

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

DEC - 2

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name District No. 98 Schoolhouse

other names/site number Stockton School

2. Location

street & number 19 South Main Street not for publication

city or town Stockton Borough vicinity

state New Jersey code NJ county Hunterdon code 019 zip code 08559

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. See continuation sheet for additional comments.

[Signature] Signature of certifying official/Title 11/12/04 Date

John S. Watson, Jr., Assistant Commissioner Natural & Historic Resources/DSHPO
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet for additional comments.

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

[Signature] Edson H. Beall 1-12-05

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION / school

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION / school

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

High Victorian Gothic

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone

walls wood

roof asphalt

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8 Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria considerations

(mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION

Period of Significance

1872 - 1884

Significant Dates

1872

April 12, 1873

1884

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Bird, James (architect, 1872)

Butterfoss & Williamson (builders, 1872)

Primary location of additional data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Stockton Borough Board of Education, Stockton, NJ

District No. 98 Schoolhouse
Name of Property

Hunterdon Co., NJ
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of property Less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	18	502112	4472710	3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2				4			

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Joanne Nestor
organization _____ date January 2004
street & number 3 Church Street telephone (609) 777-3596
city or town Stockton state NJ zip code 08559

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Stockton Borough Board of Education
street & number 19 South Main Street telephone (609) 397-2012
city or town Stockton state NJ zip code 08559

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

District No.98 Schoolhouse
Hunterdon Co., NJ

Section number 7 Page 1

The District No. 98 Schoolhouse in Stockton Borough, Hunterdon County, New Jersey, is a one-story, frame school building on a raised basement that was first built in 1872 and then enlarged in 1884. Commonly known as the Stockton School, it stands on a lot of less than one acre on the northeasterly side of New Jersey Route 29 (South Main Street in Stockton Borough). It stands on the site of an earlier schoolhouse built in 1832 that was demolished to clear the site for the current building. (The cornerstone of the first school was cemented into the basement wall of the current building, and the general public often still confuses the current building for the earlier one [see Photo #12]). The schoolhouse lot is narrow, with only about 60 feet of frontage along South Main Street, extending back up a hillside that rises from within the lot (see Photos #3,4). Another lot that abuts to the south is shared by the school and the neighboring Saint Agnes Roman Catholic Church. Under church ownership, this second lot is not part of the nominated property, even though the schoolchildren use the lot as a playground.

The District No.98 Schoolhouse was designed by Lambertville architect James Bird. It has an L-shaped plan consisting of a main section of 27 by 50 feet oriented with its long side parallel to South Main Street. The rather steeply-pitched gable roofs also intersect in a 'L,' rather than a 'T.' A small addition of 25 by 27 feet was added in 1884, projecting toward the street, and making the L-plan even more pronounced. (The extent of the two sections is made clear in the floor plan.) The roofs were originally clad in slate, but they are covered with asphalt shingles today. The school lot is a sloping one, and that fact caused the rear of the main block of the school to be embanked into the bottom of the hillside, thus requiring a raised, stone cellar and permitting the wing to be given a large and useable basement with a classroom above. High Victorian Gothic features, given a vernacular interpretation, compose the design. Throughout, the building is dominated by features that survive from the 1872 and 1884 constructions.

Exterior Description

1872 Section

The older portion of the school stands to the rear of the 1884 addition. The northern wing of this building contains the main entrance, in a narrow bay that projects from the facade. This bay has a front-facing gable roof that accentuates the Gothic flavor of the school's design with an integral vergeboard and prominent finial. The entrance is reached from the ground by a flight of several stairs to a single-leaf door that opens inward within a lancet-arch door surround. The transom bar above the door allows for a trefoil transom within the arch. A single window in either side of the facade flanked the entrance bay. These features are clearly shown in a historic photograph of the building as it was shortly after completion (see the historic photos; for more about this photo, see the significance statement). Remarkably, the building was originally heated by a coal-fired furnace in the cellar, with heat piped to the rooms. Evidently none of the original radiators survives, although at least one early replacement radiator is still present (Photo #10). Two small chimneys are shown in the ca.1873 photograph; they apparently would have been used for ventilating the classrooms. Neither remains, however, because they were removed following changes made in 1952 (see below). A conversion of the heating system at that time required construction of a large, exterior chimney beside the northside entrance (Photo #2). Today, the

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projecting entrance bay with its door surround and trefoil transom, and one of its flanking windows in the facade all remain. The lower half of the finial also remains, but the upper half and the vergeboard have been removed. The original door has also been replaced.

The portion of the wing projecting toward the street that was constructed in 1872 has also been rather well preserved. The 1873 photo shows a double-leaf entrance on the north side, reached by several steps, and a similar set of steps on the south side, leading to another entrance not shown. A gang of three double-hung sash windows were installed to the side of the entrance, near the interior angle of the 'L.' The western elevation formed, in effect, part of the facade of the school. It featured the raised, stone basement with a central, double-leaf door flanked by 2/2 sash windows. The tall first story above featured a central pair of ganged 1/1 windows flanked by a 1/1 window on either side in a symmetrical arrangement. Two small Gothic Revival triangular windows illuminated the attic. Between them rises the framing of a wooden bellcote that provided the focal point for this elevation.

According to another historic photo taken after the 1884 wing was constructed, the north end of the 1872 schoolhouse featured a gang of six similar 1/1 sash windows, another pair of triangular Gothic windows, and a finial in the gable. A comparable gang of six windows occupies the analogous position on the south side and a gang of three windows in the south side of the wing occupies the position analogous to its counterpart on the north side. All of these first-story windows articulate the High Victorian Gothic Revival theme with plain wood moldings around the upper half of the windows. The simplicity of this molding, together with the other architectonic features of the building, show the school to be a vernacular interpretation of the High Victorian Gothic style.

The entrance staircases to the school have all been rebuilt, probably more than once. Originally of wood, today they are of concrete with metal pipe railings (Photos #2 and 5). A fourth entrance has been added to the south side, probably in recent decades. This new door near the southeast corner was constructed interrupting the gang of six windows. Other changes to the south side of the 1872 section include the replacement of the original double-leaf door and transom (shown in one of the historic photos) with a single-leaf modern replacement door with a glazed upper panel but no transom. To its side two 1/1 sash windows have been added in the 20th century, much smaller than the 19th-century windows used to illuminate the classrooms.

