Schoolhouse retains many of its original details. Some are still visible, such as wainscoting, wood trim, some interior doors and hardware. Others, such as the original tongue and groove flooring and ceiling remain intact under the current flooring and ceilings. In addition, an original slate blackboard from the former upper grades room was relocated to the current Children's Room.

The original Little Genesee schoolhouse, built c. 1826, displayed many characteristics of the Greek Revival style of architecture: low-pitched hipped roof, wide cornice/frieze, a porch supported by rounded Doric style columns, front door surrounded by sidelights, pilasters on the building corners. The current building, constructed in 1903, is an intact example of an early-twentieth century simple/vernacular Queen Anne style two-room rural schoolhouse.

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<sup>41</sup> Warren, 265-270; New York State Department of Public Instruction, *Designs for School-Houses accepted by the Department of Public Instruction of the State of New York*, (Albany: Weed-Parsons Printing Co., 1895), 40-41.

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The Queen Anne style, popular in American from 1880 to 1910, was named and popularized by a group of nineteenth century English architects led by Richard Norman Shaw, however it had little to do with Queen Anne or the architecture that was dominant during her reign (1702-14). The buildings are actually based on twelfth to sixteenth century designs.<sup>43</sup>

The architectural landscape of the period was shaped by many variables, among them the proliferation of architectural pattern books and mail-order catalogues; advances in building technology such as the balloon frame, wire nails, and increasingly mass-produced decorative elements. Balloon framing allowed for greater complexity of form and ease of construction, while mass-produced millwork reduced cost and labor.

In the case of the Little Genesee Schoolhouse, it's likely that the builders drew upon pre-existing plans, such as those published by the New York State Department of Instruction, adjusting them to fit the needs and preferences of the community. Some features of the new building seem to echo the classical features of the previous building, with its symmetrical façade, belltower, pilasters and single entrance. Its design seems to reflect a community that was looking to the future while honoring its past.

Identifying Queen Anne features that can be found in the design of the Little Genesee Schoolhouse are: a hipped with cross-gable roof, a dominant front-facing gable or tower that extends from the ground up, differing wall textures with a variety of materials used on the different stories and the gable decorated with patterned shingles (the foundation of the schoolhouse is fieldstone, the first floor is clapboard siding, and the peak of the front gable is wood shingles), a variety of window shapes (rectangular, round arched, square and fanlight), and a corbelled top chimney. It also displays elements of the Free Classic variant of the Queen Anne style, incorporating elements such as dentil details in the lintels, and classic columns (the entrance to the building is flanked by doric pilasters). The square belltower that once stood atop the building had a concave pyramidal hipped roof and pairs of round arched openings supported by classical columns on all four sides (Figure 18).

Some changes have been made over the years to the building. The original belltower was removed sometime between 1961, when the town gave the school bell to a nearby church and 1972, when a photo of the building

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<sup>42</sup> Warren, 272

<sup>43</sup> Virginia and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses*, (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1997), 262-268.

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appeared in the local newspaper, without the tower (Figure 19). While no information was found on when or why the bell tower was removed, newspaper articles from the 1950s and 60s mention the amount of repair work the building needed (including a new roof), and it's likely that the tower was removed because it had deteriorated beyond repair.<sup>44</sup> Other changes include: the replacement of some original doors and windows, the addition of a rear entrance and handicapped ramp, and the reconfiguration of the auxiliary rooms, which may have once served as cloakrooms into the Children's Room, bathroom and kitchen. But the building's overall form, both on the interior and exterior, remains intact as a significant architectural example of Genesee's former district school education system.

Surviving intact examples of the Plan No 10 schoolhouse from the New York State Department of Public Instructions' *Design for Schoolhouses* appear to be exceedingly rare in New York State.

The only possible local example appears to be Alfred District School No. 1 in Alfred Station (623 State Route 244), but it has been highly altered. Like Genesee District No. 1, it was a two-room school with grades one through four on one side, and five through eight on the other. It employed two teachers. It appears to have had a similar plan as Little Genesee, with one entrance, a symmetrical façade, bands of windows along the east and west elevations, and a central belltower. Built in 1908 by Roy Crandall of nearby Tinkertown, it has brick walls and had a clay tile roof. (Figure 20) The materials likely came from the Alfred Clay Company, also located in Alfred Station. At one point, the building was known as Community House.<sup>45</sup>

Today, Alfred District School No. 1, serves at the Alfred Station Fire Hall and the fire department rents space to the United States Post Office. There is also a community meeting room. A large garage addition with five bays was added to the rear of the building in the late 1990s, replacing a previous garage addition; the tile roof has been replaced with asphalt shingles; the east façade windows has been bricked up; and a smaller brick addition with another entrance was added to the east side of the façade. (Figure 21) In comparing the two, the Genesee District No. 1 building remains truer to its original form than Alfred District No. 1.<sup>46</sup>

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<sup>44</sup> Newspaper articles about the condition of the library from 1960 and 1972: *Bolivar Breeze*, August 21, 1952; *Bolivar Breeze*, October 6, 1960; *Wellsville Reporter*, October 24, 1972.

<sup>45</sup> Allen Russell, Thelma Palmiter, Susan Greene, "Alfred Station Bicentennial Weekend Guidebook." May 29-30, 1976, 15, 26.

<sup>46</sup> "Alfred Station Post Office Re-located," *Wellsville Daily Reporter*, June 5, 1971; Kathryn Ross, "Alfred Station firefighters launch fund drive," *Patriot and Free Press* (Cuba, N.Y.), February 7-13, 1996; Doug France, "New fire hall at Alfred Station," *Patriot and Free Press*, October 29-November 4, 1997.

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Surviving intact examples of two-room schoolhouses in Allegany County are also quite rare. The Genesee School District No. 6 or Ceres Schoolhouse (School Street, Ceres) is one example of an intact two-room schoolhouse. (Figure 22, 23) It serves as a seasonal museum for the Bolivar-Richburg-Allentown-Genesee Historical Preservation Society. Constructed ca. 1855, it was remodeled ca. 1895 with Italianate and Queen Anne-style elements. The wood-frame building has a stone foundation and asphalt shingle roof and was listed in the National Register in 2010.<sup>47</sup>

A thorough search of National Register Listed properties in New York State found no other NR listed examples in New York of two room schools dated to the period when Plan No. 10 was available and constructed in a broadly similar design. The Chemung District School No. 10/Lowman School (08NR05857) (Figure 24) built in 1898 by a well-known construction company in the area (Wellever Construction Co.), is perhaps a singular similar example to the Chemung District School No. 10/Lowman School, but it is not a Plan No. 10, nor is it executed in the Queen Anne motif, instead being Colonial Revival in style. It appears likely that other remaining examples of Plan No. 10 schools have been converted to other uses such as a residence, church, and garage or are vacant or abandoned.

As an early-twentieth century simple/vernacular Queen Anne style two-room schoolhouse, the Little Genesee Schoolhouse retains much of its original fabric, with few changes being made to the plan of the building since its conversion to a library nearly 90 years ago, leaving it as an intact and recognizable example of a rural two-room school building.

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<sup>47</sup> "Ceres School," *National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*, December 7, 2010.

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**Little Genesee Schoolhouse DRAFT**

Allegany County NY

Name of Property

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**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
  - Other State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other
- Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 0.87

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_  
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- |                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 42.023726 | Longitude: -78.210187 |
| 2. Latitude:           | Longitude:            |
| 3. Latitude:           | Longitude:            |
| 4. Latitude:           | Longitude:            |

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary is indicated by a heavy line on the enclosed map with scale.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary corresponds to the parcel boundary during the Period of Significance.

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Gina M. DiBella, Historic Preservation Consultant

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

street & number 224 Northwood Drive telephone 585-729-9229

city or town Rochester state New York zip code 14612

e-mail ginamdibella@gmail.com

**Little Genesee Schoolhouse DRAFT**

Name of Property

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**Additional Documentation**

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Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

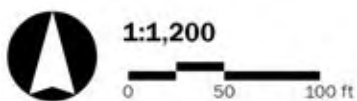
- **Continuation Sheets** –
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)


**Little Genesee Schoolhouse DRAFT**

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 Nomination Boundary (0.87 ac)



Projection: WGS 1984 UTM Zone 17N

New York State Orthoimagery Year: 2022

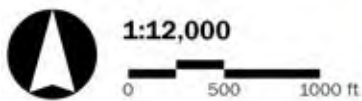
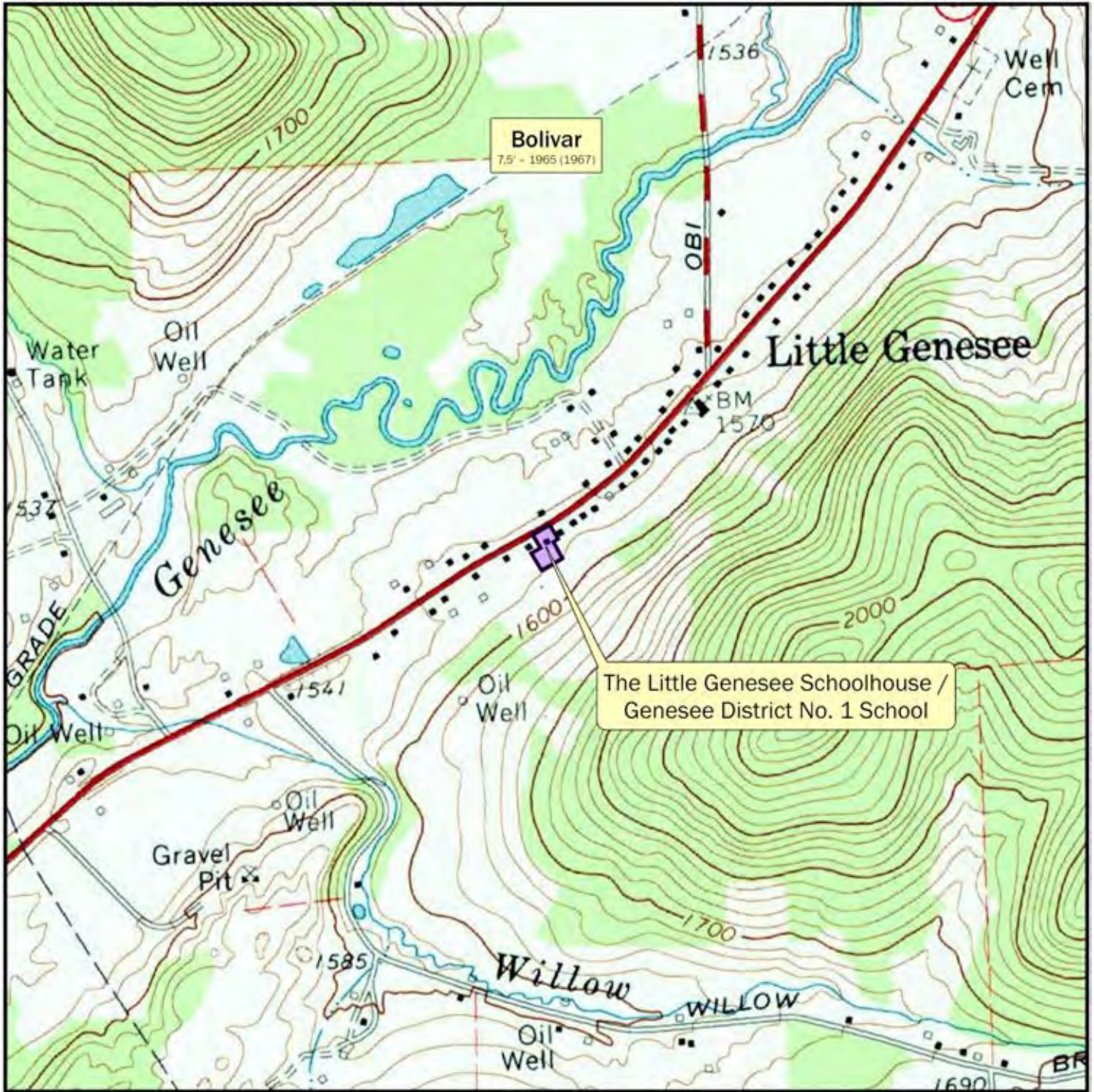
Mapped 11/13/2024 by Matthew W. Shepherd, NYSHPO




