



Hamilton Historical Society NEWSLETTER

The Little Red Schoolhouse

A Century of Learning and Local History in Mays Landing

For more than a century, a small red building in Mays Landing has quietly witnessed generations of local history. Known today as the home of the Mays Landing Historical Society, the building originally served as a schoolhouse where many local children once learned their lessons. According to records from the Mays Landing, a notice dated July 9, 1904, reported that a new school was being built in town. Just a few months later, on September 10, 1904, the building opened its doors for its first classes, beginning its long life as a place of education.

For decades, the Little Red Schoolhouse served students in the community. Like many small schools of its era, the building adapted to the changing needs of the town. During the 1940s, the building closed as a regular school and was temporarily used for storage, at one point even housing mattresses. Around 1952, the schoolhouse returned to its educational roots when it reopened as a classroom. Rather than functioning as a full school, it served as what was known as a “spill-over” classroom, accommodating additional students when classrooms at Shaner School became overcrowded. Many local residents still remember attending classes there. The building continued to serve young students for many years. Third grade classes were held there in 1964, and as late as 1984, the building was still used for kindergarten classes.

The schoolhouse remained in use until 1992, when the last class was held in the building. Afterward, the structure sat empty and used for storage from 1992 until 1996.

A new chapter began on March 9, 1996, when the building officially opened as the Mays Landing Historical Society Museum, preserving and sharing the stories of the town and its people. In 2004, the building was formally purchased from the school board for \$1.00, ensuring that this piece of Mays Landing’s history would be preserved for future generations.

Today, the Little Red Schoolhouse stands not only as a museum, but as a reminder of the many children who once passed through its doors and the long history of education in the community.

Museum Happenings

Coffee & History

Join us at the museum for Coffee & History, held on the first Wednesday of every month at 10:00 AM. Enjoy coffee, conversation, and fascinating stories about the history of Mays Landing and the surrounding area. All are welcome!

Did You Know.?

Before larger school buildings were constructed, small schoolhouses like the Little Red Schoolhouse played an important role in educating children throughout the area. Many students of different ages often shared a single classroom with one teacher.

Upcoming

Stay up to date on upcoming programs, talks, and community events by visiting the Historical Society online.

The Mays Landing Historical Society Museum is open to visitors:

Saturdays — 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Stop by to explore exhibits, local artifacts, and the rich history of our town.