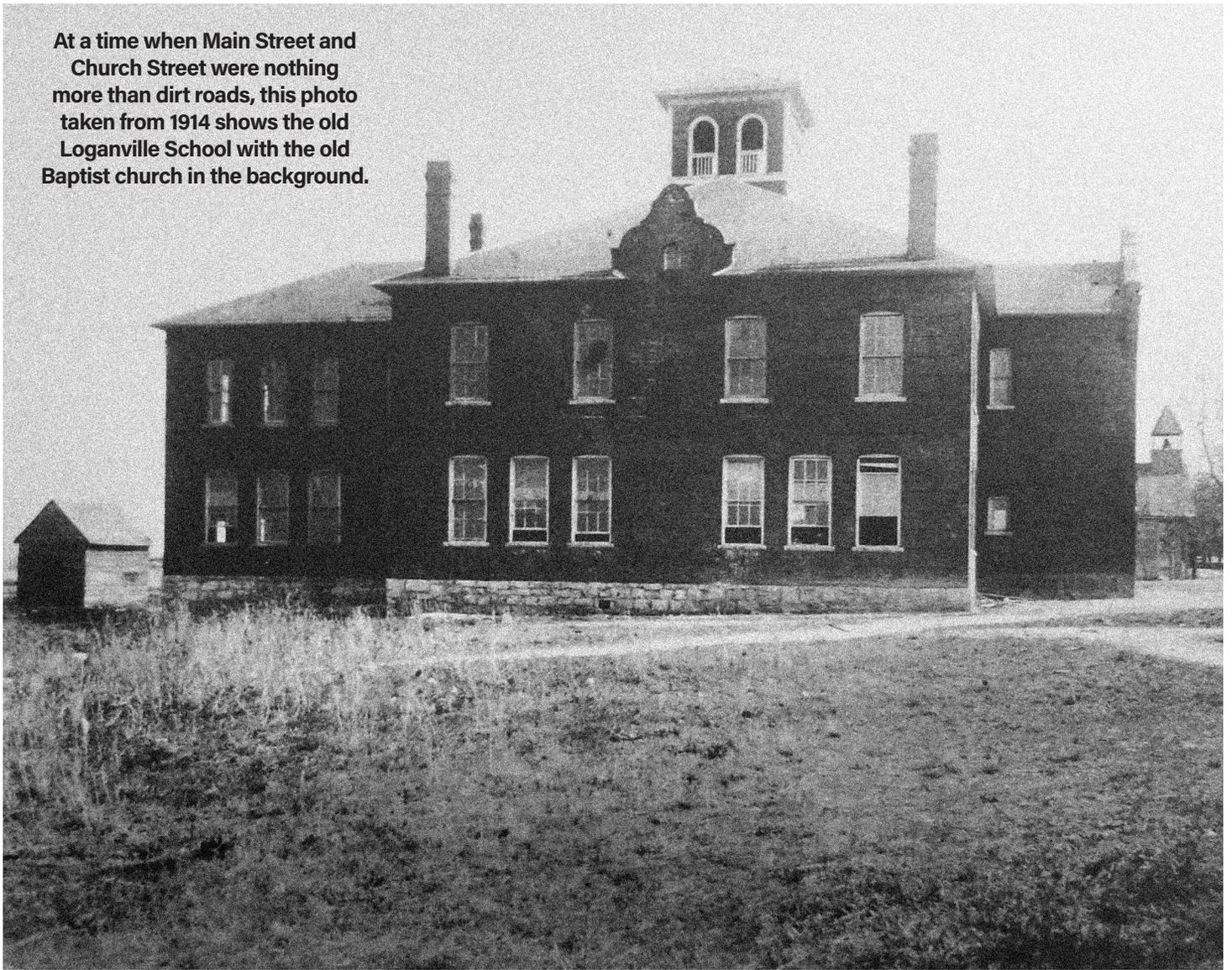


At a time when Main Street and Church Street were nothing more than dirt roads, this photo taken from 1914 shows the old Loganville School with the old Baptist church in the background.



no more pencils, no more books

Story by Robbie Schwartz

When it was time to leave the hallowed hallways of the school, Ann Jones remembers having to carry a cloth along with their desks across Main Street to the new educational facility, each student responsible for wiping off the legs of a desk so as not to get the floors of the new school dirty.

Harold Tribble recalls having to get to school early to start the wood fires in the stoves that heated the old school.

Kent Henderson remembers the building being “very airy” in the winter time as well as the story of his father jumping out of the classroom window because a teach-

er was getting ready to discipline him. In fact, Henderson’s ties to the old building began with his grandfather, Major G. Henderson, who after arriving at the town of Loganville became manager of the Loganville Manufacturing Company, which specialized in woodwork, cabinets and ornamental trim. The company did the floors, roof and other parts of the building.

Many of the older residents of Loganville today have a lot of memories of the old two-story brick schoolhouse that once existed on Main Street.

