

## Oaklands School / Garber Creek School

Several schools may have been the predecessor to the surviving Oaklands School (District 32). The first school seems to have been located at the site of St. Philip-in-the-



Field Episcopal Church, at the entrance to Wolfensberger Road from Highway 105. It was either a log building or a temporary structure which predated the church. The school would have been on the site by around 1866.

The Garber Creek School is another possible predecessor to Oaklands. Located on the Manhart Ranch (also known as the Keystone Ranch) west of Highway 105, near West Pine Cliff Avenue, the Garber Creek School was held in the blacksmith shop on the ranch from around 1872 to 1880.

Oaklands School event program, 1990, Sedalia  
Museum and Gardens Community Meeting –  
School Days Collection, 2015.020.0002.

The second school building originally located at the St. Philip-in-the-Field site is the one

known as the Oaklands School (the building was later moved to Castle Rock – see below). The families that attended school at Oaklands include the Curtises, who owned the Oaklands Ranch, and the Hiers. Carroll Hier, who attended Oaklands from grades one through eight, was elected mayor of Castle Rock for three terms.

The Oaklands School building was constructed sometime after 1871 and before 1899. The building was closed in 1956 or 1958, and its students were sent to [Castle Rock](#) or [Sedalia](#). The



building served temporarily as a community center, then a

Oaklands School, image from a video on Southridge Elementary's website.

shop, and finally fell into disrepair. In 1990, the Douglas County School District (RE-1) moved the building to Southridge Elementary in Castle Rock, where students helped to restore it. The building is now used by the school district to demonstrate life in 19<sup>th</sup> century one-room rural schools to elementary students.

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