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1924

Good Cheer - Dist. #48

Country School Legacy: Humanities on the Frontier

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COUNTRY SCHOOL LEGACY:

Humanities on the Frontier

Project Director—Andrew Gulliford

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HISTORIC SITE FORM

State Nebraska County Madison

Location (in miles & direction from nearest town) 3 1/2 miles North, 1/2 mile East of Madison

Is this the original location? No — the first school (now a corn crib) was on Thomas Malone property.

Name of building & origin of name Good Cheer

Name & number of the district 48, Good Cheer

Date built 1924 Years in use 56

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:

Mrs. T. J. Malone

M. C. Garrett

Ruth Tegeler

Tunis Voorhees (see picture)

Carrie Pond

Viss Alice Schwartzer

Names of former students (family names only):

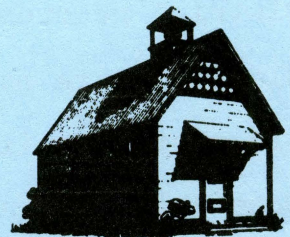
Neidig, Robertson, White, Haave, Tyrell

Wise, Rumans, Ambrose

Name & address of person in charge of building:

Dewine Cook
907 Michigan
Norfolk

Who is the owner? District



COUNTRY SCHOOL LEGACY HISTORIC SITE FORM

Architectural Features:

Size of building 36 x 33

Number of Windows (four pane, six pane, etc.) 10 - 8 pane

Number of doors (entrances) 2

Number of classrooms 1

Bell tower or cupola —

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

Type of roof wood shingle

Outhouses Yes

Playground Equipment swings, teeter-totter

Color of building & trim white

Coal shed or stable —

Teacherage —

Flagpole Yes

Other architectural features:

Anything left inside? Yes, used now as school

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

See attachments

Current condition & use: Good - still in use as school

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. Vertien date 10/80

February 28, 1967

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District #48, Madison county, was organized on June 8, 1877. It contained sections 19, 20, 21, 28, 29, and 30. some sections 28, 29, and 30 are now part District 1 (Madison). Section 16 became a part of Dist.#48 on January 1, 1898. District 78 became a part of this district on Aug.20,1956.

This information was received from Frank Malone who is now living in Madison, Nebraska. "In about 1885 Thomas and Hyacinth Malone moved from Iowa to the present location of the Gayl Haave family. After they were settled, they figured it would be a good place for chickens so they built a large hen house. Because there was no schoolhouse nearby, after a short time they changed the hen house to a school house. Mrs. T.J. Malone, who had been a school teacher in Mill County, Illinois, took over the job of teaching. She became the teacher and was the first in the building what was to be # 48. This small building was used for the school for two years. In 1887 the school house (now the corn crib belonging to Robert Linter) was built just north of where the first school was held. During the blizzard of January 12, 1888, two brothers of Frank Malone (John and Tom) stayed at the T.J. Malone farmstead just south of the school. The first school board members were: John Malone, Director- Harvey Bohannon, Moderator- Samuel Tyrrel, Treasurer.

This information was obtained from Mrs. Don Neidig who at this time is a patron of this district. "The school building now belonging to the Linter family stood east and west. It was constructed entirely with square nails; it had green shutters on the windows that were closed in case of a severe spring storm. It was used as a school building until 1924, when the present 'Good Cheer' was built during that summer."

The present day building was constructed in 1924. Alice P. Jones was the teacher and the enrollment numbered 26. The school board members at this time were Charles Bickley, Director- Ed Neidig and Henry Neidig. Some of the students that attended classes in the old building and are still patrons of the present day district are: Percy Neidig, Myron Neidig, Florence Neidig, Mr&Mrs. Don Neidig, Paul Robertson and Frank White Jr.

Three generations have walked the steps to Dist.#48. Percy Neidig-Bryce Neidig- and now the children of Mr.&Mrs. Bryce Neidig, Neal, Kim, Kay, and Van.

