

1220

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Hunter School

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number NW corner of Hwy 275 at junction with Hwy J18 [NA] not for publication

city or town Tabor [X] vicinity

state Iowa code IA county Fremont code 071 zip code 51653

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (see continuation sheet for additional comments).

Ronell J. Salko Deputy SHPO November 29, 2006
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

- I hereby certify that the property is:
- entered in the National Register.
- See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register.
- See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain): _____

Edson R. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

1.9.07
Date of Action

Hunter School
Name of Property

Fremont, Iowa
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

NA

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

NA

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/School

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/Not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER/One-room Schoolhouse

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK

Walls SYNTHETIC/Vinyl

roof ASPHALT

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1901

Significant Dates

1901

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Architect/Builder

Unknown
Clark, G. W.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Hunter School
Name of Property

Fremont, Iowa
County and State

10 Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	[115]	[27] [49] [010]	[45] [27] [92] [0]	2	[] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []				
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing		
3	[] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []			4	[] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []				
									<input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Firm Prepared By

name/title Patricia A. Eckhardt

organization Eckhardt Research date November, 2006

street & number 514 N. Linn Street telephone 319-338-3386

city or town Iowa City state Iowa zip code 52245-1275

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the complete form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name E. Jane Dwornicki (E. Jane Zach)

street & number 5811 V. Street telephone 402-731-8687

city or town Omaha state Nebraska zip code 68117

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number: 7 Page: 1

Hunter School
Fremont County, Iowa

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION AND CONSTRUCTION HISTORY

Summary Statement

Hunter School is located about two miles south of the town of Tabor on Hwy 275 at the intersection of Hwy J18. It is a one-room school house that was used as a school from 1901 until 1920. The belfry stands out from the building at the left front (southeast) corner about two feet on the east and four feet on the south. It is constructed of wood on a brick foundation.

Detailed Description

Exterior

Hunter School is a wood frame structure measuring 28 feet wide by 28 feet deep overall. It consists of two intersecting blocks, a 24-foot by 26-foot main block and an 8-foot-square entrance/belfry block. One corner of the entrance projects inside the main block, (See plan page 3).

The school-room is almost square and has three tall windows each on the south and north sides providing good light for the interior. The window openings appear to be original. The window sashes and their mullions appear original. There have double sash with two vertical lights in each sash. Two small windows on the east façade add light to the room as well, but are high enough to allow a blackboard to extend along the length of this wall. These windows appear to be original as well.

The main and only entrance is on the east side of the entrance/belfry vestibule. The transom is original, but the door is new. There is a three-foot deep porch that extends across the front of the entrance bay with four wooden steps leading up to it. The belfry itself is square in plan and has a pyramidal roof that has flared eaves, supported on four square corner posts. There is a simple railing around the open space beneath. There is no bell today. (See footnote 2, page 5.)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number: 7 Page: 2

Hunter School
Fremont County, Iowa

Interior

The interior consists of one large room and the entrance vestibule. The entrance vestibule includes the eight-foot square space beneath the belfry above, but extends two more feet to the north to allow room for the door into the main room. This entrance vestibule cuts into the main room about five feet on each side. The northwest corner of the belfry is located above the door between the vestibule and the school room.

The school room has wood flooring and plaster walls above bead-board wainscoting. There is no raised teacher's platform. There is a chimney inside the rear (west) wall with a stove to the north of the chimney. These appear to be a replacement chimney and stove. The stove is not original to the building, according to farm resident and former owner Margaret Winkler. There are black boards on the east and west walls, but these are not original. The two blackboards on the west wall are placed on each side of the chimney. There are bulls-eye corner moldings and fluted door frames around the door to the school room.

Integrity

Hunter School continues to meet the seven aspects of integrity with the exception of one. It is in its original location. Its original design is intact. The physical environment, farmland, is mostly intact with the exception of a new cellular communications tower nearby. The school has the same feeling and makes the same historic sense that it did originally. And finally, it continues to be associated with rural education in the Tabor Iowa area.

