

Green Historical Society

Landmark No. 10—East Liberty School

The East Liberty School, District No. 11 is located at 3492 S. Arlington Road in the center of the hamlet of East Liberty. The 1890 building is an excellent example of Romanesque Revival district schoolhouse architecture and one of two known extant Romanesque Revival district schoolhouses in the State of Ohio. The building was moved by the City of Green in December 2015 approximately 500' to the north of its original site at 811 E. Turkeyfoot Lake Road to rescue it from demolition.

In February 1890, the East Liberty School Board appointed a committee to investigate sites for a new school building. In May 1890, they reported demolition of the old East Liberty School. The new brick East Liberty School, District No. 11 was completed in the same year. The architecture and picturesque Romanesque Revival style with red brick masonry construction located at the center of East Liberty reflected the German heritage and commitment to education within the community. A bell gable with school bell was located proudly at the roof over the front entry. The 1892-93 school year included 32 students in the primary, 26 students in the upper grades, and two teachers Mr. Wesley Buchman and Miss Elsie Miller. The student body included 12 members of the Kepler family. The Board of Trustees was comprised of members: Joel Staver, Clerk; Frank Kreighbaum; and Huston Kreighbaum.

By 1910, the Summit County Atlas noted that the Township was reduced to eight school districts and was working towards consolidation into two schools with East Liberty absorbing three districts and Greensburg taking in five districts. In 1913, an addition of 8 rooms was made to the Greensburg School creating the first consolidated high school in the township. Consolidation of the East Liberty School required its use as a two classroom schoolhouse with an additional "portable building" constructed to the rear north to accommodate students which can be seen in an undated aerial image of East Liberty. In 1926, the school and portable building were accommodating approximately 90 students. Thirty (30) 6th -8th grade students attended under the tutelage of teacher Mr. Wilcox in the "left room"; thirty-eight (38) 1st-3rd grade students in the "right room"; and the 4th and 5th grade in a "portable building" to the rear of the school building. The school was operating beyond capacity.

In 1927, the East Liberty community constructed a new school building to the east of the District No. 11 School at 811 E. Turkeyfoot Lake Road, likely as the result of the push towards consolidation and need for additional space. One student remembers marching up the street with the entire student body after returning from the Thanksgiving Holiday in 1927 to the new school at 946 E. Turkeyfoot Lake Road. The new school remained in use by East Liberty until 1983 when it was sold to Chapel Hill Christian School and was recently demolished.66 The East Liberty School, District No. 11 was vacated in 1927 and used sporadically for community events such as those conducted by the Green Community Institute. The building was sold in 1937 to L.L. Parks during the Great Depression and used for auto storage before remaining vacant for 10 years. It was used as Nicholas Square Furniture Store beginning in 1956 until Mr. Square's death in 2002, followed by the family periodically re-opening the store.

Architectural Significance

The 1890 East Liberty School is an excellent example of a brick rectangular plan schoolhouse designed in the Romanesque Revival style. The façade is composed of five bays. The one-and-one-half story building is defined on the exterior by its monochromatic red brick construction, round arched fenestration, belt courses and corbelled roof line. The stone keystone above the fanlight has carved lettering reading "AD 1890 Dist NO. 11." A belt course of canted soldier brick with rusticated stone accents at building corners separates the first and upper one-half stories. The 6/6 double hung round arched topped windows flank the corbelled center bay, which is further delineated by corbelled brick extending from the eaves to the belt course. The central round arched attic window with stone sills has been infilled with wood. A heavy wood frieze outlines the chamfered hipped roof, simplified from the original design. A bell gable is shown in historic images at the peak of the center bay hipped roof, which was removed in 1938 and relocated to the East Liberty Church of the Nazarene.