1884 Addition

The 1884 addition, which projected the wing further toward the street, added a cellar coal room (now a kindergarten classroom) and a single classroom above. At the cellar level, it provided an open passage between the north and south schoolyards that has been closed in recent years to create a small office and storage area (compare the late 19th-century historic photo with current photos #2 and 5). This passage reduced by about a third the size of the basement room compared to the classroom above. This basement room was lit by 2/2

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windows, 2 on the north side, 2 on the south side, and 2 on the west side. Each window was protected with a pair of paneled shutters.

The west end wall of the 1884 addition contains the first-story and attic windows that were originally installed in the west end wall of the 1872 schoolhouse. They were brought forward into the same positions in the addition when it was constructed. The 1872 bellcote was left in its place, and the gable of the addition was topped with a large finial instead. The north and south first-story walls were pierced by gangs of six 1/1 sash windows, apparently identical to those installed in 1872.

Interior Description

(See Photos #6-11) Most of the original spaces remain as they were designed in the original plans of the building, but cosmetic upgrades to the classrooms over the years make it difficult to determine how much of the original interior fabric remains. Original floors and plaster ceilings evidently remain in most of the classrooms, the former obscured by carpeting and the latter by suspended ceilings. The middle portion of the building (the end of the 1872 wing, between the twin, double-leaf [originally], north and south entrances) has been altered (see 1952 Alterations, below) to provide boys' and girls' bathrooms and a small storage room. It is unclear how this space was originally arranged, but physical evidence of its original arrangement and finishes may yet remain. In addition, it would appear that this space was first altered to accommodate the 1884 addition, because entry into the first-story classroom must have been through this middle portion.

Three classrooms comprise the principal feature of the plan. As already noted, one occupies the first story of the 1884 addition; the other two occupy the north and south ends of the 1872 section. Two small bathrooms have been added to the northern classroom, beside the original main entrance of 1872. A teacher's bathroom and a small office have been carved out of a storage space next to the southeastern classroom. A rear door at the northeastern corner of the northern classroom provides a secondary means of egress for that room. It is unclear whether this door was an original feature, or when it was installed. A joined pair of windows in the 1952 plan drawing of the school (see below), suggesting that such windows were an original feature, but they have been removed sometime since (see Photo #4). Blackboards in the rooms are modern replacements.

1952 Alterations

The most extensive alterations to the building occurred in 1952, designed by Hunt & Gregory, a Lambertville firm, and drawings for these alterations have survived dated June 1952. Boys and girls bathrooms, a janitor's closet and a small storage space were created in the middle part of the plan between the two southern classrooms. The layout of these bathrooms required changing the southern entrance from the original double-leaf door that opened inward to a single-leaf door that opened outward (for fire safety). It also led to the installation of two small sash windows to illuminate the bathrooms (Photo #5). Fluorescent lighting was evidently added to the classrooms at this time. Plans for these alterations indicate that the original 1872 bellcote was removed at this time, and that fiberglass insulation and new diagonal bracing were added to the attic space.

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The Grounds

Today, the schoolhouse stands surrounded by an asphalt-paved schoolyard the southern portion of which, as noted above, is a separate lot owned by the neighboring Roman Catholic church and is not part of this nomination. A corrugated steel guardrail and a chain-link fence long the frontage of the lot along South Main Street (NJ Route 29). A gate in the fence provides access to the northerly portion of the schoolyard. (Photo #1). A shallow, stone retaining wall, evidently part of the original construction, extends for about twenty feet from the northwesterly corner of the 1872 section of the building. Topped with large, flat, coping stones, this feature is constructed in a similar manner to many wing walls of 19th-century stone bridges. The children's playground equipment and most of the small playground are placed within the southern portion of the schoolyard on the church lot (Photos 2 and 5).

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Statement of Significance

Summary

The District No. 98 Schoolhouse, more commonly known as the “Stockton School,” has been important for its local role in public education. The building occupies a site that has been used for primary education at least since the early 1830s, and the present building, which was constructed in 1872-73 and enlarged in 1884, was the local representative of the new generation of rural public schools that emerged in the wake of New Jersey’s public school law of 1867. These schools embodied the design concepts of the 19th-century education reformers who staffed the emerging bureaucracy of local and county superintendents under the *aegis* of the State’s superintendent of public instruction. The District No. 98 schoolhouse possesses local significance under National Register Criteria A and C for this aspect of educational history.

Historical Background

The Borough of Stockton represents a stretch of approximately one mile along the Delaware River that evidently witnessed its earliest European settlement during the first decade of the 18th century. The northern end of this area encompasses the mouth of the Wickecheoke Creek, a stream that was exploited for millsites sometime before the mid-century. By the 19th century it would come to be known as Prallsville or Prall’s Mills. The southern end of the present Stockton is centered about a smaller stream around which the hamlet of Brookville emerged. The middle of Stockton Borough today where the Stockton School stands is situated about half-way between the two hamlets. This middle part contained a ferry site, long known as Howell’s Ferry in the eighteenth century, and Ferry Street in Stockton remains to this day as a link to the site of this enterprise.

Ferries attracted taverns, and Stockton has long boasted a very old one. The early history of the building and enterprise known as Colligan’s Stockton Inn is obscure—some believe that its origins date from 1710—but certainly it was in existence before the end of the 18th century. In the early 19th century, this tavern and the middle portion of the present Stockton Borough received a significant encouragement when Bridge Street was laid out and the bridge at its west end was built across the Delaware River. This was the third of three bridges thrown across the Delaware in those years, the first at Trenton and the second between Easton and Phillipsburg. This one, being about midway between the other two, became the “Center Bridge,” a name that once belonged to both sides of the river and by which the hamlet at the west side of the river opposite Stockton is still known.¹

The era of the canals provided the next major impetus to the growth of Center Bridge. Construction began in 1832 on the feeder canal of the Delaware & Raritan Canal system and was completed two years later. Through the 18th century, the entire area had remained part of the Township of Amwell, in Hunterdon County, but Amwell was broken up in 1838 to incorporate Delaware Township which included the territory of the present Stockton Borough. Railroad agitation began within a few years after the canal was completed, and in the early 1850s the Belvidere Delaware Railroad reached Stockton, coming up the river from Trenton.² The name “Stockton” itself would emerge during this period.