What is different is the application of vinyl siding to the buildings that covers up the original clapboard siding. While this is not Hunter School's original siding material, the original surface and workmanship are preserved beneath this modern siding. There should be no damage to the school because of this. The building is not heated, and there will be no transfer of moisture that might damage the walls or exterior surface. In addition, the use of siding will relieve the township trustees of part of the burden of the building's upkeep. The new siding keeps Hunter School from looking abandoned and vulnerable to vandalism.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

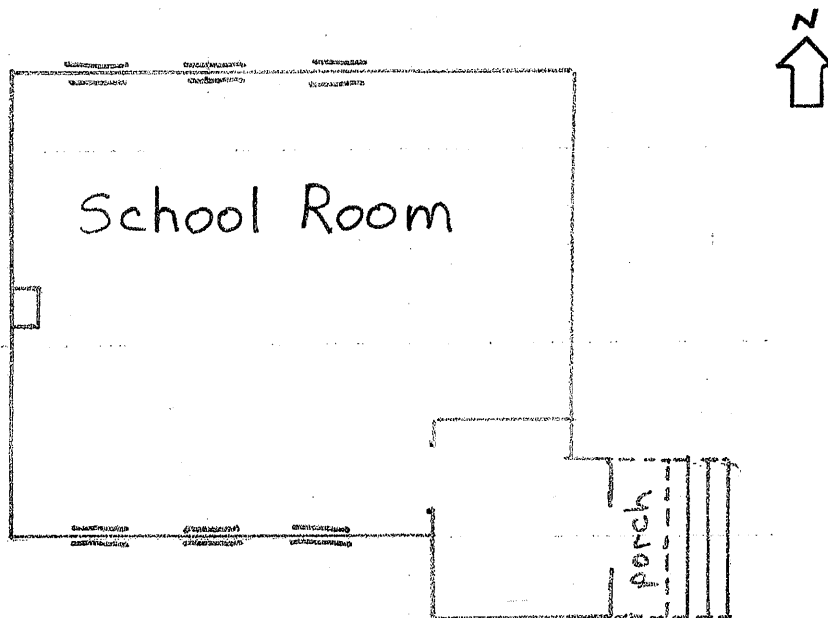
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number: 7 Page: 3

Hunter School
Fremont County, Iowa

Hunter School Plan

Measured and drawn to Scale of 1 inch = 10 feet by Patricia Eckhardt, 2004



**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

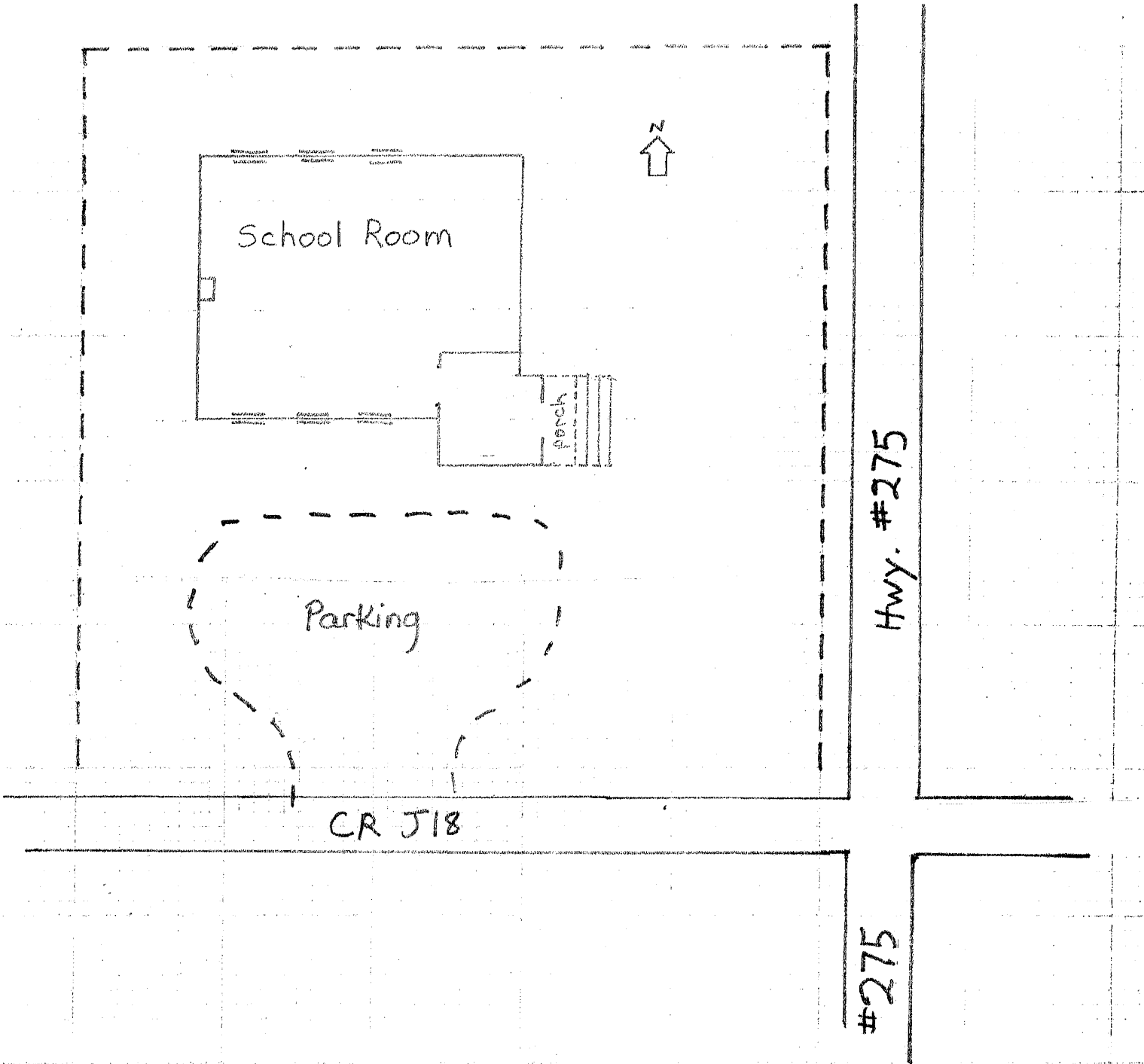
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number: 7 Page: 4

