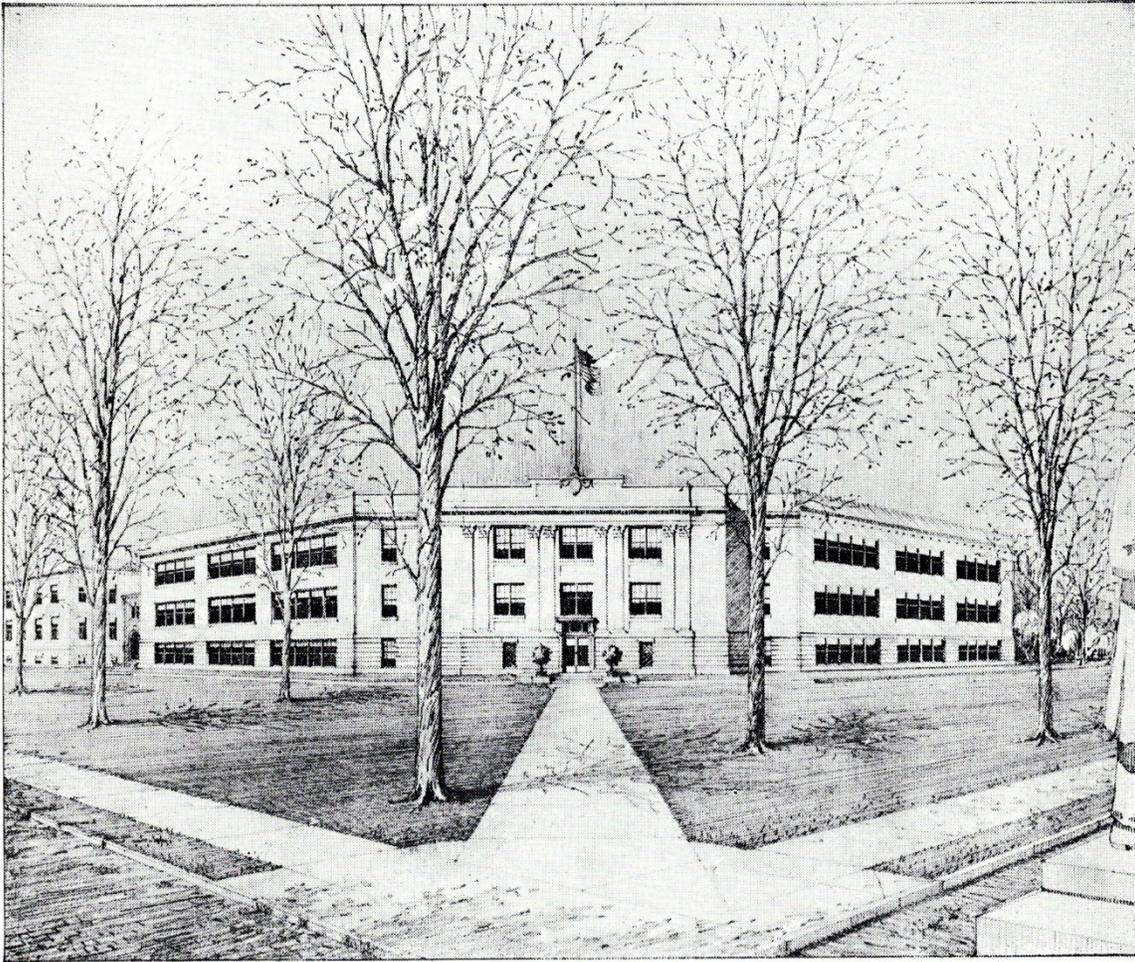


**Newsletter of The Save the Lyon Commission**  
**Historic Preservation in 2020**



**“New Haverling”**

We began 2020 thinking “full steam ahead!” after the sweet taste of success in 2019. Optimistically, we focused on the 1923 section, with ideas and proposals for the historic preservation and reuse of that wonderful, Beaux Arts style building designed by Palmer Rogers. While keeping historic preservation first and foremost on this project, it became clear that much study and attention to details would be needed in the early planning stages. Despite the limitations of 2020, the Save the Lyon Commission was able to continue to do the research necessary for future success. We would like to share some of our findings with you.

