

the school grounds, have, of necessity, been cut down but still there are many trees (mostly elm and silver maples) bordering the walk around the building. Passers-by can readily see that it is an old building but at the same time can see that it is in unusually good repair.

Close neighbors include a Protestant Church (West Creighton Avenue Christian Church), a Lutheran Church and school (Emmaus) Grocery stores, drug stores, a dime store, barbershops, dry cleaner a theater, restaurants, a meat market, filling stations and several dentists and doctors are in the immediate neighborhood. All these businessmen are friends of the school and constitute one of the most ardent groups to support school projects or other school sponsored community services.

Most of the school patrons over the years have been wage earners in the laboring class of people or small self-business men. We are neither a poor, nor a rich school. A middle class dominates in everything; although, as in all groups, we have a few who might approach the higher, or lower income brackets.

Averaging an estimated enrollment of 325 for the past fifty years, it is easy to ascertain how many pupils have completed or taken a portion of the first six grades of schooling (primary education) at Miner.

To give us a more complete picture of the vital role that Miner School has played in the public life of this local community let us first brief ourselves with facts concerning Fort Wayne, in the years just preceding 1886.

## Part II -- Historic Setting, Economic Social and Industrial Trends.

Almost fifty years (46 to be exact) after the town, or village, of Fort Wayne was incorporated, Miner School was erected. At the time of this forward step of governing by a charter and providing for the election of a mayor and board of aldermen (city council) the official count of people was 2,080. By 1886 the city had experienced a steady growth and expansion and the population was now nearing 35,000. (Census reading of 1890 was 35,393). The need for more schools to handle the increasing numbers of children was pressing. So in 1886 the city purchased the sites for three new school buildings.

The Miner School site at DeWald and Miner Streets was designed to accomodate people in the south area of the city. For those in the west end of town, the land at Boone and Fry Streets was purchased for the erection of Nebraska School. In the south-east portion the Holton Avenue School was built at Creighton and Holton. All of these were built and made ready for immediate use.

However, before we look into the structural plan of Miner, let us look back briefly to the controversy concerning "free" schools, that raged for many years before public schools were es-