Present enrollment includes 18 students . Mrs. Ruth Tegeler is the teacher. Earl Reeves, Bryce Neidig , and Frank White are the present board members.

-Randall Haave, gr.8

Report from Dist. 48 student
for Bicentennial

History of District # 48, Madison County.

A little over fifty years ago, June 8, 1877, some of the residents of what is now District 48, decided to take the necessary steps to organize a school. The first meeting was held at the home of Tunis V. Voorhees, who lived on what is now the Ed Neidig farm. Voorhees was elected director. S.P. Tyrell and Willis Bryant were the other two members of the school board.

Mr. Voorhees had taught the second term of school in District #1 in 1871. He is best remembered from his appearance as he came to school riding a very small pony. He was a heavy-set man, and was out of proportion to the little steed. He was a man of considerable education, and of marked ability, and a man highly thought of.

But there was no school held in District # 48 in 1877, and in compliance with a petition from a sufficient number of voters in both districts, District # 48 was set back to District # 1, June 3, 1878.

In September, 1884, T.J. Malone and Sam Tyrell were the prime movers in an attempt to get the necessary signers for a petition to have a district of their own again. It was no easy task, and many times Mr. Tyrell and Mr. Malone met with the Madison school board before all preliminaries could be arranged.

Several meetings were held at the home of T.J. Malone in order to discuss the many questions in connection with a new school. It was decided to locate the school house on the farm of Sam Tyrell. The school house is still located on the same place.

In June 1885, at a regular school meeting, the following school board was elected: T.J. Malone, Director, Mr. Willard and Mr. Tyrell, Moderator and Treasurer.

Plans were made for a new building to be completed in time for the winter term, when County Superintendent Hunt informed the school board that in order to draw state money, they would have to have three months of school during the summer. This was a question for which they were unprepared. T.J. Malone offered to build a temporary school house in the grove of his property, which adjoined the Tyrell property. Mrs. Hyacinthe Malone was asked to be the teacher. Her salary was \$35.

In July 1885, when the first school was opened in District 48, there were nineteen pupils enrolled. Five children from the Horner family, the Ed and Henry Neidig farms, five Steeges

In July 1885, when the first school was opened in District 48, there were nineteen pupils enrolled. Five children from the Horner family, who lived on what is now the Ed and Henry Neidig farms, five Steeges from what was later known as the Will Horsham farm, Nora and Grace Rummans, Minnie and Percy Tyrell, Joseph and Cora Wise, John, Ambrose, and Tom Malone. Percy Tyrell is the only one, who is still residing in District 48.

In the fall of 1885, the new school was completed, and Miss Alice Caraher was the teacher. Her successors were Miss Carrie Pond, Miss Alice Schwartz, and M.C. Garrett. During the time, M.E. Garrett was teacher, we find a record of the county superintendent's visit. The Superintendent said that the school was in "fine condition" and "well advanced for a country school".

In 1924, the patrons of District # 48 voted bonds for \$6000. to build a new school house. An up-to-date school, with a roomy well-ventilated and well-lighted class room, a fully equipped basement with a furnace, was built. It was given the "Standard Plate" at a dedicatory program. This signifies that not only the building, but also the instruction is up to the best standard.

District # 48 consists of seven sections of rich farm land. The present valuation is \$510,475. There is no tax levy this year. It is quite remarkable that the patrons of this district were able to pay for their school house in three years, and still have enough money on hand to run their school for this year.

District 48 may well be called the pioneer district of Madison county, because it was farmers living in this locality, who organized District 1. William Bickley, who was the first director of District 1 lived on what is now known as the "Funk" farm, and part of which is still in District # 48. Much can be said about Mr. Bickley's unceasing effort to promote education in this county. It may be said that he was working as a school official before there was a county superintendent in this county. One of his grandsons, Charles Bickley, is now Director of District # 48.