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It was at the time of the canal construction, if not earlier, that the first schoolhouse was added to the growing village. The lot on which the present Stockton School stands is cited as a school lot in a deed for property transferred in 1841,³ but the earliest schoolhouse on the property was evidently built in 1832. That is the date carved into a stone cemented into the basement wall of the present school and left over from the previous building. Although little is known about this first schoolhouse, several sources, (most reliably an 1870 history of Hunterdon schools by county school superintendent Cornelius S. Conkling) agree on the 1832 date and indicate that it was an octagon schoolhouse. Several such schools were built in Hunterdon County and an even larger number in Bucks County where they originated. Octagon schoolhouses originated in the Delaware Valley, where they were a popular schoolhouse type during the first half of the nineteenth century.⁴ During the second quarter of the 19th century, however, a broad movement of educational reform emerged nationally, led by New Englanders, which pushed hard for design standards for new schoolhouses. Such standards enforced rectangularity in school buildings. The last octagon schoolhouse in the Delaware Valley was built outside Flemington in 1851, and by the time the Stockton school committee decided to replace its building, it was a forgone conclusion that the replacement would not be octagonal.

Beginning in 1827, rural schools in New Jersey were overseen by locally elected "school committees" of three or more members. These committees were responsible for hiring and firing teachers, buying school supplies, and administering the township's portion of the State education fund. And they could solicit voluntary contributions for the repair or replacement of schoolhouses. A large township such as Delaware Township would have been divided into several school "districts," each of which was the neighborhood from which the children attended a particular school. The schools were not free. Teachers charged each pupil a quarterly tuition, and a school year typically included a winter and a summer session, each three months long. After the Civil War, the districts became numbered in a formal system. The octagon schoolhouse in Stockton served school district no.98, one of Hunterdon County's 107 school districts. With the approval of the school committees, districts sometimes entered into cooperative arrangements. If two adjoining districts each had few school-age children, they might pool their resources and operate a "union" school district, sharing one schoolhouse but maintaining their separate district identities. But New Jersey in the 1860s had about 1400 school districts (people today complain because there remain more than 600!), and reducing that number became an objective of the school reformers. The way to do that was consolidation, an actual merger of school districts that would allow one larger school building to replace two smaller ones. That's what happened in Stockton. "Consolidated No. 98" was created in June 1872 when districts 98 and 99 agreed to merge. Upon petition of the inhabitants of the districts 98 and 99, the county superintendent of schools ordered the consolidation. At that point, the new District 98 school trustees began to keep a new volume of the minutes of their meetings, and that volume has provided most of the information from which the following chronicle of construction is taken.

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The decision to build a new school was put into effect immediately after consolidation. It followed only a few years after New Jersey in 1867 adopted a public school law that enabled township school committees to tax the inhabitants of their districts to pay for the construction and repairs of school buildings. In 1873, E.A. Apgar, the New Jersey superintendent of public instruction, commenting on this provision in the 1867 law, estimated that the ability to tax had resulted in more than a five-fold increase of new school construction. The District 98 schoolhouse was one of the more than 80 new schools that Apgar enumerated that year. He wrote "Consolidated Stockton, No. 98, rejoices in a neat, commodious, and well-arranged school edifice, standing on the old site, and which is now certainly an ornament to the rising village."⁵

Design work and site preparation for the new school were completed during the summer of 1872. In July the committee arranged with William H. Sweeney to demolish the octagon schoolhouse, and the old lumber and refuse material were sold at public sale on August 17th. They brought six dollars and ninety-two cents. One supposes that the old foundation stone was reused in the new building; certainly the datestone was (Photo #12). James Bird, a Lambertville architect, was paid \$25. for his design drawings for the new building. He had designed the Stockton Presbyterian Church across the street just a few years before, so his work was already known and appreciated.

The committee awarded construction contracts on August 30, 1872. Henry Everit was awarded the masonry contract and Joseph H. Butterfoss and A.C. Williamson were given the carpentry contract. The contracts were signed on September 2nd. Edward Pike was hired to perform necessary excavation and finish grading. Everitt was to receive \$150. when he completed the foundation walls and \$399. more when all of the work was completed. He probably also constructed the brick chimneys that ventilated the classrooms. In late September the board also hired Everit to build the wing walls (one appears in the ca.1873 photograph) and some unspecified additional work. Butterfoss and Williamson were to receive \$600 when the building was framed, and \$500 more when the roof and floors were completed. They were to fully finish the construction by December 15, 1872, and then receive a final payment of \$1,088. The committee then rented the former schoolhouse of District 99, to use during the months of construction.

Construction did not proceed smoothly, however. The school trustees levied a district tax to pay for the construction, but many residents refused to pay the levy, which probably would have more than doubled their school-related taxes that year. Their reluctance is perhaps understandable. There was no bonding, no borrowing or other financing mechanism; the district had no means to spread the costs over a term of years. They were locked into paying cash as they went along, and although taxation distributed the burden fairly, it fell heavily on the whole district. The Delaware Township tax collector stated that he was not legally responsible to collect the tax, which was only levied against one of Delaware's several districts. In the middle of this dispute, the contractors suspended operations. Both Everitt and Butterfoss and Williamson filed their contracts with the county clerk, a sign that they were poised to file mechanic liens if they remained unsatisfied. The school trustees called a special public meeting on January 30, 1873. They threatened to sue the township tax collector

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if he did not collect the special school district tax. When the collector finally complied, the contractors resumed work. They finished the building in time for a spring dedication. The new coal furnace was supplied by Dunn & Brother, a downtown Trenton hardware and stove merchant, for \$178. J.W. Schermerhorn & Co. furnished the new desks and other school furniture for \$417.60.

The new District 98 schoolhouse was dedicated on April 12, 1873. At the ceremony, state assemblyman H.L. Hoppock presided. One local minister read from Scripture and another gave a prayer of dedication. O.H. Sproul, one of the school trustees as well as the district clerk, read a statement of the monies expended on the building. The final cost was more than three thousand dollars, much more than it cost to run the school for a year. The featured speaker was none other than county schools superintendent Conkling, who in a "jubilant" address opined that "the inhabitants of the district were delighted with the new building." In addition to the dedication, a photograph was taken of the school, apparently about the same time. The photographer has not yet been identified, but he captured an engaging view of the schoolchildren, the older ones standing in front of the school, the younger ones sitting on the wing wall. The two teachers are standing above their charges, on the steps leading to the two front entrances. This photo must have been taken no earlier than during the early spring of 1873, when the building was completed. It shows the building at a time of year when the trees were not in leaf and on a relatively warm day following a cold spell, because while few of the students are wearing heavy coats, small patches of what appear to be unmelted snow can be seen from behind the north side of the school. Three of the windows were also left open. It seems likely that the photo was taken at approximately the date of the school's dedication, but not on that occasion exactly, because the teachers and students are the only ones present (see ca.1873 photo).

