



Clifford G. "Cliff" Walters takes a break from giving school house tours in 2021.

ONE MAN'S DREAM

The Hoopes School represents a lifetime of dreams and commitment for Reedsville, PA resident Clifford G. "Cliff" Walters and his 48-year quest to preserve a classic example of a rural Central Pennsylvania one-room schoolhouse. It was a journey for his entire family, wife Joanne, children Greg, Beverly and Karen, plus many friends. From start to finish, the project reflected Cliff's own early introduction to education in a one room schoolhouse located in neighboring Juniata County.

"I bought the building because I attended a grade school like it, and I always wanted one for a relic. This was my sole purpose in buying the thing," he explained in a 1975 interview in The Lewistown Sentinel.

Walters bought the empty schoolhouse in the spring of 1974. He then scoured the area in search of authentic school related artifacts.

Walters secured the building's place on the National Register of Historic Places in 1978.



TIMELINE

Built – 1873-74 by the Derry Township School District

School House – 1874 to 1958

Vacant – 1958 to 1973

Purchased by Clifford G. Walters of Reedsville, 1974

Renovated and opened as a rural school museum
by Walters – 1976- 2021

Entered on NRHP, 1978

Donated to the Mifflin County Historical Society, 2021

ESTABLISHED 1921

MIFFLIN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



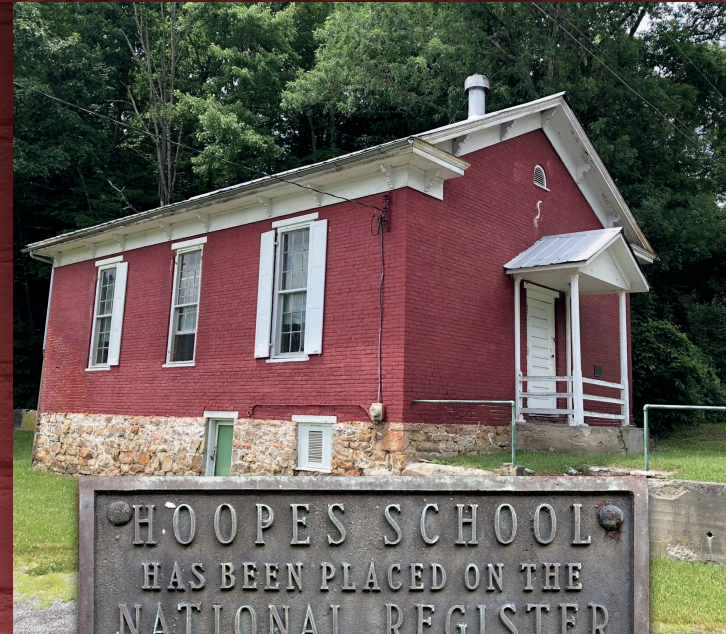
Office and Research Library
Historic Mifflin County Courthouse

1 W. Market St.,

Lewistown, PA 17044

P. 717-242-1022

office@mifflincountyhistory.org



ESTABLISHED 1921

MIFFLIN COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY



THE HOOPES SCHOOL

687 LONG LANE

LEWISTOWN, PA 17044



SCHOOL IS DONATED TO SOCIETY

In 2021, Walters approached Mifflin County Historical Society Board of Directors with the offer to pass on the property - building, grounds and a host of 19th and early 20th century educational artifacts to an organization willing to continue its preservation. A committee formed and visited the school on several occasions, to assess the project. It then urged acceptance of the Hoopes School donation during a full board meeting in October 2021. The property transfer occurred November 18, 2021.

HOOPES SCHOOL A TRIP BACK IN TIME

Many people, both young and old visited the Hoopes School in the years that Walters owned it. While some appreciated the opportunity to step back in their own educational timeline, others were learning for the first time how different attending school was in the early days of our county. The MCHS plans to continue to open for tours and create new events to use the carefully preserved building well into the future.



Everything from lunchboxes to crayons to the map on the wall was found and bought by Cliff Walters to recreate his memory of his one room school house days.



THE BUILDING'S HISTORY

Moses and Sarah Miller sold the land to the Derry Township School District on March 25, 1871 for \$40.22. The school was named for John R. and Aseneth Hoopes, local proprietors of the local country store. Walters noted this history in a handout prepared for the renovated school's opening on July 4, 1976.

In its early days, the building housed grades first through eighth, but later as the area's population increased, it was cut to five grades. During the waning days of its existence the building housed only three grades.

Hoopes School was among the last four rural schools in Mifflin County when it closed at the end of the 1957-58 school year. The school authorities abandoned and sold the remaining buildings at this time. As a result, all related educational materials from the school were dispersed or sold at public auction.

Even as the building sat vacant, the one room school was used briefly by the budding Mifflin County community theatre group, Stone Arch Players, as a rehearsal space.



All of the water needed during a school day was brought inside from this pump located just a few steps from the school's front door.