

District # 3 Morrill School

This school was located on the corner of 2nd Street and Kennedy Ave. Brief records found at the UWSP Archives date back to 1860. It was a joint district with the Town of Plover. School clerk J.C. Maxfield provided information in 1860 that describes the school as a frame schoolhouse valued at \$75. It was located on a half acre of land with poor out-houses and was not enclosed. There were two teachers during that year with 20 pupils. J.M. Lee taught for 4 months receiving a \$13 salary per month and Amos Merril for 3 months receiving a \$11 salary per month. The 1871 report lists the school year as being 142 days. There were 44 pupils, the school was built of wood and listed in good condition on an acre of land. Information as to the exact time the school closed has not been found. After the school closed, the Town of Stockton used it as a storage building for town school supplies until the Stevens Point School District acquired it in the 1960's. It was then sold, renovated, and lived in for a number of years. In the early 1990's, it was donated to Habitat for Humanity and remodeled again. Presently, (1998) L. Higgins is living there.

District # 4 Prairie School

This school was located on the Corner of 2nd Street and County Road J south of Arnott. It is one of the Town of Stockton's earliest school districts. Records found date back to 1857. No information has been found as to exactly when this district was formed. In the 1857 records it states, there were 27 pupils and the school year was 4 months. At one time, records describe the schoolhouse as made of "wood" and another time a "frame building" valued at \$450. No information has been found as to whether this is the same building that is on that site today. Presently, (1998) the Prairie School building has been renovated and is being used by Ernest Kuffel as a workshop.

District # 5 Arnott School

This school was located on the corner of 4th Street and County Road J, north of Arnott. This was one of the earliest districts established in the Town of Stockton. No information has been found as to exactly when it was formed. Records found date back to 1857. That year there were 31 pupils and the teacher was paid a \$12 salary per month for teaching. District #5 actually had three different buildings throughout the years. Records describe the first school building as a "log cabin" valued at \$50. For a time it was referred to as "The Shannon School," named so after the Shannon family, neighboring land owners. The first Stockton town meeting was recorded held in the John Shannon house. After that, records state town meetings were held at times in the "Shannon School." After the Shannon family moved out of the Town of Stockton, the school was referred to as "Richmond School," named so after the Richmond family who were nearby landowners. The building was also used for religious services, Sunday school and Grange meetings in the 1880's. C. H Pearce built the second district # 5 school in 1906. Money to build this school building was borrowed from Patrick Leonard and M. O'Keefe, residents of the Town of Stockton. The third district #5 school building was built in 1936 by local craftsmen left unemployed during the Great Depression as part of the Works Progress Administration. (WPA) It is still in use today as a community center. Presently,(1998) Town of Stockton meetings are held there. The town began using the building in the 1970's, after buying it from the Stevens Point School District for \$1.00.

District # 13 Harper School

This school was located on County Road KQ. Plats show it in the middle of the north side of Section 35 Town 24. Records indicate District # 13 was formed in April 1879. Brief records of 1887 give a little information. They describe the school as being on one-half acre of land with both male and female out-houses. There were 60 pupils and they had no books. The district clerk was Abraham Sitzer. Jean Dodge, a Town of Stockton resident recalled that back in the 1950's, Nick Pliska owned property around it. It was often referred to as "the Nick Pliska School." The district # 13 school building is still at that location today in 1998. It is not known if that is the original building. It has been renovated into a home and is presently (1998) lived in by Debbie and Al Kozelek Jr. and their son Kevin.

District # 12 Oakland School

This school was located on the north side of County Road I in Section 23 Town 24, in the northeast corner of the Town of Stockton. It was a short distance past the Sharon and James Kurszewski farm. This school district was a joint district with the Town of Sharon. Earliest records found go back to 1874. They indicate there was one teacher and school was held for 60 days. The 1887 records also indicate there were 30 pupils, the school was located on 1/4 acre of land, there were no books, and the school was not graded. The exact year it closed is not known. The building still exists today in 1998. It is owned by Steve VanHorn and has been moved and renovated. It is being used as a storage garage.