Hunter School
Fremont County, Iowa

Hunter School Site Plan

Drawn by Patricia Eckhardt, 2004



**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number: 8 Page: 5

Hunter School
Fremont County, Iowa

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Summary Statement

The Hunter School is locally significant under Criteria C. Hunter School is the only extant country school of the original eleven schools in the Green Township, Fremont County, Iowa. It is an important example of country school architecture in its general form. It also follows the general tendency toward minor variations in design due to the influence of local preferences and requirements. As was common practice, local residents leased the property and participated in the school's funding and design and construction, making this school, like all others of its type and era, a local expression of a general desire for education.

The Architecture of Hunter School

The Hunter School is a small, one-room building. It follows the basic format usually employed for country schools, according to Johnson.¹ This format employs a gable-front building with no basement. It has one or two entrances, sometimes with vestibules on the front façade, and provides sources of natural light with three to five windows on opposing walls.

Within the basic vernacular one-room school format, a form that depended more on economy than style, there remains a substantial amount of variation within the general type, and even simple vernacular schools have differences. One might ask why this is so. I believe that this variety comes from the local focus of country schools. They were built on locally leased land, and they were locally funded, locally administered, and locally designed and constructed.

Hunter school follows the basic one-room school plan up to a point, but it departs from the more usual format with its asymmetrical vestibule and belfry. It is a gable-front building with three double-hung windows on opposing sides, as is usual, but, the main room is more

¹ Steve Johnson, "Architectural Styles for Iowa's One-Room Schools," in William L. Sherman (ed.), Iowa's Country Schools: Landmarks of Learning, Parkersburg: Iowa State Educational Association and Mid-Prairie Books, 1998, pp. 11-12.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number: 8 Page: 6

Hunter School
Fremont County, Iowa

square than rectangular, being 24 feet wide by 26 feet. This corner tower is the school's most distinguishing element. The tower is relatively large for a building of this size and visually prominent with its thick piers supporting the pyramidal roof.² It gives the school the appearance of a small church rather than a school, and makes it stand out in its flat landscape. On the interior the vestibule/belfry block intersects the main block in an unusual and less than practical way. The small vestibule is impractical for hanging student's coats or storing lunch boxes. The interior of the vestibule might have been enlarged, as it extends beyond the eight-foot square plan of the tower itself on the interior, but it is still too small to be practical as a cloakroom, (See plan on page 3).

