

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic The Kenilworth Elementary School

and/or common The Kenilworth Elementary School

**2. Location**

street & number 1210 North 5th Avenue N/A— not for publication

city, town Phoenix N/A vicinity of congressional district District #1

state Arizona code 04 county Maricopa code 013

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	N/A <input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Phoenix Elementary School District No. 1

street & number 125 East Lincoln

city, town Phoenix N/A vicinity of state Arizona 85003

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County Assessor's Office

street & number 111 South 3rd Avenue

city, town Phoenix state Arizona 85003

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

An Initial Survey of Historic Resources  
title Within the Phoenix Metropolitan Area has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1977  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records State Historic Preservation Office

city, town Phoenix state Arizona 85007

## 7. Description

### Condition

excellent

good

fair

deteriorated

ruins

unexposed

### Check one

unaltered

altered

### Check one

original site

moved date \_\_\_\_\_

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Kenilworth School, constructed between 1918 and 1920, is an imposing Neo Classical style elementary school located in a residential area on the periphery of downtown Phoenix. The building features a symmetrical Neo Classic facade oriented around a massive, pedimented Ionic portico. The only alterations to the original design are two additions on the rear which do not affect the overall architectural integrity.

The Kenilworth School is situated on the front 20% of a block-square parcel on 5th Avenue between Moreland and Culver Streets. A playground behind the building occupies the remainder of the site. Due to the open playground and large tracts of cleared land around the building on the east, south and west sides, the school is prominently visible from 3rd and 7th Avenues. The streets abutting the school property are landscaped by rows of tall, evenly spaced palm trees. Culver Street, along the north side of the site, displays an intact streetscape of primarily one-story, detached residences built circa 1910-1920 which characterize the adjacent neighborhood. Within this context the school is the dominant visual element of the surrounding area.

The two-story building measures 128'x212' overall. The floor plan is basically symmetrical with some variations due to differing room functions and the two additions. The building is finished in buff-colored brick with contrasting art stone (textured concrete) trim. It is set on a raised foundation faced with concrete and has a full basement. There is a granite cornerstone on the northeast corner. Although nearly invisible from the street level, the 1920 and 1926 sections of the main block have a low-pitched, hip roof.

The foremost element of the symmetrical Neo Classic design is a monumental portico centered on the facade. Approached by steps from three sides, the portico features six Ionic columns, each 35' high, which support a full entablature and pediment with a denticular cornice. The name "Kenilworth" is written across the brick frieze in cast iron letters. The capitals are a unique, stylized interpretation of the Ionic order with angled volutes of exaggerated proportions. The columns are echoed on the facade by paneled Doric pilasters.

The main entry is centered beneath the portico. It is framed by a heavily-scaled art stone surround topped by a large segmental arch with a denticular cornice. The door, which is not original, is topped by a transom shielded by a wrought iron grill of art nouveau design.

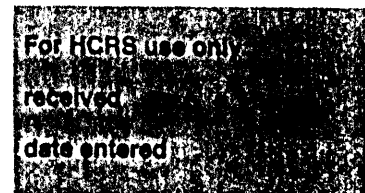
The remainder of the facade is composed of two recessed bays with clustered windows on each story. The windows are 5 units wide with a 6/6/6 configuration of louvered sash. Narrow single windows with similar 4/4 sash flank the large windows. They are evenly spaced within the recessed section and also appear under the portico between the pilasters. The first story windows all rise from the top of the foundation; the second story windows all have plain art stone sills.

The ends of the facade are composed of projecting flankers ornamented by recessed, rectangular panels. The perimeter of the panels is outlined by a decorative brickwork consisting of cream and buff colored bricks laid in a Flemish bonding pattern.

A heavy block cornice of art stone accentuates the roofline. An art stone stringcourse runs above the second story windows creating the image of a brick parapet along the roofline. These features are continued on all elevations of the building except the 1949 addition where the motifs are continued by a stringcourse and cornice of a simpler design.

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The side elevations of the main block are identical in detailing and have only a slight variation in the fenestration pattern owing to differences in the interior plan. The main elevations are three bays wide featuring side entries in the center bay. Each entry is framed by an elaborate molded surround topped by an architrave with a spiral motif molding, a frieze with raised swag ornamentation, and a projecting cornice. Rising above the cornice is the stone surround of a multi-paned stairwell window highlighted by a wrought iron balcony railing. An original two-story, two bay ell slightly set back from the main wall plane extends from the southwest corner.