Buildings with central heating were still rather uncommon, for in the February 13, 1874 issue of the *Lambertville Beacon*, a letter was published following a visit to the school:

Letter from Stockton: On Tuesday of this week, we paid a visit to our public school. We were first shown in the basement and examined the method by which the schoolhouse is heated. This was done by a large heater, with pipes running into each room, and although the day was quite cold and the basement open, we found the school rooms sufficiently warm. This heater cost \$178.00, all completed, ready for use, and so far not five tons of coal have been consumed this winter, which is certainly a small quantity when we take into consideration the size of the schoolhouse and no one doubts its great superiority over a stove.

From the basement we were conducted into the room occupied by the more advanced scholars. We found the school well supplied with Monteith's maps, a globe, and a large blackboard. In looking over the register, we counted 70 scholars upon the list, 37 of whom had regularly attended every session of the school during the last three weeks. The register of the juvenile department showed an attendance of 50 children and an average daily attendance of 35."

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As Stockton's railroad connection helped drive its population upward, the pressure of crowding in the school soon surfaced. The *Beacon* reported on September 21, 1877 that "the primary department of the public school has received such an increase in numbers that it is uncomfortably crowded. Some immediate plan will have to be adopted to remedy this, to make two separate departments or enlarge the room." According to the school minutes, the trustees were already renting extra rooms at \$40 per year to handle the overflow of students. In Conkling's 1880 annual report on the Hunterdon schools, he singled out three districts, including Stockton, for the repairs they made to their buildings. His report does not specify what repairs District no.98 made, but they may have included a rebuilding of the entry porches to make them safer for the children. The two porches on the north side of the school were both rebuilt between the taking of the ca.1873 photograph and the taking of the next oldest photo, sometime after 1884.

In March 1884 the district's voters met at the schoolhouse and decided to spend up to \$1500 to enlarge the school. According to the minutes, "It was agreed to advertise for proposals for building an addition to the main school building, the cellar to be finished and the room overhead to be built in the same style as the present large Assembly room and finished the same." Butterfoss, by this time no longer partnered with Williamson, won the carpentry contract with a bid of \$640, but he lost it when he found himself unable to adhere to the schedule that the school trustees demanded for the construction. Instead it went to Stockton and Williamson, apparently Butterfoss's former partner, who had originally bid slightly higher but then agreed to match the low bid. The masonry contract for the basement was awarded to John Buck for \$310. Joseph Kinney was awarded a contract to paint the completed addition for \$57. On August 23, 1884, the trustees announced that the adjoining lot to the south could be purchased from the First Presbyterian Church of Stockton for \$300. Curiously, although there seems to be no record of an actual purchase of this lot [it remains owned by the adjacent Catholic church], the *Beacon* in September nevertheless reported that the horse sheds of the Presbyterian church that had occupied the lot were torn down and that the land would be used as playground for the school.⁶ It has evidently been used for this purpose ever since.

The addition itself was finished in time for the opening of school that September. It provided for a new first-story classroom that would increase the classrooms to three, and a basement room that would eventually become a fourth classroom. Between the west end of the 1872 building and the basement room of the addition, the builders left an open passage between the north side of the school and the south side. The reasons for leaving this space open are not entirely clear, but with essentially no space behind the schoolhouse, perhaps the teachers wanted to permit the pupils to pass to and from the playground lot without having to approach too closely to the road in front of the building. The bellcote of the 1872 building was left in place. The windows that had been installed in the west end wall of the 1872 schoolhouse were removed and reinstalled in the addition. The new windows in the addition were purchased to match those of the 1872 building. The new west end wall was given a finial comparable to those of 1872.

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The completion of the 1884 addition produced the exterior form and essentially the internal configuration of the schoolhouse that survives today. Subsequent changes have been relatively minor and largely internal. The Borough of Stockton was incorporated in 1898, and the three-man committee of school trustees was succeeded by the formation of the borough Board of Education in 1899. Since then, efforts have been made to meet the new and evolving requirements and mandates that have come to govern public school design and operation. The most significant changes were made in 1952, when the board hired Lambertville architects Hunt & Gregory (William M. Hunt and Jules Gregory) to design internal improvements. Drawings that they prepared in June 1952 show that their main task was the installation of bathrooms in the building (apparently until this time outhouses were used outside). This they accomplished principally by internal changes within the western end of the 1872 building. The space between the north- and south-side entrances, which may have originally been a passage, was converted into a boys' bathroom, and a girls' bathroom was constructed by shrinking the size of the southeastern classroom. As part of these changes, the bellcote and its attic framing were removed, the southern double-leaf door was removed and a single-leaf door was installed in its place, giving access only to the western, first-floor classroom.

Today, the Stockton School continues to serve its original use: a neighborhood, elementary public school.

Notes

¹ Dale, Frank T. *Bridges over The Delaware River: A History of Crossings* (New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 2003).

² Cunningham, John T., *Railroads in New Jersey: The Formative Years* (Andover, NJ: Afton Publishing Co., 1997): 143-144.

³ Deed of Thomas P. Holcombe to Eden B. Hunt, May 1, 1841, Hunterdon County Deeds, Book 77, p.108, Hunterdon County Clerk's Office, Flemington, NJ. This deed cites the schoolhouse lot as an exception and also claims that the schoolhouse lot was excepted from an earlier deed of October 17, 1827 from John Cavanaugh to Isaac and Joseph Scarborough, Hunterdon County Deeds, but that fact has not yet been confirmed.

⁴ Robert W. Craig, "Temples of Learning: Octagon Schoolhouses of the Delaware Valley" (unpublished M.S. thesis, Columbia University, 1988); and *ibid.*, "Oxford Valley and the Origin of the Eight-Square Schoolhouse," *Mercer Mosaic* 7, 1 (Winter 1990): 3-13.

⁵ *Report of the State Board of Education, And the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, For the School Year Ending August 31st, 1873* (Trenton, NJ: The State Gazette—Murphy & Bechtel, Book & Job Printers, [1873]), "Appendix to School Report," p.54.

