1924

Hartman School - Dist. #34

Country School Legacy: Humanities on the Frontier
HISTORIC SITE FORM

State: Nebraska  County: Buffalo

Location (in miles & direction from nearest town): 3 mi. e. and 8 mi. n. of Kearney, Nebr.

Is this the original location? Yes

Name of building & origin of name (School board member, J. P. Hartman)

Name & number of the district: Hartman School, Dist. 34, Buffalo Co.

Date built: 1924  Years in use: 52 (closed 1976)

Who built it? A contractor or the community? Contractor

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

Names of former teachers:
Mrs. Ruth Mizell, Mrs. Lydia Metcalf, Capelene Schroeder, Mrs. M. Woodward, Mrs. Mary Ann Styskal, Mildred Conger.

Names of former students (family names only):
Petzold, Tompkin, Cook, Solomon, Busch, Schroeder, Gillmig

Name & address of person in charge of building:
Mr. Fay Schroer, R. R. L, Kearney, Nebr. 68847

Who is the owner? District 34

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COUNTRY SCHOOL LEGACY HISTORIC SITE FORM

Architectural Features:

Size of building approx. 30 x 50

Number of Windows (four pane, six pane, etc.)

14 4-pane generally

Number of doors (entrances)

1 and 1 exit

Number of classrooms 2 upstairs but has basement

Bell tower or cupola

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

Frame - wood

Type of roof shingles

Outhouses indoor toilets

Playground Equipment swings, merry-go-round

Color of building & trim white

Coal shed or stable none

Teacherage none

Flagpole yes

Other architectural features:

Anything left inside?

Furniture generally transferred to other districts, but is still rugged.

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

See duplicated history of school by Mrs. Fay Schroer.

Current condition & use:

Good, but not used at all, students transferred to other district.

District records available: yes X no ___ where stored_____

School board records for 100 yrs. property of Kearney State College.

Black & white photo taken: yes X no ___

Old photos available: yes ___ no x (but bldg. same as in 1980)

Does the building have any state or national historic designation?

no

Name & address of surveyor Ernest Grundy ________ date 11-10-80
On March 1st, 1876, school district 34 of Buffalo County had its beginning. On that date the first meeting of the legally qualified voters of this district convened at the home of L. D. Forehand to elect the moderator, director, and treasurer of the district. Since that time, scores of boy and girls have attended this school. Many adults proudly say that they are graduates of this school and appreciate the educational opportunities which were offered to them there.

The moderator's record, kept so faithfully over the years begins with the following declaration:

To L. D. Forehand,

You are hereby notified that I, John Swenson, County Superintendent of Public Instruction in and for the County of Buffalo and State Nebraska, have organized as required by Section I, School Law of 1873, a School District in said County, embracing such territory as shall hereafter be described to be known as District No. 34 of Buffalo County, the boundaries of which are correctly shown on the following plat to-wit.

Mr. J. P. Hartman had been appointed chairman for this first meeting by the County Superintendent in accordance with the provisions of the Nebraska school law of 1873. Mr. L. D. Forehand had been appointed in a like manner to notify the legally qualified voters in the district of the meeting.

On the 17th day of June in that same year, the board met at the school house to consider the building and reception of the school. Records show that the first school building cost $724.50.

At the annual meeting that year it was decided to hold school for six months began on Tuesday, August 15, 1876. Miss Carrie L. Longstreet was the first teacher. She had 12 pupils from five families of L. D. Forehand, J. P. Hartman, James Thomas, William S. Spooner and Evan A. Hartman.
Miss Longstreet taught three months of school for twenty five dollars a month. Records show that during a special meeting of the board in November the earlier vote was rescinded and it was decided not to hold the second three months term of school that year. Some interesting orders drawn on the district treasurer that first year were--furniture for the school, $174.50; stirring fire breaks around the school house, $2.00; and $12.50 paid to the district school board for their services.

At the annual meeting on April 16, 1877, 30 mills was voted to pay all the outstanding orders against the district and to support the school during the ensuing year. Six months of school were held the second year.

The school census taken in April 1878, first shows the name of a family familiar to present day residents of the Hartman district. The family of George Gillming listed the following children; George 19; Peter age 17; Edward, age 15; Julia, age 10; Samuel, age 8; and Elizabeth, age 6. As early as 1880 the names of Fester and Fitzgerald appear in the records.

