

# History of the SDSA's first Wooden School Building

## Construction and Funding (1881)

In January 1881, the Dakota Territorial Legislature meeting at Yankton appropriated \$2,000 for the construction of a new school building for the Dakota Territorial School for the Deaf and Mute.



First permanent wooden school building of the Dakota Territorial School for the Deaf constructed in 1881. The structure housed classrooms and student living quarters.



The appropriation was contingent upon local citizens raising an additional \$1,000, a challenge that was successfully met. Approximately ten acres of land suitable for the school site were subsequently deeded for the project.

A two-story wooden frame school building was then constructed. The structure measured approximately 36 x 40 feet, with an attached 16 x 24-foot wing. It contained fourteen rooms and was designed to accommodate approximately twenty-five students. A cellar was located beneath the main portion of the building.

## Early Use

This building became the first permanent facility established specifically for deaf education in the Dakota Territory.

Its construction marked an important transition from instruction conducted in private homes and rented quarters to a recognized territorial institution with dedicated classrooms and residential space for students.

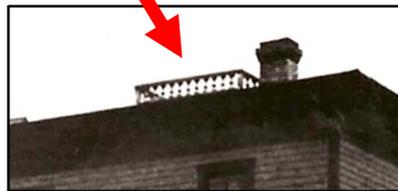
## Sale and Relocation (May 1887)

In May 1887, the Deaf Mute Board offered the original two-story frame school building for sale. On May 16, 1887, the structure was purchased by S. E. Young for \$505.00.

Contemporary newspaper notices reported that Young contracted to move the former Deaf Mute school building to Block 1 in Phillips' Addition in East Sioux Falls, along Eighth Street. The building was then adapted for use as a residence, sometimes described as a tenement house.

## Believed Survival Today (Unconfirmed)

Based on comparisons of historic photographs, building proportions, and roof configuration, the relocated structure is believed by some researchers to possibly survive today near the intersection of East Eighth Street and North Sherman Avenue in Sioux Falls. However, further confirmation through property records and historic maps is needed.



Distinctive roof railing or "Widow's walk" visible in historic photographs provides an important architectural clue in identifying the relocated structure.



Building believed by some researchers to be the relocated 1881 SDSA wooden school structure following its sale and move in 1887. Identification remains under investigation.



- **Constructed:** 1881
- **Location:** Sioux Falls, Dakota Territory
- **Structure:** 36 x 40 two-story wooden frame
- **Rooms:** 14
- **Capacity:** 25 students
- **Addition:** 16 x 24 ft wing
- **Foundation:** Cellar under Main Building
- **Funding:** \$2,000 territorial appropriation + \$1,000 local contribution
- **Land:** Approximately 10 Acres donated
- **Sold:** May 16, 1887
- **Buyer:** S.E. Young
- **Sale Price:** \$505
- **Later Use:** Relocated residence in East Sioux Falls