⁶ *Lambertville Beacon*, September 12, 1884.

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National Park Service

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District No.98 Schoolhouse
Hunterdon Co., NJ

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Major Bibliographic References

Manuscripts

Craig, Robert W. "Temples of Learning: Octagon Schoolhouses of the Delaware Valley." (unpublished M.S. thesis, Columbia University, 1988).

Hunterdon County filed building contracts, #145, 146, Hunterdon County Historical Society, Flemington, NJ.

School District No. 98 Minute Book, 1872-1894. Stockton Borough Board of Education. Stockton, NJ.

Newspapers

Lambertville Beacon. several issues, 1873-1884.

Published Works

Naylor, Iris H. *Stockton, New Jersey, 300 Years of History*. Stockton, NJ: Albion Printers, 1998.

Snell, James P. *History of Hunterdon and Somerset Counties, New Jersey, with Illustrations of Biographical Sketches of the Prominent Men and Pioneers*. Philadelphia: Everts & Peck, 1881.

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National Park Service

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Section number 10 Page 1

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is identified as Block 27, Lot 7, of the Borough of Stockton tax map. A copy of the map is included in this nomination.

Boundary Justification Statement

The nominated property comprises the entire lot that was historically associated with the school.

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District No.98 Schoolhouse
Hunterdon Co., NJ

Section number Photos Page 1

Current Photographs

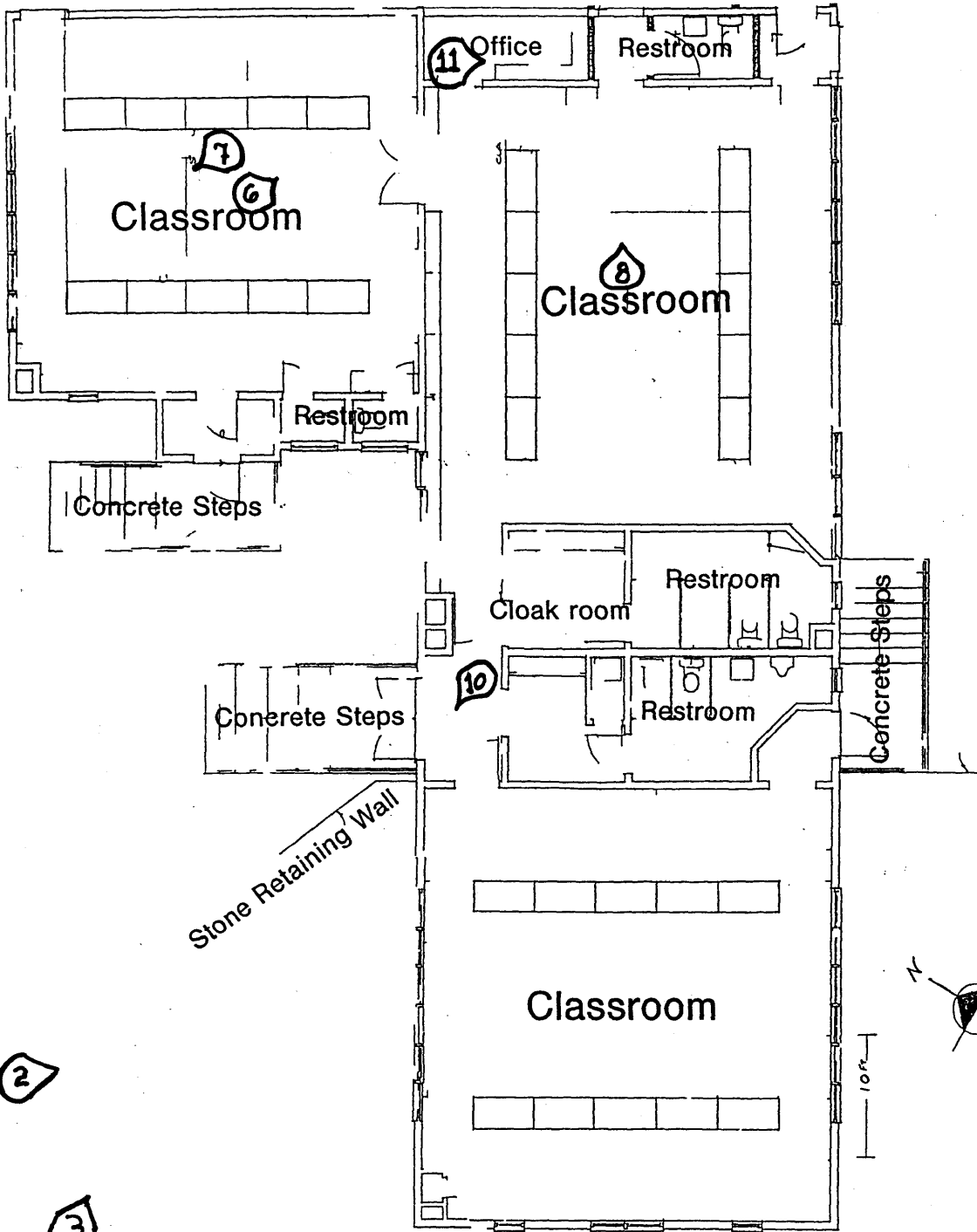
Photographs taken November 2003 by Joanne Nestor, 3 Church Street, Stockton, NJ 08559.
Negatives held by Joanne Nestor.

1. Exterior view of west end wall of schoolhouse, looking east
2. Exterior view of front of school, looking south
3. Exterior view of front of school, looking south
4. Exterior view of rear of school, looking west
5. Exterior view of southern elevation, looking north
6. Interior view of classroom
7. Interior view of classroom
8. Interior view of classroom
9. Interior view of kindergarten classroom, basement 1884 addition.
10. Interior view of north side entrance.
11. Interior view of teacher's office.
12. Detail of 1872 foundation wall, showing 1832 datestone.