**Little Genesee Schoolhouse DRAFT**

Allegany County NY  
County and State

Name of Property



 The Little Genesee Schoolhouse / Genesee District No. 1 School



Projection: WGS 1984 UTM Zone 17N

Mapped 11/13/2024 by Matthew W. Shepherd, NYSHPO

**Little Genesee Schoolhouse DRAFT**

Name of Property

**Allegany County NY**  
County and State

**Additional Documentation**

**Figures: Current and Historic Maps, Plans and Historic Photos**

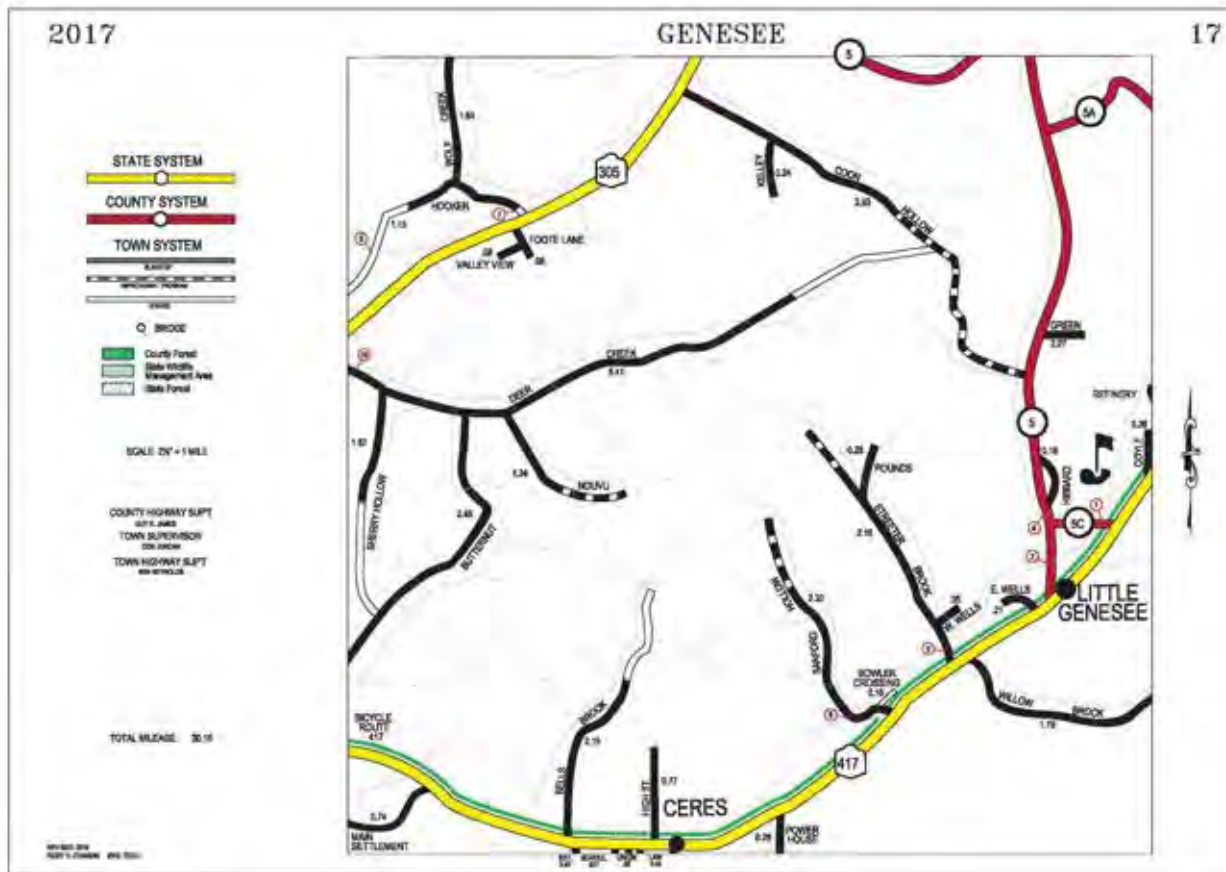


Figure 1: Map of Town of Genesee, Allegany County, New York (2017).



**Little Genesee Schoolhouse DRAFT**

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Name of Property



Figure 2: Section of Tax Map, Town of Genesee, Allegany County, New York (2024). Genesee Library (Little Genesee Schoolhouse) is parcel 26.

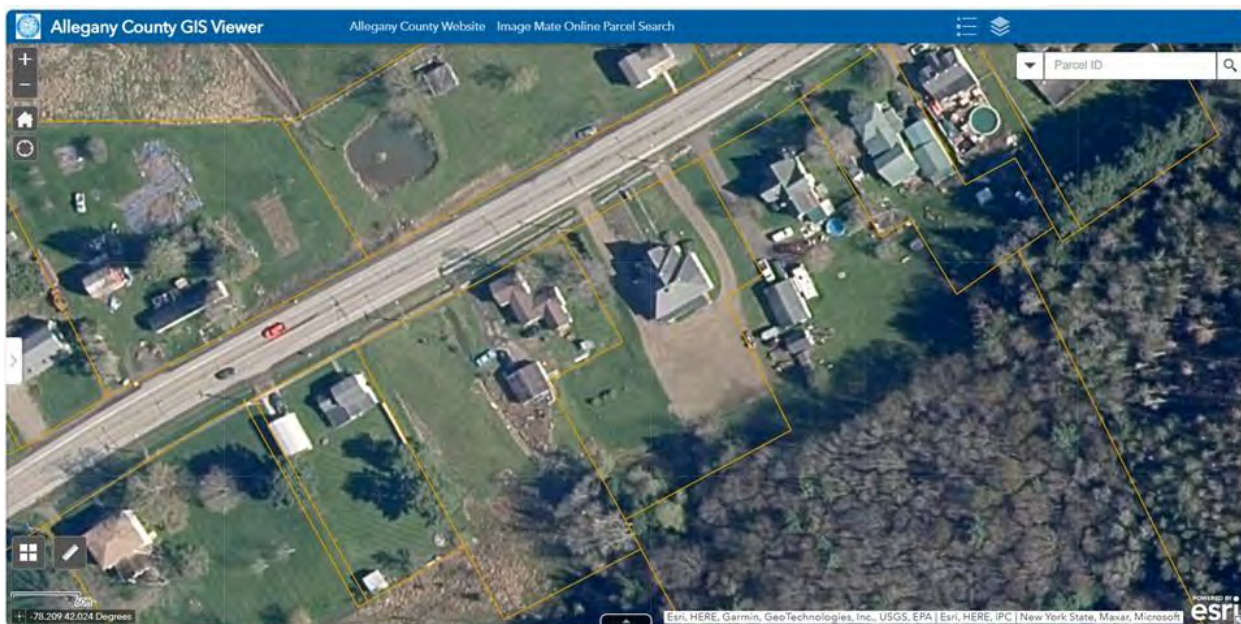


Figure 3: Allegany County GIS map of Little Genesee with property lines. The library/former schoolhouse is at the center of the image.



**Little Genesee Schoolhouse DRAFT**

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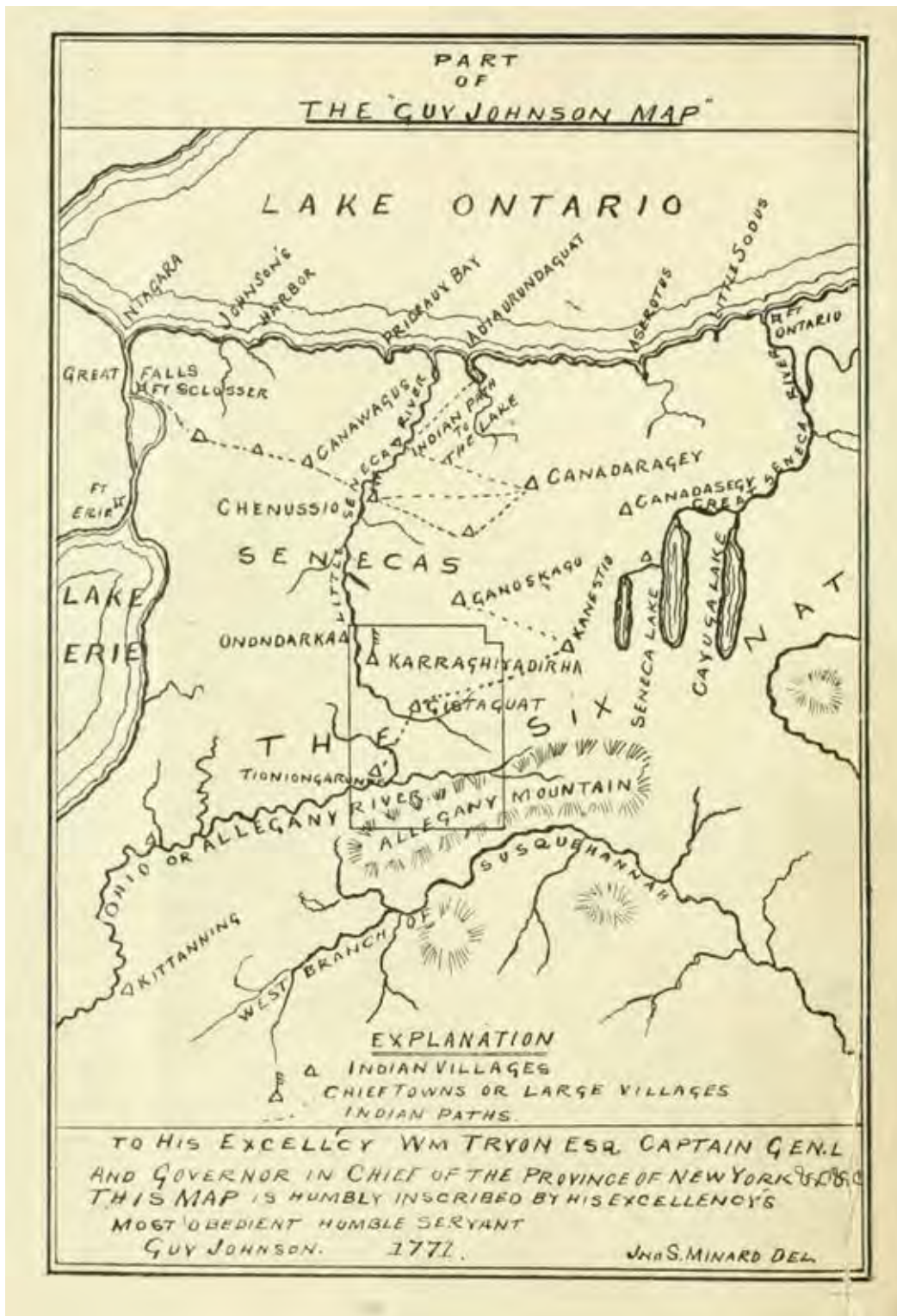