## **Palmer Rogers**

Palmer Rogers, the designer and architect of the “new” 1923 Haverling High School, was a graduate of the Beaux Arts Institute of Design, a school of architecture, founded in 1916 under New York University. He apparently was a regular contributor to public school design in our area. One of our members visited the Cornell University Architecture Library several years ago to do some research, and discovered that the January, 1929 Issue of *The Architect* magazine featured plates of area schools designed by Palmer Rogers. Alas, our 1923 Haverling school building was not included, but the Painted Post High School, Northside High School (recently torn down) and the Addison High School were pictured, along with the floor plans for each school. It is interesting to read the designations of the rooms, for example the recitation rooms, the cooking room, the sewing room. In keeping with the Beaux Arts design, those schools feature Grecian columns. Our school does not have the full columns and roofed entrance, but instead has decorative columns. Such decorative sculptures are characteristic of Beaux Arts design.

## **Beaux Arts design**

Delving further into the historical significance of the 1923 Haverling Academy building, we learned that Beaux Arts buildings are based on the symmetry and proportions of Roman and Greek classic style. Many beautiful government and public buildings such as art museums, train stations, university campuses, and court houses in the US, including our own Post Office here in Bath, are part of the Beaux Arts design movement. “Noble spaces” –grand entrances and staircases- lead to the more utilitarian spaces and rooms inside. Favored building materials were stone, marble, limestone, brick and cast iron, all materials that stand the test of time. Our 1923 building includes beautifully crafted wooden multi-pane doors and transoms. Generations of custodial staff are owed proper recognition for almost 80 years of caring for the school.

## **Historic Preservation**

Historic preservation of Save the Lyon Commission property will follow the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties, following general preservation principles.

- Continue a property in the use for which it was originally intended, or choose new uses that minimize changes to character-defining features.
- Retain distinguishing qualities and characteristics.
- Repair existing features, materials and finishes. If deteriorated, replace in-kind.
- Be authentic: if a feature is missing, use historic documentation to guide replacement.
- Respect the evolution of historic changes, fashion, taste and use.
- Do not use treatments that damage historic materials.

- New construction should not destroy historic features or materials, nor alter historic character.
- Additions and new work should be compatible with the historic property.

### **A Modern Revolution - The Blackboard**

Are you remembering those wonderful, smooth slate blackboards in your Haverling classrooms? They are important elements of historic preservation, and the Save the Lyon Commission will incorporate them into any redesign plans. Here are fun facts to know and tell about them:

At the end of the 18th century, students in Europe and America were still using individual slates made of actual slate or pieces of wood coated with paint and grit and framed with wood. Paper and ink were expensive but slate and wood were plentiful and cheap, making them the economical option. Unfortunately, they were also highly inefficient. Teachers had no way to present a lesson or a problem to the class as a whole; instead they had to go to each individual student and write a problem or assignment on each one's slate.

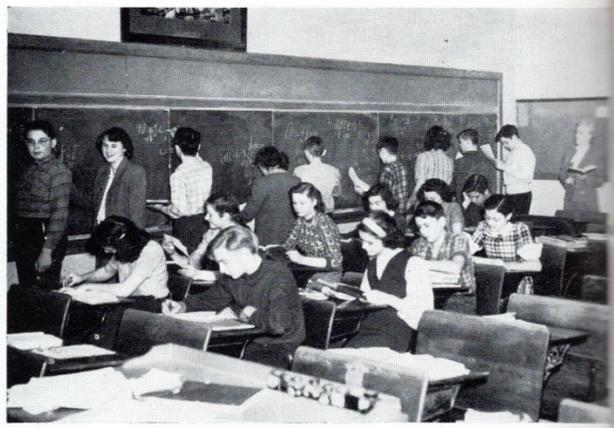
In 1801, the rather obvious solution to the problem made its debut. James Pillans, headmaster and geography teacher at the Old High School in Edinburgh, Scotland, is credited with inventing the first modern blackboard when he hung a large piece of slate on the classroom wall. In America, the first use of a wall-mounted blackboard occurred at West Point in the classroom of instructor George Baron.

Other schools rapidly adopted this new innovation. America's fast-growing railroad system assured that by the middle of the 19th century, almost every classroom in America had a blackboard, mostly using slate shipped from quarries in Vermont, Maine, Pennsylvania, New York, Maryland and Virginia. Businesses also started using them in their boardrooms.

