

Introduction and overview.

My brother Arrel had written up his own Kremlin School Days memories over the past few years, and making that available to others who might be interested was one of the reasons for the "Toews Brothers Kremlin" website that I developed (toewsbrotherskremlin.info); that document, and this one, are in the Kremlin School History section of the website. Arrel had also written up an extensive and well-documented history of the Town of Kremlin; that, and other interesting town history documents are in the Kremlin Town History section of our website. Both of his stories included some information about the buildings and additions at the Kremlin School, but he graduated in 1966 and did not know about or remember many of the later additions that I remembered. Also on our website is a section of my own work on the Garfield County One-Room Schools, with more to come on the one-room schools that eventually merged with Kremlin School. Things I learned about early one-room schools' history, including the fact that quite a few of those one-room school houses got moved to the Kremlin School along with their students in the late 1940s, got me further intrigued with the "complete" history of the Kremlin School buildings. This set of documents (files) here represents the fruits of my labors, to date. In addition to the two Kremlin Schools documents described here, there are links on our Schools webpage to scans of all the yearbooks from 1945 to 1969 (so far), to all of the senior photo panels, and to an interesting book of Kremlin School stories from alumni, called "Story Matters". If you have any interest in Kremlin and/or Kremlin Schools history, you will find much to like on our website!

Arrel's story is about his own personal memories, including lots that is of interest to all. For my "buildings history", I have focused only on the buildings, including very little of my own school days memories, or information about who my teachers and classmates were. That may be a separate document, to go along with Arrel's personal memories, at some later date. For my documents here, I have chosen to use early yearbook photos wherever possible, even when better later color photos are available. In some cases, a mixture of early black-and-white and later color photos are used for clarity. If you browse our scans of Kremlin yearbooks, you will find literally thousands of other interesting photos and memories that are NOT included in my stories here. **Browse the yearbooks and everything else on our webpages; enjoy the memories, or look back just to be amazed!**

A brief summary and introduction to the 10 chapters of "Myron's Kremlin School Buildings History" begins on the next page. [At least take a look at this short summary, please](#); but I think you will enjoy the much greater detail and many photos that are in each of these chapters.

Highlighted in blue text throughout my chapters are bits and pieces where I know that I am in need of more and better information and memories. I hope that all who DO look through my individual chapters will pay attention to these places and send me any additional information, memories, or photos. Of course, any corrections that are needed to what I have written are also welcome. I have tried to acknowledge all the many people who have already helped me by providing their own memories and photos for each of the chapters. If your name is there already, THANK YOU again! If not, please send me some new information and I will acknowledge your help in my updates.

Kremlin School buildings and additions – a chapter for each, with history and photos

1. The first white wooden school. This school was located at the north end of town, on the east side of the same street as the later school that many of us knew and the current school buildings. This 4-room building was the school until the 1932-33 school year, when classes began in the 6-room red brick school, on the same street but at the south end of town.



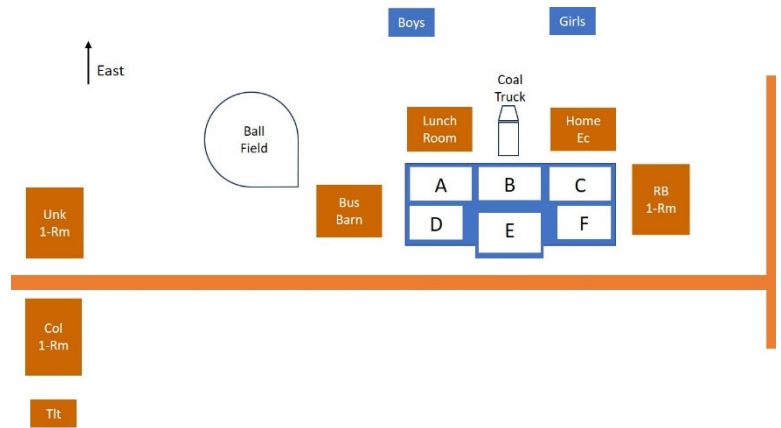
2. The six-room red brick school. This school was opened for the 1932-33 school year. The uses of the rooms changed with later additions, but it remained a part of the school until all the older school buildings were demolished in the summer of 2015.



In its earliest days, the younger grades were at the south end, three grades per room, and the higher grades were at the north end. When the high school and gymnasium were added in 1951, the original red brick school became the grade school.