Figure 4: Reproduction of part of the Guy Johnson map from 1771 showing the land of the O-non-dowa-gah (Seneca) people with Allegany County (New York) outlined at the center. From: *A Centennial Memorial History of Allegany County, New York*, 1896.

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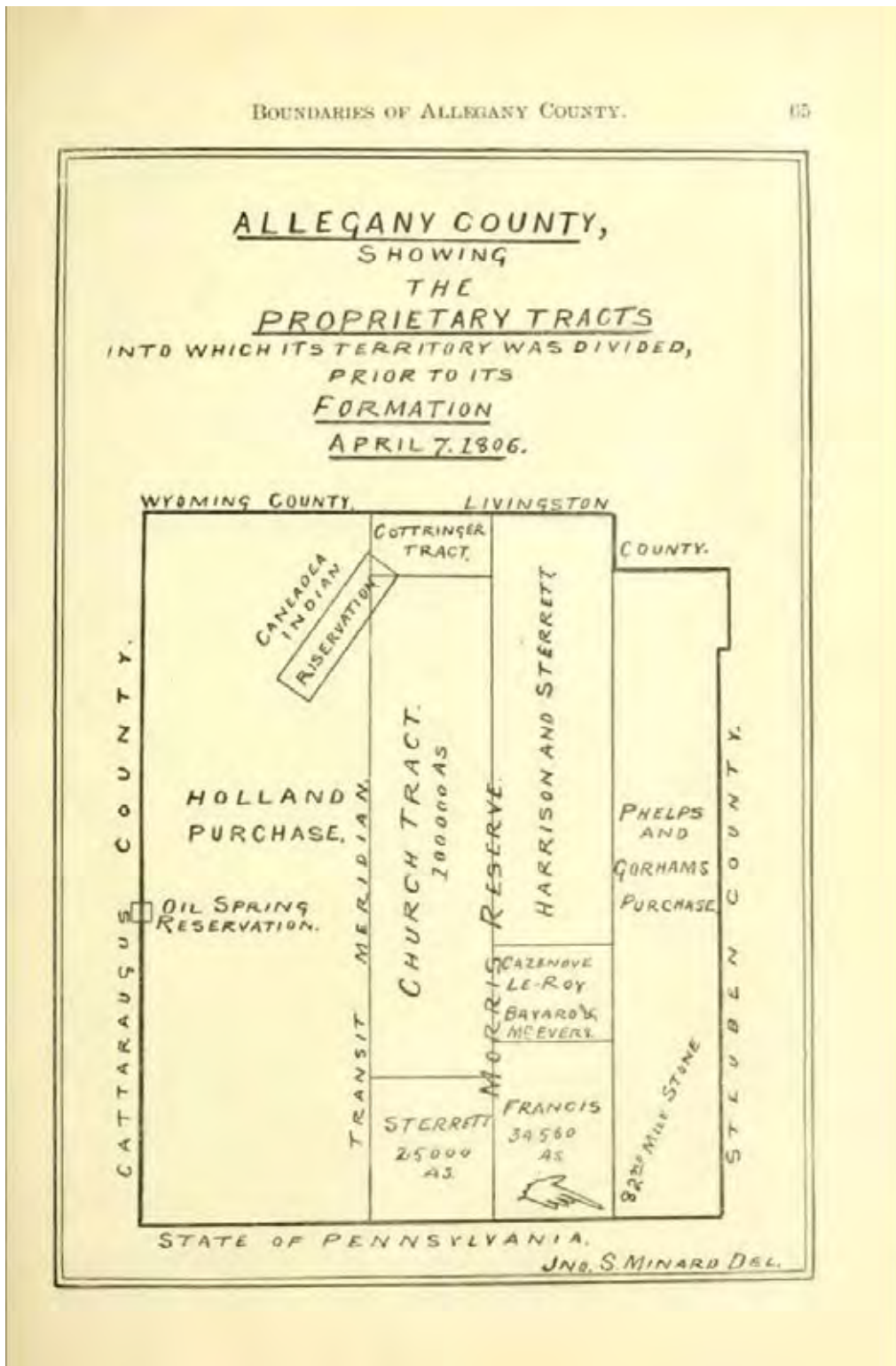


Figure 4A: Allegany County (New York) showing the proprietary tracts into which its territory was divided prior to its formation on April 7, 1806. The town of Genesee was part of the Holland Land Purchase Tract. From: *A Centennial Memorial History of Allegany County, New York, 1896.*

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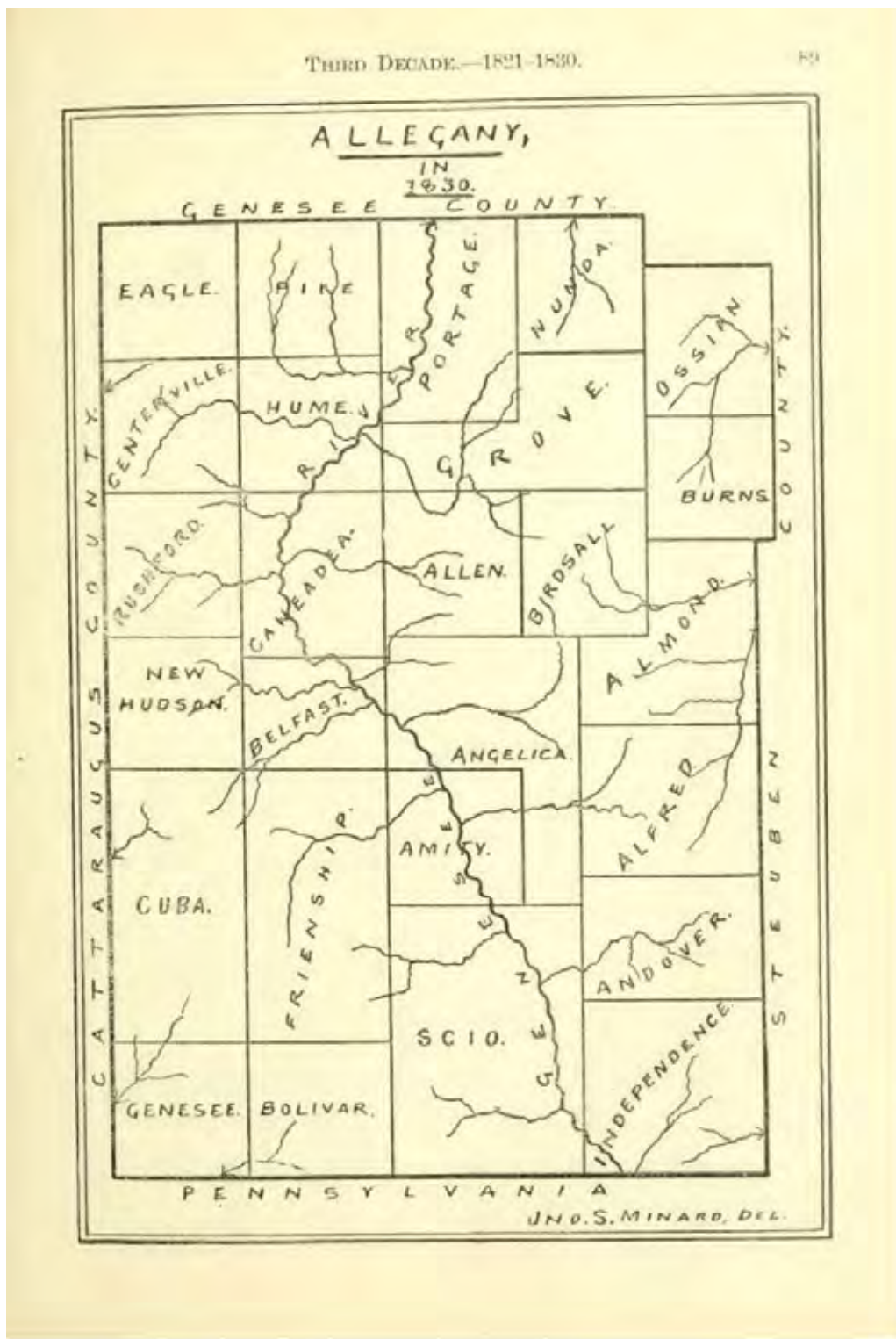


Figure 5: Map of Allegany County in 1830 showing the town of Genesee. From: *A Centennial Memorial History of Allegany County, New York, 1896.*



