1900

Hardscrabble - Dist. #84

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: Dawes

Location (in miles & direction from nearest town): 8 miles south of Whitney, Nebraska

Is this the original location? yes

Name of building & origin of name: Hardscrabble. A local farmer said the community "story" is the name came about in the early 1900's when there were over 20 students and not much money.

According to him, keeping the school operating was a "hard scrabble." Name & number of the district: Dist. 84. Hardscrabble. District organized 1887

Date built: Early 1900's  Years in use: Still in use.

Who built it? A contractor or the community? the community

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

Names of former teachers:
1916-17: Bridgett Barett and Kate Soester
1917-18: Helen Ballenger
1923-24: Miss Kathryn Betson
1929-30: Myrtle Tagart
1931-32: Mrs. Phyllis Thomas
1950's—Dell Brown

Names of former students (family names only):
Smith, Hamm, Lange, Stumpf, Miller, Ball, Britton, Schmidt, Betson, Kirby, Hoevet, Todd, Kenton, McMasters, Vetter, Iliff

Name & address of person in charge of building:
School Board, District 84, Dawes County, NE

Present teacher: Mrs. Paula Riggs

Who is the owner? School District 84
COUNTRY SCHOOL LEGACY HISTORIC SITE FORM

Architectural Features:

Size of building: 27' x 18' with a 9' x 9' porch

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

Number of doors (entrances) one with one fire exit at the rear

Number of classrooms: one

Bell tower or cupola: no

Materials used (wood, brick, stone, etc.): wood and cement

Type of roof: tin

outhouses: two

Playground Equipment: merry-go-round and swings

Color of building & trim: white

Coal shed or stable: no

Teacherage: no

Flagpole: yes

Other architectural features:

a pump and propane tank sit in the school yard

Anything left inside?

Yes. School is completely furnished.

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

Current condition & use:

Good condition. School is still held in this building.

District records available: yes x no where stored: Dawes Co. Supt.

Black & white photo taken: yes x no

Old photos available: yes x no

Does the building have any state or national historic designation?

Name & address of surveyor: Sandy Scofield, Chadron, NE

date: Jan. 1, 1981