

University of Nebraska at Kearney

OpenSPACES@UNK: Scholarship, Preservation, and Creative Endeavors

School Buildings

Schools

2000

Stringtown - Dist. #9

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](#)

Recommended Citation

Country School Legacy: Humanities on the Frontier, "Stringtown - Dist. #9" (2000). *School Buildings*. 128. <https://openspaces.unk.edu/schoolbuildings/128>

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Schools at OpenSPACES@UNK: Scholarship, Preservation, and Creative Endeavors. It has been accepted for inclusion in School Buildings by an authorized administrator of OpenSPACES@UNK: Scholarship, Preservation, and Creative Endeavors. For more information, please contact weissell@unk.edu.

GOUNTRY SCHOOL LEGACY:

Humanities on the Frontier

Project Director—Andrew Gulliford

Media Director—Randall Teeuwen

Exhibits Director—Berkeley Lobanov

HISTORIC SITE FORM

State Nebraska County Sarpy

Location (in miles & direction from nearest town) 7 1/2 miles southwest of Springfield, Nebr.

Is this the original location? yes

Name of building & origin of name Stringtown

Name & number of the district Stringtown Dist # 9

Date built Don't know Years in use Don't know

Who built it? A contractor or the community? Don't know

Does it look like it came from a plan book or was it designed by the community? Couldn't say

Names of former teachers: Teachers as I went to school, (many before that time) 1908-1915

- Miss Daisy Brennan
- Miss Blossie Reynolds
- Miss Beulah Brauner
- Mrs. Ford Bates - Skyline Manor Omaha, Ne
- Miss Lydia Skinner
- Miss Georgia Oliver - now Georgia Vance in Bethesda, Md
- Miss Golda Haney - now Golda Gosh, Center, Gretna, Ne

Names of former students (family names only):

- Carmelita J. H. Andersen
- James, Francis, & Esther Pittenger
- Howard & Bertrude Phelps
- Eva & Cecile Phelps
- Berdetta Evans
- Paul & Frances Sinnard
- Estella, Dessie, & Leander Rice
- Carrie & Ida Koller
- Bernice, Dessie, & Edgar
- Thom Quarry area
- 4 Harden boys
- Ellen Merrill
- 3 Shalton's boys

Name & address of person in charge of building:

Don't know.

Who is the owner? Couldn't say



FUNDED BY THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

COUNTRY SCHOOL LEGACY HISTORIC SITE FORM

Architectural Features:

Size of building _____

Number of Windows (four pane, six pane, etc.) 6 as I remember

Number of doors (entrances) 2

Number of classrooms 1

Bell tower or cupola None

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

Type of roof Wood shingles

Outhouses 2 Wood

Playground Equipment None

Color of building & trim White no trim

Coal shed or stable 1 Coal shed

Teacherage _____

Flagpole _____

Other architectural features: Had a large step up

front porch, same size as school building on front. He sat out on porch and ate noon lunch from our lunch bucket in good weather.
Anything left inside? Building torn down.

Desks were made for seating 2 people, tops lifted up. Sat bellied stone for heat. Burned coals, wood, & coal used for night carry over heat.

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

We carried water from the farm east of the school for drinking purposes out of a bucket with dipper used by all. When I first started to school Dan Phelps farmed the land. His house was built by John Watson, Springfield, Ne, my father John Phelps helped John Watson build the farm home. Later, Sullivan Bros. bought the farm, used for cattle feeding. (John, Bill, & Tom Sullivan on pasture) believe, they could be at the

Current condition & use:

Torn down [Bill Lavelle mgt.]

District records available: yes ___ no ___ where stored Sarpy Co. Supt. of Schools office Papillion, Ne.

Black & white photo taken: yes ✓ no ___

Old photos available: yes ✓ no ___

Does the building have any state or national historic designation?

Elementary Student Dist. #9 (Phelps)

Name & address of surveyor Mrs. Eva A. Dietze date Dec 29, 1980

545 Angus St. Dietna, Neb., 68028

Balls made of hard piece of rubber wrapped with cord sitting sand from the picking screen around for coiler. Balls made from left over lumber.

Other Special Events
Stringtown School District #9 Sarpy Co.