**Little Genesee Schoolhouse DRAFT**

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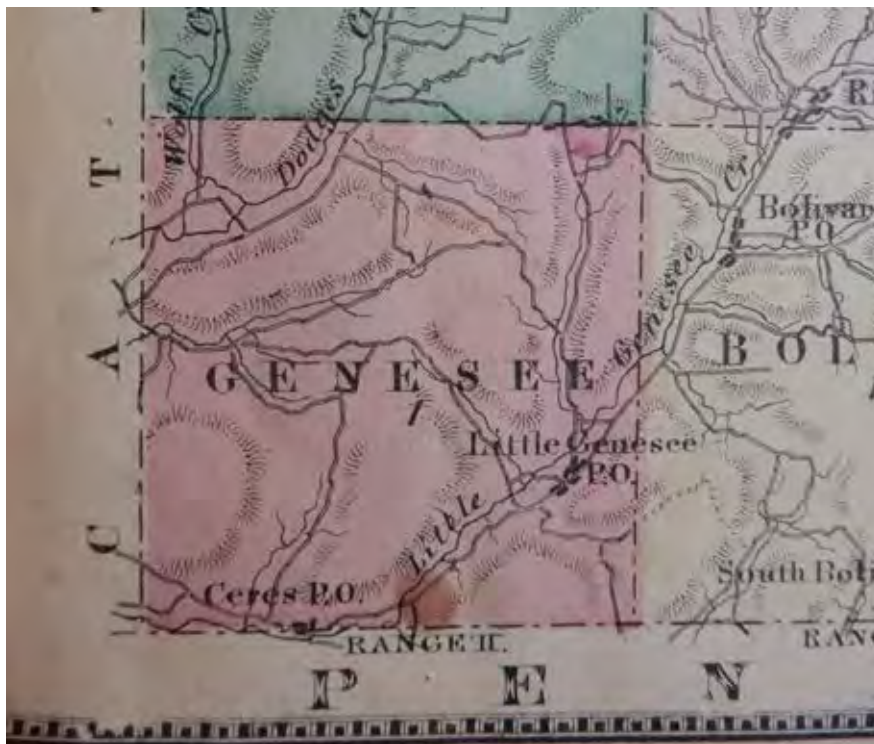


Figure 6: Map of the Town of Genesee showing the creeks, hills and valleys. From: *Atlas of Allegany County, New York; From actual Surveys & Official Records*. Compiled & Published by D.G. Beers & Co., New York, 1869.



Figure 7: Map of Little Genesee, Allegany County, New York. From: G. Bechler's *Map of Allegany County from Actual Surveys*. Published by Gillette, Matthews & Co., Philadelphia, 1856.

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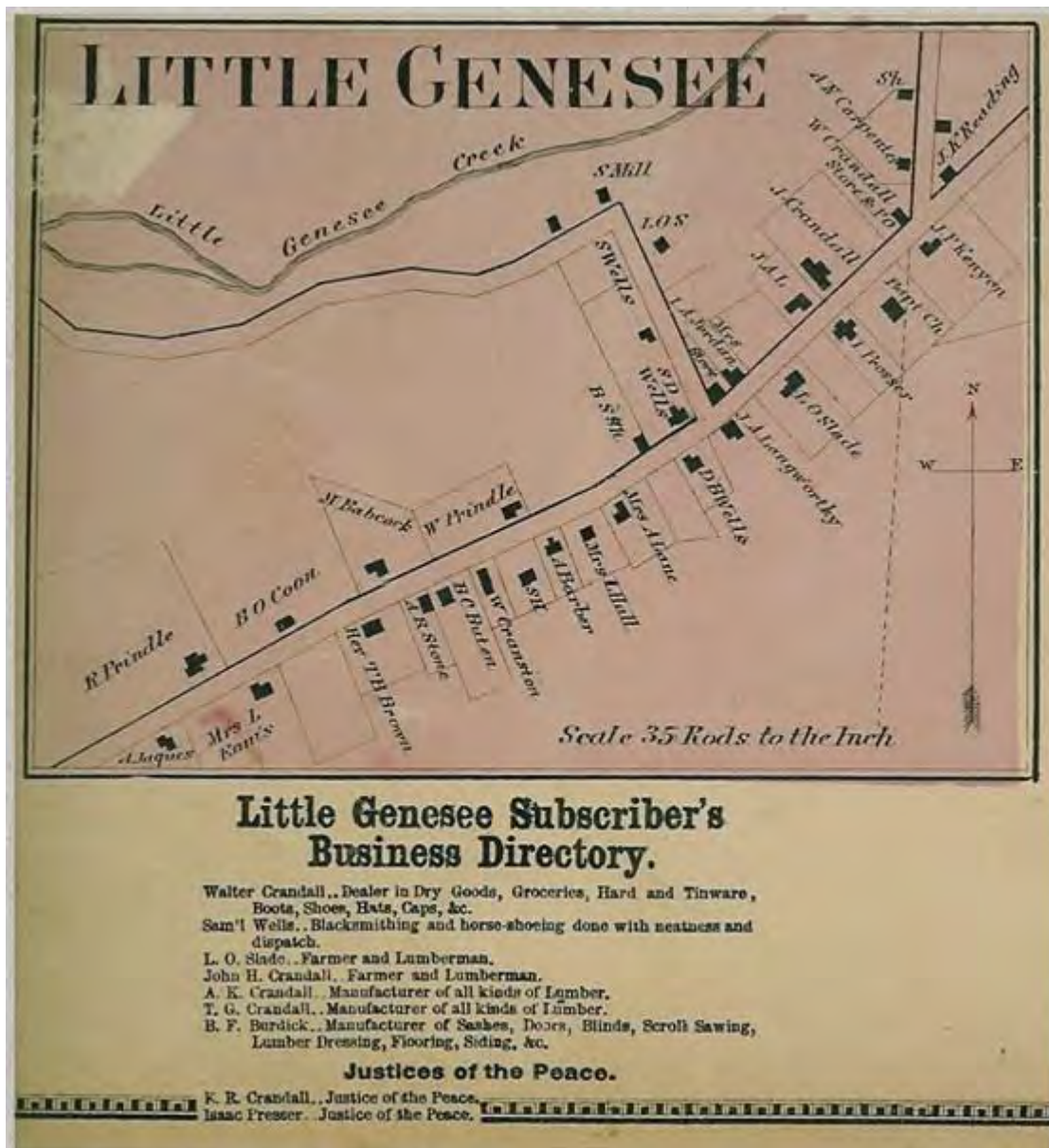


Figure 8: Map of Little Genesee. From: *Atlas of Allegany County, New York; From actual Surveys & Official Records Compiled & Published by D.G. Beers & Co., New York, 1869.*

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Figure 8A: Bird's Eye View of Little Genesee, N.Y. Little Genesee Creek is at center; schoolhouse is to the far left. Year unknown. From: *Gentle Slopes and Homespun Folks: Town of Genesee Sesquicentennial 1830-1980*, 1980.



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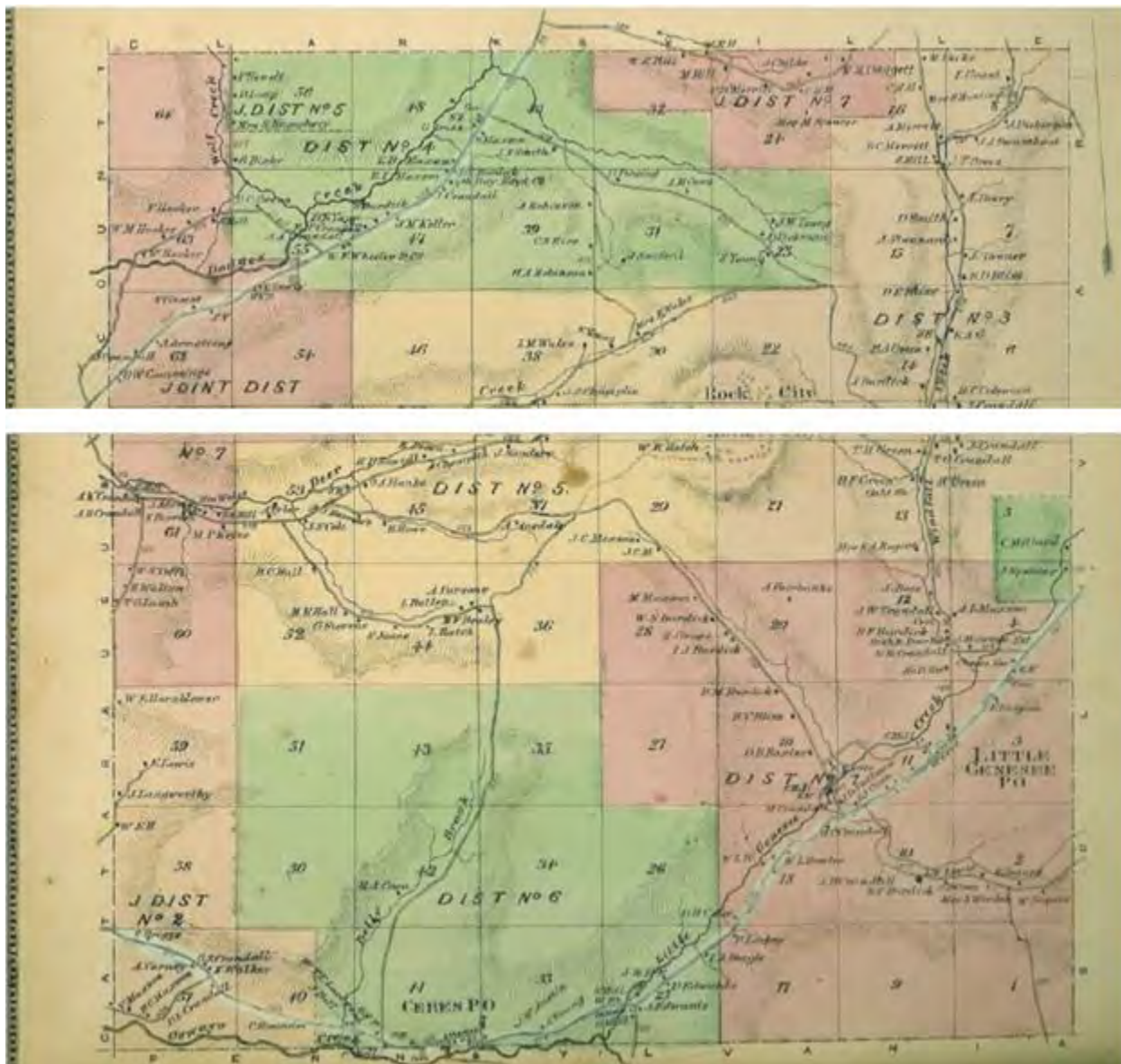


