1923

Born School - Dist. #8

Country School Legacy: Humanities on the Frontier

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GOURNTRY SCHOOL LEGACY:

Humanities on the Frontier

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HISTORIC SITE FORM

State: Nebraska
County: Madison

Location (in miles & direction from nearest town): 4 miles west of Norfolk

Is this the original location? Yes

Name of building & origin of name: Born School—named after farmer near whose property it is located. At one time known as Best School (for Best Cemetery nearby)

Name & number of the district: #8

Date built: 1923
Years in use: 57

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? Served as an example for the building of others in area.

Names of former teachers:
Della Eckert
Mrs. Kolder
Sivinah Wright
Rhode Campbell
Vesta Sasse
Esther Crane

Names of former students (family names only):
Stewart
Helmers
Sellins
Northouse
Raymond
Tuckers
Walmsleys

Name & address of person in charge of building:
Carol Cross
1204 N. 12th
Norfolk

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

Architectural Features:

Size of building _______________________________ 30' x 25'

Number of Windows (four pane, six pane, etc.) _______________________________ 2 - 2-pane

Number of doors (entrances) _______________________________ 2

Number of classrooms _______________________________ 1

Bell tower or cupola _______________________________ No

Materials used (wood, brick, stone, etc.) _______________________________ Wood, with brick foundation

Type of roof _______________________________ Hip, wood shingles

Outhouses _______________________________ No

Playground Equipment _______________________________ merry-go-round, see-saw, swings, slide

Color of building & trim _______________________________ white

Coal shed or stable _______________________________ No

Teacherage _______________________________ No

Flagpole _______________________________ Yes

Other architectural features:

Buildings looks exactly like photos of the 1890s.

Anything left inside?

Classroom equipment

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

See attachment

Current condition & use:

Condition very good. Modernized inside

District records available: yes√ no ___ where stored ____________________________ Madison County Courthouse

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. Dertieu, date 1/81
District 8 Madison County

District 8 School is one of the oldest rural schools in the County. It is very difficult to find any one who has any knowledge of the first schools. I have been told that the first school in the vicinity was taught by a Mrs. Kiddler in her home. I'm not sure if it is fact or not, but I do know that people by that name lived here in early days. I have heard my grandmother Mrs. Stirk who came here after the Civil War with her husband and homesteaded south of the river, mention Mrs. Kiddler.

According to the county records or County Superintendent Hurford the district was formed from territory not yet organized into districts. I'm not sure if this was the first organization or not.

In 1873 part of the District was transferred to Districts 16 and 17 south of the river. Again in 1879 sections 10, 11, and 12 were transferred to District 8 from District 24. From the record of County Superintendent Hurford we find that in 1878 all of District 46 was added to 8.

District 8 has always been a progressive district with a well cared-for building. It served as a meeting place for various groups. Three years ago I asked the late Mr. Born about the name of the school. He said it was first called the Best School but after he had lived there for a while it came to be known as the Born School. On a hill northwest of the school is a little Cemetery known as the Best Cemetery. The Memorial Day services for this cemetery have been held at the Born School for many years.

Records available since 1917 give some well-known names as having attended this school. Among them are the Stewarts, Helmers, Selines, Northouse, Haymonow, Tuckers, Walmsleys and many others. In 1917 the total enrollment was 35 and Bella Eckert was teacher.
In 1920 Sivinah Wright taught for $90 a month with 30 students. In 1922 Rhoda Campbell was teacher with 20 students and a salary of $100. S.M. Stewart was director that year. At the end of the year the teacher reported the building in very poor condition.

A new school the present one was built in 1923. It was one of the best buildings for a rural school around. People building or remodeling schools came to look at the building and Normal Training Students were sent here to observe. The Born School as it was now called, was one of the first to be designated as a Standard School. In 1925 May O Gorman was teaching 33 pupils. The books were valued at $150. Next Vesta Sasse taught for $75. Again in 1927 there were 40 pupils.

Enrollments have been less in more recent years but the school still provides education for the children from Kindergarten through eighth grade. Through the years the people have had pride in their school and the job it is doing to educate their children. The enrollment was so low at one time that there was a talk of closing but they decided to keep the school open.

In 1969 enrollment was 19. in comparison with the 1920's the teachers salary was $500 a month. This certainly reflects the change in the times. The present school board is Leo Wacker, Alvin Nathan, and Wesley Walmsley. The building is well cared for with various improvements in keeping with the times.

The Born School has served the community well and has started many well known people of the community on their educational way.

Esther Crane Teacher 1967-1970