

Collinwood School District No. 48



Address: 17757 745th Avenue, Collinwood Township (Dassel), MN.

Collinwood School, is located on Lot Five of Block Six of the Collinwood Village Plat, which was filed in 1870. The school lot is located on what was the corner of North and Third Streets, directly across from the Bull house, which was the residence and banking location of H. C. Bull who, along with L. G. Pendergast and H. E. Taylor, was a co-developer of the town site.

Important social events at Collinwood School included an annual Christmas program, basket socials, and a last-day-of-school celebration, all of which were typical all across the Midwest. The basket social was an event that students from in and out of the district could attend and where the boys would offer cash bids on lunch baskets prepared by the girls. The successful bidder would get to share lunch with its maker and perhaps also be permitted to walk her home after the event, according to Ralph Peterson, a former Collinwood student.

The Collinwood teachers were quite popular since their contracts were renewed for several years running. As two alumni expressed it, "Collinwood was a friendly school (with) no discord whatever between families." Moreover, "We had good teachers in the rural schools, and we learned how to read, write, spell, etc. There were no special activities to take up our time."

The Collinwood School is a remnant of a typical early settlement village whose future was eclipsed when the St. Paul and Pacific Railroad came through Meeker County. The school closed its doors in 1961 and is currently owned by Collinwood Township and is used as a town hall. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, Collinwood School District No. 48 is an icon that stands for a vanished way of life.

Ref: Ian R. Stewart, (1996, November, 27) National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. Retrieved from <https://npgallery.nps.gov/pdfhost/docs/NRHP/Text/96001612.pdf>