

Notes on Orford School Districts & School Building Locations

Compiled by Art Pease, 2021

This is intended as a quick summary of school districts and school buildings in town. There is a good more detail in Thanks To The Past, pp. 321-338 and in news items.

1807 – town divided into 9 districts, grew to 16 by 1849, when #16 was united w/Piermont

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|----|--------------|--|
| #1 | Upper Street | Brick building in 1846, private home in 2021 |
| #2 | Main Street | 1770 – renovated barn behind what is now Masonic Hall
1785-1829 – near NE corner of Main and 25-A. Replaced by brick house which became Donnelly home; taken down in 2020
1796 – private Academy, “elegant building” on West Common. Given to town in 1798, burned in 1850
Tannery Hill/Mill District – at some point a substantial building w/bell tower was built on the south side of the Archertown road, between Tannery Hill and the Dump Road. There is no information as to when it was built but it is shown in a stereoview, so most likely by 1860. Nor is there any information as to what happened to it., although William R. Conant taught the winter term there in 1880. The lack of information seems strange, as between the building of the Academy in 1852 and the Orfordville School in 1898, it appears to be the largest and ‘fanciest’ school building in town. |
| #3 | Lower Street | Site of early school not determined
1845 – building that was Sanborn house in 1965 |
| #4 | Orfordville | Early schools on site of present library, first one a log cabin
1832 – brick schoolhouse built on that site, burned 1933
1898 – present Town Office built as Orfordville school |
| #5 | Archertown | Schoolhouse built near bridge over north branch of Jacob’s Brook.
Survived until 1892, perhaps later |
| #6 | Indian Pond | Beyond Franklin farm
1829 – new brick building @ 4 corners beyond Franklin farm; burned in 1884; school sometimes held in private homes
1916 – frame building built on site |
| #7 | Davistown | First building on SE side of 25-A, just east of old county road
1903 – new building built, on NW corner of 25-A and East Cemetery Road; now private home. |
| #8 | Dame Hill | Brick schoolhouse north of cemetery used until O’ville school built |

- #9 Quinttown c. 1810-1900 – near Quinttown Four Corners
- #10 Halltown c.1810 – on site at SE corner of 25-A and Baker Road. New building built in 1913, now private home
- #11 Palmer Hollow c.1825-1894 – home of Leon Marsh on 25-A in 1965
- #12 Strawberry Hill Near Abel Sawyer’s home; ceased operation in 1869, building gone 1892
- #13 Archertown Near where Archertown Road meets Indian Pond Road. Ceased operation in 1880
- #14 1829 - Created out of District #2; attended brick schoolhouse described in #2
- #15 Mt. Cube On 25-A, opposite old road to Indian Pond; no longer used as school by 1894. *[This one is confusing. In news items as late as the 1930, there is sometimes a reference to a Mt. Cube school, which I think must be the Halltown school building.]*