Source: Resilient Educator

The History of the Classroom Blackboard

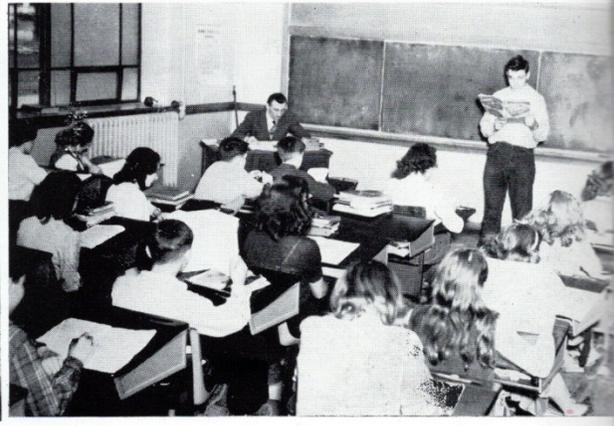
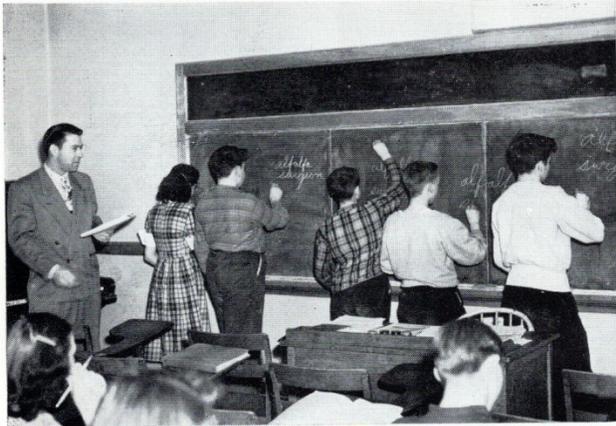
By Editorial Team



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Many of us have had personal, perhaps desperate, moments with slate. The schoolroom blackboard was a proving ground of our formative years. When we were called to the front of the class to perform long division, diagram a sentence, or spell “Mississippi,” we gazed into the smooth, black void of the slate blackboard, hoping for a glimmer of divine intervention to illuminate a path to the solution.

The slate blackboard was introduced to American schools in 1801, at West Point Military Academy. In all their dusty glory, slate blackboards proved an enduring fixture in schools for nearly 150 years, until they were eventually replaced by ceramic-coated steel chalkboards.

Source: The Slippery Rock Gazette

Slate: From the Ocean Floor to Your Floor

Karin Kirk, geologist

## **Milestones**

Last, but by no means least in 2020, the STLC recognized that few of the founders of the STLC, who fought the toughest battles relentlessly, remain with us. Rosalie Niemczyk died on December 31, 2019, and Bill Townsend died in January 2020. In recognition of their long participation in STLC, we recall the earliest significant milestones of The Save the Lyon Commission.

The Save the Lyon Commission was formed in 2003, and officially received its Certificate of Incorporation in January, 2005

In June, 2004 Mrs. Pamela Waterman Gale and Mrs. Mary Waterman Lunt, two of the five Davenport heirs who had filed suit to save the annex building, visited Bath to meet with the STLC.

May 2006 The Save the Lyon Commission, under the guidance of Clinton Brown Company Architecture, was awarded a \$75,000 NYS EPF grant, for Historic Preservation.

The Preservation League of New York State listed the school in their Seven to Save properties in December 2006.

In April 2011, STLC invited the Arts of the Southern Finger Lakes to meet with the board of STLC for the purpose of sharing information and developing a relationship between the two organizations

In September 2011 the Waterman Center for the Arts held its first outdoor arts festival.

As always, we credit our generous supporters and tireless volunteers for our progress, even in the most challenging times and circumstances.

### **Architecture Lesson**

If we have piqued your interest in architecture, here is a short list of characteristics of Beaux-Arts architecture:

- Flat roof
- Rusticated and raised first story. (rusticate-to bevel or rebate, as the edges of stone blocks, to make the joints conspicuous)
- Hierarchy of spaces, from "noble spaces", usually grand entrances and staircases, to the utilitarian spaces.
- Arched windows
- Arched and pedimented doors (pediment: a triangular space forming the gable of a 2-pitched roof; a similar form used as a decoration)

Photos of the 1923 "New Haverling" rendition, and Junior High classrooms were taken from the yearbook collection of the Steuben County Historical Society, housed in the beautiful Magee House.

P.S. Look closely at the right edge of the New Haverling rendition to see another significant piece of Bath history.