Union Valley - Dist. #6

Country School Legacy: Humanities on the Frontier

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# G O U N T R Y  S C H O O L  L E G A C Y:

**Humanities on the Frontier**

Project Director—Andrew Gulliford  
Media Director—Randall Teeuwen  
Exhibits Director—Berkeley Lobanov

## HISTORIC SITE FORM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Nebraska</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>County</td>
<td>Madison</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Location (in miles & direction from nearest town):**  
4 miles East, 2 miles South of Madison

**Is this the original location?**  
No, 1870 location differs from present (1914) location

**Name of building & origin of name:**  
Union Valley—site of village which never truly materialized

**Name & number of the district:**  
#6, Union Valley

**Date built:**  
1917  
**Years in use:**  
As school until 1972

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

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

**Names of former teachers:**  
See attachment

**Names of former students (family names only):**  
See attachment

**Name & address of person in charge of building:**  
Walter Hankla  
RR Madison, NE

**Who is the owner?**  
Walter Hankla

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**COUNTRY SCHOOL LEGACY HISTORIC SITE FORM**

**Architectural Features:**

- **Size of building:** 30 x 36
- **Number of Windows (four pane, six pane, etc.):** 8 - 2-pane
- **Number of doors (entrances):** 3
- **Number of classrooms:** None
- **Bell tower or cupola:** Bell Tower
- **Materials used (wood, brick, stone, etc.):** Wood, with brick foundation
- **Type of roof:** Asphalt shingles
- **Outhouses:** —
- **Playground Equipment:** —
- **Color of building & trim:** White
- **Coal shed or stable:** —
- **Teacherage:** —
- **Flagpole:** —

**Other architectural features:** Converted to home; floor plan changed. Note & compare window treatment or photos with copy of photo (last page of attachment)

**Anything left inside?** Residential furnishings

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

*See attachment*

**Current condition & use:** Excellent, Home

**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?** No

**Name & address of surveyor:** James L. Dermody, date 4/80
History of Union Valley School # 6

The present Union Valley School was organized in the Spring of 1870. This included District 83. The earliest school building was a 1 room cross-lighted building located on the flat land southeast of the present Walter Honkla residence. A little country store was also located near the school. Since the village was expected to grow up there - some time later another school was located west of the present Robert Foster home. Since 1901 it has been at the present location.

Close to 1917, after much disagreement about a new building and its location, Watson Purdy, school officer, started to make arrangements with the school board of here to locate the building half-way between the two districts. This was just a political move, but it got results! The people in District 6 got busy quickly and decided to build a new building.

A new two-room schoolhouse was completed in 1917 - one room to be used for hot lunches. This room was outfitted with dishes and a stove. The present bell was donated by Watson Purdy. It became a standardized school in 1924. More tables were added each year. Taxes was needed. The school was paid for as soon as it was completed.
In looking over our old records at the courthouse, we find 196 days were actually taught. Enrollment was as high as 45; library was valued at $50; and wages were from $50 to $450 a month. In 1917 there were only 2 trees on the school grounds but in 1920 there were 103 trees.

Among the earliest school officials we found:

O. M. Wells
Watson Purdy, father of Harry, Oliver, and Walter Purdy
Wm. Dietz, father of Lawrence Dietz
J. Basse
Mrs. Thompson
J. Kiehl
James Malin, father of the Malins
Ed. Stearns, father of Kenneth and Julian Stevens
Mrs. Sahl

Listed as early teachers are:

Fair Doris
Dorothy Remhardt - Mrs. Ed. Hittner
now teacher at St. Leonard's

Gertrude Rilmer
Linda Maurer (Sittje)
Arma Hassenbuck
Edna Craig
Vlasta Krupta (Sittje)
Gretchen Wells
Hazel Marshall
Some of these early teachers walked out from Madison.
Some of the local names in the enrollment over the years are:-
The Weiland children
The Wittkower children (which include Mrs. Maurice Albert and Mrs. Louis Rock)
Connie King
Arthur Schmidt
Jean Martin
Thee Basse (hus driver from Norfolk)
Laurence Dietz
Florence Dietz (Jacobi)
Ellen Dietz (Nathan)
The Bruttner children including Anna Test
Martha Palmske
Paul Jacobson
The Schlemkeirs
Rahlund's
La Verne and Kenneth Stevens
Marlene and La Spite Matina (Mrs. Dale Barrett, Mrs. Ron McShi

Richard W. Dietz 8th grade Dist. 6