I examined more than 200 photographs and drawings of one-room schools in various sources listed in the following bibliography. There was no example matching Hunter School. Illustrations 1 & 2 below illustrate the vernacular one-room school with and without an entrance vestibule. Illustration #3 shows the usual school with a small belfry above the entrance, but this type can vary as to the size and design of the belfry. Illustrations #4 & 5 are examples of the very few more individualistic school houses with belfries closer in design to Hunter School. Illustration #6 is Hunter School.

² There is no bell. Historian Lotus Foster said that no one locally knows what happened to the bell or if there was ever a bell. There are three bells at the Fremont County Historical Museum, but none of them came from Hunter School.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

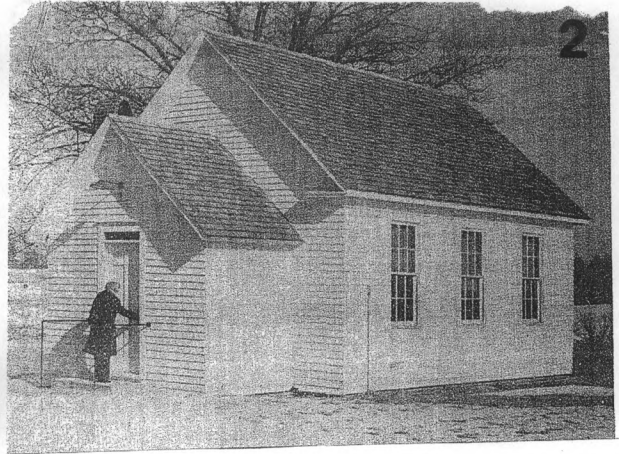
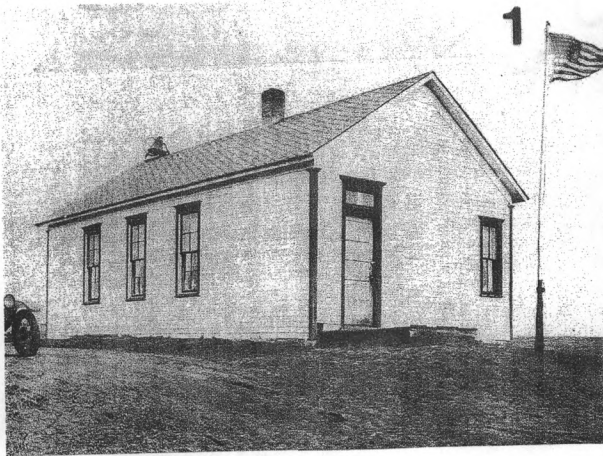
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number: 8 Page: 7

Hunter School
Fremont County, Iowa

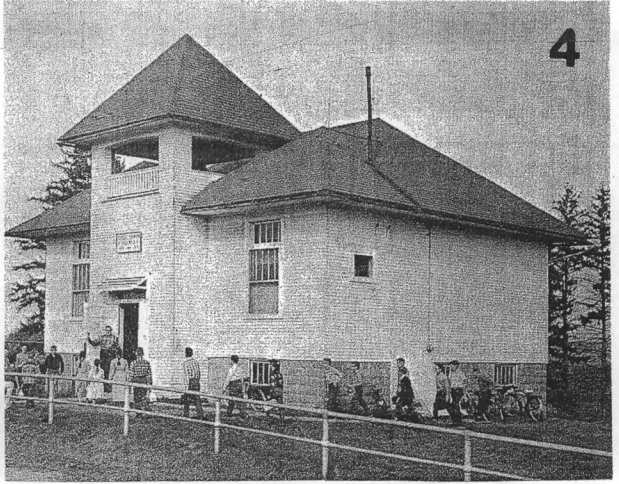
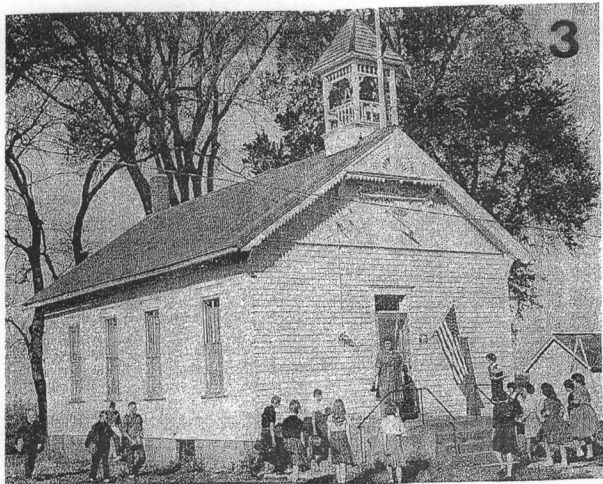
Examples of Generic Country School Buildings