Stockton School - Floor Plan

From W. Winthrop Jones, Architect, 1977

4



5

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3

State Route 29

1

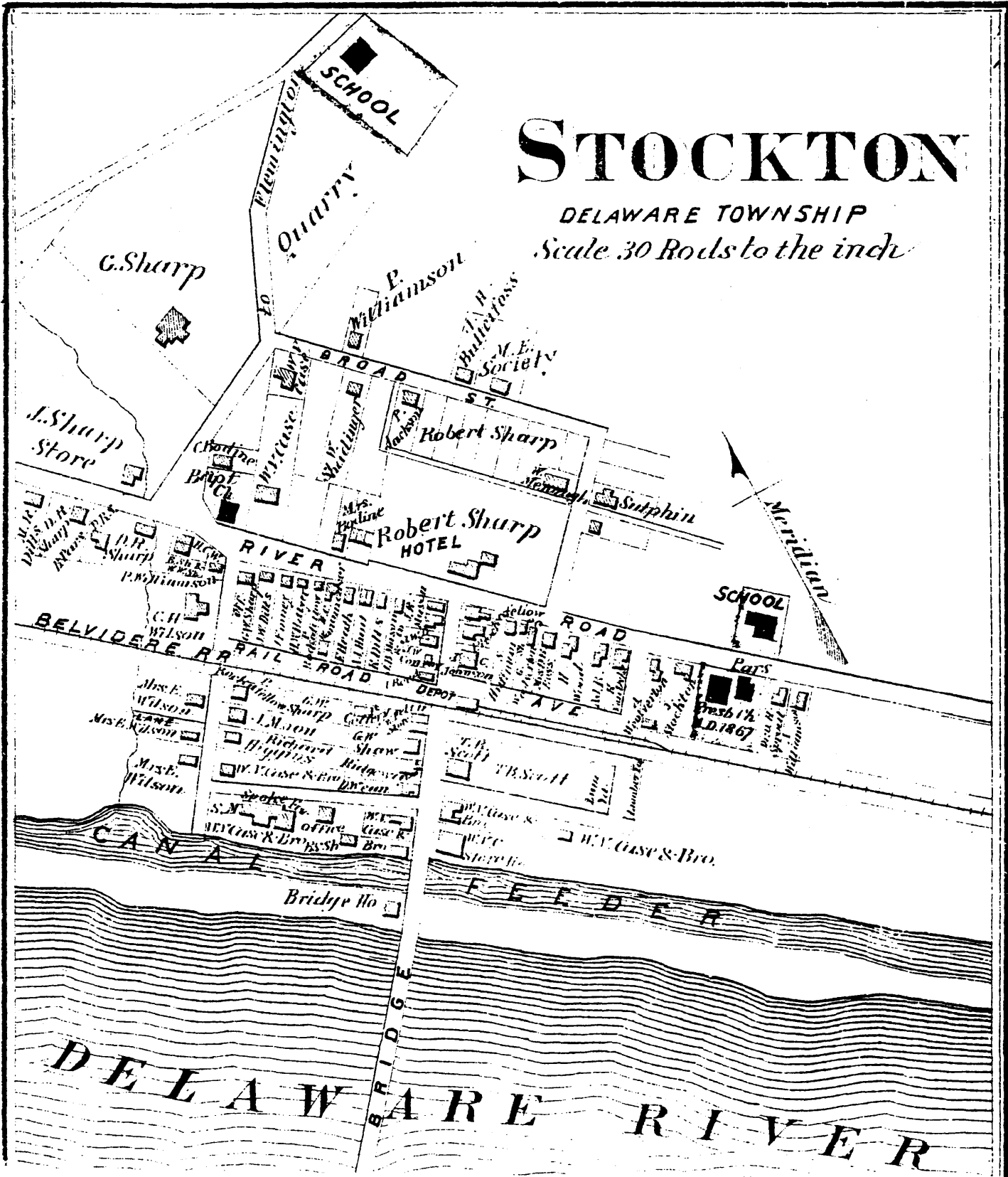
Photo Locations

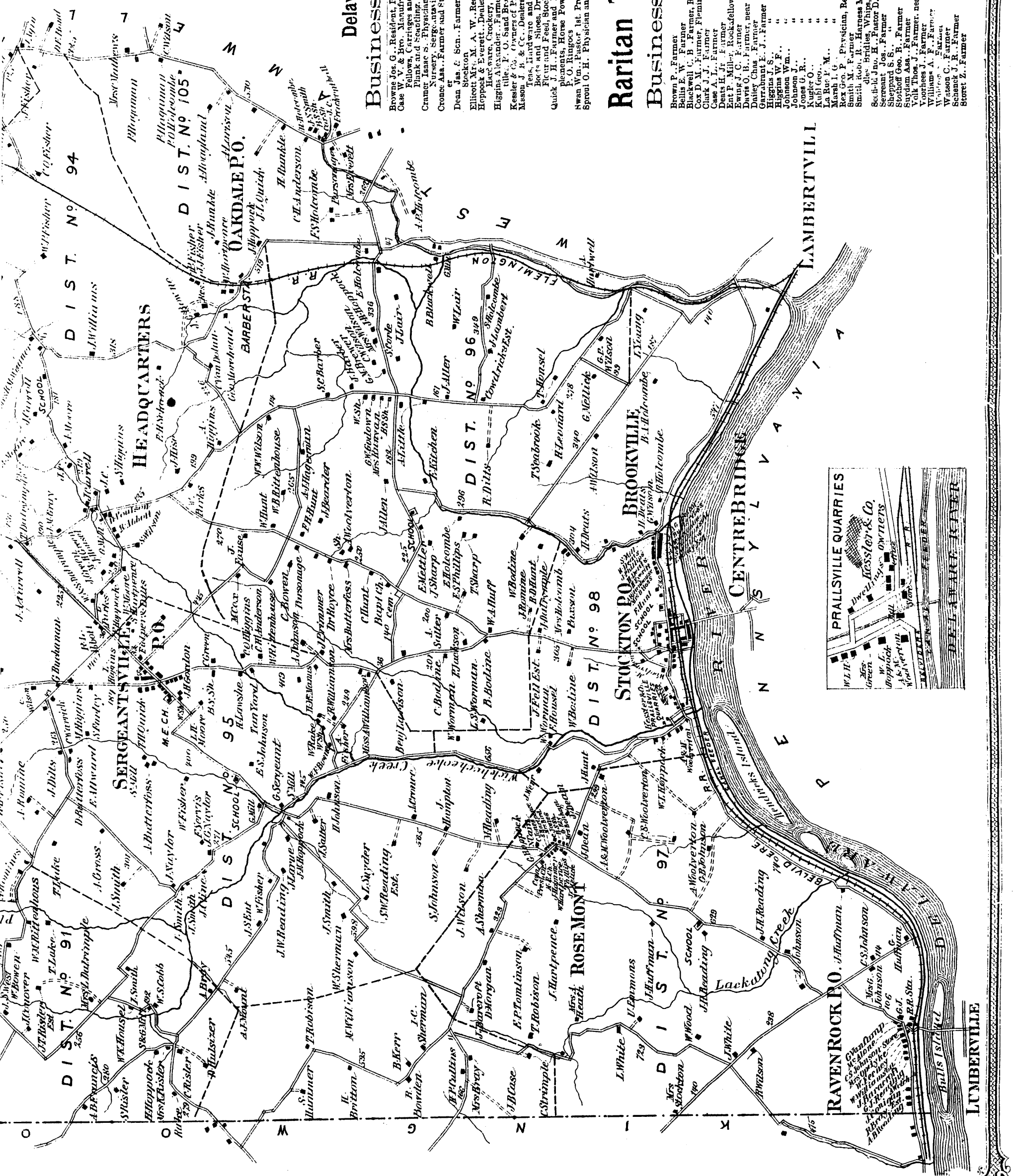
District No. 98 Schoolhouse
Stockton Borough
Hantserton County, NJ

