

Wellton Elementary School History

In 1993 it was discovered that the old school building could not be revitalized because it did not meet building code. The old school building had to be removed. A new building, resembling the old school building, has been built at the original site and houses the office and the library. In its honor, it seems appropriate to give our families some of our school history (taken from the Wellton-Mohawk Valley Teachers Association in 1962 and updated by Henrietta Ruiz, 1989). The first Wellton School was the "Tent House" School of 1907. A branch of the Yuma School District, it was located in front of the present Wellton Hotel. Nine pupils attended this school. In 1908 the Wellton School District was formed with a one-room frame building one-half mile north of the jail.

School Timeline

Original Old School Building of 1920

In 1920 the west room of the old school building was constructed and a one-teacher school was established. Then in 1926 it was necessary to add another teacher and classes were all conducted in this one room. 60 Pupils were enrolled that year in four grades. This overcrowded condition led to an addition of two rooms and restrooms. Shortly afterwards, California promoters built great interest in the local area as grape and citrus land. This brought in enough families to require a fourth room.

Cafeteria and Nine Classrooms in 1952

The next major change in Wellton came in 1952 with the construction of a nine-room building with an office and cafeteria. There was discussion regarding tearing down the old building, but it was decided to use the building for home economics, as a library and for music classes.

Six New Classrooms in 1960

An addition was necessary in 1960 when a six-room building was added. These classrooms are located directly north of the cafeteria.

High School Students Travel Daily To Yuma

At first the students from both Wellton and Mohawk Valley Schools had to be transported to Yuma daily to high school. This meant that they had to leave for school sometime before dawn and arrive home after dark traveling on a gravel road clinging to the mountainside through Telegraph Pass.

Antelope Union High School 1940

All districts and the Southern Pacific Railroad held meetings in 1940 discussing withdrawal from the Yuma High District. Permission was given by the state and elections were held June 25 on the location of the school. The high school was built.

Public Library moves to Old School Building

In June of 1960 the Wellton Branch Library requested space in the old school building. (In 1990 the library moves to its former building on the east side of Wellton.)

Custodian's House

In 1964 a house was built on the Southeast side of the school grounds for the use of the head maintenance employee.

Four Classrooms, Library, Workroom, Boiler Room 1966

In 1966 another building was erected which consists of a boiler room, school library, supply room, staff workroom and four additional classrooms. This building is located in the northwest corner of the school.

Home Economics, Industrial Arts, Storage Area 1975

In 1975, just east of the cafeteria, a building was constructed to house the home economics and industrial arts facilities.

Custodian's House Converted to Kindergarten Center 1988

In 1988 the house that had been used by the head maintenance employee was converted into a "Kinder Center" in order to make room for a continuing rise in enrollment. Two Kindergarten classes, morning and afternoon were in session.

Two Classrooms Added 1989

In 1989 two additional classrooms were added on to the northeast building as enrollment continued to increase.

Administration Office/Library Added 1995

In 1995, a combination administrative complex and library were added to the east end of the campus. The front of the administrative office is a replica of the Original Wellton School.

Gymnasium Added in 1995

In 1995, a very spacious building that consists of a gymnasium and two locker rooms with offices was located on the northeast end of campus