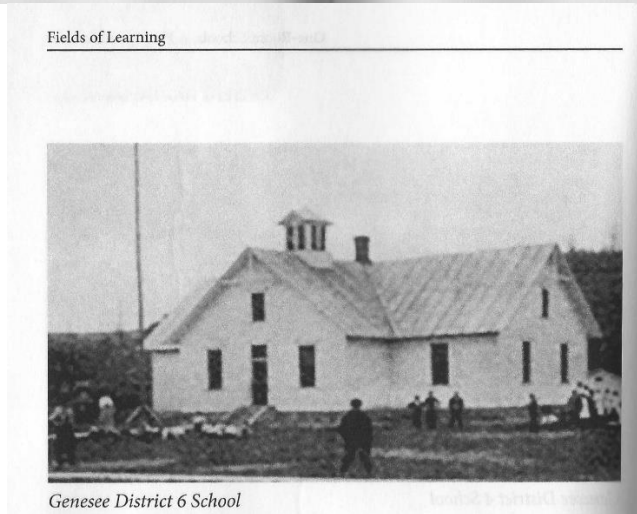
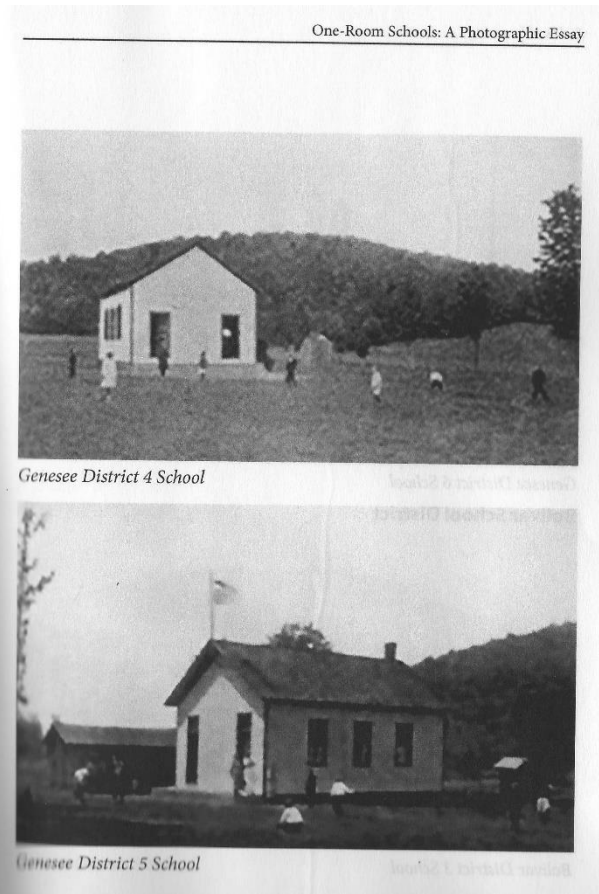
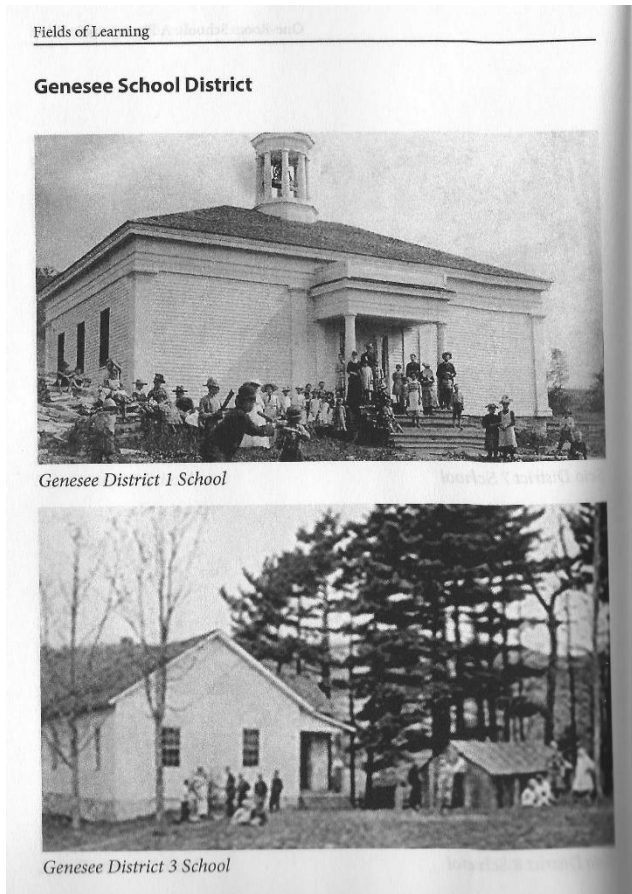
Figure 9: Map of Town of Genesee with School Districts highlighted. From: *Atlas of Allegany County, New York; From actual Surveys & Official Records Compiled & Published by D.G. Beers & Co., New York, 1869.*

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Figures 10 and 11: Genesee School District one- and two-room schoolhouses. From: William A. Paquette, *Fields of Learning: A Retrospect on One-Room Schools in Allegany County, New York*, (Norfolk, VA: New Dominion Press, 2019), 62-64.



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Figure 12: Original Little Genesee School, 1826-1901. Courtesy of Bolivar-Richburg-Allentown-Genesee Historical Preservation Society (B.R.A.G.) and the Allegany County Historical Society (ACHS).

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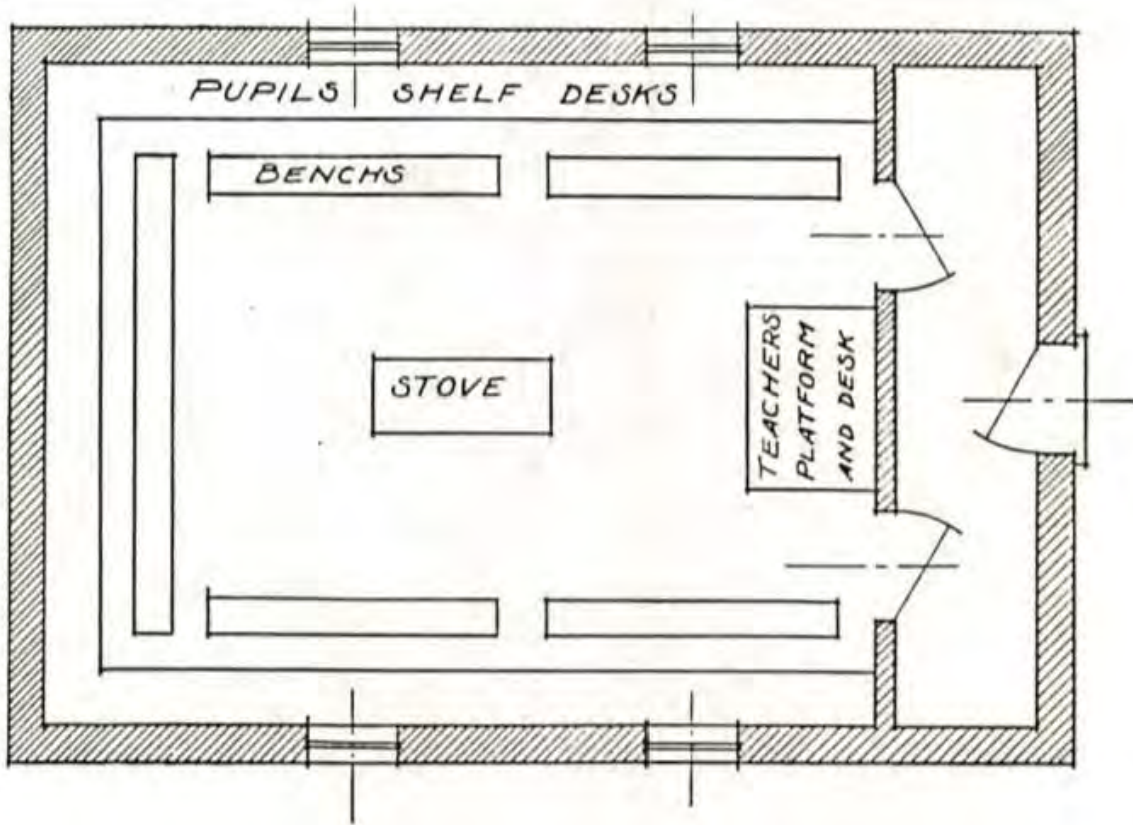


Figure 13: Plan of 19<sup>th</sup> Century Rural Schoolhouse. From: Suzanne Warren, *Context Study: The Schools of New York State; Development of the School as a Building Type*, 1990.

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Figure 14: Little Genesee School House with Bell Tower intact, 1903. Courtesy of Bolivar-Richburg-Allentown-Genesee Historical Preservation Society and the Allegany County Historical Society.

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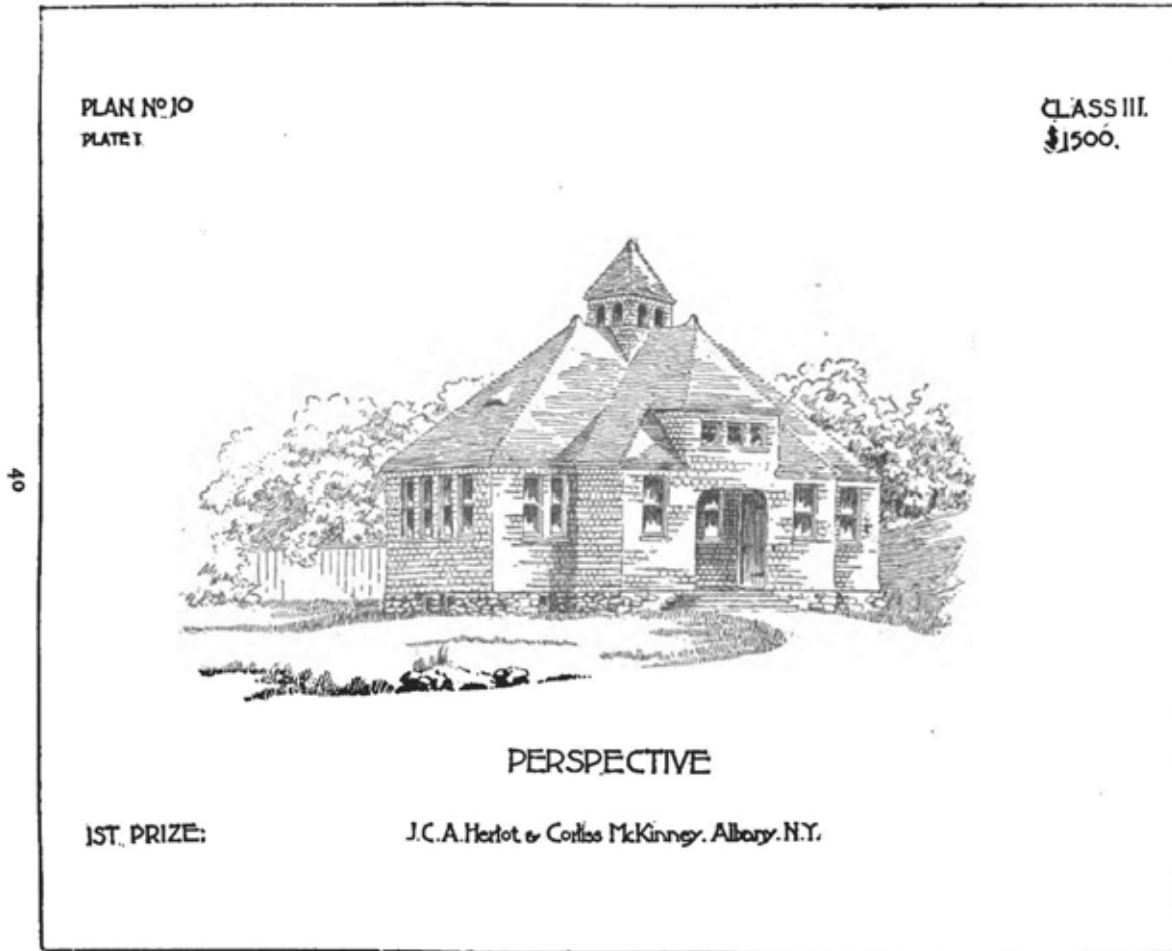


Figure 15: Plan No. 10, Plate 1, Class III. From New York State Department of Public Instruction, *Designs for School Houses*, 1895.