- 1.) Prescott Twp. #3, Adams County, from Deiber
- 2.) Fairview School at Mercer County, Ill. from Swanson



Examples of Country Schools with a Belfry

- 3.) Sweetland School at Muscatine from Swanson
- 4.) Sharon School near Kalona from Swanson



**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

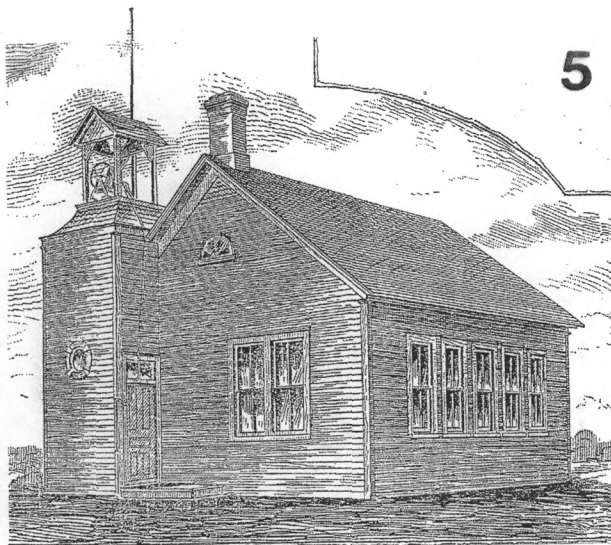
Section number: 8 Page: 8

Hunter School
Fremont County, Iowa

Examples of Country Schools with a Belfry, Continued

5.) Pocahontas County School from Report of Superintendent..., 1901

6.) Hunter School, Eckhardt Photograph, 2004



Hunter School History

Hunter School's history and development closely follows the history of country schools in Iowa.³ Country schools were very prolific in the landscape in Iowa starting in the 1860's. Their period of development lasted more than 100 years, from 1830 to 1958. The year 1901, the year that the present Hunter School was constructed, was the highpoint for country school

³ William L. Sherman (ed.) "Rural Public Education in Iowa 1831-1960," in Iowa's County Schools: Landmarks of Learning, Parkersburg: Iowa State Educational Association and Mid-Prairie Books, 1998. This book is the result of a state-wide study of early schools sponsored in part by the State Historical Society of Iowa. Local historians were contacted in every county of Iowa to gather data on early schools, and this information was collated for use by the essayists. Lotus Foster and Winifred Rhoades were the researchers for Fremont County published on p. 64.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number: 8 Page: 9

Hunter School
Fremont County, Iowa

development in Iowa. That year 12,623 one-room schools were listed in Iowa, more than in any other state.⁴ During their long period of development in Iowa, local schools first grew in number until about 1900 and then became fewer and more centralized as they were consolidated in the early 20th century. Hunter School, two miles south of the town of Tabor, Iowa, was one of eleven country schools in Green Township and one of 120 country schools in Fremont County, Iowa. Schools such as Hunter School were located so that no child would have to walk more than two miles to school, about one school for every four sections of land.⁵

Schools were local and non governmental efforts in the beginning, and as a result were important centers for their rural communities, and the location of public events, township meetings, elections, and other community events. Local families funded their own schools, a local farmer leased the land to the school, and the school was supervised by local township trustees. The schools contributed to and preserved a social and rural way of life at least for a time.

The history of Hunter School begins around 1865 when land for a school house was leased in section 10 of Green Township from John H. Hunter, farmer and landowner.⁶ This deed indicates that the trustees of the school would pay a fee of one dollar (\$1) a year in return for the use of the land. The land was to be returned to Mr. Hunter when no longer used for education purposes. The deed states that the land in question, one-half acre, was located in the southwest corner of Section 10, Green Township. The school retained the name, Hunter School, even though the ownership of the land changed and the school was moved at some point from section 10 to section 9 across the road. This practice of leasing the land for the school continues until today. Present owner, E. Jane Dwornichi of Omaha, Nebraska, continues to lease the land for \$1 a year to the Green Township Board of Trustees.