The school has two major additions which do not adversely affect the building's architectural integrity. In 1926 a 46'x60' two-story ell was appended to the northwest elevation. Designed by Marsh and Wallingford, the original architects, this ell utilizes the same materials and identical detailing as the main block. These include the concrete-faced foundation, identical 6/6/6 window design, and the continuation of the second story stringcourse and block cornice. The ell includes a two-story bay window. (On the first story of the bay window the original sash has been replaced with 1/1 sash.) Due to the exacting replication of design and ornamentation, this addition cannot be readily distinguished from the original structure.

In 1949 another two-story ell, 51'x59', was attached to the rear of the previous addition. This section is constructed of concrete colored to match the original brick surfaces. The windows have louvered sash of newer design, but the fenestration pattern was maintained. The foundation and stringcourse were continued, and the roofline has a simple molded cornice. This addition is slightly lower than the earlier ell, so the cornice of the first addition remains exposed.

Across the rear elevation two subordinate flat-roofed sections, one a single story, the other 1½ stories, connect the two main ells. These sections establish the school's rectangular plan (excluding the 1949 addition). The larger section which contains the auditorium is part of the original building and features a heavy block cornice which is visible over the flat roof of the lower section. This one-story section contains the cafeteria and was enclosed sometime between 1926 and 1949.

Most of the original interior detailing, notable woodwork and window trim, remains intact. The main interior feature is the auditorium. It has a coved ceiling and is divided into five lateral bays by pilasters with ornamental console brackets at the ceiling. The stage opening is framed by a rectangular proscenium embellished with classical moldings and a medallion and swag motif centered over the stage. All of the ornamentation is of plaster.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

<b>Specific dates</b> 1920, 1926, 1949	<b>Builder/Architect</b> 1920/26 - Marsh, Howard, Wallingford 1949 - Lescher and Mahoney
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### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Kenilworth Elementary School, begun in 1918 and completed in 1920, is a major local example of Neo Classical style architecture which embodies the optimism and idealism of Phoenix as the city emerged as Arizona's major urban center in the early twentieth century. One of a series of public schools constructed by the city between 1910 and 1930, it helps to document the establishment of the city's public education facilities. The school was jointly designed by architects Marsh, Howard and Wallingford, whose individual designs for other public buildings in Phoenix correlate it with the city's contemporary civic architecture. The Kenilworth School is significant for its historical associations with influential Phoenix citizens and the growth of public education in the city; as a monumental example of a major twentieth century architectural style; and as the work of architects prominent in Phoenix during the first decades of the twentieth century.

The Kenilworth School is one of five elementary schools constructed in Phoenix between 1900 and 1925 in response to the city's rapid growth. The opening of the Santa Fe, Prescott and Phoenix Railroad in 1895, the completion of the Roosevelt Dam in 1911, and the granting of statehood to Arizona in 1912 generated an unprecedented increase in population. The years between 1900 and 1920 saw the population of Phoenix rise 500%, to exceed 29,000. Kenilworth School was intended to alleviate the already severely overcrowded conditions in the existing schools caused by this rapid population increase.

The elementary schools built prior to Kenilworth, the Adams School, opened in 1911, and the Monroe School, opened in 1914, were also built to provide sufficient educational facilities to service the steadily rising population. Both schools are of similar Neo Classic architecture and are listed in the National Register of Historic Places for their historic and architectural value to the city of Phoenix.

Kenilworth school was used as a catalyst by the Board of Education in its efforts to initiate a public campaign for construction of additional schools. The Board of Education expected the overcrowded conditions to prevail due to record school enrollments and used the opening of the Kenilworth School to arouse public interest in the needs of school children.

As a result of this effort, as well as the persistence of overcrowded conditions, two additional schools were built in the 1920's, the Emerson School (1920) and the Lowell School (1925, demolished 1981). Major additions were made to the Kenilworth School in 1926 and 1949, further attesting to the continued growth of Phoenix and the correlated expansion of public school capacity. The Phoenix Union High School, a complex of four buildings completed in 1928, was also part of the movement to provide educational facilities.

Architecturally, the Neo Classic design of the Kenilworth School provides an appropriate symbol of Phoenix's desire to convey a progressive and prosperous image. In the decades following the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago, Neo Classical architecture emerged as a national architectural style based on its association with the country's

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Frankeberger, Robert, Phoenix Historic Building Survey, Charles Hall Page and Associates, San Francisco, 1979.