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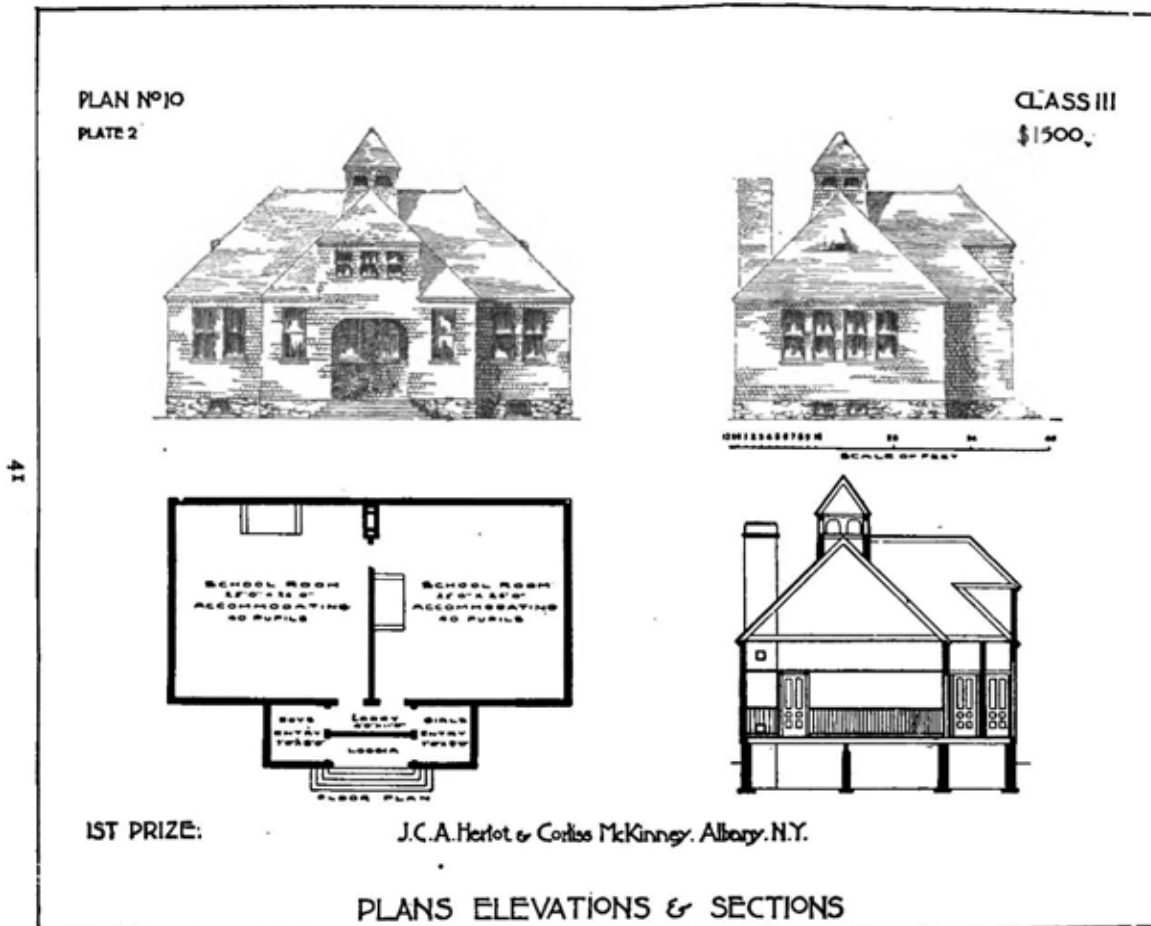


Figure 16: Plan No. 10, Plate 2, Class III. From New York State Department of Public Instruction, *Designs for School Houses*, 1895.



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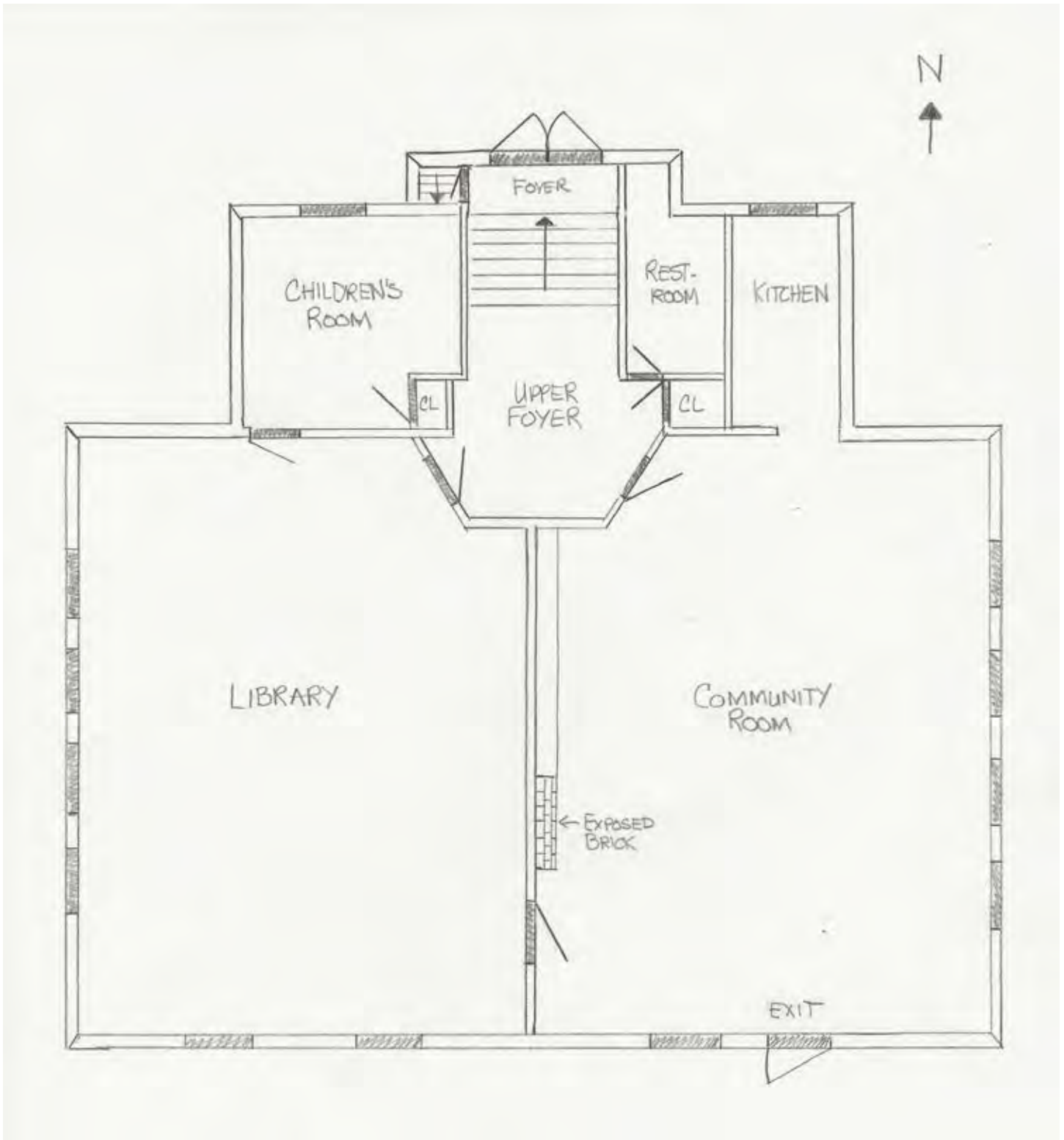


Figure 17: Current floor plan of the Genesee Library.

project.

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Figure 18: Little Genesee Schoolhouse, date unknown. Courtesy of Bolivar-Richburg-Allentown-Genesee Historical Preservation Society.

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Figure 19: Genesee Library. *Wellsville Reporter*, October 24, 1972.



