



School History

The Northwest Experiment Station was established in 1895. Its main purpose at that time was to secure definite and reliable data in regard to the agricultural problems and possibilities of this section of Minnesota. The first experimental work accomplished was a complete investigation of surface and tile drainage in the Red River Valley. Mr. T. A. Hoverstad was the first superintendent.

In 1903 the state was given the right to use the land for experimental and educational purposes. Two years later \$4,000 was granted for this purpose. In 1906 the farm was placed in charge of Mr. William Robertson. During the same year the legislature appropriated \$15,000 to be used in erecting a school building. In 1906 the Northwest School first began its work as an educational institution. The school at that time had an enrollment of 31 students. The single building fulfilled many purposes as it was used as a dormitory, dining hall, office and class room.

Although we had a building, the school was without books, teachers, or equipment. The citizens of Crookston, however, came to the rescue and donated \$2,500 for these purposes. It was soon evident that this building could not accommodate all the needs of the students, so two more buildings were erected—Stephens Hall and Owen Hall.

The enrollment increased every year, and over 100 students were registered the third year. The first graduating class in 1909 consisted of three boys and five girls.

The student body has grown from a mere handful, until now almost two thousand students and over five hundred alumni have become part of the Northwest School of Agriculture.

The original landsite was given by the Great Northern Railroad, as it was considered to be worthless property to them at that time. It has taken a great deal of work and planning to make the school what it is today, but anyone that drives through the campus now cannot help but feel that the work has been well worth while.



The School Today