"Kenilworth School Will Help Relieve Crowded Conditions", The Arizona Republican, September 16, 1920, pl.

**ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 4.49

Quadrangle name Phoenix, Arizona

**UTM NOT VERIFIED**  
Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

A 

1	2	3	0	9	6	2	0	3	7	0	2	8	6	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

C 

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D 

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H 

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

The property is bounded by Culver Street to the North, 5th Avenue to the East, Moreland Street to the South and 7th Avenue to the West.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	code
state		code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mary M. Chrisney (Edited by Arizona State Parks, Historic Preservation Section February 1982)

organization The Orcutt/Winslow Partnership

date July 1, 1981

street & number 1109 North Second Street

telephone 257-1764

city or town Phoenix

state Arizona

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*Ann A. Pritclaff*

title Arizona State Historic Preservation Officer

date 28 January 1982

For HCERS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the National Register

date 3/25/82

Keeper of the National Register

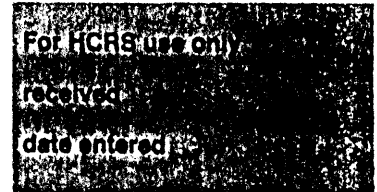
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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democratic origins. The Neo Classic style was universally applied to schools and public buildings in the early twentieth century, hence the architectural design of the Kenilworth School corresponds with this prevailing national trend. The symbolism inherent in the Neo Classic style was particularly appropriate in Arizona as the state had only recently achieved statehood and was eager to associate with the national identity. In this regard, all of the public schools in Phoenix constructed in this early twentieth century period are of similar Neo Classic design, a fact which reinforces the intended architectural image.

The Kenilworth School is one of only a few projects where the three architects, Marsh, Howard and Wallingford, collaborated on the planning and design. The existence of buildings designed individually by Marsh and Wallingford, both before and after the Kenilworth School, makes Kenilworth notable as an example of their combined efforts.

Norman F. Marsh, a regionally well known architect from Los Angeles, designed the Monroe School in 1914. This is also a major Neo Classic style building and has a close resemblance to Kenilworth. The Monroe School was considered the most modern school in the state when constructed. Marsh also designed the 1926 First Presbyterian Church.

Vere O. Wallingford established his practice in Phoenix in 1914. Wallingford's participation in the Kenilworth School is significant, since prior to the 1920's most major buildings in Phoenix were designed by Los Angeles architects. His work on Kenilworth apparently led to further school commissions. After his affiliation with Marsh on the Kenilworth School, Wallingford designed the Emerson (1920) and the Lowell (demolished) schools. His other Phoenix buildings include the Grace Lutheran Church (1928) and the original section of the Good Samaritan Hospital.

Marsh and Wallingford were also the architects for the 1926 addition to the Kenilworth School. The complete duplication of materials and details makes this enlargement indiscipherable from the original building. The 1949 addition by the Phoenix architectural firm of Leshner and Mahoney also conforms with the earlier design.

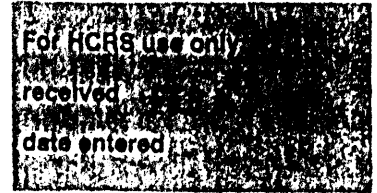
Kenilworth School is situated in the center of an early twentieth century residential neighborhood. Its function as a neighborhood school and its construction concurrent with the neighborhood's development establish a strong link between the school and the residents of the surrounding community. The prominent local residents who attended Kenilworth School include Arizona Senators Barry Goldwater and Paul Fannin, Phoenix Mayor Margaret Hance, and Harry Rosenzweig, a prominent business and political leader in Phoenix. One of the few large structures in the area, the school is also a major visual, as well as historical, focus of the neighborhood.

The Kenilworth School is presently undergoing rehabilitation for continued use as an elementary school and will be the last historic school building in downtown Phoenix still in use for educational purposes. The rehabilitation is being done with sensitivity to the existing features and will maintain the building's architectural qualities.

The historic and architectural values of the Kenilworth School were initially recognized through an inventory of significant structures conducted by the Federal Highway Administration in conjunction with the planning of the proposed Papago Freeway. As a result of the investigation by the FHWA, the school was determined eligible for the National Register (4/8/77, criteria B and C) for its association with prominent Phoenix citizens and as a fine example of the Neo Classical style.

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Representation in Existing Surveys - Item 6

Federal Highway Administration Inventory of Historic Properties in Proposed Interstate 10 - Inner Loop Corridor, conducted by Right-of-Way Division, Arizona Department of Transportation, December, 1976.