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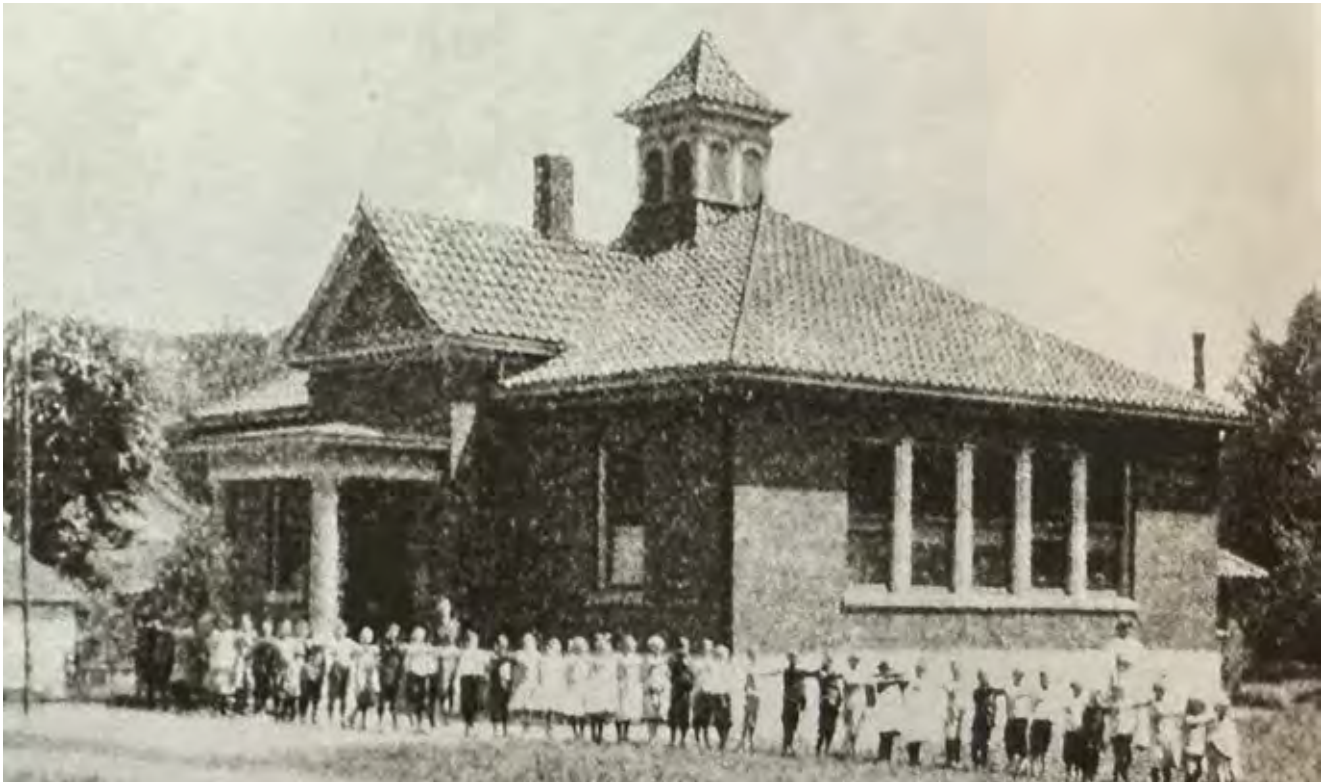


Figure 20: Alfred School District No. 1, Alfred Station, N.Y. Date unknown. From: William A. Paquette, *Fields of Learning: A Retrospect on One-Room Schools in Allegany County, New York*, (Norfolk, VA: New Dominion Press, 2019), 76.

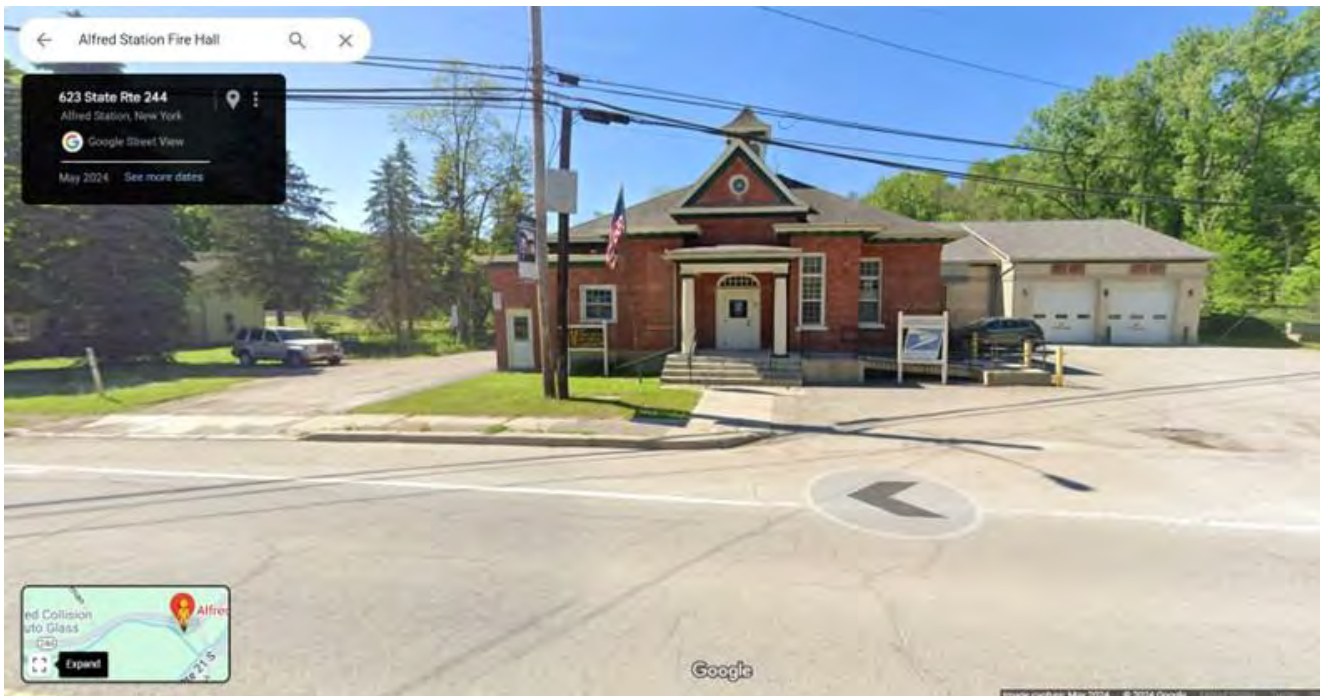


Figure 21: Alfred Station Fire Hall and Post Office (former Alfred School District No. 1). From Google Maps.

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Figure 22: Historic photo of Ceres School/Genesee School District No. 6. Date unknown. Courtesy of Bolivar-Richburg-Allentown-Genesee Historical Preservation Society.

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Figure 23: Current photo of Ceres School/Genesee School District No. 6 now a schoolhouse museum. Listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2010. Photo by Gina M. DiBella.



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Figure 24: The Chemung District School No. 10/Lowman School: Photographed in 2008.

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**Other Images/Figures Not Referenced in Text**



Figure 25: Town of Genesee (1856) from *Map of Allegheny County from actual Surveys, 1856*.

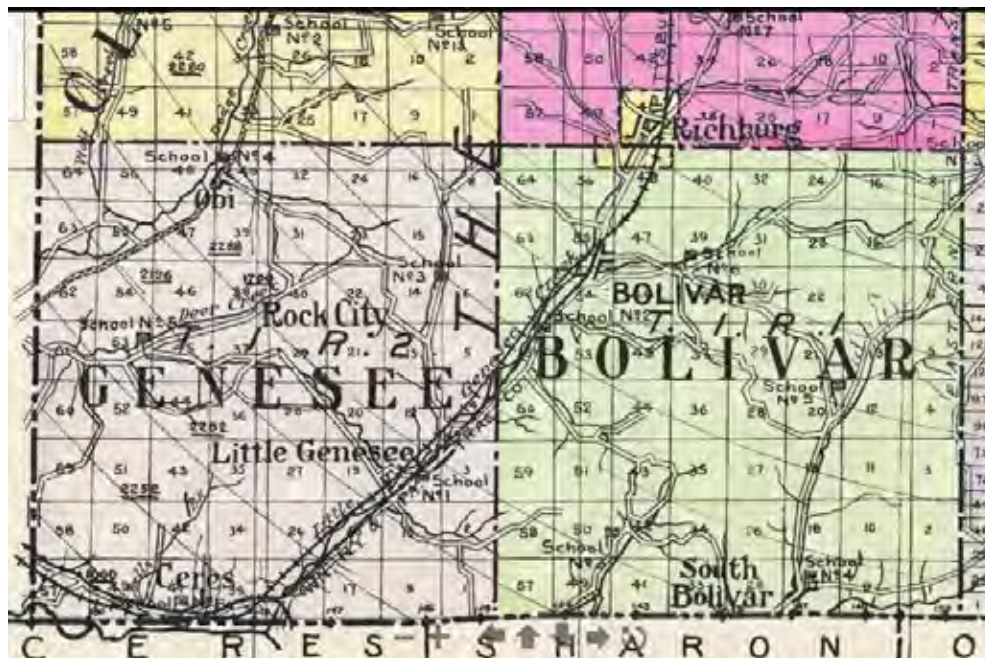


Figure 26: Towns of Genesee and Bolivar from Allegheny County map (1912). From Louis Humphrey Everts' *New Century Atlas of Counties of the State of New York, 1912*.

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Figure 27: Students and teachers at the first Little Genesee School, ca. 1890s. Note twelve-over-twelve window sash. Courtesy of Bolivar-Richburg-Allentown-Genesee Historical Preservation Society.



Figure 28: Students and teachers on the front steps of the first Little Genesee School, ca. 1894. Courtesy of Bolivar-Richburg-Allentown-Genesee Historical Preservation Society.



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Figure 29: Little Genesee Schoolhouse from a postcard, 1909. Courtesy of Bolivar-Richburg-Allentown-Genesee Historical Preservation Society.



Early Picture of Two room grade school in Little Genesee, New York with First to Eighth Grade Children & Teachers

Figure 30: Students and teachers at the second Little Genesee Schoolhouse, date unknown. Note the two-over-two windows. Courtesy of Bolivar-Richburg-Allentown-Genesee Historical Preservation Society and Allegany County Historical Society.



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Figure 31: Genesee Library, ca. 1993. Note the one-over-one replacement windows. Courtesy of the Genesee Library. Bolivar-Richburg-Allentown-Genesee Historical Preservation Society.

