2000

Goose Valley School - Dist. #112

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
GOURNALY SCHOOL LEGACY:  

*Humanities on the Frontier*  

Now a historic site in Tomahawk Park, Broken Bow, NE

*Project Director—Andrew Gulliford*

*Media Director—Randall Teeuwen*  

*Exhibits Director—Berkeley Lobanov*

---

**HISTORIC SITE FORM**

State  

Nebraska

County  

Custer

Location (in miles & direction from nearest town)  

Once Goose Valley school, 3 mi. n. e. Berwyn, NE, #112, township 16, range 19, section 13. Now in Tomahawk Park, Broken Bow, NE.

Is this the original location?  

See response immediately above.

Name of building & origin of name  

Named for a valley and creek finally, first named for a settler  

Oren Gusman or Goosman.

Name & number of the district  

Custer Co. #112

Date built  

not available  

Years in use  

dissolved 1965

Who built it? A contractor or the community?  

probably contractor and community

Does it look like it came from a plan book or was it designed by the community? typical of so many schoolhouses built after turn of 19th-e

 twentieth century.

Names of former teachers:  

Hazel Irma Sorensen, and others.

(now Mrs. Tom Butler, Ansley)

Names of former students (family names only):  

Wright, Evans, Weith, Stark, Meyer, Morris, Dittmar

Name & address of person in charge of building:  

See above

Who is the owner?
COUNTRY SCHOOL LEGACY HISTORIC SITE FORM

Architectural Features:

Size of building

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

Number of doors (entrances)

Number of classrooms

Bell tower or cupola

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

Type of roof

Outhouses

Playground Equipment

Color of building & trim

Coal shed or stable

Teacherage

Flagpole

Other architectural features:

Anything left inside?

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

Current condition & use:

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?

Name & address of surveyor_______________________ date____
The "Little Red Schoolhouse" located later (era 1970) in Tomahawk Park in Broken Bow, Nebraska, came originally and originally was the "Goose Valley" rural school district about 3 miles northeast of village of Berwyn, Custer County, Nebraska, where it was Goose Valley School District Number 112, in eastern part of Township 16, Range 19, in Section 13.

This is a small valley, and its topography drains south-easterly into Muddy Creek above Ansley.

It was actually originally named by or in honor of a pioneer settler, Mr. Oren Gusman or Orin Goosman, of German ancestry, but gradually it became known as "Goose Valley".

The schoolhouse was located in the northeast corner of the northeast quarter section of Section 13, in Township 16, Range 19.

By 1904, families in this neighborhood of Goose Valley included those of Joseph H. Wright, J. E. Evans, Anna Weith, J. W. Stark, Henry F. Meyer, Lott C. Morris, James Weath (Weith), Joseph F. Dittmar (somewhat further southward), George and Mary Gutzen, James O. Russell, Wm. H. Mauck (somewhat west) Mr. Christopher Dodge Helms and the Helms family located in this area back in 1883. A Charles Gray family lived here, later moved to Ansley. The Hatfield family lived in this good neighborhood (parents of Loren Hatfield and parents of Mrs. Emery Griffiths being parents of Mrs. Jim (Leona) Huffaker.

Hazel Irma Sorensen (became wife of Tom Butler, Ansley, now both of Broken Bow) taught here in 1931-32 term, paid total salary for 9 month term school sum of $630.00. At that time, A. E. Allen was director on school board, 11 pupils were enrolled that term, 20 listed in school district 1931 school census, and valuation of district that year was $91,735.00; it cost $827.66 to operate this school that year.

Families in this old Goose Valley area by 1967 included those of Howard C. Tiff, Mrs. Clarence Anthony, James Shepard, T. B. Grim, Jr., and one or two others.

It seems Orin H. Tolbot, Broken Bow, was one instrumental in purchasing or getting this schoolhouse donated and moved from its old original site westward into Broken Bow and to this park. Then, the Broken Bow Retired Teacher's Association was "sponsor" in maintaining it and furnishing it with old appropriate desks, books, teacher's desk, globe, etc. Especially interested in it was Miss Agnes Choffel, Mildred English, Irene Sargent, Dewey, etc. Note: Goose Valley school district was officially dissolved in 1965, City of Broken paid $295.00 for the building and all articles brought for $357.00; auctioneer and clerk of this sale paid $17.90 each, Chief paid $9.00 for advertising the sale. - records C. Co. Supt. of Schools.
The "Little Red School House" standing in Broken Bow's Tomahawk Park looks a little brighter after the city Parks Dept. renovated and redecorated the historic structure.

Custer County Historical Society secretary Phillip Gardner said the city should appreciate the efforts of Agnes Choffel of Broken Bow who initiated contact with the Society and the Mayor in getting the schoolhouse remodeled.

The little rural schoolhouse came to Broken Bow around 1970 through the efforts of Orin H. Talbot. The one room school had been located in the Goose Valley School District No. 112, three miles east of Berwyn.