An Initial Survey of Historic Resources within the Phoenix Metropolitan Area, Maricopa County, Arizona, prepared for the United States Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District Office, Los Angeles, California, February 1977.

Additional Bibliographic References - Item 9

Barney, James, "Early Public School History of Phoenix", Sheriff Magazine, February 1958, p. 17-31.

Kenilworth School 1920-21 - 1970-71, program for the Golden Anniversary Assembly of Kenilworth School, published by the Kenilworth Club, March 12, 1971.

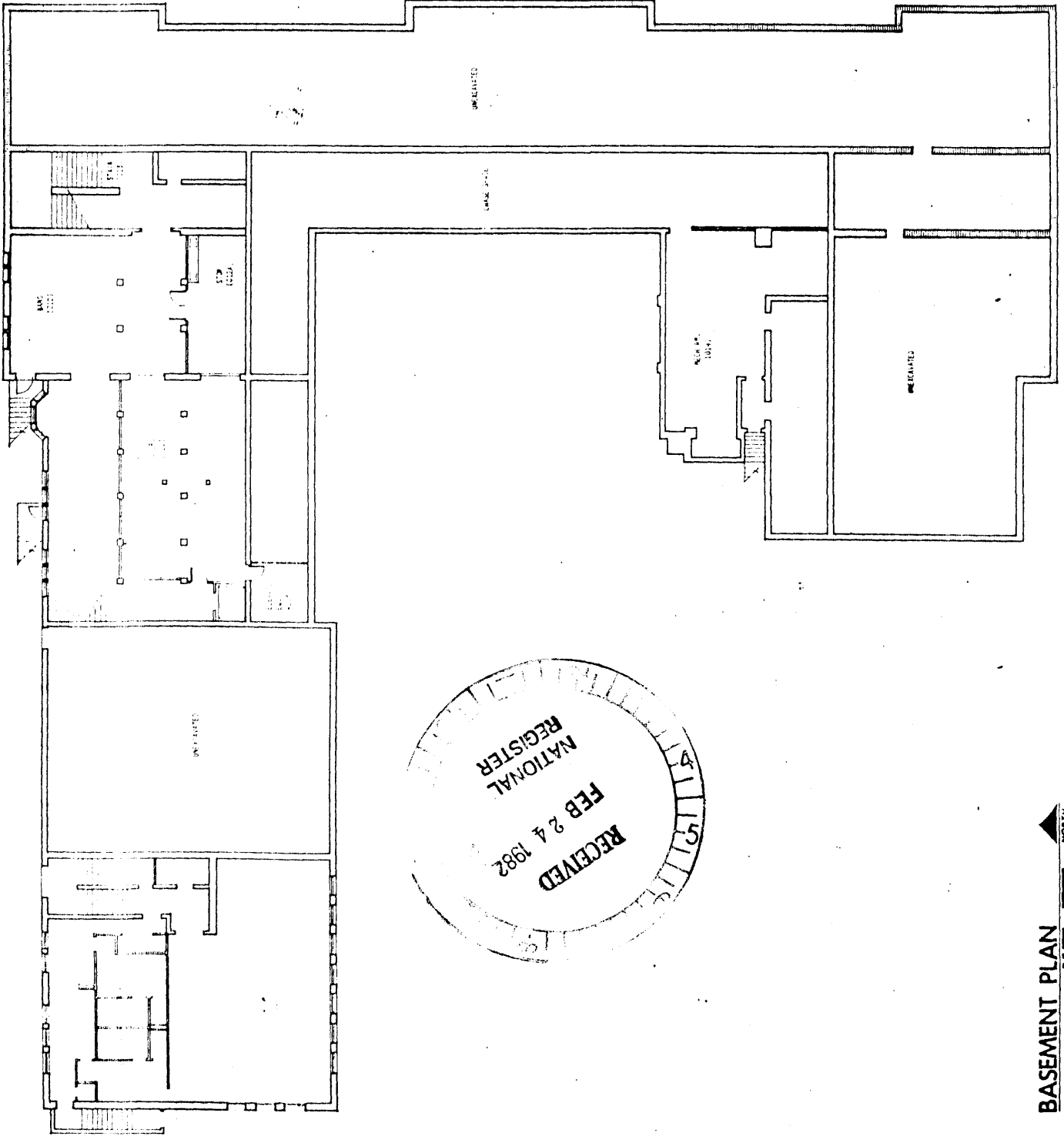
"Kenilworth School Faces Bulldozer's Leveling Blade", Arizona Republic, November 25, 1971.

