

Community School Plans

THE SCHOOL GROUNDS

The school should be erected as near the center of population as is possible, provided there can be found at this point a good site large enough and well drained, where satisfactory arrangements can be made for an ample supply of pure water on the school grounds. It is necessary, too, that the school be located near the public highway, even if by so doing it is removed somewhat from the center of population.

The site must contain at least two acres of land for a one-teacher or two-teacher school. Larger schools should have more. This will give ample space for the schoolhouse, two sanitary privies, a teachers' home, playgrounds for the boys and girls, a plot for agricultural demonstrations, and proper landscaping. Wherever a two acre site is selected it would be well to have it 210 feet wide and 420 feet deep, or if more convenient and suitable, 420 feet wide and 210 feet deep. This proportion seems more desirable than a square or a triangular site. The same proportion would be satisfactory for a larger plot. In a consolidated school community where they expect to have a four-teacher building or larger, a teachers' home, hitching stalls or parking sheds, playgrounds, agricultural plots, trees, shrubs, vines, and flowers, FIVE ACRES would make a very desirable school site.

THE BUILDING

1. Service to Community

In planning the schoolhouse it should be kept in mind that the best modern school is one which is designed to serve the entire community for twelve months in the year. Hence in all larger buildings at least a room for industries and for the use of the adult members of the community is important. Wherever possible a good auditorium, large enough to seat the entire community, should be erected in connection with every community school. If there are not sufficient funds for an auditorium, two adjoining classrooms with a movable partition may be made to serve this purpose. While movable partitions are not always satisfactory, they are much preferred to no assembly facilities.

2. Size of the Schoolhouse

Most buildings are made too small to accommodate the additional pupils that a new, modern school is sure to attract and hold. This should be considered in selecting the plans. A plan that may be added to without affecting the sanitary conditions or marring the beauty of the building is much preferred over one offering no such opportunity for enlargement. In determining the number of rooms necessary for a particular locality, officials should take into consideration the total number of children of school age in the community and grades to be served rather than the number attending the old school. The new school will generally attract larger numbers than the old. A one-teacher community school will accommodate not more than 45 pupils, a two-teacher not more than 90, a three-teacher about 115 to 125, etc.