

Waveland gyms

According to Dave Fullenwider and Karen Bazanni Zach who have carefully researched the subject and using Virginia Banta Sharpe's and Victoria Kleiser's histories of Waveland schools, the original Waveland Academy sometimes called the Waveland Presbyterian Academy and later called the Waveland Collegiate Institute housed both male and female students. The Academy educated students up to their junior year in college. The brick building that is pictured below was built in 1872 on the site of the present school. The Institute, which was located on Jackson Street just off west Main Street, used this building (1872) until it closed its doors after the 1877-78 school year. By this time, the Academy was not using the original two buildings. One of the buildings was moved to a place near the present site of the Presbyterian Cemetery on the north side of Green Street and used as a stable. In 1882, the Academy sold the 1872 building and the property that the current school sits on for \$3000.00 to the town to start a public school. This building (1872) was utilized as the town common school until the 1912-13 building was completed.

This building (1872) served as the town school until it became severely overcrowded and another new building had to be built. In February of 1912, a contract was let to build a new school at the cost of \$30,000. The school was not completed in time for the fall term of 1912-13, so school began with classes distributed over different buildings in town. The 1913 building remained in use until consolidation in 1971.



The two buildings of the Waveland Academy



The first high school building—notice the basketball goal. This building was built in 1872 and used as a high school until 1913, so the early teams may have played here.

The building built in 1913 contained what the 1915 annual called, "an excellent gymnasium" in the basement. The 1915 annual also noted that school officials were also looking for a place to build two outside courts. The gym floor had a 30 foot ceiling which would have been really unusual in the early school buildings. It was surrounded by a balcony where spectators sat or stood to view the games. The floor was laid out from north to south and according to Ron Keedy, the front of it was basically in line with the front of the building and under the right section showing the windows. No one has ever mentioned whether there was any seating on the floor level or just in the balcony.

Before 1937





Early picture of the high school built in 1913

When the new gym, was built in 1937-38, the old gym was converted into a cafeteria with a tunnel running from the southeast corner to a point just south of the scorer's table in the new gym. One of the windows in the southwest corner of the building was removed and a door was made to give the cooks access to the cafeteria.



This picture shows the 1913 building with the door to the cafeteria and the east edge of the new gym.

Dave Fullenwider looked at this picture and reminisced, "The grade school was on the first floor as you went up the stairs from the front entrance. The junior high and high school was on the upper floor. There was a huge study hall upstairs in the middle with a stage where the school plays were given. The north side faced the stage and the 7th and 8th grade desks were closest to the stage. There was a walkway between them and the 9-12 desks were behind it. These were old desks that were connected with cast iron, scrolled sides and an inkwell in the top of the desk. When I was a sophomore, I got assigned to the desk that had been my Uncle Terry's about 30 years earlier. It had his and my initials carved in it after that year. We could have a pocket knife with us back in the old days." William Metzger added to the narrative and said, "Wasn't there a teacher's desk in the middle of the back row of the 9-12 desks by the windows where a teacher could monitor the activities in the room?" Someone else also remembered that there was a juke box in the study hall and that Mr. Cooper let them watch the World Series one year.



Cooks and student helpers standing on stairs that lead to outside door



Dance in the cafeteria in 1960



Door to tunnel is on left side of picture

The new gym was built in 1937-38 with a grant from the WPA (Works Progress Administration) which was a part of Franklin Delano Roosevelt's New Deal designed to put men to work after the Great Depression. It used local labor and I'm sure that many former Waveland Hornets had fathers or grandfathers who worked on the new gym.

Bill Greve, a Waveland star of the middle 50s and now a member of the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame has fond memories of playing in this building. He writes, "I remember how difficult it was to get shooting and playing time in the gym. You had to know an important person to get into the gym. I felt guilty about it, but I would unlock a window to the basement locker room and use the gym almost every day to practice my shooting so I had a huge advantage on all my competition. The school maintenance man, Mr. Eubanks, almost always saw me shooting in his gym, but he never kicked me out of his gym. I think he thought I had political pull or a key. That gave me an advantage over everyone I played against." Bill also noted that Russellville played all of its home games at Waveland during the 50s.

