

# Saving Stewart School

c. 1802

The earliest white settlers in Stow and Munroe Falls arrived from New England.

1808

Stow Township organized; it included present-day Stow and Munroe Falls, as well as part of present-day Cuyahoga Falls.

c. 1885-1900

Stow residents built Stewart School on property belonging to the Stewart family at the intersection of Call and Young Roads in Stow, replacing an earlier brick schoolhouse.



Stewart School, one of Stow's ten one-room schoolhouses, in its original location at the southwest corner of Call and Young Roads. (Image courtesy of Fred Long)

January 2012

Summit Metro Parks acquired Stewart School with plans to use the land to build a parking lot for a nearby trail. Metro Parks offered the building to Stow Historical Society if money could be raised to move it to Heritage Reserve Park.

July 2012

Stow Historical Society voted to accept the schoolhouse and raise funds to move it.

October 2013

After the foundation had been constructed on the new site, house movers transported Stewart School to its new location at Heritage Reserve Park. Exterior and interior restoration work began, and interpretation of the structure is ongoing.

1806

Dennis Ryan taught the first school lessons in Stow in an early settler's cabin.

1810

Stow Township built its first designated school building at Stow Corners (intersection of Kent and Darrow Roads).

1900

By this date, Stow Township had eight school districts and ten one-room schoolhouses.

1907

Stow Township Centralized School opened. Most of Stow Township's one-room schools closed, including Stewart School. It stood empty for much of the first half of the twentieth century except for occasional use for dances and revivals.

1960s

Fred Hanson, who purchased the Stewarts' property, used the school for storage. When his property was developed into Fox Den Golf Course, Stewart School was moved a short distance north and remodeled as Green Valley United Baptist Church.



Stewart School after it had been acquired by Summit Metro Parks in 2012. (Image courtesy of Stow Historical Society)

July 2012-  
October 2013

Community members helped raise the money to save Stewart School, including local elementary and middle school children who participated in a spare change drive. Stow-Munroe Falls Rotary Club and the Lehner Foundation of Munroe Falls made substantial contributions to the effort.



The Stewart School fundraising committee in September of 2012. From left to right, John Pribonic, Bob Flower, Annie Hanson, and Linda Trevorrow. Committee member Stephen Hailer is not pictured. (Image courtesy of Stow Historical Society)



Stewart School ready to be moved to Heritage Reserve Park in October of 2013. (Image courtesy of Stow Historical Society)



Stow's Boy Scout Troop 273 working on landscaping around Stewart School in the fall of 2014 as part of Timothy M. Flower's Eagle Scout project. (Image courtesy of Stow Historical Society)

The members of the Board of Directors of Stow Historical Society decided that it was worthwhile to save Stewart School, believing that it represented an important part of the early history of Stow and Munroe Falls.

What is the value of preserving a nineteenth-century one-room schoolhouse or any other historic building?