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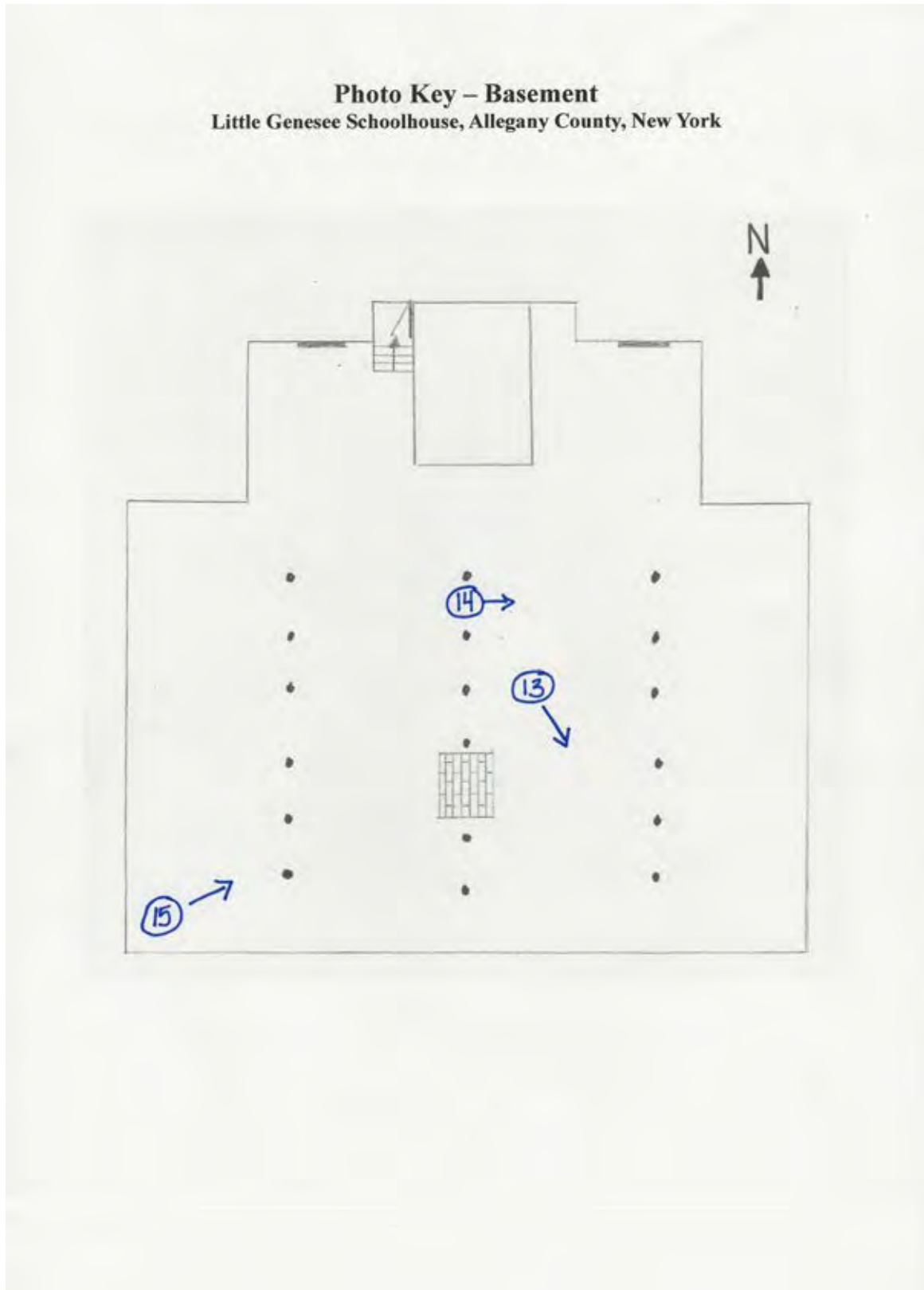


Figure 32: Photograph Locations Key: Basement

**Little Genesee Schoolhouse DRAFT**

Name of Property

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Figure 33: Photograph Locations Key: First Floor

**Little Genesee Schoolhouse DRAFT**

Name of Property

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**Photographs:**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Little Genesee Schoolhouse/Genesee District No. 1 School

City or Vicinity: Genesee

County: Allegany

State: New York

Photographer: Gina M. DiBella

Date Photographed: April 24, 2024

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

- 0001 of 0028: Façade (north elevation) of the Little Genesee Schoolhouse/District No. 1 School, view looking south.
- 0002 of 0028: Detail of dentil trim on lintel, looking west.
- 0003 of 0028: Rear/south elevation and east elevation, view looking northwest.
- 0004 of 0028: Rear/south elevation with ADA compliant ramp and non-historic porch, looking east.
- 0005 of 0028: Corbelled brick chimney, looking east.
- 0006 of 0028: East elevation, looking west.
- 0007 of 0028: Front foyer with stairs to first floor, looking south.
- 0008 of 0028: Original door to basement and attic access, looking northwest.
- 0009 of 0028: Front doors, fanlight and round arched windows, original school light, looking north.
- 0010 of 0028: Original closet door on first floor landing, looking east.
- 0011 of 0028: Original hardware on original door, looking east.
- 0012 of 0028: New classroom door and trim, looking south.
- 0013 of 0028: Basement with fieldstone foundation and dirt floor, looking southeast.
- 0014 of 0028: Exposed wood floor joists in basement, looking up and east.
- 0015 of 0028: Brick chimney and steel and wood posts, looking northeast.
- 0016 of 0028: East classroom/community room with new door to foyer and doorway to kitchen, looking north.
- 0017 of 0028: East classroom/community room with row of windows, looking east.
- 0018 of 0028: East classroom/community room with main library entrance, looking south.
- 0019 of 0028: East classroom/community room with entrance to west classroom/library room, exposed brick wall from chimney and built-in cabinets, looking west.
- 0020 of 0028: West classroom/library room with new doors to foyer and children's room, looking north.
- 0021 of 0028: West classroom/library room with row of windows, looking west.
- 0022 of 0028: Kitchen located off the east classroom/community room, looking north.
- 0023 of 0028: Original door to closet in children's room, looking east.

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0024 of 0028: Bathroom, looking north.

0025 of 0028: Original wainscotting can be found throughout the building, from children's room looking west.

0026 of 0028: Detail of interior window trim, from children's room looking north.

0027 of 0028: Original wood tongue and groove ceiling remains above new drop ceiling, looking up from the first-floor landing.

0028 of 0028: Ceres Schoolhouse/Genesee District No. 6 School in Ceres, New York serves as a museum today and was listed in the National Register in 2010, looking north.



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0001 of 0028: Façade (north elevation) of the Little Genesee Schoolhouse/District No. 1 School, view looking south.

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0002 of 0028: Detail of dentil trim on lintel, looking west.



0003 of 0028: Rear/south elevation and east elevation, view looking northwest.

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0004 of 0028: Rear/south elevation with ADA compliant ramp and non-historic porch, looking east.



0005 of 0028: Corbelled brick chimney, looking east.



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0006 of 0028: East elevation, looking west.

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0007 of 0028: Front foyer with stairs to first floor, looking south.



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0008 of 0028: Original door to basement and attic access, looking northwest.

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0009 of 0028: Front doors, fanlight and round arched windows, original school light, looking north.

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0010 of 0028: Original closet door on first floor landing, looking east.



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0011 of 0028: Original hardware on original door, looking east.

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0012 of 0028: New classroom door and trim, looking south.



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0013 of 0028: Basement with fieldstone foundation and dirt floor, looking southeast.



0014 of 0028: Exposed wood floor joists in basement, looking up and east.

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0015 of 0028: Brick chimney and steel and wood posts, looking northeast.



0016 of 0028: East classroom/community room with new door to foyer and doorway to kitchen, looking north.



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0017 of 0028: East classroom/community room with row of windows, looking east.



0018 of 0028: East classroom/community room with main library entrance, looking south.

**Little Genesee Schoolhouse DRAFT**

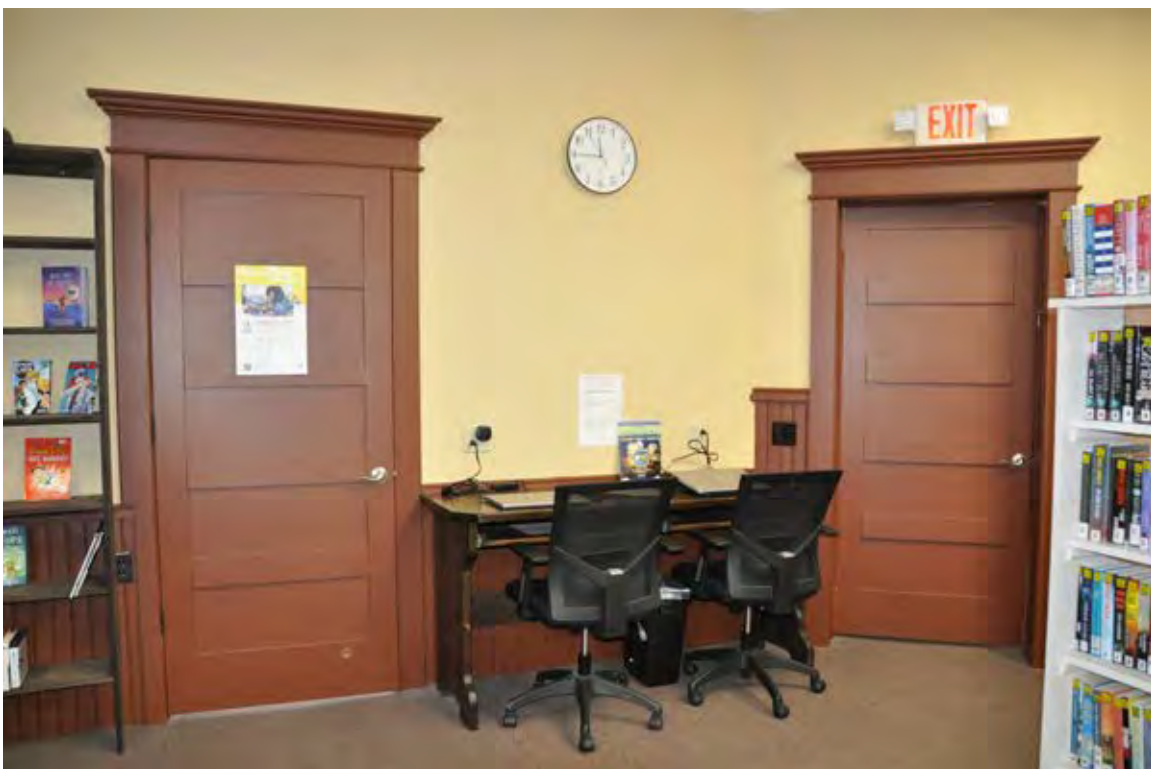
Name of Property

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0019 of 0028: East classroom/community room with entrance to west classroom/library room, exposed brick wall from chimney and built-in cabinets, looking west.



0020 of 0028: West classroom/library room with new doors to foyer and children's room, looking north.



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0021 of 0028: West classroom/library room with row of windows, looking west.



0022 of 0028: Kitchen located off the east classroom/community room, looking north.



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0023 of 0028: Original door to closet in children's room, looking east.

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0024 of 0028: Bathroom, looking north.

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0025 of 0028: Original wainscoting can be found throughout the building, from children's room looking west.



**Little Genesee Schoolhouse DRAFT**

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0026 of 0028: Detail of interior window trim, from children's room looking north.

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0027 of 0028: Original wood tongue and groove ceiling remains above new drop ceiling, looking up from the first-floor landing.



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County and State



0028 of 0028: Ceres Schoolhouse/Genesee District No. 6 School in Ceres, New York serves as a museum today and was listed in the National Register in 2010, looking north.

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.