

University of Nebraska at Kearney

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School Buildings


Schools

1890

Alfa Center - Dist. #114

Country School Legacy: Humanities on the Frontier

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COUNTRY SCHOOL LEGACY: Humanities on the Frontier

Project Director—Andrew Gulliford

Media Director—Randall Teeuwen

Exhibits Director—Berkeley Lobanov

HISTORIC SITE FORM

State Nebraska County Buffalo

Location (in miles & direction from nearest town) Five miles west, one mile south of Kearney

Is this the original location? yes

Name of building & origin of name Alfalfa Center
An Alfalfa mill is within 1/2 mile

Name & number of the district Alfalfa Center #114

Date built at school 1890 Second 1929 Years in use 39 yrs for 1st 51 yrs for second

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:

Miss Conger, Fern Patterson Vera Cummings
Hazel Conger Pearl Hanson Mrs Peterson
Mrs Cline, Mrs Staley Mrs Newcombe Mrs Andrews
Mrs Tempel Mrs Grundy, Mrs Randolph,
Mrs Cerbak.

Names of former students (family names only):

Holoubeck Gibreal, Hooks, Sheen, Bamford
Clelland, Taber, Sheen Thatcher, Kennedy,

Name & address of person in charge of building:

Archie Holoubeck Jr. Rt 2 Kearney

Who is the owner? School Dist



COUNTRY SCHOOL LEGACY HISTORIC SITE FORM

Architectural Features:

Size of building 36 x 36

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

four pane

Number of doors (entrances) 3

Number of classrooms 3

Bell tower or cupola no

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

wood

Type of roof Composition

Outhouses none

Playground Equipment merry-go round, swings

Color of building & trim baseball diamond, tennis court
white

Coal shed or stable none

Teacherage none

Flagpole yes

Other architectural features:

Anything left inside?

Everything is inside

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

Community meetings have been held throughout the years.

Current condition & use:

Good

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 Mrs. Phyllis Grundy date Nov 10, 1980

Part of a letter sent to school patrons by the school
board of Alfalfa Center, Dist. 114, Buffalo Co., Nebraska, Dec. 1980

Alfalfa Center Trivia

Alfalfa Center School has a rich history. It has been here a long time. The current building was completed about 1926. Charlie Cleland, Bonnie Ingrams' grandfather and Dave Gueck, Verda Tabers' father were some of the men who helped make that possible. There was a school here before 1926 but exact details now are sketchy.

There were 10 grades being taught here in those years. There is no way of knowing how many children have attended here, but the number has to be large.

Did you know that:

1. That Alfalfa Center derived its name from the "new" hay crop being planted here by a man named Watson who had the world's largest barn at 1733 way back when and hay was shipped from the railroad siding here.
2. Alfalfa Center alumni have been National Honor Society winners in high school and regent scholars at the University.
3. Alfalfa Center alumni from the last 25 years are doctors, researchers, veterinarians, engineers, contractors, farmers, ministers, teachers, debate coaches, good solid citizens.
4. Many of Kearney Highs best athletes have come from Alfalfa Center including all conference football, basketball choices and state track winners.
5. That all of our students generally score higher than the median average in proficiency tests.
6. That Alfalfa Center school district in land size is one of the smallest in Buffalo County.
7. In 1977, Alfalfa Center had 17 students.
8. This year per pupil cost to education our children is \$1117.65.
9. That Kearney High charges Alfalfa Center \$2500.00 per student to educate our 7th and 8th grade pupils and busing is in addition to that.
10. That the study made on Alfalfa Center for student enrollment said that we could have as high as 91 or as low as 25 in 1990. A lot of help for planning, huh?

Alfalpa Center School Phone:
234-2145

Personnel at Alfalfa Center

Mrs. Phyllis Grundy 3417 Central Ave.
Kearney, Nebraska
Phone: 234-3164

Kindergarten Teacher 11 years at Alfalfa Center, 25 all total taught k-3 previously - Husband, Ernest, occupation College Professor, 2 grown children - tried to retire in 1978 agreed to come back for kindergarten and music $\frac{1}{2}$ day.

RaNae Cernik Rural Route 3
Kearney, Nebraska
Phone: 234-5188

1st - 3rd grades, 3rd year of teaching, 1 year at Bloomington, 2 at Alfalfa Center, St. Paul Nebraska, native, Kearney State College Graduate - Frank, husband works at Kizzier Chevrolet - married summer of 1980.

Lanna Randolph 3802 Ave. L
Kearney, Nebraska
Phone: 236-6940

4th - 6th grades, 13th year of teaching - elementary grades at Central City Nebraska, Minden Native, Kearney State College Graduate, graduate hours 18, 2 children - husband, Ray, is with family business Worley Monuments.

Judy Holoubeck Route 2
Kearney, Nebraska
Phone: 237-5876

Food Technician 2 years experience, Pleasanton Nebraska native, attended Kearney State College, worked as secretary and at Bank, has own ceramic shop, 2 children - husband, Archie is a farmer, trucker.

Verda Taber 1116 5th Ave.
Kearney, Nebraska
Phone: 237-7831

Food Technician 30 years experience all at Alfalfa Center. Helped start Hot Lunch Program here. Attended Alfalfa Center as a girl. Longtime resident of neighborhood - 1 son Lloyd, who attended Alfalfa Center and is a veterinary at Neligh Nebraska. Husband, Jess is retired.

Archie Holoubeck, Jr.

Route 2
Kearney, Nebraska

School Board President, attended Alfalfa Center, Kearney High School, Kearney State College Graduate; Biology, self-employed farmer, trucker - 2 children at Alfalfa Center - wife, Judith Ann.

John B. Kennedy

Route 2
Kearney, Nebraska

School Board Secretary, Wyoming native, University of Wyoming Graduate with advanced degree in Special Education, works for ESU #10 in special education; 5 of his 6 children attended Alfalfa Center. One child married, rest in high school - wife, Bunny.

Lanny Ingram

Route 2
Kearney, Nebraska

School Board Treasurer, Kearney native, Kearney High School Graduate, works for Harding Interstate Glass - 3 children, 2 in high school, 1 at Alfalfa Center - wife, Bonnie who works at First National Bank and also attended Alfalfa Center.