1914

Dorsey - Dist. #4

Country School Legacy: Humanities on the Frontier

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HISTORIC SITE FORM

State__Nebraska__ County__Holt__

Location (in miles & direction from nearest town) 11 miles south, 5 east, 1/2 north of Lynch, NE

Is this the original location? No, a log school was built in Steel Creek Village on Apple Creek in 1881. A few years later a frame building & origin of name building was built. The name was changed to honor George Dorsey, the district's U.S. Congressman.

Name & number of the district__District 4__

Date built__Present building - 1914__ Years in use__67 years to date__

Who built it? A contractor or the community? A contractor from Omaha assisted by D.D. Miles and Elick Beeny.

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

Names of former teachers:
  on attached sheet

Names of former students (family names only):
  see attached sheet

Name & address of person in charge of building:

Who is the owner?

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Architectural Features:

Size of building: 40' x 40'
Number of Windows (four pane, six pane, etc.): 10 windows in classroom; 2 in hall
Number of doors (entrances): 2
Number of classrooms: 1
Bell tower or cupola: No
Materials used (wood, brick, stone, etc.): wood
Type of roof:
Outhouses: 2
Playground Equipment: Merry-go-round
Color of building & trim: White
Coal shed or stable:
Teacherage:
Flagpole: 1
Other architectural features:

Anything left inside?

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

Current condition & use:
School has been in regular use. The school house is also used as a voting place.
District records available: yes [X] no [ ] where stored: Morna Farrand has old records
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: ________________________ date: ________________________
In 1881 a log school house was built in the Steel Creek Village by Frank Jones, Alvin Gager, Jim Pine and Dan Binkerd. The land was donated by John Emerson. A few years later a frame building was put up by Phil Parker and Clint Anderson. It remained in use for many years until a new site was chosen about a mile northwest in 1914. The first teacher who taught in 1881 was Mrs. John Downey followed by many more. Those who taught here were: Pearl Billick, Rube Taylor, Bell Everton, Eunice Ellis, Effie Willows, Ruth Page, Ida Cooper, Maggie Willows, Charles Peterson, Anna Thelander, Pansy Erskine, Minnie Richardson, Ida Tullis, Lizzie Alford, Mrs. Minnie Rosenkrans, Mary Wiley, Elmer Rogers, Mayme Gallagher, Eva Hasman, Oscar Reed, Sadie Derickson, and Grace Johnson.

The present school house was built in 1914-1915 on land owned by H.C. Burbank, by a building firm from Omaha assisted by Delas D. Miles and Elick Beeney. George W. Wilcox was the first teacher and there were 55 pupils in the school for several years. Other teachers were: Ruth Bengston, Ross Emerson, Latasco Gray, Lenore Dillon, Carl Grant, Ruth Donnelly, Inez Grant, Mabel Hill, Viola Haynes, Vivian Curran, Wilma Pickering, Mary Mitchell, Ema Fox, Eunice Chudmelker, Jeanette Derickson, Edna Newman, Olive Pickering, Virginia Derickson, Dorothy Rosenkrans, Mary Nolan, Iva Brady, Geraldine Courtney, Lucille Pinkerman, Alice Friehicks, Alice Hansen, Phyllis Anderson, Thelma Miles, Norma Emmons, and Alice Gadath.

There was no school in the term 1949-1950.

Taken from a photograph of Dorsey school in 1900 students listed were: William Derickson, Roy Elder, Esta Yocum, Barbara Reynolds, Ethel Lee, Lizzie Goden, Lucie Marston, Rene Alder, Jennet Derickson, Lottie Yocum, Mary Goden, Sadie Derickson, George Derickson, Grant Alder, Henry Alder, Herold Marston, Lawrence Marston, Grace Hudson, Dora Mertz, Alice Lee, Ida Alder, Ada Yocum, Sadie Willows, Edward Alder, Arthur Reynolds, Charlie Reynolds, Carl Conley, Frank Reynolds, Nellie Davidson, Johnny Davidson, and Otto Mertz. The teachers were Effie and Maggie Willows.

Also taken from a photograph in 1935 the following names were listed: Derickson, Farrand, Kronig, Nightingale, Trenies, Jensen, Marston, Sevverkrubble, Newman, Barta, and Wamsley.
Lynne, Nebraska
January 10, 1981

Ernest Grundy, Professor of English
Kearney State College
Kearney, Nebraska 68847

Dear Liv:

I trust that by this time you have received the tapes and materials that Lorens gathered during Christmas vacation. I hope it will be of value to you.

Mrs. Howard Marston and Morna Farrand, former pupils of the Dorrery School, supplied me with information which I am forwarding to you.

I am sorry that I was unable to obtain any old photographs. There are two early pictures in Before Today, A History of Hall County Nebraska. However, the donor of these pictures is no longer living and I didn't know
whom to contact about them.

All that remains of the once thriving village of Dorsey is the school where I now teach. It was a pleasure going over old records dating back to 1898. Among the papers were warrants paid to early teachers, bills for lumber, window panes, nails, etc., and registers.

I inquired at the County Superintendents office and was told that other records are available there.

This year makes the twenty-third for me as a rural school teacher. After completing the Normal-Training course in high school and passing the required examinations I received my teaching certificate and taught my first term of school at age sixteen, which was not unusual at that time.
$47.50 per month, paid ten dollars for board and room, and walked a mile and a half to school. Of course the fire had to be built in the coal stove and water carried from the pump. That first winter my older pupils trapped skunks so the schoolhouse never lacked for aroma! The school received commodities of canned grapefruit and pork and beans which helped end the monotony of the cold lunches. The following year I received $60 a month with a bonus of $45 if I didn't get married during the school year. I waited until June first and collected my bonus. When our youngest son started to school I renewed my certificate by earning nine college hours and have continued teaching since that time. All of my college training had been
earned during summer sessions, night classes, and off campus workshops.

I believe much more is required of children today than in my early days of teaching. However, the materials that are available for teachers and pupils today, make the job much more interesting.

I am proud to be a rural school teacher. I feel that rural schools have produced some of the best students found anywhere. Of course, I may be prejudiced!

Sincerely yours,

Gussie L. Linkermae