

## **Hartley School Buildings**

1901-1936

A new school building was authorized by a special election in March of 1901, with 153 votes—113 in favor and 40 against. W.R. Parsons and Sons of Des Moines drew the architectural plans for a fee of \$400. Bids for construction went to Detwiler & Co. of Des Moines for \$17,200.

The third floor included a large assembly hall that was used for concerts and ball games. The first graduating class in 1902 included Nellie Patch, daughter of Frank and Nellie Patch.

The contractors used a mortar of lime and sand in its construction. It was a source of continued expense to the school district from the beginning. The building was obviously defective from the beginning, as in the first year the contractor submitted a bid of \$650 for repairs.

Old pictures give evidence that walls were replaced. Steel plates and rods are shown holding the building together. The building was declared unsafe and was demolished in 1936, after only thirty-five years of use. It was replaced by the present building on 1<sup>st</sup> St. S.E.