**The Orcutt/Winslow Partnership**  
 Architects • Planners  
 Phoenix, Arizona • 1971 P.A.

**KENILWORTH SCHOOL RENOVATION**  
 PHOENIX, ARIZONA

**BASEMENT PLAN**

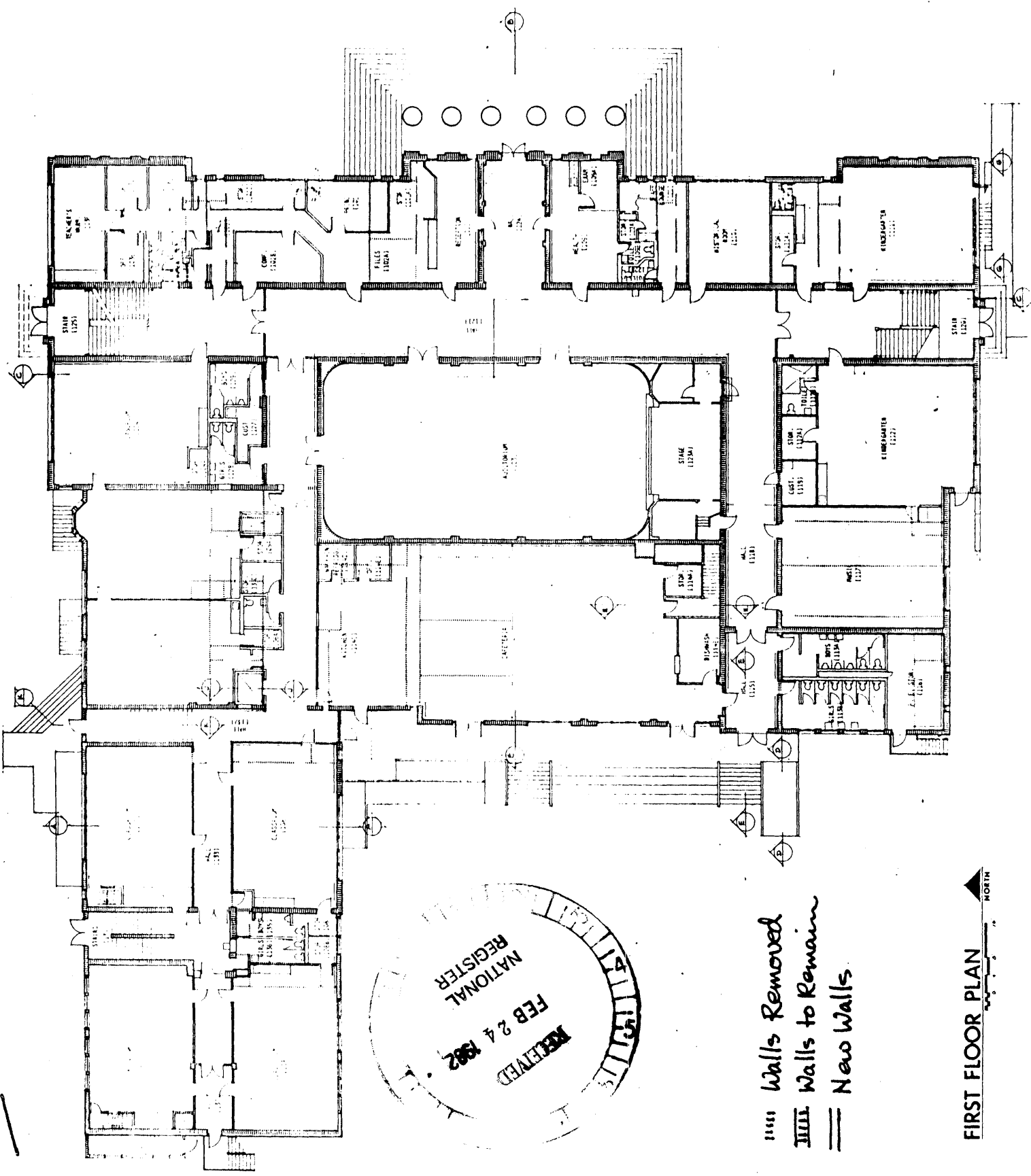
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**BASEMENT PLAN**



<b>The Orcutt/Winslow Partnership</b> Architects - Planners Phoenix, Arizona 85014-1947, Inc.	<b>KENILWORTH</b> SCHOOL RENOVATION PHOENIX, ARIZONA	Project Number: 8011
		<b>FIRST FLOOR PLAN</b>