District # 2 Fancher School

This school was located on the corner of 4th Street and County Road K southeast of Fancher. This district was formed in April 1857. The teacher that year was Cynthia Stone, and there were 13 pupils. Records of June 1877 show it became a joint district with the Town of Amherst. At one time, it was described as a "one-room school 12 rods x 12 rods built of pine lumber". Another report describes it as a "slab," located on a half-acre of land. Information as to when the brick schoolhouse was built has not been found. Presently, in 1998, the building is owned by Jerry Krupka and is being used as storage shed for cattle.

District # 7 Heffron School

This school was located on County road J. The Portage County Plat of 1876 shows it near a farm right in the center of the eastern boundary of Section 30 Town 24. Patrick Maslowski, a lifetime Town of Stockton resident and neighbor, recalled going there to school for 8 years and graduating in 1948, the same year the school closed. There were 13 pupils that year. He recalled the year of 1945 as having the largest attendance of 23 pupils while he went there. Former Town of Stockton resident, Casimir Yenter, moved the schoolhouse closer to his neighboring farm, intending to renovate it. He said it was 30' long and 18' wide in size. Before he had renovated, it was destroyed during a storm. The wind had blown it down because it wasn't properly anchored yet. Sharon Bauman presently owns this farm in 1998. We have not found any pictures of Heffron School.

Historical school records indicate there were two District # 7 locations. It is not known when the first District #7 school was formed. The earliest records found were dated 1857 and the first district # 7 school building was recorded as a 12' x 16' leaky shanty with 31 pupils attending. In 1861, the size is recorded as 16' x 24' with 18 pupils attending. Records indicate Sections 11 and 12 used the school. That would put it in the Fancher area. Also indicated was that it was a joint district with Buena Vista and the first District # 7 school was disposed of in 1869 by the Town Board.

The County J Heffron School is the second district # 7 location. Records for the year 1876 for the second district # 7 state that there were 31 pupils attending. In 1885 there were 25 pupils attending. The name "Clements School " has also appeared in these records. A conclusion is that before this school became known as Heffron School, it was known as Clements School. Both are names of neighboring landowners around the time this school existed in that area.

District # 14 Paderewski School

This school was located on the corner of County Road B and Tower Road on the southeast side of the town. Not much information has been found as yet in past records. A long time Town of Stockton resident, Victor Rzentkowski, recalls going to Paderewski School. He attended in 1934 and graduated in 1942. The school had been built in the early 1900's and it is rumored to have been named after a famous Polish pianist, Ignatius Jan Paderewski, who lived from 1860 to 1941. It was in 1947, that former Custer resident, Mary Hickey, recalled teaching there for 9 months. The school closed in 1955. For a few years, it remained at that location and was lived in by migrants that worked for area farmers. Later, Frank Stuczynski moved it to his farm on Standing Rocks Road. Today (1998) the building is being used as a garage.

District # 10 Stockton School

Located on Old Highway 18 Road west of the small community of Stockton. It is not known when this school district was formed. The earliest records found date back to 1868. The records state, in 1868 it was a joint district with the Town of Hull. Several years later, it was also a joint district with the Town of Sharon for a while. Brief records from 1884 state, there were 24

pupils, it was not a graded school, and the board adopted textbooks that were sold to the pupils. The school also had maps, charts, blackboards and a dictionary and it could accommodate 45 pupils. Wesley Gunney was the district clerk for a period of time. It is not known when the school closed. Presently, (1998) the district # 10 building is still on that location. It is owned by Hubert Mocadlo, and is being used as storage shed.

