



## New Uses for an Old Building: WHITPAIN'S 1895 PUBLIC SCHOOL, PART III

BY CAROL KALOS, ST. ANDREWS RESIDENT WRITER AND WISSAHICKON VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESIDENT

Located on Skippack Pike at School Road, the *1895 Public School* holds three floors of museum displays about our local history. The structure at first housed grades 1 to 11, but by 1950, all high school students attended Ambler High School.

In 1958, the Whitpain Township Board of Supervisors entered into an agreement with the Whipain Township School Board to lease the majority of the second floor of the building, using it for the Whitpain Police Department and the supervisors' offices. By 1964, the Township needed more space and moved to its own building. In 1968, the Whitpain branch of the Wissahickon Public Library used the second floor. By 1975, the library took over the entire building.

In 1979, the Wissahickon School Board offered the building for sale. After several meetings, a plan developed: Whitpain Township would buy the building for \$500 from

the school district. The Township in turn would lease the building to the Wissahickon Valley Historical Society for \$1 per year. Although the building needed a new roof and a new furnace, a combination of volunteers and the support of Whitpain Township created a wonderful museum space.

In 2006, the building gained recognition to be proudly listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In 2018, the society supervised repairs and renovations to present the lovely building we appreciate today.

**Author Carol Kalos, a resident of Saint Andrews, is President of the Wissahickon Valley Historical Society.**

**For more information, or to visit the WVHS museum and library, please email [info@WVValleyHS.org](mailto:info@WVValleyHS.org).**