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- - - - - Walls Removed  
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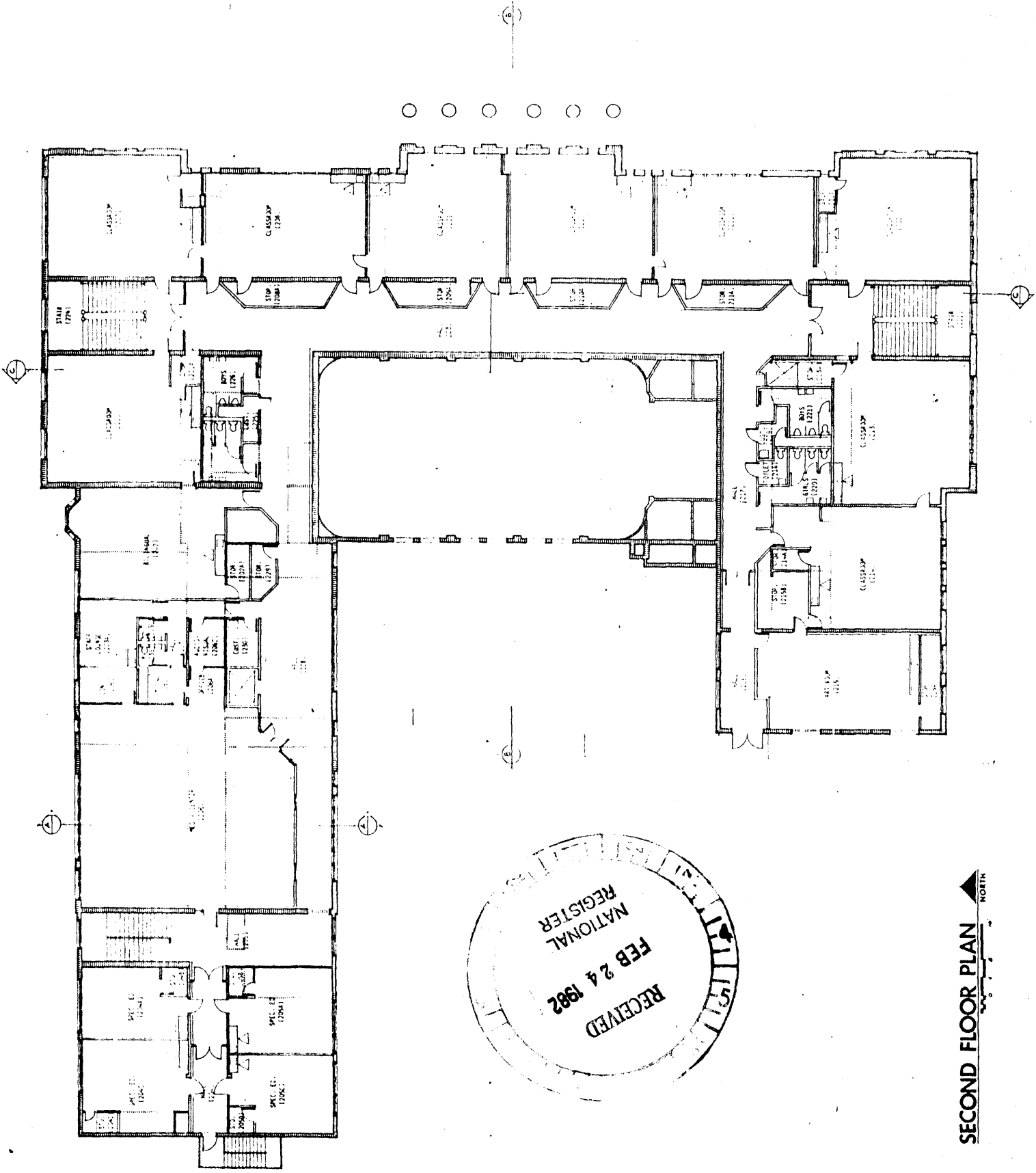
FIRST FLOOR PLAN



The Orcutt/Winslow Partnership  
 Architects/Planners  
 1000 N. 1st St., Suite 200  
 Kenilworth, NJ 07033

**KENILWORTH  
 SCHOOL DISTRICT  
 SECOND FLOOR PLAN**

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 Project: \_\_\_\_\_



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SECOND FLOOR PLAN NORTH