District # 9 (have found no name)

Enough information has not been found on this school district to give an exact location, and we have not found a picture of this school. It was listed as a town school in the early years of the Town of Stockton. It is not known when district # 9 was disposed of. What is known that it was a joint-district with the Town of Amherst, and later, also the Town of Buena Vista. Our research on this school has only gone up to 1875. The first records found go back to 1860. This record states that there were 16 pupils taught by Miss Topping. She taught for 3 months and was paid \$8 pay per month. District clerk Thomas Harkness made this report. Early plats show Thomas Harkness lived on the east side toward the southeast corner of the Town of Stockton. There are also several schools located in the Town of Amherst, a short distance from the Stockton/Amherst boundary line, suggesting that this school was located outside of the Town of Stockton.

District #1 J. Hosmer Felch School

Located on the corner of 6th Street and County Road K on the east side of the Town of Stockton. This school district was formed in July 1855, and became a joint district with the Town of Amherst in April of 1856. Early brief records of 1857 describe it as a 12'x 16' "leaky shanty" made of wood and listing its value at \$25. The teacher was Miss Darling. She taught for 4 months and was paid \$100. There were 19 pupils and the district clerk was B. F. Felch. By 1887, there were 56 pupils attending. Some reports state the school could accommodate 40 pupils and some say 50. We have found no information as to whether this is the same building on that site today. After the school closed, the building was remodeled and lived in for a number of years by Clifford Skibba. Recently, it has again been remodeled. Presently, (1998) Lynn Winn and Sara Dunham are living there.

District # 8 Town Hall School

Located on the corner of 6th Street and Custer Road, right across from this Town Hall. We have not found the date this school district was formed. Records found date back to 1857. That brief report states, there were 23 pupils, school was for 6 months, and there were no blackboards or maps. In 1860, a report lists the school as a "log" school valued at \$80. It was on a 1/2 acre of land, was not enclosed, it had 1 blackboard and no maps. There were 18 pupils, taught by Mr. Ellis for 2 1/3 months receiving \$15 pay per month, and by Miss Winslow for 2 2/3 months receiving \$8 pay per month. It also lists the books used. Clerk H.C. Sherwin prepared this report. In early town records, this school was referred to as Conniff School. Town meetings were often held there. There was a neighboring landowner named John Conniff around that time. An 1875 report states, the school could accommodate 40 pupils, school was for 154 days, and the building was in "good condition." A 1887 report states there were 40 pupils, it was not graded, there was no outhouse, no textbooks, and no library. The school closed in 1964. Town

of Stockton resident Adolph Somers, was the teacher at that time. Later, the school was sold to Jack and Romona Huff. It has been renovated into a home and presently they are living there.

District # 11 Custer School

It was located on County Road KK, a short distance north of the small community of Custer. The school was built in 1908 and was a State Graded School. This school became known as Custer School. The building is still at that location. The school closed in the 1960's, and the Stevens Point School District sold it to Al Kline. He donated it to St. Mary's Catholic Church near Custer. The parish remodeled it, and it is presently, in 1998, being used as an education center. We do not know when school district # 11 was formed. Previous to this school, records state a school was built in 1875 for district # 11. It was known as Custer School and was located about 2 miles northeast on KQ. Plats show it to be in the middle of section 28 Tn 24, which is presently the Shave farm, formerly owned for a number of years by Phyllis and Ernest Bluma. That school was also referred to as "Laughlin School," named so after Patrick Laughlin, an early settler. He owned the east half of section 28 in the late 1800's. We do not know the date the first district #11 moved to KK, and believe this first school building no longer exists.

District # 6 Hillcrest School

Hillcrest School was located on the corner of County Roads I and K, near the northern boundary of the Town of Stockton. District # 6 Hillcrest was formed in 1904. It became a joint district with the Town of Sharon in 1905. It is not known exactly when the school closed. In 1949, the building was purchased by Robert and Adeline Brunner and moved to its present location on the corner of Highway 10 and County Road KK, just north of Custer. They renovated it into a home and lived in it for more than 40 years, selling it in the mid 1990's. Shelly and Michael Stremkowski purchased it and they are living in it with their son Jacob.

Early town records of 1860 list another district # 6 school. The records do not mention a name. It was a joint district with the Town of Plover, and records also state it was dissolved by the town board in December of 1898.