⁴ William H. Drier, "A Brief History of Iowa's One-room Schools," in William L. Sherman (ed.), Iowa Country Schools: Landmarks of Learning, pp. 3-7.

⁵ Thumbprints in Time, Heritage Book Committee, Fremont County, Iowa, 1996.

⁶ Freemont County Deeds, Book F, p. 615, March 14, 1965.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Hunter School
Fremont County, Iowa

Section number: 8 Page: 10

Tracking down the historical locations of this school has proved difficult. A location might be identified for the school on the Andreas Atlas map of Fremont County in section 10, Green Township.⁷ There is a small building that might represent a school on section 10 along its southern border, but it is not in the corner of the section. J. H. Hunter was the property owner at this time. A Fremont County Atlas of 1891 shows a small square at the southwest corner of section 10 that might be the school, but the landowner changed to H. W. Howard. A county atlas from 1925 shows the school in its present on the southeast corner of Section 9 with the property owned by W. D. Timson.⁸ There is no record of when the school was moved across the road.

The present school was constructed in 1901 where the previous school was located in section 9. It continued to be known as Hunter School. What little is known of the designer of Hunter School points to local influences on the school's design. The school was built by G. W. Clark of the town of Randolph⁹ He might have been a local contractor, but a thorough search has turned up nothing about him other than his name and town.

The new Hunter School was written about in the Tabor Beacon on several occasions in 1901.¹⁰ These accounts say that the old school was purchased by Mr. Timson and moved to a property south of the new school building. School historian Lotus Foster said she has searched for that school, looking at neighboring farmsteads for buildings that might have been a school, but she could not find one.¹¹ She thinks the old school was demolished. I looked at the farmsteads south of the school as well with similar negative results.

In 1920 the Tabor School District was consolidated into one large school that drew students from the Tabor area including Green Township, and part of Mills County to the north.

⁷ A. T. Andreas, Illustrated Atlas of the State of Iowa, Chicago, Andreas Atlas Company, 1875.

⁸ Fremont County Atlases for 1891 and 1925.

⁹ This according to an undated newspaper clipping in the Tabor Public Library, Hunter School File and Claire M. Douglass, "The Hunter School House," 1997, a handwritten report in the Fremont Historical Museum. This report might be the source of the newspaper article.

¹⁰ Tabor Beacon articles about Hunter School, 9-27-1901, 10-25-1901, and 12-27-1901.

¹¹ Lotus Foster, Interview with Patricia Eckhardt, June 2005.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Hunter School
Fremont County, Iowa

Section number: 8 Page: 11

Buses were purchased to bring rural students to school in Tabor, eliminating the need for most rural school buildings, including Hunter School.

Three elements contributed to the change from country schools to town and consolidated schools, and these elements applied to Hunter School as well as country schools in general. The first was the depopulation of the rural areas caused in part by the consolidation of small farms into larger farms. Larger farms resulted in fewer farmsteads and a lower rural population. The second element that caused the demise of the country school was the drive toward educational consolidation fed by the desire for improved educational opportunities. There was a desire to have better teachers with better educations. The development of "normal" schools for the education of teachers contributed powerfully to this transformation of rural education. The third element contributing to the demise of the country school was the move for economy in state sponsored education. Education has been supported by property taxes for many years. There is always a desire to curtail taxes for political as well as economic reasons.¹²

Hunter School continued as a township meeting place and a polling place until 1990. Voters decided to discontinue using it as a polling place because there were no modern restrooms and no running water or electricity on the property. At the same time, the voters wanted to preserve the Hunter School as an historical landmark, and they continue to preserve it today.¹³

Hunter School has been a landmark in the neighborhood and a source of news and pride since it was constructed. In the early years the Tabor Beacon usually carried a column of school news with names of teachers and even a list of students having perfect attendance or absentees.¹⁴ While this kind of news is no longer a feature, there has been a recent revival in interest in country schools. During the past 15 years, many articles have been written about Hunter School. They repeat information previously published or from archival sources or write new accounts such as the Claire Douglass report, but mixed in with the school's history are

¹² William L. Sherman (ed.), Iowa's County Schools: Landmarks of Learning, Parkersburg: Iowa State Educational Association and Mid-Prairie Books, 1998.