STOCKTON

DELAWARE TOWNSHIP

Scale 30 Rods to the inch



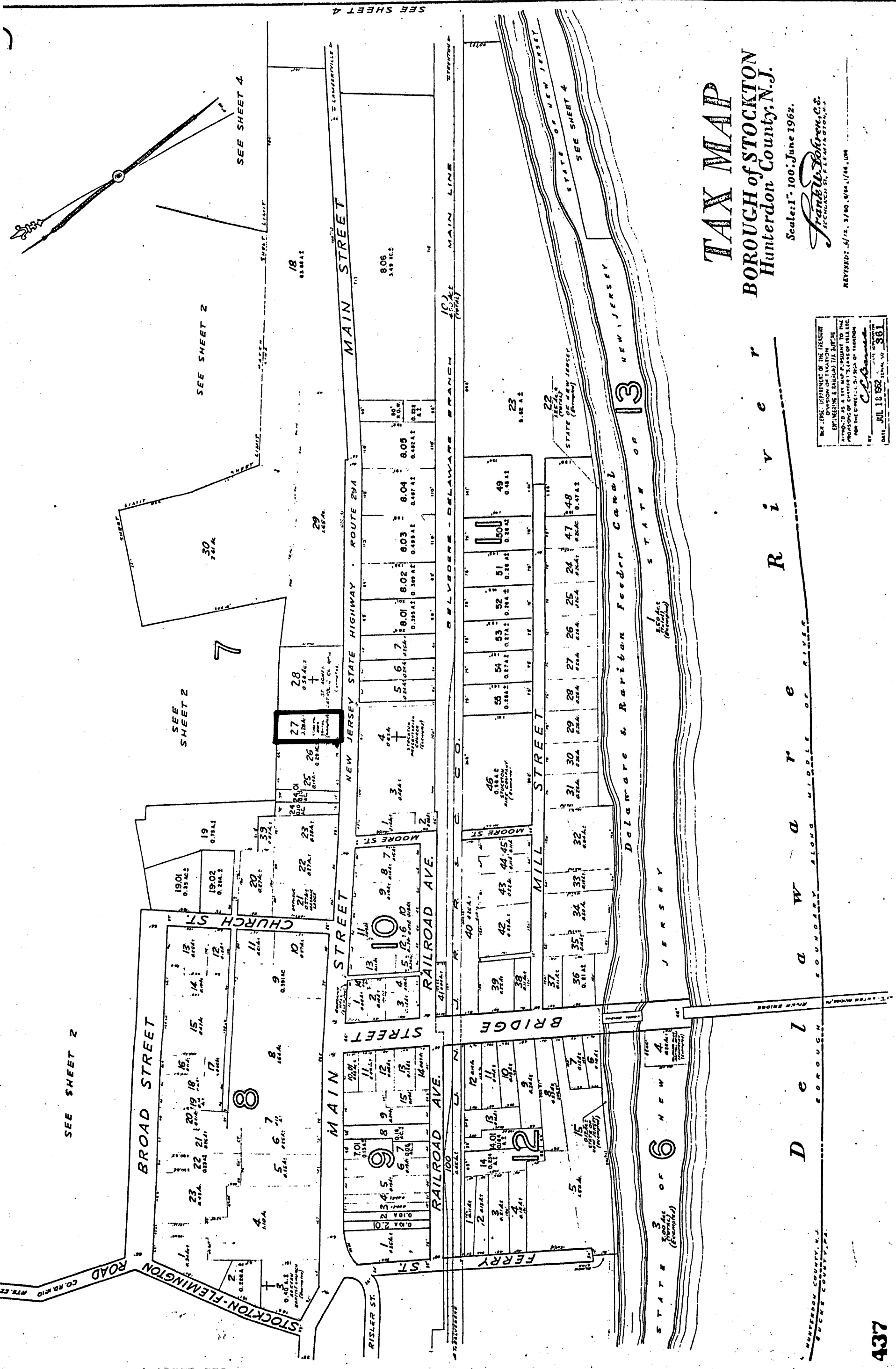


Delaware Business Notices

Brown Jos. G., Resident, P. O. Oakdale
 Case W. V. & Bro. Manufacturers and Importers of Spokes, Fellows, Carriages and Wagons of all kinds, and Plank and Scathing, Stockton
 Cramer Isaac S., Physician and Surgeon, and Proprietor, Nursery, Sergeantville
 Cronce Asa., Farmer and Stock Raiser and Fruit Grower
 Dean Jas. E. Son., Farmers and Stock Raisers, P. O. Stockton
 Elliott Mr. M. A. W., Resident, Croton
 Hopcott & Everett., Dealers in Dry Goods, Groceries, Hardware, Crockery, &c., Prattsville
 Higgins Alexander., Farmer and Apple Whiskey Distiller, P. O. Sand Brook
 Kessler J. B. & Co., Dealers in Dry Goods, Groceries, Tea, and Fine and Coarse Hardware, Prattsville
 Plummer and Fitch, Stockton
 Quick J. H., Farmer and Dealer in Agricultural Implements, Horse Powers, Mowers, Reapers, &c., P. O. Ringoes
 Swan Wm., Pastor 1st Presbyterian Church, Stockton
 Sprout O. H., Physician and Surgeon, Stockton

