

Education in the Old One and Two Room School houses began after settlement of land then first in log cabin's followed by school's made of logs. Often construction was donated labor and supplies by the families of the community. Later, brick buildings were constructed. There was no indoor plumbing, central heat or air. A pitcher pump for water was outside and a wood stove sat inside for heat. And of course restrooms were the outhouse! Students arrived ready to learn by walking, bicycle or horses. Later on parents' car pooled and buses came on the scene as well as the first "hot lunch" program which consisted of mothers bringing in hot soup for the class. Students attended until 8th grade and then those fortunate enough to attend high school locally graduated from 12th grade.

Here are the locations of these early schools. Please note most of these properties are private property.

DIRECTIONS



#1: Center School located at 6891 Grubbs Rex Road east of Arcanum-Ithaca Road. Erected 1884, last classes in the mid 1930's and sold in 1940 for \$185.00.

#2: Head north on Arcanum-Ithaca Road back to Arcanum. Turn right at stop light on East South. The first early school of Arcanum from 1857-1871 sat on the left in the area of the Faith United Methodist Church.

#3: 110 East South Street is opposite on the right side besides the gas station. This was the second school built after the original structure on the backside in 1876 to 1924. Two stories with 8 rooms. The west side was destroyed in 1992 tornado. Last known as Owls Drugs among other businesses.

#4: Continue east on Alt. 49 East. This school house, called Nealeigh from 1856, is no longer standing but was located 1.7 mile out of town on the left side before Gordon-Landis Road. Known as #9 and then in 1910 #1.

#5: Turn left at intersection at Gordon-Landis Road. Cross Rt. 49. At the Delisle-Fourman intersection look to your left. On the north side ½ mile down was where Tar Bucket School stood. At the Painter Creek Arcanum intersection is where the first Franklin Township teacher owned land, David Olwine.

#6: Continue on to the intersection of Hogpath. On the left will be Oakland. Built in 1909 and sold in 1951, Also known as Oakland View. The pitcher pump stands outside.

#7: Continue to Rt. 571. Turn left at intersection and continue on Rt. 571 past Arcanum-Bears Mill Road. Shortly after on the left will be Poplar Ridge School #6869 today which is a **private** residence.

#8: Go back to Arcanum-Bears Mill and proceed south to Hogpath Road. Turn right. Ninevah School once stood on the hill on your right. Today it is a painted brick **private** residence #6864. At one time the district number was visible above the door. It was sold in 1947.

#9: Continue west to Shields Road. Turn left and continue to Rt. 49. Turn right and then left onto to Drew Road. Right at the turn is District #9 (3963 Drew Road). ***Private**

#10: Continue south on Drew Road. In Delisle turn right onto Delisle-Fourman Road. At the next intersection, which is Myers-Tillman Road, on the right will be the Delisle School or #5 at house number 6008 which is a **private** residence. The school was built in 1885 and sold in 1952. It is a designated historic site by the AWTHS in 2016.

#11: Turn left on Tillman Road and continue south to Hollansburg-Sampson Road. Turn right then left at Tillman Road. Continue south to Arcanum-Hollansburg Road. Make a Left. Before Littles Road on the right side is a apartment building or house today (5939) that was once called West Point.

We hope you have enjoyed your driving tour. More information about these and other old school houses along with Arcanum, Butler, and Franklin-Monroe are available in our reference library as well as photos.

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