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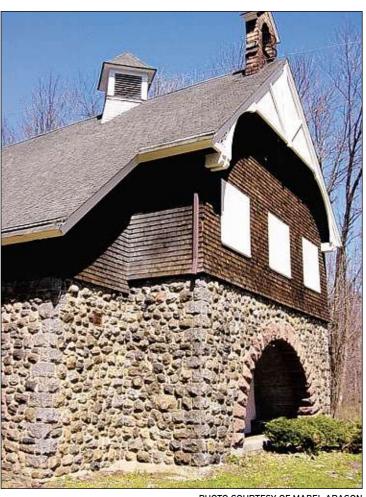


PHOTO COURTESY OF MABEL ARAGON

The long-vacant 19th century Darlington Schoolhouse.

## School back in session? Yes, for preservationists

BY PHILIP DEVENCENTIS

Of Suburban News

**MAHWAH** - Vacant for more than 20 years, the Darlington Schoolhouse at Ramapo Valley Road and Darlington Avenue is forsaken no

The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference and the township recently closed on the building, also known as Havemeyer Hall, after its purchase for \$550,000 with grants from the Bergen County Open Space Trust Fund and the New Jersey Department of **Environmental Protection Green** Acres Program.

In January, the Morris Land

Conservancy, a non-profit organization out of Boonton, made the initial purchase on behalf of the partnership.

The Township Council adopted an ordinance on Thursday, Sept. 13, to become part owner with the stipulations that the Trail Conference pay to renovate and maintain the property.

Early plans prepared by Trail Conference architects estimate preservation may cost at least \$1 million. The county and state have provided \$250,000 in rehabilitation funds.

Goodell, executive Edward

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