1875

Branch School - Dist. #14

Country School Legacy: Humanities on the Frontier

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HISTORIC SITE FORM

State: Nebraska
County: Cedar

Location (in miles & direction from nearest town):

13/4 miles West of Hartington

Is this the original location? No, just north of farm owned by Fred Reesey

Name of building & origin of name: Branch School

Name & number of the district: #14

Date built: 1875
Years in use: 102

Who built it? A contractor or the community?

Men from neighborhood gathered sandstone rocks from fields for foundation of sawed lumber themselves

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

Plan book layout

Names of former teachers:

Ida Elliott
C. Fitzgerald
Mary Maur
John Collins

Last teacher: Marcella Eisenhower
First Director: Stephen Wohlman
Last Director: Irvin Lentz

Names of former students (family names only):


Name & address of person in charge of building:

Mrs. Margaret Hahn, 85 & the oldest living student of District #14, bought the school in 1977 for $550.

Who is the owner?
COUNTRY SCHOOL LEGACY HISTORIC SITE FORM

Architectural Features:

Size of building 60 x 33

Number of Windows (four pane, six pane, etc.) __________ 10 - 8-pane

Number of doors (entrances) _____ 2

Number of classrooms _____ 1

Bell tower or cupola Bell Tower (Bell missing - sold to Glen Foster for $120 in 1977)

Materials used (wood, brick, stone, etc.) Wood

Type of roof Wood Shingle

Outhouses Missing

Playground Equipment Tether - tooter

Color of building & trim White

Coal shed or stable Attached to building

Teacherage

Flagpole

Other architectural features: Endowed, detached entry

Anything left inside?

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

It was the social center of the district. Used for Catholic Church services. Used for voting, box socials at Xmas parties. High enrollment of 55 in 20th century. In the famous blizzard of 1888 all the children were snowbound in the school, but found refuge in the John Hahn home. Current condition & use: Some storage, otherwise empty. Occasional meeting.

District records available: yes [ ] no [ ] where stored [ ]

Black & white photo taken: yes [ ] no [ ]

Old photos available: yes [ ] no [ ]

Does the building have any state or national historic designation? [ ] No

Name & address of surveyor James L. Dertien date 10/50