¹³ Brett Smith, Green Township Board Chairman, interview with Patricia Eckhardt, Dec. 1, 2004

¹⁴ Tabor Beacon, 1-17-1896, 1-1-1897, 3-12-1898, 4-15-1898.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number: 8 Page: 12

Hunter School
Fremont County, Iowa

references to past school days in general. A good example is the article "Cooking With Lois" that combines information about Hunter School with information about what children took to school for lunch.¹⁵ The author, Lois Rodabaugh mentions talking with a visitor about the school and recounts a popular poem by John Greenleaf Whittier, "In School Days". This interest in the country school as a symbol of an earlier time on the farm is very strong today, and it has helped keep the Hunter School extant.

¹⁵ Lois Rodabaugh, "Cooking with Lois," Tabor Beacon, January 17, 2005.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number: 9 Page: 13

Hunter School
Fremont County, Iowa

SOURCES

Andreas, A. T. Illustrated Atlas of the State of Iowa. Chicago, Andreas Atlas Company, 1875.

Deiber, Camilla & Peggy Beedle. Country Schools for Iowa. The Louis Berger Group, Inc. 2000.

Devoe, Albert M., Superintendent of Public Instruction. "Report of the Department of Public Instruction." Des Moines: State of Iowa, 1918.

Dreier, William H. "A Brief History of Iowa's One-Room Schools," in William L. Sherman (ed.). Iowa's Country Schools: Landmarks of Learning. Parkersburg: Iowa State Education Association and Mid-Prairie Books, 1998, pp. 3-7.

Douglass, Claire. "The Hunter School House." Handwritten report, 1997, copy at the Fremont County Historical Museum.

Fremont County Assessors Records.

Foster, Lotus, Historian, interview with Patricia Eckhardt, Dec. 1, 2004.

Foster, Lotus and Evelyn Birkby, interview with Patricia Eckhardt, June, 2005.

Johnson, Steve. "Architectural Styles for Iowa's One-Room Schools," in William L. Sherman (ed.). Iowa's Country Schools: Landmarks of Learning. Parkersburg: Iowa State Educational Association and Mid-Prairie Books, 1998.

Neymeyer, Robert, "One-room Country Schools of Iowa," a National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, State of Iowa, March 1, 2000.

"Report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction," Des Moines: State of Iowa, 1901.

Rodabaugh, Lois, "Cooking with Lois," Tabor Beacon, January 27, 2005.

Sherman, William L. (ed.). Iowa's Country Schools: Landmarks of Learning. Parkersburg, Iowa: Mid-Prairie Books, 1998.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number: 9 Page: 14

Hunter School
Fremont County, Iowa

Smith, Brett, Chairman of Green Township Board of Trustees, interview with Patricia Eckhardt, December 1, 2004.

Swanson, Leslie C. "Rural One-room Schools of Mid-America", pamphlet, photocopy in State Historical Society Building Files. Note: Linda Brown Link of the Iowa State Historical Society Library in Iowa City searched unsuccessfully to find publishing information about this pamphlet.

Tabor Beacon, 1901-1920.

Tabor Public Library, Schools Vertical File, Tabor, Iowa.

Thumbprints In Time. Heritage Book Committee. Fremont County, Iowa: 1996.

Winkler, Margaret, former property owner and farm resident, interview with Patricia Eckhardt, Nov. 30, 2004.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number: 10 & Addl. Page: 15

Hunter School
Fremont County, Iowa

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

Boundary is described as one-half acre in the SE corner of the SE Quadrant of Section 9 of Green Township, Fremont County, Iowa.

Verbal Justification

This boundary encloses the historic property upon which the school was originally constructed in 1901, and the property has been continuously leased from the farm owner since that time.

PHOTOGRAPHS

All photographs have the following information in common.

Location:

Hunter School

Hwy 275, at the junction of Hwy J18.

Rural Tabor, Fremont County, Iowa

Photographer: Patricia Eckhardt

Date: November, 2004

Film – 35mm, Kodak TMax 400

Negative: Des Moines office of the State Historical Society of Iowa

Photos:

1. South and East Facades looking NW
2. East and North Facades looking SW
3. South and West Facades looking NE
4. Detail of belfry looking NW
5. Interior of school room looking NW
6. Interior looking through entrance hall to the front door, looking ESE

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number: 10 & Addl. Page: 16

Hunter School
Fremont County, Iowa

**USGS Map showing location of Hunter School
(Tabor Quadrangle, 1957)**

