

IOWA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

1301 NORTH BEQUETTE STREET, P.O. BOX 44

DODGEVILLE, WISCONSIN 53533-0044

PHONE: (608) 935-7694

EMAIL: ICHISTORY@MHTC.NET

January 31, 2024

Dodgeville Historic Preservation Commission
100 E. Fountain Street
Dodgeville, WI 53533

Attn: Ann Fillback Watt, Chairman

Dear Ann:

The Iowa County Historical Society is requesting that the Floyd School be designated as a historic structure with the Dodgeville Historic Preservation Commission.

According to 16.A.03 Historic Structure Criteria, the following verbiage reflects how the Floyd School meets the criteria. Also attached is a copy of the Historic Structure Report.

- a) The Floyd School is owned and operated by the Iowa County Historical Society. It has been restored to the status of a living memorial and authentic teaching aid for all of Iowa County in order to remember and honor the people and events of the past for their roles in shaping its history.
- b) One-room schools were established in Wisconsin around 1791 and continued to be used until the consolidation of rural school districts in the 1960's. Classes were taught at the Floyd School until it's closing in 1961.
- c) The Floyd School represents a typical one-room school. It is a wooden structure with two front doors, one to be used by boys and one for girls. There is an alcove for coats and hats separate from the main room.
- d) Although well built, no master builder, designer or architect is associated with the design of this school.
- e) Floyd School District No. 3 was formally organized in 1849. The school was named after Armstead Wortman Floyd (1804-1866), who chaired the first school district meeting. He was a prominent citizen who owned a large tract of land, and Floyd Road was named for him as well as the area known as the Floyd Settlement. He was also a mining partner with Governor Henry Dodge as well as a justice of the peace and a town supervisor.

Sincerely,



John P. Hess
President

Enc.

Historic Structures Report

The Floyd School

This is a report on the planned move and restoration of the Floyd School. It will be moved from its present site at 4881 Floyd Road in the Town of Dodgeville, to a site at 1301 N. Bequette St in Dodgeville, which site is owned by the City of Dodgeville and is the location of the Iowa County Historical Society Museum. Approval to position the school east of the Museum has been received from the Dodgeville Parks Commission and the Dodgeville Design Review Committee.

The Floyd School is owned by the Iowa County Historical Society, and received as a donation from Curt and Donna Peterson. It will be restored to the status of a living memorial and authentic teaching aid for all of Iowa County in order to remember and honor the people and events of the past for their roles in shaping the present. The Society provides a public service to Iowa County by preserving its history, and is recognized by the IRS as a 501 (c) (3) organization providing tax deductions to donors.

Historical Background of Floyd School District No. 3

District No. 3 in the Town of Dodgeville was formally organized in 1849, but prior to that classes were held in a log building across the road from the school's present location. The school district was named after Armstead Wortham Floyd, (1804-1866) a prominent citizen who owned a large tract of land and chaired the first school district meeting. Floyd Road was also named for him as well as the area known as Floyd Settlement. He was a mining partner of Gov. Henry Dodge, a justice of the peace and town supervisor. In 1856 a new school was built on what is now a 1.05 acre parcel in the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 28, T.7N, R.3E and the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 29, T.7N, R.3E, across the road from the log school. It was destroyed by fire in 1886 and replaced with the present structure which is the one being moved to the City of Dodgeville. Classes were taught continuously in the present building for 75 years until its closing in 1961. For most years since then, it has been owned and maintained by the Peterson family. A number of former students have been identified and expressed interest in providing oral history, photographs and documents.

Building Description, Condition and Restoration Considerations

Description

The building is a typical one-room school, set on a stone foundation, with a concrete landing with three steps serving the two front entrance doors. There are two windows on each of the two sides and four windows on the backside of the building. The exterior is sided with clapboards and painted white. It is roofed with light gray asphalt shingles. There is a chimney hung inside on the rear wall, but the exterior portion has been removed and roofed over. The building measures 22' 6" in width, 30' 5" in length, and is 19' 5" high, not including the foundation. The interior consists of the vestibule with two doors leading into the main room. The interior walls and ceiling are plastered. The blackboards have been removed. The floor appears to be constructed of hardwood. The building is wired for electricity.

Condition

The condition of the building was evaluated by Rusty Childs of Childs Contract Movers. He determined it is structurally sound for the six-mile move to the new location. There could be a need for some rim joist repairs or replacements, to be determined when the building is raised off the foundation. There appears to be a slight depression in the roof on the east side which may need repair, to be determined after removal of the asphalt shingles. The exterior clapboards are in good condition and can be scraped, primed and painted with little if any repairs required. The four windows on the two sides appear to be in reasonable condition and can be refurbished and painted, but the four rear windows need to be replaced or rebuilt. The two front doors, which appear to be the originals, are serviceable but battered, ill-fitting and unsightly. Treatment of them will be determined.

The concrete landing serving the front entrances will be removed by Curt Peterson to accommodate the move. After the move, he will landscape the site.

The interior plastered walls and ceiling are in tact with some cracking. They can be scraped, patched and painted. The existing paint for both the interior and exterior was tested for lead with "Lead Check Swabs" provided by the Iowa County Health Dept. The exterior paint tested positive for lead. The interior green paint tested negative. The test on the interior pink/beige paint was inconclusive. Containment steps will be taken when scraping and sanding.

The hardwood floor is in excellent condition and can be sanded and finished.

The wiring is outdated and needs to be redone to code.

There appears to be no insulation.

Restoration Considerations

Foundation

The school will be placed on a foundation at the new location, using stone from the existing foundation and/or the Peterson quarry. Foundation will either be constructed on a floating slab, or footings below frost line, to be determined. Proposal received from Art Kirch of Kirch Masonry, (\$11,800 for footings below frost line, not including excavation, or \$5,900 for foundation on floating slab, not including excavation and floating slab), and proposals forthcoming from Lester Tyrer and Randy Amble of R and K Masonry.

Roof

Existing shingles need to be removed for aesthetics reasons with possible repairs needed. New shingles to be asphalt or shakes, to be determined. Also to be determined will be reconstructing the exterior of the chimney above the roof line.

Landing

Existing concrete landing will not be moved. Original landing was constructed with wood per photographs. Design and materials of the new landing to be determined, depending on regulations for public accessibility in Wisconsin Dept. of Commerce Chapter Comm 70 for Exhibit Buildings.

Interior

The original pot bellied wood stove was included with the school donation. It is presently being refurbished by a family member of Alice Griffiths at no cost to the Society. Period of use of the stove to be determined, which could provide guidance in selecting the appropriate interpretive period for the interior décor, furnishings and documents. Also adoptive re-use and other possible changes to be considered and determined. All blackboards have been removed and replacements are needed. Year round heating and cooling system not being considered at this time, but installation of insulation will be considered.

Proposed Building Use

The school, restored and interpreted, will be accessible to the public during normal Museum hours, and will be open upon request with a tour guide in attendance. The school building will replace the simulated school room presently in the Museum, freeing up much needed space for exhibits, archives and genealogy and historical research. School furnishings and artifacts now in storage will be returned to the restored school building.

Particular attention will be given to outreach and educational programs for school children, involving the Dodgeville Education Association and other interested school systems in the county.

The school building will also be a focal point for Society programs and events.