3. The one-room school house expansion years.

Beginning in the late 1930s and up to 1949 or so, the area one-room country schools began to close, with students then attending the Kremlin town school. To make room for those students, several of the one-room school houses were moved from their original locations in the country and onto the school grounds. Those years ended in 1951 when the new high school and gymnasium were added. A diagram of the buildings on the school grounds at the peak of the one-room school house expansion years is shown here. Read the chapter for more details.



4. The high school and gymnasium addition (and changes in the red brick school uses). The high school and gymnasium (yellow in diagram) were added to the south end of the red brick building (blue in diagram) and began to be used at the end of the 1952 school year, with the grade school classes moving into the red brick school rooms (2). This addition was built to match the original school and it provided a kitchen and lunchroom and 2 classrooms on the west side (4A), science and home ec rooms at the south end (4B), the first indoor bathrooms and two sets of sports dressing rooms (4C) under the west bleachers of the gymnasium (4D), and a stage and two more smaller dressing rooms at the end of the gymnasium for use as an auditorium (4E).

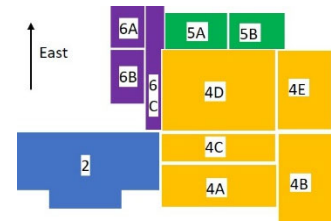


5. The shop and music room addition. For the 1957 school year, two rooms were added to the east side of the gymnasium (green in diagram). The north room was the new shop space, for both woodworking and some metal work. The south room was the first dedicated music room. Access to this addition was not covered, but with sidewalks from the area connecting the red brick school to the high school or from the north end or east side of the gymnasium.

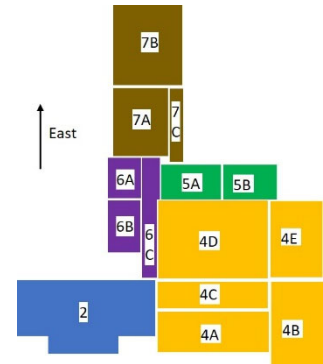


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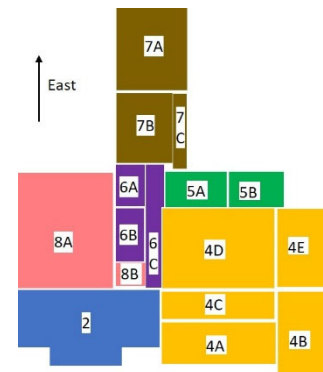
6. The new cafeteria and hallway addition. For the 1963 school year, a new addition was made to the north of the gymnasium. This addition (purple) included a large and modern kitchen (6A) and larger lunchroom (6B), plus a new covered hallway (6C) leading from the area connecting the high school to the red brick school and leading to the shop room (5A) at its east end. Trophy cases and senior photo panel displays were moved into this hallway.



7. New boys' locker rooms and two new large shop rooms addition. This addition (brown) was completed during the 1965-66 school year. Kremlin beginning football that year was a major impetus for the new locker rooms (7A), one for the home team, one for the visiting team, which opened to the football field to the north. Two new shop rooms, one for woodworking and one for metal work and small engines, were at the far east end of this addition (7B), plus a long hallway (7C) connecting the locker rooms and shops rooms to the hallway by the cafeteria and the previous shop room (5A). At this time, music moved into the previous shop room, and the previous music room (5B) became the kindergarten classroom – the first time that Kremlin had kindergarten since the first white wooden school years!



8. New grade school classrooms, in preparation for merger with Hillsdale, and a new girls' locker room. This was the final addition (pink) to the original red brick building, filling in the remaining space between the east side of the red brick building and the west side of the new cafeteria. For just part of the Spring 1968 semester, all of grades 1-8 from Kremlin were in the 4 new classrooms in 8A, 2 grades per room, and the former grade school rooms in the red brick building (2) took on new uses. With the Hillsdale merger for the 1968-69 school year, only grades 1-4 were in this addition, with grades 5-8 having class at Hillsdale. This addition also included a new girls' locker room (8B) in the previous space between the original red brick building (2) and the cafeteria and hallway addition (6B and 6C).



9. A separate new grade school building, and more, to the north of the high school. First came the Stewart swimming pool, then later a new grade school and cafeteria building to the north and east of the pool, in 1981. A new gymnasium was added to the east end of the grade school around 1988, and more buildings later. With this new building in Kremlin, the Hillsdale school buildings were no longer used.



10. More changes at the high school, followed by its demolition and a new high school building, 2016. The new grade school building led to many changes in uses of the rooms in the original school complex, now the high school plus grades 7 and 8. In 2015, the entire complex of buildings shown in the diagrams above was demolished and replaced by a new high school building.

