

C. Columbus School

18 S. Perry Street, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

Named for Christopher Columbus [b.1451, d. 1506]; Italian explorer and navigator. Originally located on lower Church Street and known as the No. 3 School, the school was named for Columbus in 1921, at the urging of Dr. Frank C. Furlong and with the support of Superintendent Ward C. Moon. Dr. Furlong was a local resident & physician of Italian descent that appears to have been very active in the Italian community at the time, giving lectures on Columbus and holding public health forums in Italian for local residents.

References—Poughkeepsie Eagle News: “City to Honor Dante and Columbus Today in Great Celebration,” 12 Oct 1921, p. 1; “Columbus School is Presented with Sign” 13 Oct 1922, p. 1

Gov. G. Clinton Elementary School

100 Montgomery Street Poughkeepsie NY 12601

Named for Governor George Clinton [b. 1739, d. 1812]; founding father, first Governor of New York and Vice President of the United States under Thomas Jefferson & James Madison. Originally known simply as the No. 8 School, on Wednesday, 7 Sep 1898, the Board of Education voted unanimously to rename the school The Governor George Clinton School. Recommended by Commissioner Helemus W. Barrett, the reasoning given for the name change was as follows: “Gov. Clinton was the first man to recommend free schools in the state, and that recommendation was made here in Poughkeepsie.”

References—Poughkeepsie Eagle News: “The Eight on Record” 8 Sep 1898, p. 5

B. Franklin School [Astor Head Start]

50 Delafield Street, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

Named for Benjamin Franklin [b. 1706, d. 1790]; founding father. On 2 Nov 1898, the students and teachers of the No. 12 School sent a petition to the Board of Education to name the school after Benjamin Franklin, and the Board voted to approve the request.

References—Poughkeepsie Eagle-News: “Board of Education,” 4 Nov 1898, p. 5

G.W. Krieger Elementary School

265 Hooker Avenue Poughkeepsie NY 12603

Named for George W. Krieger, Sr. [b. 1855, d. 1929]; Poughkeepsie native, founder of the Home Co-Operative Savings & Loan, and longtime Commissioner on the Board of Education. When a new Eighth Ward school was being built in 1929, the Board proposed to name the school after Krieger. For his part, Krieger preferred to name the school for General Richard Montgomery, a Revolutionary War general from Dutchess County, but nevertheless the Board made the decision to name the new school for him. Krieger died suddenly in March of 1929, before completion of the new school.

References—Poughkeepsie Eagle News: “Naming the New School,” 14 Jan 1929, p. 6; “Mr. Krieger Should Be Retained,” 18 Feb 1929, p.6; “George W. Krieger, Sr.” 7 Mar 1929, p. 6

S.F.B. Morse Elementary School
101 Mansion Street Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

Named for Samuel F.B. Morse [b. 1791, d. 1872]; an artist, inventor of the telegraph & Poughkeepsie resident. Officially the No. 5 School and located on North Clinton Street, it was initially referred to as the Clinton Street School. The first reference to this school as the Samuel F.B. Morse School appears in the paper in 1899, though no official name change information can be found. It is referred to variously as the S.F.B. Morse School, the Clinton Street School and the No. 5 School in the newspaper. In 1927, a call was made for the No. 5 School to have a new building, and a new structure was built to house the school on Mansion Street in 1928, opening in 1929. After this time, it was referred to primarily as the Morse School.

References—Poughkeepsie Eagle News: “School Committees” 4 Jan 1899, p.6; “New Building Requested for Public School No. 5” 1 Mar 1927, p. 1; “‘F.S.B.’ all Wrong, Should be ‘S.F.B.’” 25 Feb 1928, p. 1.

W.W. Smith School [Early Learning Center]
372 Church Street, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

Named for William W. Smith [b. 1830, d. 1913]; owner of the Smith Brothers Company & Restaurant. In 1903 Smith donated a piece of land on the corner of Mill & Bridge St for a new school building to be built, and originally this school was to be named the W.W. Smith School. It seems this naming never occurred, and this school was known as the No. 1 School or the Mill Street School. The No. 7 School on Upper Church was built in 1913, and the Board of Education voted to name the school after Smith during a special meeting in November of 1915, to ‘publicly honor his many benefactions to the city.’”

References—Poughkeepsie Eagle-News: “William W. Smith School,” 23 Jul 1903, p. 5; “No. 7 the W.W. Smith School” 19 Nov 1915, p. 3

C.B. Warring Elementary School
283 Mansion Street Poughkeepsie NY 12601

Named for Dr. Charles B. Warring [b. 1825, d. 1907]; a private educator in Poughkeepsie who founded the Poughkeepsie Military Institute in Poughkeepsie in the 19th century. That school, often known informally as *Warring’s School*, was located at Smith & Mansion, the same location as the current school. The property & building were leased by the Board of Ed in 1898 from James Dutcher, the owner at the time. In 1899, voters rejected a proposition to purchase the property for \$10,000, but the purchase was eventually completed in 1901. It was referred to as Warring School (in the Poughkeepsie Eagle, at least) from the very beginning, even before the property was owned by the BoE, and seemed to have always been the colloquial name for it.

There were no mentions made in the newspaper regarding an official adoption of this name, however.

References—Poughkeepsie Eagle-News: “The Warring School” 23 Jul 1898, p. 5; 2 Feb 1899, p. 5; 31 Oct 1910, p. 5