1885

Hillsdale School - Dist. # 43

Country School Legacy: Humanities on the Frontier

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COUNTRY SCHOOL LEGACY:
Humanities on the Frontier

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HISTORIC SITE FORM

State Nebraska County Goff
Location (in miles & direction from nearest town) 3 1/2 miles
north-east of Schuyler
Is this the original location? Yes

Name of building & origin of name Hillside (or Hillside) School. "Hillside" was one of the earliest families in the district. The school is located in the dale, just below the hills.

Name & number of the district Hillside School - District No. 43
Date built in 1880 Years in use About 1885 to 1968
Who built it? A contractor or the community? A contractor

Does it look like it came from a plan book or was it designed by the community? Most rural schools in Colfax County are
Nebraska were built this plain style, long and narrow with
high windows on each side, like the sketch in lower right corner.

Names of former teachers: (Edw. Bame was 1st director) Teachers were
Gustav Blatz, Emil Sevcy, Therese Toulker, Louise Payzant, Arline
Thunke, Sylvia Johnson, Helen Martin, Arne Martin, Helen Martin,
Diamond Stiefer, Jeann Duzyt, Frances Payzant, Clarissa Washburn,
Maria Pauls, and Adolph Tusa.

Names of former students (family names only): Payzant, Peter, Toulker,
Paden, Smith, Martin, Johnson, Heitz, Kalmer, Koch, Karch, Schmiede,
Kochnick, Stiefer, Munich, Brown, Christensen, Heitz, Hase,
Knecht, Michaelson, Schmely, Brady, Lapack, Henry,
Jedlicka, M. Intisch, Moore, Peterson, Brier.

Name & address of person in charge of building:
Victor Martin and Mrs. Lurin D. Jedlicka
Same address — R.1, Schuyler, NE 68661
Who is the owner? Both own the building.
COUNTRY SCHOOL LEGACY HISTORIC SITE FORM

Architectural Features:

Size of building 60' x 20'

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

- In hall 1 is one 5 pane
- In hall 2 is one 2 pane

Number of doors (entrances) 2 doors - 1 out of hall I and 1 out of hall II

Number of classrooms One

Bell tower or cupola Bell tower

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

Type of roof Wood would shingled, now asphalt

Outhouses 2 with one remaining

Playground Equipment Jesters, titter, 1 merry-go-round, new organized district school

Color of building & trim White

Coal shed or stable Coal shed had been removed

Teacherage One teacher

Flagpole 30 to 40 ft. high on a tower (wind-mill type)

Other architectural features:

- Raincoating on walls and wooden blackboards

- Anything left inside?

- Teacher's desk & pupil's desks (one seat) - Platform

- Restroom seat was stolen

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

- School programs at Christmas time, Box Socials in 1920's
- Halloween & Valentine Parties, School picnics, 4-H Club meetings, demonstrations & Achievement Day celebration, Reunion of past & present pupils in 1963 (Big Attendance)

Current condition & use:

- Fair to good & used for tours occasionally

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?

- Built by a state plan; graduate taught in schools over the state, was 43rd school building in district in Colfax

Name & address of surveyor Helen Marcel Cassag date 1-31-1981

Director of Schuyler Historical Society 117, Rosen, NE 68659
Jim Sertien
207 East Court
Bellevue, NE 68005

Jan. 31, 1981

Rogers, NE 68659

Dear Mr. Sertien,

The Bellevue Public Library sent a packet of material on Rural Schools to the Librarian at the Shangley Public Library. This person had little knowledge of the rural schools in Coffey County, so forwarded the packet to the Shangley Historical Society. This was several months ago. Since I am the only one on the Board of Directors who really had the experience of attending a rural school, later teaching in two districts there, wife of a board member for 24 years, I was delegated to fill in the form. Sorry to be late for the deadline of Jan. 1st, but perhaps you received no other history of a Coffey County School.

I can relate many experiences of my father attending Rural School Dist. #18 in Coffey Co. in the 1880’s, a Czech pioneer’s child who couldn’t speak English, drank water from the old oak bucket open well, etc. He could recite, “The Village Blacksmith,” “Thanatos,” etc., when an old man and had only a 5th Reader education. (No grades then). There’d be experience teaching a child (Czech) who couldn’t speak English. I’m wondering if it was a State Law that female teachers had to be unmarried, as that was the period – the 1920’s – when I taught rural schools.

I hope the information I am enclosing will be of some value to the Library Association searching for historical records and experiences.

Sincerely,

Helen (Sertien) Caugy