Raritan Township Business Notices

Brown P., Farmer
 Bullis E. W., Farmer
 Buckwell C. B., Farmer, Reaville
 Clark J. J., Farmer, Flemington
 Case A. J., Farmer
 Deans H. J., Farmer
 Ent P., Miller, Rockfellow & Ent
 Ewing J. C., Farmer
 Davis O. B., Farmer, near Flemington
 Dailey Chas., Farmer
 Garrabrant E. J., Farmer
 Higgins J. S., " "
 Johnson W. F., " "
 Johnson J., " "
 Jones G. R., " "
 Kugler O., " "
 La Rue V. M., " "
 Marsh I. G., Physician, Reaville
 Rex Geo. F., Farmer
 Smith M., Business Man, and Dealer in Saddles, Harness, Whips, &c., Reaville
 Ross J. H., Farmer, near D. F. Church, Reaville
 Secretant Jos., Farmer
 Sheppard S. S., " "
 Stohoff Geo. B., Farmer
 Suydam Asa., Farmer
 Volk Thos. J., Farmer, near Reaville
 Voorhees J., Farmer
 Williams A. F., Farmer
 Watson C., Farmer
 Schenck J. R., Farmer
 Storet Z., Farmer



TAX MAP
BOROUGH OF STOCKTON
 Hunterdon County, N.J.

Scale: 1" = 100' June 1962.

Frank W. Robinson, C.S.
 ENGINEER & SURVEYOR
 222 N. 10TH ST., FORT LEE, N.J.

REVISED: 5/12, 3/40, 4/44, 1/48, 1/50

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY
 DIVISION OF TAXATION
 ENGINEERING & SURVEYING DIVISION
 APPROVED AS A TAX MAP PRESENTED TO THE
 BOARD OF TAXATION AND REVENUE FOR THE
 PURPOSES OF THE TAX MAP ACT OF 1952
 BY *C. Robinson*
 DATE: JUL 18 1962

SEE SHEET 2

SEE SHEET 2

SEE SHEET 2

SEE SHEET 4

SEE SHEET 4

BOUNDARY ALONG MIDDLE OF RIVER

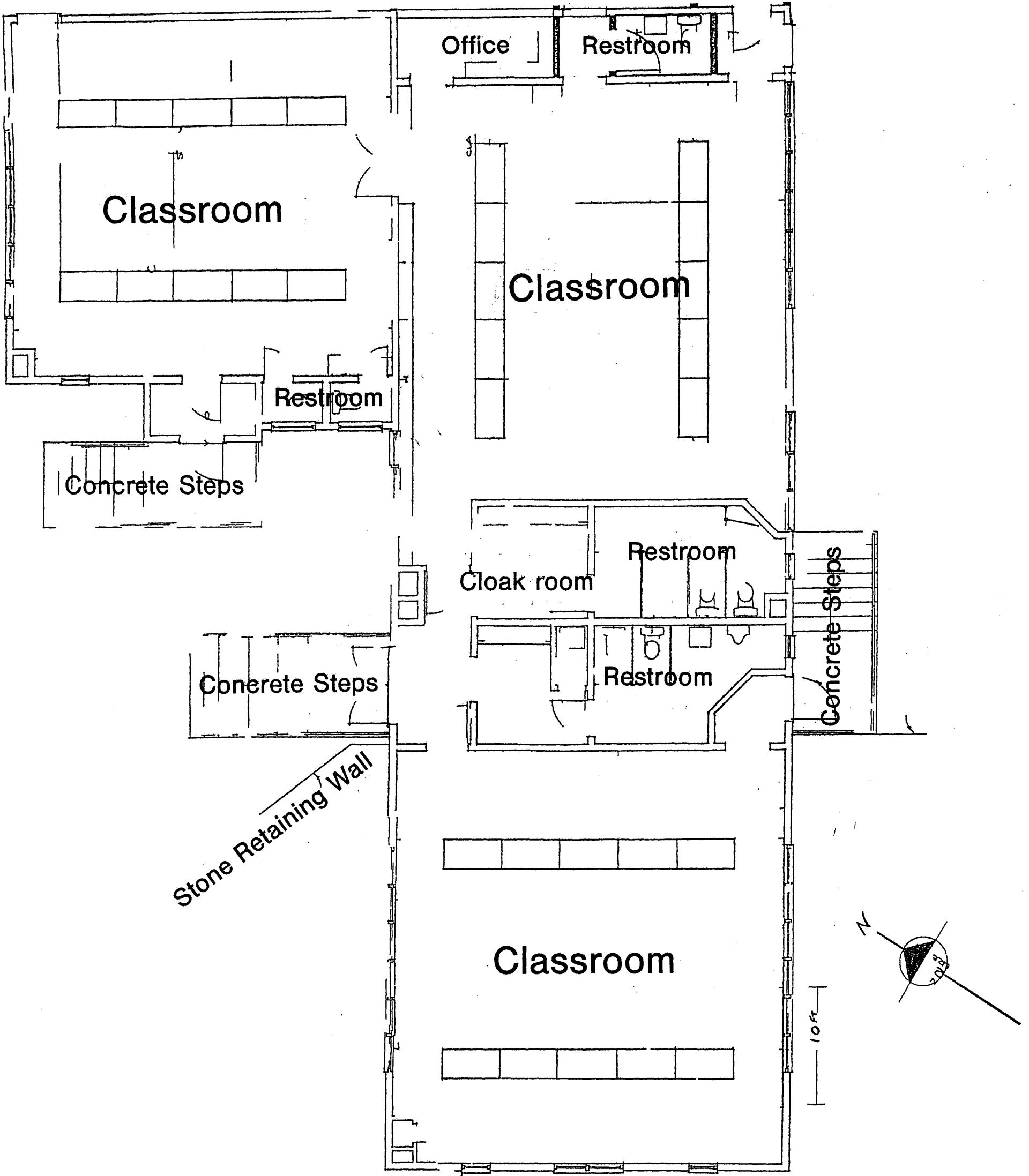
STATE OF NEW JERSEY

HUNTERDON COUNTY, N.J.

District No. 16 Schoolhouse
 Hunterdon County
 New Jersey

Stockton School - Floor Plan

From W. Winthrop Jones, Architect, 1977



State Route 29

District No 99 Schoolhouse
Huron County
New Town