

University of Nebraska at Kearney

OpenSPACES@UNK: Scholarship, Preservation, and Creative Endeavors

School Buildings

Schools

1885

Hillsdale School - Dist. # 43

Country School Legacy: Humanities on the Frontier

Follow this and additional works at: <https://openspaces.unk.edu/schoolbuildings>

 Part of the [American Art and Architecture Commons](#), [Education Commons](#), and the [United States History Commons](#)

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 Colfax

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 Hillsview or Hillsdale
School - "Hills" were one of the earliest families in the
district. The school is located in the dale, just below the hills
(one mile)

Name & number of the district Hillsdale School - District No. 43

Date built in 1880's Years in use About 1885 to 1968

Who built it? A contractor or the community? A contractor with
school board advice and assistance.

Does it look like it came from a plan book or was it designed by
the community? Most rural schools in Colfax Co. and over
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 Platz, Emil Severyn, Theresa Tooker, Louise Payzant, Arlene
Shonka, Sylvia Sylbure, Helen Mares, Agnes Mares, Melba Mares,
Diamond Stuefer, Jean Heitz, Frances Payzant, Claretta Washburn,
Marie Jaltys and Ardith Luxa.

Names of former students (family names only): Payzant, Peters, Tooker,
Paden, Smith, Mares, Johns, Vetter, Krach, Bailey, Lehmmmer,
Holoubek, Stuefer, Moural, Brown, Chronister, Heitz, Hare,
Krivohlavch, Michulka, Shively, Grady, Lapacek, Gerny,
Jedlicka, McIntosh, Moore, Peterson, Brier.

Name & address of persons in charge of building:

Victor Mares and Mrs. Lumir R. Jedlicka

Same address - R#1, Schuyler, NE 68661

Who is the owner? Both own the building



SPONSORED BY THE MOUNTAIN PLAINS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Serving Kansas, Colorado, Nebraska, Nevada, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming

COUNTRY SCHOOL LEGACY HISTORIC SITE FORM

Architectural Features:

Size of building 60' x 26'

Number of Windows (four pane, six pane, etc.) 8 windows; 8 pane
In hall I is one 8 pane - In hall II is one 2 pane.

Number of doors (entrances) ^{main room} 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
foundations.

Type of roof Were wood shingles; now asphalt.

Outhouses 2 with one remaining.

Playground Equipment Teeter-totters & a merry-go-round. ^{moved 2 1/2 mi. east to} _{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:

Wainscoting on walls and wooden blackboards.

Anything left inside?

Teachers desks & pupils desks with seats - Platform.
Recitation 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 Victor Mares
& Joe Heavican Homes.

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, graduates taught in schools over the state - was 43rd school
building & district in Colfax Co.

Name & address of surveyor Helen Mares/Gerny date 1-31-1981

Director of Schuyler Historical Society. R.L. Rogers, NE. 68659

Rogers, NE 68659

Jan. 31, 1981

Jim Dertien
209 Sandi Court
Bellevue, NE 68005

Dear Mr. Dertien,

The Bellevue Public Library sent a packet of material on Rural Schools to the Librarian of Schuyler Public Library. This person had little knowledge of the rural schools in Colfax County, so forwarded the packet to the Schuyler 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, then, 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 Colfax County School.

I can relate many experiences of my father attending Rural School Dist. #18 in Colfax Co. in the 1880's, a Czech pioneer's child who couldn't speak English, drank water from the old oaken-bucket open well, etc. He could recite, "The Village Blacksmith", "Thanatopsis", etc., when an old man and had only a 5th Reader education. (No grades then). I have ^{had} 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 & experiences.

Sincerely,

Helen (Mares) Cerny