The Custer Association of Retired Teachers, which assisted in the restoration and furnishing of the schoolhouse held one of its meetings there recently.

The "Little Red School House" is representative of some 149,282 one room schools founded in the United States in 1930. Only 1,100 remain in use, and Nebraska has 435 of those. The schoolhouse stands in Tomahawk Park as a tribute to the rich heritage of the pioneers and dedicated teachers who educated the area children despite many inconveniences and lack of materials.

One footnote. Historical records indicate that during the 1931-32 school year teacher Hazel Irma Sorensen, now Mrs. Tom Butler of Broken Bow, received a nine month salary totalling $630.00 AE. Allen, a farmer, was School Board Director and administered an $827.66 budget.
Retired Teachers meet in "Little Red Schoolhouse" Sept. 25.

The Broken Bow Area of Retired Teachers met at the "Little Red Schoolhouse" Tuesday, September 25, for a unique and very interesting program under the direction of Agnes Choffel. President Lura Hufaker led the group in the "Pledge of Allegiance" to the Flag and the "Star Spangled Banner".

Though provocative questions about Presidents of the United States and their First Ladies were drawn by each member. Since positive answers were not available, members were invited to do research to satisfy their own curiosity.

George Miller gave the interesting history of "Tomahawk Park's "Little Red Schoolhouse" which was originally District 112, Goose Valley, Northeast of Berwyn.

Verna Hirsh gave an author's prelude to John Greenleaf Whittier's poem "In School Days" and also read the poem. Marian Wieland led the group in singing "In the Little Red Schoolhouse" and "School Days".

"The Little Red Schoolhouse" truly a symbol of American heritage is too much a part of America to be forgotten and it lives on in the words of those who heard there as children and grew up to mold the Nation. "The Little Red Schoolhouse did its job well," quoted Eric Sloan in his book "The Little Red Schoolhouse". It reminds us of simpler days-days before education was big business, before it became a massive political and social issue. The Colonists were committed to education, believing education freed men. Also that the "3 R's" Reading, Riting and Rithmetic were necessary to study the Bible.

The oldest school house in the United State is the "Little Red Cedar House" in St. Augustine, Florida. It is mentioned in records before 1763.

Mr. Sloan, in his book "The Little Red Schoolhouse" goes on to say, "Although the one-room school is not likely to make a comeback, perhaps its philosophy will."

"Learning, living and personal responsibility were the essence of the country school.

"The Little Red School" in Tomahawk has recently been painted, renovated and equipped with books and furnishings of its era, to the delight of
This rural school-house stands here today as a symbol of educational system devised in America, truly an American institution and the one-room district school dates back to the early era of the United States. Yet in 1930, there were some 149,282 one-room rural, mostly one-teacher schoolhouses similar to this one at the cross-roads all over our nation; by 1979, only an estimated 1,110 remained, and of these, Nebraska had 435.

This one was the beloved "Goose Valley School District Number 112, located about three miles northeast of Berwyn in rural Custer County, Nebraska, in the eastern part of Township 16, Range 19, in Section 13, along the eastern border of Berwyn Township.

Many taught here, long hours, in very fall days, frigid winter days, and the dedicated teachers also had to stoke the fire, bring in the wood and take out the ashes and do the janitorial chores, supervise recreation at recess, teach every subject required and the youth of no other nation on the face of the earth were ever given better individual instruction. The teachers were generally underpaid and served at great personal sacrifice, without complaint, so dear was their dedication and interest in the welfare of their pupils.

In 1931-32 term at Goose Valley, Hazy Irma Sorensen (now wife of Tom Butler, Broken Bow) had 11 pupils and received the total salary for a 9-month term of $630.00. A. E. Allen, farmer, was School Director of its Board then and it cost $827.66 total conduct school that year.

Orin H. Talbot was instrumental in having this schoolhouse moved here to Tom...
IN APPRECIATION

This typical rural district schoolhouse, The Goose Valley District School No. 112, from 3 miles northeast of Berwyn, Buster County, Nebraska, was moved here to Tomahawk Park in Broken Bow chiefly through the efforts of Ernie H. Talbot in about 1970.

It became a project of the Retired Teacher's Association which restored it and re-furnished it. The City of Broken Bow has recently renovated and re-decorated this historic old structure, part of the rich heritage of the "People on the Plains" and stands here, dedicated to those brave sturdy pioneer soldiers and to the dedicated teachers who imparted knowledge to their pupils despite many inconveniences and lack of materials.

"The Little Red School House" is representative of some 143,000 found in the United States in 1930; now, in 1970, only 1,100 remain, of which our State of Nebraska has some 435, mostly one-teacher rural schools, situated at "the cross-roads of America".
Historical Museums and Points of Interest

Located in Broken Bow's Tomahawk Park, LITTLE RED SCHOOLHOUSE, restored, one-room school typical of those used during development of Sandhill River Country. Furnished.

Located in Anselmo, NE. a sod house, replica constructed by the people of Anselmo to demonstrate what sod house life was like. Furnished.