1885

Nonpareil School - Dist. #29

Country School Legacy: Humanities on the Frontier

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HISTORIC SITE FORM

State: Nebraska
County: Box Butte

Location (in miles & direction from nearest town): one mile west and five miles south of Hemingford

Is this the original location? yes

Name of building & origin of name: Nonpareil School. This was the name of a small town that is no longer in existence. The editor of a small local paper changed the town's name from Buchanan to "Nonpareil" which was the smallest official printers' type. The word also means "having no equal." (*spellings vary: Buchanan, Nonpareil)

Name & number of the district: Nonpareil. Dist. 29.

Date built: c1885
Years in use at least until: 1915

Who built it? A contractor or the community? the community

Does it look like it came from a plan book or was it designed by the community? the community

Names of former teachers:
- Mrs. M. G. Wambaugh (Lula Mann when teaching)
- 1914-15 Caroline Dickinson (fall)
- Mrs. Alice Schneider (winter)

Names of former students (family names only):
- Family names in Nonpareil: Gilman, Knight, Kidwell, Bowen (unknown if they had children attend school)

Name & address of person in charge of building:
- Unknown

Who is the owner? Unknown
Architectural Features:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Size of building</td>
<td>36 x 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Windows (four pane, six pane, etc.)</td>
<td>2 four pane and 5 six pane</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of doors (entrances)</td>
<td>one</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of classrooms</td>
<td>one</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bell tower or cupola</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Materials used (wood, brick, stone, etc.)</td>
<td>wood covered with stucco</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type of roof</td>
<td>wood shingles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>outhouses</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playground Equipment</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Color of building &amp; trim</td>
<td>white with light green trim</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coal shed or stable</td>
<td>stable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacherage</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flagpole</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other architectural features:
- This is the oldest frame school building in Box Butte County.

Anything left inside? 
no

Narrative Information: Did any special events happen at the school? What stories do people remember?

At one time Nonpareil was considered a possible site for Box Butte County's seat. The town was abandoned in 1888 when the BN railroad bypassed it. Nothing remains now but this old frame schoolhouse. This was also the site of the old town well.

Current condition & use: Poor condition. Abandoned.

District records available: yes x no where stored Box Butte Co. Supt.

Black & white photo taken: yes x no

Old photos available: yes no x

Does the building have any state or national historic designation? no

Name & address of surveyor Sandy Scofield, Chadron, NE date 11/8/80