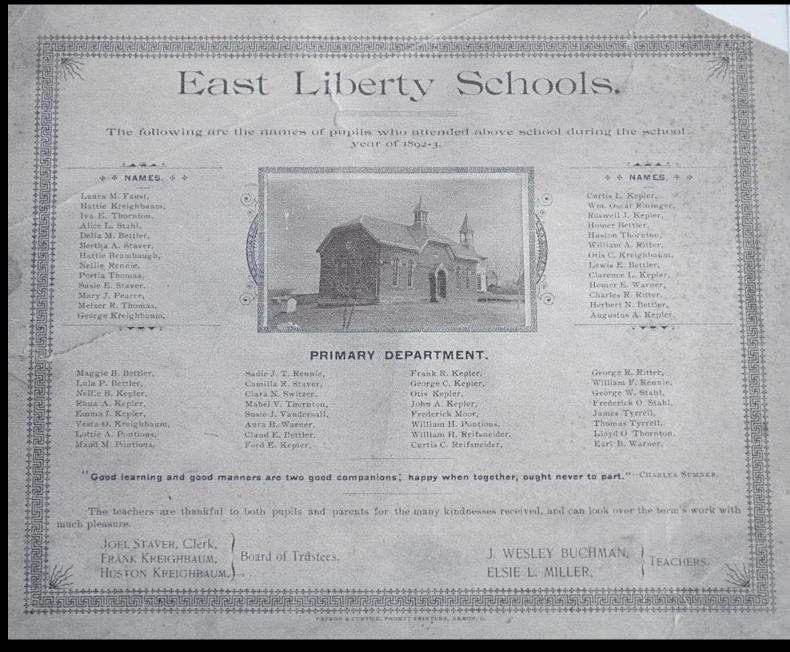
The south elevation is composed of a trio of 6/6 round arched windows with a smaller segmental arched double pane attic window infilled with wood at the gable end. Based on an 1892-93 historic image, the round arched windows on the façade appear to be original. Masonry repair indicates a similar configuration at the north elevation with the trio of windows replaced by large sliding double garage doors and a steel lintel, likely occurring when the building was used for auto storage under ownership of L. L. Parks in 1937. The rear west elevation is comprised of four bays of round arched windows with glazing removed and infilled with wood. A central lateral chimney has been removed with evidence of masonry repair. Arched windows have stone sills and triple row brick headers with rusticated stone accents at the springing line.

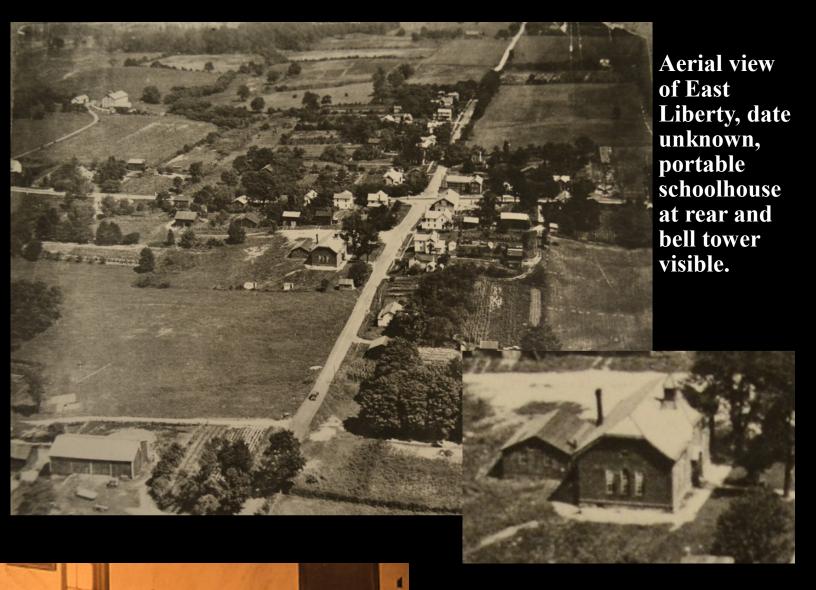
Today, a central round arched entrance leads to the large open room interior. However, the schoolhouse was described from its creation as a two-room schoolhouse. A central round arched entrance leads to the large open room interior. Painted plaster walls with painted wood wainscot extending from floor to window sill height are at the south, west and east walls. Elongated round arched windows exhibit milled wood casings with bullseye motif corner blocks.

Consolidated from the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form for East Liberty Schoolhouse, District 11 prepared by Wendy Hoge Naylor, Diana Wellman September 6, 2016.











East Liberty School 1926 Grades 6-7-8

in 1926. These students would have

attended the 'left room.'





This photograph is Grades 1, 2, and 3 in the 1926-27 school year. These students would have attended the 'right room.' These students would return in the Fall of 1927 to begin the school year in the District 11 building.