What Became of the Little Red Schoolhouse?

FACTS AND FIGURES—TALES AND PHOTOS OF EARLY MENDOCINO COUNTY SCHOOLS

VOLUME-6

UKIAH—HOPLAND
REDWOOD VALLEY
WHAT BECAME OF THE LITTLE RED SCHOOLHOUSE?

Facts and Figures--Tales and Photos of Early Mendocino County Schools.

DEDICATED TO THE

MENDOCINO COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Cover Photo-Early Ukiah Schools

-- 1991 --
UKIAH UNION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

The name UKIAH is taken from the Indian word for the area; "Yokaia"; meaning south end of the valley.

UKIAH GRAMMAR SCHOOL

1880 MENDOCINO COUNTY HISTORY
Ukiah—Approved May 18, 1859. Bounded on the north by the third standard line, on the south by the line of Anderson Township, on the west by the Coast Range, on the east by the county line. Subsequent change—Ukiah and Calpella—Approved February 21, 1860; Ukiah and Calpella districts divided and become as when first laid out. Ukiah—Approved November 19, 1861; boundaries therof changed to a point on the west side of Ukiah, running across said valley and passing on the south side of W. Bramlet’s, and on the north side of Dunlap’s on the line dividing the two claims in a direct line from mountain to mountain. Ukiah—Approved May 10, 1878; to be described by the same boundaries as limited it at the time of incorporation of the town of Ukiah City.

"FROM HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT OF SCHOOL AND PUBLIC EDUCATION IN MENDOCINO COUNTY BY LOWELL NEAR.
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In 1858, A. T. Perkins and John R. Short built the first schoolhouse in Ukiah and donated it to the community. It was a two-roomed school located south of Perkins’, and west of State street, and sat in off the street. Fred S. Dashiel was the first teacher in this first Ukiah School."

"Ukiah was not to wait long before the need for expansion of the school program became evident. Within seven years the school trustees decided to erect a new schoolhouse and it is a matter of record that the plans were to build "contiguous to the old one". Something seems to have interfered with these plans. More evidence of this community’s interest in education appears with the report that in January of 1871 the Ukiah school board was authorized by Act of Legislature to purchase the building known as the Ukiah Institute and the land on which it stood, for school purposes. It seems this was a fine building, for that time, constructed of brick, costing $12,000 originally. It had been erected for a seminary by a joint-stock company, in 1870, but the enterprise had failed for lack of patronage. Later in the year the school trustees purchased the building for $9,000 and this included the ten acres that D. Gobbi had donated to the seminary. According to the report, "there are four school rooms in it, and it is sufficient for all the needs of Ukiah at the present and will be for several years to come."