By 1878 the number of the children had increased to 30. Six months of school were held during most of the early years. Subjects studied by the most advanced students included orthography, reading, arithmetic, geography, and United States History. Nine months of school were first held in the year 1886 and 1887. However, the school year was still divided into fall, winter, and summer terms. In 1888 school was held every month except August.

By 1901 the enrollment reached 51 pupils. The teacher's record does not show the pupils being divided by grades during these early years, but rather by class A, B, or C. One pupil that year was 27 years of age. The records show that some years children came to school at three years of age. They were first classified into grades in 1911. On June 28, 1909, at annual school meeting, it was voted to move the school house one mile north on the south-east corner of north-east quarter of section 35-10-15. R. W. Sample was hired by the board to move the school house for $39.50.

Teachers wages increased in the pre-world war 1 days to $50 and $55 per
In 1917-18 America became involved in a great world conflict. Many young men were drafted into the armed services. The number of pupils, however, who attended the school remained high, usually between 30 and 35.

A special meeting was held on May 8, 1918, of the legal voters of the district for the purpose of voting on a 10 mill levy to run 10 years for the amount of $4,670 to be used in building a new school house, but the motion failed to carry. Again in 1920 a special meeting was called to vote on bonds for erecting a new school building. $3,500 was the amount set with the bonds run for 10 years. This time, the vote favored the proposal. It was decided to build a one room school with basement. The members of the building committee were C. P. Walker, J. M. Anspach, and S. F. Gillming.

A special meeting was called by petition on September 2, 1921 to make definite plans for building the new school. This was the first time that women were legal voters. With the help of the patrons of the district the school was completed during the fall and early winter months. The total cost was $3,266.35. Miss Beulah Geerson was first teacher in the new school and teacher's wages had climbed steadily in the post-war years to $130 per month.

A vote taken at a special school meeting held on June 19, 1923, on whether to include the ninth and tenth grades in the school did not carry. A second vote taken on June 12, 1924, carried this motion and two teachers were hired for the fall term. Mr. Earl Hammans, taught the upper grade room and Miss Laura Henderson the lower grades. The first four students to receive 10th grade diplomas from the Hartman rural high school were Felva Walker, Grace Walker, Alyce Anspach and Julia Gillming.

The fiftieth anniversary was celebrated in 1926 with a basket dinner at noon and program in the afternoon.

In 1932 as a result of the vote of the patrons of the district the high school was discontinued for a period of two years.

In September 1934, Hartman became affiliated with Kearney State Teachers College. Many student teachers did their first week of actual teaching under the
supervision of Mr. R. W. Powell, head of the rural education department at the college. High school was resumed at the Hartman school that same fall. Teacher's salaries had slumped back to $50 a month for elementary teachers. Miss Goldie Stark, who was the high school teacher at this time received $85 per month. Miss Stark was very interested in music, and she directed a community singing school one night each week. Miss Doris Frederick was her accompanist. Interest was keen in this project and several special music groups were an outgrowth of this original group.

Another community gathering which attracted large crowds in those days was the monthly Literary meeting. Young and old alike participated in these programs and talent was exchanged with other rural communities.

The High school was permanently discontinued in 1943. Mrs Charles Palmer was the last high school teacher to serve the Hartman district. Disterest was the reason for discontinuance.

1955 was the year of smallest enrollment. There were eight pupils coming from four homes. Mrs Ray Pierson was the teacher that year.

In 1959-1960 the district voted to hire another teacher and divide the elementary grades into two groups. This makes it possible to provide more individual attention for each child.

Altogether there have been 95 teachers at Hartman. Mrs Gilbert Zimmerman taught for a longer period of years than any other teacher.

Because of its location in a farming community many of Hartman's graduates are farmers and farmer's wives. However there are among the graduates many professional people including teachers, doctors and ministers.

Hartman has been traditionally a friendly neighborhood. Friendly cooperation with their teachers was an important factor in a successful educational program.

Many pupils went on to higher education who were at the top of their classes academically in high school and later graduated with honors from numerous colleges and universities.

Those who chose to stay in the community appreciate the skills which were learned there in helping them to solve the problems of everyday life and most of all the
friendship, love, and concern of the neighbors for one another in this fine community.