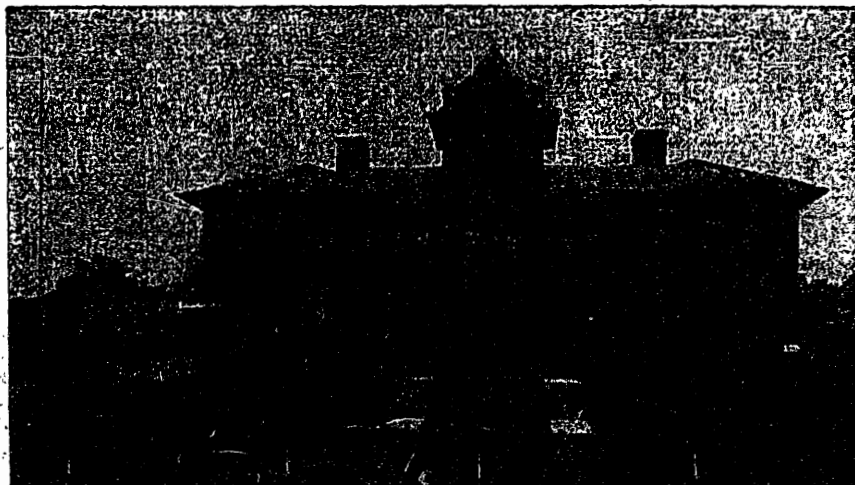


# FIRE DESTROYS SLATINGTON'S HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING



With 300 students at their studies, fire of unknown origin was raging in the basement, which one hour later had completely destroyed our local High School building on Tuesday afternoon. The students were dismissed without a mishap.

At 1:45 p. m. assist. principal, W. W. Stauffer, who was hearing a class in the director's room on the first floor, noticed the room filling with smoke, and immediately going to the basement to investigate found the store room, where the Janitor's supplies were kept, in flames. Mr. Stauffer then hurried to the second floor and notified the supervising principal, J. W. Snyder, who at the time was in charge of the High School room. The teachers were notified in turn and the children dismissed.

After Prof. Snyder had taken the pupils out of the rooms he returned and entering the room in which Stauffer had been when the fire was discovered, made his way through a dense smoke and finding the telephone, sent the alarm to the fire companies. All three responded quickly.

In the meantime the older boys in the school managed to save many of the wraps of the smaller children, many of whom had not taken their things with them when the fire was discovered. A few wraps and rubbers which belonged to older pupils were destroyed. The boys also saved considerable of the school property, including twelve typewriters and a Victrola. The Victrola was a gift from last year's graduating class. However two of the class relics were destroyed,

the electric master clock presented by the class of 1913, and fifteen fine pictures presented by the class of 1914.

The school was equipped with the American Heating and Ventilating system. Flues led from one floor to the other and little areas were built between the floors to permit sufficient circulation. The fire spread so rapidly through these flues, that by the time the firemen arrived every room in the building was filled with smoke. Soon the entire building was a mass of flames and the hopes of even saving a portion of it were given up. At dusk the beautiful high school building was nothing more than a smouldering ruin. Twenty minutes before the fire was discovered, the janitor was in the room in which it originated. However when Mr. Stauffer saw the smoke and found the fire, the janitor had just left the building on an errand.

The building which was built in 1897 at a cost of approximately \$20,000, was two stories high and of brick construction, and was in excellent condition. Besides being the High School, the fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth grades of our borough's schools were taught in the building. It also included the office of the supervising principal, which was also used by the board of directors.

The various churches have offered their basements and Sunday School rooms and other organizations and individuals have offered rooms to the Board of Education for school purposes, and the schools will be re-opened on Monday morning.