Waveland's magnificent Bill Greve, who departs with every net scoring mark his high school has to offer, was honored as the county's outstanding athlete for the 1954-55 season at the County



Bill Greve was the Outstanding Senior Athlete for Montgomery County in 1955

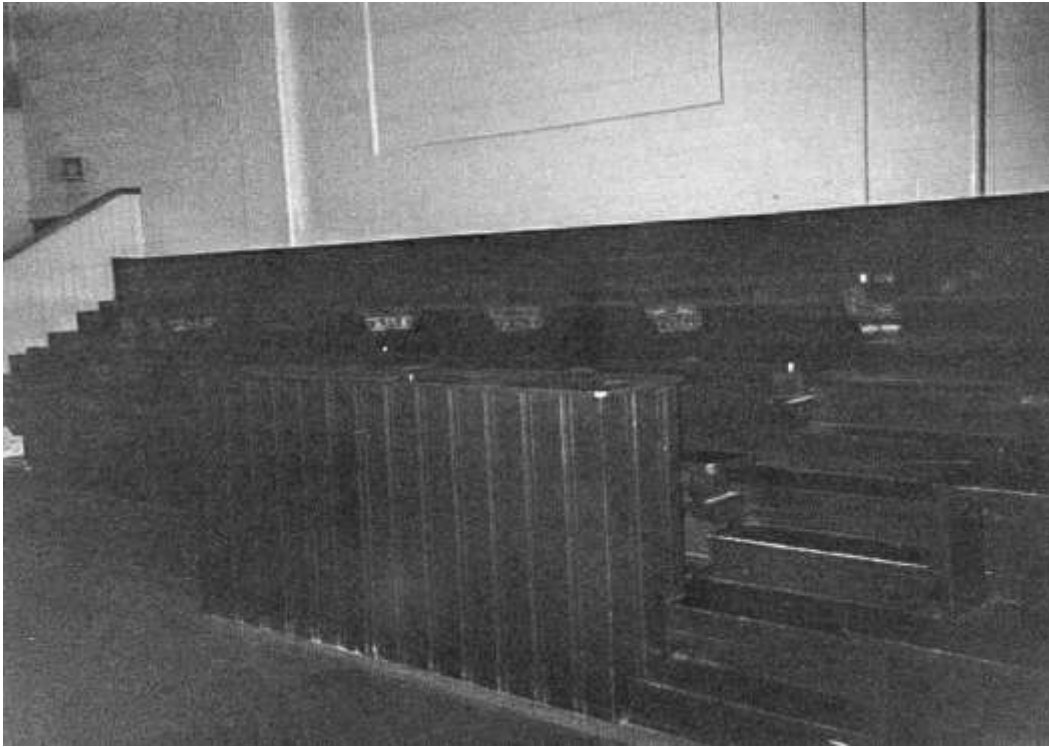


Waveland Gym



Picture of the new gym and school in early 60s

When consolidation closed all of the small Montgomery County schools, a new elementary school was built on the site of the old high school and the gym was remodeled. The remodeling included refinishing the floor, adding a dropped ceiling, and closing the old dressing rooms under the bleachers and building new locker rooms on the floor on the south end of the gym. David Harbison remembered that the original floor was a few feet short of regulation size making it necessary to have a double line for the ten second line (we used to call them the railroad tracks). The referees always had to explain to the captains which line was the ten second line when you were advancing the ball to the front court and which one was the line going from frontcourt to backcourt. I guess I didn't understand it then and not too sure of it now. (Maybe that's why the coach didn't make me captain.)



The old scorer's bench



The scorer's bench is right behind the Sousaphone. The tunnel from the cafeteria entered the gym through the double doors on the beneath the "Ladies" sign.



New elementary gym with scorer's bench. Dressing rooms on the floor. Public restrooms were constructed in the south end of the gym.



The angry hornet guards the center circle. New dressing room is on far left.



The two doors led to the dressing rooms which were under the bleachers