It was not Loganville’s first school of record, though. The city’s first school was located in the old Masonic



(Above, going clockwise) A group of students in front of the Loganville School back in 1958; a picture of the 1947-1948 elementary school band, which was made up of first, second and third graders; the graduating class of 1938 inside the auditorium of the school; and the senior class from 1946.

lodge that once existed near the Camp Street side of the old cemetery in the downtown area. In 1879, a two-room schoolhouse was built on Main Street at the same site where later the two-story red brick was built. Then a four-room schoolhouse was built in 1890 near where the Rock Gym currently resides. It had three sliding walls that allowed for the creation of one large space for public gatherings. An old advertisement from the *Flowery Branch Journal* in 1892 showed

Continued on page 38

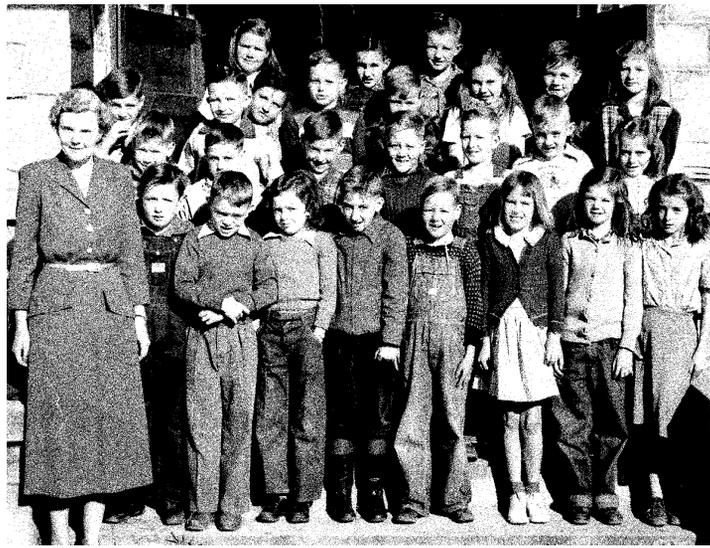
tuition rates at the time of \$2 per month to attend school in Loganville — \$2.40 to attend high school. Boarding was also offered with “good families” for \$8-\$10 a month.

The education at the time consisted of orthography, reading, arithmetic, geography and grammar. But by the turn of the century, the growing community soon outgrew its four-classroom building and a larger facility was needed. Loganville’s leaders at the time decided on the issuance of bonds totaling \$10,000 — what would equate to almost \$250,000 today. An election was held and the voters approved the measure and a two-story, red brick schoolhouse was built on Main Street near to where the parking lot of the Loganville Baptist Church is today.

The original design of the school had six classrooms on the ground floor and an auditorium on the second floor, complete with an outdoor privy that was located near where Lawrenceville Road lies today. Construction began in January 1907 and by February the brickwork was reaching up to the second story — under the watchful eyes of students in the old school across the street. The two-story school was completed in mid-June with an auditorium that could seat 400 — about two-thirds of the city’s population at the time.

The school opened in the fall of 1907 but presented a problem for the local citizenry: funds received from the county and tuition paid by the students were insufficient. For the first two years it was common for a teacher’s salary to be paid from the pocket of an ordinary citizen.

With the local school being supported from the kindness and generosity of its citizenry, it was decided that for the school to succeed, there was a need to establish a public school system. Again the public supported its schools through an election to create a school system financed by local taxation that went into effect for the



A group of third graders with their teacher, Ila Stephens, from 1939.



Pictured are members of the 1939 Loganville High School girls' basketball team.

1909-1910 school year.

Like the city itself, the school continued to grow over the years and in 1932 four rural schools — Piney Grove, Walker Bennett, Sharon and Windsor schools — were all closed and the first school buses were used to bring students to town.

But the growth resulted in a lot of juggling to meet the demands of a growing student population. Over the years, old military barracks were added to the grounds and converted into classrooms. The auditorium upstairs — with a ceiling decorated with imprinted tin — was converted into four classrooms and a library.

In 1934 the Rock Gym was built and became a part of the school complex, with students having to cross a much different Main Street than exists today. By 1938, the Ag Building was finished — complete with a visit from former first lady Eleanor Roosevelt — and housed the agriculture and home ec classes as well as a first grade class. Nearby was a classroom for shop class and a cannery.

Loganville’s city schools then became a part of the county school system and by the mid-1950s, it was time for a new school. Ground was broken and a new one constructed across the street, opening its doors to first through 12th graders in the fall of 1958. It now serves as City Hall.

No longer serving a student body, the site of the old two-story, red brick school was eventually purchased by the nearby church and demolished.

While all that remains are memories and a plaque affixed to the outside of the Rock Gym from the last graduating class from the old school, its impact lies in the many minds that were groomed in the former hallways that continue to shape the future of Loganville today. **L**

— *Special thanks to local historian Kent Henderson whose research was the basis for this story.*

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