The porch on front of the schoolhouse was used at noon for all to sit and eat lunch from their lunch pails. Many topics discussed here at noon.

The porch had a crawl area under it. One day a mother skunk and her babies decided to make their home. The school had to be closed as a result.

A rabies dog (called mad dog in those days) came to school. A scare of the neighborhood. When it wandered to our farm, my mother shot and killed it to protect our animals.

A boy ran a barbed wire into his throat while coasting down a steep hill, west of the school building. The pupils fastened the two barbed wires together so we could coast under for a longer ride. Wires came loose -- result an accident.

The same boy was bitten by a rattlesnake at school. Old time remedy was used. The same boy is a man of age eighty, still living and active. He has done some inventing and now is improving on inventions.

There were spills, thrills, etc. in those days. A boy sometimes rode his horse to school, it was trained to go back home. The teacher liked horses and always wanted to ride his horse. One day he consented, put her on the bare back horse but instead of giving her the bridle, he took it off, slapped the horse on the rump. Result -- the horse started for home, the teacher fell off and broke her arm.

Running races backward in the road going home was very common. One night, a snake decided to cross the road as running was well in progress. Result -- the lead girl stepped on it which scared her so badly that classmates thought she was going to faint. After that, the game was played differently.

Pupils going to school saw the three convicts walking the Rock Island Railroad tracks. They tried to go to the main country by way of a field road across the tracks. Snow drifts too deep in that area so they went on meadow area (just a depot, semaphore

one house there at that time) they went to a road east of the depot into the country where later, Roy Blunt, a farmer was killed as they made him drive them. He used a box wagon so they could hide in it. Result -- farmers and two convicts killed. (Roy Blunt was my uncle by marriage).

We had a boy who rode a yearling calf to school through the woods for 2½ miles. We had school hours 9:00 A. M. until 4:00 P. M. At 4:00 P. M., sometimes earlier, the calf would be waiting for his rider. No bridle, just calf and boy.

We used to go to neighboring farm houses to get baking soda to give a sick girl. She died in her late teens from a heart attack.

We carried water in a bucket from this same farm for the teacher and pupils to drink. We did not have a well on school ground. We all used the same dipper to drink the water.

We had double desks at school, some had lift up noisy taps. We had an organ to use to sing with; also a pot bellied stove for heat with cobs to start fire, wood used during the day and coal to bank fire at night so that there would be coals to start fire faster in the cold mornings.

On Friday afternoons, after the last recess, we chose up sides for ciphering or spell down when teacher pronounced words or Railroad spelling was most desired. Those pupils at their desks, solved problems given as well as those at the chalk board? (Blackboards, made of slate) Also, they wrote spelling as well as those who were standing. Everyone worked.

Course of Study was used throughout the State. Grade eight students had to take two day of tests (15 subjects) and pass them before they could go to High School. These were given in the closest town in the county to the school. Stringtown pupils went to Springfield.

The green horn country school children did not know where to go in Town school as they'd never been there before. Most passed the first time, those that did not, took the eighth grade over. Teachers and pupils worked hard for these tests (Complexes and therapists not heard of in those days)

I remember, we were some of the first to get telephones. My father was repair man for them. Telephones were great help to the people in those days.

At the end of the school year, the pupils were awarded for perfect attendance, the best penman, and sometimes other achievements at the last day of school picnic.

Stormy winter days were spent inside the school room with chalkboard games for some. My girlfriend played the organ by ear (never had a music lesson). The teacher would teach us to dance, (those that wanted to learn). I remember, we had one teacher who knew all the latest dances. We were really elated over that because in our community, we had country dancing every Saturday night at someones' home. People took turns and everyone looked forward to the fun of dancing. The non-dancers played cards.

A deaf man took care of small children and babies with entertainment, later, putting them down to sleep for the evening until dancing, etc., was over. Children went with their parents, was so customary in those days. They knew how to act like little ladies and gentlemen too. Rowdyism was never allowed at these parties in those days, the host and hostess seen to that. H

Have some school pictures, attendance certificates, teachers contracts etc..

Submitted By: Mrs. Eva A. Dietze
545 Angus Street
Gretna, Nebraska 68020