

Caroline Street School

This photo of pupils at the Caroline Street School was taken in the late 1870s.

The wooden schoolhouse with very small windowpanes appears directly behind the children. It was located on the north side of Caroline Street, east of Ingersoll Street. Two residences now occupy the site four or five lots east of the corner.

Facial appearances and hairstyles for both boys and girls are just the same today as they were 125 years ago. The clothing, however, really dates the students. Here we see high top leather shoes for both sexes. Some are laced-up while others are buttoned-up shoes that needed a buttonhook to button them. In other words, we don't see any blinking sneakers here.

While some of the boys have short pants, their legs are covered with high stockings, which



come up to the hem of the shorts. Notice the horizontal strips in the boys' socks.

The girls all are wearing dresses. No pants of any sort for

them back then.

Most of the boys are wearing suit jackets. In other words, no T-shirts with outlandish motives.

Children in the front row are seated on a bench. Did you notice none of their feet touch the ground?

I think the boys in the back row are standing on chairs.

There are 30 pupils here, probably all under the tutelage of one teacher, as they appear to be about the same age.

I would point out that there is one girl of African-American descent in the front row.

Not only were there many rural schools years ago, but also the villages had smaller school houses placed in various sectors so children didn't have to walk great distances. At the time the picture was taken, there also were schools for the primary grades on the south side of West State Street and the north side of West Avenue. In 1882, Central School also was built at the Court House Square.